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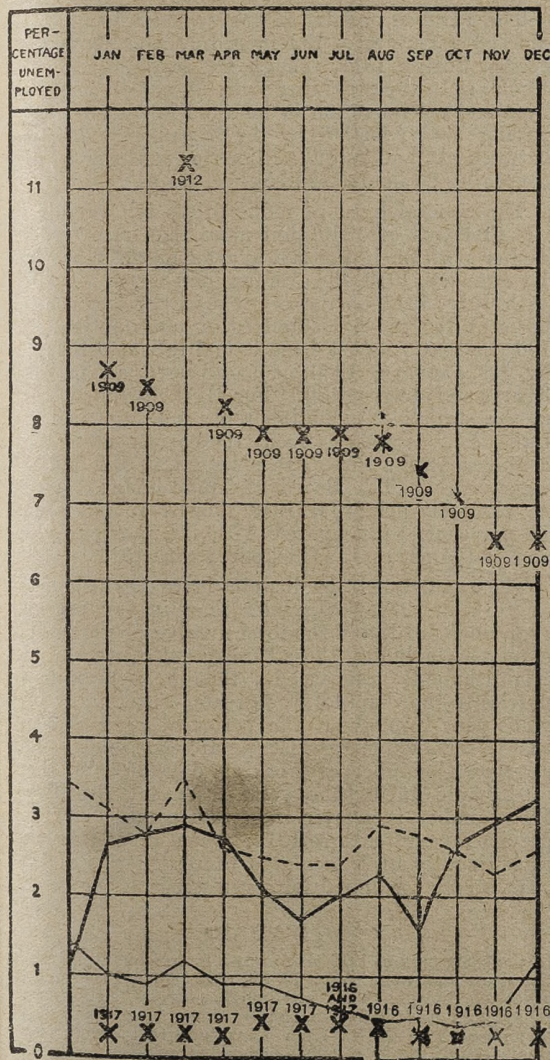
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1919. — Thin Curve = 1918
----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1909-18.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1909-18.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Ministry of Labour by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick, or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, AND RETAIL PRICES IN DECEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The prolonged strike in the ironfoundries caused a large and increasing amount of unemployment and short time in the engineering trades in December. At iron and steel works and in some other metal trades employment was also affected by the moulders' dispute, but was fairly good in general. In the shipbuilding trades employment was only fair. In most other trades it was good or fairly good, and on the whole was about the same as in November.

Changes in rates of wages which came into operation in December resulted in increases in the weekly wages of over 500,000 workpeople, aggregating nearly £140,000 per week. The general level of retail prices of food and other items (including rent) of working-class family expenditure at 1st January was approximately 125 per cent. above the pre-war level.

Employment.—Trade Unions with a net membership of 1,500,630 reported 3.2 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 2.9 per cent. a month earlier—the increase being due to unemployment in the engineering and shipbuilding trades—and 1.2 per cent. at the end of December, 1918.

In industries in which workpeople are insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Acts, the percentage unemployed at 2nd January, including demobilised members of H.M. Forces claiming out-of-work donation, was 6.58. The corresponding percentage for 28th November, 1919, was 5.35. The increase was mainly in the engineering and ironfounding trades, for which the percentage rose from 8.32 at the end of November to 10.74 on 2nd January. Omitting this group the percentage unemployed at 2nd January was only 4.41. The total number of ex-service men claiming out-of-work donation on 2nd January was 377,957, as compared with 353,668 on 28th November.

The number of men on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 2nd January, 1920, was 503,658, or an increase of 29,344 on 5th December; and the number of women was 46,863, or a decrease of 8,564 on the total at 5th December. The number of vacancies unfilled at 2nd January was 25,979 for men, and 46,002 for women, the corresponding figures for 5th December being 26,152 and 44,300.

Employment at coal mines in December continued good and there was a slight increase in the number of workpeople employed at the collieries making the returns; compared with December, 1918, the increase in workpeople amounted to about 20 per cent. The number of days worked by the mines averaged 5.71 and was about the same as a month earlier and a year earlier. At iron and shale mines employment continued good, at tin mines it was still moderate,

and at lead mines it varied locally from slack to fairly good. At quarries employment continued good generally.

In the pig-iron industry employment continued good, on the whole, though the number of furnaces in blast at the end of December was only 236, as compared with 268 a year earlier. At iron and steel works employment was fairly good in general, but was adversely affected by the strike of ironmoulders. Both the pig-iron industry and the iron and steel manufacturing industry were suffering from transport difficulties. The continuance of the ironmoulders' dispute resulted in further extension of the already serious amount of unemployment and short time in the engineering trades. In the shipbuilding trades employment was fair on the whole, but not so good as in November. Apart from temporary stoppages owing to shortage of coal and bars, employment in the tin-plate trade remained good. In the other metal trades it was fairly good generally.

In the cotton trade employment during December continued fairly good in the spinning section and good in the weaving section. In the woollen and worsted trades and the hosiery and silk trades it continued good. There was a further improvement in the lace trade, employment being fair in the levers branch and good in the curtain and plain net branches. In the jute trade employment continued good on the whole, and in the linen trade it remained fair in Scotland and slack in Ireland; though some improvement in Irish centres was noted at the end of the month. Employment was fairly good on the whole in the bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing trades, and improved to good in the carpet trade. It was good in the leather and boot and shoe trades, and good or fairly good in the various branches of the clothing trades.

Employment in the building trade was not quite so good in December as in November, but bricklayers and carpenters continued well employed. In the woodworking and furnishing, brick, cement, pottery and glass, paper and printing, and food preparation trades employment remained good generally. Skilled agricultural labour continued to be in demand, but the supply of unskilled farm workers was adequate in most places. With fishermen employment was good, but showed some decline during the month. The demand for seamen was only moderate. Employment with dock and riverside labourers was, on the whole, fairly good.

Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour.—The changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as having come into operation in December resulted in an increase of nearly £140,000 per week in the weekly wages of over 500,000 workpeople. The principal changes affected workpeople in the iron and steel trades and included an increase of 7½ per cent. on basis rates to iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, Midlands, and West of Scotland, whilst other changes affected workpeople in the soap and candle and in the brick, tile, &c., trades, hosiery workers in the Midlands, building trade operatives in Yorkshire and Scotland, and printers and bookbinders in London. Changes in hours of labour in December affected about 75,000 workpeople, whose hours were reduced by an average of nearly 6½ per week; the principal change affected workpeople in the linen industry in Belfast and the North of Ireland.

Retail Prices.—At 1st January, 1920, the average increase in retail prices of the principal articles of food, on the basis of the pre-war dietary, was 136 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. Taking into account house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c., in addition to food, the average increase at 1st January was about 125 per cent., assuming the same quantities and so far as possible the same qualities as at the present time as before the war.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, HOURS OF LABOUR, PRICES AND DISPUTES.

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 1919.

At the beginning of 1919 employment was affected by the change-over from war to peace activities in the factories and by the demobilisation of men who had been serving with the Forces. Consequently, in the early months of the year large numbers of workpeople were unemployed. In the spring and summer, however, the situation steadily improved, and employment generally became good and continued so until the autumn. In October the railway dispute, resulting in a stoppage of more than a week, led to an increase in unemployment, and in the last two months of the year the shortage of castings caused by the strike in the ironfoundries was responsible for a further unemployment and short time, especially in the engineering industry. Employment at the end of the year, however, was good, or fairly good, in most of the industries not affected by this dispute, and, notwithstanding the exceptional conditions arising from the cessation of munition work and the demobilisation of the Forces, it was much better, on the whole, than in many years before the war.

The advance in rates of wages, which had been so marked a feature of the preceding four years, proceeded during 1919, though not so rapidly, on the whole, as in the preceding year. It was accompanied by a marked reduction in hours of labour, decreases having been recorded by the Department affecting between six and seven millions of workpeople, and averaging 6½ hours per week.

The general level of retail prices fell rapidly in the first part of 1919, but more than recovered its earlier position in the last quarter of the year. On 1st January, 1919, the average increase, as compared with July, 1914, in the retail prices of food, on the basis of the pre-war standard of consumption, was 130 per cent.; by 1st June it had fallen to 104; but by 1st January, 1920, it had passed all previous figures and stood at 136. For all the items included in the statistics (including rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c., as well as food) the corresponding percentages at the three dates were 120, 105 and 125 respectively. The Board of Trade index numbers of wholesale prices for 1919 showed an increase of 11 per cent. as compared with the previous year, and of 154 per cent. as compared with 1913.

The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work in 1919 was greater than in any previous year since 1913, and the total number of workpeople involved (including those thrown out of work at the establishments concerned, though not actually parties to the dispute) was greater than in any previous year throughout the period of more than 30 years for which statistics are available. The aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople during the year was over 34 millions. This number is greater than that recorded for any previous year, except 1912, when the figure was exceptionally high owing to the coal strike of that year, which continued for seven weeks.

EMPLOYMENT.

In the early part of 1919 there was a large amount of transitional unemployment, due to the change-over from war to peace conditions. This was most severely felt by semi-skilled and unskilled munition workers, large numbers of whom had been drawn from other industries, while many others—particularly women—had not previously been occupied in wage-earning employments. For most classes of skilled workers, on the other hand, employment remained, generally, fairly good.

From the beginning of the year until early in March the numbers unemployed, both among civilians and among ex-members of H.M. Forces, continually increased. An improvement then set in among civilians, but the acceleration of demobilisation resulted in a further increase in the numbers of ex-service men unemployed until a maximum was

reached at the beginning of May. After that date, absorption into industry proceeded more rapidly than demobilisation, and through the summer employment continued to improve. In the last three months of the year, however, it was affected first by the railway dispute, and subsequently by the strike in the ironfoundries, the shortage of castings caused by the general stoppage of work in the foundries having resulted in much unemployment and short time in the engineering trade. From time to time, especially during the latter part of the year, transport difficulties were reported to be adversely affecting employment.

The following Table shows the number of unemployed persons whose Out-of-work Donation policies remained lodged at the end of each month of 1919:—

	Civilians.	H.M. Forces.	Total.		Civilians.	H.M. Forces.	Total.
Jan. ..	625,149	53,554	678,703	July ..	177,221	363,663	540,884
Feb. ..	782,363	166,267	948,630	Aug. 1.	141,132	336,952	478,084
Mar. ..	753,982	306,263	1,060,245	Sept. 1.	100,731	302,272	403,003
Apr. * ..	689,933	1403,467	2,093,400	Oct. ..	135,185	344,242	479,427
May ..	384,290	386,921	771,211	Nov. †	137,637	353,909	491,546
June ..	233,282	372,843	606,125	Dec. ...	—	383,065	383,065
				(2nd Jan.)			

The Out-of-work Donation statistics do not provide an exact measure of the volume of unemployment, as they were affected by changes in administration and, in the later months especially, by exhaustion of the right to benefit under the scheme. They are, nevertheless, sufficient to illustrate the great improvement in the spring and summer.

The great amount of unemployment among women in the early months of the year may be illustrated by analysing the figures for 7th March, the date of maximum civilian unemployment. On that date the number of persons recorded as unemployed in connection with the donation scheme for civilians was 790,521, of whom 234,402 were men, 27,356 boys, 494,365 women, and 34,398 girls. The maximum of unemployment as regards ex-members of H.M. Forces was 9th May, when the figures reached 409,959.

The percentages of unemployment among members of Trade Unions paying unemployed benefit at the end of each month of 1919 were as follows:—

Jan. ..	2.5	Apr. ..	2.7	July ..	2.0	Oct. ..	2.6
Feb. ..	2.8	May ..	2.1	Aug. ..	2.2	Nov. ..	2.9
Mar. ..	2.9	June ..	1.7	Sept. ..	1.6	Dec. ..	3.2
Mean for Year 2.4.							

The average percentage of unemployment among members of these Unions in 1919, though greater than during the war period, was less than the average in pre-war years, as will be apparent from the following Table, which gives comparative figures for the last 15 years:—

1905 ..	5.0	1910 ..	4.7	1915 ..	1.1
1906 ..	3.6	1911 ..	3.0	1916 ..	0.4
1907 ..	3.7	1912 ..	2.4†	1917 ..	0.7
1908 ..	7.8	1913 ..	2.1	1918 ..	0.8
1909 ..	7.7	1914 ..	3.3	1919 ..	2.4

It must, however, be remembered that skilled men permanently engaged in their trades form a relatively large proportion of the members of these Trade Unions, and that the unemployment in the early part of 1919 was largely unemployment of semi-skilled and unskilled workers who were discharged from industries which they had only entered for the purposes of the war. These figures, therefore, may not fully indicate the amount of unemployment occurring under such abnormal circumstances as prevailed in the first half of 1919. They also take no account of short time.

In the following paragraphs is given a summary of the state of employment in the principal industries:—

Coal miners were well employed throughout 1919; the number of men working at coal mines increased during the year to such an extent that in December it was over 20 per cent. greater than at the end of 1918. At iron and shale mines employment was good in 1919; with tin miners it declined to moderate at the beginning of the year, recovered to fairly good in May and June, and then declined and was again moderate at the end of the year. With lead miners employment was good in the first half of the year, but not so good later, varying with the locality. At quarries employment was good, on the whole. In the pig-iron industry and at iron and steel works employment continued good in the first six months, though the volume of work was less than in 1918; later, however, these branches of industry were seriously affected by strikes of coal miners, railwaymen and ironmoulders. At the end of the year employment was good, on the whole, at blast furnaces, and fairly good at iron and steel works. Until September employment was fairly good for men regularly attached to the engineering trades, though semi-skilled and unskilled workers who had been drawn into munition works during

* Figures for 2nd May, the date for which the maximum total unemployment was recorded.

† The figures given are for 21st November, the last date for which statistics relating to civilian donation are available. (Civilian donation terminated on 24th November.)

‡ Average for ten months, omitting months affected by the general coal strike.

the war were discharged in large numbers early in the year; in the closing months of the year the strike of iron moulders caused much unemployment and short time. Employment in the shipbuilding industry was good until the summer, when cessation of Government work made itself felt in several centres, and at the end of the year it was only fair. In the tinplate trade employment in 1919 was good, and much better than in 1918. In the other metal trades it was fairly good, on the whole.

There was much unemployment in the cotton trade in the early part of the year, and in March and April employment was bad; in May, however, an improvement set in, and from October to December employment was fairly good at spinning mills and good in the weaving sheds. In the woollen and worsted trades and in the silk trade employment continued good. In the bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing trades, taken as a whole, employment varied from moderate to bad during the greater part of the year, but improved to fairly good in the autumn. In the hosiery trades it was good, on the whole, though dislocated by the strike of hosiery dyers and finishers for some weeks in the summer. During the greater part of the year employment was bad in the fancy lace trade, but it improved to fair in October; in the plain net branch employment was usually fair or fairly good, while in the curtain branch there was much fluctuation, employment varying from bad in March to good at the end of the year. In the linen trade employment was slack and there was much short time. Apart from a short period in the spring, during which employment was bad, the jute trade was well employed in 1919. In the carpet trade employment remained fairly good throughout the year. In the leather trades employment was fairly good in the first half of the year, and good later. The boot and shoe trades were well employed, and in the clothing trades employment was fairly good, on the whole. Employment in the building trade was slack at the beginning of 1919, but improved in the spring, and was good in August and September, since when there has been a slight decline. With mill sawyers and wheelwrights employment was fairly good; the furnishing trades, coachbuilders and coopers, the brick, cement, pottery and glass trades and, on the whole, the printing trade were well employed. In the paper trade employment declined early in 1919, and except in the news print section there was much unemployment; later it improved, and at the end of the year it was good generally. In the food preparation trades employment was good, on the whole, throughout the year, and larger supplies of sugar resulted in substantial expansion of employment. In agriculture the scarcity of labour became less acute as the year advanced, and at the end of the year the shortages were, with few exceptions, confined to skilled workers.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

I. TRADES IN WHICH THE NUMBERS OF WORKPEOPLE AFFECTED ARE REPORTED.†

The changes in rates of wages (including additional war wages or bonuses) reported as having taken effect in 1919, in the trades† for which statistics of the numbers of workpeople affected by such changes are compiled by the Department, resulted in an aggregate increase of over £2,100,000 in the weekly wages of about 5,650,000 workpeople. These totals are rather less than those recorded for 1918, when about 6,000,000 workpeople obtained advances amounting to about £3,000,000 per week, and do not differ greatly from those for 1917, but they far exceed those for any previous year. Thus, in the whole of the seven-year period 1910-16, which was also one of rising wages, the aggregate increase recorded was considerably less than £2,000,000.

The following Table shows for 1918 and 1919 the numbers of workpeople affected by the changes reported, and the total amount of increase in weekly wages, in each of the principal groups of trades.

Groups of Trades.	Number of workpeople whose rates of wages were reported as changed in		Total net increase in the weekly wages of those affected, as compared with the preceding year.	
	1918.	1919.	1918.	1919.
Building	389,000	290,000	£ 254,000	£ 197,000
Coal Mining	921,000	1,110,000	421,000	597,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	58,000	59,000	24,000	31,000
Pig Iron, and Iron and Steel Manufacture	184,000	184,000	95,000	118,000
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal	1,747,000	1,715,000	765,000	500,000
Textile	826,000	521,000	475,000	153,000
Clothing	355,000	390,000	115,000	104,000
Transport	292,000	267,000	196,000	59,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	102,000	157,000	68,000	81,000
Glass, Brick, Pottery, and Chemical	281,000	208,000	127,000	59,000
Other Trades	647,000	561,000	339,000	182,000
Local Authority Services	196,000	185,000	109,000	50,000
TOTAL	5,998,000	5,647,000	2,988,000	2,111,000

* The figures given throughout are preliminary and subject to revision. Those for 1918 have been revised in accordance with the latest information available.

† These statistics are exclusive of changes affecting seamen, railway servants, agricultural labourers, police, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.

In comparing the amounts of increase shown for different groups of trades, it is necessary to bear in mind that the advances in wages granted to men have usually been greater than those given to women, boys and girls. Accordingly, if the average amounts of increase are calculated, they will be affected by the varying proportions of men, women and juveniles employed in different trades. It should also be noted that the changes reported mainly consist of those arranged between organised groups of workpeople and employers, and that many changes among unorganised workers escape observation.

A prominent feature of the year was the widespread adoption of the principle of "enhancing" hourly rates of wages, and in many cases piecework rates also, concurrently with reductions in weekly working hours, so as to maintain the weekly full-time wages at the same level as before. These increases in hourly and piece rates, having no effect on weekly wages, are not, of course, reflected in the figures given in the above Table.

In the building trades increases in wages were granted to workmen in all the principal centres, and in most cases more than one advance was given. In the large towns the average increase in hourly rates, including "enhancements" of rates given in some districts on reductions in working hours, was about 4d. per hour. In the coal mining industry, an advance was granted of 2s. per day to workpeople 16 years of age or over and of 1s. a day to those under 16, with effect as from 9th January, as a result of the recommendations of the Coal Industry Commission. Percentage additions to piecework prices were also granted to compensate for a reduction in working hours.

In the engineering, boilermaking and shipbuilding industries increases in basis rates were given to certain classes of workmen in various districts. In addition a general advance of 5s. per week was granted, at the end of November, to men 18 years of age and over, bringing the general increase over pre-war rates for time-workers up to 38s. 6d. a week, plus a bonus of 12½ per cent. on total earnings. The advance of 5s. per week was extended to workpeople in many other metal trades, including the light castings, sheet-metal, gas-meter making, railway-wagon building and repairing, heating and domestic engineering and tube-making trades, and to men engaged in the chemical, cement and explosives trades and at electricity undertakings.

The only increase granted to cotton trade operatives during the year was one of 30 per cent. on list prices, which accompanied a reduction in hours of labour in order to maintain the weekly wages unchanged. In the woollen and worsted industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire the war wage was raised from 104½ to 125 per cent. on basis rates for timeworkers, with corresponding increases for pieceworkers; and in several branches the basis wages were also raised. In addition an increase of 15 per cent. on current wages was given to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before a reduction in hours. In the textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, &c., trades the war wages were increased from 104½ to 120 per cent. on basis rates in Yorkshire, and from 30s. 14d. to 36s. 3d. per week for men and from 18s. 10d. to 21s. 7d. per week for women in Lancashire, Cheshire and Scotland; in addition the basis rates were increased in many cases. Boot and shoe operatives generally were granted a national minimum wage in March of 56s. per week (53s. in certain departments) for men of 23 years and over and 30s. per week for women of 20 years and over, merging all war bonuses and advances previously granted. Increases of various amounts were given to workpeople in the wholesale and retail tailoring trades, and minimum rates were fixed by an Order of the Ministry of Labour for women engaged in the making of women's and children's clothing generally.

In the printing trades rates of wages were fixed for towns in England and Wales generally, outside London, graded in six groups. Later in the year the rates so fixed were increased, usually by 6s. per week, except for lithographic printers, who received 7s. 6d. per week. In London a total increase amounting to 12s. 6d. per week was granted to men during the year. A national agreement was also arrived at fixing rates for Ireland. In Scotland varying amounts of increase were given in different towns. In the furniture trades increases were granted to operatives in all the principal centres, whilst in other woodworking trades revised rates were fixed, under National Agreements, for vehicle builders, sawmill workers and coopers. Bakers in most districts received an increase of 5s. per week. Carters and tramway and omnibus bus workers received an advance of 4s. per week, making a total of 34s. over pre-war rates.

II. TRADES IN WHICH THE NUMBERS AFFECTED ARE NOT REPORTED.

In several large groups of manual labour employment the numbers of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages are not reported, though some information is available as to the nature of the increases granted. Accordingly, statistics of such changes are not included in the Table on page 3. Amongst these, agricultural labourers in England and Wales had their minimum rates increased by the Agricultural Wages Board, generally by 6s. 6d. per week in the case of adult males; and the hours of labour in respect of which the minimum rates are payable were also reduced, usually to 50 per week in summer and 48

in winter. For certain classes of railway servants, viz., drivers, firemen and cleaners, standard rates were fixed, the rates for other classes being still under consideration at the end of the year. The war bonus of permanent Government employees whose ordinary wages did not exceed 60s. per week was increased by two stages to 24s. per week plus 30 per cent. of their ordinary remuneration for men of 21 and over, to 15s. per week plus 30 per cent. for women of 18 and over, and to smaller amounts for youths and girls. Those whose wages or salary exceeded 60s. per week received different amounts.

For police sergeants and constables revised scales of pay, with a minimum of 100s. per week for sergeants and of 70s. per week for constables, were adopted in the great majority of Forces. Increases in minimum rates were also arranged during the year in all but one of the trades covered by the Trade Boards Acts, and a number of additional trades were brought within the scope of the Acts and had minimum rates of wages established.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Perhaps the most marked feature of the industrial situation in 1919 was the reduction which was effected in weekly working hours in the principal industries. At the end of 1918 the hours usually worked in these industries ranged generally from 48 to 60 per week, whereas by the end of 1919 the most usual range was from 44 to 48 per week. The number of workpeople whose recognised hours of labour were reported as having been reduced, during 1919, in the employments* for which statistics of numbers affected by such changes are available, was 6,400,000, the average reduction per head being about 6½ hours per week. The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople affected by such reductions in different groups of trades, and the average amount of reduction per head:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of work-people whose hours were reduced.	Aggregate reduction in weekly hours.	Average reduction in hours per head for the workpeople affected.
Building	201,000	916,000	4.5
Coal Mining	1,060,000	5,217,000	4.9
Mining and Quarrying ..	33,000	139,000	4.3
Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture	132,000	1,811,000	13.7
Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal	1,880,000	11,655,000	6.3
Textile	990,000	6,957,000	7.0
Clothing	213,000	1,046,000	4.9
Transport	900,000	7,797,000	8.7
Paper, Printing, &c. .. .	193,000	783,000	4.0
Glass, Brick, Pottery, and Chemical	284,000	1,668,000	6.3
Other Trades	445,000	2,644,000	5.9
Public Utility Services ..	109,000	828,000	7.6
TOTAL	6,400,000	41,461,000	6.5

If the number of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and police whose hours have been reduced could be included the total number would be substantially increased.

In considering the variations in the numbers affected, and in the average reduction per head in different trades and groups of trades, it should be remembered that these variations are partly due to the differences in the weekly hours recognised before the changes occurred. For example, in the printing trade, the adoption of a 48-hour week resulted in an average weekly reduction of nearly 3 hours, the weekly hours before the change having been most usually only 50 or 51; whereas in the cotton industry the adoption of the 48-hour week necessitated a reduction of 7½ hours, the working week having previously been 55½ hours. It should also be noted that the averages apply only to those workpeople whose hours have actually been reduced and not necessarily to the total numbers of workpeople employed in the respective groups of trades, no account being taken in the Table of any workpeople, e.g., in the iron and steel trades, who were already working the reduced number of hours.

The reduction began in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, in which the working week of, usually, 53 or 54 hours was reduced to 47 hours as from 1st January, 1919. Similar arrangements were subsequently adopted in a number of other metal-working trades. This was followed by the adoption of a 48-hour week in the railway service, as from 1st February, and an 8-hour shift was subsequently adopted for shift workers in iron and steel smelting furnaces and rolling mills and in electrical and gas undertakings. A 48-hour week was also introduced in a number of other industries, including the cotton, woollen and worsted, silk, hosiery, linen, carpet, textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, &c., boot and shoe, carting, tramway and omnibus, printing and bookbinding, cement and leather trades. For building operatives the hours of labour in summer were reduced in the majority of districts to between 44 and 49½ per week, and reductions in the winter hours were also made in most cases. In the coal-mining

* Exclusive of seamen, agricultural labourers, police, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks. Estimates for railway servants and workpeople employed by Government Departments have been included in the figures.

industry the maximum working time of underground workers was reduced in July by one hour per day as a result of the recommendations of the Coal Industry Commission, while that of surface workers, which was reduced to 49 hours per week from 1st January, was further reduced to 46½.

In almost every case the reduction in hours was subject to the condition that weekly time wages should not be reduced. For workers paid by the hour the rates were either enhanced in the proportion by which the weekly hours were reduced, or increases in hourly rates were given which resulted in a net increase in weekly wages. Those paid at weekly, daily or shift rates generally received the same amounts as before the change. As regards pieceworkers, in some cases no general change was made in the recognised piece lists. In other cases the piece rates were enhanced in proportion to the reduction in hours; while in others again a smaller percentage increase was given.

RETAIL PRICES.

FOOD.

The year 1919 was characterised by marked changes in retail prices, which showed substantial reductions, on the average, in the early part of the year but later regained and passed the high level with which the year opened. These changes were mainly due to the movements in the prices of foodstuffs; the average percentage increases, as compared with July, 1914, in the retail prices of the principal articles of food at the beginning of each month being as follows:—

Prices of Food: Average Percentage Increase over July, 1914.			
1919	Per Cent.	1919	Per Cent.
January	130	August	117
February	130	September	116
March	120	October	122
April	113	November	131
May	107	December	134
June	104	1920	
July	109	January	136

The corresponding figure for 1st November, 1918 (just before the Armistice) was 133.

It should be noted that the percentages given in this article represent in all cases fluctuations in prices, on the assumption of a uniform consumption, no allowance being made for possible alterations in consumption which may have modified the actual expenditure on the articles included.

For the separate articles included in these figures, the following Table shows the average prices and the average percentage increase in prices, as compared with July, 1914, at the beginning and end of the period under review and at 2nd June, the date for which the lowest level of prices was recorded:—

Article.	Average Retail Price (per lb. unless otherwise stated).			Average Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.		
	1st Jan., 1919.	2nd June, 1919.	1st Jan., 1920.	1st Jan., 1919.	2nd June, 1919.	1st Jan., 1920.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—						
Ribs	1 3	1 6	1 8½	102	84	110
Thin Flank	1 3	1 1	1 3	126	99	127
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs	1 8	1 4	1 5½	175	120	144
Thin Flank	1 2½	0 10½	0 11½	206	123	144
Mutton, British—						
Legs	1 8½	1 7	1 9	102	85	104
Breast	1 14	0 11½	1 1½	106	79	108
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs	1 9	1 5	1 4	206	147	133
Breast	1 1	0 9	0 8	217	120	85
Bacon (streaky)*	2 3	2 3	2 4½	141	142	156
Fish						
per 7 lb.	1 4	1 4	1 4	166	114	128
per 4 lb.	0 8	0 9	0 9½	52	52	52
Bread	2 8	2 6½	2 10½	73	63	87
Tea	0 7	0 7	0 8	241	242	290
Sugar (granulated)	0 8½	0 8½	0 10½	154	82	212
Milk	0 7½	0 8½	0 11	57	84	126
Potatoes	1 0	0 11½	1 1½	69	64	85
Margarine						
Fresh	2 6	3 6	2 6½	107	107	110
Salt	1 8	2 6	2 6½	113	112	115
Cheese, Canadian or U.S.* ..	1 8	1 7½	1 7½	130	107	122
Eggs (fresh)	0 6½	0 3½	0 5½	317	165	311
All above Articles (weighted percentages)				130	104	136

The figures in the above Table show that there were considerable movements during 1919 in the prices of the majority of the items included. The prices of milk, eggs and potatoes vary seasonally, of course, every year. Of other items included, margarine and imported beef and mutton showed the largest price changes, differing, however, in the respect that, while the average price of margarine was higher at the end than at the beginning of the year (having intermediately been much lower than at either date) the prices of imported meat at the end of the

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the Returns given are the price for another kind locally representative.

year were considerably lower than at the beginning. The only commodities included which remained almost unchanged in price throughout 1919 were flour and butter.

OTHER ITEMS (FUEL AND LIGHT, CLOTHING, RENT, ETC.).

As regards items other than food, the most important changes were those in the price of coal. The retail price of household coal remained steady from January up to July. In that month there was a general increase of 6s. per ton, but in December there was a decrease of 10s. per ton, so that, apart from minor local price movements there was a net fall of 4s. per ton during the year. Between January and November the price of gas had risen in much the same proportion as the price of coal, but the reduction in the latter at the beginning of December had not by the end of the year caused a corresponding fall in the price of gas.

In the first half of the year the prices of clothing showed fluctuations in either direction, and on balance there was not much change in the average level, though men's suits showed notable increases in prices; later in the year, however, the level of prices of clothing resumed the general upward movement which had been temporarily arrested. Rents of working-class dwellings continued to be subject to the provisions of the Increase of Rent Restriction Acts and thus remained unchanged, for the same accommodation, except in respect of increased rates. The rise in rates has been considerable in many places, but the rateable value of working-class properties being low, the effect of increased rates on the cost of living of the working classes is not important, relatively to the effect of other increases, when divided over the year. Of other items, the prices of candles were substantially lower at the end of the year than at the beginning, but soap was dearer in December than in January, 1919, though in the spring it had shown a fall in price.

ALL ITEMS.

Taking the average increases for all the items included in the statistics and combining them in accordance with their estimated relative importance in pre-war working-class family budgets, the following figures are obtained representing the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, in the general level of retail prices (including those of food, clothing, fuel and light, &c., as well as rent) at the beginning of each month of 1919:—

All Items included: Average Percentage Increase over July, 1914.

1919	Per Cent.	1919	Per Cent.
January	120	August	115
February	120	September	115
March	115	October	120
April	110	November	125
May	105	December	125
June	105	1920	
July	105-110	January	125

The corresponding figure for 1st November, 1918, just before the Armistice, was between 120 and 125 per cent.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES.*

The Board of Trade index number of wholesale prices works out for 1919 at 296.3 (the base year being 1900) and is the highest recorded in the statistics of the Board, showing an increase of nearly 11 per cent. in comparison with the previous year. The index numbers for each year from 1900, based on the price movements of 47 principal articles, are shown below, and from these figures it will be noticed that there was already an upward movement before the war:—

(PRICES IN 1900 = 100.)

Year.	Coal and Metals.	Textiles (Raw Materials).	Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	Miscellaneous.	All Articles.
1900	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1901	82.2	93.3	100.1	96.3	96.7
1902	78.1	92.3	101.4	92.5	96.4
1903	74.1	101.7	100.6	91.7	96.9
1904	70.9	112.3	101.2	88.3	98.2
1905	71.3	106.7	101.2	91.1	97.6
1906	75.3	121.1	101.0	95.6	100.8
1907	86.9	127.4	105.5	99.7	108.0
1908	78.5	109.8	107.0	94.8	103.0
1909	73.6	112.4	108.7	96.5	104.1
1910	76.6	136.2	109.2	104.3	108.8
1911	74.7	128.9	111.6	105.5	109.4
1912	84.9	116.6	116.9	110.1	114.9
1913	92.5	135.0	117.7	109.4	116.5
Jan.-July	86.2	135.1	114.8	106.2	113.8
Aug.-Dec.	88.8	116.8	130.4	119.1	122.6
Year 1914	86.7	128.8	120.9	111.3	117.2
1915	116.7	119.8	154.1	143.8	143.9
1916	165.8	180.1	189.4	204.0	186.5
1917	182.0	270.4	216.2	250.3	213.0
1918	204.9	354.4	250.3	268.6	287.4
1919	280.2	373.3	279.4	318.6	296.3

In the coal and metals group the index number was over 36 per cent. higher than in 1918, when an increase of 12 per

The figures for 1919 are provisional and subject to correction.

cent. over the figures for 1917 was recorded. Pig iron and coal show considerable increases, while decreases are shown in respect of other metals.

The figures for textiles (raw materials) indicate an average increase of 5 per cent. when compared with the index number for 1918. In each of the years 1916, 1917 and 1918 large increases were recorded in this group of articles, the figure for 1918 showing an average rise of 31 per cent. over those for the previous year.

In the group of articles relating to food, drink and tobacco the index number for 1919 is nearly 8 per cent. over the number for 1918. British barley increased in price by over 28 per cent. and increases are also shown in the prices of British oats and imported wheat, while maize and rice decreased in price. The price of potatoes increased by nearly 27 per cent. The average for meat, fish and dairy produce shows an increase of less than 5 per cent. in 1919 over 1918, when an increase of over 14 per cent. compared with the corresponding figures for 1917 was recorded. Higher prices are shown also for sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, tobacco and wine, tobacco showing a 20 per cent. increase and wine a rise of 28 per cent.

In the group of miscellaneous articles paraffin wax, olive oil and rubber show decreases of 18 per cent., 13 per cent. and 9 per cent. respectively. Linseed increased by 20 per cent., palm oil by 50 per cent., hewn fir by 24 per cent. and bricks by 31 per cent. in comparison with the figures for 1918. The index number for the whole of the group represents an increase in twelve months of nearly 18 per cent.

A comparison of the index numbers for 1919 with those for 1913 shows a rise of 202 per cent. in the coal and metals group, of 176 per cent. in textile raw materials, of 137 per cent. in the food, drink and tobacco group, and of 189 per cent. in the group of miscellaneous articles, the general index number showing a rise of 154 per cent.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes reported to the Department as causing a stoppage of work in 1919 was 1,413. In the period (1888-1919) for which statistics are available this number has only once been exceeded, viz., in 1913, when 1,497 disputes were reported. For the years 1915-1918 the figures were 706, 581, 688 and 1,252, respectively. The number of workpeople involved (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not actually parties to the disputes) in these disputes in 1919 was about 2,600,000. This is the highest total yet recorded and nearly equals the combined totals for the four previous years. The aggregate duration of the disputes was over 34,000,000 working days, or nearly twice as much as the total loss in working days in the whole period 1915-18. This aggregate was, however, nearly equalled in 1893 and was exceeded in 1912, in both of which years there were great general strikes on wages questions in the coalmining industry.

The following Table summarises by trades the number of disputes reported, the number of workpeople involved and the aggregate duration of disputes in working days for 1918 and 1919 respectively*:-

Groups of Trades.	1918.			1919.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in 1918.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in 1918.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1919.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in 1919.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building	134	58,000	458,000	150	25,000	578,000
Coal Mining	147	368,000	1,185,000	212	906,000	7,441,000
Other Mining and Quarrying	18	13,000	109,000	32	5,000	138,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	300	169,000	840,000	188	304,000	9,592,000
Other Metal	86	85,000	575,000	128	83,000	1,813,000
Textile	87	284,000	1,701,000	61	490,000	8,167,000
Clothing	70	24,000	321,000	77	29,000	245,000
Transport	67	59,000	265,000	129	574,000	3,883,000
Woodworking and Furnishing	82	43,000	273,000	62	25,000	988,000
Other Trades	188	38,000	413,000	277	119,000	1,381,000
Local Authority Services	93	13,000	117,000	99	21,000	257,000
TOTAL	1,252	1,132,000	6,237,000	1,413	2,581,000	34,483,000

The principal disputes of the year occurred in the coalmining, engineering and shipbuilding, textile and transport industries. In the coal mining industry 150,000 workpeople in Yorkshire ceased work for 13 days in January to enforce a simultaneous interval for surfacemen's meals, and again on 16th July for 29 days owing to dissatisfaction with the amount of advance in rates of wages which was proposed in compensation for a reduction in working hours under the Sankey Award. At the end of March 100,000 miners in various districts were idle for six days in support of a national application for an advance in wages. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades 150,000 workpeople stopped work in January and were idle for periods ranging,

* These figures are preliminary and subject to correction.
 † Inclusive of workpeople involved in disputes which began in the previous year and were still in progress at the beginning of the year.

in different districts, from one to eight weeks on the reduction of the working week from 53 or 54 hours to 47 hours, owing partly to dissatisfaction at the new arrangement of working hours and partly to the non-provision of any increase in the rates of wages of piece-workers and lieu-workers. On 22nd September between 40,000 and 50,000 iron founders, core makers and dressers ceased work for increases in wages and were still idle at the end of the year. In the cotton trade about 450,000 operatives struck work for 18 days in June and July in support of an application for reduced working hours and increased rates of wages. In the railway services about 500,000 operatives were idle from 27th September to 5th October, inclusive, owing to dissatisfaction at the new standardised rates proposed for various grades. The majority of the other disputes occurring in 1919 arose either on demands for advances in wages or on questions of working hours.

The following Table shows the total number of disputes reported to the Department as causing a stoppage of work in each of the years 1905-1919, together with the total number of workpeople directly or indirectly involved and the aggregate number of working days lost in the establishments where disputes occurred:-

Year.	No. of disputes beginning in year.	No. of workpeople involved in disputes beginning* in year.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress during year.
1905	558	94,000	2,470,000
1906	486	218,000	3,039,000
1907	601	147,000	2,182,000
1908	399	296,000	10,834,000
1909	436	301,000	2,774,000
1910	531	515,000	3,885,000
1911	903	692,000	10,330,000
1912	857	1,483,000	40,915,000
1913	1,497	688,000	11,631,000
1914	999	449,000	10,111,000
1915	706	453,000	3,038,000
1916	581	284,000	2,000,000
1917	688	881,000	5,984,000
1918	1,252	1,097,000	6,237,000
1919	1,413	2,570,000	34,483,000

It will be seen that the number of workpeople involved in disputes beginning in 1919 was greater than that for any previous year included in the Table, and that the total number of disputes and the resulting loss of working days were only once exceeded in this period. In this connection it may be observed that the large number of days lost in 1912 was mainly the result of one dispute in the coal-mining industry, which accounted for a loss of nearly 31,000,000 working days.

LABOUR LEGISLATION IN 1919.

The prominence of labour questions during the past year is reflected to a marked degree in its legislation. Twelve Acts placed upon the Statute Book related especially to wages, hours, or other labour questions. This legislation may be summarised briefly as follows:-

Two Acts dealt with questions of wages. *The Wages (Temporary Regulation) Extension Act* (29th May) extended for six months, until the 21st November, 1919, the provisions of the *Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918*. Until that date, therefore, the statutory obligation was imposed upon employers of paying not less than the "prescribed" rates of wages, which, broadly speaking, were the standard district rates existing at the time of the Armistice. Compulsory reference to the Interim Court of Arbitration at the request of one of the parties was also maintained in case of difference as to the existence or the amount of a prescribed rate; and in the case of women's wages, where the rate could not be easily ascertained, the Minister of Labour retained power to fix a prescribed rate by Order. In addition, a rate might be substituted for the prescribed rate by an award of the Interim Court of Arbitration on compulsory reference, or by an agreement approved by the Minister of Labour; and these "substituted" rates might be extended by Order to the whole of the industry concerned (*see THE LABOUR GAZETTE*, December, 1918, p. 485). *The Industrial Courts Act* (20th November) extended until the 30th September, 1920, certain of the main provisions of the *Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act*. Statutory sanction was given to the prescribed or substituted rates in existence at the expiration of the *Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act*, and to the decisions as to the existence and amount of such rates given by the Industrial Court established in place of the Interim Court of Arbitration. But, except in certain circumstances in the case of women, it is no longer possible to establish a new prescribed or substituted rate having statutory authority; and the power to extend by Order substituted rates, fixed by agreement, to the whole of an industry has also ceased to exist (*see THE LABOUR GAZETTE*, December, 1919, p. 514).

The *Industrial Courts Act* provides also a permanent supplement to the existent machinery for conciliation and

* Workpeople involved in disputes beginning in one year, and still in progress in January of the following year, are counted only in the total for the year in which the dispute began.
 † The dates given after the titles of Acts are those of the Royal Assent.

arbitration. Reference may be made to the Industrial Court, by agreement of both parties, in regard to any matter relating to or arising out of a dispute. This step may only be taken when other means of settlement have been brought into operation without success. Other forms of arbitration tribunals than the Industrial Court continue, and, if both parties to a dispute desire it, can still be utilised. The Act also makes provision for the full information of the Government and the public as to the facts in a trade dispute, by authorising the Minister of Labour to set up, in case of a dispute, actual or anticipated, a Court of Inquiry, with authority to demand evidence and to issue a report.

The problems of employment in the coal industry gave rise during the year to two Acts. *The Coal Industry Commission Act* (26th February) provided that a Commission should be constituted to inquire into the position of and conditions prevailing in the industry, with special reference *inter alia* to wages, hours of work, cost of production and distribution, selling prices and profits, and the social conditions of colliery workers (*see* for the membership of the Commission, *THE LABOUR GAZETTE*, March, 1919, p. 79, and for a *résumé* of the Reports of the Commission, *THE LABOUR GAZETTE*, April, 1919, p. 125, and July, 1919, p. 270). *The Coal Mines Act, 1919* (15th August), provided, in accordance with the Interim Report of the Commission, for the reduction, from eight to seven, of hours of labour of coal mine workers below ground as from the 16th July, 1919, and makes provision, contingent upon the condition of the industry, for a further reduction in 1921.

Two Acts dealt with special problems arising from war conditions. *The Restoration of Pre-War Practices Act* (15th August) redeems the pledges given to trade unions in return for their withdrawal of restrictive practices during the war. It requires owners of establishments to which the Act applies—mainly those engaged on munitions work—to restore or permit the restoration of any trade rules, practices, or customs obtaining before the war which had been departed from during and in consequence of the war, and to permit the continuance of such trade practices for one year. *The Disabled Men (Facilities for Employment) Act* (22nd July) enables arrangements to be made to relieve or indemnify employers in respect of the whole or part of any increase of expenditure arising from his liability to pay compensation in respect of accidents or industrial disease, where such increase is attributable to the employment of men disabled in the war. The Act, which is administered by the Home Office, is given effect, in general, by agreements entered into with the insurance companies, who accept disabled men at the ordinary rates, and are indemnified by the Government against extra expenditure.

Four Acts amended previous legislation providing for social services. *The National Health Insurance Act, 1919* (15th August), increases from £160 to £250 per annum the rate of remuneration for the purpose of exemption from insurance under the National Health Insurance Acts. *The National Insurance (Unemployment) Act* (23rd December) raises from 7s. to 11s. per week the rate of benefit payable to workpeople insured under the National Insurance (Unemployment) Acts, 1911-18. *The Workmen's Compensation (War Addition) Amendment Act* (23rd December) increases the additional weekly sum from one-quarter to three-quarters of the amount of the weekly payment, and also extends the application of the Act of 1917, as amended, to persons entitled to compensation under the Acts of 1897 and 1900. *The Old Age Pensions Act* (23rd December) increases the weekly rates of old age pensions, the new maximum being 10s. per week, and makes various other provisions and amendments to earlier Acts.

The Checkweighing in Various Industries Act (15th August) provides for "checking the weight or measurement of materials produced, handled, or gotten by workmen paid by weight or measure in certain industries," including the production or manufacture of iron or steel, the loading or unloading of goods into or from vessels, the getting of chalk or limestone from quarries, and the manufacture of cement and lime. Provision is made for the inclusion of other materials by Regulation.

The Police Act (15th August) constituted the Police Federation, and prohibits members of police forces from being members of Trade Unions.

In addition to the Acts mentioned above, Bills have been introduced by the Minister of Labour providing for (a) the establishment of a maximum working week of 48 hours, subject to certain exceptions; (b) the constitution of a Commission to enquire into and report on minimum time-rates of wages; (c) the extension of the contributory scheme of unemployment insurance to substantially all persons falling within the health insurance scheme, except those engaged in agriculture and domestic service.† These Bills are to be dealt with in the next Session of Parliament.

Copies of Bills and Acts of Parliament may be purchased through the same sources as the *LABOUR GAZETTE* (*see* front page of cover).

* This Act applies to Great Britain only; a similar measure for Ireland was the *Constabulary and Police (Ireland) Act*, which received Royal Assent on 20th November.
 † In Ireland the bill applies only to workmen in the trades now insured against unemployment.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS.

As the result of enquiries which have been made by the Department, statistics are now available as to the membership of Trade Unions at the end of 1918. Including, in addition to Trade Unions registered under the Trade Union Acts, other associations of employees existing for the purpose, *inter alia*, of regulating the conditions of employment of their members, the total number of such societies known to the Department to have been in existence at that date was over 1,200. The total membership was over 6,620,000, as compared with nearly 5,550,000 at the end of 1917, an increase of 19 per cent. The total number of male members was about 5,400,000, an increase of over 750,000, or 16 per cent., as compared with a year earlier: and that of female members was about 1,220,000, an increase of 320,000, or 36 per cent., in the year.

The membership by trades, and the percentage increase in each trade compared with 1917,* are shown in the following Table. This classification is necessarily somewhat rough, since Trade Union organisation is in many cases occupational, and a minority of the members may be employed in trades other than that with which the Union has been classed. For example, many members of the carpenters and joiners' Unions are employed in the shipbuilding industry, but no statistics are available as to the total number, and the whole of the membership of these Unions is accordingly included under the building trades, in which the members are mainly employed.

Groups of Trades.	No. of Unions at end of 1918.	Membership† at end of		Percentage Increase in Membership compared with 1917.
		1918.	1917.	
Building:				
Carpenters and Joiners	2	137,000	114,000	20
Builders' Labourers†	10	62,000	38,000	63
Others	49	122,000	106,000	16
Mining and Quarrying:				
Coal Mining	90	964,000	917,000	5
Other Mining and Quarrying	10	31,000	30,000	2
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding:				
Iron and Steel Manufacture	13	130,000	118,000	10
Ironfoundry, Engineering and Shipbuilding	84	790,000	674,000	13
Other	65	61,000	56,000	10
Textile:				
Cotton	147	401,000	382,000	5
Other Textile	92	204,000	162,000	26
Textile Printing, Dyeing, Warehousing, etc.	34	89,000	86,000	3
Clothing:				
Boot and Shoe	12	91,000	81,000	13
Tailoring and other Clothing	23	120,000	78,000	54
Transport:				
Railway	11	530,000	499,000	6
Tramway and Other Road Transport	16	144,000	111,000	29
Dock, Canal and Riverside Labour, and Seafaring	38	313,000	280,000	12
Agriculture and Fishing†	15	129,000	56,000	131
Printing, Paper, and Allied Trades	32	142,000	112,000	26
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades	69	97,000	83,000	17
Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	16	189,000	152,000	25
Miscellaneous Trades and Occupations	198	462,000	379,000	22
General Labour	13	1,102,000	732,000	50
Employees of Public Authorities	181	344,000	301,000	14
TOTALS§	1,220	6,624,000	5,517,000	19

The increase, which affected every group of trades, was greatest in the Unions of agricultural labourers, builders' labourers, and in the general labour Unions, these groups accounting for a total increase of 466,000, or 56 per cent. The tailoring and other clothing trades showed an increase of 42,000, or 54 per cent. The individual Unions showing the largest absolute increases were the Workers' Union, the National Union of General Workers, the National Agricultural and Rural Workers' Union, the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, the National Warehouse and General Workers' Union, and the United Garment Workers' Union, these six Unions showing a total increase in 1918 of 427,000.

Of the total increase in female membership (about 320,000 or 36 per cent.) in the year the cotton industry accounted for 15,000, or about 6 per cent. of its female membership in 1917, and other textile trades, including textile printing, bleaching, dyeing, finishing, &c., for 40,000, or 34 per cent.—a total increase for the textile trades of 55,000, or 15 per cent. on their female membership of 363,000 in

* The figures for 1917 have been revised in accordance with the latest information received by the Department. They also differ from those previously published (*see "Labour Gazette"* for December, 1918) by the inclusion of some Associations—chiefly of teachers—which, though not previously classified with Trade Unions, have been found to deal with questions of the conditions of employment of their members. The figures for 1918 are provisional, and may be subject to slight revision when further information is available.

† The total membership (all trades) includes members in colonial and foreign branches to the number (in 1918) of 49,126, of whom 22,063 belonged to the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinet Makers and Joiners and 28,465 to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

‡ The figures are exclusive of the membership of General Labour Unions, for which *see "General Labour."*

§ Exclusive, as usual, of a few Associations (generally unimportant) for which complete returns have not been received.

1917. The female membership of other groups increased in 1918 from 540,000 to 806,000, the increase being made up as follows: clothing trades 46,000 (or 64 per cent.), printing, paper, &c., trades 19,000 (or 102 per cent.), shop assistants, clerks, &c., 27,000 (or 58 per cent.), miscellaneous trades 49,000 (or 21 per cent.), "general labour" Unions 103,000 (or 92 per cent.), and employees of public authorities 22,000 (or 40 per cent.). In connection with these figures it should be observed that the female membership stated in the Returns received by the Department is partly estimated, many Unions being unable to state exactly the number of males and females, respectively.

In the following Table comparative figures of total membership (to the nearest thousand in each case) are given for the period 1913-1918. In comparing the total membership shown for 1914 onwards with that for pre-war years, it should be noted that most Unions included men serving with H.M. Forces in their Returns of membership during the war, though there were many exceptions to this general practice, especially in the case of Unions of less skilled workers.

Groups of Trades.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.	Thou- sands.
Building	248	236	233	229	257	321
Mining and Quarrying ..	916	897	856	887	947	996
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	544	563	611	699	848	951
Textile	520	500	513	531	630	694
Clothing	107	103	114	123	159	211
Railway Service	327	337	385	425	499	530
Other Transport (Land and Water)	356	350	340	363	391	456
Other Trades and Occupations	501	618	624	652	782	1,019
General Labour	353	365	472	521	732	1,102
Employees of Public Authorities	230	240	239	244	301	344
Total	4,192	4,199	4,417	4,677	5,546	6,624

During the five years 1914-1918 there was an increase of over 2,400,000 in the total membership, most of which took effect in 1917 and 1918. The membership of the general labour group more than trebled in the period. In mining and quarrying there was only a slight increase (less than 9 per cent.). In the other groups the increases ranged from 28 per cent. ("other transport"), 30 per cent. (building), and 33 per cent. (textile), to 75 per cent. (metal, engineering and shipbuilding) and 98 per cent. (clothing trades).

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The decentralisation of the Whitley Scheme of Industrial Councils, as recommended in the first report of the Reconstruction Committee, is now making substantial progress. The report proposed the establishment or development of joint bodies both for the principal districts of each industry and for individual establishments. A list of suggested functions for District Councils was put forward in the report, and these suggestions were subsequently embodied in the Model Constitution for District Councils contained in a pamphlet issued by the Ministry of Labour under the title of "Industrial Reports, Number 4."* This constitution has in all cases been closely followed.

The procedure generally adopted in establishing District Councils is that the National Council concerned, having agreed on the principle, appoints a drafting committee to determine the areas into which the industry can most appropriately be divided, having regard to the character of the local conditions and the nature of existing institutions. In some cases reports have been invited from the principal firms and trade unions in the various districts. A detailed list of areas is then drawn up, and on approval by the National Council inaugural meetings are arranged. Thenceforward, meetings are usually held quarterly, provision being made for emergency meetings as often as required.

The industries in which such District Councils have been authorised or formed and the areas constituting the various districts are indicated below:—

Cement Industry.—Durham; Hull; Manchester; Midland; Eastern Thames and Medway; South-Eastern; South Wales; Scotland; Ireland.

Electrical Cable-Making Industry.—Home Counties (including Sussex and Hants); Northern (including Scotland).

Electrical Contracting.—Belfast; Bradford; Brighton; Derby; Dundee; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Leicester; Manchester; Mersey District; Newcastle; Sheffield; South Wales.

Electricity Supply.—Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland; the rest of Yorkshire, and parts of Derby,

* A new edition of this pamphlet revised to January, 1920, is now in the press. When published it will be purchasable from the same agencies as the LABOUR GAZETTE (see front page of cover). Price: One penny.

Notts, and Lincs; Westmorland, Cumberland, Lancashire, Cheshire, and North West Derbyshire, and North Wales; South Wales, and Monmouth; Staffs, Worcester, Warwick, and Shropshire; Hereford, Gloucester, Somerset, Wilts, and part of North Devon; Leicester, Northants, Rutland, and the remainder of Notts and Derbyshire; Hunts, Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk, and South Lincs; Bedford, Essex, Bucks, Berks, Oxford, Surrey, Kent, Herts, and Middlesex (excepting parts of those Counties which fall in the London area); the London Area; Sussex and Hampshire; Cornwall, and part of Devon; Scotland.

Flour Milling.—Birmingham; Devon and Cornwall; Eastern Counties; East Herts; East Midlands; Kent; Lincolnshire; London; North-East Counties; North Midlands; North-Western; Reading; Scotland; Sheffield; Southern; Surrey and Sussex; South Wales; West of England.

Gas.—Scotland; Northern; Yorkshire, West Riding; Manchester; Eastern; Midland; Wales; Southern; Western.

Hosiery (Scottish).—South-West Scotland; South-East Scotland; Ayrshire; Central, consisting of Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Glasgow and all districts north of Glasgow to Perth, including Perthshire; Northern District, consisting of all districts north of Perth.

Local Authorities Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) (England and Wales).—Northern Northumberland and Durham; North-Western (Cumberland and Westmorland); Yorkshire (West Riding); Yorkshire (North and East Riding); East Midland; Midland; Eastern; Home Counties (Middlesex, Hertford, Essex); Home Counties (Surrey, Kent, Sussex); Administrative County of London; South Midland; Western; South-Western; Lancashire and Cheshire; North Wales; South Wales.

Paint, Colour and Varnish Trades.—Hull; Newcastle; Bristol; Cardiff; Liverpool; Birmingham; Glasgow; London.

Road Transport.—Northern; North-Western; North-Eastern; North Midland; Midland; South Midland; London and Home Counties; South-Western; Wales; Scotland.

Tramways.—Scotland; Northern; Lancashire, Cheshire & North Wales; Yorkshire, Lincolnshire & North Derbyshire; South Wales; Midland; Metropolitan; South-Western and part of South Coast Area; East, South-East and part of South Coast Area.

Waterworks Undertakings.—Northern; Yorkshire; Eastern; Home Counties; Metropolitan; South Midland; South-Western; Midland; Lancashire and Cheshire; North Wales; South Wales.

WAGES IN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY UNDERTAKINGS.

The District Council established, under the Whitley Scheme, for the Electricity Supply Industry in the North-Western Area of England and Wales (Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Anglesey, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Merioneth, Montgomery, and part of Derbyshire) has been engaged for some time in revising the basic rates of wages for all grades of workpeople in the industry, and has now fixed rates for Lancashire and Cheshire. In these counties the Council has now determined that there shall be three separate "Zones," in which differential rates shall be paid. "Zone A," for which the highest rates are fixed, comprises Liverpool (Corporation undertaking), Bootle, Birkenhead, Manchester, Oldham, Salford and Stockport; "Zone B," for which lower rates are fixed, includes Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Chester, Preston, Warrington, Wigan, and a number of other places; and "Zone C," in which the rates are lowest, includes the undertakings in such districts as Alderley and Wilmslow, Altrincham, Cark, Crewe, Hoylake and West Kirby, Macclesfield, Morecambe, Northwich, Ormskirk, and Prescot.

Comprehensive Schedules have been drawn up for each of these "Zones," specifying the rates of wages fixed for the various grades of workpeople. Copies of these Schedules, which have been approved by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry, were forwarded on 1st January to the undertakings concerned with a joint letter, signed on behalf of the Council by the Employers' and Trade Unions' Secretaries, in which confidence was expressed that the Council's recommendations would be duly honoured.

In the following Table a few examples are given of the basic rates fixed for Lancashire and Cheshire. The new rates are payable as from 4th September last. The hourly rates shown are calculated on the basis of the weekly hours in operation before the reduction in hours which took place in 1919. Accordingly, to obtain the weekly "basic" rates these hourly rates must be multiplied by the hours formerly worked (usually 53 for day-workers) and not by 47, the present working hours. In addition to these basic rates, war wage advances are payable, amounting to 33s. 6d. per week in the case of men of 18 years or over. A bonus of 12½ per cent. on earnings is also paid to men 21 years of age or over.

Grade.	Basic Rates of Wages fixed for Undertakings in		
	Zone A.	Zone B.	Zone C.
Electrical Fitters	Per hour.	Per hour.	Per hour.
Electricians or Electrical Wiremen	Standard District Engineering Rate.		
Armature Winders	9'5d.	9d.	8'5d.
Joiners	10'5d.	10d.	9'5d.
Plumber Joiners	7'85d.	7'25d.	7d.
Meter Fixers	6'75d.	6'25d.	6d.
Cable Hands	6'75d.	5'75d.	5'5d.
Fitters' Mate	6'75d.	5'75d.	5'5d.
Electricians' Mat 1	6'3d.	5'75d.	5'5d.
Labourers, General, indoor	6'75d.	6'25d.	6d.
" " outdoor			
Switchboard Attendants:—	Per week.	Per week.	Per week.
Plant up to 5,000 K.W.	45s.	37s. 6d.	32s. 6d.
" " above 5,000 "	54s.	42s. 6d.	37s. 6d.

The Council was elected in August, 1919, by representatives of all Electricity Supply Undertakings in the North-Western Area, and by the Trade Unions concerned. It consists of 12 employers' representatives and 12 Trade Union representatives, the election of employers' representatives being arranged so as to secure direct representation on the Council of small, as well as of large, undertakings and of both municipalities and companies. Alderman T. E. Higham, J.P., C.C. (Accrington), is Chairman of the Council, and Mr. P. A. Irvine, of the Electrical Trades Union, Vice-Chairman. Other employers' representatives are Mr. S. L. Pearce, C.B.E. (Manchester), Mr. W. J. H. Wood (Bolton), Alderman H. Clark (Rochdale), Mr. R. Blackmore (Stalybridge, Hyde, Mossley and Dukinfield), Mr. J. A. Crowther (Wallasey), Councillor W. F. Cooke (Nelson), Mr. C. L. E. Stewart (Rawtenstall), and Mr. S. Pauls (Middleton), representing Municipal Undertakings, and Mr. C. D. Tate and Mr. J. H. Tonge, representing Company Undertakings. Other Trade Union representatives are Mr. W. M. Citrine (Electrical Trades Union), Mr. C. E. Ross and Mr. D. Williams (National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen and Electrical Workers), Mr. T. I. Holt and Councillor J. Gorman (Amalgamated Society of Engineers), Mr. J. Williams, J.P., and Councillor E. Porter (National Union of General Workers), Mr. H. J. Hanaway and Mr. T. Williamson (National Amalgamated Workers' Union), Mr. W. F. Dawtry (Steam Engine Makers' Society), and Mr. A. Spencer (United Machine Workers' Society). The Secretaries are Mr. A. H. Banks (for the employers), Town Hall, Manchester, and Mr. C. E. Ross (for the Trade Unions), 1, Todd Street, Corporation Street, Manchester.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

ALTHOUGH the original scheme of payment of out-of-work donation ceased in the case of civilians on 24th November, 1919, it still continued in the case of ex-Service men, and additional payments have been made since that date under a special extension scheme to ex-Service men who have exhausted their rights to donation under the original scheme. In the following Table the numbers of claims at 2nd January, 1920, are analysed according to the industries in which the applicants have been classified:—

Industries.	Number claiming out-of-work donation at 2nd January, 1920.		
	Under Original Scheme.	Under Special Extension Scheme.	Total.
INSURED INDUSTRIES.			
Building and Construction of Works	19,579	1,980	21,559
Shipbuilding	7,073	1,037	8,110
Engineering and Ironfounding	59,981	6,187	66,168
Construction of Vehicles	3,445	161	3,606
Sawmilling, Packing Case Making, etc.	2,108	143	2,251
Ammunition	104	19	123
Chemicals, etc.	710	67	777
Iron and Steel production	2,785	273	3,058
Metal Manufacture	3,618	211	3,829
Brick, Tile, etc.	387	18	405
Other Insured Industries	1,377	79	1,456
Total, Insured Industries	101,177	10,175	111,352
UNINSURED INDUSTRIES.			
Agriculture	15,779	564	16,343
Conveyance of Men, Goods, Messages, etc.	62,709	6,546	69,255
Mines and Quarries	3,771	433	4,204
Textiles	9,054	592	9,646
Commercial	22,535	1,832	24,367
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	6,788	268	7,056
Dress	8,189	482	8,671
Domestic Service, etc.	16,529	1,369	17,898
General Labourers	69,019	9,117	78,136
Other Industries	31,499	1,371	32,870
Total, Uninsured Industries	244,381	22,224	266,605
Grand Total	345,558	32,399	377,957

The number of men claiming donation under the original scheme shows a decrease of about 8,000 on the figure recorded for 28th November; there was an increase in trades affected by the moulders' dispute and in agriculture and building, but this was more than counterbalanced by decreases in other trades and particularly in the transport trades and among general labourers. It should be noted that the total number of applicants for donation (377,957) forms only a small proportion (9.5 per cent.) of the number of ex-Service men (3,992,272) who had been discharged or demobilised since the armistice.

In the following Table the numbers claiming donation at 2nd January, 1920, are analysed geographically:—

Divisions.	Number claiming Out-of-work Donation at 2nd January 1920.		
	Under original Scheme.	Under special Extension Scheme.	Total.
London and South Eastern	92,038	6,270	98,308
South Western	33,794	3,165	41,959
South Midlands and Eastern	32,769	2,661	35,430
West Midlands	23,081	2,334	25,415
Yorkshire and East Midlands	29,171	3,263	32,434
North Western	49,769	7,092	56,861
Northern	14,246	2,058	16,304
Scotland	30,173	2,872	33,045
Wales	7,976	912	8,888
Ireland	27,541	1,772	29,313
Total	345,558	32,399	377,957

The largest number of policies lodged was in the London and South Eastern Division, which accounted for one quarter of the total. The North-Western Division accounted for one-seventh of the total and the South-Western Division for one-ninth.

As regards the re-settlement of ex-Service men the records of the Employment Exchanges show that in Great Britain 259,577 non-disabled ex-Service men were found employment by the Exchanges during the 11 months January to December, 1919. Figures for non-disabled and disabled men in Ireland cannot be given separately, but in the same period 8,034 ex-Service of both classes were found work by the Employment Exchanges. In addition arrangements were instituted by the Exchanges for the demobilisation and re-settlement of hundreds of thousands of Service men who are not included in the above figures.

The number of non-disabled ex-Service men who were on the Live Register of the Exchanges at 2nd January, 1920, is analysed by Divisions in the following Table:—

Division.	Number on Live Register at 2nd January, 1920.
London and South Eastern	75,943
South Western	26,016
South Midlands and Eastern	27,164
West Midlands	18,448
Yorkshire and East Midlands	23,796
North Western	47,695
Northern	12,064
Scotland	25,812
Wales	4,553
Ireland	23,965
Total	285,456

An important phase of the work of Employment Exchanges is that of arranging for assistance to be granted in respect of apprenticeships interrupted by the war. At 29th December the number of ex-Service men for whom arrangements for assistance under the scheme had been completed was 23,545, of whom 8,688 were in engineering, 4,125 in building, 2,995 in printing and allied trades, and 1,601 in shipbuilding.

Particular attention has been paid by the Employment Exchanges to the re-settlement of disabled ex-Service men. During the period 11th January, 1919, to 5th December, 40,800 ex-Service disabled men were placed by the Exchanges in their first employment after discharge from the Forces, while in 2,836 cases the men have been placed a second or subsequent time.

In order to facilitate re-settlement the disabilities from which these men are suffering are carefully classified and an analysis by disability of the Live Register of Exchanges in Great Britain at 5th December is given in the following Table:—

	Nature of Disability.						
	Arm and Hand.	Lung.	Heart.	Internal Trouble.	Leg and Foot.	Neurasthenia.	Other.
London and S.E.	1,571	683	817	458	2,138	667	2,840
South Western	450	155	165	147	562	138	539
S. Mids. and E.	725	348	343	259	441	200	1,057
West Midlands	623	238	243	145	691	143	722
York and E. Mids.	865	377	328	283	993	181	1,511
North Western	1,368	629	626	358	1,513	329	1,765
Northern	294	66	77	53	320	52	340
Scotland	977	413	384	417	1,084	216	1,775
Wales	210	107	105	69	276	76	408
Total	7,083	3,016	3,091	2,189	8,518	2,001	10,607

Of the 36,505 disabled men on the Live Register nearly one-fourth were leg and foot cases, while one-fifth were arm and hand cases. The Live Register of disabled men shows a decrease of 2,143 compared with a month earlier, in spite of the fact that about 9,000 fresh applicants were registered during the month.

In order to assist the disabled men who were still unemployed a special appeal was issued in September by the King to employers of labour asking for the employment of disabled men on a percentage basis. At 2nd January, 1920, the number of undertakings to employ the suggested percentage of disabled men which had been accepted by the Local Employment Committees amounted to 10,291, and a further 797 applications were awaiting consideration and acceptance.

COAL OUTPUT.

PROVISIONAL figures of the weekly tonnage output of coal during the four weeks ended 27th December are given below.

The output in the week ended 27th December shows a heavy fall in all districts except Scotland, due to the Christmas holidays. On the other hand, the output in the preceding week (the last unbroken week of the year 1919) was greater than in any previous week since the spring.

District.	Week ended 6th Dec.	Week ended 13th Dec.	Week ended 20th Dec.	Week ended 27th Dec.
Northumberland	285,487	226,536	238,133	160,520
Durham	684,481	636,062	676,015	431,336
Yorkshire	781,366	799,873	800,147	533,470
Lancs., Ches. and North Wales	457,535	466,479	453,311	312,271
Dorset, Notts. and Leicester	591,267	594,573	586,998	373,049
Staffs., Shropshire, Warwick & Worcs.	367,573	380,622	372,138	280,649
South Wales & Mon.	945,841	996,997	997,313	514,505
Other English Districts	102,409	104,596	106,142	62,562
Scotland	682,645	680,918	679,908	684,241
TOTAL	4,808,524	4,886,156	4,910,106	3,352,603

The total weekly production of coal in each week since the end of May is given below:—

1919.	Tons.	1919.	Tons.
May 31st	4,812,595	September 20th	4,450,308
June 7th	4,644,034	September 27th	4,481,434
June 14th	3,256,508	October 4th	2,871,610
June 21st	4,736,841	October 11th	4,076,862
June 28th	4,806,933	October 18th	4,727,465
July 5th	4,728,588	October 25th	4,761,037
July 12th	4,796,148	November 1st	4,674,532
July 19th	3,893,651	November 8th	4,804,456
July 26th	2,537,954	November 15th	4,679,402
August 2nd	3,614,776	November 22nd	4,767,578
August 9th	2,642,895	November 29th	4,762,729
August 16th	3,726,499	December 6th	4,808,524
August 23rd	3,989,762	December 13th	4,886,156
August 30th	4,354,983	December 20th	4,910,106
September 6th	4,509,863	December 27th	3,352,603
September 13th	4,489,816		

The seven-hour day was introduced on 16th July. Production in the last part of July and the first part of August was affected by the coal strike in Yorkshire. The week ended 9th August included the Bank Holiday period. The low output in the week ended 4th October was due to the railway strike.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE AGAINST DISABILITY AND OLD AGE IN ITALY.*

THE following are the main points of a Decree, dated 21st April, 1919, relating to the above mentioned forms of insurance, which came into operation on 1st January, 1920:—

1. *Scope and Objects.*—Insurance against disability (resulting either from sickness or accident) and old age is obligatory for (a) all Italian subjects of both sexes, whether at home or in the colonies, between the ages of 15 and 65, who work for an employer in any industry, trade, or profession, including "home industries," agriculture,† and the public services, or who are occupied in domestic service or in any private employment; (b) foreigners working at the same occupations, who, however, will only receive full benefits if reciprocal treatment is granted to Italians employed in the countries of which they are subjects.

Exemption is allowed to (1) non-manual workers whose average monthly salary exceeds £14; (2) agricultural tenants whose annual income exceeds £144; (3) men in the mercantile marine service employed in Italian ships, and consequently subscribing to the sickness funds of such service; (4) State and similar employees for whom insurance schemes are already in existence. Persons who have undergone a period of active military service and persons disabled through sickness, up to a period not exceeding one year, will be entitled to count such period as qualifying service towards the benefits of insurance, without the payment of premiums.

2. *Contributions.*—Premiums are to be paid by the insured person and the employer in equal proportions. The scale will be as follows (the conversions into English currency being made at par rates):—

Daily Pay.	1s. 7d. and under.	Over 1s. 7d. up to 3s. 2d.	Over 3s. 2d. up to 4s. 10d.	Over 4s. 10d. up to 6s. 5d.	Over 6s. 5d. up to 8s. 0d.	Over 8s.
Fortnightly contribution payable both by the Insured Person and by the Employer	5d.	10d.	1s. 2d.	1s. 7d.	2s. 0d.	2s. 5d.

Contributions will be collected by means of stamps affixed to cards. Employers are responsible for the contributions of their workpeople, and they may deduct these from their wages.

3. *Benefits.*—Pensions will be granted to (a) persons attaining the age of 65 who have paid at least 240 fortnightly contributions; in certain cases persons over 60 may receive pensions at reduced rates while still contributing towards the full pension payable at 65; (b) persons of any age, permanently incapacitated, who have paid at least 120 contributions. A person will be regarded as incapacitated whose earning ability is reduced to less than a third of that necessary for gaining the earnings locally current in his or her trade.

The part of the annual pension provided by the contributions of the insured person and of the employer shall be a yearly sum amounting to 66 per cent. of the first 120 fortnightly contributions, 50 per cent. of the next 120, and 25 per cent. of the remaining contributions.

The portion of the annual pension payable by the State will be £4.

When an insured person dies before having received his pension, his widow, or his children under 15, will receive, for six months after his death, a monthly grant of £2, of which the State will pay half.

Hospital treatment may be provided for disabled persons, with their consent, by the National Social Insurance Fund, which will bear all the necessary expenses.

4. *Administration.*—The scheme will be administered under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Labour by the Council of Administration of the National Fund for Social Insurance. Such Council is to consist of six representatives of the employers, eight of compulsorily insured persons, two of voluntarily insured persons, five persons specially conversant with social insurance, and one official from each of a number of specified Government departments, including the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labour.

A Provincial Provident Institute, which will be entrusted with the application of the present law, will be established in each province.

5. *Voluntary Insurance.*—Insured persons may increase their pensions by voluntary payments, and voluntary insurance contributions may also be paid by (a) independent workers whose yearly earnings do not exceed £168; (b) married and other women engaged in domestic work; and (c) small peasant proprietors, shopkeepers, and professional workers not included in (a) and whose total annual taxes do not exceed £8.

The State will contribute to the total annuities of the above persons in the proportion of one-third in the case of persons voluntarily insured and one-sixth in the case of supplementary annuities paid voluntarily by those compulsorily insured.

* *Gazzetta Ufficiale del Regno d'Italia*, 1st May 1919, Rome.

† Among agricultural workers are included persons who work under the *metayage* system (in which the tenant pays part of the rent in produce), for whom special rates of contribution will be fixed.

SWISS MINIMUM WAGE LAW.*

THE Swiss Federal Assembly promulgated an Act on 27th June, 1919, providing for the establishment of (1) a Federal Labour Department in the Ministry of Economics, (2) a Federal Wage Commission, and (3) Federal Wage Boards. Subsequent to the passing of this measure the demand was made that it should be submitted to the referendum; the requisite number of signatures was obtained, and it is now announced† that the Act will be put to the popular vote upon a date to be fixed later. Meanwhile a summary of the leading principles of the Act may be of interest.

A *Labour Department* is to be established for the purpose of studying labour conditions in "home industries," factories, workshops, mines, &c., arts and crafts and commerce. Its functions are: to enquire into labour conditions in general, the labour market, the standard of living and housing conditions of workers, and migration of labour; to prepare schemes for improving working conditions and raising the standard of living of workers; to give effect to the decisions of the Federal Wage Commission (see below); to decide in cases of appeal relating to the non-observance of legally established working conditions; to express an opinion, at the request of the Federal Council, on proposals put forward by the Wage Commission and the Wage Boards; to formulate proposals regarding "Common Rule" declarations for collective agreements covering groups of workers for whom no Wage Boards exist, and proposals connected with the question of permitting different types of agreements; and to supervise the administration of the Wage Boards.

The *Labour Department* is also empowered to institute enquiries, to examine pay sheets and interview heads of firms and members of the staff, all of whom are bound to supply the information desired. It may demand the assistance of Cantonal and Communal Authorities, Public Labour Exchanges, Statistical Offices and the Employment Exchanges of the Trade Organisations concerned. These powers are also granted to the Wage Boards.

A *Wage Commission* and *Wage Boards* are established for the purpose of regulating wages and collaborating with the *Labour Department* in the tasks which devolve upon it.

The *Federal Wage Commission* is empowered to decide appeals against wage rates fixed by the Wage Boards; to lay proposals before the Federal Council relative to "Common Rule" declarations and standard agreements; and to give advice, at the request of the *Labour Department*, on matters which come within the province of the latter. The *Wage Commission* is to consist of a President—this office being filled by the Director of the *Labour Department*—two independent members, and at least three representatives of employers and three representatives of employees. Women are to be "adequately" represented upon the Commission. The members are appointed by the Federal Council for periods of three years. The trade organisations concerned are to be consulted in regard to nominations.

The *Wage Boards* are commissioned to fix wages in cases submitted to them by the *Labour Department*; to carry out the instructions of the *Labour Department*; to supervise the observance of legal working conditions; to submit to the *Federal Wage Commission* proposals relative to "Common Rule" declarations and standard agreements; to give advice on questions submitted by the *Labour Department*; and to report on their activities to the *Labour Department*. A *Wage Board* will consist of an independent chairman, at least three representatives of employers and three representatives of the workers. Women are to be "adequately" represented. The powers of the *Wage Boards* to fix wages are for the present restricted to the fixing of minimum rates of wages for workers employed in "home industries," but the *Federal Assembly* may extend these powers, enabling the *Wage Boards* to regulate wages generally. For the purpose of dealing with the regulation of working conditions of non-manual workers special *Wage Boards*, with representatives of such workers as members, will be set up. The *Wage Boards* are to be appointed by the Federal Council for periods of three years. The members are to be appointed upon nomination by the *Wage Commission*. There are to be *Wage Boards* for the various trade groups, and, when necessary, for certain districts or parts of the country. The trades concerned are to be consulted.

Wage rates are to be fixed after due consideration has been given to all circumstances, and, so far as possible, on the basis of equal pay for equal work, without distinction of sex. Wages may be graded according to local conditions, trade groups or the capacity of the worker.

All requests for the fixing of wage rates must be addressed to the *competent Wage Board*, which shall transmit them to the *competent Wage Board*. After hearing the parties concerned and ascertaining all necessary facts the chairman of the Board will endeavour to secure a unanimous decision by the Board. If he succeeds, the wage rates fixed will be enforced immediately. If the Board is not unanimous, the verdict of the majority shall be accepted. In this case any person concerned may enter an appeal against the decision. The appeal must be made, within a period to be

fixed by the *Wage Board*, but in any case not less than ten days, to the *Wage Commission* through the medium of the *Labour Department*. If the fixed period expires without appeal having been made the decision shall enter into force. The decision of the *Wage Commission* in cases of appeal shall be final.

If there is a manifest need the *Federal Council* may, on the proposal of a *Wage Board*, after consulting the trade organisations concerned, make a "Common Rule" declaration for a collective agreement, and may draft standard agreements, from the provisions of which it shall not be permissible to depart. If such collective agreements and standard agreements specify rates of wages, the power to fix wages granted to the *Wage Boards* shall be replaced by the right to lay proposals before the *Federal Council*. Collective agreements in those trades for which no *Wage Boards* exist may be made subject to "Common Rule" declarations without any proposal being made by *Wage Boards*.

Applications made to the *Federal Council* for "Common Rule" declarations must be addressed to the *Labour Department*, which shall transmit them to the *competent Wage Board* after hearing the views of the trade organisations concerned. The opinion of the *Wage Board* shall be submitted to the *Wage Commission*, which shall decide whether or not the application shall be laid before the *Federal Council*. If the *Commission* decide in the negative the matter shall not be proceeded with; if in the affirmative, the *Labour Department* shall express its opinion on the proposal to be submitted to the *Federal Council*. The *Labour Department* must ascertain that the proposal is not at variance with wage rates which may already have been fixed by *Wage Boards*.

Every decision involving the laying down of working conditions must be accompanied by a statement of the date on which the decision is to come into force and of the date after which a revision may be demanded. If a considerable change of circumstances should arise a demand may be made for a revision before the fixed date.

During the period when the question of regulating working conditions is being considered, and during the period of validity of orders and decisions, the parties concerned are bound under penalty of fine (see below) to avoid all disputes connected with the working conditions under consideration or which are the subject of orders or decisions.

Fines, ranging from 10 to 500 francs, are to be imposed for contravention of measures adopted by the *Labour Department* and *Wage Boards* to obtain information; for non-payment of fixed wage rates, if payment is refused maliciously or in defiance of regulations; for contravention of regulations laid down in other Acts for regulating working conditions; and for failure to observe the obligation to avoid disputes in the conditions stated above.

In case of need, and after consulting the Cantonal Governments, the *Federal Council* is to establish *Federal Conciliation Boards*, and to determine their methods of procedure and the relations between them and the Cantonal and Communal Authorities.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN SWITZERLAND.*

FROM 5th August, 1918, to 5th April, 1919, five Decrees of an emergency character were issued by the Swiss Federal Council, regulating the grant of assistance to unemployed workers. Two of these related to unemployment in private industry arising out of war conditions, the third to unemployment among workers employed by the *Federal Government*, the fourth to unemployment of Swiss subjects returning from abroad, while the fifth laid down conditions for the relief of all workers not covered by the preceding measures. These have now been repealed and replaced by a single Decree dated 29th October, which entered into force on 16th November, 1919, but which is still to be regarded as a provisional measure, to be replaced ultimately by an *Unemployment Insurance Law*.

The main lines followed in the granting of unemployment relief, pending the enactment of such a law, may be stated as follows:

Assistance is granted both for total and for partial unemployment, subject to the fulfilment of conditions laid down in the Decree. Such assistance is paid by the communal authorities in the former and by employers in the latter case.

The amount of relief granted in case of total unemployment is 60 per cent. of the normal earnings, or 70 per cent. where the person out of work has others legally dependent upon him; but the daily rate of pay must not in any case exceed certain maxima laid down in the Decree. The maximum amount varies according to whether there are dependants and also according to the cost of living in the commune in which the unemployed worker resides.† Where short time is worked the relief paid by the employer is equal to half the loss of wage or salary.

* *Recueil des Lois Suisses*, 5th and 19th November, and *Feuille Fédérale Suisse*, 18th November, 1919.

† Communes are divided into three classes, viz., "dear," "moderately dear," and "relatively cheap"; in the second of these, for example, a person out of work may not receive more than 5 francs per day, or, if he has dependants, 7, 8, 8½ or 9 francs according to their number, with an additional 50 centimes for each dependant in excess of four.

* *Feuille Fédérale Suisse*, 2nd July, 1919.

† *Ibid.*, 24th December, 1919.

Unemployment relief must not be paid as a rule for more than 60 working days in any one year.

The cost of relief is covered by grants from the Federal Government, the cantons and communes, and by contributions levied upon the employer, either by his trade association (should he belong to one) or by the Government of the Canton in which his business is carried on. The share which an individual employer may be called upon to pay will be fixed by his association or by the Cantonal Authority as the case may be, and will be (1) in respect of non-manual workers, an amount which is not less than the total salary-bill for half a month and not more than the total salary-bill for three months, and (2) in respect of manual workers an amount which is not less than one week's wages-bill and not more than the wages-bill for six weeks. In computing the amount of the pay-roll for the purpose of assessing an employer no account is taken of salary paid to a non-manual worker in excess of 500 francs per month, or of wages to a manual worker in excess of 84 francs per week.

Where the reduction of the working hours resulting in partial unemployment is 40 per cent. or under, the cost of relief is borne entirely by the employers; if it is more than 40 per cent. the employer will pay one-third of the cost of the relief provided.

Disputes are to be referred to the cantonal conciliation offices or to arbitration boards upon which these offices are represented. Unemployment relief under this Decree is not to count as poor relief.

Special arrangements are made to cover the case of unemployed relief for aliens domiciled in Switzerland and for workers in seasonal trades.

The Federal Department of Public Economy is authorised to dispense with certain provisions of this Decree in the case of certain classes of undertakings in which no unemployment exists or where there are organisations granting benefits equivalent to those conferred by the present measure. Regulations for the carrying out of the Decree were issued on 10th November. These show that an unemployment office is to be set up in each commune, and that where possible the duties of such office are to devolve upon the public employment exchange.

GENERAL WAGE ADVANCE FOR AMERICAN TEXTILE OPERATIVES.

In a despatch, dated 5th December, 1919, H.M. Commercial Secretary at Washington reports that an advance in wages of textile operatives in New England has been announced. The announcement is stated to have followed the settlement of a one-day strike in Fall River (Mass.), where 38,000 operatives were given a 12½ per cent. advance, and the threat of a strike at New Bedford, where 35,000 operatives obtained a similar advance.

With reference to the above, the Boston correspondent of the "New York World" (3rd December) states:—

"With the announcement to-day of advanced wages for thousands of operatives in the textile industry in New England, 300,000 workers in this section and thousands in other Eastern States will, it is indicated, be receiving higher pay in a day or two.

"The advance, which, almost generally, was announced as 12½ per cent., marks a new high level for textile wages, and will add almost 1,000,000 dollars weekly to the pay-rolls. Increases since the beginning of the war* will then aggregate from 100 to 148 per cent."

INCREASE OF STATUTORY "LIVING WAGE" IN NEW SOUTH WALES.†

UNDER section 79 of the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act the New South Wales Board of Trade are required "from year to year, after public inquiry as to the increase or decrease in the average cost of living, to declare what shall be the living wages to be paid to adult male employees and to adult female employees in the State, or any defined area thereof." The first declaration in conformity with the requirement was made on 5th September, 1918, and fixed the living wage for adult male employees in the Metropolitan (Sydney) area at £3 per week, or 10s. per day, or 1s. 3d. per hour.‡ By a new declaration, dated 8th October, 1919, the living wage for adult males in the Metropolitan area has been fixed at £3 17s. per week, or 12s. 10d. per day, or 1s. 7½d. per hour.

In fixing the living wage for adult males the Board are guided by the following principles:—

(1) "The average cost of living should be calculated upon the basis of the average requirements of the lowest paid class of workers."

* That is (in the case of the United States), since April, 1917.
† The New South Wales Industrial Gazette, 31st October, 1919. Sydney.
‡ This was supplemented by a declaration on 17th September, 1918, fixing for adult female employees in the same area a wage of 30s. per week, or 5s. per day, or 7½d. per hour.

(2) "This calculation should be made upon the requirements of a family of husband and wife and the average number of dependent children in the families of the said class."

(3) "The standard of living should be such as to provide a worker of the said class and his said dependent family with the normal requirements of a member of a civilised community."

THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Boot and Shoe, Textile and Clothing Industries.—Ministerial Decrees are published in the *Journal Officiel* of 23rd November and of 13th and 14th December setting forth the conditions of applying the legal eight-hour day (see p. 181 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for May and p. 372 of the issue for September) to the factory boot and shoe industry, and to the textile and clothing industries respectively throughout the whole of France. The first Decree is dated 19th November, the other two 12th December.

SPAIN.

The Royal Decree fixing the legal maximum length of the working day in Spain at eight hours as from 1st October last, summarised in THE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, p. 182, made no provision for the imposition of penalties upon persons who infringed its precepts. This has now been remedied by a Royal Decree dated 9th December, a copy and translation of which have been transmitted through the Foreign Office, by H.M. Ambassador at Madrid.

RETAIL PRICES:

FOOD PRICES—GENERAL SUMMARY.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AT THE UNDERMENTIONED DATES, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.

[N.B.—The figures below should be read in connection with the details given under each country in this and previous issues of THE LABOUR GAZETTE.]

Country.	Percentage Increase in Retail Food Prices since July, 1914.					Latest figures available.	Rise.	Date.
	July, 1915.	July, 1916.	July, 1917.	July, 1918.	July, 1919.			
UNITED KINGDOM ..	32	61	104	110	109	136		1920. Jan.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								1919.
Belgium (Brussels) ..				267	246			Oct.
Belgium (Antwerp) ..				273	306			Oct.
Denmark ..	28	46	66	87	112			July
France (Paris) ..	22	32	83	106	161	185		Dec.
(other Towns) ..	23*	42*	84*	144*	188*	201		4th Qr.
Holland (Amsterdam) ..			42	76	110	102		Nov.
Italy (Rome) ..	5†	11	37	103	106	246		Nov.
(Milan) ..				225	210	288		Dec.
Norway ..		00	14†	179	189	197		Nov.
Spain ..	65	135	275	615		67		Mar.
Sweden ..	24	42	81	168	210	207		Dec.
Switzerland ..	19†	41†	78†	122†	150†	141		Sept.
United States ..	2†	9	43	64	89	88		Nov.
BRITISH DOMINIONS.								
Australia ..	31	30	26	32†	47	48		Sept.
Canada ..	5	14	57	75	86	92		Nov.
In ia (Calcutta) ..	8	10	16	31†	51†	51		Dec.
New Zealand ..	12	19	27	39	44	53		Nov.
South Africa ..					39	67		Nov.

UNITED KINGDOM: PRICES AT 1ST JANUARY.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Principal articles of Food ..	136%
All Items included (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, Light, etc.) ..	125%

Food.

The average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food was slightly higher at 1st January than a month earlier, the most important change recorded being an increase averaging about 1½d. per lb. in the price of cheese.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in the statistics in July, 1914, at the beginning of November, 1918 (just before the Armistice), and on 1st January, 1920. In making comparisons between prices at different times of the year it is necessary to remember the seasonal variations in the prices of some articles:—

* Figures for 3rd Quarter.
† Decrease.
‡ The figures given relate to August.
§ Figures for six months, April to September.
|| Figures for June.

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated)			Average Inc. (+) or Decrease (-) at 1st Jan., 1920, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Nov., 1918.	1st Jan., 1920.	July, 1914.	1st Nov., 1918.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ..	0 08	1 8	1 8½	+ 0 11	+ 0 08
Thin Flank ..	0 04	1 3	1 3	+ 0 8½	..
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ..	0 7½	1 8	1 5½	+ 0 10½	- 2½
Thin Flank ..	0 4½	1 2½	0 11½	+ 0 7	- 3
Mutton, British—					
Legs ..	0 10½	1 8½	1 9	+ 0 10½	+ 0 4
Breast ..	0 6½	1 1½	1 1½	+ 0 7	+ 0 2
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ..	0 6½	1 9	1 4	+ 0 9½	- 5
Breast ..	0 4	1 1	0 8	+ 0 4	- 5
Bacon (streaky)* ..	0 11½	2 3	2 4½	+ 1 5½	+ 1½
Flour .. per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 4	1 4	+ 0 5½	..
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 6½	0 9	0 9½	+ 0 3½	+ 0 4
Tea ..	1 6½	2 8	2 10½	+ 1 4	+ 2½
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 2	0 7	0 8	+ 0 6	+ 1
Milk .. per quart	0 3½	0 8½	0 10½	+ 0 7½	+ 2½
Butter—					
Fresh ..	1 2½	2 6	2 6½	+ 1 3½	+ 0 4
Salt ..	1 2	2 6	2 6½	+ 1 4½	+ 0 4
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.) ..	0 8½	1 8	1 7½	+ 0 10½	- 0 3
Margarine ..	0 7½	1 2	1 1½	+ 0 6	- ½
Eggs (fresh) .. each	0 11	0 6½	0 6½	+ 0 4	..
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 7½	0 11	+ 0 6½	+ 3½

The increases since July, 1914, in the average prices of the above articles of food ranged from about 50 per cent. for flour and 60 per cent. for bread to 290 per cent. for granulated sugar and 340 per cent. for fresh eggs.

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st January, in relation to the prices of July, 1914, for each of the articles included. Columns are also given showing the corresponding average percentages at 1st November, 1918, and 1st December, 1919:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st January, 1920, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for	
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.	1st Nov., 1918.	1st Dec., 1919.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ..	106	114	110	103	110
Thin Flank ..	133	121	127	126	127
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ..	145	143	144	175	144
Thin Flank ..	150	137	144	206	144
Mutton, British—					
Legs ..	104	104	104	102	104
Breast ..	117	98	108	106	108
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ..	141	125	133	206	133
Breast ..	99	91	95	217	95
Bacon (streaky)* ..	162	150	156	142	165
Fish ..	139	118	128	167	131
Flour ..	60	54	52	55	62
Bread ..	65	60	62	52	52
Tea ..	88	85	87	73	83
Sugar (granulated) ..	302	278	290	241	289
Milk ..	213	212	212	141	209
Butter—					
Fresh ..	105	114	110	107	108
Salt ..	113	117	115	112	114
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)* ..	123	121	122	130	108
Margarine ..	89	81	85	97	84
Eggs (fresh) ..	344	339	341	412	339
Potatoes ..	147	105	126	59	117

The average increase in prices, based on the cost of maintaining the pre-war dietary as regards the above articles, was 136 per cent., but the average increase in expenditure on such articles was estimated to be somewhat less, viz., 115 per cent., the difference between the two percentages arising from changes in dietary, as indicated by figures supplied by the Ministry of Food.

In the following Table these percentages are given in comparison with the corresponding figures for a month earlier and for 1st November, 1918:—

	Average Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.		
	Large Towns.	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.
(1) Level of retail prices of foregoing articles of food at 1st January, 1920, assuming same quantities at both dates ..	140	132	136
Corresponding figures for 1st Dec., 1919 ..	138	131	134
" " " 1st Nov., 1918 ..	139	128	133
(2) Expenditure on such articles of food at 1st January, 1920, allowing for estimated changes in consumption ..	115	111	115
Corresponding figures for 1st Dec., 1919 ..	130	112	116
" " " 1st Nov., 1918 ..	101	93	87

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the Returns quote prices for another kind locally representative.

The foregoing figures relating to the prices of principal articles of food are based on information collected from representative retailers conducting a working-class trade in 630 towns and villages, distributed throughout the United Kingdom, several retailers supplying information in each place. The total number of retailers applied to is about 5,500, but this number is not a full indication of the basis of the returns. In many cases the prices given by a retailer relate to several shops; in many cases, too, prices are so regulated by Food Control Orders or by voluntary understanding on the part of retailers that an article is sold at a uniform price throughout a locality.

Rent, Clothing, Fuel and Light.

Increases in rents of working-class dwellings have been limited by the Increase of Rent Restriction Acts and, for the same accommodation, rents generally are the same as before the war, except in so far as higher rents have resulted from increased rates; increases on this account have been included in the estimates of the general increase in prices and rents combined, which is given below.

As regards the prices of clothing, the statistics are designed to relate to the same qualities, or to corresponding qualities, so far as possible. Owing, however, to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price-changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices of clothing. From information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers (some with large numbers of branch establishments) located in different parts of the country, it is estimated that the level of prices of clothing, quality for quality, taking goods of the kind purchased by the working classes, averages between three and four times as high as in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the average increase in the retail prices of coal since July, 1914, was approximately 65 per cent. at 1st January. The charges for gas, as yet unaffected by a reduction corresponding to that in the price of coal at the beginning of December, now show an average increase greater than that shown by the price of coal. The prices of lamp oil have more than doubled and those of candles (cheap kinds) have trebled, while matches show a still greater increase. These three items have, however, relatively small influence on the average movement in the fuel and light group, which, taken as a whole, shows an average increase estimated at about 85 per cent.

All Items.

In order to arrive at a single figure representing the increase since July, 1914, in the prices of all the items taken together, the average increases in the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance, allowance also being made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers. The resultant figure for 1st January, 1920, is approximately 125 per cent., this representing the average increase since July, 1914, in the prices (including rents) of all the items included in the statistics, taking the same quantities and as far as possible the same qualities of the various items in 1920 as in 1914. Of the items which, for various reasons, have been omitted, some show greater increases than the average, others show smaller increases. The range of increases shown by the articles included is wide, varying from nil in the case of workmen's tickets on railways to 300 per cent. or more for eggs, matches and some articles of clothing and ironmongery. The increase of 125 per cent. for all items is about the same as that of a month ago. If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted the average increase on the prices of July, 1914, is about 6 per cent. less.

It is not possible to supplement this comparison of the level of prices generally by a comparison of expenditure similar to that given above with regard to food, but combination of the average increase in expenditure on the specified articles of food with the average increase in retail prices of other items (including rents) yields a resultant increase of about 115 per cent., about the same as at 1st December, 1919.

FRANCE.*

The index number representing the general level of retail prices of food in French towns with over 10,000 inhabitants (but not including Paris) during the last quarter of 1919 shows an increase of 4.4 per cent. as compared with the third quarter of 1919, and a rise of 201 per cent. as compared with the third quarter of 1914.

As regards Paris, the latest data refer to the month of December, 1919, when the level of retail food prices was 1.7 per cent. higher than in the preceding month, and 185 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. In both cases the

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the General Statistical Department of France.

computation of the movement in the general prices level is based on the pre-war budget of a typical Parisian family of the working class, and it is assumed that no change has taken place in the standard of dietary throughout the period covered.

BELGIUM (BRUSSELS).*

The index number representing the general level of retail prices in Brussels in October shows a decrease of 1.5 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 237 per cent. as compared with April, 1914. If prime necessities (food and house-rent) alone be taken into consideration, the rise as compared with the pre-war level is 246 per cent.; for less necessary articles (including beverages and tobacco) the increase is 206 per cent.; and for clothing, footwear, lighting and heating, 255 per cent. The index numbers upon which the above computations are based are "unweighted," all articles comprised in the above groups being assumed to be of equal importance.

ITALY.

(a) Rome.†

The general level of food prices in Rome shows an increase of 2.1 per cent. in November, 1919, as compared with the preceding month, and an increase of 146 per cent. as compared with the first half of 1914. If the prices of other household necessities (clothing, fuel, lighting, rent, &c.) be also taken into consideration the general level in November shows an increase of 2.3 per cent. as compared with October, and an increase of 137 per cent. as compared with the pre-war level.

The basis of the foregoing computation is the cost of satisfying the weekly requirements of a working-class family consisting of two adults and three children, and it is assumed that the standard of living was identical throughout the period covered.

(b) Milan.‡

The cost of maintaining the pre-war standard of living in Milan for one week in the case of a family consisting of five persons, at the prices current in December, 1919, was 1.8 per cent. above that of November, and 254 per cent. higher than in the first half of 1914. The cost of food alone was 2.3 per cent. higher than that of the previous month and shows an increase of 298 per cent. as compared with the first half of 1914. The cost of clothing in December was 274 per cent. above the pre-war figure, and that of heating and lighting 120 per cent.; rent shows an increase of 8.3 per cent. on the pre-war figure.

HOLLAND (AMSTERDAM).§

The index number representing the total food bill of working-class families in Amsterdam, calculated at the prices current in November, 1919, shows a decrease of 0.6 per cent. as compared with the cost in the preceding month, but an increase of 102.4 per cent. compared with 1913. The cost of the food budget is computed on the assumption that no change has taken place in the dietetic standard throughout the period covered.

SWEDEN.¶

At the prices prevailing in December the cost of maintaining the standard pre-war budget of a typical Swedish household in the matter of food, fuel and lighting represents a slight decrease (0.7 per cent.) upon the cost in the preceding month, but an increase of 207 per cent. in comparison with July, 1914. The "typical family" is one consisting of man and wife and two children, which had an expenditure (in 1914) of about £111 per annum. The above figures relate to the principal towns of Sweden taken together, but if the same budget be taken to apply to Stockholm alone, December shows an increase of 0.3 per cent. as against November, 1919, and an increase of 216 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

The above computations are based on a comparison of expenditure upon articles of food, lighting and fuel only. The total family expenditure, including also the computed expenditure upon rent, clothing, taxation and other items, at the prices current on 1st January, 1920, shows an increase of 159 per cent. when compared with the expenditure in July, 1914.

UNITED STATES.¶

The general level of retail food prices in the United States in November shows an increase of 2 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, and of 5 per cent. as compared

* *Revue du Travail*, 15th November, 1919.
 † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Municipal Office of Labour, Rome.
 ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Municipal Office of Labour, Milan.
 § Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Municipal Statistical Office of Amsterdam.
 ¶ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Bureau of Social Statistics, Stockholm.
 ¶ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington, D.C.

with November, 1918. The increase over July, 1914, amounts to 88 per cent. In the computation of the general level the various articles of food are "weighted" according to their respective importance in household consumption, and it is assumed that no change has taken place in the standard of living throughout the period under review.

INDIA (CALCUTTA).

As shown in the Summary Table under "Retail Prices" on p. 519 of THE LABOUR GAZETTE for December, the average increase since 1914 in the prices of the principal articles of food in Calcutta at the end of November, 1919, was 53 per cent., a figure which showed no change as compared with that for the preceding month.

Further information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Department of Statistics, Calcutta, gives the following data concerning the percentage variations in the prices of important articles of food:—

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Average Retail Prices in Nov. 1919, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	Oct., 1919.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rice	+ 33	− 1
Flour, wheat	+ 44	No change.
Pulses	+ 65	− 4
Average, food grains (cereals and pulses).	+ 51	− 2
Sugar	+ 190	+ 7
Tea	+ 25	No change.
Meat (beef and mutton)	− 4	No change.
Poultry	+ 17	No change.
Eggs	+ 6	− 14
Fish	+ 25	+ 3
Milk	+ 25	No change.
Ghee (native butter)	+ 75	No change.
Cheese	+ 114	No change.
Butter	+ 77	+ 12
Potatoes	+ 48	+ 21
Vegetables (other than potatoes)	+ 39	− 5
Fruits	+ 50	− 4
Mustard oil	+ 50	− 3
General average (unweighted) ..	+ 53	No change.

The above percentages are based on unweighted index numbers of prices, i.e., no allowance has been made for the relative quantities of the articles consumed in an Indian family. Food grains and vegetables, however, have been indirectly weighted by more than one grade of the article being included in the index numbers.

EMPLOYMENT ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment Exchanges and Out-of-Work Relief in December.—According to returns furnished to the Central Employment Exchange, the number of situations found by Exchanges during the week ended 20th December was 22,220, of which 18,610 were for men and 3,610 for women. This total shows an aggregate increase of 645 on the previous week, but a decrease of 402 on the average weekly placings for the month of November. The number of applicants for work who were not placed was 14,882, of whom 11,637 were men and 3,245 were women, a decrease of 2,165 on that of the previous week. The decrease was almost entirely in the number of applications made by men. Of the applicants 55 per cent. were resident in the Seine Department (which includes Paris) and 14.5 per cent. in the Departments of the Upper and Lower Rhine. The unsatisfied offers of employment amounted to 6,990, of which 3,368 were for men and 3,622 for women, showing an increase of 268 on the total for the preceding week.

The number of persons receiving unemployment relief, according to the latest returns, was 5,242; of these 23.8 per cent. were in Paris, 38.5 per cent. in the rest of the Seine Department, 8.5 in Haute Vienne, and 6.8 per cent. in Haute Garonne.

SWITZERLAND.†

Employment in November.—According to the report of the Central Union of Swiss Labour Exchanges the condition of the industrial labour market in November was not so good as in the preceding month. Except in the embroidery industry the number of situations offered was smaller than in October. The number of applications for situations also showed a decline. On account of the prevalence of disease among cattle operations in connection with filling vacancies for agricultural workers were at a standstill. In the aggregate there were 121.9 applicants for every 100 vacancies, as against 109.7 in November, 1918.

* *Journal Officiel*, 27th December, 1919.
 † *Verband Schweizerischer Arbeitsämter: Monatsberichte der Zentralstelle*, November, 1919, Zurich.

GERMANY.

Employment in November.—The *Reichsanzeiger* of 29th December contains the following statement regarding conditions of employment during the month of November, 1919: "The suspension of passenger traffic on the State railways between the 5th and 15th November enabled some 400,000 tons of coal to be despatched from the pit-head stocks. Heavy snowstorms, however, rendered the transport of coal and all outdoor labour difficult. The State railways were able to carry out the highly necessary work of increasing their coal stocks, but other consumers, particularly industrial undertakings, were unable to do this, and some, for example blast furnaces, even had their supplies reduced. The immediate result was that many works had to restrict their operations and work short time, with disastrous financial results. Numerous restrictions of activity and discharges of workers on a large scale are impending. This is all the more regrettable since the number and extent of foreign orders are constantly increasing. The situation underwent further deterioration in consequence of the continued shortage of raw materials and the never-ending strikes, the destructive consequences of which on economic life and on the workers themselves are clearly seen in the Berlin metal industry. The German Metal Workers' Union has paid out 20,000,000 marks through one strike, which resulted in a wages agreement differing in no essential respect from that drawn up, prior to the strike, by the Arbitration Court Award of 21st August.

"For the reasons set forth the position of the labour market underwent further deterioration in November. Unemployment again increased."

According to returns from 31 trade unions, relating to 4,538,921 members, 2.9 per cent. of these were unemployed on the last day of November, as compared with 2.6 per cent. of those covered by the returns for October; the corresponding figure for November, 1918, was 1.8 per cent. Thus unemployment increased both as compared with October and with a year ago. Among men the proportion unemployed rose from 2.3 per cent. in October to 2.7 per cent. in November; among women it fell from 3.9 per cent. to 3.8 per cent. Increases in the percentage unemployed as compared with October are reported by unions representing the metal and woodworking trades, factory workers and State and municipal workers; on the other hand, the textile workers' and transport workers' unions report decreased unemployment.

"According to the reports of the Demobilisation Commission (which do not cover Berlin and suburbs, Posen, West Prussia, Wiesbaden District, Sigmaringen and Hesse), the number of unemployed in receipt of out-of-work donations fell from 275,047 on 1st November to 273,718 on 1st December. The returns from Saxony are, however, not complete. If the reports from the above districts be included, the number on 1st December is increased to 388,300 (291,501 males, 96,799 females). In conjunction with a greater degree of unemployment and the large number of persons out of work there has been a considerable increase in the recorded number of applicants for employment, while the number of vacancies for outdoor work (such as building, agriculture, quarrying, brick and pottery making and emergency works) decreased considerably. According to the statistics of the employment exchanges there were 173 male and 129 female applicants respectively for every 100 vacancies in November as against 150 and 115 respectively in the previous month and 74 and 101 respectively in November, 1918. The proportion of applicants, particularly males, therefore shows a large increase as against the previous month and also as against the corresponding month of the previous year. The largest numbers of applications for work were, as before, in commercial employments, and in the food preparation and the textile trades. The heavy increase in the number of women applicants in the textile industry is noteworthy—354 per 100 vacancies as against 287 in the previous month; whereas in commercial occupations the number of women dropped to 261, as compared with 287 in the previous month. In spite of the increased supplies of raw materials, textile workers had to be discharged owing to shortage of coal. In the metal-working trades, in which males are chiefly employed, the number of male applicants per 100 vacancies increased from 265 in October to 293 in November.

"In agriculture, the harvesting of root crops had to be suspended for a time owing to heavy snowfalls. The number of male applicants was for the first time equal to that of vacancies, but there was a shortage of female workers (44 applicants to 100 vacancies).

"Reports from 4,609 Sickness Insurance Societies show that the number of insurable members (excluding those unable to work through illness) increased between 1st November and 1st December by 81,099, or 1 per cent. The number of insurable males increased by 1 per cent. to 5,164,241, and the number of females by 1 per cent. to 3,161,861.

"It must not, however, be inferred from this increase that an improvement has taken place in industrial activity or in the labour market."

HOLLAND.*

Employment in August.—Returns relating to employment in August were received by the Dutch Statistical Office from Trade Union and other unemployment funds with a total insured membership of 276,054. Of these 8,014 were performing military duty, or were on strike, locked-out, sick, &c., leaving 268,040 as the number concerning whom returns could be utilised. The proportion of the latter who were out of work during the month was 5.5 per cent., as compared with 6.9 per cent. in the preceding month and 9.9 per cent. in August, 1918.

Group of Trades.	Number of Members insured against unemployment in Aug., 1919.	Percentage Unemployed.			Average Days Lost per Week per Member Unemployed.		
		Aug., 1919.	July, 1919.	Aug., 1918.	Aug., 1919.	July, 1919.	Aug., 1918.
All Unions paying Unemployment Benefit and Municipal Unemployment Funds making Returns.	268,040	5.5	6.9	9.9	5.6	5.6	4.3
Working in Diamonds ..	10,902	8.9	9.0	23.3	5.2	5.4	5.2
Printing, Lithography, &c. ..	9,246	1.1	1.6	0.8	5.9	6.0	5.7
Building (including Road-making) ..	61,977	2.5	3.1	5.2	4.7	4.8	5.1
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	41,585	2.7	3.3	7.7	5.4	4.9	3.3
Textile ..	20,656	2.4	1.8	20.6	5.5	4.6	4.9
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	35,264	26.2	36.1	22.8	5.8	5.8	3.7
Woodworking, &c. ..	12,133	2.1	2.3	3.0	5.6	5.5	5.7

NORWAY.†

Employment in October.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of October in certain Trade Unions making Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Oct. 31, 1919.	Sep. 30, 1919.	Oct. 31, 1918.	Oct. 31, 1919.	Sep. 30, 1919.	Oct. 31, 1918.
Bricklayers and masons (Christiania) ..	895	887	808	3.6	3.4	2.8
Carpenters, etc. ..	1,476	1,541	1,488	1.1	0.5	—
Painters (Christiania) ..	450	450	580	0.4	—	0.3
Metal workers ..	10,089	9,928	9,852	1.2	1.1	2.3
Boot and shoemakers ..	860	876	1,056	—	0.1	0.4
Bookbinders (Christiania) ..	893	919	846	1.5	1.5	0.8
Cabinetmakers ..	646	616	670	3.3	2.6	—
Bakers (Christiania) ..	500	500	436	2.0	2.4	3.4
Printers ..	2,547	2,544	2,349	0.8	0.5	7.2
Total ..	18,406	18,361	18,084	1.3	1.1	2.5

CANADA.‡

Employment in September.—Returns relating to unemployment in September were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 1,434 labour organisations having a total membership of 191,955. For all occupations represented, 2.19 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 2.33 per cent. in August, 1919, and 0.72 per cent. in September, 1918.

The following Table gives the percentages unemployed in the principal groups of trades for each of the periods:—

Group of Trades.	Membership reporting on 30 Sept., 1919.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Sept., 1918.	Aug., 1919.	Sept., 1918.
All trades reporting ..	191,955	2.19	2.33	0.72
PRINCIPAL UNIONS.				
Building and construction ..	25,673	2.91	2.86	1.31
Mining, quarrying, and refining of ores ..	10,097	1.11	0.45	0.35
Metals, machinery, and conveyances ..	25,725	4.60	5.39	1.24
Textiles, carpets and cordage ..	3,514	1.08	0.87	—
Food, tobacco and liquors ..	5,342	0.80	5.42	1.47
Leather, boots, shoes and rubbers ..	3,910	0.15	0.37	—
Steam railways ..	64,890	0.99	1.42	0.16
Street and electric railway employees ..	6,080	0.13	1.39	—
Navigation ..	11,665	8.82	5.05	1.76
Teamsters and chauffeurs ..	3,588	0.36	1.07	0.27
Pulp, paper and fibre ..	4,411	0.30	1.07	0.76
Printing, publishing and paper goods ..	8,413	1.71	1.45	0.83

* *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, 29th November, 1919.
 † Information supplied by the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour.
 ‡ *The Labour Gazette*, November, 1919. The Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.
 § Includes marine engineers, dock labourers and other bodies of workers.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and shale mines was again good; at tin mines it continued moderate and at lead mines it varied locally from slack to fairly good.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received relating to mines and open works at which 17,011 workpeople were employed in December, 1919, show increases in the total number employed of 0.5 per cent. on the previous month and 7.0 per cent. on a year ago.

The average number of days worked by the mines was 5.79, compared with 5.85 a month ago and 5.91 a year ago. In the following Table the Returns received are summarised by districts:—

Table with 10 columns: Districts, Fort-night ended 20th Dec., 1919, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Year ago, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Days, Days, Days, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.

Shale.—The Returns received from firms employing 4,381 workpeople in the fortnight ended 20th December, 1919, show that the number employed was 3.2 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 12.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tin.—Employment continued moderate at Camborne and Redruth, but was bad at Pendeen and St. Just.

Lead.—In the Flintshire district employment continued slack. In the Weardale district it was fairly good, some interruption to work being caused by bad weather.

QUARRYING.

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

Table with 10 columns: Districts, Fort-night ended 20th Dec., 1919, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Year ago, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Quarries, Days, Days, Days, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.

Limestone.—Employment continued good at quarries producing limestone for blast furnaces and for cement, and fairly good at other quarries.

Sandstone.—Employment was fairly good in all branches. There was a shortage of workmen, chiefly skilled quarrymen, and bad weather hindered operations considerably.

Granite (Road Material, Setts, &c.).—Employment was fairly good generally, but output was considerably restricted in some quarries through the shortage of railway wagons.

Slate.—Employment in North Wales continued good.

* See note at foot of p. 17

Basalt and Whinstone (Road Material).—Employment was fairly good both at basalt and whinstone quarries, a slight decline being shown at the former.

China Clay.—Employment was reported as moderate at St. Austell, transport facilities having improved.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole, but many firms reported a shortage of fuel due to the difficulty in obtaining railway wagons.

Table with 10 columns: District, Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in blast at end of Dec., 1919, Nov., 1919, Dec., 1918, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1919, on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.

The imports of iron ore in December, 1919, amounted to 366,956 tons, or 24,393 tons more than in November, 1919, but 170,257 tons less than in December, 1913.

The exports of pig iron in December, 1919, amounted to 48,931 tons, or 17,017 tons more than in November, 1919, but 25,202 tons less than in December, 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works during December remained fairly good on the whole, but continued to be adversely affected, especially in the Northern Counties and Yorkshire, by the strike of ironfounders.

According to Returns relating to 113,061 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 20th December, 1919, was 619,639, showing an increase of 2.8 per cent. on the previous month and of 4.0 per cent. on a year ago.

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts worked, Week ended 20th Dec., 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago, Per cent., Per cent.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades during December was only fair, on the whole, and was slightly worse than in the previous month. On the Tyne it was fair with shipwrights, riveters, caulkers and platers, but good with ship joiners.

Employment continued good at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Wivenhoe. It was generally fair on the Thames. On the South and South-West Coasts it was reported as dull on the whole, and worse than in November.

On the Clyde employment, as in November, was good with joiners and fair in other branches. It continued good with shipwrights at Aberdeen.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act at October last, and the total number claiming unemployment insurance or out-of-work donation at 2nd January:—

Table with 5 columns: Division, Numbers Insured at October, 1919, Number of Unemployment Books and Donations lodged at 2nd Jan., 1920, Percentage Unemployed at 2nd Jan., 1920, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th Nov., 1919.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the merchant tonnage building in the United Kingdom at the end of December, viz., 2,994,249 tons, had increased by 177,000 tons as compared with September, and was 1,014,000 tons more than the work in hand 12 months ago.

TINPLATE AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during December. The number of mills in operation at the end of the month showed an increase of seven compared with November; while compared with December, 1918, there was an increase of 147 or 44 per cent.

Table with 6 columns: Works, At end of Dec., 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago, Number of Works open, Number of Mills in operation, At end of Dec., 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in December, 1919, amounted to 61,174 tons, or 14,339 tons more than in November, 1919, but 39,370 tons less than in December, 1913.

Table with 6 columns: Districts, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Week ended 20th Dec., 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago, Aggregate number of Shifts worked, Week ended 20th Dec., 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THE state of employment in these trades, except in Scotland, further declined during the month, owing to the continuance of the ironmoulders' dispute.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act at October last, and the total number claiming unemployment insurance or out-of-work donation at 2nd January:—

Table with 5 columns: Division, Numbers Insured at October, 1919, Number of Unemployment Books and Donations lodged at 2nd Jan., 1920, Percentage Unemployed at 2nd Jan., 1920, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 28th Nov., 1919.

On the Tyne and Wear employment was slack. It was reported that some shops closed down for 10 or 12 days at Christmas. There was much short time and discharges of workpeople continued.

In the Nottingham and Lincoln district conditions were decidedly worse than in November, and many establishments were only working either alternate weeks or three days a week.

In Scotland employment was fair on the whole, but showed a decline in some branches; with ironmoulders and patternmakers it was good.

* The figures relate to total unemployment and take no account of short time.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in this group of trades was again fairly good generally, but it showed a decline compared with November. In some sections short time was worked, due chiefly to the ironmoulders' strike. Trade unions with 75,318 members had 1.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, compared with 0.8 per cent. in November.

Brasswork.—Employment was still good on the whole, but it showed a decline as compared with November and short time was worked in some centres.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Employment with nut, bolt and rivet makers at Blackheath and Halesowen improved to good; at Darlaston also it was good. Shoe rivet and wire nail makers at Birmingham were well employed.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—In the cutlery and file trades at Sheffield employment improved to good. With edge-tool makers at Wednesbury it continued good. At Walsall bit and stirrup makers and harness furniture makers were again fairly well employed. At Redditch employment with fish hook and fishing tackle makers was very good; with needle makers it declined but was still good.

Tubes.—At Wednesbury employment was reported as fair, a slight improvement on November. In South Wales and Monmouthshire it remained fair.

Chains, Anchors, &c.—At Cradley employment continued fairly good with cable chain and block chain makers, and fair with anchor smiths. At Dudley it improved to good with anvil and vice makers. At Wednesbury there was a recovery to fairly good with axle and spring makers.

Sheet Metal Workers.—In London employment conditions continued to improve, but were still below the level of a year ago; at other centres they remained fairly good on the whole, an improvement being reported from a few places.

Wire.—From almost all centres employment was reported as good, and full time was the rule.

Locks, &c.—Conditions were again good in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall lock and latch trade.

Hollow-ware.—In the Midlands galvanised hollow-ware trade employment was again good; in the Wolverhampton cast-iron hollow-ware and tin and enamelled hollow-ware trades it continued good.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—Employment was again fair generally, but the moulders' strike continued to check output.

The exports of cutlery during December, 1919, amounted to 2,466 cwts., or 216 cwts. more than in November, 1919, but 937 cwts. less than in December, 1913.

The exports of hardware during December, 1919, amounted to 36,425 cwts., or 4,599 cwts. more than in November, 1919, but 44,095 cwts. less than in December, 1913.

COTTON TRADE.

IN this trade employment during December continued fairly good in the spinning section and good in the weaving department. The supply of female labour, especially weavers and card-room workers, was insufficient. A shortage of coal was reported in some cases.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns. No statistical comparison can be made with a year ago as in December, 1918, employment was affected by a dispute among spinners and card-room workers.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing	12,640	+ 0.8	26,823	+ 1.1
Spinning	25,726	+ 1.4	56,746	+ 1.4
Weaving	50,320	+ 0.4	116,238	+ 1.3
Other	10,414	+ 0.7	29,604	+ 1.4
Not specified	10,930	+ 0.2	38,509	+ 2.8
TOTAL	110,530	+ 0.7	257,925	+ 1.5

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Ashton	4,784	+ 0.5	10,823	+ 1.5
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	7,935	+ 1.3	17,623	+ 1.2
Oldham	9,585	+ 0.5	24,016	+ 0.8
Bolton and Leigh	15,555	- 0.0	33,133	- 0.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	8,038	+ 0.1	20,178	+ 0.1
Manchester	8,186	+ 0.9	17,857	+ 0.6
Preston and Chorley	9,508	+ 0.8	21,980	+ 2.6
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	14,676	+ 0.2	36,661	+ 2.7
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	15,551	+ 0.8	41,816	+ 1.5
Other Lancashire Towns	5,254	+ 2.9	10,153	+ 2.3
Yorkshire Towns	5,944	+ 1.0	10,936	+ 3.7
Other Districts	5,934	+ 1.3	12,946	+ 3.2
TOTAL	110,530	+ 0.7	257,925	+ 1.5

In the Oldham district there was little change as compared with the previous month; employment continued fairly good

but the shortage of female labour in the preparatory department was still the cause of some unemployment among operative spinners. In the weaving section employment continued good. In the Bolton district employment was reported as good in all the principal branches, although there was some unemployment in the spinning section owing to the reinstatement of demobilised soldiers. In the Preston, Blackburn and Burnley districts employment on the whole was good and showed little change compared with a month earlier.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Description.	Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A month ago.	Dec., 1913.
Imports (less Re-exports):—					
Raw Cotton (100 lb.)	3,789,762	1,494,802	3,132,011	+1,294,960	- 342,249
Exports of British Manufacture:—					
Cotton yarn (1,000 lb.)	14,894	13,502	17,207	+ 1,392	- 2,313
Cotton thread for sewing (1,000 lb.)	1,855	2,029	1,677	- 174	+ 178
Cotton piece goods (1,000 yds.)	392,863	376,621	530,892	+ 18,242	- 137,829

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

DURING December employment continued good in this trade. The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool Sorting	563	+ 1.4	1,548	+ 3.8
Spinning	4,865	+ 1.4	12,034	+ 5.8
Weaving	7,663	+ 0.6	16,473	+ 2.8
Other Departments	5,595	+ 1.1	14,713	+ 5.2
Not Specified	1,016	+ 0.4	2,906	+ 5.2
TOTAL	19,702	+ 1.0	47,674	+ 4.5

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Huddersfield District	2,004	- 1.6	6,362	+ 4.7
Leeds District	1,960	+ 1.2	5,315	+ 3.9
Dewsbury and Batley District	2,030	+ 2.3	5,637	+ 7.5
Other Parts of West Riding	2,505	+ 1.0	6,956	+ 5.1
TOTAL WEST RIDING	8,499	+ 0.7	24,270	+ 5.3
Scotland	5,609	+ 0.5	11,838	+ 2.3
Other Districts	5,594	+ 1.8	11,566	+ 5.1
TOTAL	19,702	+ 1.0	47,674	+ 4.5

In the Huddersfield and Dewsbury and Batley districts employment continued good and some overtime was reported. In the Leeds district employment continued good generally and overtime was worked by willeys and fettlers during the month. In Scotland the operatives were well employed and the supply of female labour was not equal to the demand.

WORSTED TRADE.

In this trade employment continued good in all the principal districts. A shortage of labour was reported by about one quarter of the firms making Returns, the deficiency being most marked in the Bradford district, where female weavers and others were in request. The supply of tops and yarns was not quite equal to the demand.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,420	+ 0.2	14,964	+ 6.5
Spinning	16,670	+ 0.7	30,677	+ 6.0
Weaving	6,058	+ 0.1	14,839	+ 2.9
Other Departments	3,097	+ 0.8	8,841	+ 8.9
Not Specified	2,437	- 0.0	5,933	+ 5.8
TOTAL	32,682	+ 0.5	75,259	+ 5.5

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

Districts.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Bradford District	15,851	- 0.1	39,459	+ 5.7
Keighley District	5,840	+ 1.1	12,740	+ 5.8
Halifax District	2,663	+ 0.7	5,299	+ 4.9
Huddersfield District	3,525	+ 0.8	8,835	+ 7.2
Other parts of West Riding	2,256	+ 0.8	4,126	+ 2.9
TOTAL WEST RIDING	30,135	+ 0.4	70,459	+ 5.7
Other Districts	2,547	+ 1.7	4,800	+ 3.6
TOTAL	32,682	+ 0.5	75,259	+ 5.5

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) of raw wool and woollen and worsted yarn and the exports of manufactured wool in December, 1919, in comparison with November, 1919, and December, 1913:—

Description.	Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A Month ago.	Dec., 1913.
Imports (less Re-exports):—					
Raw wool (sheep or lambs) 1,000 lb.	15,429	55,817	23,148	-40,388	- 7,719
Woollen and worsted yarn 1,000 lb.	1,369	668	2,333	+ 701	- 969
Exports of British Manufacture:—					
Wool tops 1,000 lb.	2,655	1,930	2,963	+ 725	- 308
Woollen yarn 1,000 lb.	327	241	314	+ 86	+ 13
Worsted yarn 1,000 lb.	2,809	2,340	3,862	+ 469	- 1,053
Woollen tissues 1,000 yd.	12,763	12,895	8,957	- 132	+ 3,806
Flannels and Delaines 1,000 yd.	517	796	824	- 279	- 307
Blankets pairs	49,664	73,414	72,011	-23,750	- 22,34

HOSIERY TRADE.

In this trade employment during December continued good. The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Leicester	10,930	+ 0.5	22,411	+ 12.3
Leicester Country Dist.	2,281	+ 0.8	4,487	+ 15.1
Nottingham and Derbyshire	4,657	+ 0.5	8,538	+ 14.2
Scotland	3,109	+ 0.5	5,687	+ 5.8
Other Districts	844	+ 1.4	1,374	+ 1.5
TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	21,821	+ 0.1	42,497	+ 11.6

At Leicester and in the surrounding district employment continued good and a slight shortage of labour was reported. In the Nottingham and Derby district employment with power frame workers continued good on the whole, but some irregular time was reported owing to shortage of yarn. In the hand-frame section the operatives were fully employed. In Scotland employment continued good and the supply of experienced women workers was insufficient.

The following Table shows the exports of hosiery in December, 1919, as compared with November, 1919, and December, 1913:—

Description.	Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A Month ago.	Dec., 1913.
Cotton Hosiery .. doz. pairs	113,193	126,842	63,121	-13,619	+ 50,072
Woolen Hosiery .. doz. pairs	171,922	191,984	207,010	-20,062	- 35,088

JUTE TRADE.

DURING December employment in Dundee and district continued good and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. A shortage of women weavers was reported, which in some cases prevented the employment of additional men.

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

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

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing	2,359	+ 0.3	3,931	+ 2.1
Spinning	2,547	- 0.3	3,766	+ 0.7
Weaving	3,464	+ 0.3	6,760	- 0.4
Other	1,926	+ 0.6	4,338	+ 3.4
TOTAL	10,296	+ 0.2	17,845	+ 1.3

The following Table summarises the imports (less re-exports) of raw material and the exports of jute yarn and piece goods in December, 1919, in comparison with November, 1919, and December, 1913:—

Description.	Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A Month ago.	Dec., 1913.
Imports (less Re-exports) of Jute (tons)	26,091	44,658	41,163	- 18,567	- 15,072
Exports of British Manufacture:—					
Jute yarn lbs.	2,851,700	3,247,100	3,552,800	- 385,400	- 101,100
Jute piece goods (100 yds.)	118,757	143,150	142,770	- 27,393	- 24,013

LINEN TRADE.

Owing to the inadequate supplies of flax and yarn employment during December continued slack in Ireland and much short time was reported. Towards the end of the month, however, there were signs of some improvement. In Scotland employment on the whole was fairly good.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing	4,995	+ 0.4	10,270	+ 10.3
Spinning	9,432	+ 1.0	12,033	+ 11.1
Weaving	9,701	+ 0.7	14,189	+ 6.3
Other	5,012	+ 1.0	9,276	+ 2.9
Not specified	3,011	+ 0.2	4,627	+ 5.8
TOTAL	32,151	+ 0.7	47,545	+ 7.3

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Belfast	13,322	+ 0.6	19,367	+ 10.0
Other places in Ireland	9,657	+ 0.7	12,968	+ 11.0
Total, Ireland	22,979	+ 0.7	32,335	+ 10.4
Fife shire	2,042	+ 0.0	3,052	+ 0.4
Other places in Scotland	6,954	+ 1.2	11,746	+ 1.8
Total, Scotland	8,996	+ 0.9	14,798	+ 1.5
England	276	+ 1.5	412	+ 2.8
United Kingdom	32,151	+ 0.7	47,545	+ 7.3

The following Table summarises the imports (less re-exports) and exports of raw material and of linen yarn and piece goods in December, 1919, in comparison with November, 1919, and December, 1913:—

Description.	Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A Month ago.	Dec., 1913.
Imports (less Re-exports):—					
Flax .. tons.	1,297	800	7,095	+ 497	- 5,798
Linen Yarn .. lbs.	348,217	70,1			

SILK TRADE.

DURING December employment continued good in the silk trade and was better than a year ago. A shortage of certain classes of labour was reported, especially in the West Riding.

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

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	817	+ 0.1	+ 8.6	907	+ 1.2	+ 41.1
Spinning	2,408	+ 1.0	+ 10.4	5,137	+ 6.7	+ 47.1
Weaving	2,085	- 0.3	+ 14.2	3,911	+ 2.0	+ 39.2
Other	1,433	+ 2.4	+ 22.1	2,584	- 0.7	+ 46.4
Not specified	670	+ 0.4	+ 36.6	1,172	+ 16.2	+ 59.9
TOTAL	7,313	+ 0.7	+ 15.1	13,111	+ 4.3	+ 45.5
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	2,670	+ 0.2	+ 10.7	5,825	+ 5.4	+ 46.4
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,890	+ 1.8	+ 23.2	3,253	+ 0.6	+ 54.7
Eastern Counties	1,588	+ 1.3	+ 18.2	2,566	+ 9.1	+ 35.0
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,165	- 0.6	+ 9.8	1,447	+ 0.6	+ 42.6
TOTAL	7,313	+ 0.7	+ 15.1	13,111	+ 4.3	+ 45.5

In the West Riding the operatives were reported to be well employed. At Macclesfield and Congleton employment continued good in all branches; at Leek it was fair. In the Eastern Counties employment was reported as good at Norwich, Yarmouth and Braintree and as fair at Sudbury and Halstead.

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) and exports of raw and manufactured silk for December, 1919, in comparison with November, 1919, and December, 1913:—

Description.	Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A month ago.	Dec., 1913.
<i>Imports (less re-exports)</i>					
Raw silk lb.	180,888	103,212	78,730	+ 77,676	+ 102,158
Thrown silk lb.	32,234	13,717	36,284	+ 18,517	- 4,050
Spun silk yarn lb.	29,276	34,172	34,940	- 4,896	- 5,844
Silk broadstuffs yd.	8,159,966	4,050,214	8,401,340	+ 4,100,752	- 250,374
<i>Exports of British Manufacture:</i>					
Spun silk yarn lb.	34,358	70,141	114,988	- 35,783	- 80,628
Silk broadstuffs yd.	659,559	818,596	1,010,155	- 189,037	- 350,596

LACE TRADE.

DURING December employment in this trade continued fair in the levers branch and good in the curtain and plain net branches; there was a further improvement as compared with the previous month and employment was considerably better than at the end of 1918. About 30 per cent. of the Returns received reported an insufficient supply of labour and there was a general shortage of yarn.

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

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Lavers	1,809	+ 2.4	+ 31.0	4,087	+ 2.8	+ 69.7
Curtain	1,687	+ 1.5	+ 37.3	3,648	+ 1.3	+ 91.6
Plain Net	2,843	+ 1.0	+ 18.9	5,636	+ 2.7	+ 54.2
Others	926	+ 1.1	+ 14.9	1,495	+ 2.3	+ 51.6
TOTAL	7,259	+ 1.5	+ 25.1	14,866	+ 2.3	+ 66.0
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Districts.						
Nottingham City	2,787	+ 2.1	+ 19.3	5,275	+ 3.0	+ 52.3
Long Eaton and other out-lying Districts	1,011	+ 2.2	+ 44.0	2,566	+ 1.9	+ 88.5
Other English Districts ..	2,328	+ 0.7	+ 21.3	4,506	+ 2.0	+ 57.4
Scotland	1,133	+ 0.8	+ 34.2	2,519	+ 1.9	+ 98.7
TOTAL	7,259	+ 1.5	+ 25.1	14,866	+ 2.3	+ 66.0

In the Nottingham district employment was reported as fair in the levers branch, while the operatives in the curtain and plain net branches continued fully employed; there was an improvement as compared with both a month and

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

a year earlier. In the Long Eaton district employment continued fairly good and was better than in December, 1918; about 20 per cent. of the Trade Union operatives were on overtime at the end of December. In Scotland employment continued good.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

In these trades employment during December continued fairly good, and was better than a year earlier. Supplies of coal and dyestuffs, &c., were reported to be insufficient. In the bleaching section employment continued fairly good generally; with lace bleachers some overtime was reported. In the printing section in England and Scotland employment continued good and was better than at the end of 1918.

With woollen and worsted dyers employment on the whole was good and about the same as a year ago, but some short time was worked. With cotton dyers employment on the whole continued fair and was better than a year earlier. In the trimming and finishing trades in the Leicester and Nottingham districts employment was not so good as a month earlier, and a little short time was reported.

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

Trades.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bleaching	2,453	+ 0.3	+ 14.2	6,272	+ 12.5	+ 51.9
Printing	690	+ 1.3	+ 11.3	2,263	+ 11.1	+ 34.7
Dyeing	12,713	+ 1.8	+ 20.4	52,647	+ 4.3	+ 60.4
Trimming, Finishing, and other Departments	6,728	+ 1.4	+ 16.7	19,519	+ 8.2	+ 50.5
Not specified	1,328	- 1.1	+ 18.1	3,601	+ 1.5	+ 32.6
TOTAL	23,912	+ 1.3	+ 18.3	84,292	+ 5.8	+ 55.2
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Districts:						
Yorkshire	12,432	+ 1.8	+ 20.3	52,194	+ 3.4	+ 60.1
Lancashire	7,109	+ 1.3	+ 16.3	21,221	+ 11.5	+ 51.6
Scotland	1,699	- 1.5	+ 12.7	3,924	+ 11.1	+ 39.1
Ireland	468	- 0.2	+ 21.6	896	+ 4.7	+ 48.1
Other Districts	2,204	+ 1.5	+ 17.5	6,057	+ 5.1	+ 40.8
TOTAL	23,912	+ 1.3	+ 18.3	84,292	+ 5.8	+ 55.2

CARPET TRADE.

In this trade employment during December was good on the whole in all the principal districts and better than in November and a year ago; manufacturers in some cases were handicapped by shortage of labour and insufficient supplies of raw material.

Returns from firms employing 6,965 workpeople in the week ended 20th December and paying £14,879 in wages showed an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with November. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 31.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 57.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The exports of carpets and carpet rugs in December, 1919, amounted to 437,100 square yards, or 37,600 square yards less than in November, 1919, and 285,400 square yards less than in December, 1913.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in December continued good on the whole, but in a few districts a little short time was worked. Trade Unions with 15,313 members reported 0.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 0.8 per cent. in November and 1 per cent. in December, 1918.

Skinner, tanners and curriers were well employed in most districts, but in London and Bristol employment was only fair, some short time being worked; at Bristol, however, an improvement was reported. With saddlers and harness makers employment showed a decline compared with the previous month. In the fancy leather trade employment continued good.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

In this trade employment during December continued good in all the principal districts, but was still handicapped by an insufficient supply of female labour in the closing departments.

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

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

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
London	2,073	+ 1.7	+ 17.2	5,189	+ 2.6	+ 30.0
Leicester	10,586	+ 0.3	+ 15.8	27,045	+ 2.9	+ 32.6
Leicester Country District	2,869	- 0.5	+ 14.5	6,391	+ 2.7	+ 28.6
Northampton	8,043	+ 0.2	+ 23.4	20,658	+ 1.5	+ 53.1
Northampton Country District	7,439	+ 0.8	+ 17.4	16,746	+ 3.5	+ 34.5
Kettering	3,227	+ 0.8	+ 18.5	8,217	+ 5.1	+ 50.0
Stafford and District	2,563	+ 1.0	+ 18.4	5,713	+ 1.1	+ 48.2
Norwich and District	4,157	+ 0.3	+ 23.1	8,862	+ 2.8	+ 45.7
Bristol and District	1,269	+ 0.8	+ 14.2	2,622	+ 1.4	+ 27.0
Kingswood	1,371	- 1.0	+ 11.4	3,051	+ 2.8	+ 32.1
Leeds and District	1,968	- 0.4	+ 23.1	4,668	+ 2.3	+ 52.0
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	4,031	- 0.6	+ 13.3	8,424	+ 0.9	+ 46.2
Birmingham and District	944	+ 1.0	+ 22.8	1,831	+ 1.8	+ 40.4
Other parts of England and Wales	1,818	+ 0.4	+ 1.6	3,527	+ 3.0	+ 24.3
ENGLAND AND WALES	52,358	+ 0.3	+ 17.4	122,982	+ 2.5	+ 39.3
SCOTLAND	3,046	+ 0.8	+ 27.2	6,472	+ 2.7	+ 35.5
IRELAND	499	+ 0.6	+ 4.0	997	+ 2.5	+ 37.5
UNITED KINGDOM	55,903	+ 0.3	+ 17.8	130,451	+ 2.6	+ 39.1

In Leicester and the surrounding district employment showed little change compared with the previous month; some short time was reported owing to shortage of machinists and scarcity of material. At Northampton there was a slight decline compared with a month ago. At Norwich some overtime was reported among the women workers, but some short time was worked by the male operatives owing to the shortage of women in the closing department. At Leeds employment continued fairly good; at Stafford it was good. In Scotland generally there was little change as compared with November and employment on the whole was good.

The exports of boots and shoes in December, 1919, amounted to 110,989 dozen pairs, or 43,758 dozen pairs more than in November, 1919, but 25,240 dozen pairs less than in December, 1913.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

In this trade employment during December continued good in England and fairly good in Scotland and Ireland; on the whole employment was generally better than in December, 1918. Nearly 50 per cent. of the Returns received reported a shortage of labour, chiefly of women machinists, the deficiency being most marked in London and Manchester.

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

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	4,063	+ 0.7	+ 27.1	6,413	+ 1.4	+ 43.1
Manchester	1,749	+ 1.3	+ 16.7	3,126	+ 0.8	+ 28.6
Rest of Yorks, Lancs. and Cheshire	1,968	+ 1.1	+ 17.8	2,583	+ 4.5	+ 24.9
South Western Counties	1,638	- 2.2	+ 7.7	2,298	+ 10.3	+ 44.8
Rest of England and Wales	1,362	+ 0.9	+ 15.4	2,099	+ 2.5	+ 27.9
Glasgow	2,066	+ 0.9	+ 11.5	3,143	+ 3.4	+ 21.5
Londonderry	976	+ 0.7	+ 9.1	1,468	+ 6.0	+ 59.7
Belfast	768	- 0.6	+ 8.6	1,016	+ 4.0	+ 21.7
Rest of Ireland	803	- 0.5	- 2.0	967	+ 6.7	+ 8.3
TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	15,392	+ 0.4	+ 15.4	23,113	+ 3.5	+ 32.7

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—During December employment on the whole was fairly good but not so good as a month earlier; the supply of labour was not quite equal to the demand. Returns from firms paying £15,185 in wages to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor) during the four weeks ended 20th December showed a decrease of 5.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the previous month,

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

and an increase of 62.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as good at Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham, Edinburgh and Aberdeen; at Glasgow, Belfast and Cork it was fair.

READY-MADE.

In this branch employment during December continued good on the whole; in London there was a considerable decline as compared with a year ago. About 35 per cent. of the firms making Returns reported a shortage of female labour.

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

District.	Indoor Workpeople.					
	Number Employed.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Per cent.		Per cent.	£
Leeds	7,356	+ 0.5	+ 15.0	12,684	+ 2.8	+ 33.9
Manchester	3,632	- 0.4	- 3.0	7,045	- 3.7	+ 11.7
Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs. and Cheshire	3,476	- 0.6	+ 3.3	6,000	+ 2.4	+ 26.3
Bristol	1,469	- 0.5	+ 13.8	2,227	+ 4.4	+ 27.3
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	2,562	- 0.8	+ 26.5	4,306	+ 4.8	+ 53.9
South Midland and Eastern Counties	2,083	+ 0.7	+ 12.0	3,697	+ 11.0	+ 34.9
London	3,002	- 3.1	- 37.2	5,760	- 2.7	- 46.4
Glasgow	1,731	- 1.6	- 4.3	3,320	+ 7.0	+ 10.9
Rest of United Kingdom	1,313	- 2.8	- 2.2	2,879	+ 9.6	+ 14.8
TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	27,124	- 0.7	- -	47,918	+ 2.6	+ 9.6

At Leeds employment showed little change as compared with a month earlier; some short time was reported. At Manchester employment was good; at Bristol it was fairly good. In London a considerable amount of short time was reported and employment showed a further decline as compared with a month earlier. In Glasgow employment, on the whole, was good.

FELT HAT TRADE.

DURING December employment in this trade continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago, though a considerable proportion of Trade Union members were still on short time in some districts, especially Denton and Stockport. At Denton some overtime was also worked, and where short time occurred it was generally due to the difficulties caused by shortage of labour in the women's departments. In Warwickshire employment was good.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.</

CORSET TRADE.

Employment in this trade was good and about the same as in November. Returns from firms, mainly in England, employing 5,974 workpeople in their factories in the week ended 20th December showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 15.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades remained good, on the whole, during December and showed very little variation as compared with the previous month. Returns were received from Trade Unions covering 90,335 workpeople, of whom 0.7 per cent. were stated to be unemployed in December, as compared with 0.8 per cent. in November and 1.5 per cent. in December, 1918.

Mill-sawing and Machining.—Employment continued fairly good, on the whole, during December, being at about the same level as in the previous month.

Furnishing.—Employment continued good in this trade. All classes of workpeople were reported to be well employed in the majority of districts, and overtime was worked at a few centres.

Coach-building.—Employment remained good with coach-makers, and overtime was worked in several districts. A certain amount of short time and unemployment was occasioned by the moulders' dispute in some of the Midland districts.

Coopering.—Employment was again good in this trade. Overtime was worked in some districts; no short time was reported.

Miscellaneous.—For brushmakers and basketmakers employment continued good, and a slight improvement was reported in some districts. It was again fairly good with wheelwrights and smiths, and fair with packing-case makers, being a little better than during the previous month, in certain districts, in each case.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade was fairly good on the whole during December, but showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. There was considerable variation in the state of employment as between different occupations and districts, ranging from slack or fair in most districts for painters and plasterers, to good for carpenters and bricklayers.

A shortage of materials, especially of cement, was again reported from many districts and was mainly due to the great delay experienced in the transport of supplies. In some districts a shortage of skilled men was also reported. The weather was unfavourable for outside work.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act at October, 1919, and the total number registering for unemployment insurance or out-of-work donation at 2nd January:—

Occupations.	Numbers Insured at October, 1919.	Number of Unemployment Books and Donation Policies lodged at 2nd Jan., 1920.	Percentage unemployed at 2nd Jan., 1920.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
OCCUPATIONS.					
Carpenters	122,673	1,787	1.46	+ 0.05	
Bricklayers	54,646	724	1.33	- 0.11	
Masons	21,885	1,197	4.81	+ 1.06	
Plasterers	14,356	951	6.64	+ 0.64	
Painters	104,373	9,959	9.48	+ 4.24	
Plumbers	37,206	1,385	3.71	+ 0.58	
Others skilled occupations.	40,382	2,033	5.03	+ 0.01	
Navvies	95,632	4,645	4.85	+ 0.75	
Laborers	271,536	17,633	6.50	+ 1.03	
ALL OCCUPATIONS	766,429	40,313	5.26	+ 1.11	
DIVISIONS.					
London	153,067	11,516	7.52	+ 1.97	
Northern Counties ..	42,111	1,072	2.55	+ 0.28	
North Western	100,016	4,008	4.00	+ 0.89	
Yorkshire	55,808	1,079	1.93	+ 0.26	
East Midlands	24,765	858	3.46	+ 1.00	
West Midlands	51,738	1,618	3.11	+ 0.77	
S. Midlands & Eastern	70,699	3,468	4.90	+ 1.11	
South Eastern	43,038	2,821	6.51	+ 1.69	
South Western	72,851	5,608	7.70	+ 1.71	
Wales	56,854	706	1.24	+ 0.46	
Scotland	72,090	2,458	3.41	+ 0.37	
Ireland	38,222	5,111	13.38	+ 1.05	
UNITED KINGDOM	766,429	40,313	5.26	+ 1.11	
Males	762,807	40,077	5.23	+ 1.12	
Females	4,122	236	5.73	+ 0.15	

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole during December, although interfered with to a certain extent by bad weather. At Nottingham and Birmingham employment continued to be good; at Stourbridge it was fairly good and better than in the previous month; in Denbigh and Flint it continued fair; at Bridgwater it was slack; in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire it was fair; and in the Peterborough district it continued very good. Scarcity of fuel was again reported by a few firms, chiefly in the West Midlands; a shortage of various classes of labour was experienced in this district, and overtime was worked in some cases.

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

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,940	+ 0.2	+ 12.6	5,597	+ 4.5	+ 34.8
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	2,037	+ 0.1	+ 55.6	5,537	+ 7.1	+ 103.6
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,070	- 1.8	+ 51.1	3,490	- 3.0	+ 99.3
Other Districts	720	- 1.8	+ 33.6	2,123	- 1.1	+ 47.9
Total	5,767	- 0.5	+ 34.8	18,747	+ 2.9	+ 68.5

CEMENT TRADE.

Employment continued very good generally, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked in several centres. The shortage of fillers and loaders in the Thames and Medway district continued. Complaints were made in some cases of scarcity of fuel and of inadequate transport service both by sea and land.

Returns from firms employing 7,567 workpeople in the week ended 20th December showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with the previous month. Compared with a year earlier, there was an increase of 70.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 96.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The exports of cement during December, 1919, amounted to 29,328 tons, or 11,312 tons less than in November, 1919, and 19,478 tons less than in December, 1913.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole throughout December and many firms reported a scarcity of labour.

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

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.						
Glass Bottle	8,571	+ 1.5	+ 53.7	27,120	+ 4.7	+ 85.6
Flint Glass Ware (no. bottles)	2,277	+ 1.0	+ 26.7	6,260	+ 5.2	+ 42.0
Other Branches	716	+ 5.8	+ 13.1	1,580	+ 6.3	+ 33.2
TOTAL	11,564	+ 1.5	+ 44.4	34,960	+ 4.9	+ 73.0
DISTRICTS.						
North of England ..	1,168	+ 0.6	+ 65.4	3,445	+ 1.7	+ 96.1
Yorkshire	5,334	+ 0.1	+ 37.1	16,225	+ 3.1	+ 64.3
Lancashire	1,475	+ 9.1	+ 55.8	4,138	+ 15.5	+ 110.2
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	878	+ 1.2	+ 34.0	2,647	+ 3.6	+ 50.6
Scotland	1,047	- 0.2	+ 52.0	3,179	+ 2.6	+ 93.3
Other parts of the United Kingdom	1,664	+ 2.0	+ 48.6	5,326	+ 7.1	+ 66.4
TOTAL	11,564	+ 1.6	+ 44.4	34,960	+ 4.9	+ 73.0

Employment remained good during December with glass bottle makers in all the principal districts. In Yorkshire there was a shortage of both labour and fuel. Plate-glass bevellers, glass makers, and cutters continued to be well employed at Birmingham and Stourbridge, a considerable amount of overtime being worked by cutters during the first part of the month. At St. Helens employment was good for sheet and plate glass workers and improved to fairly good for sheet-glass flatteners. It was again only moderate for pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear.

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

The exports of glass bottles during December, 1919, amounted to 35,536 gross, or 7,842 gross more than in November, 1919, but 48,478 gross less than in December, 1913.

The exports of all other manufactures of glass during December, 1919, amounted to 35,198 cwts., or 3,106 cwts. more than in November, 1919, but 24,659 cwts. less than in December, 1913.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in all branches of the pottery trades during December, and some firms reported a shortage of labour. Supplies of fuel and of certain raw materials, such as clay, plaster, flint and stone, were inadequate for the requirements of many employers, and in a few cases resulted in short time being worked.

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

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.						
China Manufacture ..	1,674	+ 0.8	+ 9.8	3,917	+ 4.9	+ 19.1
Earthenware Manufacture	10,456	+ 0.7	+ 10.8	22,768	+ 3.5	+ 35.2
Other branches (including unspecified)	1,601	+ 0.8	+ 33.6	3,677	+ 10.9	+ 70.9
TOTAL	13,731	+ 0.7	+ 12.9	30,362	+ 4.5	+ 36.3
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	10,555	+ 0.9	+ 14.2	22,694	+ 5.1	+ 40.3
Other Districts	3,176	- 0.0	+ 8.7	7,668	+ 2.8	+ 25.7
TOTAL	13,731	+ 0.7	+ 12.9	30,362	+ 4.5	+ 36.3

The exports of chinaware, earthenware and pottery in December, 1919, amounted to 131,760 cwts., or 13,103 cwts. less than in November, 1919, and 172,848 cwts. less than in December, 1913.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during December in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades generally was good, and remained about the same as in the previous month. It was not so good, on the whole, as in December, 1918.

With letterpress printers employment was good, on the whole. Although a considerable amount of overtime was worked in London, the state of employment showed a slight decline compared with November; in the provinces, however, no appreciable change was reported, and, as in November, a little overtime was worked. In the lithographic printing trade employment continued good.

Employment with bookbinders showed a further slight improvement, and was generally good; a little overtime was reported both from London and from the provinces.

In the paper trade employment continued good, and a shortage of skilled labour was again reported in some instances.

The following Table summarises the Returns received from Trade Unions relating to employment:—

Trade.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1919.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1918.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Printing	63,473	1.2	1.0	0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Bookbinding	12,236	1.1	1.3	0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.8

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

Trade.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.						
Paper	13,923	+ 0.4	+ 35.6	37,914	+ 2.9	+ 59.3
Printing	10,064	+ 1.2	+ 40.8	33,281	+ 2.9	+ 74.6
Bookbinding	5,872	+ 1.1	+ 24.7	12,815	+ 5.6	+ 50.7
TOTAL	29,859	+ 0.8	+ 35.0	84,010	+ 3.3	+ 63.6

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

The following Table summarises the imports of wood pulp and the imports and exports of paper in December, 1919, in comparison with November, 1919, and December, 1913:—

Description.	Dec., 1919.	Nov., 1919.	Dec., 1913.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				A month ago.	Dec., 1913.
Imports: Wood Pulp for paper making tons	104,788	74,166	109,019	+ 30,620	- 4,233
Paper cwts.	1,168,003	981,899	1,087,918	+ 186,104	+ 84,085
Exports of Paper .. cwts.	142,074	110,867	258,431	+ 31,207	- 116,357

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

In the food preparation trades the state of employment continued good during December, and very little change was noticeable as compared with the previous month.

In the sugar refining trade employment remained good, and some overtime was worked. Employment was also good in the cocoa, chocolate, and sugar confectionery trades and a certain amount of overtime was reported. Several firms in these trades reported a shortage of female labour and also of raw materials. In the cake and biscuit making trade the state of employment remained good on the whole and some overtime was worked, but a shortage of sugar was again reported.

In the jam and marmalade trade employment was fair generally, but showed a slight decline from the previous month, owing to a shortage of sugar.

Employment was reported to be good in the bacon-curing trade and the pickle and sauce and preserved meat trades.

The following table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Trade.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.						
Sugar Refining, etc. ..	8,007	+ 1.2	+ 21.6	27,957	+ 2.1	+ 52.5
Cocoa, Chocolate, and Sugar Confectionery ..	29,088	+ 0.9	+ 74.8	6,025	+ 2.3	+ 107.6
Biscuits, Cakes, etc. ..	15,747	+ 0.2	+ 42.6	33,876	+ 0.8	+ 66.1
Jams, Marmalade, etc. ..	7,873	- 4.9	- 0.9	14,786	- 3.9	+ 12.1
Bacon and Preserved Meats	4,915	+ 1.7	- 11.1	10,217	+ 6.9	+ 9.0
Pickles and Sauces, etc. .	737	+ 0.4	- 4.8	1,231	+ 7.0	+ 14.3
TOTAL	66,367	+ 0.1	+ 36.8	150,092	+ 1.6	+ 82.7

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT was good on the whole, but showed some decline towards the end of the month.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of fish landed in December, 1919, as compared with a year ago and with December, 1913:—

Fish (other than shell).	Quantity of fish landed.			Value.		
	Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on		Dec., 1919.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
		Dec., 1918.	Dec., 1913.		Dec., 1918.	Dec., 1913.
BRANCHES.						
England & Wales ..	754,468	+ 452,006	- 86,266	1,664,835	+ 500,231	+ 927,149
Scotland	406,841	+ 199,436	+ 154,919	501,945	+ 44,236	+ 329,852
Ireland	36,266	+ 27,941	- 13,467	32,942	+ 14,924	+ 12,982
TOTAL	1,197,575	+ 680,283	- 55,188	2,199,722	+ 699,445	+ 1,270,033
Shell Fish	—	—	—	57,913	+ 12,341	+ 25,905
TOTAL VALUE ..	—	—	—	2,257,635	+ 711,786	+ 1,295,938

East and South Coasts.—In the Tees and Hartlepool district fishermen were again fairly well employed, but fishery was practically at a standstill. At Hull, Grimsby and Lowestoft employment continued good in all branches of the industry, but at Grimsby and Lowestoft it showed some decline at the end of December. At Great Yarmouth the herring fishing season ended early in the month, but trawl fishermen were well employed; with fish dock labourers

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

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes beginning in December was 61, as compared with 48 in the previous month and 51 in December, 1918. In these new disputes nearly 29,600 workpeople were directly and about 3,500 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition nearly 72,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 46 disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of disputes in progress in December was thus 107, involving about 105,000 workpeople, as compared with over 93,000 workpeople involved in disputes in progress in November, 1919, and nearly 150,000 in December, 1918.

The following Table classifies these disputes by groups of trades, and indicates the number of workpeople involved (whether directly or indirectly) at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during December in all the disputes in progress:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Disputes.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in December.	Aggregate Loss of Working Days during December.
	Started before 1st December.	Started in December.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying.	6	6	12	13,400	45,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding.	10	9	19	61,900	1,463,000
Other Metal ..	3	1	4	3,500	33,000
Clothing ..	4	4	8	10,800	36,000
Transport ..	1	8	9	3,000	14,000
Other Trades ..	21	33	55	12,500	97,000
TOTAL ..	46	61	107	105,100	1,688,000

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN DECEMBER, 1919.

Occupation and Locality.†	Estimated Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working days.	Cause or Object.†	Result.†
	Directly.	Indirectly.†				
BUILDING TRADES:— Painters and labourers—York ..	170	20	20 Dec.	..	Alleged refusal of master painters to pay an award accepted by master builders.	No settlement reported.
COAL MINING:— Miners, etc.—Cardiff (near) ..	2,471	..	12 Dec.	2	Dispute as to screenmen's rate of overtime pay.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
MINES, ETC.:— Wigan (near) ..	1,848	..	29 Dec.	5	Dispute as to dates to be observed as holidays.	Arrangements made to obviate similar disputes in future.
METAL, ETC., TRADES:— Rainwater goods moulders—Falkirk and other centres.	1,000	..	21 July	138	For advance in piece prices of 40 per cent.	Advance of 30 per cent. granted for pipes and rhones, with various advances for other rainwater goods.
Fitters, machinists, etc.—Redhill (near).	361	..	6 Dec.	23	Alleged victimisation of workpeople's representatives.	Men in question promised re-employment.
Picklers and other tinplate workers—Swansea district.	250	2,000	1 Dec.	2	Against alleged delay in settlement of wages claims.	Work resumed pending settlement of claims.
CLOTHING TRADES:— Tailors and tailoresses—London..	10,000	..	17 Dec.	10	Dispute arising out of workpeople's demand for reduction in hours of labour to 48 per week without loss in earnings.	Demand granted by most employers.
TRANSPORT TRADES:— Broad van drivers, stablemen, etc.—Dublin.	480	..	17 Dec.	..	For advance in wages ..	No settlement reported.
Cab, hearse, etc., drivers—Glasgow.	500	..	26 Dec.	..	For advance in wages ..	No settlement reported.
FOOD:— Bakers, etc.—Northumberland and Durham District.	900	..	6 Dec.	3	For advance in wages of 10s. per week.	Advance granted of 5s. per week to bakers and 2s. 6d. per week to allied workers.
Bakers, etc.—Dundee ..	530	..	22 Dec.	3	Refusal of workpeople to observe the terms of a national agreement providing new machinery for the discussion of matters in dispute.	Work resumed on terms of the agreement.
OTHER TRADES:— Earthenware workers—Potteries	382	..	1 Dec.	4	Dispute as to rate of wages payable to certain lithographers under a recent agreement.	Workpeople's interpretation accepted.
Wholesale druggists' packers, fishers and labourers—Cheltenham.	181	..	2 Dec.	11	For advances in wages ..	Certain advances granted.
Chemists' assistants—Dublin, Belfast, Waterford, Cork and Limerick. *	403	..	2 Dec.	..	For a minimum scale of wages, a six-day week of 44 hours and other concessions.	No settlement reported.
Co-operative employees—Cumberland.	675	..	2 Dec.	..	For revised minimum scale of wages and other concessions.	No settlement reported.
Shop assistants, etc.—London ..	3,000	..	4 Dec.	2	For advance in wages of 35 per cent., minimum scale of wages, working week of 44 hours and other concessions.	Advance of 35 per cent., modified minimum scale of wages, working week of 44 hours and certain other concessions granted. (See also page 41.)
Insurance agents—United Kingdom.	2,000	..	23 Dec.	..	For increased rate of commission and other concessions.	No settlement reported.

NOTE.—The dispute involving ironfounders, coremakers and dressers, which began on 22nd September (See LABOUR GAZETTE for October, page 439), was still in progress at the time of going to press.
* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have been omitted from the statistics, except where the aggregate duration (i.e. number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, &c.) exceeded 100 days.
† The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

Of the 1,688,000 working days lost in December by all disputes in progress, about 1,544,000 were lost by disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, and only 144,000 by disputes which began in the month. The total aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in November, 1919, was 1,782,000 days, and in December, 1918, was 1,174,000 days.

Causes.—Of the 61 new disputes, 36, directly involving about 13,300 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 8, directly involving 12,900 workpeople, on questions respecting working hours; 9, directly involving nearly 1,600 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 3, directly involving about 800 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 31 new disputes, directly involving about 20,100 workpeople, and 16 old disputes, directly involving about 2,200 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 19, directly involving over 13,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 5, directly involving nearly 900 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 23, directly involving nearly 7,800 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 6 other disputes, directly involving over 2,700 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1918 AND 1919.

The total number of disputes beginning in 1919 was 1,413, and in these disputes nearly 2,600,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly. Over 34,000,000 working days were lost through disputes which began in 1919 or which began before 1919 and were still in progress at the beginning of that year. Further particulars with regard to these disputes, with comparative statistics for 1918, are given on page 6.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[The particulars given, which are based on returns from employers and workpeople, are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks.]

Wages.*

The changes in rates of wages reported as having come into operation in December resulted in an increase of £138,000 per week in the weekly wages of about 550,000 workpeople. The principal groups of industries in which these workpeople were employed are shown in the following Table:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Amount of Net Increase per week.
Building ..	74,000	26,000
Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, Engineering and Shipbuilding, and Other Metal ..	150,000	29,000
Textile ..	60,000	18,000
Printing, Paper, etc. ..	85,000	21,000
Other ..	181,000	44,000
Total ..	550,000	138,000

The principal changes taking effect in December affected workpeople in the iron and steel trades, and included an increase of 7½ per cent. on basis rates to iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, Midlands and West of Scotland, while time-workers and piece-workers employed at rolling mills and forges in the North of England and in steel melting shops in England and Scotland had their war advances brought up to a minimum of 33s. 6d. per week, plus the 12½ or 7½ per cent. bonuses on earnings or their equivalents.

Other important changes affected workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture in the Midlands, who received additional bonuses of 10s. per week for men, 6s. per week for women and youths, and 3s. per week for boys and girls. Overlookers and improvers, enginemen, firemen, &c., in the woollen and worsted trades in Yorkshire received increases in their "cost of living wage" and there were increases to all classes of woollen trade operatives in the principal centres in Scotland. Workpeople employed in the printing and bookbinding trades in London received increases of 7s. 6d. per week for men, 3s. 6d. per week for women, and 1s. 9d. per week for learners. Lithographic printers in other centres in England and Wales received an increase of 7s. 6d. per week, while general increases over the scheduled rates previously arranged, amounting to 6s. per week for men and 2s. 6d. per week for women, were also granted in provincial centres to warehousemen, cutters, printers' assistants, female binders, &c. Men and women employed in the envelope

making and manufacturing stationary trades in the principal centres received increases of 7s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. per week respectively in their schedule rates. In the building trades the most important increases occurred in Yorkshire, where the amount of increase usually varied from 1d. to 2d. per hour, and in Scotland, where there was a general increase of 1½d. per hour. Furniture trade operatives in London had advances of generally 1½d. per hour for men and 1d. per hour for women, bringing the rate for men up to 2s. per hour, whilst in the principal centres in Scotland the advance amounted to 1½d. per hour for men and ¾d. per hour for women. Men and youths employed in the manufacture of bricks, tiles, &c., received increases to make total war advances of 35s. and 30s. per week respectively, while women and girls in the same trades received increases of 3s. per week and 2s. per week respectively. In the soap and candle trades increases of 5s. and 2s. 6d. per week were given to men and women respectively, and a schedule of minimum rates was adopted. Minimum rates were also adopted in December affecting several other trades generally, including electrical contracting, surgical and optical instrument making, and paper bag and match manufacture. Men employed in electricity undertakings in the majority of the large towns of Great Britain received an increase of 5s. per week, making their total war advances, in most cases, 33s. 6d. per week, plus the 12½ per cent. bonus on earnings.

Of the increases taking effect in December, 24, affecting 139,000 workpeople, were arranged by arbitration; 7, affecting 29,000 workpeople, were arranged by conciliation; 15, affecting 82,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining 123, affecting 300,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In 13 cases, involving 10,000 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

A special article, summarising the information which has been received relating to changes in wages during 1919, appears on pages 3 and 4.

Hours.*

The changes during December in the number of hours constituting a full ordinary week's work affected about 75,000 workpeople, whose hours were reduced by an average of nearly 6½ per week. All the changes were arranged by direct negotiation, four, involving 15,000 workpeople, being preceded by disputes. The principal change affected workpeople in the linen industry in Belfast and the North of Ireland, where a uniform week of 48 hours was adopted, as compared with a previous week of nearly 55 or 55½ hours.

A summary of the changes in hours which occurred during 1919 is given on pages 4 and 5.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Particulars of change.
Building Trades	London ..	6 Dec.	Electric and steam derrick drivers, and travelling and overhead crane drivers.	Increase of 2½d. per hour. Rates after change: electric derrick drivers, 1s. 10d.; travelling and overhead crane drivers, 1s. 9d.
			Portable and stationary engine drivers, and boiler attendants and crane signalmen.	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: portable and stationary engine drivers, 1s. 8½d.; boiler attendants and crane signalmen, 1s. 8d.
	YORKSHIRE:— Various towns in Yorkshire:— Group A ..	13 Dec.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters (except at Bradford, Leeds, Morley, and Shipley), plasterers, and labourers.	Increase of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen 1s. 10d.; labourers, 1s. 7d.
			Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plasterers, and labourers; also painters at Normanton.	Increase of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 9d.; labourers, 1s. 6d.
			Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, plumbers, plasterers, and labourers (except at Bridlington, Malton, and Norton).	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 4d.
	Bingley, Calder Valley, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, Hull, Pudsey, Sowerby Bridge, and Yeadon.	13 Dec.	Plumbers ..	Increase of 2d. per hour. (1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d.)
	Beverley, Doncaster, Harrogate, Mexborough, Ripon, Scarborough, Selby, Wombwell, and York.	13 Dec.	Plumbers ..	Increase of 2d. per hour. (1s. 7d. to 1s. 9d.)

* See note at head of page.
† Group A.—Batley, Bingley, Birstall, Bradford, Brighouse, Calder Valley, Cleckheaton, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Dewsbury, Gomersal, Halifax, Hebden Bridge, Heckmondwike, Holmfirth, Horbury, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Liversedge, Mirfield, Morley, Osssett, Penistone, Pudsey, Shipley, Sowerby Bridge, Stocksbridge, Wakefield, and Yeadon.
Group B.—Barnsley, Beverley, Castletford, Doncaster, Harrogate, Mexborough, Normanton, Otley, Pontefract, Scarborough, Selby, Wombwell, and York.
Group C.—Bridlington, Goolie, Kirby Moorside, Malton, Norton, Pickering, Skipton and Whitby.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Yorkshire, Lancashire, Midland and Eastern Counties, Southern Counties, and Ireland.

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
† The change took effect from the date shown, under an arrangement made in December.
‡ These increases were granted by Awards Nos. 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of The Industrial Court, the parties to which were the Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board and the Associations of Employers shown in the summaries of these Awards printed on p. 42.
§ The lower of the two rates applies to men working a 47-hour week; the higher is for men working a reduced week of 44½ hours during the winter months.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Building Trades, Coke and By-product Trades, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, and Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Repairing.

* Grade A.—Mersey District (including Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey).
Grade B.—Manchester District (including Ashton, Atherton, Bolton, Bury, Dukinfield, Hyde, Leigh, Northwich, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Warrington and Wigan), and South Wales and Monmouthshire (including Bargoed, Barry, Cardiff, Chepstow, Llanelli, Newport, Penarth and Swansea).
Grade C.—Northumberland, County Durham, and Cleveland District (including Gateshead, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Sunderland, and Middlesbrough), Carlisle, Yorkshire, Districts in Lancashire and Cheshire other than those in Grades A and B, Birmingham, Coventry, and Wolverhampton Districts (including Dudley, Rugby, Walsall, and Worcester), Bristol, Potteries District (including Stoke, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Leek), Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, and Eastern Counties (including Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Hertfordshire outside London area), Bournemouth, Belfast, and Londonderry.
Grade D.—Other towns, outside London Area, in England and Wales (including Brighton, Oxford, Southampton, etc.).
(NOTE.—As regards London, an inclusive rate of 2s. per hour has been paid by contractors, but this rate is not recognised by the Trade Union.)
† The base rates quoted are subject to a percentage addition of 107½, plus 5s. per day or shift, to men 18 years of age and over, and 2s. 6d. per day or shift to boys under 16.
‡ The increase took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in December.
§ The increase was to be paid on the pay day in the week ended 6 December in respect of the preceding pay period.
¶ This increase took effect from the date shown under an Award issued in December.
‡ The increase was to be paid on the first pay day after 1 December, in respect of the preceding pay period.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, and Particulars of change. Rows include Boiler, etc., Scaling; Lead Manufacture; Railway Wagon Repairing; Electric Cable Manufacture; Wire Manufacture; Surgical and Optical Instrument making; Other Metal Trades; and Woollen and Worsted Industry.

* The increase was to be paid on the first pay day after 1 December, in respect of the preceding pay period.
† The increase took effect under a Resolution of the Interim Industrial Re-construction Committee for the Lead Manufacturing Industry.
‡ The increase took effect under an Agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Electrical Cable Making Trade.
§ The changes took effect under an arrangement made between the Iron and Steel Wire Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Wire Drawers' Society of Great Britain.
|| The increase took effect under an Agreement made between the British Optical Instrument Makers' Association, and the Amalgamated Instrument Makers' Society.
¶ The changes took effect under an Agreement arrived at between the Surgical Instrument Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Instrument Makers' Society.
** The increase took effect under an arrangement made between the British Tin Box Manufacturers' Federation and the Amalgamated Society of Lithographic Printers.
†† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
‡‡ The change took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in December.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, and Particulars of change. Rows include Woollen and Worsted Industry; Linen Industry; Hosiery Industry; Silk Industry; and Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing, Finishing, etc.

* The change took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in December.
† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
‡ The "cost of living wage" was increased to 38s. 4d. from 20th September and to 40s. from 1st November.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, and Particulars of change. Rows include Textile Trades (Nottingham, Eastern Counties, London), Other Textile Trades (London), Clothing, etc., Trades (Brighton, Lanarkshire, Cork, Dublin, Lurgan, Glasgow, Waterford), Transport Trades (Great Britain), Paper Bag Making Trade (Great Britain), Envelope and Stationery Manufacture (London, Hemel Hempstead, Hyde, Manchester, and Otley), and Printing and Allied Trades (London, North Wales and Border Counties).

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
† The increase took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in December.
‡ Including Airdrie, Bellshill, Burnbank, Blantyre, Coatbridge, Hamilton, and Motherwell.
§ The change took effect from the date shown under an Award issued in December.
|| The new rates took effect under an Agreement made between the United Kingdom Paper Bag Manufacturers' Association, the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants, and the National Union of Printing and Paper Workers, and are supplementary to those fixed by the Trade Board whereby a minimum rate of 1s. 1½d. was fixed for all male timeworkers 21 years of age and over, and lower rates for females and learners.
¶ Including Aberystwyth, Bala, Bangor, Carnarvon, Coedpoeth, Colwyn Bay, Conway, Corwen, Denbigh, Dolgellay, Llandudno, Mold, Newtown, Oswestry, Pwllheli, Prestatyn, Rhyl, Welshpool, and Wrexham.
** The minimum rates after change at the various towns may be obtained by adding the above increase to the rates shown on p. 251 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for June, 1919.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupation, and Particulars of change. Rows include Lithographic printers (stone polishers and plate grinders), Various towns in England and Wales, Printing and Allied Trades (Belfast, Dublin, Cork, London), Furniture and Woodworking Trades (Bradford, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Sheffield, Belfast, Scotland, Dundee, Cork, Dublin, Limerick), and Soap and Candle Manufacture (Great Britain).

* The minimum rates after change at the various towns may be obtained by adding the above increases to the rates shown on pp. 342 and 393 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for August and September, 1919, respectively.
† The increases were to be paid on the first pay day after 1st December, in respect of the preceding pay period.
‡ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
§ The changes took effect under an Agreement arrived at by the Soap and Candle Trades Joint Industrial Council.
|| In certain firms the advance to male timeworkers 21 years of age and over was 6s. 6d. per week, into which was merged the bonus of 12½ per cent. previously granted.
¶ Viz., Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Warrington, and Widnes.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, and Particulars of change. Rows include Brick, Tile, Clay, etc., Industries; Pottery Manufacture; Seed Crushing and Oil Milling Trade; Match Manufacture; Boot and Floor Polish Manufacture; Bakers, confectioners, and allied workers; Food and Drink Trades.

* The increases were granted as the result of an arbitration to which the Employers' National Council for the Clay Industries, the National Federation of General Workers, and the Welsh Artisans' United Association were parties. † Any advances granted on account of the claim for this increase, or in anticipation of any Agreement or Award resulting therefrom, to be merged in the respective increases granted herein.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, and Particulars of change. Rows include Food and Drink Trades (continued); Leather Trades; Miscellaneous Trades; Electricity Supply; Local Authority Services (see also under Electricity Supply).

* These changes took effect from the date shown, under Award issued in December. † See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." ‡ The increase took effect under an Agreement made between the Federation of Leather Belting Manufacturers of the United Kingdom and the trade unions concerned.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Clyde, Glasgow, Greenock, and Belfast.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER, 1919.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Building Trade, Farriery, Linen Industry, etc.

Increases in Minimum Wages under the Trade Boards Act.

Tailoring Trade (Great Britain).—From 1st December the minimum time rates in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade were increased for males from a general minimum of 8d. per hour to 1s. 5d. per hour for cutters, knifemen, tailors, fitters-up, passers, pressers and machinists, 1s. 3d. per hour for under pressers and plain machinists, and 1s. 1d. per hour for all other workers (except learners). Piecework basis rates were also fixed which were 1½d. per hour in excess of the above rates. For females the minimum time rates for cutters, trimmers and fitters-up were increased by amounts varying from 3½d. to 4½d. per hour to 8½d. per hour for workers under 19 years of age, 9d. per hour for those 19 and under 20 years, and 9½d. per hour for those 20 years and over, while the minimum time rate for other workers (except learners) was increased from 5d. per hour to 8½d. per hour. Increases were also made in the minimum time rates for male and female learners. (See also LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1919, pp. 562 and 563.)

Increases in Rates of Wages in January.

Increases in rates of wages have been arranged to take effect in January for building trade operatives in the North Western Counties, Yorkshire, Midlands, and South Wales districts, blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, jute workers in Dundee, printing trade operatives in all the principal towns in England and Wales (excluding London) and in Scotland, and for cocoa and chocolate workers in Great Britain. As a result of an Arbitration Award (No. 61) of the Industrial Court, increases have also been granted to gasworkers in Great Britain to take effect from first pay period following 1st December, 1919.

Particulars of these and other cases will be given in the next issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

* See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

† The change took effect under an Agreement made between the United Kingdom Paper Bag Manufacturers' Association, the National Society of Operative Printers' Assistants, and the National Union of Printing and Paper Workers.

‡ No definite date was fixed, but the reduction in hours was to take place at the earliest convenient date after the Awards were issued (at the end of December).

§ The Awards provide that a longer week may be worked where necessary, time worked in excess of 48 hours being paid for at overtime rates.

|| This change took effect from the date shown, under an arrangement made in December.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES AND FATAL ACCIDENTS.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases* of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1919, was 25, of which 19 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to mercurial poisoning, 1 to arsenic poisoning and 4 to anthrax. There were no deaths reported.

Three cases of lead poisoning (including two deaths) amongst house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during December, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

An analysis of the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax in December is given in the Table below:—

Table showing (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, and (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. Includes sub-sections for Mercurial Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, and other forms of poisoning.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

(BASED ON HOME OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT RETURNS.)

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1919, was 265, an increase of 23 on the previous month, but a decrease of 13 on a year ago.

The mean number in the five years 1914-18 was 305, the maximum being 347 and the minimum 278. It will be observed that the number recorded in December, 1919, was lower than in any of the five previous years.

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

Table showing RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, MINES, QUARRIES, and ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5. Includes sub-sections for Non-Textile and Textile industries.

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

† The persons affected in the Pottery Industry were males.

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(DATA SUPPLIED BY THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD IN IRELAND.)

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in December, 1919, in the 35 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 132 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 2 per 10,000 on the previous month, and of 7 per 10,000 on a year ago, but a decrease of 58 per 10,000 compared with December, 1913.

Compared with November, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 3,647 (or 1.5 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers increased by 982 (or 0.9 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 2,665 (or 2.0 per cent.). Six districts showed no change, the Coatbridge and Airdrie district and the Belfast district showed decreases of 1 per 10,000, and every other district showed an increase; none of the increases, however, were as much as 10 per 10,000.

Compared with December, 1918, the total number of paupers increased by 15,602 (or 6.7 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers increased by 3,500 (or 3.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 12,102 (or 9.9 per cent.). Twenty-seven districts showed increases and eight showed decreases. The most marked increases were in the Barnsley district (28 per 10,000) and in the Newcastle district (25 per 10,000).

Table showing Paupers on one day in December, 1919, categorized by Selected Urban Areas, ENGLAND & WALES, and SCOTLAND. Includes sub-sections for Indoor, Outdoor, and Total paupers, and rate per 10,000 population.

* These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales and Ireland more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, West Ham, Belfast and Galway districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.

† Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving outdoor medical relief only.

‡ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

ship being loaded or unloaded in harbour to maintain safe means of access by ladder or steps from the deck to the bottom of every hold exceeding a certain depth.

A workman was employed by a firm of stevedores in loading a ship. A permanent fixed ladder leading down to a hold became so encumbered with cargo that it could not be used. Some of the workmen, therefore, obtained a rope ladder from the ship, which they attached to the hatch and allowed to swing loose above the bottom of the hold. One of the firm of stevedores saw this contrivance and saw the men using it, but made no objection, although it was obviously very dangerous. The man in question while using this rope ladder fell and suffered severe personal injuries.

Subsequently the injured man brought an action at law against his employers for damages for negligence. For the defendants it was contended (1) that the statutory duty of maintaining safe means of access to the hold lay upon the shipowners and not upon them; and (2) that there was no evidence of negligence on their part; therefore the plaintiff could not succeed in his action. The Judge accepted these contentions and gave judgment for the defendants. The plaintiff appealed.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal. They held that although the statutory duty was imposed on the shipowners and not on the defendants, yet the defendants were guilty of negligence in their supervision of the plant used by their workmen and were liable for injury caused by that negligence.—*Monaghan v. Rhodes and Sons, Court of Appeal, 24 November, 1919.*

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT CONSTITUTED UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

Building and Allied Trades.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES (HUNTINGDON).—The Operative Bricklayers' Society v. the Huntingdon and District Building Trades Employers' Association. Award—From the first pay after 1st January, 1920, craftsmen concerned (except painters) to receive a rate of 1s. 6d. an hour; painters, 1s. 5d. an hour; painters' labourers, 1s. 4d. an hour; general labourers and navvies, 1s. 3d. an hour. Issued 15th December. (3)

MASONS, BRICKBUILDERS AND LABOURERS.—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Scottish Building Contractors' Association on behalf of their members at Glasgow, Greenock, Strathaven, High Blantyre, Hamilton, Coatbridge, Larkhall, Motherwell, Lanark, Airdrie, Barrhead, Renfrew, Helensburgh, Baillieston, Ayr, Bothwell, Larbert, Johnstone, Holytown, East Kilbride, Duntocher, Blantyre, Dumbarton. Award—From 1st December, 1919, the men concerned to receive an advance of 1½d. an hour, granted on the basis of a 44 hours' week; the advance to take effect above the rates determined by Awards Nos. 313 and 314 of the Interm Court of Arbitration (Building Trade—Scotland), which rates include the 12½ per cent. bonus; the consolidated hourly rates payable under these awards to be computed to the nearest farthing. Issued 23rd December. (10)

MASONS AND LABOURERS (PERTH).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Perth and District Master Masons' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (11)

LATHSPLITTERS (SCOTLAND).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Master Lathsplitters' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (13)

TRADESMEN AND LABOURERS.—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Scottish National Building Trades Federation on behalf of the master wrights at Glasgow, Dunoon, Kilmarnock, Paisley, Clydesdale District, Mauchline and Cumnock, Dumbarton, Largs, Stirling and District, Falkirk, Aberdeen, North-East of Scotland, Galashiels, Hawick, Dumfermline, Dundee, Ayr, Greenock, Coatbridge; master masons at Aberdeen, North-East of Scotland; Building Trades Employers' Associations at Edinburgh and Leith, Bathgate, Kirkcaldy, Kilmarnock, Leven, East of Fife, Burtisland, Ayr; master plumbers at Glasgow and West of Scotland, Edinburgh; Scottish Master Plasterers' Association, and master glaziers at Glasgow and Edinburgh. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (14)

REINFORCED CONCRETE WORKERS.—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Scottish Reinforced Concrete Contractors' Association on behalf of their members at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leith, Port Glasgow, Hawick, and Ayr. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December, 1919. (15)

MASONS, BRICKLAYERS AND LABOURERS (AYR).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Ayr Master Builders' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (16)

TRADESMEN AND LABOURERS.—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Clyde Navigation Trust. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (18)

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS (HAWICK AND DISTRICT).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Hawick and District Master Carpenters' and Joiners' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (19)

JOINERS (BUTE).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Bute Master Joiners' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (20)

JOINERS (KIRKCALDY AND DISTRICT).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Kirkcaldy and District Master Joiners' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (21)

PAINTERS AND LABOURERS (SCOTLAND).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the National Federation of Master Painters in Scotland. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (22)

PAINTERS AND PAINTERS' LABOURERS (AYR).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Ayr Master Painters' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (23)

PAINTERS AND PAINTERS' LABOURERS (DUMFRIES).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Dumfries Master Painters' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (24)

TILEFIXERS (GLASGOW).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Glasgow Master Tilefixers' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (25)

MASONS, BRICKLAYERS AND LABOURERS (DUNDEE).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Dundee Master Masons' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (26)

MASONS, BRICKLAYERS AND LABOURERS (KILMARNOCK).—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Kilmarnock and District Master Masons' Association. Award—[The terms of this Award are identical with those of No. 10 above.] Issued 23rd December. (27)

CARPENTERS, PAINTERS AND LABOURERS (BICESTER).—The National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators v. Layton & Sons, T. Smith & Son, H. Jackson & Son, F. Blencowe, all of Bicester, and L. Pein, Launton, near Bicester. Award—From 1st January, 1920, the carpenters, painters and labourers concerned to receive rates of 1s. 3d., 1s. 2d., and 11d. an hour respectively. Issued 23rd December. (29)

LABOURERS.—The General Workers' Union v. George Hall, builder, Aberdeen. Decision—There is no prescribed rate applicable to the general labourer concerned. Issued 24th December. (33)

BUILDING TRADE (MARLBOROUGH).—The National Federation of Building Trade Operatives v. Benjamin Hillier & Sons, Marlborough; Minty and Swatten, Marlborough; T. E. Leadley & Co., Marlborough; The Bursar, Marlborough College, Marlborough. Award—The rates to carpenters, joiners, plasterers, plumbers, masons and bricklayers to be 1s. 3d. an hour, painters 1s. 2d., and labourers 1s. an hour. Issued 24th December. (36)

TRADESMEN, PAINTERS AND LABOURERS (SHAFTESBURY).—The Shaftesbury Composite Branch of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives v. the Shaftesbury and District Building, Woodworking and Allied Trades Association. Award—From 1st January, 1920, the tradesmen, painters and labourers concerned to receive rates of 1s. 3d., 1s. 2d. and 1s. an hour, respectively. Issued 31st December. (46)

BUILDING TRADE.—Operative Bricklayers' Society v. H.M. Office of Works and H. Arnold & Son, Peterborough Flax Factory. Decision—Claim for walking time not established. Issued 31st December. (47)

Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture.

IRON AND STEEL TRADE.—The Workers' Union v. Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Dowlais. Decision—Claim that the merging clause under an award of Mr. Tomlin, K.C., dated 16th November, 1917, should be set aside not established. Issued 31st December. (43)

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES (BRISTOL CHANNEL).—The National Federation of General Workers v. the Dry Dock Owners' and Ship Repairers' Federation, Ltd. Award—From the first pay after 1st December, 1919, the men concerned (aged 18 years and over) employed in the Bristol Channel to receive an advance of 5s. a week, which is to form part of the total earnings upon which the bonuses of 12½ per cent. and 7½ per cent. paid to time-workers and pieceworkers respectively are calculated. The advance is to be paid in addition to the 6s. a week conceded to the platers' helpers, who work with pieceworkers and are regarded as engaged to work at piecework speed. Issued 16th December. (4)

FARRIERS.—The Amalgamated Society of Farriers (London District) v. the National Master Farriers' Association (London District). Award—The men concerned to receive an advance of 1s. 6d. a day, bringing the rates for firemen and doormen up to 13s. 9d. and 13s. 3d. a day respectively. Issued 18th December. (6)

METAL WASTE RECLAMATION TRADE.—The Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union v. Thos. W. Ward, Ltd. Award—From the first pay after 1st December, 1919, the pressmen, cutters or shipbreakers, shearmen and mates, cranedrivers, ball ring men, acetylene burners, power house men and labourers concerned employed at Giant's Wharf (Briton Ferry) and Swansea to receive an advance of 5s. a week. Issued 18th December. (7)

FITTERS, TURNERS, BRASSFINISHERS AND BLACKSMITHS.—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers v. the Somerset and Dorset Railway Joint Committee. Award—The fitters, turners and brassfinishers concerned to receive a rate of 35s. a week, and the blacksmiths concerned to receive a rate of 34s. a week, but when employed on heavy fires to receive a rate of 37s. a week, all plus 33s. 6d. a week and a bonus of 12½ per cent. on earnings. Issued 23rd December. (31)

APPRENTICES.—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers v. Robertson & Orchar, Ltd. Decision—There is no prescribed rate applicable to the journeyman concerned who has just completed his apprenticeship, and in whose case 12 months from the expiry of the apprenticeship has not passed. Issued 31st December. (39)

ACETYLENE WELDERS.—The National Federation of Women Workers v. the Highbury Aircraft Co. Decision—The advance given by Order No. 260 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1919) is applicable to the women concerned for the time after 1st January, 1919, during which they were engaged on the special metal work in connection with aircraft. Issued 31st December. (41)

BOBBIN AND SHUTTLE MAKING INDUSTRY.—The workers' side of the Joint Industrial Council for the Bobbin and Shuttle Making Industry v. the Employers' Side of the Joint Industrial Council for the Bobbin and Shuttle Making Industry. Award—From 1st January, 1920, the male and female workers concerned, 18 years of age and over, to receive advances of 5s. and 4s. a week respectively, and the male and female workers under 18 years of age to receive an advance of 2s. 6d. a week, any advances, excluding merit advances, given since Awards Nos. 447 and 672 (Bobbin and Shuttle Making Industry), England and Scotland respectively, to merge in the above advances; the above advances to apply to motormen, carters and firemen (boilers), except where the wages of these men have been regulated by agreements or by the movements in the wages of men of a similar class in industries other than the bobbin and shuttle making industry; claim for certain minimum rates not established. Issued 31st December. (42)

BOILERMAKERS, RAILWAYS.—Boiler-makers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. the Great Northern Railway Co. Award—The rates paid to the men concerned employed in the running sheds at Doncaster to be 2s. a week above that paid to the same class of men employed in the locomotive works; claim for "dirty money" not established. Issued 31st December. (49)

Textile Trades.

TWINE WORKERS.—The Workers' Union v. Henry Cardwell & Sons, Ltd., Patricroft, Manchester. Decision—Award No. 410 of the Court of Arbitration of 17th April, 1919 (Hemp Rope and Wire Rope Trade—Women Workers), is not applicable to the women concerned employed in the twine department of the firm; there is no prescribed rate for the women concerned. Issued 23rd December. (30)

SILK WORKERS.—National Federation of Women Workers v. J. Maygrove & Co., Ltd., St. Albans. Award—Women 18 years of age and over, who have had not less than one year's experience in the trade, when employed on piecework, to be paid such piece rates as will yield 34s. 6d. a week, and when employed as time-workers to be paid a minimum rate of 32s. a week. Issued 24th December. (37)

TEXTILE WORKERS.—The Scottish Textile Workers' Union v. the Lochleven Linen Co., Kinross. Decision—The firm have taken a proper course in applying the terms of Award No. 113 (Textile Trade—Scotland) of 30th December, 1918, to their employees, and should there be any cases where the Award has not been applied such cases should be reviewed in conference between representatives of the workpeople and the firm. Issued 31st December. (44)

Transport Trades.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS ON RAILWAYS.—The Electrical Trades Union, the National Union of General Workers, the Workers' Union and the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemmen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers v. the Railway Executive Committee (representing London Electric Railway Company, Central London Railway Company, City and South London Railway Company, Great Central Railway Company, Great Eastern Railway Company, Great Northern and City Railway Company, Great Northern Railway Company, Great Western Railway Company, London and North Western Railway Company, London and South Western Railway Company, London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company, London, Tilbury and Southend Railway Company, Metropolitan Railway Company, Midland Railway Company, South Eastern Railway Company, Underground Electrical Railway Companies of London, Limited, Whitechapel and Bow Railway Company). Award—From the first pay after 1st December, 1919, the men concerned, aged 18 years and over, employed as electrical workers on railways to receive an advance of 5s. a week, which is to form part of the total earnings upon which the bonuses of 12½ per cent. and 7½ per cent. for time-workers and pieceworkers respectively are calculated. Issued 19th December. (8)

CARTERS.—The United Vehicle Workers' Association v. Duncan, Tucker & Sons, Ltd., Tottenham. Decision—The prescribed rates applicable to the men concerned are the rates of the same classes of workpeople as shown in the second column of the Schedule to the Order 747 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1919), and that for these rates there have been substituted the rates fixed under the agreement of 30th January, 1919 (arrived at between various transport employers' associations and the National Transport Workers' Federation), and approved by the Minister of Labour as altered by the provision of the Award (No. 645) of the Court of Arbitration of 6th August, 1919 (Carting Industry). Issued 23rd December. (32)

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.

WOODCUTTING MACHINISTS.—The Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists v. the Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd. Award—The men concerned so long as they were engaged wholly in the manufacture or repair of aeroplanes or seaplanes, or of components or parts thereof, on a plain time-rate of 1s. 9d. an hour during the period from 11th February, 1919, to 27th March, 1919, to receive an advance of 10s. a week. Issued 31st December. (40)

SAWMILLING INDUSTRY.—Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union v. the Plymouth Employers' Association. Award—The Award (No. 527) of the Court of Arbitration of 17th June, 1919 (Sawmilling Industry), does not apply to the workpeople concerned in the employ of Mr. Edred Marshall; the boxmakers and sawyers concerned to be paid a rate of 1s. 4d. an hour, and the labourer a rate of 1s. 2d. an hour on the basis of a 47-hour week. Issued 31st December. (45)

Public Utility Services.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS.—The Electrical Trades Union v. the Corporation of Gravesend. Decision—Claim that retrospective payment for overtime should be paid on all hours worked beyond 47 and 48 per week to shift workers and day workers respectively as from 1st February, 1919, to 2nd September, 1919, not established. Issued 12th December. (1)

MAINTENANCE WORKERS.—The National Union of General Workers v. the Management Committee, County Asylum, Lancaster. Decision—The rates of wages established by the Scheme of the North Western Area Joint Council for the Building Trades are not applicable to the men concerned engaged on work between March and August, 1919, in connection with the spring cleaning of the establishment, including washing down walls and general odd jobs and to a certain extent in assisting masons and painters. Issued 15th December. (2)

ELECTRICAL UNDERTAKINGS.—The Electrical Trades Union, the National Amalgamated Society of Enginemmen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers, the National Union of General Workers, and the Workers'

Union v. the London County Council; Leyton Urban District Council; Smithfield Markets Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; Richmond (Surrey) Electric Light and Power Co., Ltd.; the Urban District Councils of Epsom, Ilford, Barking, Barnes, Beckenham, Erith, Walthamstow, Watford, Willesden; the Metropolitan Borough Councils of Battersea, Bermondsey, Fulham, Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Islington, Poplar, St. Pancras, St. Marylebone, Shoreditch, Southwark, Stepney, Stoke Newington, Woolwich and the Borough of West Ham; the Corporations of Croydon, Ealing, East Ham, Kingston-on-Thames and Wimbledon; Metropolitan Electric Supply Co.; Brompton and Kensington Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; Central Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; Chelsea Electricity Supply Co., Ltd.; Charing Cross, West End and City Electricity Supply Co., Ltd.; City of London Electric Lighting Co.; County of London Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; London Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd.; Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric Lighting Co., Ltd.; Notting Hill Electric Lighting Co., Ltd.; St. James and Pall Mall Electric Lighting Co., Ltd.; South London Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd.; South Metropolitan Electric Light and Power Co., Ltd.; Westminster Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd.; London United Tramways, Ltd.; Metropolitan Electric Tramways, Ltd.; South Metropolitan Electric Tramways and Lighting Co., Ltd.; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Co., Ltd.; North Metropolitan Power Distribution Co., Ltd.; Hendon Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; Uxbridge and District Electric Supply Co., Ltd. Award—From the first pay after 1st December, 1919, the men concerned, aged 18 years and over, to receive an advance of 5s. a week, which is to form part of the total earnings upon which the bonuses of 12½ per cent. and 7½ per cent. for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively are calculated. Issued 19th December. (9)

TRADESMEN AND LABOURERS.—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Corporations of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. Award—From 1st December, 1919, the men concerned to receive an advance of 1½d. an hour, granted on the basis of a 44-hours week; the advance to take effect above the rates determined by Awards Nos. 313 and 314 of the Interim Court of Arbitration (Building Trade—Scotland), which rates include the 12½ per cent. bonus, the consolidated hourly rates payable under these awards to be computed to the nearest farthing. Issued 23rd December. (17)

PAVIORS.—The Building Trades of Scotland Operatives' Wages and Conditions of Service Board v. the Corporations of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leith, Dundee and Aberdeen; the Clyde Navigation Trust; A. & J. Fall, Glasgow. Award—From 1st December, 1919, the men concerned to receive an advance of 1½d. an hour, except in the case of paviors who are paid at the rate of 1s. 8½d., in which case the advance is to be 1½d. Issued 23rd December. (28)

PAVIORS.—Scottish Associated Paviors' Federal Union v. the Aberdeen Corporation. The men concerned to receive a rate of 1s. 6d. an hour. Issued 31st December. (38)

Miscellaneous Trades.

RUBBER RECLAMATION TRADE.—The National Union of General Workers v. the North Western Rubber Co., Ltd., Litherland, near Liverpool. Decision—Claim on behalf of night shift workers that the present rate for night work should be altered, and a rate of time and a fifth substituted therefor, not established. Issued 18th December. (5)

ASPHALTE WORKERS (SCOTLAND).—The Workers' Union v. the Asphalt Trade Association of Scotland. Award—From 1st December, 1919, the men concerned to receive an advance of 1½d. an hour, granted on the basis of a 44-hours week; the advance to take effect above the rates determined by Awards Nos. 313 and 314 of the Interim Court of Arbitration (Building Trade—Scotland), which rates include the 12½ per cent. bonus, the consolidated hourly rates payable under these awards to be computed to the nearest farthing. Issued 23rd December. (12)

SACK AND BAG MAKING INDUSTRY.—The National Federation of Women Workers v. the Association of Manufacturers and Merchants of Made-up Textiles, Ltd.; National Bag Factory, Bow; March & Vick, Commercial Road, E.; Walker & Co., Shadwell; Sanders Bros., Limehouse; John Smith & Co. (London, E.), Ltd.; the Albion Mills Co., Bromley; Robert Hough, Limehouse; Kaliskys, Shadwell. Award—The minimum rates for printing machine assistants, hemming machinists and sack bundlers to be 25s., 29s. and 33s. a week respectively; payment for overtime to be made at the rate of time and a quarter for all hours worked in excess of the normal working week; claim for a 44 hours' week not established; no order made with respect to the basis upon which piece rates should be determined. Issued 24th December. (34)

SEED CRUSHING AND OIL MILLING INDUSTRY.—The National Federation of General Workers v. the Seed Crushers' Association. Award—From 1st December, 1919, all adults or persons engaged on adults' work to receive an

advance of 5s. a week; no order made as regards rates for overtime and juvenile workers. Issued 24th December. (35)

SHOP ASSISTANTS, &c.—National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks v. the Army and Navy Co-operative Society, Ltd. Award—General advances (excluding mechanics and vehicle workers) of 20 per cent. and 35 per cent. on wages to workpeople aged 18 to 21 and 21 years and over respectively; the establishment of certain minimum rates to different classes of workpeople, except in the case of cooks, carvers, &c., and others employed in the house department. The working week to be 48 hours, exclusive of meal times; overtime to be paid at the rate of time and a half, and double time on Sundays and public holidays. The Award to take effect from first pay day subsequent to the 30th October, 1919. Issued 31st December. (48)

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC COURTS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Mining and Quarrying.

YARD LABOURERS AND QUARRY WORKERS.—J. Freeman, Sons & Co., Ltd., Penryn, Cornwall, v. Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union. Difference—Claim for an increase of wages to yard labourers and quarry workers. Arbitrator—Mr. W. A. Willis. Award—(1) The rate of pay of men concerned over 18 shall be advanced to 11½d. per hour, based on a 45½-hour week. (2) Advances to be regarded as due to and dependent on the increase in the cost of living occasioned by the war. Effective as from commencement of first full pay following the date hereof. Issued 1st December, 1919. W.A. 7533/2.

COKE PLANT LABOURERS.—Employers and Employees represented on the Board of Conciliation for the Cumberland Coke Trade. Difference—(1) The employment of two men (instead of one) on the winches at St. Helen's Coke Plant, Oughterside Coke Plant and Risehow Coke Plant. (2) Payment of 6d. extra per batch to coke fillers at Risehow Coke Plant. (3) Payment of extra remuneration to boilermen for additional work recently added to the boilers. Arbitrator—Mr. James Macdonald. Award—Claim not established. Issued 5th December, 1919. W.A. 8078/2.

QUARRYMEN.—North Wales Slate Quarries Proprietors' Association v. the North Wales Quarrymen's Union, the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Dock Labourers. Difference—Application for certain increases and alterations in working conditions. Chairman of Conference—An officer of the Ministry of Labour. Award—(1) In the case of pieceworkers the day rate to be the minimum. (2) The existing bonus increased by 2s. per day. (3) Period of agreement reduced from six to four months. Effective from 1st January, 1920. Issued 16th December, 1919. W.A. 8785.

GRANITE QUARRYMEN.—Welshpool Standard Granite Co., Oswestry, v. the Workers' Union. Difference—Application for an increase in wages. Chairman of Conference—An officer of the Ministry of Labour. Agreement—An advance was given of not less than 1d. per hour to men 18 years and over and ½d. per hour to youths under that age. These are to be merely minimum increases. Effective as from 1st March, 1920. Issued 22nd December, 1919. W.A. 7962.

QUARRYMEN.—Messrs. Hanson, Brown & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough, Messrs. Ord & Maddison, Ltd., Darlington, v. the National Union of General Workers. Difference—Application on behalf of members employed at the Aycliffe Limestone Quarries for an advance of 2s. per day (an equivalent of the Sankey Award to miners) for a certain period. Arbitrator—Mr. J. Macdonald. Award—Claim not established. Issued 24th December, 1919. W.A. 7666/2.

MINERS.—Midland Counties Colliery Owners' Association v. the Derbyshire Miners' Association. Difference—Revision of Price Lists at Bolsover and Creswell Collieries. Independent Chairman—Sir W. N. Atkinson. Award—Prices for various underground work fixed in detail. Issued 30th December, 1919. W.A. 193 (1920).

Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture.

FOREMEN.—Farnley Iron Co., Ltd., Farnley, Leeds, v. Amalgamated Managers and Foremen's Association. Difference—Claim that certain foremen employed by the Company should be paid at least £2 12s. 6d. above pre-war rate. Arbitrator—Mr. P. B. Clegg Mellor. Award—(1) An advance of 5s. per week to men concerned. (2) Conditions applying to war advances already made by the Company shall apply to advances hereby granted. Effective as from pay day in the week ending 18th October, 1919, and payable in respect of the pay period for which payment was made on that pay day. Issued 6th December, 1919. W.A. 7964/2.

POT MAKERS.—Crucible Steel Makers' Association v. the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. Difference—Application for an increase of 1d. per pot. Court of Arbitration—

Mr. C. Doughty (Chairman), Mr. G. Pate and Mr. A. Gee. Award—Increase of ½d. per pot, both hand and machine made, granted, and the present war bonus of 7s. per shift plus the 1s. recently added shall be reduced to 6s. 6d. per shift plus the 1s. when it became payable. Effective as from 1st July, 1919. Issued 24th December, 1919. W.A. 106.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.

BOILER SCALERS, &c.—Messrs. Condron Co., Clyde Rigging and Boiler Scaling Co., Harbour Scaling Co., Marine Scaling Co., Glasgow, v. British Seafarers' Union. Difference—Claim for an advance in wages to boiler scalers, ship and tank scalers, shore firemen and donkeymen, and the merging of the 12½ per cent. bonus into wages. Arbitrator—Mr. James Macdonald. Award (by agreement)—(1) As from 24th November, 1919, 14s. per day shall be paid to boiler scalers over 18 for a day of eight hours for the first five days of the week, and 13s. for Saturday on condition that work starts at 8 o'clock prompt and that four full hours are worked. (2) As from 1st December, 1919, 1s. 8d. per hour shall be paid to tank scalers over 18 for a week of 47 hours. (3) As from 1st December, 1919, 14s. per day shall be paid to shore firemen, and 15s. per day to shore donkeymen, per day of eight hours. (4) All above rates to include the 12½ per cent. bonus which has been merged therein. (5) Specified conditions for night work and Sunday work. Issued 26th November, 1919. W.A. 7565/2.

BOILER SCALERS, &c.—Messrs. Condron Co., Clyde Rigging and Boiler Scaling Co., Harbour Scaling Co., Marine Scaling Co., James Muir & Son, and Mr. James Mullen, Glasgow, v. British Seafarers' Union. Difference—Claim in accordance with agreement referred to in Mr. Macdonald's Award of 26th November regarding (1) the wages and conditions of employment of apprentice boiler scalers and tank scalers. (2) Whether a one-break day should be introduced, and (3) the wages of hull scalers. Arbitrator—Mr. James Macdonald. Award (by agreement)—(1) As from 15th December, 1919, a one-break system shall be introduced. (2) As from 8th December, 1919, an advance of 6d. per day shall be paid to boiler scalers and tank scalers under 18; the number of these workmen which may be employed shall not exceed 20 per cent. of those over 18. (3) As from 1st December, 1919, hull scalers shall be paid the same rates as tank scalers. (4) An extra allowance of 4s. per day is to be paid for work done on tanks containing oil; other exceptionally dirty work to be paid for as may be arranged between the parties. (5) Specified travelling allowances. (6) Any matter arising out of the interpretation of this agreement upon which the parties cannot agree, shall be referred to the Arbitrator. Issued 8th December, 1919. W.A. 7565/3.

COMMERCIAL STAFF.—Engineers and Shipbuilders Employers' Association (Cardiff, Barry, Newport, Penarth, Swansea and Port Talbot Districts) v. Shipbuilding, Engineering and Steel Commercial Staffs' Association (Bristol Channel Centre). Difference—Application for certain increases of wages at rates not less than those awarded to outdoor workers in the ship-repairing industry during the entire war period. Arbitrator—Mr. C. Doughty. Award (by agreement)—A Joint Committee of three on each side shall be formed to consider individual cases, and in the event of failing to agree the point in dispute shall be referred to an arbitrator, the selection of whom is specified. Issued 8th December, 1919. W.A. 8769.

PLATERS' HELPERS.—Furness Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Haverton-Hill-on-Tees, v. Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders, the Associated Blacksmiths and the Ship Constructors and Shipwrights' Societies. Difference—Claim for a rebate of 6/53rds of the proportion of the helpers' wage paid by the platers working on piecework, and consequent upon the change over from the 53-hour to the 47-hour week. Arbitrator—Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C. Award—(1) Claim not established. (2) If there was in fact any bona fide misunderstanding between the parties in agreeing on the present piecework prices, the appropriate solution of the difficulty would be a re-discussion between them of the piece prices as then fixed. Issued 15th December, 1919. W.A. 851/13.

Textile Trades.

COTTON WORKERS.—Messrs. J. Brindle & Co., Ltd., Gargrave, v. the Yorkshire Cotton Operatives' Association. Difference—Application respecting wages. Chairman of Conference—An officer of the Ministry of Labour. Agreement—(1) Advances granted on present earnings of 15 per cent. to scutcher (grey), strippers and grinders, roving frame hands, and ring-room hands, 5 per cent. to winding and beaming hands, drawing and slubbing and intermediate hands. (2) A list to be mutually arranged which shall show and give wages to the mule spinners equal to the "Yorkshire List." Effective as from 10th December, 1919. Issued 8th December, 1919. W.A. 8385.

WOOL WORKERS.—Scottish Woollen Trade Employers' Association v. the National Union of General Workers, the Workers' Union, and the Scottish Industrial Woollen Workers' Union. Difference—Application for certain increases and alterations in working conditions. Arbitrator—Sir R. Lodge. Award—(1) Men and women time-workers' advances of 26s. and 19s. per full ordinary week

over pre-war individual earnings raised to 32s. and 24s. respectively subject to a minimum rate of wages. (2) The advances granted on 28th March shall be increased weekly: boys and girls between 14 and 16 years, 1s. 6d., boys 16 to 18, 3s., and 2s. 6d. to girls from 16 to 18. (3) Pieceworkers to receive an addition of 40 per cent. to the increase of 80 per cent. on their pre-war general district average earnings, and the percentage increase on the Flat Statement for weaving to be advanced to 100 per cent. (4) Claims for payment during holidays, scale of wages for apprentices and young persons, and questions affecting foremen and turners, and the return from military to civilian trade, were not dealt with. Effective from the beginning of the first full pay in December, 1919. Issued 15th December, 1919. W.A. 8396/2.

LINEN FOLDERS.—Lurgan Handkerchief and Fancy Linen Manufacturers' Association v. the Lurgan Hemmers, Veiners and General Women Workers' Trade Union. Difference—Application for a general increase. Arbitrator—Sir David Harrel, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.C.V.O. Award—Piece prices of vice folders increased in amounts varying from ½d. to 1½d. for each dozen of articles folded. Effective from 1st October, 1919. Issued 20th December, 1919. W.A. 8978.

Clothing Trades.

LAUNDRY EMPLOYEES.—Leinster Laundries' Association v. their Workers represented by the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union. Difference—Claim for increase of wages and revised working conditions. Arbitrator—Sir J. R. O'Connell, K.C. Award—(1) The wages of vanmen shall be £2 a week as a base rate, in addition to commission at the rate of 2½ per cent. on all monies received for family work on respective routes. (2) A general half-holiday on every Saturday as soon as the employers are able to adjust their arrangements. (3) Wages of all vanmen shall be paid on Fridays in each week instead of on Saturdays. (4) All vanmen attending stables on Sunday shall be entitled to half-a-day's pay. Other working conditions specified. (5) All adult male workers over 21 in laundries shall be entitled to a minimum weekly wage of £2 10s. (6) Wages shall be calculated from 8th November, 1919, so as to become payable on Friday, 14th November, being first pay day after 8th November, 1919. The arrears of wages as from that date shall be paid on first pay day after the issue of this Award. Issued 13th December, 1919. W.A. 8779.

Transport Trades.

SKIPPER AND MATES.—Swansea and Milford Haven Trawler Owners v. the National Sailors and Firemen's Union. Difference—Application for an increase of earnings and for certain conditions. Court of Arbitration—Mr. C. Doughty (Chairman), Mr. J. A. Robertson, O.B.E., and Mr. R. McGhee. Award—(1) Skippers to be paid in addition to their 1½ share, and subject to certain modifications, allowances of 20s. upon every £100 gross takings of each trip and 5 per cent. on the amount that the gross annual earnings of a boat exceeds specified amounts, and, in addition, £25 when the gross annual earnings reach those amounts. (2) Mates to be paid in addition to their one share 10s. upon every £100 gross takings subject to the same conditions as apply to the skippers. No mate is to pay for packing but to be in charge until all fish is landed and ready for the salesman. (3) Other working conditions fixed in detail. Effective for all trips commenced on or after the 29th October, 1919, and to remain in force until the expiration of one month's written notice, which notice may not be given before 1st May, 1920. Issued 4th December, 1919. W.A. 6840/3.

BOATMEN, CHECKERS, &c.—Grand Canal Co. v. the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union. Difference—Application for certain alterations in working conditions. Arbitrator—Sir D. Plunket Barton (Chairman), Mr. J. Tatlow and Mr. T. Moran. Award—(1) In the case of any boat travelling the night before and discharging or re-loading in Dublin, the men to have the night in Dublin irrespective of the number of tons in the cargo. (This item had been conceded by the Company.) An extra remuneration granted to these men engaged between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. of 4d. per ton on tonnage loaded or unloaded in excess of 10 tons per trip. (2) Checkers' hours and overtime fixed. (3) Labourers in the engineering department to have a 47-hour week with overtime on total earnings at the rate of time-and-a-quarter. (4) Claim by the firm for reduction of wages to lock-keepers and bankrangers not established. Effective on and from 8th December, 1919. Issued 8th December, 1919. W.A. 7426/2.

PORTERS' MEN.—Harbour Porters of Dundee v. the Dundee Branch of the Scottish Union of Dock Labourers. Difference—Application concerning the remuneration to be paid to men engaged on loading, piling and waggoning of jute. Arbitrator—Sheriff A. J. Louttit-Laing. Award—Claim not established. Issued 13th December, 1919. W.A. 8039/2.

PAPER PULP UNLOADERS.—Taff Vale Railway Company v. the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union.

Difference—Application for an increase of rates for discharging a cargo at Penarth Dock. These rates to cover all extras. Arbitrator—Mr. W. A. Willis. Award—Claim not established. Recommendation given that the parties should meet and discuss the offer given by the Company to increase the general rates by 1d. per ton. Issued 22nd December, 1919. W.A. 7974/2.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.

TIMBER-YARD AND SAW-MILL LABOURERS.—Plymouth Employers' Association v. the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union. Difference—Application for the rates given in Court of Arbitration Award 527. Arbitrator—Sir W. Robinson. Award—Advance granted of 6s. a week. Effective as from the 19th July, 1919. Issued 22nd December, 1919. W.A. 4887/4.

Food, Drink and Tobacco Trades.

BREWERS AND DRIVERS.—Monmouthshire Brewers' Association v. the National Union of General Workers. Difference—Application for an advance of wages. Chairman of Conference—An officer of the Ministry of Labour. Agreement made by which an increase was granted of 5s. a week to men over 18 years and 2s. 6d. to men under 18 years. Effective as from the first full pay in December. Issued 18th December, 1919. W.A. 7138.

Leather Trades.

TANNERY WORKERS.—Evan Morgan, Fellmonger, Brecon, v. National Union of General Workers. Difference—Application for an increase of wages. Conference presided over by an officer of the Ministry of Labour. Agreement—(1) A fixed minimum wage of 45s. per week. (2) An increase of 1s. per week to those men earning over 45s., making, with the 2s. already given, a total increase of 3s. (3) The two men (non-unionists) earning £2 10s. and £3 per week to remain at the same rates. This will affect the 16 remaining men as follows:—Two men now receiving £2 2s. (including 2s. advance last week) will receive £2 5s.; six men now receiving £2 4s. (including 2s. advance last week) will receive £2 5s.; four men now receiving £2 6s. (including 2s. advance last week) will receive £2 7s.; four men receiving £2 7s. (including 2s. advance last week) will receive £2 8s. Men to resume work on Thursday 20th November, 1919. Issued 19th November, 1919. W.A. 8036.

HIDE, SKIN AND TALLOW WORKERS.—Aberdeen Hide, Skin and Tallow Co., Ltd., v. National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks. Difference—Application for an advance of 10s. per week on present wages. Arbitrator—Mr. J. B. Baillie, O.B.E. Award—An advance of 5s. per week to men concerned. Effective on and from 1st September, 1919. Issued 28th November, 1919. W.A. 7885/2.

Public Utility Services.

CORPORATION WORKERS.—Belfast Corporation v. the National Amalgamated Union of Labour and the Municipal Employees' Association. Difference—Application for certain increases and alterations in working conditions. Arbitrator—Mr. J. Andrews, K.C. Award—(1) Wages of men concerned advanced by 5s. per full ordinary week, and the question as to the day of the week on which wages should be paid is referred for friendly negotiation between the parties. (2) Claim for a change in the system of payment and the starting hour of the street-cleaning men has not been established. Effective as from and including 1st October, 1919, in respect of the pay period for which payment was made on that date. Issued 29th November, 1919. W.A. 8713.

CORPORATION EMPLOYEES.—St. Albans Corporation v. United Builders' Labourers' Union. Difference—Claim that roller drivers, roller drivers' mates, scavengers, road makers, road labourers, carters, bath attendants, park gardeners, grave diggers, sewer men for cleaning sewers and house refuse collectors who are paid by the hour shall receive an advance to bring the minimum hourly rates to 1s. 3½d. per hour. The equivalent to apply to weekly employees. Arbitrator—Sir William Robinson. Award—An increase of 2d. an hour to men concerned who are paid by the hour, bringing their hourly rates to 1s. 1d. per hour; weekly employees shall be paid an equivalent advance. Workmen receiving extra pay for special work shall continue to receive same. Effective as from beginning of the first full pay following the 30th October, 1919. Issued 3rd December, 1919. W.A. 7125/2.

POOR LAW EMPLOYEES.—Great Yarmouth Board of Guardians v. Poor Law Workers' Union. Difference—The application of Award No. 84 of Conciliation and Arbitration Board of 31st March, 1919, to employees concerned. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope-Munroe, K.C. Award—Subject to certain qualifications and conditions, the employees concerned shall receive advances as from 1st April, 1919, in accordance with scale fixed by Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Government Employees in their Award No. 84. The qualifications and conditions deal with merger of bonuses already received and with proportions due to part-time officers and to rationed officers. All advances

are to be regarded as temporary increases and are due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing owing to the war. Effective for such period as Award No. 84 remains in force. Issued 5th December, 1919. W.A. 4973/2.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL STAFF.—Teddington Urban District Council v. National Association of Local Government Officers. Difference—Application for payment of Civil Service Scale of War Bonus (Award No. 84) of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Government Employees. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope Munroe, K.C. Award—(1) Award No. 84, dated 31st March, 1919, to be applied in full as from 1st April to the parties concerned. (2) The term "ordinary remuneration" as used in the said Award shall be deemed to include salaries, wages and allowances (other than payment for overtime and war bonuses) payable on 31st March, 1919. (3) The merger from 1st April, 1919, of any increases of remuneration as provided for or covered by Award No. 84 shall apply only to bonuses or advances which have been given specifically as war bonuses or increases. (4) Advances hereby awarded are war advances and are to continue for such period as Award No. 84 remains in full force and effect. Issued, 8th December, 1919. W.A. 7638/2.

COUNCIL OFFICERS.—Ilford Urban District Council v. Electrical Power Engineers' Association. Difference—As to the application to two employees of the provisions of Mr. Stoker's Award (W.A. 9281), dated 27th February, 1919. Arbitrator—Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C. Award—(1) The appointment of the one employee concerned as Chief Technical Assistant operated as a Grade advance within the terms of the said Award, and he is therefore entitled to be paid the 20 per cent. increase given in the Award on the amount of his salary as such. (2) The position of the other employee brings him within the terms of the said Award. Issued 9th December, 1919. W.A. 1838/63.

STATION SUPERINTENDENTS, ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.—Corporation of West Hartlepool v. Electrical Power Engineers' Association. Difference—As to the application of Mr. Stoker's Award of 27th February, 1919, to the two Station Superintendents concerned. Arbitrator—Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C. Award—The increases of the two employees concerned shall be based on the salary of £175 10s. and not on £167 14s. Issued 9th December, 1919. W.A. 1838/64.

POOR LAW OFFICERS AND SERVANTS.—Guardians of the Poor, Ashton-under-Lyne, v. the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union, the Municipal Employees' Association and the National Poor Law Officers' Association, Incorporated. Difference—Application for the war bonus in accordance with the Conciliation and Arbitration Award No. 84 to be paid to the resident and non-resident men concerned. This to be retrospective from 1st April, 1919. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope Munroe, K.C. Award—Claim established subject to certain clauses and provisions. Issued 12th December, 1919. W.A. 6681/2.

GAS STOKERS, &c.—Strabane Urban District Council v. the National Amalgamated Union of Labour. Difference—Application for a flat rate advance of 8s. a week. Arbitrator—Mr. W. Beattie. Award—Flat rate advance granted of 5s. a week. Effective as from the 1st November, 1919. Issued 13th December, 1919. W.A. 8864.

LAUNDRY WOMEN AND WOMEN SCRUBBERS.—St. Pancras Board of Guardians v. the National Amalgamated Workers' Union. Difference—Application for a war bonus as laid down in Award No. 84 of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Government Employees. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope Munroe, K.C. Award—Claim not established. Issued 15th December, 1919. W.A. 32/29.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL STAFF.—East Ham Corporation v. the National Association of Local Government Officers. Difference—Application for the payment of a bonus according to the scale of the Civil Service Award No. 84. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope Munroe, K.C. Award—Claim established, a part-time officer to receive such proportion only of the flat bonus as the time devoted to his duties bears to full time, together with 20 per cent. on his salary. Merger of certain increases. Effective as from the 1st of April, 1919. Issued 17th December, 1919. W.A. 7411/2.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL STAFF.—Hebden Bridge Urban District Council v. the National Association of Local Government Officers. Difference—Application for the terms of Award No. 84 of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Government Employees. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope Munroe, K.C. Award—Claim established, the merger of certain increases of remuneration. Effective as from 1st April, 1919. Issued 22nd December, 1919. W.A. 32/31.

MUNICIPAL, CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFS.—Warrington Town Council v. the National Association of Local Government Officers. Difference—Application for the payment of the Civil Service War Bonus to specified men. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope Munroe, K.C. Award

—Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Government Employees' Award No. 84 to be applied in full. The merger of certain increases of remuneration specified. Effective as from the 1st April, 1919. Issued 22nd December, 1919. W.A. 7594/2.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL STAFF.—Ilkeston Corporation v. the National Union of Clerks and the National Association of Local Government Officers. Difference—Dispute as to the war bonus to be paid. Arbitrator—Sir H. Courthope Munroe, K.C. Award—Award No. 84 of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Government Employees, dated 31st March, 1919, to be applied as from the 1st April, 1919, to 17th November and thereafter as altered and amended by Award 101. The merger of certain increases of remuneration the latter expression being defined. Issued 23rd December, 1919. W.A. 32/32.

Miscellaneous Trades.

THEATRICAL WORKERS.—Society of West End Theatre Managers v. the National Association of Theatrical Employees. Difference—What increases, if any, in the minimum rates of pay or decrease in the maximum working hours for such rates as specified in the agreement dated October 8th, 1918, would be fair and equitable. Arbitrator—Mr. W. A. Willis. Award—The minimum rates and overtime to be paid under the said Agreement of 8th October, 1918, shall be as specified in the schedule. In accordance with the agreement between the parties the scheduled rates for normal working hours and for a normal number of performances shall operate as on and from the 3rd May, 1919, and the Agreement of 8th October, 1918, as altered by this Award shall continue in operation until the 8th October, 1920. The hours of employment to remain as fixed by that agreement pending legislation affecting them. The scheduled rates for overtime or for performances in excess of the normal number to be effective as from the commencement of the first full pay following the date of this Award. Issued 8th December, 1919. W.A. 7712/2.

CORRECTION.

GAS WORKERS.—Glasgow Corporation v. National Amalgamated Workers' Union. W.A. 6472/2. Correction.—A report of this case appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1919, p. 502. The Department have since been informed that the Agreement of 30th April, 1919, therein referred to was not between the National Gas Council and the National Federation of General Workers, but between the separate Committee of Employers of the National Gas Council (now known as the Federation of Gas Employers) and the National Federation of General Workers.

AGREEMENTS APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR UNDER SECTION 1 (1) OF THE WAGES (TEMPORARY REGULATION) ACTS, 1918 AND 1919.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES (BANBURY).—Banbury and District Building Trades Employers' Association v. Certain Classes of Building Trade Operatives. Agreement—Rates of wages for painters and decorators shall be 1s. per hour, commencing 5th April, 1919. Carpenters and joiners 1s. 3d. per hour, commencing 19th April, 1919. Working hours shall be 10 hours per day for the first five days and 6½ hours on Saturday. Approved—On the understanding that the rates are inclusive of all war advances and bonuses, and that any reduction of the working hours shall not of itself constitute a ground for increased hourly rates. 5th September, 1919. W.A. 6/53.

ASPHALTE WORKERS.—The Ragusa Asphalt Co., Ltd., The La Brea Asphalt Co., Ltd., The Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., The Asphalt and Cement Co., Ltd., and The Birmingham and Midland Counties Val de Travers Paving Co., Ltd., v. The Public Works and Constructional Operatives' Union. Agreement—Rates of wages: Asphalt layers 1s. 7d. per hour, tar paviors and yardmen 1s. 6d. per hour, potmen and rubbers 1s. 4½d. per hour, labourers 1s. 4d. per hour. Approved 4th October, 1919. W.A. 1070/4.

ASPHALTE WORKERS.—Birmingham and Midland Counties Val de Travers Paving Co., Ltd., v. The Public Works and Constructional Operatives' Union. Agreement—Further increase of 1d. per hour on rates approved 4th October, 1919. Approved 10th November, 1919. W.A. 1070/4.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES (SOUTHEND).—South-Eastern Centre Board. Decision—Rates of wages: standard rate for painters shall be 1s. 6½d. per hour. In pursuance of a local agreement between the Southend Master Builders and Allied Trades Association and the National Amalgamated Society of Operatives House and Ship Painters and Decorators, this advance is to take effect and be payable from 8th August, 1919, and the rate for brush hands is to be 1s. 5d. per hour from the same date. Approved, on the understanding that the above rates are inclusive of all war advances and bonuses, 10th November, 1919. W.A. 3793.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES (BEDFORD).—South-Eastern Centre Board of Conciliation for the Building Trade. Decision—That the rates of wages be: Mechanics, 1s. 6½d. per hour; painters, 1s. 5½d. per hour; scaffolders and timbermen, 1s. 4½d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 3½d. per hour for a 47-hour week, to come into operation as and from the first pay week in August, 1919. Approved 24th November, 1919. W.A. 2010/2.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1919.

WAGES (TEMPORARY REGULATION).

RATES OF WAGES.

No. 1772.

THE OPERATIVE BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS ORDER, 1919, DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1919, MADE BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR UNDER SECTION 2 (3) OF THE WAGES (TEMPORARY REGULATION) ACT, 1918 (8 & 9 GEO. 5, c. 61), AND THE WAGES (TEMPORARY REGULATION) EXTENSION ACT, 1919 (9 & 10 GEO. 5, c. 18).

Whereas the Minister of Labour is empowered by Sub-section (3) of Section 2 of the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918, to direct by order that a determination or variation in a rate effected by an award, agreement, or settlement shall be binding on all workmen to whom a prescribed rate is applicable and the employers of those workmen;

And whereas on the 22nd August, 1919, the Interim Court of Arbitration made the Award set out in the Schedule hereto and such Award varied the rates applicable to the workpeople to whom the Award relates;

And whereas it was agreed by the parties to whom this Award relates that other matters in dispute between them should be referred to the same persons as constituted the Interim Court of Arbitration;

And whereas a settlement of the said matters in dispute has been arrived at by the persons aforesaid;

And whereas the Minister of Labour has approved the said settlement;

Now, therefore, on the advice of the Interim Court of Arbitration, the Minister of Labour, in pursuance of the powers vested in him by the said Sub-section and of all other powers enabling him in this behalf, hereby orders and directs as follows:—

(1) The variation in the rate effected by the said Award and the said approved settlement set out in the Schedule hereto shall as from the date hereof be binding on all workpeople to whom the prescribed rates in question were applicable and the employers of those workpeople.

(2) This Order may be cited as the Operative Bakers and Confectioners Order, 1919, and shall not apply to Scotland or Ireland.

Dated this 19th day of November, 1919.

R. S. Horne,
Minister of Labour.

Schedule.

COURT OF ARBITRATION.

(700.) OPERATIVE BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS—ENGLAND AND WALES.

1. The parties to this reference are (1) the National Association of Master Bakers, the London Employers' Joint Committee and the Co-operative Union, Limited, and (2) the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers and Confectioners.

2. The claim submitted was as follows:—

Under the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Acts, 1918 and 1919.

(1) A minimum rate for table hands and deliverers of £4 per week, and corresponding increases to the following grades:—Foremen, single-hands, scotch fores, secondhands, dough-makers and assistants, ovenmen, machine-men, firemen and juveniles.

(2) A minimum for bakery, male allied workers, of 72s. per week.

(3) A minimum for women at 18 years of age not less than three-fourths of the rates of operatives for skilled workers, and not less than three-fourths of the rates of allied workers for unskilled workers.

(4) Overtime rate of time and a half with a limitation of overtime.

These rates to be substituted rates for the prescribed rates payable under the National Working Agreement of 18th September, 1918.

(5) The operative bakers claim that advances in wages should be paid from 2nd August in the case of districts where there has been no stoppage of work, and from the date of the resumption of work in all other cases, and the employers claim that the advances in wages shall date from the date when the Ministry of Food fix the new price of bread.

Under the Conciliation Act, 1896.

- (6) A 44 hours' week to be established, each day standing by itself.
- (7) All recognised public holidays to be paid for, but if worked, to be paid for as two full days.
- (8) A week's holiday with full pay to be provided for all employees of six months' standing.
- (9) All Sunday work to be abolished, but where necessary, through unforeseen circumstances, to be paid for at double rates.
- (10) Local working conditions in the respective areas to be altered to conform with the foregoing.

3. The matter was referred by the Ministry of Labour to the Court of Arbitration for settlement, and representatives of the parties were heard on 19th August, 1919.

4. From the evidence submitted at the hearing the Court understand that it has not been the general practice in the past to include deliverers in settlements affecting operative bakers and confectioners.

5. There are at the present time in operation throughout the country varying agreements as to hours and wages governing workers employed in bakehouses, based on the principle of a minimum wage for table hands of 60s. in industrial areas and 55s. in rural areas for a working week not exceeding 54 hours. These minimum rates were the rates fixed by the National Working Agreement for England and Wales approved by the Joint Industrial Council of the Bread Baking and Flour Confectionery Industry on 18th September, 1918, and gave a general advance of about 10s. a week. Under this agreement the allied workers in the industry received a corresponding advance, and women workers a corresponding percentage on current rates. The agreement provided for a maximum working week of 54 hours but did not otherwise alter existing hours and conditions.

The Award of the Court in settlement of the claims submitted is as follows:—

6. *Wages—Bread bakers and small-goods men.*—The present rates for tablehands, foremen, singlehands, scotch fores, secondhands, doughmakers and assistants, ovenmen, machinemen, and firemen, shall be advanced by 5s. a full ordinary week.

7. *Wages—Bakery (male) and allied workers.*—The present rates for unskilled adult workers, mainly employed in the bakehouse and breadroom, shall be advanced by 5s. a full ordinary week.

8. *Wages—Juveniles (male).*—The rates at present paid shall be advanced by 2s. 6d. a full ordinary week in the case of those 18 years of age and over and 1s. 3d. a full ordinary week in the case of those under 18.

9. *Wages—Women (Skilled and unskilled).*—The rates at present paid shall be advanced by 2s. 6d. a full ordinary week in the case of those 18 years of age and over and 1s. 3d. a full ordinary week in the case of those under 18.

10. *Overtime.*—Overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and a quarter for the first two hours and time and a half thereafter. One hour a day may be carried forward, but not more than 4 hours in one week.

11. *Normal working week.*—The ordinary working week shall be one of 48 hours.

12. *Sunday and Bank Holidays.*—Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit-Monday, August Bank Holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day shall be recognised as holidays without loss of pay. All work performed on Sunday and Christmas Day shall be paid for at double rates. All work done after 7 p.m. on Saturday and up to midnight on Sunday shall be regarded as Sunday work. All work performed on the other days specified above shall be paid for at double rates, except where a day's holiday is given in lieu thereof.

13. Local working conditions in the respective districts shall be altered to conform with the foregoing, except where better conditions are provided for in existing agreements, in which case such better conditions shall continue.

14. With regard to item (8) of the claim, no change shall be made in existing practice unless otherwise determined by agreement between the parties concerned.

15. *Deliverers.*—This Award shall not apply to deliverers except in cases where it has been the practice to include them expressly in the local agreements relating to the baking industry.

16. Any advance granted in consideration of the present claim or pending the result of arbitration proceedings shall merge in the amounts hereby awarded.

17. The rates of pay in force under the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Acts, 1918 and 1919, as modified by this award, shall be the substituted rates of wages of the workpeople concerned for the purpose of such acts.

18. This Award shall take effect from and including 19th August, 1919.

DAVID HARREL,
RICHARD H. GREEN,
WM. MOSSÉS.

R. J. HUMPHREYS,
Assistant Secretary,
5, Old Palace Yard, S.W.1.
22nd August, 1919.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

In pursuance of his statutory powers, the Minister of Labour has made Orders, as set out below, under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, confirming minimum rates of wages as varied or fixed by the following Trade Boards. These rates become effective as from the dates specified, in cases in which they are applicable, in respect of all persons employing labour and all persons employed in the trade coming within the scope of the respective Trade Boards. Where, however, as respects any employer who pays wages at intervals not exceeding seven days, the date specified does not correspond with the beginning of the period for which wages are paid by the employer, the rates become effective as from the beginning of the next full pay period following the date specified.

The penalty for paying wages at less than the minimum rates is a fine not exceeding £20 for each offence; but in the case of time-workers affected by infirmity or physical injury the Trade Board may, in certain circumstances, grant permits exempting their employment from the operation of the minimum rates.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Ireland).

ORDER, DATED 19TH DECEMBER, 1919, CONFIRMING THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES FIXED AND AS VARIED FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM 22ND DECEMBER, 1919.

(a) General Minimum Time-rates.

Male Workers:

(i) Male workers of 22 years of age and over who are employed during the whole or a substantial part of their time in cutting, and who have had not less than five years' experience in cutting, 1s. 5d. per hour. (The term cutting includes the operations of hooking-up, folding, marking-in or marking-out and dividing.)

(ii) Male workers (other than cutters):

	Per hour.
	s. d.
When employed under 15 years of age	0 2½
at 15 and under 16	0 3½
at 16	0 4½
at 17	0 5½
at 18	0 6½
at 19	0 8
at 20	0 9
at 21	0 10½
at 22 years of age and over	1 0½

Female Workers:

- (i) For female workers, 7½d. an hour.
- (ii) Female learners—

Learners commencing at

Months of Employment.	14 and under 15 years of age.			15 and under 16 years of age.			16 and under 21 years of age.			21 years of age and over.		
	Per week.	Per week.	Per week.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1st 6 months ..	8 9	8 3	9 3	11 6	11 6	11 6	1st 3 months	11 6	11 6	11 6	11 6	
2nd ..	9 3	10 0	11 6	11 6	11 6	11 6	2nd ..	16 9	16 9	16 9	16 9	
3rd ..	11 6	15 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	3rd ..	21 9	21 9	21 9	21 9	
4th ..	15 0	18 6	21 3	21 3	21 3	21 3	4th ..	24 9	24 9	24 9	24 9	
3rd year ..	18 6	21 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4th ..	21 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

These rates for learners are on a basis of a week of 50 hours, the rates being subject to a proportionate deduction or increase according as the number of hours actually spent by the worker in the factory or workshop under contract of employment in any week is less or more than 50.

(b) General Minimum Piece-rates.

General minimum piece-rates as varied for homeworkers. Further particulars regarding the above-mentioned minimum rates of wages may be obtained from the Secretary of the Shirtmaking Trade Board (Ireland), Office of Trade Boards, Lord Edward Street, Dublin.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

ORDER, DATED 29TH DECEMBER, 1919, CONFIRMING THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES FIXED FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS AND MADE EFFECTIVE AS FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1920.

(a) General Minimum Time-rates.

(i) Male Workers:

A. For male workers of 21 years of age and over who are employed in one or more of the following operations or branches of work and who have had not less than three years' experience in one or more of the following operations or branches of work, that is to say: "pan" (hair and bass), "hairs," "finishing" (i.e., the work of all wood-workers employed in finishing or part-finishing brushes or brooms by hand or machine), "boring" (hand and machine boring),

"drawing," "bone brush cutting," "bone brush fashioning," "bone brush drilling," "bone brush profiling," the manufacture of artists', medical, painting, whitewash, and tar brushes, and brushes not otherwise specified—1s. 5½d per hour.

B. For male workers of all ages who have served an apprenticeship of not less than five years in one or more of the operations or branches of work specified in paragraph A above—1s. 5½d. per hour.

C. For all other male workers:

Workers of 21 years of age and over	Per hour.
	s. d.
20 and under 21 years of age	1 0
19	0 10
18	0 8
17½	0 7½
17	0 6½
16½	0 6
16	0 5½
15½	0 4½
15	0 4
14½	0 3½
under 14½ years of age	0 3

Provided that the rates set out in paragraph C above shall not apply to apprentices as defined by the Trade Board.

(ii) Female Workers:

	Per hour.
	s. d.
For Workers of 21 years of age and over	8½d.
18 and under 21 years of age	8d.
17½	7½d.
17	7d.
16½	6½d.
16	6d.
15½	5½d.
15	4½d.
14½	4d.
under 14½ years of age	3d.

(b) *Piece-work Basis Time-rates.*
For female workers other than homeworkers... 9½d.
For female homeworkers... 9½d.

(c) *Overtime Rates.*
For overtime on any day except Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays—

- (1) First two hours, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER.
- (2) After first two hours, TIME-AND-A-HALF.

For all time worked on Sundays and on Customary Public Statutory Holidays, DOUBLE TIME.

For all hours worked in any week in excess of 48 the overtime rate shall be TIME-AND-A-QUARTER, except in so far as higher overtime rates are payable under the above provisions.

For the purpose of these overtime rates the normal number of hours of work has been declared to be—
In any week 48; on any day (other than Saturday) 9; on Saturday 5.

Further particulars regarding the above-mentioned minimum rates of wages may be obtained from the Secretary of the Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain), 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

PROPOSALS TO FIX OR TO VARY MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain), having obtained the consent thereto of the Minister of Labour under Section 3 (5) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, have issued a Notice of Proposal, dated 15th December, 1919, to vary the general minimum time-rates and the overtime rates in respect of certain classes of male workers as set out below:—

General Minimum Time-rates.

	Machine Tacklers.		Paper Bag Cutters.	
	Per Hour.	Per 48 hours.	Per Hour.	Per 48 hours.
At 18 and under 19 years of age	8 9½	43 0	8 8½	42 0
19	0 10	43 0	0 10	41 0
20	0 10	43 0	0 10	41 0
21	1 0	49 0	1 0	48 0
22	1 13	55 0	1 13	53 0
23	1 4	63 0	1 4	61 0
23 years of age and over	1 6	72 0	1 4	64 0

Provided that, in the case of male workers entering the trade for the first time at the age of 21 years and over, either as machine tacklers or as paper-bag cutters, the general minimum time-rates for such workers shall be as follows:—

(i) Machine Tacklers.

	Per hour.	Per week of 48 hours.
	s. d.	s. d.
During the 1st 12 months of service as a machine tackler	1 1½	55 0

	Per hour.	Per week of 48 hours.
	s. d.	s. d.
During the 2nd 12 months of service as a machine tackler	1 3	60 0
During the 3rd 12 months of service as a machine tackler	1 4½	66 0
After three years' service as a machine tackler	1 6	72 0

(ii) Paper-Bag Cutters.

	Per hour.	Per week of 48 hours.
	s. d.	s. d.
During 1st 12 months of service as a paper-bag cutter	1 1½	55 0
During 2nd 12 months of service as a paper-bag cutter	1 2½	58 0
During 3rd 12 months of service as a paper-bag cutter	1 3½	61 0
After three years' service as a paper-bag cutter	1 4	64 0

For the purpose of this Notice, a machine tackler shall be deemed to be a male person who is engaged in setting, adjusting and keeping running paper-bag machines and in superintending and carrying through all other operations that can be performed in whole or in part by such machines.

(iii) For hydraulic pressers, slitters, stock-keepers, packers and despatchers (of the age of 21 years and over):

	Per hour.	Per week of 48 hours.
	s. d.	s. d.

	Per hour.	Per week of 48 hours.
	s. d.	s. d.
During the 1st 12 months of service after the age of 21 years in any one of the occupations specified in this section	1 1½	55 0
During the 2nd 12 months of service after the age of 21 years in the same occupation	1 2	56 0
During the 3rd 12 months of service after the age of 21 years in the same occupation	1 2½	58 0
After three years' service after the age of 21 years in the same occupation	1 3	60 0

(b) Overtime-rates.

Overtime-rates calculated according to the schedule of the Notice fixing minimum rates for overtime dated 22nd November, 1919, to apply in substitution for the general minimum time-rates above.

Objections to the above proposals may be lodged within two months from 16th December, 1919. Such objections should be in writing and signed by the person making the same (adding his or her full name and address), and should be sent to the Secretary of the Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain), 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain) have issued a Notice of Proposal, dated 22nd December, 1919, to fix the following minimum rates of wages:—

(a) General Minimum Time-rates.

(i) Male Workers:

Age of workers.	Period from the date the rates become effective.		
	First six months.	Second six months.	After the expiration of twelve months.
	Per hour.	Per hour.	Per hour.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
21 years and over ..	1 1½	1 2	1 3
20 and under 21 years ..	0 11	0 11	0 11
19	0 9½	0 9½	0 9½
18	0 8½	0 8½	0 8½
17	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½
16	0 6½	0 6½	0 5½
15	0 4½	0 4½	0 4½
Under 15 years ..	0 4	0 4	0 4

Provided that workers entering the trade for the first time at or over the age of 18 years may be employed for a period not exceeding six months at a minimum rate which is less by 1d. per hour than the minimum rate applicable under the above scale.

(ii) Female Workers.

Workers other than Homeworkers:

	Per hour.
	s. d.
Workers of 18 years of age and upwards	8½d.
17½ and under 18 years of age	7½d.
17	6½d.
16½	5½d.
16	5d.
15	4½d.
under 15 years of age	4d.

Provided that workers entering the trade for the first time at or over the age of 16 years may be employed for a period not exceeding six months at a minimum rate which is less by ½d. per hour than the minimum rate applicable under the above scale.

Homeworkers:

First period of six months from date rates become operative, 7½d. per hour.

Second period of six months from date rates become operative, 8d. per hour.
After twelve months from date rates become operative, 8½d. per hour.

(b) Piecework Basis Time-rates.

- (i) Female Workers: All female workers other than Homeworkers, 9d. per hour.
(ii) Male Workers: First six months from date rates become operative, 1s. 2½d. per hour.
Second six months from date rates become operative, 1s. 3d. per hour.
After twelve months from date rates become operative, 1s. 4d. per hour.

(c) Overtime Rates.

For male and female workers (other than homeworkers).
For overtime on any day except Saturdays, Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays:—

- (1) First two hours, TIME-AND-A-QUARTER.
(2) After first two hours, TIME-AND-A-HALF.

All overtime on Saturdays, TIME-AND-A-HALF.
All time worked on Sundays and Customary Public and Statutory Holidays, DOUBLE TIME.

For the purpose of these overtime rates the Trade Board propose to declare the normal number of hours of work to be:—

Table with 2 columns: Time period, Rate. Includes 'In any week ... 48', 'On any day (other than Saturday) ... 9', 'On Saturday ... 5'.

Objections to the above proposals may be lodged within two months from 23rd December, 1919. Such objections should be in writing and signed by the person making the same...

Fur Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Fur Trade Board (Great Britain) have issued a Notice of Proposal, dated 5th January, 1920, to fix general minimum piece-rates for male and female workers...

The piecework basis time-rates for female workers (including homeworkers) employed as machinists, liners, or finishers in the furriers' section of the trade are:—

- (a) Machinists ... 60s. per week of 48 hours.
(b) Liners and Finishers 50s.

Objections to the above proposals may be lodged within two months from 6th January, 1920. Such objections should be in writing and signed by the person making the same...

Chain Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Chain Trade Board (Great Britain), having obtained the consent thereto of the Minister of Labour under Section 3 (5) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, have issued a Notice of Proposal, dated 5th January, 1920, to vary the general minimum time-rates and general minimum piece-rates...

Objections to the above proposals may be lodged within two months from 6th January, 1920. Such objections should be in writing and signed by the person making the same...

NEW TRADE BOARDS.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Minister has made Regulations, dated 8th December, 1919, with respect to the Constitution and Proceedings of the Trade Board (Great Britain) for the Jute Trade...

The preparing, spinning or weaving (a) of jute or (b) of jute and any other fibre except flax or hemp;

- including:—
(1) the preparing and spinning of waste reclaimed at any stage; and
(2) all packing, despatching, warehousing, storing or other operations incidental to or appertaining to any of the above-mentioned work;

- but excluding:—
(1) the calendaring, bleaching, dyeing or finishing of any of the above-mentioned materials; and
(2) the preparing or spinning of materials required for the making or remaking of (a) rope (including driving rope and banding), (b) cord (including blind and window cord, but excluding silk, worsted, and other fancy cords), (c) core for wire ropes, (d) lines, (e) twine (including binder and trawl twine), (f) lanyards, (g) net and similar articles, when such preparing or spinning is carried on in the same factory or workshop as the said making or remaking; and
(3) The making or repair of sacks or bags, and also
(4) the weaving of carpets, rugs or mats.

The Trade Board has been established in accordance with these Regulations and consists of—

- (1) Three appointed members, namely:— Professor J. B. Baillie, C.B.E., Mr. J. MacDonald, Miss M. G. Cowan, M.A.

- (2) Fourteen members representing employers and fourteen members representing workers in the trade appointed by the Minister of Labour after considering names supplied by such employers and workers, due regard having been paid to the representation of the various branches of the trade and of the various districts in which the trade is carried on.

Provision is made for not more than four additional representative members (half to be representative of employers and half to be representatives of workers) to serve upon the Trade Board if the Minister of Labour, after giving the Trade Board an opportunity to be heard, thinks additional representation necessary in order to secure proper representation of any class or classes of employers or workers.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Professor J. B. Baillie to be Chairman, Mr. J. MacDonald to be Deputy Chairman, and Mr. F. Popplewell to be Secretary of the Trade Board.

The Trade Board will be known as "The Jute Trade Board (Great Britain)."

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Minister has made Regulations, dated 12th December, 1919, with respect to the Constitution and Proceedings of the Trade Board (Great Britain) established under and by virtue of the Trade Boards (Tailoring) Order, 1919, for the Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade, viz.:—

Those branches of men's, women's, boys' and girls' bespoke tailoring in which the tailor supplies the garment direct to the individual wearer and employs the worker direct.

A worker shall be deemed to be employed by the tailor direct, if employed by another worker in the employ of the tailor, to whom a minimum rate of wages fixed under the Trade Boards Acts is applicable; or if employed by a sub-contractor engaged in cutting, making or finishing garments exclusively for the tailor in the tailor's shop or in a building of which the shop forms part or to which the shop is attached;

including:—

- (1) (a) the altering, repairing, renovating or remaking of men's, women's, boys' or girls' tailored garments where carried out for the individual wearer by a tailor who employs the worker direct as defined above;
(b) the cleaning of such garments where carried on in association with or in conjunction with the repairing, renovating or remaking of the garments;
(2) the lining with fur of the above-mentioned garments where carried out in association with or in conjunction with the making of such garments;
(3) all processes of embroidery or decorative needlework where carried out in association with or in conjunction with the above-mentioned branches of tailoring;
(4) the packing and all other operations incidental to or appertaining to any of the above-mentioned branches of tailoring;

but excluding:—

- (1) all or any of the above-mentioned operations where carried on in a factory where garments are made up for three or more retail establishments;
(2) The making of head-gear.

The Trade Board has been established in accordance with these Regulations and consists of—

- (1) Three appointed members, namely:— Professor J. D. I. Hughes, Sir Shirley F. Murphy, Mrs. Margrieta Beer.
(2) Twenty-four members representing employers and twenty-four members representing workers appointed by the Minister of Labour after considering names supplied by such employers and workers, due regard having been paid to the representation of the various branches of the trade and of the various districts in which the trade is carried on.

Provision is made for not more than eight additional representative members (half to be representatives of employers and half to be representatives of workers) to serve upon the Trade Board, if the Minister of Labour, after giving the Trade Board an opportunity to be heard, thinks additional representation necessary in order to secure proper representation of any class or classes of employers or workers.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Professor J. D. I. Hughes to be Chairman, Sir Shirley F. Murphy to be Deputy-Chairman, and Mr. F. Popplewell to be Secretary of the Trade Board.

The Trade Board will be known as "The Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain)."

Coffin Furniture and Cerement-making Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Minister has made Regulations, dated 16th December, 1919, with respect to the Constitution and Proceedings of the Trade Board (Great Britain) for the Coffin Furniture and Cerement-making Trade, as specified in the Trade Boards (Coffin Furniture and Cerement-making) Order, 1919, viz.:—

- (a) the manufacture wherever carried on of coffin furniture from any metal by any process;
(b) the manufacture of cerements, including shrouds, face curtains, face cloths, side cloths, winding sheets, pillow covers, coffin pads, sleeves, or frilling;

including:—

- (c) the operations of folding, packing, warehousing, despatching, or other operations incidental to or appertaining to the manufacture of any of the above-mentioned articles.

The Trade Board has been established in accordance with these Regulations, and consists of:—

- (1) Three appointed members, namely:— Mr. W. J. Jeeves, Professor F. Tillyard, Mrs. Margrieta Beer.
(2) Seven members representing employers and seven members representing workers in the trade appointed by the Minister of Labour, after considering names supplied by such employers and workers, due regard having been paid to the representation of the various branches of the trade and of the various districts in which the trade is carried on.

Provision is made for not more than six additional representative members (half to be representatives of employers and half to be representatives of workers) to serve upon the Trade Board, if the Minister of Labour, after giving the Trade Board an opportunity to be heard, thinks additional representation necessary in order to secure proper representation of any class or classes of employers or workers.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Mr. W. J. Jeeves to be Chairman, Professor F. Tillyard to be Deputy Chairman, and Mr. F. Popplewell to be Secretary of the Trade Board.

The Trade Board will be known as "The Coffin Furniture and Cerement-making Trade Board (Great Britain)."

Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).

The Minister has made Regulations, dated 1st January, 1920, with respect to the Constitution and Proceedings of the Trade Board (England and Wales) for the Aerated Waters Trade as specified in the Trade Boards (Aerated Waters) Order, 1919, viz.:—

The manufacture, wherever carried on, of mineral or aerated waters, non-alcoholic cordials, flavoured syrups, unfermented sweet drinks, and other similar beverages, and the manufacture in unlicensed premises of brewed liquors, including (a) the operations of bottle washing, bottling and filling, and all other operations preparatory to the sale of any of the aforesaid liquors in bottles, jars, syphons, casks, or other similar receptacles; and including also (b) the operations of bottle washing, bottling, and filling, and all subsidiary operations preparatory to the sale in bottles, jars or other similar receptacles of cider, ale, stout, porter and other alcoholic beers, where all or any of such last-mentioned operations are, or is, conducted or carried on in association with or in conjunction with all or any of the operations specified under (a) above so as to form a common or interchangeable form of employment for workers, and whether the two sets of operations or any of them are, or is, carried on simultaneously or not.

The Trade Board has been established in accordance with these Regulations and consists of:—

- (1) Three appointed members, namely:— Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., Professor D. H. Macgregor, Mrs. Margrieta Beer.
(2) Twenty members representing employers and twenty members representing workers in the trade, appointed by the Minister of Labour after considering names supplied by such employers and workers, due regard having been paid to the representation of the various branches of the trade and of the various districts in which the trade is carried on.

Provision is made for not more than eight additional representative members (half to be representatives of employers and half to be representatives of workers) to serve upon the Trade Board, if the Minister of Labour, after giving the Trade Board an opportunity to be heard, thinks additional representation necessary in order to secure proper representation of any class or classes of employers or workers.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Sir Alfred Hopkinson to be Chairman, Professor D. H. Macgregor

to be Deputy Chairman and Mr. F. Popplewell to be Secretary of the Trade Board.

The Trade Board will be known as "The Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales)."

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Minister of Labour has established a Trade Board for the Wholesale Mantle and Costume trade in Great Britain under and by virtue of the Trade Boards (Women's Clothing) Order, 1919.

In accordance with the Regulations for the above-mentioned Trade Board, dated 20th November, 1919, the Trade Board consists of:—

- (1) Three appointed members, namely:— Professor L. T. Hobhouse, D.Litt., Professor J. D. I. Hughes, Miss Constance P. Lewis.
(2) (a) Eighteen members representing employers in the trade who are not habitually engaged in sub-contracting appointed by the Minister of Labour from names supplied by such employers, due regard having been paid to the representation of the various branches of the trade and of the various districts in which the trade is carried on.
(b) Four members representing employers in the trade who are habitually engaged in sub-contracting, appointed by the Minister of Labour from names supplied by such employers.
(3) Twenty-two members representing workers in the trade appointed by the Minister of Labour from names supplied by such workers, due regard having been paid to the representation of the various branches of the trade and of the various districts in which the trade is carried on.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Professor Hobhouse to be Chairman, Professor J. D. I. Hughes to be Deputy Chairman, and Mr. F. Popplewell to be Secretary of the Trade Board.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Ireland).

The Minister has made Regulations, dated 22nd December, 1919, with respect to the Constitution and Proceedings of the Trade Board (Ireland) for the Brush and Broom Trade, as specified in the Trade Boards (Brush and Broom) Order, 1919, viz.:—

The manufacture of brushes (other than feather brushes) or brooms, including the following operations, where all or any of them are carried on in association with or in conjunction with the manufacture of such brushes or brooms:—

- (a) the drafting, dressing or mixing of bass, whilk or similar fibres or animal bristles or hair and the working of wood, bone, ivory or celluloid;
(b) all finishing, warehousing, packing or other operations incidental to or appertaining to the manufacture of such brushes or brooms; but

excluding the following operations:—

the sawing and turning of wood as a preliminary operation to the manufacture of such brushes or brooms; the making of metal parts and the mounting of brushes with metal or tortoise-shell backs.

The Trade Board has been established in accordance with these Regulations, and consists of:—

- (1) Three appointed members, namely:— Sir John R. O'Connell, LL.D., Mr. W. Beattie, The Hon. Ethel Macnaghten.
(2) Six members representing employers and six members representing workers in the trade appointed by the Minister of Labour after considering names supplied by such employers and workers, due regard having been paid to the representation of the various branches of the trade and of the various districts in which the trade is carried on.

Provision is made for not more than four additional representative members (half to be representatives of employers and half to be representatives of workers) to serve upon the Trade Board if the Minister of Labour, after giving the Trade Board an opportunity to be heard, thinks additional representation necessary in order to secure proper representation of any class or classes of employers or workers.

The Minister of Labour has appointed Sir John R. O'Connell to be Chairman, Mr. W. Beattie to be Deputy Chairman, and Mr. P. Ryan to be Secretary of the Trade Board.

The Trade Board will be known as "The Brush and Broom Trade Board (Ireland)."

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO MAKE SPECIAL ORDERS.

Toy Trade.

The Minister of Labour has issued an amended notice of his intention, pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by Section 1 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, to make a

Special Order applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to the trade specified in the Appendix to this Notice. Copies of the amended Draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Objections to the amended Draft Special Order must be sent to the Minister of Labour at the above address within 42 days from the 23rd day of December, 1919.

Every objection must be in writing, and must state— (a) the specific grounds of objection; and (b) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for. The trade specified in the Appendix to this Notice is as follows:—

THE TOY TRADE, that is to say, the manufacture of articles intended for the amusement of children including dolls, metal, wooden or other hard toys, soft toys, books made from textile materials, requisites for table games, bricks, blocks, puzzles, balls, Christmas crackers, Easter eggs, masks, or drums;

- (a) the assembling of parts of any of the above-mentioned articles. (b) the operations of storing, boxing, packeting, labelling or despatching and all other warehousing or packing operations incidental to the manufacture of any of the above-mentioned articles; but excluding:—

- (a) the manufacture of toys when carried on as a subsidiary branch of work in association with or in conjunction with the manufacture of other articles, so as to form a common or interchangeable form of employment for the workers. (b) The manufacture of sports requisites. (c) The manufacture of toy perambulators, toy wheelbarrows, toy scooters, nursery yachts, toy cycles, toy cars, toy horses, dolls houses or other similar toys when carried on as a subsidiary branch of work in association with or in conjunction with the manufacture of perambulators, invalid carriages or folding push cars, so as to form a common or interchangeable form of employment for the workers. (d) The manufacture from ceramic materials of dolls or dolls' parts, dolls' china, marbles or similar articles when carried on in association with or in conjunction with the manufacture of other pottery. (e) The making of articles from sugar confectionery. (f) The making of hollow-ware, including boxes and canisters, from sheet iron, sheet steel or tinsplate, or any operations incidental thereto.

Shirtmaking Trade.

The Minister of Labour has given notice that he intends, pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by Section 1 and Section 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, to make a Special Order varying the Trade Boards Provisional Orders Confirmation Act, 1913, by the substitution of the description set out in the Appendix to this Notice for that set out in the Appendix of Paragraph II of the Schedule to the said Trade Boards Provisional Orders Confirmation Act, and also varying the Trade Boards (Women's Clothing) Order, 1919, and the Trade Board (Laundry) Order, 1919, by the exclusion therefrom of any processes or operations comprised therein which may be included in the Appendix to this Notice.

Copies of the draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Objections to the draft Special Order must be sent to the Ministry of Labour at the above address within 42 days from the 9th day of January, 1920.

Every objection must be in writing, and must state— (a) the specific grounds of objection; and (b) the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for. The trade specified in the Appendix to this Notice is as follows:—

THE SHIRTMAKING TRADE, that is to say:—

- (1) The making of men's shirts, collars, cuffs, pyjamas, aprons, chefs' caps, hospital ward caps, and other washable clothing worn by male persons; (2) The making of women's collars and cuffs and of nurses' washing belts where carried on in association with or in conjunction with the making of the before-mentioned articles; (3) The making of neckties worn by male persons and of neckties worn by female persons where made in association with or in conjunction with the making of neckties worn by male persons;

including:— Laundring, smoothing, folding, ornamenting, boxing, packing, warehousing, and all other operations incidental to or appertaining to the making of any of the above-mentioned articles;

- but excluding:— (1) The making of articles which are knitted or are made from knitted fabrics; (2) The making of handkerchiefs, mufflers, gloves, socks, stockings, spats, gaiters, bonnets, hats or caps (other than chefs' caps and hospital ward caps);

- (3) The making of boys' washing suits; (4) The making of washable clothing to be worn by children without distinction of sex; (5) The making of any articles, the making of which is included in the Trade Boards (Tailoring) Order, 1919.

Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

The Minister has dissolved this Board pending the setting up of the new Board under the Special Order which brought the whole of the Tailoring trade within the scope of the Trade Boards Acts. The reconstitution of the Board is rendered necessary by the fact that certain branches of the trade which were within the scope of the old Board have been transferred to Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board which has already been set up. It is anticipated that the new Board will be set up in the course of the next few weeks.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS. DECEMBER, 1919.

Table with 3 columns: District, Certifying Surgeon, Place and Time for Examination. Includes districts like Ballinrobe, Ballylessan, Cleator, Fleetwood, Gatehouse, Grassington, Kinsale, Maynooth, Monasterevan, Newport, Otley, Porthcawl, Princes Risborough, Saintfield.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon. * Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

[All the Official Publications (distinguished by Cd., Cmd., H.L., H.C. or S.O. publication) may be purchased through any bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 87, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23, North Street, Edinburgh; or from E. Ponsorby, Ltd., 118, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Agencies in the British Dominions and Dependencies, the United States of America and other foreign countries of T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., London, W.C.2.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Nos. 5 and 6. Figures received up to 10th December, 1919. Production, trade and shipping, price movements, finance, labour. Supreme Economic Council. [S.O. publication: price 9d.]

Coal Output. (1) Return relating to the weekly output of coal up to the 29th November, 1919. [H.C. 176-IV: price 1d.] (2) Return showing the output during the four weeks ended 8th November, 1919, and the number of persons employed in the various districts. Board of Trade. [H.C. 175-V: price 1d.]

Prices and Supplies. (1) High Prices and Profits. Report from the Select Committee, with Proceedings and Minutes of Evidence. [H.C. 234: price 3d.] (2) Inter-Departmental Committee on Meat Supplies. Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider the means of securing sufficient Meat Supplies for the United Kingdom. [Cmd. 456: price 3d.] (3) Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. Accounts for the period August, 1914, to 31st March, 1918. [Cmd. 447: price 1d.]

Royal Commission on Agriculture. (1) Minutes of Evidence (14th October to 29th October, 1919). Vol. IV.

[Cmd. 445: price 1s. 3d.] (2) Interim Report. [Cmd. 473: price 3d.]

Housing. (1) The Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919—principal provisions. (2) Notes on the Housing Question—Points from the Report of the Royal Commission on Housing in Scotland. [S.O. publications: price 1d. each.] (3) Housing. Schemes submitted to the Ministry of Health by Local Authorities and Public Utility Societies up to 31st October, 1919. [Cmd. 446: price 9d.] (4) Housing Finance. Interim Report of Treasury Committee. [Cmd. 444: price 1d.]

Pensions. (1) Royal Warrant for the Pensions of Soldiers Disabled, &c. [Cmd. 457: price 3d.] (2) Comparative Tables showing the weekly rates of War Pensions and Allowances by the Principal Allied and Associated Powers and Dominion Governments, and by Germany to Men Disabled and the Dependents of the Men Deceased. [Cmd. 474: price 1d.]

Persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief (England and Wales). Statement of the number of persons in receipt of such relief on or about 1st January, 1919 (in continuation of P.P. 433 of 1914-16), with some particulars of the numbers in receipt of such relief at various dates during the War. Ministry of Health. [H.C. 230: price 2d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1918. Part A. Appendix (A). Particulars of Valuation Returns. [H.C. 189-1: price 4d.]

Ninth Report of the Development Commissioners for the year ended 31st March, 1919. Development of agricultural co-operative credit, organisation of co-operation among agriculturists, &c. [H.C. 214: price 3d.]

Transport. (1) National Transport. Conference with Members of Parliament. Statement by Sir Eric Geddes. [Cmd. 493: price 2d.] (2) Gattie Committee. Report of Departmental Committee appointed to investigate Mr. A. W. Gattie's proposals for improving the method of handling goods and traffic. [Cmd. 492: price 2d.]

Marriages, Births and Deaths, Ireland. Fifty-fifth detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General, 1918. [Cmd. 450: price 9d.]

Report on the Conditions and Prospects of British Trade in India at the close of the War. By H. M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon. [Cmd. 442: price 2s.]

Colonial Reports—Annual. No. 1004, Malta, 1918-19. [Cmd. 1-27: price 1d.] No. 1005, Seychelles, 1918. [Cmd. 1-28: price 1d.] No. 1006, Fiji, 1918. [Cmd. 1-29: price 2d.] No. 1008, Nigeria, 1917. [Cmd. 1-31: price 2d.] No. 1010, St. Helena, 1918. [Cmd. 1-33: price 1d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

INDIA.—Publications of the Department of Statistics:— (1) Monthly Statistics of Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Indian Mills, August, 1919. (2) Cotton Press Return, Nos. 22, 23 and 24 of 1918-19 and No. 1 of 1919-20, up to 15th September, 1919. (3) Wholesale and Retail (Fortnightly) Prices, 31st August, 15th and 30th September, 15th October, 1919. (4) Wheat Prices (Wholesale and Retail), August and September, 1919. (5) Prices of Country Produce and Salt in the middle of October, 1919. (6) Foreign Sea-Borne Trade during September, 1919. (7) Foreign Sea-Borne Trade. Return for April to June, 1919. (8) The level of Prices in Indian Ports at the end of September, 1919 (including food prices).

MADRAS.—The Manufacture of Glue in the Tropics from Tannery Refuse. K. C. Srinivasan. Department of Industries. [Madras: Government Press.]

CANADA.—(1) The Labour Gazette, November, 1919. Industrial conditions during October, the labour market, strikes, prices, proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, proceedings of the Canadian Railway Board of Adjustment, &c. (2) Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, October, 1919. Field crops, prices of agricultural produce, crop reports, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printers.] (3) Ontario. Third Annual Report of the Trades and Labour Branch (Department of Public Works), 1918. Public employment bureaus, report of Inspector of Labour Agencies, factory and boiler inspection, &c. [Toronto: A. T. Wilgress, King's Printer.] (4) Saskatchewan. The Public Service Monthly, November, 1919. The labour situation, provincial employment offices, municipal hail insurance system, &c.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—(1) The Industrial Gazette, September, 1919. Prices and price fixing, dislocations in industries, employment and unemployment, industrial arbitration, employment exchanges, &c. (2) Special Supplement to the August issue. Industrial conditions in Great Britain and the United States, by Hon. G. S. Beeby. Department of Labour and Industry. (3) The British Scheme for Self-Government in Industry: and its Counterpart in New South Wales. Nos. 1 and 2. J. B. Holme, New South Wales Board of Trade. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

QUEENSLAND.—(1) The Industrial Gazette, October, 1919. Supply of and demand for labour, labour exchanges, industrial awards, prosecutions, &c. Department of Labour. (2) Thirty-fourth Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies and Building Societies. List of Societies

to the 6th September, 1919, and financial and numerical statements for the year 1918. [Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, Government Printer.]

NEW ZEALAND.—(1) Results of a Census of the Dominion of New Zealand, 1916. Part VIII. Fertility. (2) Board of Trade. Third Annual Report for the year ending 31st March, 1919. Cost of living, high prices of commodities, &c. (3) Monthly Abstract of Statistics, September and October, 1919. Prices and cost of living, rents, pensions, &c. (4) Twenty-first Annual Report of the Pensions Department, year ended 31st March, 1919. [Wellington: Marcus F. Marks, Government Printer.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Industrial Court, 1918, No. 30. Drapery, Stationery and Fancy Goods Board.

SOUTH AFRICA.—(1) The Journal of Industries, October, 1919. Labour and industrial conditions in September, factory location in South Africa, &c. Ministry of Mines and Industries. [Pretoria: Government Printing and Stationery Office.] (2) Report of the Labour Department for October, 1919. Applications for employment, vacancies filled, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—International Crop Report and Agricultural Statistics, November and December, 1919. (Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics.) International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

UNITED STATES. (a) Federal.—(1) Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, No. 261, August, 1919. Wages and Hours of Labour in Woollen and Worsted Goods Manufacturing, 1918. (2) No. 252, August, 1919. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Slaughtering and Meat Packing Industry, 1917. (3) The Monthly Labour Review, November, 1919. Cost of living—clothing and miscellaneous expenditure, National Industrial Conference, wages and hours of labour, minimum wage, child labour, development of shop systems, &c., Bureau of Labour Statistics, Department of Labour. (3) Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States, September, 1919. Department of Commerce. [Washington: Government Printing Office.] (4) The Economics of Child Welfare. Dr. Royal Meeker. Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labour.

(b) State.—NEW YORK. The Bulletin, November, 1919. State of the labour market, reports of Bureaus of Women in Industry and Mediation and Arbitration, programme of the Fourth Industrial Safety Congress. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., Printers.]

MASSACHUSETTS.—Labour Bulletin, No. 123. Ninth Annual Report on the Union Scales of Wages and Hours of Labour in Massachusetts, 1918. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

MICHIGAN.—Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Labour, 1918. Women wage earners, child labour, accidents, factory inspection, free employment offices, labour legislation, &c. [Fort Wayne, Indiana: Fort Wayne Printing Co.]

CALIFORNIA.—Labour Laws of the State of California, 1919. Bureau of Labour Statistics. [Sacramento: California State Printing Office.]

FRANCE.—Bulletin de la Statistique Générale de la France et du Service d'Observation des Prix, October, 1919. Retail prices in various towns in France, 1914-19; prices of certain articles of food at Paris. General Statistical Department of France. [Paris: Felix Alcan.]

GERMANY.—Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, November, 1919. (Journal of the German Department of Labour Statistics.) Employment in October, labour disputes during 1918, laws, decrees affecting labour. National Statistical Office. [Berlin: Carl Heymann.]

BELGIUM.—Revue du Travail, 15th November and 1st December, 1919. (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department.) Employment in October, 1919, retail prices at Brussels, April, 1914, to October, 1919, labour disputes during September and October. Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supplies. [Brussels: 14 Rue d'Or.]

HOLLAND.—(1) Bijdragen tot de Statistiek van Nederland, Nos. 279 and 280. (a) Kiezerstatistiek (Election Statistics). (b) Overzicht betreffende de Loonen en den Arbeidsduur bij Werken ten behoeve van het Rijk. (Wages and hours of labour in State works during 1918.) Central Statistical Bureau. (2) Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, November, 1919. (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau.) Employment in July and August; labour disputes during October; retail prices, &c. (3) (a) Jaarverslag der Visscherijinspectie, 1915. Dienst der Inspectie. (b) Jaarverslag betreffende den Staat der Binnenvisscherij. Annual Reports of the Fisheries Inspection Department. Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante.]

ITALY.—(1) Bollettino della Emigrazione, May-June, July-August, 1919. Information as to migration to and from Italy, foreign legislation as to emigration, &c. Royal Commission for Emigration. [Rome.] (2) Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro, 16th November, 1919. (Journal of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labour—fortnightly series.) Text of new Labour Treaty of 30th September, 1919, between Italy and France. [Rome.] (3) Il Mercato del Lavoro, No. 1, 1st December, 1919. (Journal of the National Employment Exchanges.) Unemployment on 1st

Junction, D. R. Paterson, Ltd., 3, Hamilton Street, Camden Town, N.W.; Stratford-Walthamstow, G. J. Anderson, 26, Lower North Street, Poplar, E.—**Laying Ducts and Pipes:** Kingsland (High Street), &c., Foote & Milne, Ltd., 66, Victoria Street, S.W.; Larne, Grieg & Matthews, 46, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.; Rawtenstall (West), W. Dobson, Yeaman Lane, Dundee Street, Edinburgh; Hawick, W. Dobson, Yeaman Lane, Dundee Street, Edinburgh; Gerrard (N.W. of Dean Street), J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., Grosvenor Wharf, Westminster, S.W.; Birmingham (Olton), Whittaker Ellis, 122, Colmore Row, Birmingham.—**Laying Ducts, Troughing and Pipes:** Blackheath Village, G. J. Anderson, 26, Lower North Street, Poplar, E.; Warwick, Whittaker Ellis, 122, Colmore Row, Birmingham; Upper Clapton-Dalston, H. Farrow, 20, Barrington Road, Brixton, S.W.—**Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing Cable:** Hornsey Telephone Exchange-Muswell Hill, Western Electric Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.—**Power and Boiler Plant:** Abu-Zabal (near Cairo), Egypt, Wireless Station, The English Electric Co., Ltd., Queen's House, Kingsway, W.C.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment Extension:** Birmingham (North), Western Electric Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Bandages: Director of Munitions, Requirements and Statistics, London, S.W.—**Bicycles:** Triumph Cycle Co., Coventry.—**Blankets:** Hepworths & Haley, Ltd., Dewsbury.—**Boilers, Loco., and Spares:** Kitson & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Boiler, Water Tube, &c.:** J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Southampton.—**Brake Materials:** Westinghouse Brake Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Buckets, &c., G.I.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Buffers, Centre:** J. Butler & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Candles:** Price's Co., Ltd., Battersea, S.W.—**Canvas, Hemp:** Baxter Bros. & Co., Dundee.—**Canvas, R.N.:** Port Glasgow and Newark Sailcloth Co., Port Glasgow.—**Car, Touring:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Cartridges, Carbine:** Kynoch, Ltd., Ditton.—**Chains, &c.:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Dudley.—**Chairs, C.I.:** Pease & Partners, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Chisels, Files, &c.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Clips, Screw:** W. G. Allen & Sons (Tipton), Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Clothing:** G. Glanfield & Sons, London, E.—**Clothing, Blue Serge:** Limerick Clothing Factory, Ltd., Pimlico.—**Copper Tubes, &c.:** Allen, Everitt & Sons, Birmingham.—**Cotton, Striped:** Johnson & Sons, Great Yarmouth.—**Cotton Materials:** Rylands & Sons, Manchester.—**Crane Spares:** Stothert & Pitt, Ltd., Bath.—**Crossings:** Isca Foundry Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.—**Disinfectant:** Sanitas Co., Ltd., Limehouse, E.—**Dogspikes, W.I.:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Drawing Materials:** W. F. Stanley & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Dredger Parts and Stores:** Lobnitz & Co., Renfrew, N.B.—**Drills, Twist, &c.:** A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Drill, Grey and Khaki:** Union Mill Co., Manchester.—**Drugs and Chemicals:** Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., East Ham, E.—**Fire Engine, Motor:** Dennis Bros., Ltd., Guildford.—**Fishing Bolts and Nuts:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Fittings, Electric Light, for Carriages:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Gears, Friction:** D. Bridge & Co., Ltd., Castleton, Lancs.—**Guns, &c.:** War Department, Woolwich.—**Insulators:** Taylor, Tunnicliff & Co., Hanley, Staffs.—**Insulator Spindles, &c.:** Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linen, &c.:** J. Shoolbred & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Locomotive Spares:** North British Loco. Co., Ltd., Springburn, Glasgow; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Nets, Mosquito:** Heymann & Alexander, Nottingham.—**Novarsenobillon:** May & Baker, Battersea, S.W.—**Oil:** C. C. Wakefield & Co., London, E.C.—**Oil, Lubricating:** Vacuum Oil Co., London, S.W.—**Oil, Linseed and Turpentine:** Stanley, Earle & Co., Hull.—**Oznaburg:** Baxter Bros. & Co., Dundee.—**Paint, &c.:** Fergusson & Co., Ltd., Maryhill, Glasgow.—**Paper:** Dunster & Wakefield, London, E.C.; J. Dickinson & Co., London, E.C.—**Pipes, Spigot and Socket:** Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Printing Machines:** Pratchitt Bros., Carlisle.—**Pump Trolleys, &c.:** Fairbanks, Morse & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Rails and Fishplates:** Bolckon, Vaughan & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Rifles:** War Department, Weedon.—**Sheets, Galvanized Corrugated:** F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; J. Lysaght, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Shovels, &c.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Signalling Material:** Saxby & Farmer, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Soft Soap:** Sadler & Co. (Glasgow), Ltd., Bridgeton, Glasgow.—**Springs, Laminated Bearing:** W. Griffiths & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Stationery:** Waterlow & Sons, London, E.C.—**Steel, Mild, &c.:** P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Surfacing, Boring, &c. Machine:** H. W. Kearne & Co., Ltd., Broadheath, near Manchester.—**Switches and Crossings:** Thos. Summerson & Sons, Ltd., Darlington.—**Tarco:** R. S. Clare & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Telephone Apparatus:** Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Ticking:** W. Ewart & Son, Belfast.—**Tools:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Tubular Iron Arms, &c.:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Woolwich, S.E.—**Type, &c.:** H. W. Caslon & Co., London, E.C.—**Tyre, Engine Wheel:** Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Waste, Coloured Cotton:** Redmayne & Isherwood, Ltd., Blackburn.—**Wheels, Haulage:** Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Wheels and Axles:** Miller & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Wire, Copper:** J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Birmingham; T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wire, Insulated:** Hooper's Telegraph and I.R. Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.

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Building, &c., Works: Ashford, Erection of Post Office: L. T. Dadds, Canterbury. Dudley Housing Scheme, Ventilation of Roofs and Repairs to Roadways: J. Edwards, Dudley. Epsom, Adaptation of Huts: J. McManus, London, W. Golders Green,

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