March, 1923.

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son & Co., London, E.C., The Italy Internative Temperatule Ltd., London, W.C. Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Mnfg. Co., Ltd., Livérpool; British L.M. Ericsson Mnfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts; General Electric Company, Ltd. (Peel Conner Telephone Works), Coventry; Phœnix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Sterling Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., Dagen-ham, Essex.—Arms, Wood: Millars' Timber & Trading Co., Ltd., Purfleet.—Cable, Telegraphic and Telephonic: Connolly's (Black-ley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—Casing and Gover: Wm. Duncan Tucker & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—Cast-Southampton; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—Casing and Cover: Wm. Duncan Tucker & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—Cast-ings, Joint Box: McDowall, Steven & Co., Ltd., Falkirk; United Steel Companies Ltd. (Messrs. Thos. Butlin & Co.'s Branch), Wellingborough.—Cells, Secondary, Stationary: London Battery & Cable Co., Ltd., London, E.—Cords, Telephone: British Insu-lated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Couplings, C.I.: Bradley & Turton, Ltd., Kidderminster.—Creosoting Telegraph Poles, Stayblocks, etc.: William Christie & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Ducts: Albion Clay Company, Ltd., Woodville; Hepworth Iron Co., Ltd., Hate-head, Sheffield; James Oakes & Co., Jacksdale, Notts.—Ear-pieces, Telephone: North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.— Insulators: T. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London, K.—Lead Sheet and Strip: Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.-Lugs, Lead: I. N. Lyons, Ltd., London, N.—Oll, Cylinder: Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W., or Birkenhead.—Pipes, C.I.: Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.—Pipe, W.I.: E. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—Rods, Stay: Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—Slates, Building: Bingley, Son & Folit, Ltd., Penrhyn, Bangor.—Tents, Jointers Collapsible: J., Smith & Co. (London, E.), Ltd., Goodmayes, Essex.—Vehicles, Motor, Ford and Parts: A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—Wire, Bronze: British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescot, Lancs; Enfeld Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middleese..— Wire, Copper, Hard Drawn: Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak, Birningham; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shrop-shire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Saloy; F. Smith & Co., incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co., and Smiths Ltd., Salford.— Wire, G.I.: Rylands Brothers, Ltd., Warrington.

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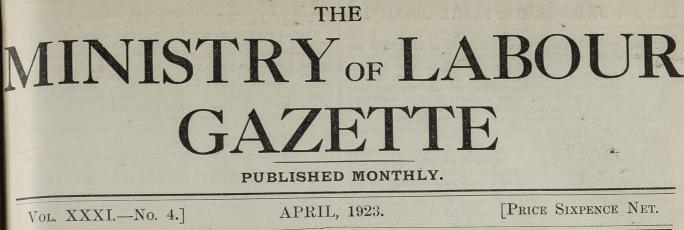
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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT.

ALTHOUGH employment generally was still bad during arch, the gradual improvement which had been in gress since the beginning of the year was maintained. coal mines, in tinplate and steel sheet manufacture, in the carpet industry employment was good; in worsted trade it was fairly good; and in the iron steel, woollen, hosiery, ready-made clothing, furnishleather and paper trades it was fair. In most of the large industries it was still slack ; but a further imement was reported in the iron-mining, pig-iron, neering, shipbuilding, boot and shoe, building, wooding and pottery industries.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade ons from which returns are received was 12.3 at the March, as compared with 13.1 at the of February, and with 16.3 at the end of March, The percentage unemployed among workinsured under the Unemployment Insur-Acts in Great Britain and Northern Irewas 11.1 at 26th March, as compared with 11.8 6th February, and 14.4 at the end of March, 1922. total number of workpeople registered at the Emment Exchanges as unemployed at 26th March in at Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 89,000, of whom 999,500 were men and 213,500 women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 5th February the corresponding total was 1,376,000, of hom 1,073,000 were men and 218,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected by Department the changes in rates of wages reported naving taken effect in March resulted in an aggregate action of over £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages about 920,000 workpeople and in an increase of roximately £650 in the weekly wages of over 16,000 kpeople.

Over two-thirds of the total number of workpeople ose rates of wages were reduced were coal miners in rthumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midds. Radstock, and Scotland, who sustained reducns varying from under one-half per cent. on current tes in Radstock to nearly 3 per cent. in Yorkshire and East Midlands.

The total number of workpeople involved in all dis-Among other bodies of workpeople whose wages were putes in March (involving those workpeople thrown out uced in March were semi-skilled men and labourers of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, steel melting shops generally and in puddling forges but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approxid rolling mills in the North of England, ship repairers mately 86,000, as compared with 40,000 in the previous the Mersey, shipbuilders at Belfast, electric cable month and 246,000 in March, 1922 (when disputes were akers, heating and domestic engineers, men employed in progress in the engineering and shipbuilding indusflour mills, brewery workers at Burton, and employees local authorities in Lancashire, Cheshire, and the tries, involving over 200,000 workpeople). The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during March st Midlands. was 834,000 working days, as compared with 337,000 Under the Trade Boards Acts there were reductions in days in February, 1923, and 2,980,000 days in March, 1922. Particulars of the principal disputes in progress minimum rates fixed for various classes of workin the stamped or pressed metal wares trade, the are given on page 138.

PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

rope, twine and net trade, and the retail bespoke tailoring trade in Great Britain, the milk distributive trade in England and Wales and the dressmaking and women's light clothing trade, the retail bespoke tailoring trade, and the brush and broom trade in Northern Ireland.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were iron ore miners in Cumberland and the Furness district, and blastfurnace workers in West Cumberland and North Lancashire.

During the first three months of 1923 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £160,000 in the weekly fulltime wages of nearly 1,600,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of about £19,500 in the weekly wages of nearly 190,000 workpeople. In the corresponding three months of 1922 there was a net reduction of £1,210,000 in the weekly wage rates of nearly 5,900,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £3,400 in those of 20,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 31st March the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 74 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st March was 76 per cent. The highest point reached was 176 per cent. above the pre-war level, in November, 1920, and the present figure is the lowest recorded since April, 1917. For food alone the increase at 31st March, as compared with July, 1914, was 68 per cent.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the prewar standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

For further particulars and details of the statistics reference should be made to the article on page 128.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 52. In addition, 28 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL PAINTS COMMITTEE.

A COMMITTEE was appointed in August, 1921, by the then Home Secretary "to re-examine, more particularly in the light of the further information which has become available since the infurther information which has become available since the in-quiries of the Departmental Committees appointed in 1911, the question of the danger from the use of lead paints to workers in the painting trades, and the comparative efficiency and cost, and the effect on the health of the workers, of paints containing lead and leadless paints respectively; and to advise whether any modifications of the conclusions and recommendations of these Committees have become necessary." This Committee has now issued its Report.* issued its Report.* The Committees (referred to above) which were appointed in

1911 to investigate the danger attendant on the use of lead compounds in paint reported in favour of the entire prohibition (with the exception of a small percentage) of the use prohibition (with the exception of a small percentage) of the use of such compounds, except for special classes of decorative painting work of very minor importance.⁺ The Committees were led to the conclusion that the adoption of leadless substi-tutes was practicable by the evidence given in their favour by the officials of H.M. Office of Works and by the represen-tatives of several large firms engaged in coach-building. Moreover, no alternative was then known for the process of rubbing down paint with *dry* sandpaper, a process which creates a fine dust, giving rise to serious risk of lead poisoning. The alternative of regulations was rejected as presenting insuperable difficulties, especially as to enforcement. The present Committee reviewed the progress made since the

The present Committee reviewed the progress made since the war in the control of the use of lead in paints, and the experi-ence of lead and of leadless paints since the previous Committee's inquiries. The Report now issued also brings up to date the official information concerning lead poisoning among painters, and deals at length with the alleged deleterious effects turpentine and other volatile paint thinners.

The Office of Works has now changed its views as to the efficiency of leadless paints, the zinc base paints used on public efficiency of leadless paints, the zinc base paints used on public buildings for some years having been found very deficient in durability for external painting, and for internal painting which is subject to rough usage; and other evidence was received to the same effect. A process has also recently been discovered for the *damp* rubbing down of paint, which greatly reduces the danger from dust. The situation has also changed owing to the adoption, at the Third International Labour Conference, held at Geneva in 1921, of a Draft Convention concerning the use of white lead in painting 1 which is printed as an appendix to the white lead in painting, ‡ which is printed as an appendix to the

present Report. In these circu these circumstances the present Committee do not support the recommendation that the use of lead paint for the paintin of buildings should be entirely prohibited. They are satisfied that there is at present no efficient substitute for lead paint fo outside painting and for certain kinds of internal painting. At the same time they hold that the statistics of lead poisoning, arising from the use of lead paint, are sufficiently serious to make it most desirable to limit its use as far as practicable, and, where it is used, to make its use subject to statutory regulation They accordingly recommend that legislation should be passed

to give effect to the principles contained in the Geneva Con-vention[‡] (referred to above), and that regulations to deal with to give the continued use of lead paint should be brought into force at the earliest possible moment.

In connection with the Geneva Convention, the Home Office have taken preliminary steps, in collaboration with the Painters' and Decorators' Industrial Joint Council, to prepare a code of regulations for the painting of buildings. This draft Code (which is also printed as an appendix to the Report) has been unanimously adopted by both sides of the Industrial Joint Council, and has been approved with only a minor reservation Council, and has been approved, with only a minor reservation, by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers. The Committee recommend that these regulations should be adopted.

The enforcement of regulations as regards the painting of buildings presents special difficulties, and the Committee refer with approval to a suggestion of "internal" inspection, *i.e.*, a scheme of inspection organised by the trade interests concerned themselves; the Factory Inspectors being given the necessary powers to deal with complaints, cases of lead poisoning, and special matters.

As regards the use of paints in other industries (e.g., coach As regards the use of paints in other industries (e.g., coach and wagon painting, preparatory priming work in joinery estab-lishments, ship painting, and the like), the Committee recom-mend that the use of paints should be made subject to Regula-tions (power to make which already exists); and that in par-ticular the dry rubbing down of lead paint should be made illegal. As regards internal painting on shipboard, they recom-mend that the Regulations should make provision for adequate ventilation whether lead naints are used or not to counteract ventilation, whether lead paints are used or not, to counteract the effect of the fumes of paint thinners (turpentine, etc.).

The Committee recommend that the requirements of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as regards notification of sus-pected cases of lead poisoning, should be extended, *mutatus mutandis*, to suspected cases contracted in the painting of buildings.

They suggest that a Technical Commission should be set up,

* Published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 6d. net. † The Reports of these Committees have been published : Report of Committee on the Use of Lead in the Painting of Buildings (Cd. 7,882); and Report of Com-mittee on the Use of Lead Compounds in the Painting, Enamelling and Varnish ing of Coaches and Carriages (Cmd. 630). Appendices and Minutes of Evidence (Cmd 631 and 632). ‡ See LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1921, page 628.

under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, nvestigate certain unsolved problems in paint technology. They do not consider that the Departments responsible for t

They do not consider that the Departments responsible for the painting of Government buildings and other Governmen property should be subject, in their choice of materials, to special restrictions which are not applied to private contractors. The Committee, having carefully examined the available evidence, conclude that there is not sufficient ground to warran them in accepting the view that turpentine poisoning is the caus of the leading symptoms commonly attributed to either acute of chronic lead poisoning, nor in attributing to the inhalation of the fumes of turpentine and other thinners the occurrence of chronic Bricht's disease

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1923.

THE Unemployment Insurance Bill, an outline of appeared in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for March 82), received the Royal Assent on the 29th March, and ca into force on the 12th April.

The only important amendment of general interest made the Bill during its passage through Parliament was the s stitution of 12th April for 19th April as the date when it sho come into force.

HOUSING, Etc. (No. 2) BILL.*

A BILL "to amend the enactments relating to the Housing the Working Classes (including the amendment and revoc "the Working Classes (including the amendment and revocat "of building byelaws), Town Planning, and the Acquisition "Small Dwellings," was introduced in the House of Comm by the Minister of Health on the 11th April. Section 1 (sub-sections 1 and 2) of the Bill proposes authorise the Minister of Health to make contributions, our

authorise the Minister of Health to make contributions, our moneys provided by Parliament, towards any expenses incur by a local authority in providing, or in promoting the constr tion of, houses of a certain type and size, if completed bef the 1st October, 1925; provided that such contribution shall exceed the sum of $\pounds 6$ per annum for each house, for a per not exceeding twenty years. The houses in respect of wh

(a) a two-storied house with a minimum of 620 and maximum of 850 sup. ft.;

(b) a flat or a one-storied house with a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 780 sup. ft.

Sub-section 3 of the same Section authorises the Minister make contributions out of moneys provided by Parlian towards the expenses incurred by a local authority in carry out a *re-housing* scheme; such annual contribution not exce ing one-half of the estimated average annual loss likely to incurred by the local authority.

Sub-section 4 allows contributions to be made, in certain ca in respect of building proposals submitted by a local author and approved by the Minister within fifteen months before passing of the Act.

passing of the Act. Section 2 proposes to allow local authorities, under certa conditions, and with the approval of the Minister, to ass private building enterprise in building houses of the type a size specified above, *either* by a lump-sum grant, or by a refu of rates for a specified period, or by payment of interest repayment of advances) to a building society.

Section 3 proposes to authorise the Minister to make contri tions to "public utility" societies, of the like amount as he authorised to make to a local authority, towards building hou of the type and size specified.

Section 5 proposes to authorise local authorities to facilita Section 5 proposes to authorise local authorise to latent the increase of housing accommodation (a) by advancing monto to private builders, (b) by guaranteeing the repayment to build ing societies of advances made by them, (c) by encouraging (a limited refund of rates) the conversion of houses into flats tenements. An advance or guarantee may be given in resp of any house having an estimated value of not more than £1,

Sections 7-14 contain a number of miscellaneous amendmen to the Housing Acts, dealing (*inter alia*) with housing schem outside the area of a local authority; with licensed premis included in housing schemes; with repairs to houses, require to be executed to make them fit for human habitation; with the revocation of local building bye-laws which impede housing and with the simplification of the Housing Acts.

Sections 15 and 16 deal with Town Planning, Section 16 er tending (to six years from the 1st January, 1923), the tim within which councils of boroughs and urban districts are r quired to prepare and submit to the Minister town plannin chames schemes.

Section 17 introduces certain amendments of the Small Dw ings Acquisition Act, relaxing the conditions under wh advances may be made by local authorities to persons desire to purchase houses for their own occupation. The limit of market value of houses in respect of which advances may made is raised from £800 to £1,200; and an advance may granted to a person intending to construct a house, and may made by instalments as the building progresses.

* Bill 82 : H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d.

April, 1923.

RATES OF WAGES AT AUGUST, 1914, AND MARCH, 1923.

In the October issue of this GAZETTE (pages 398 to 400) particu-lars were given of the comparative level of rates of wages at August, 1914, December, 1920, and September, 1922. Since the latter date further reductions in rates of wages have occurred in some industries and revised particulars are accordingly given below, comparing the level of wages at the end of March, 1923, with that at August, 1914. The particulars given are in the same form as those published in the October, 1922, issue of the GAZETTE, and comparisons between the level of wages at Decem-1920, and March, 1923, can readily be made by reference that issue.

Building Trades .- At the end of March the hourly rates of Building Trades.—At the end of March the hourly rates of wages in the larger towns showed increases, as compared with the pre-war rates, ranging mostly from $9\frac{1}{2}d$. to $11\frac{1}{2}d$. per hour in the cases of skilled men, and 8d. to 9d. per hour in the case of labourers. On the basis of the unweighted averages of the standard rates of wages of the principal classes of workmen, the average increases in hourly and weekly rates at the end of March, 1923, in towns with populations over 100,000, were as shown in the following Table. The weekly rates shown have been computed by multiplying the hourly rates by the number of hours constituting a full ordinary week at the two dates, both the summer and winter hours being taken into account for this nurpose. purpose.

Occupation,	recognised Ra	weighted) of tes of Wages in owns at	
	4th Aug., 1914.	31st Mar., 1923.	0
and in the second second	Hourly	Rates.	
Bricklayers Masons [•] Carpenters and Joiners Plumbers Plasterers Painters Labourers	d. 9·9 9·8 9·8 9·6 9·6 9·7 8·8 6·6	d. 19.6 19.7 19.6 20.2 19.6 19.3 14.7	
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Bricklayers Masons [*] Carpenters and Joiners Plumbers Plasterers Painters Labourers	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	s. d. 71 2 71 7 71 7 73 9 71 2 73 9 71 2 70 1 53 4	

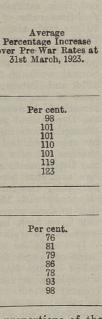
working trade, 17s. 6d. a week in the nut and bolt industry in the Midlands, 17s. 6d. a week for unskilled and semi-skilled men in the spring, tube and various other industries in the Midlands, and 18s. 6d. a week in the light castings industry. In the heavy iron and steel trades (smelting, puddling, rolling, forging, etc.), in which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the selling price of the finished products, the increases over pre-war rates vary very widely, being in some cases (e.g., with certain blast furnace labourers) equivalent to about 100 per cent. If the increases shown are combined in the proportions of the relative numbers of men employed in the different occupations, the resulting general average increase over pre-war rates is approximately 94d. per hour (or about 115 per cent.) at the end of March. The increase in weekly full-time wages, allowing for the reduced working hours, is approximately 30s., or about 90 per cent. It should be observed that the percentages given are general averages for all the large towns combined, and that there is much variation in the percentage increases in different on the pre-war level, while at the other extreme the rates for iron and steel workers in South Wales show a net increase of less than 20 per cent. In the tin plate and steel sheet trade in South Wales the net increase over pre-war rates now amounts here is much variation in the percentage increases in différent owns. Proposals made by the employers for reductions in trates of wages in the building trades are being referred to arbi-tration. (See page 122.) to about 34 per cent.

Coal Mining.—At the end of March, 1923, the general level of district rates of wages was 28'1 per cent. over pre-war rates in Scotland, 21'7 per cent. in Durham, 30'2 per cent. in North-umberland, 32 per cent. in Yorks. and the East Midlands, 30 per cent. in Radstock, and 20 per cent. in other districts. In some cases, however, special advances have been granted, in a some cases. addition, to particular grades of men, including, in some dis tricts, special allowances in order to maintain wages at a "sub sistence level." As a result of these special advances and allowances, the average increase in full-time weekly wages as compared with August, 1914, is somewhat greater than the general percentage increases in district rates, referred to above. The information available is not sufficient to enable this average to be computed precisely, but from such particulars as are available it would appear that at the end of March the increases over pre-war rates ranged from about 20 per cent. to over 40 per cent. in different occupations and districts. These figures, it should be noted, take no account of variations in actual earn-ings arising from differences in the number of shifts worked per week at the two dates, or, in the case of men on piece-work from increases or decreases in individual output.

Other Mining and Quarrying.—For iron miners in Cleveland and limestone quarrymen in Durham, rates of wages at the end of March were about 42 per cent. above the pre-war rates. In Cumberland the bargain price for iron-ore miners and the shift rates for underground leading labourers in March, 1923, were

• When different rates are paid to banker masons and fixers respectively, the rates used are those for banker hands.

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about 56 per cent. and 32 per cent. respectively above the pre-war

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The general advance over pre-war rates, for men on time rates in the engineering trade, now amounts to 17s. a week, except in certain districts where now amounts to 17s. a week, except in certain districts where the men are paid at hourly rates, in which cases the advance amounts to 17s. 10½d. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance on time rates ranges from 7s. or 7s. 10½d. a week, in the case of skilled men, to 15s. or 16s. a week in the case of lower-paid labourers. In some cases, however, further advances have been granted to particular classes of men, both in the engineering and in the shipbuilding industries. The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district time rates of wages of men in certain representative

The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district time rates of wages of men in certain representative occupations in 16 of the principal engineering centres and 13 of the principal shipbuilding centres at August, 1914, and at 31st March, 1923, together with the corresponding percentage increase over pre-war rates. The figures relate to a full ordinary week of 53 hours in some districts and 54 in others in 1914, and of 47 hours generally at March, 1923:--

Occupation.		weighted) of ekly Time-Rates sipal centres.	Average Percentage increase over Pre war Rates
and to reader	4th Aug., 1914 31st Mar., 1923		at 31st Mar., 1923.
Engineering : Fitters and Turners Ironmoulders Patternmakers Labourers Shipbuilding :	s. d. 38 11 41 8 42 1 22 10 41 4	s. d. 56 6 59 2 60 9 40 3 48 11	Per cent. 45 42 45 77 18
Shipwrights Shipjoiners Platers Rivetters Labourers	40 0 40 4 37 9	40 11 50 9 47 10 45 3 38 6	27 19 20 69

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

In the case of piece-workers the general advance in the engineering industry amounts to 10 per cent. on basis piece-rates plus a flat-rate advance of 10s. a week. In the shipbuilding industry the general increase is 10 per cent. on basis piece-rates and, in addition, a portion of certain special advances, granted under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards and consequential extensions, is paid to some classes of men. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable a reliable calculation to be made of the effect of these changes on the verage earnings of piece-workers in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.

Other Metal Trades .- In certain of the metal trades in the Other Metal Trades.—In certain of the metal trades in the Midlands, the increases in rates of wages up to the end of March, for male time-workers, were 17s. a week in the sheet metal working trade, 17s. 6d. a week in the nut and bolt industry in

Cotton Industry.—In August, 1914, piece-rates of wages in this industry generally stood at 5 per cent. above the standard list prices. At the end of March, 1923, they were 95 per cent. above the standard. Of this increase, however, 30 per cent. on list prices was granted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in list prices was grafted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly working hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. Allowing for the shorter working week now worked, weekly full-time wage rates are generally about 61 per cent. above the pre-war level. In addition, however, special increases or allowances have been granted to certain classes of operatives, e.g., blowing-room men, strippers and grinders, and mule spinners, the effect of which would be to augment slightly the percentages quoted.

would be to augment slightly the percentages quoted. Wool Textile Industry.—The rates of wages of woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire are calculated by the addition of a cost-of-living wage to basic rates. At the end of March, 1923, the pre-war basic rates had been increased generally by 10 per cent., and to the rates so increased was added a "cost-of-living wage" of 72½ per cent. and 63¾ per cent. in the case of time-workers and piece-workers respectively,* making total increases over pre-war rates of approximately 80 to 90 per cent. for a full working week. These figures are exclusive of a general advance of over 15 per cent. on hourly and piece-rates, which was granted in March, 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages

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

DUNDEE JUTE WORKERS' DISPUTE.

A DISPUTE in the jute industry at Dundee began in February A DISPUTE in the jute industry at Dundee began in February owing to a difference between a firm and their workpeople re-specting the number of spinners that should be employed on certain spinning frames. Subsequently the dispute extended to a number of works belonging to the company of which the firm originally affected was one branch. This led to the Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers becoming involved, with the result that a stoppage of all the spinning and veaving factories in Dundee, except two belonging to employers who were not members of the Employers' Association, began on 23rd March. On 5th April, after discussion with both sides, Sir David Shackleton, on behalf of the Minister of Labour, arranged a joint conference of the employers' and workers' organisations, when the whole position was examined. At the end of the con-ference certain proposals were put forward for the consideration rence certain proposals were put forward for the consideration both sides as a basis for the resumption of work. These pro-osals were accepted by the employers, but the workpeople esired certain modifications; and at the time of going to press egotiations were proceeding.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

DURING the five weeks ended the 31st March, six meetings of Joint Industrial Councils were reported to the Ministry of Labour. A number of meetings of District Councils and Sub-Committees were also reported to have taken place.

WAGES, HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT. In the North-Western area wages of electrical fitters and some ther allied workers have been regulated up to the present in óther allied workers have been regulated up to the present in accordance with the standard district Engineering rate. The District Council for the *Electricity Supply Industry* recently had before it the question as to whether these workpeople should continue to be paid as heretofore or whether the rates of wages for this class should be set out in the schedule of wages for workers in the industry. The Council was unable to come to an agreement on the question and the matter was, with the ap-proval of the National Council, referred to arbitration by the Industrial Court. At the annual meeting of the *Glove* **CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES.** THE following statistics as to the activities in 1921 and previous years of Co-operative Housing Societies, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the annual returns furnished to his office. Apart from Building Societies, † registered under the Building Apart from Building Societies,[†] registered under the Building Societies Acts, which are not dealt with in this article, Co-operative Housing Societies fall into two main groups—(1) Tenancy Societies, which retain the ownership of the houses pro-vided, and let them, and (2) House Purchase Societies, which provide houses for gradual purchase. Prior to the war, the Tenancy Societies consisted in the main of Societies formed in connection with the Tenants Co-partnership movement, but the Industrial Court. At the annual meeting of the Glove Manufacturing Joint Industrial Council, held on the 6th March Maustrial Court. At the annual meeting of the *Clove* Manufacturing Joint Industrial Council, held on the 6th March, the revision of the Wages Agreement due to expire at the end of March was considered. It was decided to make no change in the rates of wages payable in the leather section of the trade, and also that rates of wages for the fabric section should be settled locally. The West Riding Provincial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services has referred to the Industrial Court a claim made by the Employers' Side for reduc-tion of wages. The Needle, Fish Hook and Fishing Tackle Joint Industrial Council on 13th March agreed that the bonus of female workers should be taken off in three instalments. At a meeting of the Quarrying National Joint Industrial Council on 20th March it was reported that a copy of the report drawn up by the Council on the question of silicosis had been sent to the Secretary of the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary referred to in the February, 1923, LABOUR GAZETTE (page 42). At a meeting of the Chalk Sectional Council on 15th March the employers announced their intention of continuing the present wages agreement, subject to one month's notice on either side. OTHER TOPICS. Tenancy Societies consisted in the main of Societies formed in connection with the Tenants Co-partnership movement, but the conditions brought about by the war have in many cases ren-dered impracticable a rigid adherence to the principles on which this movement was founded. The post-war State Housing Schemes have also given an impetus to the formation of many Housing Societies of a different character. TENANCY SOCIETIES. Returns obtained for 1921 show that there were 235 Tenancy Returns obtained for 1921 show that there were 255 Tenancy Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, with an aggregate membership of 10,927, a total share, loan and reserve capital of £7,367,432, rents receivable amounting to £431,283, and net profits amounting (before provision for interest on shares) to £31,529. In addition one Society brought into credit a sum of £34,168; but although this amount accrued as a result of a series of transactions between the Society and its into credit a sum of $\pm 54,108$; but although this amount accrued as a result of a series of transactions between the Society and its chairman, it appears to have been in the nature of a gift to the Society to reduce an outstanding balance of loss. Apart from this credit, the profit represented about 5 per cent. upon a share capital of $\pm 632,830$. OTHER TOPICS. The Asbestos Joint Industrial Council on 14th March agreed

that, although the Council's holiday scheme was now at an end, the matter should be kept in mind and should be brought forward again at the next meeting of the Council. The Seed Crushing again at the next meeting of the Council. The Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing District Joint Industria Council for Hull and District has approved arrangements and rules for welfare work to be applicable to all mills in the district. The Stationery Office Departmental Council on the 7th March considered certain grievances put forward by a section of the workpeople, and arrangements were made for negotiations to take place.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

Ar 27th March, 1923, the number of men in training was 16,417 and the number awaiting training 10,501. Since 1st August, 1919, 69,599 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS. INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS. Up to the 4th April, 1923, 44,698 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,849 employers, as compared with 44,698 apprentices with 17,846 employers on the 7th March, 1923. The apprentices rejected up to the 4th April, 1923, numbered 2,178, this being the same as on the 7th March, 1923. Of those accepted 42,683 had terminated their training, and 2,015 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on the 7th March, 1923 were 42,498 and 2,200 were 42,498 and 2,200.

The number of men who have received institutional training has increased during the four weeks from 2,306 to 2,309.

NATIONAL SCHEME. On the 31st March, 1923, the number of employers on the King's National Roll was 29,812. The undertakings given by these employers under the provisions of the National Scheme for the employment of disabled ex-Service men cover approximately 300,000 disabled ex-Service men. The following statement gives particulars of the number of * The Metropolitan Asylums Board is also on the Roll. † Particulars of Building Societies registered under the Building Societies Acts re published in Part D of the Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly \$ See remarks in first paragraph under "Tenancy Societies." § Loss.

at the same level as before, and the percentage increase in hourly rates is, therefore, correspondingly greater.

Other Textile Industries.—In the bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing section, the hosiery industry, and the carpet trade, the increases over pre-war rates at the end of March, 1923, were as follows :---Increases over

pre-war rates.

Bleachi	ing, Printing	g, Dy	eing a	nd Fi	nishing	5:			
	s., Cheshire,							Per	wee
	The strait		1. S.					6.	d.
]	Men	11104						24	8*
	Women							14	8*
	NUMBER OF						A	Dan	a a an t

Yorkshire—		P	er cent.	
Timeworkers		 	96	
Pieceworkers)		731	
Hosiery Manufacture (Midlands)		 	66 <u>3</u>	
Carpet Manufacture :			70	
Timeworkers		 	70 65	

Apart from these increases in weekly wages, the weekly working hours, which generally varied from 54 to 56, were reduced in 1919 to 48, the weekly rates of timeworkers remaining un-changed, and the rates of pieceworkers being enhanced so as to yield the same weekly earnings as before the change of hours. Boot and Shoe Industry.—In the manufacture of boots and there the minimum time of works for the principal classes

shoes the minimum time-rate of wages for the principal classes of skilled workmen, 23 years of age and upwards, at the end of March, 1923, was 60s. a week. Before the war it was 30s. in most districts, though in a few cases it was 28s. or 29s. For men of the same ages in the heel-building department and in the tock and shoe rooms the minimum in March was 57s. a week. men of the same ages in the neer-building department and in the stock and shoe rooms the minimum in March was 57s. a week, compared with a rate of 27s. a week adopted in 1914 to take effect from the beginning of 1915. For women of 20 years or over employed in certain operations in the closing and heel-building departments and the stock and shoe rooms the minimum rate was 36s. a week at March, 1923, compared with 17s. to 18s. adopted in 1914, with effect from January, 1915. Railway Service.—For the principal grades of adult workmen

Railway Service.—For the principal grades of adult workmen in the traffic sections the rates of wages now in operation show increases ranging mostly from 29s. to 36s. a week above the pre-war averages for the corresponding grades. Owing to the wide variation in the pre-war rates of wages, the percentage increases on pre-war rates vary considerably. For some grades of porters, whose pre-war average rate was about 18s. a week, the increase is as much as 160 per cent.; on the other hand, for certain classes of foremen, whose pre-war average rates were 37s. to 38s. a week, it amounts to not more than 80 to 90 per cent.; whilst for men whose pre-war earnings were over £2 a cent; whilst for men whose pre-war earnings were over £2 a week the percentage increase is less. The hours of labour in the railway service were reduced to 48 per week in 1919, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages. Other Transport Services.—For dock labourers, the rates

generally paid in March were 10s. to 12s. 6d. a day of 8 hours, compared with about 4s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. for a day averaging compared with about 4s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. for a day averaging approximately 10 hours in 1914. In the case of seamen, the standard rates in March were £10 a month for able seamen and £10 10s. for firemen, compared with £5 to £5 10s. and £5 10s. to £6 respectively in August, 1914. In the road transport industry the increases in twelve of the principal towns range from 18s. to 31s. per week, the average rate for one-horse drivers in these towns being now 52s. 8d. per week, compared with 25s. 7d. in 1914. In the tramway service it is estimated that the increases over pre-war rates in the case of drivers and con-ductors now average about 29s. a week. In addition to these increases in wages, a shorter working week was adopted in 1919, generally of 44 hours for dock labourers and 48 hours for carters and tramway servants, without any reduction in weekly wages.

generally of 44 hours for dock labourers and 48 hours for carters and tramway servants, without any reduction in weekly wages. Other Industries.—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at 4th August, 1914, and the end of March, 1923, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the print-ing and bookbinding, furniture-making and baking trades in a number of large towns number of large towns :--

Trade and Occupation.	recognised Wee	weighted) of ekly Time Rates certain large s† at	Average Percentage increase over Pre-War Rates at 31st Mar., 1923.	
	4th Aug., 1914	31st Mar.,1923.	addition, bowers	
Printing and Book	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	
binding : Hand compositors on book and jobbing	35 8	77 0	116	
work Bookbinders and machine rulers	33 11	75 10	124	
Furniture Making :	70 0	76 3 76 2 76 0	92 96 105	
Baking : Table hands	30 1	65 11	119	

week at March, 1923, were 48 in the printing and baking trades

• These amounts are exclusive of increases in basic rates varying for different classes of workpeople granted in 1919. † The averages are based on the rates current in 26 towns in the Printing and Bookbinding and Baking Trades and in 17 towns in the Furniture Trade.

and 44 to 47 in the furniture-making trades, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers, and $49\frac{1}{2}$ to 54 in the furniture trade at August, 1914, and the percentage increases in hourly rates are therefore greater than those in weekly rates, shown in the Table.

In the pottery industry the general level of rates of wages is now 662 per cent. above the pre-war level. In addition, increases in basic rates have been granted to certain classes of workin basic rates have been granted to certain classes of work-people. In 1919 the hours of labour were reduced from 52 to 47 per week, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages. *Agriculture*.—In a number of counties rates of wages have been agreed upon by voluntary Conciliation Committees of employers and workpeople, and in some others uniform rates of wages have been recommended by the employers' organisations for general adoption. The rates of wages so agreed to or recom-mended at the end of March ranged from 25s. to 35s. a week. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages, which were subject to the addition of certain allowances, ranged from 15s. ect to the addition of certain allowances, ranged from 13s. to 21s a week.

SUMMARY.

SUMMARY. Both the amounts of increase and the corresponding percentages on pre-war rates show a wide diversity among different classes of workers. In some cases the increases in full-time weekly rates at the end of March, 1923, were equivalent to only 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates. On the other hand, they were equivalent in some cases to over 100 per cent. on pre-war rates. The information at the disposal of the Department is insuf-ficient to enable the average percentage increase over pre-war rates for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of March, 1923, weekly full-time rates of wages of adult workpeople averaged about 70 per cent. above the level of August, 1914, as compared with 170 to 180 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, when wages generally were at their highest level. As the length of the 170 to 180 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, when wages generally were at their highest level. As the length of the normal working week had been considerably reduced between 1914 and December, 1920, the percentage increases in hourly rates of wages would be substantially greater. It should be remarked, however, that the information regularly collected by the Department as to changes in rates of wages relates mainly the Department as to changes in rates of wages relates many (though not exclusively) to general or district changes, arranged by organised bodies of employers and workpeople. Many changes not of a general character do not come to the notice of the Department, and in some industries, therefore, the particu-lars available for the end of March, 1923, may fall short of indicating the full amount of the increase in rates of wages as arranged with 1014. On the other hand, it encease in probable compared with 1914. On the other hand, it appears probable that in some unorganised industries the increases in wages may not have been so great as in those industries in which the workers are well organised.

workers are well organised. It should be observed that the above particulars relate to rates of wages for *full-time working*, and that no account is taken of the loss of earnings which is now being caused by unemployment and short-time working, or of the effects of increased or reduced exertion on the earnings of workpeople paid at piece-rates of wages, as to which no comprehensive statistic are available.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE BUILDING TRADE.

DISCUSSIONS have been in progress for some time between the employers and the operatives in the building industry on the subject of proposals made by the employers for reductions in rates of wages and increases in working hours. After lengthy negotiations the following agreement was reached on Friday, 13th April :-

Conditionally upon the employers withdrawing their notices, it is agreed that the interpretation of the National Wages and Conditions Council document and the question of wages be referred to the arbitration of an arbitrator to be appointed by the Lord Chief Justice, together with two assessors, one to be appointed by the operatives and the other by the building employers. The arbitration to be held on the above within seven days.

On the question of forty-seven hours application, a ballot to be taken regionally by the operatives as to whether failing a regional settlement they refer the matter to the National Wages and Conditions Council for decision, and, failing the regions agreeing to this or the National Wages and Conditions Council agreeing a de-cision, the matter to be referred to the above-named arbitrator and assessors.

The ballot on this question to be completed within one month; the regional negotiations within seven days after the completion of the ballot and, failing decision, the National Wages and Conditions Council to decide or agree to refer to arbitration within a further seven days.

In the principle of the "spreadover" of the forty-four t it is understood that no extension of the hours would apply in any region where unemployment in the

Each party agrees to conduct arbitration proceedings without legal advocate.

The Lord Chief Justice has appointed Sir Hugh Fraser to act as arbitrator in the matter

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local authorities in Great Britain of the categories referred to below who have enrolled under the scheme, and whose names are accordingly entered upon the King's National Roll :--

Local Authorities.		On Roll.	Noton Roll.	Total.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	1			
•LONDON— County Council Corporation of the City London Metropolitan Boroughs Boards of Guardians	 of 	1 1 28 21	- - - 7	1 1 28 28
Totals		51	7	58
PROVINCES— County Councils County Boroughs Town Councils Urban District Councils Rural District Councils Boards of Guardians	:::::	38 82 177 441 176 164	24 76 340 472 441	62 82 253 781 648 605
Totals		1,078	1,353	2,431
SCOTLAND		the section		33
County Councils County District Committees Town Councils		8 23 66	25 76 · 135	99 201
Totals		97	236	333
Grand Totals		1,226	1,596	2,822

capital of £632,830. It is unusual to find that any part of the profits is returned by these Societies to tenants as dividends on rents paid. Any surplus which might be available for such a purpose is generally applied to a fund out of which is defrayed the cost of repairs for which the tenants are liable.

The aggregate value of the land and buildings at cost was returned at £7,481,000.

returned at £7,481,000. The following Table shows the position of "Tenancy". Societies during the five years 1917-1921. The particulars for years prior to 1921 are inclusive of Ireland, whilst those for 1921 relate to Great Britain only. The figures for Ireland, however, are almost negligible :

gande angenighten st	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920,	1921.
Number of Societies Number of Members Capital :- Shares Loans Reserves Total Rents Receivable Profit (+) or loss () before	105 7,465 £ 467,444 3.066.365 29.001 3,562,810 243,302	103 7,413 £ 470,762 3,059,707 41,718 3,572,187 252,369	131 7,959 £ 473,115 3,270,132 42,705 3,785,952 258,804	225 9,730 £ 548,118 5,432,327 24,919 6,005,364 332,406	235 10,927 £ 632,830 6,651,834 82,768 7,367,432 431,283
deducting of Interest on Shares Percentage of Profit on Total Share Capital	+ 17,691 Per cent. 3.8	+ 17,451 Per cent. 3.7	+ 7,186 Per cent. 1.5	- 6,648 Per cent. 1.25	+ 31,529 Per cent. 5.0

The high cost of repairs and the fluctuations in property values resulted in heavy losses being sustained by some of the Societies in recent years. It is to these losses that the lack of sequence

in the "Profit or Loss" figures is attributable, rather than to a general disturbance of the balances.

HOUSE PURCHASE SOCIETIES.

Returns obtained from House Purchase Societies for 1921 show that there were 29 such Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, with an aggregate membership of 1,646, and a total share, loan and reserve capital of £262,342. Their operations resulted in a loss of £20,062, which was mainly attributable to two Societies. The aggregate cost value of land and buildings unsold at the

and of the year was returned at £231,588. The following Table shows the position of "House Purchase" Societies during the five years, 1917-1921. The particulars for years prior to 1921 are inclusive of Ireland, whilst those for 1921 relate to Great Britain only. The figures for Ireland, however, are almost negligible.

	1917.	19.8.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Number of Societies	5	6	13	23	29
Number of Members	831	909	1,085	1,306	1,646
Capit+1:	£	£	£	£	£
Shares	41,797	45,884	55,342	67,266	73,057
Loans	68,433	89,325	102,751	148,004	207,63 3
deficit	1,447	2,317	4,118	4,159	-18,347
Total $Profit(+)$ or $loss(-)$ before	111,677	137,526	162,211	219,429	262,342
deducting of Interest on					NU. B. LANGER
Shares	+ 2,012	+ 2,066	+3,397	+931	-20,062
Percentage of Profit on Total Share Capital	Per cent. 4.8	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent. 1.4	Per cent. 27.5*

As in the case of the Tenancy Societies, fluctuations property values have resulted in heavy losses being sustained by some of the Societies in recent years, and it is to these losses that the lack of sequence in the "Profit or Loss" figures is mainly attributable.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1922.

STATISTICS relating to passenger traffic from and to the United Kingdom during 1922, compiled from the Returns received by the Board of Trade, are published in the Board of Trade Journal for 29th March, 1923.

Journal for 29th March, 1923. The number of persons of British nationality who left the United Kingdom in 1922 as passengers to places outside Europe, and not within the Mediterranean Sea, exceeded the number who arrived from such places by 99,882, compared with an excess of 118,938 in 1921 and 241,997 in 1913. The records of alien passengers showed an outward balance of 19,280 in 1922, as compared with outward balances of 30,986 in 1921 and 87,076 in 1913.

The number of passengers of all nationalities who left the United Kingdom for the Continent by sea was 898,182 m 1922, compared with 830,558 in 1921 and 1,184,412 in 1913; and the number who arrived from the Continent amounted to 916,398 in 1922, 855,343 in 1921 and 1,309,874 in 1913. In addition, 5,747 departed from, and 6,616 arrived in, the United Kingdom during 1922 by air during 1922 by air. The British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent

residence in the United Kingdom to take up permanent resi-dence in non-European countries numbered 174,096 in 1922, 199,477 in 1921 and 389,394 in 1913. Residence for a year or 199,417 in 1921 and 389,594 in 1913. Residence for a year or more is treated as permanent residence for the purpose of this classification. Of the total of 174,096 in 1922, those recorded as taking up permanent residence within the British Empire numbered 118,410, or 68 per cent. In 1913 the corresponding number was 285,046, or 73 per cent.

The British passengers from non-European countries recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom to take up permanent resi-dence therein numbered 68,026 in 1922 and 71,367 in 1921, as against 85,709 in 1913.

STATUTORY WORKING HOURS ABROAD. (A). NEW LEGISLATION.

Italy.

THE Gazzetta Ufficiale for 10th April, 1923, publishes the text of a Decree-law, dated 15th March, 1923, on hours of labour, which has been adopted by the Italian Government. The maximum number of hours of effective work may not, as a general rule, exceed eight a day or forty-eight a week. Effective work is defined as that which demands continuous and assiduous ambigation. As a consequence occupations of a disassiduous application. As a consequence, occupations of a dis-continuous or of a waiting or watching nature are excluded from the application of the Decree.

Decree applies to manual and non-manual workers in The Decree applies to manual and non-manual workers in industrial and commercial enterprises of all kinds, including charitable institutions, schools of vocational education, offices, public works, hospitals, and all places where work is done for a wage or salary under the orders and direct control of other persons. It does not apply to domestic servants, to persons holding positions of responsibility, and to commercial travellers. Work done on board ship and in the public services will be dealt with under special regulations. dealt with under special regulations. In agricultural enterprises, the Decree applies only to day labourers. Separate regulations will be issued for persons working on other forms of contract,

* Loss

but contracts on a co-partnership basis (a compartecipazione) habuloxe are

On agricultural and other work subject to the influence of the seasons or to technical exigencies the daily or weekly hours of work may be exceeded, provided that the average number of hours within a fixed period does not exceed the limits to be laid down by Royal Decree.

Overtime of not more than two hours a day or twelve hours a week, or an equivalent average computed over a fixed period, is permissible by agreement between employers and workers. It must be paid for at rates increased by not less than 10 per cent. The hourly limits may also be exceeded in cases of *force* majeure, or when the stoppage of work at the normal hour would be dangerous and detrimental to the staff or to produc-

Preparatory and complementary work may be done outside the normal working hours of the establishment where this is necessary and employers and workers are agreed. The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare may authorise

temporary exemptions from the provisions of the Decree for particular industries, and he may defer, for a period not exceed-ing twelve months, the application of the Decree to enterprises. or sections of enterprises, where it can be shown that, in or sections of enterprises, where it can be shown that, in order to comply with its provisions, it would be necessary to modify considerably the existing plant. Otherwise the Decree will come into force four months after the date of its promulgation. It includes a penalty clause.

(B). ORDERS UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, ETC. (a) Belgium.*

Under Article 5 of the Belgian Eight Hour Day Act of 14th June, 1921, a Royal Order dated 25th February, 1923, has been issued, which authorises enterprises using wind or water as sole motive power to exceed the eight-hour day or forty-eight-hour week, subject to a yearly maximum of 2,400 hours and a daily maximum of ten hours. Where, however, a Saturday half-holi-day is granted, the latter maximum may be exceeded by one hour each of the first first hour have been a by one hour on each of the first five days of the week. A Royal Order dated 5th March, 1923, also issued under Article 5, permits car riage and motor car hiring enterprises to exceed the eight-hour day or forty-eight-hour week, subject only to a half-yearly maximum of 1,200 hours.

maximum of 1,200 hours.⁺ A Royal Order dated 5th March, 1923, authorises, under Article 6 of the Eight Hour Day Act,[‡] the extension by 100 a year of the effective working hours of the staff employed in furniture removal (men employed on loading and unloading), taxi-cab, carrier, and road transport enterprises. Not more than two extra hours may be worked on any one day. A Royal Order dated 15th March, 1923, based on the Eight Hour Day Act, gives legal sanction to an agree-ment on working hours arrived at by the National Joint

ment on working hours arrived at by the National Joint Committee for the Port of Antwerp. The normal working day of men employed on the loading and unloading of ships is from of the leading of the loading and unloading of ships is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a rest period from noon to 1 p.m.—*i.e.*, an eight-hour day. In cases of extreme urgency—*i.e.*, to finish the loading or unloading of a ship, or in cases of force majeure —overtime may be worked up to 8 p.m., with a second rest period from 5 to 5.30 p.m.—*i.e.*, 10½ hours net. Where the work is continuous the day shift works from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with a second rest period for a ship of with rest periods from noon to 1 p.m., and from 5 to 5.30 p.m. -i.e., 10¹/₂ hours net, and the night shift works from 9 p.m.

except in the case of preparatory and complementary work, such as shunting, the bringing up of tools, etc., where an extra two hours a day may be worked before or after the normal hours. Compensatory holidays must be given to men employed on this work

(b) Switzerland.

The Department of Public Economy has issued an Order, dated 12th March, 1923, authorising, as was done in 1922, an extension of the weekly working hours to 52 in the woodsawing and carpentry and the brick and tile industries. As was the case last year, the Order remains in force until the middle of October next.

(c) Holland.

(c) Holland.¹¹ Under Article 27 of the Labour Act of 1919 (as amended by the Act of 20th May, 1922), which empowers the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce to authorise, in certain cases, a 10-hour day and a 55-hour week, roof tile enterprises in the Provinces of Utrecht, South Holland and Gelderland, have been authorised to increase the hours of labourers in the industry to 10 a day and 55 a week during the period 1st April to 31st October 1923 October, 1923.

(d) Sweden.**

As a result of enquiries into the effects of the eight-hour day conducted by the Department for Social Affairs and the Board of Trade, ++ the Swedish Government brought in two Bills in

- * Based on despatches from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Brussels.
 † Revue du Travail, March, 1923, Brussels. Article 5 deals with industries subject to seasonal influence.
 ‡ See MINI TRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1923, page 49.
 § Based on a despatch from H.M. Minister at Berne.
 § See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1922, page 206.
 ¶ Based on a despatch from H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague.
 * See Industrial and Labour Information, 2nd March, 1923, and Industria (the journal of the Swedish Employers' Federation). 20th February, 1923.
 †† See MINISTRY OF ABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1922, page 478.

ebruary for the extension, for a further period of three years, the Hours of Work Act and the Act Governing Hours of tork on Swedish Vessels, both of these being provisional easures which expire on 31st December, 1923. In both cases it held that, while it is not desirable at present, after such a nited experience of their working, to replace the provisional to by definitive measures, there is no justification for redefinitive measures, there is no justification for re

regard to the first of the Acts,* the Bill now introth regard to the first of the Acts," the Bill now intro-d recommends its extension, subject to slight amendments, hich the chief is that the amount of overtime allowed out special permit is increased from 30 to 40 hours onth, and the further amount which may be authorised by Labour Council, from 20 to 30 hours, the present annual s of 200 and 120 hours respectively being retained. It is d that this will meet the employers' objections to the re-tion of overtime in periods of extra pressure, without nishing the measure of protection afforded to the worker by present Act. resent Act

second Bill provides that the Act of 24th October, 1919 e second Bill provides that the Act of 24th October, 1919 ins of Work on Swedish Vessels), shall be prolonged for by years, with very slight modifications. The Board of e, which administers the Act, is of opinion that it has led its objects, and that the misgivings as to its effects proved to be exaggerated. The original Act provides in general, the working hours of ordinary seamen may not ed 24 hours in 48 consecutive hours, and where the crews, settions of crews, averaged a specified number the working ctions of crews, exceed a specified number, the working must not exceed 16 in 48 consecutive hours. Captains, burs must not exceed 16 in 48 consecutive nours. Captains, st mates, first engineers, doctors, telegraph operators, stewards ad various others are expressly excluded from the Act. In rbour the daily working hours of seamen are to be seven in the opics and eight elsewhere. Overtime payment may be manded in certain conditions, but no seaman may work more an 18 hours' overtime a week.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE INDIAN COTTON **INDUSTRY IN 1921.**

HE hours of labour and earnings in the cotton mill industry in lay, 1921, in the Bombay Presidency, form the subject of a port+ recently issued by the Labour Office of the Government of ay. The report is the first of a series which will cover all in the Presidency. It is believed that such statistics will ove a considerable amount of misunderstanding which preemove a considerable amount of misunderstanding which plot led in the absence of such authoritative figures collected by impartial agency. Such information ought to be invaluable times of industrial unrest." The enquiry was carried out by means of forms sent to the

The enquiry was carried out by means of forms sent to the ployers in the chief cotton centres, and the returns received er over 194,000 workpeople, or over 80 per cent. of the total mber employed. They show that for the majority of men rkers the average daily earnings in May, 1921, exclusive of ertime, annual bonus, etc., ranged between 12 annas and upee 8 annas, and for the majority of women between 8 annas 11 rupee. In Sholapur, however, the average was distinctly

I rupee. In Sholapur, however, the average was distinctly r for both sexes. e following Table shows the percentage increase in average hly earnings of full-time workers in May, 1921, as compared May, 1914, classified according to district and sex :—

the maximum and the second sec	Increase in full time monthly earnings in May, 1921, as compared with May, 1914.						
	Bombay (City and Island).	Ahmeda- bad.	Sholapur.	Other Centres.	Average for Bombay Presidency.		
en omen ds (14 to 18) & childrenț	Per cent. 90 73 92	Per cent. 121 96 158	Per cent. 82 87 124	Per cent. 112 143 100	Per cent. 96 84 119		
l workpeople	87	122	94	111	96		

As the cost of living had risen by 67 per cent. only in the same As the cost of fiving had then by or per control only in the perturbation of the increase in the real wages of male operatives in ombay since 1914 was about 14 per cent. The number of daily hours worked varied between $9\frac{1}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ for men, $9\frac{1}{5}$ and $10\frac{1}{5}$ for women, and 5 and $5\frac{1}{5}$ for uldren, the legal maximum hours in force at that time being 12, and 6 respectively. A new Act which came into force in July, 2, fixes the maximum hours at 11 a day and 60 a week for men women and 6 a day for children.§

REDUCTIONS IN WAGES IN AUSTRALIA IN 1922.

NVESTIGATIONS made by the Commonwealth Statistician at lelbourne show that during 1922, throughout Australia, changes wages took place which resulted in an average reduction for head per week of 2s. 3d. among the 628,116 workpeople

See LABOUR GAZETTE for October. 1919, page 421, and July, 1921. page 344. Report on an Enquiry into the Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Industry, by G. Findlay Shirras. Labour Office, Government of Bombay, A summary of the report appears in the Bombay Labour Gazette, January. * Maandschrift (the journal of the Central Statistical Office), 31st January,

. Counting two half timers as one full timer. See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1922, page 159. Melbourne Leader, 10th February, 1923.

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affected. The average decrease was greatest in Queensland (3s. 9d.) and least in South Australia and Victoria (1s. 6d.). In preparing the statistics consideration has been given to all changes which occurred through the operations of wage tribunals or as the result of direct negotiations between employers and

workpeople. The net result of wage changes in each State of the Common-wealth during 1922 is shown in the following Table :---

States.			Number of Changes.	Number of Workpeople Affected.	Total Decrease per Week.	Average Decrease per Head per Week.
New South Wales Victoria	··· ·· ·· ··	··· ·· ·· ·· ··	444 137 132 131 60 64 1 3	363,909 90,172 78,791 35,722 18,547 16,038 337 24,600	£ 42,930 6,625 14,836 2,687 1,589 1,701 56 138	s, d. 2 4 1 6 3 9 1 6 1 9 2 1 3 4 0 1
TOTAL			972	628,116	70,562	2 3

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN HOLLAND.*

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN HOLLAND.* THE system of fixing labour conditions by "collective bargain-ing" has become widespread in Holland. In 1922 there were in force 713 collective agreements covering 20,900 undertakings giving employment to 257,600 workers. For some considerable time both employers' and workers' organisations have been con-sidering means for extending the conditions fixed by collective agreements to non-organised employers and workers, and various stipulations to this end have been embodied in agreements, *e.g.*, the contracting employers have undertaken to apply the conditions to non-organised workers in their employment, or workers be-longing to the contracting unions have been prohibited from working for non-organised employers on less favourable condi-tions. Attempts have also been made to enforce membership of an organised workers, and workers not to employ non-organised workers, and workers not to work for non-organised employers.

A committee of the Supreme Council of Labourt appointed A committee of the Supreme Council of Labourt appointed to consider the question, in a report published at the end of 1922, declared itself in favour of satisfying the demand for legis-lative measures to enforce uniform conditions of labour. As a means to this end the committee rejects compulsory membership of a trade organisation in favour of the possibility of declaring important collective agreements binding for a whole trade or district. The committee recommends the adoption of the German method, by which the Ministry of Labour is empowered to declare the terms of any collective agreement generally binding throughthe terms of any collective agreement generally binding through-out the whole of a trade or district at the request of either of the parties or of any association of employers or workers likely to be affected by those terms.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN HOLLAND IN 1922.[‡]

THE following should be substituted for the last two lines of the article on the above subject in the GAZETTE for March, page 89:-Of the 288 strikes which terminated in 1922, 19.4 per cent. ended in favour of the workers, 26.0 per cent. to their disad-vantage, 44.5 per cent. in a compromise, while in 10.1 per cent.

the result is not yet known. Of the 18 lockouts which terminated in 1922, 5 were settled in favour of the employers, 3 against them, while 10 ended in compromises.

OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN ITALY.

A RECENT issue of the Italian review, La Riforma Sociale, con-tains an article by Signor F. Insolera, of Turin, which, under the title "Bankruptcy of the Italian System of Insurance Against Old Age and Invalidity," criticises the working of the Decree dated 21st April, 1919, which introduced this branch of compulsory insurance S compulsory insurance.§ The writer is of opinion that the principle of compulsion is

The writer is of opinion that the principle of computing is applied with undue rigour, not only with regard to the Treasury, which undertakes to supplement every policy by a gift of 100 lire, irrespective of the sum assured, but also for the employers, who are made responsible for all contributions. It is stated that, without providing for administrative expenses, the cost of benefits to ten million insured persons (the estimated is in the employer to insure the provided exceed by 37 per initial number subject to insurance), would exceed by 37 per cent. the value of the contributions received. No provision,

1923.
† For an account of the composition and functions of this body, see LABOUR GAZETTE for December. 1919, page 518.
‡ Maandschrift (the journal of the Central Statistical Office), 31st January, 1923
§ An article describing the main features of the Decree appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1920, p. 10.

it is alleged, was made in the Decree for administrative ex-penses, nor did it contain any indication of the method for defraying them. Basing his calculations upon official figures, the writer further

contends that in 1921 the number of persons actually insured was only 2,250,000.

was only 2,250,000. To a certain extent the Italian system was an imitation of that in operation in Germany, but it is contended that the legis-lature had not recognised the difference in mentality between Italian and German workpeople; nor had they paid due regard to the fact that, whilst in Germany the proportion of agricul-tural workers to the total number of workers is less than one-thind in Italy the proportion is two-thirds. As a result, only third, in Italy the proportion is two-thirds. As a result, only 300,000 out of the six million agricultural workers—barely 5 per cent.—have been insured. The statistics indeed imply that in all parts of the country the agricultural workers have ignored

The writer makes the following estimate with regard to the condition of the insurance scheme in 1921 :--

Number insured .. 2,250,000 Cost of pensions assured 4,500,000,000 lire

Total ultimate amount of contributions, ess administrative expenses ... 3.250.000.000 Actuarial deficit ... 1,250,000,000 ,,

PROGRESS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN GERMANY.

IN the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1922 (p. 326). IN the MINISTRY OF LABOUR (AZETTE for August, 1922 (p. 326), official figures were given showing the growth of the system of collective bargaining in Germany since the Armistice. By the end of 1920 the number of workers whose conditions of labour were regulated by collective agreements had increased to 9,561,000, as compared with 1,128,000 at the end of 1918. Sta-tistics published in the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* of 1st February, 1923, show that at the end of 1921 a total of 12,883,000 workers was covered by such agreements—i.e. nearly 12 times the number covered by such agreements—*i.e.*, nearly 12 times the number recorded immediately after the Armistice.

As regards the incidence of collective agreements in the various branches of production a noteworthy change observable in 1921 was the great increase in the relative importance of agriculture. From less than 1 per cent. at the end of 1920 agriculture has advanced to a proportion of 12.8 per cent. of all workers covered by agreements at the end of 1921, and in this respect now ranks between the metal and engineering group of trades (20.2 per cent.) and the mining and smelting group (12.1 per cent.).

COLLECTION OF STRIKE STATISTICS IN **GERMANY : NEW REGULATIONS.***

UNDER the law of 22nd July, 1922,+ establishing a system of local Employment Exchanges throughout Germany these Ex-changes are charged with the duty of collecting statistics of labour

disputes, a task which has hitherto devolved upon the local police. Under regulations for carrying out the above-mentioned law; Under regulations for carrying out the above-mentioned law; recently issued by the Federal Employment Department, employers are bound, under penalty, to forward information con-cerning any strike or lock-out to the local employment exchange within a week after the termination of the dispute. The points on which information is required include the following:--The number, character and locality of the establishments affected; in the case of a partial strike or lock-out, what individual occupa-tions or departments were affected; the duration of the dispute in working days; the number of persons employed in the estab-lishments at the commencement of the conflict; the maximum number of persons on strike or lock-out and of those involun-tarily unemployed on any day during the stoppage: the loss in tarily unemployed on any day during the stoppage; the loss in number of working days; in cases of widespread strikes or lock-outs, information as to the establishments affected, and the locali-ties or areas in which they were situated; the number of work-people in establishments which did not take part, but which had people in establishments which did not take part, but which had to cease work; what efforts were made for the settlement of the dispute; the chief motives of the dispute from the points of view of the employer and the workpeople respectively; the chief results with regard to increase or decrease of wages, extension or shortenwith regard to increase or decrease of wages, extension or shorten-ing of hours, holiday leave, termination or prolongation of a collective agreement; the conduct of a dispute by organisations; resolutions passed by such bodies with reference to the dispute; the economic injuries caused by the conflict. Every organisation of employers and workpeople has the right (but is not compelled) to make a report concerning a dispute, by which means a com-prehensive view may be obtained, especially when the movement extends over the areas of several employment exchanges. The regulations became operative on 1st February. Infor-mation concerning strikes and lock-outs which occurred during January, 1923, is to be obtained, so that all disputes which have occurred since the beginning of the year will be covered by the new regulations. It is stated that the reorganisation above described will not invalidate comparison of future statistics as to labour disputes with those for previous years.

Soziale Praxis, 15th February, 1923.
 † For a précis of this law, see the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1922, p. 355.

WORKS COMMITTEES SECRETARIAT IN THE CZECHO-SLOVAK METAL INDUSTRY.*

April, 1923.

In December last a commission of members of works comm in the metal industry of Czechoslovakia was appointed organise a Works Committees Secretariat, the functions of w will be:—(1) To compile statistics relating to these commit in the metal industry; (2) to act as intermediary between trade unions and the committees in that industry; (3) to col information on the activities of works committees; (4) to consi amendments to the Works Committees Act; (5) to compile publish statistics on the decisions of arbitration committee (6) to give advice to members of the committees; (7) to orga

(6) to give advice to members of the committees; (7) to organ courses of instruction on the interpretation and working of the Works Committees Act; and (8) to edit handbooks and off publications on subjects of interest to the committees. In Czechoslovakia official recognition of the Works Commit movement began with the Act of 25th February, 1920, which established councils for mines and allied undertakings. This we followed by a general Works Committees Act of 12th August, 19 which provides for the establishment of a works committee every undertaking which regularly employs at least 30 works Mines are excluded, being dealt with in the Act already m tioned, and railways and other public undertakings were to be p vided for by later Decrees.† The expenses of the committe are shared equally between the employer and the workers. 1 general function of the committees is to "watch over and p general function of the committees is to "watch over and mote the economic, social and intellectual interests of employees in the works." Their more specific functions in the supervision of the observations of sellecting the supervision of the observations. supervision of the observance of collective agreemen the supervision of the observance of collective agreements, the carrying out of the awards of conciliation and arbitration boards, and of legislation for the protection of the health ar safety of the workers (the last in conjunction with the factor inspectors), and co-operation in the maintenance of discipli and order in the works and the promotion of good relation between the employer and the workers. They have also the rig to examine wage and salary lists and to make suggestions f technical improvements in plant and safety appliances. Wi regard to the discharge of workers, they have merely advisory position, and no voice in the engagement of worker When it is proposed to dismiss a worker of three years' stan ing, the management is bound to notify the committee; if t committee consider the dismissal unjustifiable, they may appe to the arbitration board.[‡] If the board decide in the worker to the arbitration board.[‡] If the board decide in the wo favour, he must be reinstated or compensated. The comm are specially prohibited from interfering in the management a working of the undertaking. In certain large undertakings the nature of public companies the committees may send d gates to the meetings of the board of management and supervising board, but these have no right to vote.

AUSTRIAN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT FURTHER AMENDMENTS.

SINCE the issue of the amending and codifying Act of 19th Jul 1922, an account of which was given in the MINISTRY OF LABOU GAZETTE for January (page 10), further amendments of th Austrian unemployment insurance system have been found nece sary. These are largely of a provisional character and are du to the economic crisis. The following are the most importants: By an Act of 15th December, 1922, unemployed persons wh have already been in receipt of benefit for the maximum perio of 30 weeks may receive benefit for a further 12 weeks provide

of 30 weeks may receive benefit for a further 12 weeks prov that they have been in employment for 10 weeks continuo either (a) subsequent to the 30 weeks' period, or (b) within the 30 weeks before the new claim is made. The Industrial Dist Commissions may be empowered to grant to unemployed trians who have exhausted the 30 weeks' benefit and who a trians who have exhausted the 50 weeks benefit and who are necessitous circumstances, extraordinary emergency relief exceeding the maximum benefit under the law. (This relief extended under an Act of 3rd February last to workers belong to States which pay equivalent benefits to Austrian worke The Act of 15th December also abolished the "waiting perio for short-time workers, and made an alteration in the propo of the contributions to be paid by the State, the employers of the contributions to be paid by the State, the employers at workers In future the employers and workers will pay in equ shares 80 per cent. (instead of two-thirds) of the contribution and of the 20 per cent. to be paid by the State part will be r covered from the communes. The share of the communes w fixed by the Act of 3rd February at 4 per cent., so that in futu the State will pay only 16 per cent. of the total expenditure unemployment relief, instead of 33_3^1 per cent. as formerly. In view of the recent Order permitting increases in rents a Order of 7th December granted to unemployed persons in recei of relief a monthly allowance in aid of rent equal to one day unemployment benefit. (At that time the maximum daily bene was 10.000 kronen: it has since been raised to 12.480 kronen.)

was 10,000 kronen; it has since been raised to 12,480 kronen.) By an Order of 30th January, the contributions of workers an employers were increased from 20 to 60 per cent. of the healt insurance contributions.

The chief provision of the Act of 3rd February, apart from those noted above, is one prescribing that all employers who, o 5th February, 1923, employed at least 5 workers insurable under

Industrial and Labour Information, 23rd February.
 † Special decrees have now been issued for railways and Government toba

A body created for the purphse of this Act, consisting of six members, two statistics. A body created for the purphse of this Act, consisting of six members, two nominated by the trade unions, two by the employers' association, one by the Government, with a judicial official having industrial experience as Chairman. Authiche Nachrichten des Oesterreichischen. Staatsamtes für Soziale Ver waltung, 15th Januarv and 20th February, 1923.

April, 1923.

full time. "Although the country has never been able to absorb in a year more than 579,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, the present capacity of the mines is well above 800,000,000 tons." The Commission points out that while the number of miners employed increased from 556,000 in 1910 to 663,000 in 1921, the total output in 1921 was less than in 1910, although the output of the individual miner has not decreased. The average daily output of the individual miner in 1921 was 4½ tons, as against 3½ tons in 1910. This difference is attri-butable in part to the increased use of machinery, but the fact stands out that in 1910 the average bituminous mine was operating 217 days, as against 149 days in 1921. This condition of over-development means unemployment to e Health Insurance Act, shall pay, in advance of unemployment surance contributions, for each worker liable to such insurance, sum of 20,000 kronen in two instalments. As from 1st January, m of 20,000 kronen in two instantients. As from iso bandary, one-fifth of these advance payments will be deducted thly from the employer's contributions. If these advance nents are not made on the prescribed dates they will be sub-to 10 per cent. interest, which is not recoverable.

ABOLITION OF COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN NORWAY.*

IN NORWAY.* T the end of March, 1921, the provisional Compulsory Arbi-ation Act of 9th June, 1916, which had been renewed from ar to year was allowed to lapse.† In the spring of 1922 a Bill similar lines was passed with Socialist support, and the Com-lsory Arbitration Court thereby established regulated the wages d working conditions of a large number of workers in several portant industries, including metal working and engineering, ilding and sawnilling. The 1922 Act lapsed on 1st April, 23, and in anticipation of extensive labour disputes likely to se on the expiry of a large number of collective agreements 31st March and 30th April,‡ of which the employers had eady given notice of termination, the Government in February ught in a Bill for the renewal of the Act. This year Socialist port was refused to the Bill, and it was rejected by both uses of the Storting in March.

UNITED STATES COAL COMMISSION : FIRST **REPORT.**

HE following particulars, communicated to the International abour Office at Geneva by the United States Coal Commission,§ te taken from Industrial and Labour Information of 16th 1923 :

first task of the Commission has been to acquaint itself e first task of the Commission has been to acquint itself the organisation and general conditions of the industry ghout the country, with the aid of expert assistance. e difference between conditions in the anthracite and in the inous branches of the industry are so marked that the Com-on has almost entirely confined itself to the bituminous h in this report. The capital invested in the industry is, b in this report. on has almost entirely commend invested in the industry is, ch in this report. The capital invested in the industry is, hly, \$2,330,000,000, and of this no less than \$1,900,000,000 invested in the bituminous fields. There are only 174 pro-rs of anthracite, and eight of these control over '0 per cent. annual output, while there are at least 6,000 producers of coal, operating 9,000 mines.

ns in the bituminous coal industry vary widely from ditio nditions in the bituminous coal industry vary where right is bitted by some hundreds of large wholesalers and perhaps is maller middlemen and by about 38,000 retail coal dealers. combined charges of the railway, the wholesaler and the ler in most localities are found to exceed the price of the at the mines

The record of production and distribution of coal in recent in supply of one of the most fundamental of all raw rials has been an important cause in unsettling business and

elaying the return to normal conditions." is instability has been attributed to two main causes— teering and labour troubles. With regard to profiteering, Commission has decided to undertake a thorough examinaof the profits of production and distribution for the past n of the profits of production and distribution for the past years. With a view to preventing labour troubles, the Com-ssion appealed to the Joint Meeting of the Coal Owners d Union Miners at Chicago to do all in their power to secure uce in the industry. It is also endeavouring to promote indus-al peace by ascertaining and publishing trustworthy data on ge rates and earnings, the value of employment, the costs and offs of the industry, the competition of other fields, and coal oduced by non-union miners, the effect upon the industry of miners the check off of trade upion dues participation in about 30 per cent. of the total bituminous coal output of the country. The agreement is to continue in force for a year, until 1st April, 1924. It provides for a wage of \$7.50 a day for day-work, and \$1.08 a ton where miners are paid on a tonnage basis. The agreement continues the eight-hour day, the six-day week, the "check-off system," guarantees against violation of contract, and provisions for settling disputes concerning wages or working conditions. or working conditions. Commenting on the results of the Conference, the President of the United Mine Workers said that "the conclusion of the wage negotiations extending existing agreements in the bitu-minous industry is particularly gratifying to the mineworkers. . . The agreement just negotiated for the States of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio will be made the basis of agreement in all other coal-producing fields. We have assurances that contracts will rapidly be executed in all bituminous districts not embraced in this conference." bduced by non-union miners, the effect upon the industry of ovisions for the check-off of trade union dues, participation in nagement or limitation of freedom of management, the methods ed by union miners to organise non-union fields, and the thods used by the owners to prevent such organisation. Dealing with the question of transport, the Commission finds at the "car shortage," to which the scarcity and high prices coal are often attributed, is not always due to insufficient d-carrying equipment alone. In part it has been due to the that upon the resumption of work after a stoppage the rail-ys are asked to carry extra coal to make up the deficit caused the stoppage. in this conference.

the stoppage. Underlying the immediate causes of scarcity and high prices— our difficulties and transportation deficiency—there are other uses, namely, the irregularity of demand and the over-develop-ent of the mining industry. Since 1890 the bituminous mines we averaged over the country as a whole only 213 working days t of a possible working year of 308 days. During this period e time lost because of strikes has averaged nine days a year, less than 10 per cent. of the time lost for all causes combined. he preliminary studies of the Commission show that even in mes of maximum demand the miners as a whole do not work

Based on despatches from H.M. Representative at Christiania of various tes in March, and on Norwegian sources.
See LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1921, page 183.
About 100,001 workers will be affected.
See Ministry of LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1922, page 479.
Published by the International Labour Office, Geneva.

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THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE.

stands out that in 1910 the average bituminous lime was operating 217 days, as against 149 days in 1921. This condition of over-development means unemployment to the coal miners and a direct loss to their earning power. It ex-plains the need and demand for a day wage rate higher than the average of most other industries, adversely affects the profits of the owners and imposes a burden on the consumer. The Commission is convinced that there can be no permanent peace in the industry while this instability continues.. The Commission is making inquiries into the relative import-ance of various causes which may have led to this over-develop-ment, such as the policy of railways in regard to encouraging the opening of new mines and new mine fields as sources of revenue, coal distribution rules that permit, if they do not encourage, larger capacity than the market obviously requires, the opening of new mines by large consumers, the establishment of freight rates which encourage the development of new fields, changes in centres of consumption leading to the abandonment of old fields and the exploitation of new ones, the difference between union and non-union wage rates, large scale supervision in the

old fields and the exploitation of new ones, the difference between union and non-union wage rates, large scale supervision in the unionised fields and irregularity of demand. As an immediate step the Commission recommends the storage of coal by consumers during the spring and summer; but it is of the opinion that its inquiry "involves the whole question as to what is best for the people—free competition, Government or private ownership, regulation or control in the coal industry. It may be that both private property in an exhaustible resource and labour in a public service industry must submit to certain modifications of their private rights, receiving in return certain grants and privileges not accorded to purely private business or persons in private employ."

NEW AGREEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES **BITUMINOUS COAL FIELDS.**³

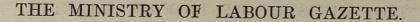
An important clause in the agreement arrived at on the termina-An important clause in the agreement arrived at on the termina-tion of the strike in the bituminous coalfields in the United States in August, 1922,[†] provided for the calling of a joint con-ference at Cleveland in October, 1922, for the purpose of appoint-ing a committee to formulate a method of negotiation for a new wage agreement to become effective on 1st April, 1923. A conference of representatives of the miners and mine owners was duly convened at Cleveland, when it was agreed that the existing wage agreement should remain in force until 1st April, 1923, before which date a further conference should be called to formulate a plan for future perotiations. Such a conference

1923, before which date a further conference should be called to formulate a plan for future negotiations. Such a conference met in Chicago, but it accomplished nothing. A further con-ference was, however, held at New York at the beginning of the present year, at which a new agreement was concluded on 24th January. The agreement is practically the same as that which expired on 1st April last, and covers the tri-State competitive fields in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, which, together, produce about 36 per cent. of the total bituminous coal output of the expired on the agreement is a continue in force for a wear until

in this conference." The Secretary of the Indiana Coal Owners' Association, who represented the employers at the conference, declared that the direct result of the continuation of the present agreement would be to give the non-union bituminous fields of West Virginia the bulk of the business during 1923, and he predicted that the coming year would see much unemployment in the union fields. He recalled the fact that in 1921 the union fields of Ohio worked 25 days during the year, those of Indiana 136 days, and those of Illinois about the same, while the non-union bituminous fields in West Virginia worked 200 days. The present settlement does not affect conditions in the anthracite fields, but it is stated that it virtually assures the anthracite miners (whose agreement expires next September) that their wages will not be reduced, as these are already lower than those of bituminous miners.

than those of bituminous miners.

*From New York Times, 25th January, 1923, and American Federationist, March. 1923. † See the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETT", September, 1922, p. 366.



CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 31st MARCH, 1923.*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

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All Items included 74% Food only 68%

FOOD.

DURING March there was a further decline in the average cost DURING March there was a further decline in the average cost of the pre-war working-class dietary, due mainly to a reduction, averaging about $\frac{1}{2}d$. each, in the price of eggs. Fish and bacon were also cheaper at the end of the month than at the beginning, and the majority of other items included in the statistics were slightly cheaper, but cheese, sugar and tea were dearer, the average price of cheese rising by $\frac{3}{4}d$. per lb., and that of sugar and of tea by $\frac{1}{4}d$ per lb., during the month. As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase in the retail prices of food over the level of July, 1914, fell to about 68 per cent. at 31st March,* as compared with about 71 per cent. at 1st March. at 1st March

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, at 1st March, 1923, and at 31st March, 1923:--

Article.	Avera unless of	ge Price (1 berwise in	Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 31st Mar., 1923, as compared with		
	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1923.	31st Mar.,• 1923.	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1923.
Beef, British-	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs Thin Flank Beef, Chilled or Frozen-	0 10 0 6 ¹ / ₂	1 6 0 10 ¹ / ₂	1 5 ² 0 10 ¹ / ₂	$+ 0 7\frac{3}{4}$ + 0 4	- 0 01
Ribs Thin Flank	0 7 ¹ / ₄ 0 4 ³ / ₄	0 10‡ 0 6	0 101 0 53	+ 0 3 + 0 1	- 0 01
Legs	0 10 1 0 61	1 8 ³ 1 0	1 83 1 0	$\begin{array}{c} + & 0 & 10\frac{1}{4} \\ + & 0 & 5\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$	=
Legs Breast Bacon (streaky)†	0 63 0 4 0 111	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c} + & 0 & 5\frac{3}{4} \\ + & 0 & 1\frac{1}{2} \\ + & 0 & 6\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$	$- 0 0_{4}^{1}$ $- 0 0_{2}^{1}$
Flour per 7 lb. Bread per 4 lb. Tea Sugar (granulated) Mılk per quart Butter-	0 10 <u>1</u> 0 5 3 1 6 1 0 2 0 3 1	1 3 ³ 0 9 2 6 ¹ / ₄ 0 6 ¹ / ₃ 0 7	1 3½ 0 9 2 6½ 0 64 0 7	$\begin{array}{c} + 0 & 5 \\ + 0 & 3\frac{1}{4} \\ + 1 & 0\frac{1}{4} \\ + 0 & 3\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} - & 0 & 0\frac{1}{4} \\ + & 0 & 0\frac{1}{4} \\ + & 0 & 0\frac{1}{4} \\ - & - \end{array}$
Fresh Salt Cheeset Margarine Eggs (fresh)each Potatoes per 7 lb.	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 & 2\frac{1}{24} \\ 1 & 2\frac{1}{43} \\ 0 & 8\frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 7\frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 4\frac{1}{4} \end{array} $	2 2 ³⁴ 2 0 ⁴ 1 4 ³⁴ 0 2 ⁴ 0 2 ⁴ 0 4 ⁴	$\begin{array}{c} 2 & 2\frac{1}{4} \\ 2 & 0\frac{1}{5} \\ 1 & 5\frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 6\frac{334}{4} \\ 0 & 1\frac{34}{4} \\ 0 & 4\frac{34}{4} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} + \ 0 \ 11\frac{3}{4} \\ + \ 0 \ 10\frac{1}{4} \\ + \ 0 \ 8\frac{1}{2} \\ - \ 0 \ 0\frac{1}{4} \\ + \ 0 \ 0\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{cccc} - & 0 & 0\frac{1}{2} \\ - & 0 & 0\frac{1}{4} \\ + & 0 & 0\frac{3}{4} \\ - & 0 & 0\frac{1}{2} \end{array} $

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 31st March, 1923, in relation to the prices of July, 1914, and 1st March, 1923:-

	31st Ma	Average Percentage Increase at 31st Mar., 1923, as compared with July, 1914.				
Article.	Large Towns (Popula- tions over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	sponding figure for 1st Mar., 1923.		
Beef, British-	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Ribs Thin Flank Beef, Chilled or Frozen-	81 56	77 60	79 58	81 60		
Ribs Thin Flank Mutton, British	41 18	40 25	41 22	43 23		
Legs Breast	102 87	100 81	101 84	100 84		
Legs Breast Bacon (streaky)† Fish	86 33 65 105	77 32 55 91	82 33 60 98	84 36 64 110		
Flour	45 56 65 244 96	49 51 68 221 99	47 54 67 233 98	50 55 65 221 100		
Fresh Salt Cheeset Margarine Fotatoes	76 71 98 - 5 43 6	85 74 98 - 8 25 -14	81 73 98 - 6 34 - 4	83 75 91 - 6 77 - 2		
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	70	66	68	71		

* As 1st April fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 3'st March, in accordance with the usual practice of the Department in such cases. † If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative. ‡ The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

April, 1923.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings betwee July, 1914, and 31st March, 1923, was about 50 per cent. the total increase somewhat less than one-half is accounted by increases in rates and water charges, and about one-thin is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permittee by the Act felling mither thermonic

by the Act falling within the remainder. As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and j stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to whic different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase i prices that information as to the movements of prices of the prices; but information as to the movements of prices of m prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile material and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indi cates that at 31st March the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods a each date, was about the same as a month earlier, and about 12 per cent bigher than in July 1014

per cent. higher than in July, 1914. In the *fuel and light* group the average increase in the retail prices of coal at 31st March, as compared with July, 1914, was about 90 per cent., or the same as a month earlier. For gas the average percentage increase was about 65 per cent. above the prewar level, as compared with between 70 and 75 per cent. above the p earlier. For lamp oil and for candles the average percent increases, as compared with July, 1914, were about 70 per ce and 35 per cent. respectively, or about the same as a mor earlier. For matches also there was no appreciable change duri the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase, as compared with July, 1914, was about 85 pc cent., or slightly lower than at 1st March.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing item If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing item are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being als made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic iron mongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspaper (averaging about 85 per cent.), the resultant figure for dis March, 1923, is approximately 74 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 76 per cent. at 1st March. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantitie and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1923 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cos of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living o

of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing working-class families before the war, irrespective of whet such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure l been effected in many families, especially in those cases w been effected in many failures, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE : 1915 TO 1923.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915. The figure for 31st March is lower than that for any date since April. 1917 :-

Average Percentage Increase since Jula. 1914-All Items. (Food rent clothing fuel and light &c.)

Month (beginning of).	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.			
January February March April May June	10-15 15 15-20 15-20 20 25	35 35 35-40 35-40 40-45 45	65 65-70 70 70-75 75 75-80	85-90 90 90-95 95-100 100	120 120 115 110 105 105	125 130 130 132 141 150	165 151 141 133 128 119	92 88 86 82 81 80	78 77 76 74†			
July August September October November December	25 25 30 30–35 35	45-50 45-50 50-55 60 65	80 80-85 75-80 85- 85	$100-105 \\ 110 \\ 110 \\ 115-120 \\ 120-125 \\ 120 \\$	105-110 115 115 120 125 125	152 165 161 164 176 169	119 122 120 110 103 99	84 81 79 78 80 80	11111			
The state of the	NOTE.											

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

* If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 31st Murch, 1923, is about 5 per cent. less. † As 1st April fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 31st March, in accordance with the usual practice of the Department in such cases.

April, 1923.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

LITHOUGH employment generally was still bad during March, the radual improvement which had been in progress since the be-inning of the year was maintained. At coal mines, in tinplate steel sheet manufacture, and in the carpet industry, emnent was good; in the worsted trade it was fairly good; in the iron and steel, woollen, hosiery, ready-made clothing, shing, leather and paper trades it was fair. In most of the large industries it was still slack; but a further improve-was reported in the iron-mining, pig-iron, engineering, uilding, boot and shoe, building, woodworking and pottery stries.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among 1,184,400 members of Trades Unions from which re mong 1,134,400 members of Trades Ontons from which fe-is were received the percentage unemployed was 12.3 at the of March, as compared with 13.1 at the end of Feb-y and 16.3 at the end of March, 1922. Among workpeople ered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering apately 11,750,000, and working in practically every industry pt agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage poloyed at 26th March was 11.1, as compared with 11.8 at February and 14.4 at the end of March, 1922. For males h February and 14.4 at the end of March, 1922. For males he the percentage was 12.4 at 26th March, as compared with 4 at 26th February; for females the corresponding figures were and 7.7. The number of workpeople on the Live Register the Employment Exchanges at 26th March was approximately 99,000, of whom men numbered 999,500 and women 213,500, remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total 26th February was 1,376,000, of whom 1,073,000 were men 218,000 women. It should also be noted that some unem-yed persons—e.g, some of those who have not valid claims memployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Un-cloyment Insurance Acts—do not register at the Employment changes. and the Live Register figures, therefore, do not indianges. and the Live Register figures, therefore, do not inditotal number unemployed.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES. Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal mining in-fustry continued good and showed an improvement. The total umber of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th March was ,146,942, an increase of 0.6 per cent. as compared with a month go and of 5.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The werage number of days worked per week by the pits in the fort-hight ended 24th March was 5.63, as compared with 5.50 in Compared with 5.17 in March 1922. ary and 5.17 in March, 1922.

ght ended 24th March was 5.65, as compared with 5.50 in ebruary and 5.17 in March, 1922. At iron mines employment showed a further slight improve-ent, though it was still bad in the Cleveland district; in other stricts it was generally fair. At the mines covered by the turns received there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the tal number employed compared with February, and an increase over 70 per cent. compared with March of last year. The erage number of days worked per week by the mines was 5.53 March, 1923, 5.38 in February, 1923, and 5.18 in March, 1922. I shale mines employment continued fair. With limestone arrymen it was good in the Buxton area, fair in the Clitheroe strict, and moderate in the Weardale district. Employment as reported as bad at chalk quarries, and at road-stone quarries the Clee Hill district; it was moderate at stone quarries in e Stanton-in-Peak and Rowsley districts, and at whinstone harries in East Scotland. At slate quarries there was a slight cline, but employment was still fair on the whole; it also con-mued fair at granite quarries. At china clay quarries it was inly good. y good.

lanufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate .the pig-iron industry employment was still bad, but showed urther improvement. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number blast at the end of March was 202, as compared with 189 at end of February and 107 at the end of March, 1922. At iron send of February and 107 at the end of March, 1922. At iron d steel works employment continued fair on the whole; it was ll only moderate, however, in the Cumberland and Lancashire trict, and continued very quiet at Leeds. In the tinplate and el sheet trades employment was good; at the end of March mills were reported to be in operation, the same number at the end of February; at the end of March, 1922, the mber reported as working was 445.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.—Employ-ent in the engineering trades was still bad, but continued to prove in the majority of districts; in the shipbuilding and ship-pairing trades it remained very bad, but also showed a further ght improvement as compared with the previous month. In e other metal trades employment, though slack generally, was mewhat better than in the previous month; it was fair or fairly od in the brass hollow-ware, tube, wire, sheet-metal, needle d fishing-hook and fishing tackle trades; very quiet in the stove d range making trade; slack in the bedstead, cutlery and chain d anchor trades; and bad in the lock and latch and jewellery d plated ware trades. plated ware trades.

extile Trades .- During March employment continued good he section of the cotton trade spinning Egyptian cotton, the at majority of firms continuing to work full time. On the er hand, it was very bad, and worse than in the previous

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

month, in the section spinning American cotton. In the manufac-turing section employment continued very poor. In the woollen and worsted trades there was little general change during the month. The wool sorting and combing branches showed a slight decline in some sections, but in some branches of the wool spinning trade there was a slight improvement. In the hosiery trade employ-ment remained fair on the whole, but showed a further slight ment remained fair on the whole, but showed a further slight decline as compared with the previous month. In the silk trade it continued bad in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district, and fair in the Eastern Counties. Employment in the lace trade continued bad on the whole; in the carpet trade it showed an improvement and was good. In the linen trade em-ployment continued slack in Scotland; in Ireland it was bad on the whole. In the Dundee jute industry employment was suspended towards the end of the month owing to a dispute. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employ-ment continued slack on the whole; it was fair, however, with hosiery dyers, trimmers and finishers at Leicester and Basford, and good with silk dyers at Leek and Macclesfield. *Clothing Trades* in the ready-made branch of the clothing

Clothing Trades .- In the ready-made branch of the clothing trade employment continued fair; in the bespoke branch it im-proved and was fair on the whole. In the felt hat trade employ-ment continued quiet; in the shirt and collar trades it was moderate. In the boot and shoe trades employment showed some

improvement; it continued slack, however, and much showed some was worked, especially in the heavy boot trade. In the leather trades employment showed a slight improve-ment, and was fair in the tanning and currying section; it con-tinued fair in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section, and bad with saddle and harness makers.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades em-ployment continued slack generally, but showed a further slight improvement on the whole. With painters it again showed a marked seasonal improvement; with builders' labourers and workpeople employed on construction of works it was generally bad. In the brick trades employment showed some improvement but continued moderate on the showed some improvement, but continued moderate on the whole; it was, however, generally fair in the Peterborough and South Staffordshire districts, and bad in the Nottingham and

South Staffordshire districts, and bad in the Nottingham and Birmingham districts. Employment in the furnishing trades showed a further im-provement and was fair. With coachbuilders there was also an improvement, and employment was good in London and fairly good on the whole in other districts. With millsawyers and machinists, packing case makers and coopers employment was slack on the whole; with brush and basket makers it was fair.

slack on the whole; with brush and basket makers it was fair. Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued fair on the whole. In the printing trade employment with letterpress printers was generally fair, and was reported as better than a month ago in most of the principal centres, including London; it was reported as very good with electrotypers and stereotypers in London and Edin-burgh, but was generally slack with lithographic printers. In the bookbinding trade employment was slack on the whole, though an improvement was reported in London; short time was worked in most centres was worked in most centres.

Pottery and Glass.-In the pottery trades employment con-tinued bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month; in the glass trades it also continued bad.

Agriculture and Fishing .- In agriculture the supply of labour was usually more than sufficient for requirements, but with the better weather there were rather less casual workers unemployed than during the previous month. In the fishing industry em-ployment was fair on the whole.

Dock Labour and Seamen .- Employment among dock labourers continued slack, but was slightly better than in the previous month. With seamen it was slack on the whole, and at most of

the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths. The following Table shows the percentages unemployed (a) among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained and (b) among workpeople covered by the Unem-ployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland month by month since January, 1922.

	Date				Percentages une	mployed among
(End	l of Mo	Carl 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.			Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.
1922.	1322		1. 19	1		
January					16.8	16.0
February					16.3	15.5
March					16.3	14.4
April	1.				17.0	14.4
May		18			16.4	13.5
June	19.8		10000		15.7	12.7
July		See. 2	1		14.6	12.3
August					14.4	12.0
September	2. 2. 3	-	1.00		14.6	12.0
October			-	-	14.0	12.0
November	and and	Ban St.	No Party	100	14.2	12.4
December		in the second	2.21.5.2	1000	14.0	12.2
1923.	Contraction of the	The second	3:00 (3)	1.1000	The residence with the set	. In the Party of the second
January					13.7	12.7
February		-		1.5	13.1	11.8
March	**				12.3	11.0
march	-			••	12.0	

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 131-135.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

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TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,184,400 in branches covered by the returns received reported 145,894 (or 12.3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1923, compared with 13.1 per cent. at the end of February, 1923, and 16.3 per cent. at the end of March, 1922. The figures are analysed below :--

Trade.	Member- ship of Unions reporting	at e Ma	ployed nd of rch, 23.*	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a		
	at end of March, 1923.	Num- ber.	Per- cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Buildingt Coal Mining Engineering and Ship-	124,446 134,334	11,100 8,144	8·9 6·1		$+ \frac{1.8}{- 7.0}$	
building Miscellaneous Metal Textiles :	419,166 55,726	93,187 5,053	22·2 9·1	-1.9 -0.4	- 7·3 - 6·0	
Cotton Woollen and Worsted Other	61,288 12,235 57,464	5,616 138 2,333	9·2 ‡ 1·1 4·1	+ 1.6 - 0.3	$+ 1.0 \\ - 1.5 \\ - 0.9$	
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Furnishing Woodworking Clothing :	94,295 24,510 44,550	4,588 1,682 2,330	4·9 6·9 5·2	-0.8 -05 -1.2	-2.3 + 0.1 - 5.0	
Boot and Shoe Other Clothing Glass Foltery	73,012 43,031 6,724 1,241 27,500 4,878	3,677 1,114 592 34 4,600 1,706	5.0 2.6 8.8 2.7 16.7 35.0	$- 0.1 \\ - 0.5 \\ + 0.1 \\ - 0.4 \\ - 1.0 \\ + 3.0$	$ \begin{array}{r} + & 0.3 \\ - & 0.3 \\ - & 2.2 \\ - & 2.5 \\ - & 3.2 \\ - & 41.5 \end{array} $	
Total	1,184,400	145,894	12.3	- 0.8	- 4.0	

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·1 per cent. (males, 12·4 per cent., females 7·6 per cent.) at 26th March, as compared with 11·8 (males, 13·4 per cent., females, 7·7 per cent.) at 26th February. A Table show-ing the estimated number insured and the numbers and per-centages unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 137.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in March, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 131 to 135. (a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

in dat fra poil lidin-	Workpeople included	Manah	Inc. (+) or Dec. (- as compared with a		
Trade.	in the Returns for March, 1923.	March, 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Coal Mining Iron " Shale ",	1,1 46,942 9,406 3,641	Jays Worked per week by Mines. 5.63 5.53 5.79	Days +0.13 +0.15 -0.16	Days. + 0.46 + 0.35 - 0.10	
Pig Iron Finplate and Steel Sheet Iron and Steel		Furnaces in Blast 487 Mills Working 509 Shifts Worked (one week). 432,241	Number. +13 Per cent. +1.1	Number. + 95 + 64 Per cent. + 44.1	

and the states	IT BUS	(b)	OTHER	TRADES	5.		
Lorday and		r of Wor Employe		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.			
Trade.				(+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
				Year ago.	24th March, 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Textiles : Cotton Woollen Boot and Shoe Pottery Brick	··· ·· ··	86,558 17,068 30,116 49,922 11,977 6,140	Per cent. - 0.2 - 0.0 - 0.2 + 1.1 + 1.4 + 1.3	Per cent. + 2.6 + 9.9 + 6.3 + 4.2 + 2.0 - 0.4	£ 150,209 35,703 59,216 115,965 22,838 14,278	Per cent. - 1.7 + 0.5 - 0.4 + 2.8 + 3.6 + 8.9	Per cent. -12.7 + 9.8 - 2.7 + 4.1 + 2.1 - 6.2
Total		201,781	+ 0.3	+ 4.0	398,209	+ 0.6	- 3.9

mainly cigar makers. Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

April, 1923.

(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNION MAKING RETURNS :-

Thick Curve	= 1923.
Thin Curve	= 1922.
01 I 01	

Chain Curve $-\circ-\circ-\circ = Mean \text{ of } 1913-22.$ × The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1893-1922.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORK.

PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT :--

> Thick Dotted Curve ----- 1923. Thin Dotted Curve ----- 1922.

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NOTE.

The Trade Union returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are ex-cluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the pre-vious column vious col

The figures for insured workpeople relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and exclude the Irish Free State. Detailed figures are given on page 137.

April, 1023.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.-The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, prespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be membered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males and females, of adults and juveniles, and of skilled and unskilled workers in the respective industries. The particulars given relate only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued good and showed an improvement as compared with both the previous month and a year ago. The average weekly number of days (5.63) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th March, showed an increase of 0.13 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th February, and of 0.46 of a day on a year ago. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th March showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. on the number at 24th February, and of 58 per cent. on a year ago. per cent. on a year ago.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the memployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was $3\cdot 6$ er cent. at 26th March, as compared with $4\cdot 1$ per cent. at 26th

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books, and the average number of days worked by the collieries, as indicated by the eturns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of rorkpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling ninerals other than coal are included in the totals.

		Wage Ean	l Number mers on books at		Aver Days w by
	Districts.	24th Mar.,	lnc.(+) (-)as co wit	mpared	Fort- night ended
CONTRACTOR NO.		1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	24.h Mar., 1923.
I	NGLAND AND WALES :			Per cent	Days.
	Northumberland	61 314	+ 0.3	+ 6.4	5.47
	Durham Cumberland and West-	167,395	+ 0.7	+12.4	5.44
	morland	11,712	+ 1.6	+ 5.0	5.70
	South Yorkshire	108,392	+ 1.3	+ 4.6	5.62
ľ	West Yorkshire	67,136	+ 08	+ 2.8	5.79
	Lancs. and Cheshire	104,949	- 0.1	+ 0.1	5.64
	Derbyshire	64,191	+ 0.4	+ 2.9	5.81
	Notts. and Leicester	63,788	+ 0.5	+ 2.4	5.64
	Warwick	21,677	- 0.1	- 1.5	5.95
	North Staffordshire South Staffs., † Worc.	34,688	+ 0.6	+ 2.1	5.80
ŝ	and Salop	35,047	+ 0.3	+ 4.7	5.92
ł	Glouc. and Somerset	-14,286	- 0.4	+ 1.3	. 5.75
l	Kent	1,834	+ 1.7	+28.9	5.50
l	North Wales	17,492	+ 0.2	+ 9.5	5.96
	South Wales and Mon.	236,565	+ 0.8	+ 8.0	5.65
	England and Wales	1,010,466	+ 0.6	+ 5.7	5.65
£	COTLAND.		The second second	1917 1978 1979	The second second
	Mid & East Lothians	15,423	+ 0.8	+ 4.9	5.35
	Fifeand Clackmannan	29,964	+ 1.0	+ 7.4	5.56
	Rest of Sco.land	91,089	+ 0.9	+ 6.3	5.49
	Scotland	136,476	+ 0.9	+ 6.4	5-49
	Great Britain	1,146,942	+ 0.6	+ 5.8	5.63
			255 5 1 C A.S.	NOT NOT STREET	

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the points in the fortnight ended 24th March was 0.13 of a day, of which 0.06 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of rade. In the fortnight ended 24th February the average time ost was 0.27 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to trans-port difficulties and want of trade. For the fortnight ended 25th March, 1922, the average time lost was 0.58 of a day, nearly all us to the same causes. The non-winding time in each of these periods was about one-quarter of a day.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 4th March, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 2,702,600 tons, compared with 22,246,800 tons in the four weeks add 24th February, and with 19,921,000 tons in the four weeks add 25th March, 1922.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 9,084,334 tons, or 1,291,493 ons more than in February.

• The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allow-nce being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron we, was got and drawn from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the *persons* worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked. I including Cannock Chase. The production of pig iron in March amounted to 633,600 tons as compared with 543,400 tons in February and 389,800 tons in March, 1922. * See * footnote in previous column.

rage Number of vorked per Week y the Mines.*

Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a

	har-Jan of
Month ago.	Year ago.
Days. + 0.44	Days. + 0.17 + 0.20
$\begin{array}{c} - 0.01 \\ + 0.08 \\ + 0.10 \\ + 0.43 \\ + 0.04 \\ + 0.06 \\ + 0.01 \\ + 0.13 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + \ 0.20 \\ + \ 0.27 \\ + \ 0.92 \\ + \ 1.17 \\ + \ 0.91 \\ + \ 0.80 \\ + \ 0.73 \\ + \ 0.79 \end{array}$
$ \begin{array}{r} - 0.02 \\ + 0.19 \\ - 0.19 \\ + 0.11 \\ + 0.03 \end{array} $	+ 0.27 + 0.64 + 0.59 + 0.71
+ 0.16	+ 0.45
+ 0.02 - 0.04	+ 0.41 + 0.28 + 0.57
- 0.02	+ 0.49
+ 0.13	+ 0.46

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron.-Employment during March continued bad in the Cleveland district, but there was an improvement in the average amount of time worked as compared with February. In other districts employment, taken as a whole, was fair. The following Table summarises the returns received from those employers who furnished information for each of the three periods

under review :---

1997 International Press	peopl Mine	ber of V e employ s includ e Return	ed in	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
Districts.	Fort- night ended 24th	night Dec.(-) as com- ended pared with a		Fort- night ended 24th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as com- pared with a		
	Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1923.	Month age.	Year ago.	
Cleveland Cumberland and Lanca- shire	3,524 4,495 1,387	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{Per} \\ \text{cent.} \\ - 0.1 \\ + 0.5 \\ + 1.4 \end{array} $	Per cent. + 88.9 + 73.8 + 32.6	Days. 5.09 5.84 5.64	Days. + 0.44 - 0.16 + 0.43	Days. + 0.76 - 0.16 + 0.96	
All Districts	9,406	+ 14 + 0.4	+ 71.0	5.53	+ 0.43 + 0.15	+ 0 35	

Shale .- Employment was fair, and about the same as in the previous month. At mines employing 3,641 workpeople in the fortnight ended 24th March, there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the total number employed compared with the previous month, and an increase of 10.2 per cent. compared with March, 1922. The average number of days^{*} worked per week by the mines was 5.79, compared with 5.95 in February and with 5.89 in March last year.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued bad, but showed a further improvement and was much better than a year ago. The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March,

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, as shown by returns collected by the National Flederation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 202, compared with 189 at the end of February and 107 at the end of March, 1922. Returns received by the Federation from 86 firms employing 22,818 workpeople at the end of March showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. compared with the end of February and 33½ per cent. as compared with March, 1922. The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1923, February, 1923, and March, 1922, according to returns collected by the Federation :—

District.	Total Number		er of Fu last at er	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., on a		
D'301100.	of Furnaces	Mar., 1923.	Feb., 1923.	Mar., 1922.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES :	1.492					
Durham and Cleveland	115	43	40	27	+3 + 1	+ 16 + 5
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	46	17	16	12	+ 1	+ 5
Other parts of Lancs. and	38	16	16	10	14.25	+ 6
Yorks., including Sheffield.	00	10	10	10	Ŧ	+ 0
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	3 5	35	19	-	+ 16
Lincolnshire	22	16	16	7	() () () () () () () () () ()	+ 9
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and War- wick.	58	19	18	12	+ 1	+ 9 + 7
South Wales and Mon- mouth.	33	9	8	8	+ 1	+ 1
Total (England and Wales)	385	155	149	95	+ 6	+ 60
SCOTLAND	102	47	40	12	+ 7	+ 35
TOTAL	487	202	189	107	+13	+ 95

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH,

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1923, amounted to 1,492,138 tons, as compared with 1,468,599 tons at the end of Licember, 1922, and 2,235,998 tons at the end of March, 1922. The increase, as compared with the previous quarter, in the tonnage under construction is the first recorded since March, 1921. The figures at the end of March, 1923, however, still include a considerable amount of tonnage (181,000) on which work has been suspended for some time; and, when allowance is made for this, the tonnage on which construction was actually going forward in Great Britain and Ireland amounted to [,311,000 tons, or 579,000 tons less than the average tonnage under construction during the twelve months immediately preceding the war. The tonnage commenced during the quarter again showed a considerable improvement, amounting to 355,203 tons, or an increase of 124,016 tons, as compared with the quarter ended December, 1922.

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

COTTON TRADE.

DURING March employment continued good in the section of the rade spinning Egyptian cotton, the great majority of firms con-inuing to work full time. On the other hand, it was very bad, and worse than a month earlier, in the section spinning American otton. In accordance with a resolution of the Federation f Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, recommending members f Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, recommending members in the American section to curtail production by 50 per cent. In March, a large amount of short time was worked, some rms stopping their mills for two weeks, whilst others stopped a roportionate amount of machinery. At a meeting held on the 6th March, the Federation issued a further recommendation nat a similar curtailment of production (*i.e.*, to the extent of 0 per cent.) should continue during April, in addition to any coppage due to the Easter holidays. page due to the Easter holidays.

In the manufacturing section employment continued very poor. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the imbers of unemployment books lodged at Employment Ex-ianges, was 14.5 on the 26th March, as compared with 10.6

the 26th February. The following Table summarises the returns received from ose employers who furnished information for the three dates der review :-

		umber o prkpeopl		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
An had withomas a	Week ended			Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
the second first of the second first of the second se	Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	24th Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.*	
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing Spinning Weaving O.her Not specific J	11,034 21,693 38,068 8,678 7,085	Per cent. - 0.7 - 0.4 + 0.5 - 0.4 - 2.6	$\begin{array}{r} \text{Per} \\ \text{cent.} \\ - 1.2 \\ - 1.9 \\ + 5.8 \\ + 3.0 \\ + 5.4 \end{array}$	£ 17,032 35:379 64,857 20,269 12,672	Per cent. - 7.5 - 5.2 + 3.2 - 1.1 - 8.1	Per cent. - 20.8 - 19.2 - 4.2 - 10.3 - 22.6	
Total	86,558	- 0.5	+ 2.6	150,209	- 1.7	- 12.7	
DISTRICTS. Ashton	3,512 7,879 8,869 14,497 7,422 6,252 9,219 12,197 3,932 4,066 2,888	$\begin{array}{r} + \ 0.2 \\ - \ 0.6 \\ - \ 2.2 \\ - \ 0.8 \\ - \ 3.7 \\ - \ 1.1 \\ - \ 0.2 \\ - \ 3.2 \\ + \ 5.7 \\ + \ 9.6 \\ - \ 4.6 \\ + \ 1.0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + & 2 \cdot 7 \\ + & 5 \cdot 4 \\ - & 0 \cdot 3 \\ + & 1 \cdot 4 \\ - & 1 4 \cdot 1 \\ + & 5 \cdot 8 \\ + & 5 \cdot 7 \\ + & 8 \cdot 5 \\ + & 2 1 \cdot 7 \\ + & 8 \cdot 2 \\ \end{array}$	5,825 13,036 13,349 25,199 10,444 8,897 12,087 17,371 26,165 6,287 6,968 4,581	$\begin{array}{c} - 4.9 \\ - 1.7 \\ -22.3 \\ + 0.1 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c} - 5.6 \\ - 0.8 \\ + 0.0 \\ + 0.3 \\ + 9.2 \\ + 10.3 \\ - 7.0 \\ + 1.3 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} - 13.1 \\ - 12.8 \\ - 30.0 \\ - 23.3 \\ + 4.3 \\ - 6.7 \\ - 1.0 \\ 9.3 \\ - 5.0 \end{array}$	
Total	83,558	- 0.2	+ 2.6	150,209	- 1.7	- 12.7	

In the Oldham district employment with spinners and weavers In the Oldham district employment with spinners and weavers ontinued bad, and was worse than in February, and worse also han a year ago. During March over one-fourth of the operatives overed by the returns in this district were stopped for two reeks, about one-fourth were stopped for one week, and nearly ne-fourth were on short time for one or more weeks; the Emainder (slightly over one fourth) worked foull time. The mainder (slightly over one-fourth) worked full time. In any cases the Easter Holiday stoppage was extended. In the ockport and Ashton districts 53 per cent. and 38 per cent. the operatives were on short time, to the extent of about 18 At Bolton employment remained fair with spinners, only bout 6 per cent. of the spindles being stopped, but was very loor with weavers, with whom it showed a marked decline; with

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

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was good in these trades during March, and was much better than a year ago. At the end of March 509 mills, about four-fifths of the total number in existence, were reported

anentroit	Numbe	r of Work	s Open		per of Mi Operation	
Works.	At end	At end of Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Atend	Inc. (Dec. (-	(+) or -) on a
	March, 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	of March, 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Steel Sheet	74 13		+	392 117		+ 58 + 6
TOTAL	87		+ 8	50Э	as a ntas a	+ 64

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in March, 1923, amounted to 100,612 tons, or 4,379 tons more than in February, 1923, and 11,820 tons more than in March, 1922.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued fair on the whole

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued fair on the whole and showed a marked improvement as compared with a year ago. It was still only moderate, however, in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, and continued very quiet at Leeds. According to returns received from firms employing 79,936 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 24th March (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case) showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. on the previous month, and of 44.1 per cent. on a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week was 5.4, the same as in February, and 4.8 in March, 1922. The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison:—

comparison

	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.				ate num Shifts.*	iber of
and and an and an and an and an	Week ended 24th Mar.,	Dec. com	(+) or (-) as pared th a	Week ended 24th Mar.,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
April and a fallente 1991 - Arasel	1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS.	les discus	Per cent.	Per cent.	lat elge	Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces Crucible Furnaces Bessemer Converters Puddling Forges Rolling Mills Forging and Pressing Founding Other Departments Mechanics, Labourers Total	8,573 310 276 4,854 28,923 2,956 7,965 6,424 19,655 79,936	$\begin{array}{r} + & 0.4 \\ + & 8.8 \\ - & 61.5 \\ + & 3.9 \\ - & 1.1 \\ + & 9.9 \\ + & 2.0 \\ + & 1.1 \\ + & 3.7 \\ + & 0.9 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + 29.8 \\ + 14.8 \\ - 66.3 \\ + 48.5 \\ + 31.5 \\ + 19.3 \\ + 42.7 \\ + 14.0 \\ + 27.3 \\ \hline + 28.7 \end{array}$	49,693 1,463 1,504 23,653 148,120 14,841 44,148 35,841 112,978 432,241	$\begin{array}{r} + & 0.2 \\ + & 14.5 \\ - & 58.9 \\ + & 5.3 \\ - & 1.1 \\ + & 8.7 \\ + & 2.6 \\ + & 1.7 \\ + & 3.8 \\ \hline + & 1.1 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + 36^{\cdot 3} \\ + 49^{\cdot 7} \\ - 54^{\cdot 5} \\ + 102^{\cdot 5} \\ + 53^{\cdot 8} \\ + 27^{\cdot 9} \\ + 58^{\cdot 7} \\ + 19^{\cdot 8} \\ + 38^{\cdot 0} \\ + 44^{\cdot 1} \end{array}$
DISTRICTS. Northumberland and Durham Cleveland Sheffield and Rother-	6,203 8,476	- 5·7 - 0·1	+ 49·4 + 23·3	32,420 48,330	- 8.6 - 0.7	+ 61.7 + 28.8
ham Leeds, Bradford, etc Cumberland, Lancs. and	19,763 2,489	+ 5.2 + 2.6	+ 45.0 + 2.0	104,675 13,710	+ 5.7 + 2.8	+ 67.5 + 11.9
Cheshire Staffordshire Other Midland Counties Wales and Monmouth	7,820 8,468 4,02 3 7,902	$\begin{array}{r} -10.0 \\ + 0.6 \\ + 1.0 \\ + 1.7 \end{array}$	+ 16.4 + 22.0 + 28.7 + 10.6	41,474 46,136 21,055 44,193	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 8.7 \\ + & 2.2 \\ + & 0.8 \\ + & 2.1 \\ \end{array} $	+ 40.8 + 35.1 + 45.4 + 13.8
Total, England and Wales Scotland	65,144 14,792	+ 0.0 + 4.7	+ 27·7 + 33·6	351,993 80,248	+ 0.2 + 5.0	+ 41.2 + 58.3
Total	79,936	+ 0.9	+ 28.7	432.241	+ 1.1	+ 44.1

The production of steel ingots and castings in March, as re-turned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufac-turers, amounted to 802,500 tons, compared with 707,100 tons in February and 549,400 tons in March, 1922.

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

FNGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was still bad during March, bu continued to improve in the majority of districts. In some cases however, it was reported to have been affected by increased price of materials. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, a indicated by the unemployment insurance books lodged at the Employment Exchanger was 17.6 at 26th March and Employment Exchanges, was 17.6 at 26th March, compared with 18.8 at 26th February.

On the North-East Coast employment was again bad, but the improvement noted in February continued. There was a furthed decline in the textile machinery section at some centres in Lance shire and Cheshire, but general engineering improved a little of the whole. In Yorkshire what little change was apparent was in the whole. In Yorkshire what little change was apparent was the direction of improvement; while conditions were somewhile better at Nottingham, and more markedly better at Lincol At Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton employment the motor and cycle industries was fairly good, night shifts bein resorted to in some instances. General engineering also improve somewhat at these centres. In the Eastern Counties employment although generally slack, showed signs of improvement, and co ditions were also rather better on the whole in the Souther Counties. In Wales an improvement was reported in gener engineering, but a decline in marine engineering.

There was a slight improvement on the whole in the Glasgor district, and employment on the East Coast of Scotland main tained the improvement noted in the previous month. In the Belfast district, also, there was a further reduction in the percentage of unemployment.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages workpeople registered as unemployed in the engineering and iro founding industry according to the Unemployment Insuran records at 26th March, as compared with 26th February :--

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th March, 1923.	Percentage of Unemploy- ment at 26th March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 26 h Feb., 1923.		
London South-Eastern South-Western Midlands North-Eastern North-Western Scotland Wa'es Northern Ireland	$19,913 \\ 11,121 \\ 7,622 \\ 34,420 \\ 47,533 \\ 42,467 \\ 35,751 \\ 1,382 \\ 2,807 \\$	13-8 14-6 12-6 15-7 20-6 19-3 20-2 10-3 23-6	$ \begin{array}{r} -12\\ -09\\ -11\\ -09\\ +20\\ +01\\ +21\\ -22\\ -11\end{array} $		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	203,016	17.6	- 1.2		
Males Females	198,018 4,908	18·4 6·7	$-\frac{1\cdot 2}{-0\cdot 5}$		

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades remained very bad during March, but again showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month. The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople whose unemployment insurance hocks may head workpeople whose unemployment insurance books at Employment Exchanges at 26th March :--

Di v ision.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th March, 1923.	Percentage of Unemploy- ment at 26th March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentages as compared with 26th February, 1923.
London South-Eastern South-Western Midlands North-Eastern Scotland Wales Northern Ireland	4,367 1,840 6,910 173 32,919 14,404 33,174 5,470 8,313	26-0 16-6 15-6 18-4 35-4 31-3 34-9 31-4 25-0	$\begin{array}{r} - & 0 & 8 \\ - & 0 & 6 \\ - & 2 & 5 \\ - & 2 & 8 \\ - & 3 & 5 \\ - & 1 & 7 \\ - & 2 & 8 \\ + & 3 & 3 \\ + & 0 & 2 \end{array}$
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	107,570	30.0	- 2.1
Males Females	107,129 441	30 3 7·8	- 2·1 - 0·5

On the North-East Coast employment was again very b on the East and South Coasts it continued bad. At the Br Channel ports there was a further decline on repair work. the Mersey employment, though still bad, continued to impr especially with shipwrights on new work. At Barrow it bad, though slightly better than during February.

In Scotland employment continued very bad general though with shipwrights on the Clyde a further improvement was reported. At Belfast employment remained bad.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE.

spinners at Leigh it was good. In the Bury and Rochdale district employment was bad; in the week ended 24th March about 79 per cent, of the operatives were on short time, to the

about 79 per cent, of the operatives were on short time, to the extent of about 18 hours per week on the average. In the Burnley district employment with weavers continued very slack, and the employers were considering the adoption of organised short time. In the Blackburn, Preston and Dar-wen districts employment was also very slack; in Blackburn many mills were closed, and in Preston about 4,000 workpeople were reported to be working alternate weeks. The holiday stop-nage at Preston was prolonged by many firms generally to the page at Preston was prolonged by many firms, generally to the extent of 14 days. Many weaving operatives in the various dis-tricts were working less than the usual number of looms. Employ-ment in the spinning departments in Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen was slack, and worse than in February.

The *imports* (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 118,854,500 lbs. in March, 1923, compared with 119,888,800 lbs. in the previous month, and with 73,377,400 lbs. in March, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 13,030,200 lbs. in March, 1923, compared with 10,881,600 lbs. in February, 1923, and 18,750,700 lbs. in March, 1922.

The *exports* of cotton piece goods were 337,411,500 square yards, as compared with 342,558,500 square yards in the previous month, and with 303,857,500 square yards in March, 1922.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

In these trades there was little general change in employment during the month. The wool sorting and combing branches showed a slight decline, except in the mohair and alpaca sorting section, in which there was a slight improvement. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.4 on the 26th March, as compared with 3.8 on the 26th February.

February.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

WOOLLEN TRADE. In this trade employment was fair, and showed little change on the whole; in the woollen spinning branch there was a slight improvement with firms spinning for the woollen weaving trade, but a slight falling off with those spinning for the hosiery trade. In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment was fair, and about the same as a month earlier; some overtime was being worked, as well as a little night work. In the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury and Batley, etc.) it was reported as bad, but it was much better than a year ago. In the Leeds district employment was described as quiet on the whole, and employ-ment generally showed a decline; but there was less unem-ployment with willeyers and fettlers, and a further improve-ment in the low woollen trade in the Leeds and Morley districts. In the blanket and rug trade a slight decline was reported, though employment, though poor, showed a further slight improve-ment. In the flannel trade employment in the Stockport and Rochdale districts was fair, but showed a falling-off during the month. In Scotland there was considerable short time and un-employment in the tweed trade.

employment in the tweed trade. The following Table summarises the information received from those firms which furnished returns for the three dates under review ----

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 24th		(+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (Dec. (-	(+) or -) on a	
and the state of t	Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	24th Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.*	
Departments. Wool Sorting Spinning Weaving Other Departments Not Specified TOTAL	392 3,985 6,766 5,101 824 17,068	Per cent. - 0.8 - 0.4 + 0.2 + 1.1 - 6.0 - 0.0	Per cent. + 9·2 + 13·3 + 9·5 + 9·0 + 2·7 + 9·9	£ 944 8,134 12,891 11,796 1,938 35,703	Per cent. - 0.6 - 0.8 + 2.1 + 1.3 - 8.2 + 0.5	Per cent. + 80 + 12.5 + 9.4 + 11.0 - 38 + 9.8	
Districts. Huddersfield District Leeds District Dewsbury and Batley District Other Parts of West Riding Total, West Riding Scotland Dther Districts TOTAL	1,339 1,757 1,636 2,011 6,743 5,326 4,999 17,068	$\begin{array}{r} + & 0.7 \\ - & 2.1 \\ + & 0.9 \\ + & 1.3 \\ \hline + & 0.2 \\ - & 0.9 \\ + & 0.6 \\ \hline - & 0.0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + 10.0 \\ + 17.1 \\ + 9.9 \\ + 9.7 \\ + 11.6 \\ + 10.6 \\ + 6.9 \\ \hline + 9.9 \end{array}$	3,477 3,691 3,783 4,698 15,649 10,597 9,457 35,703	$ \begin{array}{r} + & 0.5 \\ - & 5.1 \\ - & 1.0 \\ + & 2.6 \\ \hline - & 0.6 \\ + & 0.1 \\ + & 2.8 \\ + & 0.5 \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} + 5 \cdot 2 \\ + 5 \cdot 9 \\ + 20 5 \\ + 16 \cdot 9 \\ + 12 \cdot 2 \\ + 10 \cdot 5 \\ + 5 \cdot 3 \\ + 9 \cdot 8 \end{array} $	

In the week ended 24th March about 18 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received from employers were working short time, to the extent of about eight hours a week on the average.

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

WORSTED TRADE.

In the Bradford district employment during March was fair with wool combers and wool sorters, but not so good as a month earlier, some short time being reported. In the other departments there was little change on the whole; it was good in the spinning department and fair with weavers. Employment in the Bradford and Keighley coating trades and in the stuff trade of Bradford, Keighley and Silsden showed a decline. In the Halifax and Huddersfield districts employment was not quite so good as during the previous month, the decline being chiefly in the fine men's wear trade; short time was still being worked by many firms in the weaving department. by many firms in the weaving department.

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

TRACT DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY AND	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
S. 186, 31 has \$241 A	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (Dec. (-	+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	24th Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.•	
Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting and Combing Spinning Weaving Other Departments Not specified	4,102 15,453 5,371 2,904 2,286	$\begin{array}{rrrr} + & 0.5 \\ - & 0.5 \\ + & 0.2 \\ + & 0.1 \\ - & 0.9 \end{array}$	+ 6.6 6.5 6.5 8.5 2.7	11,016 24,844 11,222 7,592 4,542	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 2 \cdot 3 \\ - & 0 \cdot 4 \\ - & 0 \cdot 9 \\ + & 3 \cdot 8 \\ - & 1 \cdot 1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 4 & 6 \\ - & 5 & 4 \\ + & 1 & 3 \\ + & 2 & 4 \\ - & 0 & 3 \end{array} $	
TOTAL - ··	30,116	- 0.5	+ 6.3	59,216	- 0.4	- 2.7	
Districts. Bradford District Keighley District Halifax District Huddersfield District	15,288 5,098 2,767 3,315	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 0.2 \\ + & 0.0 \\ - & 0.2 \\ - & 0.4 \end{vmatrix}$	$ \begin{array}{r} + & 8.0 \\ + & 0.5 \\ + & 0.1 \\ + & 17.0 \end{array} $	31,376 9,681 4,863 6,834	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 0.3 \\ - & 0.8 \\ - & 1.8 \\ - & 1.3 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 1.6 \\ - & 8.0 \\ - & 9.3 \\ + & 11.3 \end{array} $	
Other Parts of West Riding	2,176	- 0.6	+ 3.9	3,907	+ 3.2	- 6.2	
Total, West Riding	28,644 1,472	- 0·2 - 0·3	+ 6.4 + 4.2	56,661 2,555	- 0.4 - 0.9	- 2·4 - 7·3	
TOTAL	30,116	- 02	+ 6.3	59,216	- 0.4	- 2.7	

Returns received from firms employing 27,301 workpeople showed that about 6 per cent. of these workpeople were working short time in the week ended 24th March, to the extent of about nine hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 44,557,600 lbs. in March, 1923, compared with 45,629,700 lbs. in February, 1923, and 88,315,600 lbs. in March, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4.157,000 lbs., compared with 3,098,400 lbs. in February, 1923, and 4,048,100 lbs. in March, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 14,381,500 square yards, compared with 17,559,700 in February, 1923, and 14,930,300 square yards in March, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 98,466 pairs, and 112,597 pairs and 58,417 pairs in March, 1923, February, 1923, and March, 1922, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

DURING March employment continued slack, with much short time, especially in the heavy boot trade. It was somewhat better than in February, however, in nearly all the principal districts, and better, on the whole, than in March of last year, though in this respect there was much variation as between one district and another

At Leicester and in the surrounding district employment con-tinued fair, and showed a further improvement during the month. At Northampton employment was very slack, about two-thirds of the operatives being on short time, to the extent of ten hours a week on the average; it was also slack at Kettering. At both these centres, however, employment was somewhat better than in February. At Stafford the operatives continued to be well employed. Employment was slack in the Bristol and Kingswood district and in the Leeds district. In the Rossendale Valley it was fair, and showed a further improvement. In Scotland it was bad at all the principal centres, except at Kilmarnock, where it was fair. was fair.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the boot, shoe and slipper making and repairing trades, as indicated by the unem-ployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 8.6 on the 26th March, as compared with 8.2 on the 26th February.

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

• Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

A Standard Television		people.	ork	Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 24th	lnc. (Dec. (-		Week ended 24th	Inc. (- Dec. (-	+) or) on a	
han and be and be a	Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.•	
England and Wales :	ten said	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
London Leicester	2,143 8,972	+ 1.8 + 2.6	+ 2.9 + 6.7	5,075 24,150	+ 3.7 + 3.3	- 1.4 + 9.1	
Leicester Country Dis- trict	2,318 6,620	- 0.3 + 1.3	- 5.6 - 2.7	5,225 16,000	+ 3.5 + 5.0	-9.0 -5.3	
Northampton Country District	7,638 3,157 2,279 3,804	$\begin{array}{r} + & 0.4 \\ + & 0.9 \\ - & 0.5 \\ - & 2.9 \end{array}$	+ 3.5 + 2.1 + 4.6 + 3.4	17,280 8,226 5,590 7,483	$\begin{array}{r} + & 2 \cdot 6 \\ + & 4 \cdot 2 \\ + & 1 \cdot 7 \\ - & 2 \cdot 0 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} + & 5 \cdot 1 \\ + & 7 \cdot 5 \\ + & 10 \cdot 3 \\ - & 11 \cdot 2 \end{array} $	
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,359 1,937	+ 9.6	$^{+17.1}_{+14.2}$	4,413 4,095	+ 1.6 - 0.4	+ 19·3 + 19 3	
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	3,930	+ 1.5	+ 17.9	9,186	+ 4.6	+ 18.7	
Birmingham and Dis- trict	918	0.6	+ 2.5	1,584	+ 1.3	- 11.9	
Other parts of England and Wales	1,377	+ 1.3	+ 11.5	2,600	- 0.2	+ 14 2	
England and Wales	47,512	+ 1.2	+ 4.9	110,907	+ 2.8	+ 4.2	
Scotland	2,410	,- 0.7	- 6.5	5,058	+ 2.2	+ 2.6	
Great Britain	49,922	+ 1.1	+ 4.2	115,965	(+ 2.8	+ 41	

April, 1923.

Returns received from firms employing 34,488 workpeople showed about 27 per cent. on short time in the week ending 24th March, to the extent of nearly 13 hours a week on the average. The exports of boots and shoes in March, 1923, amounted to 79,027 dozen pairs, or 8,178 dozen pairs more than in February, 1923, and 13,625 dozen pairs more than in March, 1922.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS. DURING March employment in these trades, taken as a whole, showed a further slight improvement; it continued generally slack, however, although there was considerable variation as between different centres and the various occupations within each centre. Short time working was reported from several districts. The percentage unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books remaining lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.7 for the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th March, as compared with 18.8 a month earlier, and a decrease in the percentage was also recorded in each of the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below.

percentage was also recorded in each of the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below. Employment again showed a marked seasonal improvement with painters, and a slight improvement with each of the other occupations mentioned in the Table; it was generally bad with builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works,

and slack with all other classes. The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 26th March, and the decreases in the percentages as compared with 26th Feb-

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 26th Mar., 1923	Percentage of Unem- ployment at 26.th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 26th Feb., 1923.
Building Trade.	1		3.0
Carpenters	12,357 5.551	9·1 9·0	-1.6 -3.1
Bricklayers	1.883	7.9	- 1.6
Masons	742	13.2	- 1.4
Slaters	2,524	14.6	- 1.0
Painters	16,837	14.6	- 9.7
Plumbers	4,428	11.8	- 1.2
Labourers of above	55,514	20.3	- 2.6 - 2.1
All other occupations	16,603	16.7	
Total	116,439	15.1	- 3.3
Construction of Works. Navvies	8,008 13,677	22·7 17 · 7	- 1.9 - 1.7
Total	21,685	19.3	- 1.8
Grand Total	138,124	15•7	- 3.1
Divisions.		10.7	- 4.1
London	30,252	16·3 11·1	- 1.8
South-Eastern	14.010 12.955	12.0	- 2.4
South Western	17,639	18.1	- 3.1
Midlands	19,453	17.6	- 3.4
North-Eastern	20,600	17.8	- 3.4
Scotland	13,702	15.9	- 2.8
Wales	6,107	16.2	-2.4 - 5.3
Northern Ireland	3,406	25.9	- 5.3
Great Britain and Northern	138,124	15.7	- 3.1
Ireland	100,124	Service Services	Constant State
The second s	137,886	15.8	- 3.1
Males	101,000	4.4	- 0.6

• Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

April, 1923.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during March continued moderate EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during March continued moderate on the whole and showed some improvement as compared with the previous month. It was generally fair in the Peterborough and South Staffordshire districts, but was still bad in the Nottingham and Birmingham districts. The percentage of people unemployed in the brick, tile, &c., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Em-ployment Exchanges at 26th March was 12.4, as compared with 14.1 at 26th February.

14.1 at 26th February. The following Table summarises the information received from

those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under omparison

and the second second	Numbe	r of Wor	kpeople	Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
Districts.	ended Dec. (-) on a		Week ended	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	24th Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	24th Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year 2go.*
Northern Counties, York- shire, Lancashire and	1,563	Per cent. + 0.6	Per cent. - 0.8	£ 3,718	Per cent. + 8.8	Per cent. -11.7
Cheshire Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,503	+ 2.0	+ 1.4	8,009	+11-1	- 2.2
South and South-West Counties and Wales Other Districts	983 91	-0.3 + 1.1	- 4·8 -10·8	2, 325 226	+ 2.6 + 4.1	- 8.6 -17.5
Тотаг	6,140	+ 1.3	- 0.4	14,278	+ 8.9	- 6.2

Returns from firms employing 4,838 workpeople showed that 18 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 7 hours on the average, during the week ended 24th March.

POTTERY TRADES

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during March continued bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.1 at 26th March, 1923, as compared with 12.8 at 26th February,

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison :--

- and a second	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (Dec. (-	(+) or -) on a	Week ended 24th	Inc. (Dec. (-	(+) or -) on a	
and the second s		Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.*	
BRANCHES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
China Manufacture Earthenware Manufacture Other Branches (including	1,415 8,840	- 0.6 + 1.1	-11.2 + 3.1	2,612 16,940	+ 0.0 + 3.5	-19.5 + 3.6	
unspecified)	1,722	+ 4.8	+ 9.8	3,286	+ 7.2	+ 18.7	
TOTAL	11,977	+ 1.4	+ 2.0	22,838	+ 3.6	+ 2.1	
DISTRICTS. Potteries Other Districts	9,283 2,694	+ 1.5 + 1.1	+ 1.4 + 4.1	17,213 5,625	+ 4.0 + 2.6	+ 3.0 - 0.4	
TOTAL	11,977	+ 1.4	+ 2.0	22,838	+ 3:6	+ 2.1	

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that, of 10,195 workpeople covered, 36 per cent. were working, on an average, about 19 hours less than full-time in the week ended 24th March.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during March was slack on the whole. At most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths.

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.4 -at 26th March, as compared with 22.2 at 26th February. Employment on the Thames declined in the first half of March

Employment on the Thames declined in the first half of March and improved afterwards, being reported as moderate at the end of the month. On the Tyne the demand for men declined and was described as quiet at the end of March. It was poor on the Wear and on the Tees. A fairly good demand at Hull declined during the last week of the month. The demand at Southampton was quiet in the first half of March and improved subsequently. It was poor at Bristol and Avonmouth. At Cardiff it was fair during the greater part of the month, declining in the last week. It was fair at Swansea and good at Newport. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand declined in the first half of the month, then improved a little, and declined again in the last week, when it was reported as moderate.

• Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

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THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

Employment on the Clyde was moderate on the whole, and at Leith it was fair during the greater part of March, declining subsequently. At Belfast the demand was fairly brisk in the middle of the month and very dull at the beginning and the end. The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the principal ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during March :--

	Number of Sea			shipped in			
Principal Ports.	Mar.,	Inc. Dec. ((+)or -) on a	Three months ended.			
	1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1923.	Mar., 1922.		
ENGLAND & WALES:	619		1 etcare	- States	6.1		
East Coast— Tyne Ports Sunderland Middlesbrough Hull Grimsby	1,349 101 305 1,363 4	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 181 \\ - & 83 \\ - & 80 \\ + & 127 \\ + & 4 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 481 \\ - & 51 \\ - & 1 \\ - & 587 \\ + & 2 \end{array} $	4,454 583 1,231 4,324 25	4,924 589 909 3,888 27		
Bristol Channel— Bristol† Newport, Mon Cardift Swansea	879 969 2,337 647	+ 100 + 15 - 814 + 245	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 199 \\ - & 39 \\ - & 328 \\ + & 127 \end{array} $	2.590 3.290 8.615 2,063	2,813 3,490 8,874 1,713		
Other Ports— Liverpool London Southampton	11,021 6,938 7,436	+ 2,277 + 294 + 3,138	+ 395 - 758 + 706	32.899 21.858 20,368	28,694 22,283 18,187		
SCOTLAND: Leith	494 240 2,948	+ 296 - 13 + 1,206	+ 47 + 31 + 756	1,267 921 6,202	941 557 5,370		
NORTHERN IRELAND: Belfast	245	+ 139	- 24	575	902		
TOTAL	37,276	+ 6,670	- 404	111,265	104,161		

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during March continued slack, LMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during March continued slack, but was slightly better than in the previous month. The per-centage of workpeople unemployed in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th March, 1923, was 19.4, as compared with 19.9 at 26th February. London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks, and at the principal wharves, in each week of the month :—

	Average Dai Docks and	ly Numbe l at Princ	r of Lab	ourers en arves in I	aployed in ondon.	
	In	Docks.	in al		12. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	
Period.	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship- owners, etc.	Total.	At Wharves making Returns.	Principal	
Week ended— 3rd darch, 1923 10th " 17th " 24th " 31st "	5,075 4,802 4,794 4,710 4,577	2,664 2,921 2,767 3,360 2,772	7,739 7,723 7,561 8,070 7,349	7,807 8,107 8,096 8,327 8,383	15,546 15,830 15,657 16,397 15,732	
Average for 5 weeks ended 31st March, 1923	} 4,807	2,905	7,712	8,127	15,839	
Average for Feb., 1923	4,851	2,569	7,420	7,923	15,34\$	
Average for Mar., 1922	5,389	2,727	8,116	8,474	16,590	

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in March was 870, as compared with 827 in the previous month, and with 1,208 in March, 1922. East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teemers on the Tyne, Blyth and Wear continued good; with other classes of workers it was, on the average, better than in the previous month. At Middlesbrough the improvement reported last month continued. Employment was a little better at Hull, and about the same as in February at other East Coast ports. Southern and Western Ports.—Employment was slack at Southern and Western Ports.—Employment was slack at Southampton, and also at Plymouth and other South-Western ports. At the South Wales ports it was fair, with an improvement on coal shipments. At Liverpool the average weekly number of

on coal shipments. At Liverpool the average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses, under the Liverpool Docks Scheme, as employed in the four weeks ended 26th March, being 15,289, compared with 15,321 in the four weeks ended 26th February and 14,578 in the corresponding period of last year

period of last year. Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was fair, and better than in February, but at Dundee it was slack and worse than in the previous month. At Belfast it was moderate.

• It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals. † Including Avonmouth and Portishead. † Including Barry and Penarth.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland— i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from work-people—at 26th March, 1923, was 1,288,938, of whom 999,500 were men, 40,617 boys, 213,453 women, and 35,368 girls. Com-pared with 26th February, there was a decrease of 87,471, which was distributed as follows: Men, 73,177; women, 4,978; investiga 9,316 juveniles, 9,316.

During the four weeks ended 26th March the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 79,043, of which 50,816 were for men, 16,625 for women, and 11,602 for juveniles. Compared with the four weeks ended 26th February, there was an increase of 6,201 in the total number of vacancies filled.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 26th March, 1923:--

				Applica-	Veccessies	Applications outstand- ing at end of week.		
22	Week	ended	24 - F.	tions by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	From Workpeople (Live Register.)	From Employers.	
26th	February,	1923		21,572	18,806	1,376,409	16,166	
5th 12th 19th 26th	March, ""	1923 '' "	··· ··· ··	21,207 22,967 24,733 24,928	18,328 19,010 20,528 21,177	1,366,724 1,349,834 1,306,814 1,288,938	15.948 16,961 18,209 18,648	
	Total (4	weeks)		93,835	79,043	_	_	

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 5th March are dealt with below :--

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of appli-cations (525,944) from workpeople during the four weeks ended 5th March showed a daily average of 21,914—a decrease of 1,128, or 4.9 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 14,542, women for 5,266, and juveniles for 2,106—decreases of 1.8 per cent., 4.4 per cent., and 1.9 per cent. respectively in the case of men, women and juveniles. women and juveniles

Vacancies Notified .- During the four weeks ended 5th March Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 5th March there were 84,410 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,517, as compared with 3,146 during the preceding period. Of this daily average, 2,015 were for men, 960 for women, and 542 for juveniles. Compared with the previous month the number of vacancies notified for men, women, and juveniles increased by 17.3 per cent., 2.8 per cent., and 9.7 per cent. respectively.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 71,026—a daily average of 2,959, as compared with 2,626 during the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,834, women for 664, and juveniles for 461. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 1,538; women, 649; and juveniles, 439.

Juveniles.—During the period, 24,114 applications were re-ceived from boys, and 26,432 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 6,257, and 5,374 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 6,747 vacancies were notified, and 5,705 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 20.5 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school

Statistics relating to Building Trades (men) and to Domestic Service occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 5th March have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below :--

and the outstanding features are dealt with below:-In the building trades 8,743 vacancies were notified for men and 7,704 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations con-cerned were: Carpenters, 1,960 vacancies notified and 1,695 filled; bricklayers, 1,392 vacancies notified and 1,105 filled; painters, 2,086 vacancies notified and 2,017 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,498 vacancies and 1,401 placings. The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 125,632† at 5th March, compared with 140,602† at 5th February.

5th February.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 5th March was 13,104. Of this number, 5,727 were for resident domestic servants, 2,608 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,546 for charwomen, and 569 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 654

Of the 8,402 vacancies filled, 2,403 were placings in resident domestic service, 1,854 as non-resident, 3,236 as charwomen, and 425 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 5th March for work in domestic services was 34,627, compared with 34,302

for work in comestic services was oright, contractions on 5th February. The figures above, except those in the first three paragraphs, are exclusive of dock labourers and coal porters. The number of casual jobs found for men in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 5th March was 1,401.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 26th March. 1923, there were on the Live Registers 970,000 men, 198,000 women, and 75,000 juveniles, compared with 1,165,000 men, 235,000 women, and 85,800 juveniles at 1st January, 1923. † Workmen on short time are not included.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas and for the principal towns therein the number of persons remaining on the "live registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th March, 1923. In certain cases, *e.g.*, Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., the figures cover more than one Exchange Area Exchange Area :--

Area.	Numbe	er of Person Registers a	is remainin t 26th Mar	ng on the ch, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles	. Total.	with 26th Feb., 1923.
London South Eastern Division. Brighton Chatham Ipswich Norwich Rest of South Eastern South Western Division	62,052 2 948 3,226 3,712 4,108 48,058	8,312 685 372 339 361 6,555	13,292 5,830 530 594 368 140 4,198 6,510	76,194 4,163 4,192 4,419 4,609 58,811	$ \begin{array}{r} - 7,617 \\ - 456 \\ + 62 \\ - 17 \\ + 61 \\ - 7,267 \\ \end{array} $
Bristol Plymouth Portsmouth Reading Southampton Swindon Rest of South Western	12,863 5,888 5,936 1,871 6,233 1,160 34,365	2,625 934 592 180 645 162 4,433	1,405 566 791 323 540 247 2,638	16,893 7,388 7,318 2,374 7,418 1,569 41,436	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$
Midlands Division Birmingham Coventry Cradley Heath Derby Leicester Northampton Nottingham Smethwick Stoke-on-Trent West Bromwich Wolverhampton Rest of Midlands	3,398 3,747 3,078 2,108 1,695 6,567 4,501 6,495 4,406 2,804 6,345 47,402	9,573 477 826 346 355 370 1,237 1,315 3,648 875 602 1,980 9,261	8,158 1,273 82 131 262 36 68 371 411 475 1,107 202 365 3,375	43,093 3,957 4,704 3,686 2,499 2,133 8,175 6,227 10,618 6,388 3,608 8,690 60,038	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
North-Eastern Division Barnsley Bradiord Darlington Darlington Dewsbury Doncaster Gateshead Grimsby Halifax Hattlepool Huil Leeds Newcastle-on-Tyne Rotherham Stockton-on-Tees Sunderland York Rest of North-Eastern	182,717 1,712 4,200 1,966 1,190 350 6,153 2,108 1,592 6,630 9,243 14,159 3,356 7,432 17,515 1,271 23,819 5,615 1,3852 1,711 50,296	16,402 120 528 173 321 160 567 169 249 201 591 1,612 418 312 1,243 160 2,625 343 3177 845 338 4,991	$\begin{array}{c} 10,521\\ 91\\ 91\\ 70\\ 101\\ 68\\ 114\\ 509\\ 172\\ 13\\ 336\\ 118\\ 897\\ 505\\ 113\\ 230\\ 1,142\\ 227\\ 1,407\\ 273\\ 253\\ 789\\ 692\\ 2,391\\ \end{array}$	1,923 4,798 2,240 1,579	$ \begin{vmatrix} - & 1,087 \\ - & 766 \\ - & 400 \\ - & 113 \end{vmatrix} $
North Western Division Accrington Ashton-under-Lyne Barrow Birkenhead Blackburn Blackburn Blackpool Botton Burnley Burnley Chorley Burnley Burnley Burnley Burnley Chorley Burnley Bur	191,722 2,758 4,093 7,983 5,713 4,429 1,012 5,108 3,489 961 41,658 26,937 4,250 4,250 2,373 4,538 2,135 2,373 40,387 64,291 7,645 1,636 5,930 3,338 2,373 40,387 64,291 7,645 1,636 5,930 3,034 25,975 3,034 25,975 2,147 17,398 2,147 7,520	71,383 1,021 2,128 446 495 3,084 46 67 6 1,239 3,063 1,454 282 7,055 5,923 5,293 4,000 3,277 2,889 2,881 24,804 849 234 2,285 10,721 929 241 654 6,818 2,782 683 101 190 227 1,581 15,015 10,114 539 865 380 245 2,872	18,261 18,261 247 449 658 952 424 455 236 452 236 452 236 452 236 3,921 1,609 41 1,393 676 606 676 606 306 315 116 664 3,792 9,867 4,498 354 301 2,552 2,663 643 600 149 190 1,084 159 9 241	281,366 4.026 4.026 6,670 9,087 7,160 7,933 1,733 6,583 7,004 3,602 1,306 52,634 9,263 9,263 9,263 8,856 6,334 12,666 6,334 12,666 6,403 67,678 179,001 7,761 4,760 9,963 13,709 79,510 8,958 1,92 6,855 45,553 45,553 2,918 3,451 28,976 4,551 45,511 28,978 1,093 1,034 10,633 10,043 10,633	$\begin{array}{r} & 0.034 \\ + & 10.084 \\ + & 1.020 \\ + & 1.372 \\ - & 361 \\ - & 1.340 \\ + & 991 \\ - & 370 \\ + & 79 \\ - & 1.859 \\ + & 233 \\ - & 1.641 \\ - & 1.641 \\ - & 1.641 \\ - & 1.641 \\ - & 1.641 \\ - & 233 \\ + & 292 \\ + & 292 \\ - & 251 \\ - & 292 \\ - & 251 \\ - & 292 \\ - & 251 \\ - & 292 \\ - & 251 \\ - & 292 \\ - & 205 \\ - & 5,355 \\ - & 5,157 \\ - & 205 \\ - & 5,355 \\ - & 5,157 \\ - & 205 \\ - & 5,251 \\ - & 205 \\ - & 5,355 \\ - & 5,157 \\ - & 292 \\ - & 323 \\ - & 323 \\ - & 323 \\ - & 323 \\ - & 324 \\ - & 79 \\ + & 31 \\ - & 1,198 \\ \end{array}$
Ireland Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland	7,520 999,500	2,872 213,453	241 75,985	10,633 1,388,938	- 1,198 - 87,471

INEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, sub-stantially all persons for whom Health Insurance contributions have been paid, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Employees of local authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme, may, in certain circumstances, be excepted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under 16 years of age. An applicant for unemployment benefit must, *inter alia*, prove continuous unem-ployment, and it is provided that two periods of unemployment of not less than two days each, separated by a period of not

	TRACE		mhanal		TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.									
Industry.	1	-	mber of xpeople.	Unem	Number o ployment ining lodg h Mar., 19	Books		ercenta nemploy		CO	-) or Dec. npared w h Feb., 19	ith		
	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total		
Ilding and Construction of Works :- Building Construction of Works other than Building.	763,000 111,590	5,790 830	768.790 112,420	116,178 21,658 107,129	261 27 441	116 439 21,685 107,570	15·2 19·4 30·3	4·5 3·3 7·8	15·1 19·3 30·0	-3.3 -1.8 -2.1	- 0.7 - 0.3 - 0.5	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 3.3 \\ - & 1.8 \\ - & 2.1 \end{vmatrix}$		
pbuilding	353,020 1,077.840 186.380 182.410 175,500	5.620 74,890 30,410 39,270 65,410	358,640 1,152,730 216,790 221,680 240,910	198,018 19,627 19,627 19,623	4,998 2,414 2,750 4,490	203,016 22.064 22,506 24,113	18·4 10·5 10·8 11·2	6·7 8·0 7·0 6·9	17.6 10.2 10.2 10.2	$ \begin{array}{r} - 1.2 \\ - 1.5 \\ - 1.5 \\ - 0.8 \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} - & 0.5 \\ - & 0.4 \\ - & 0.4 \\ - & 0.5 \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} - 12 \\ - 13 \\ - 10 \\ - 07 \end{array} $		
tal Trades : Iron, steel, Tinplate, and Galvanized Sheet Manufacture. Brass, Copper, Zinc, etc., Manufacture Electrical and Surgical Instruments,	293,880 51,770 66,560	14,270 13,230 38,260	308,150 65,000 104,820	46,147 8,190 7,132	1,080 1.388 2,646	47,227 - 9,578 9,778	- 15·7 15·8 10·7	7.6 10.5 6.9	15·3 14·7 9·3	-1.9 -1.8 -1.4	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 0.2 \\ - & 0.7 \\ - & 0.1 \end{vmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 13 \\ - & 13 \\ - & 13 \end{vmatrix}$		
etc. Hand Tools, Cutlery, etc Needles, Pins, Steel Pens, Dies, Seals,	20,640 5,440	8,360 9,750	29,000 15,190	3,641 578	1,091 965	4,732 1,543	17·6 10·6	13·1 9·9	16·3 10·2	- 1·3 - 0·5	-1.6 - 0.6	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 1 \\ - & 0 \end{vmatrix}$		
etc. Wire and Wire Goods Bolts, Nuts, Screws. Chains, Anchors, etc.	21, 650 20,06 0	6,230 15,320	27,880 35,380	2,103 4,214	495 2,281	2,603 6,495	9.7 21.0	7·9 14·9	9·3 18·4	- 2.5 - 1.3	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 1 \cdot 1 \\ - & 1 \cdot 4 \end{vmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 2 \\ - & 1 \end{vmatrix}$		
Hardware and Hollow-ware	58,100 30,630 36,100	49,230 20,570 16,620	107,330 51,200 52,720	7,203 4,275 3,415	6.310 1,814 1,598	13,513 6,089 5,013	12·4 14·0 9·5	12.8 8.8 9.6	12·6 11·9 9·5	- 0.8 - 0.5 - 0.5	-1.6 -0.6 -0.3	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 1 \\ - & 0 \\ - & 0 \\ - & 0 \\ \end{vmatrix}$		
beer and Leather Trades:- Rubber & Rubber & Waterproof Goods Leather and Leather Goods ok, Tile, etc terv. Earthenwars, etc ss Trades (excluding Optical, Scientific,	34,890 48.040 68,470 36,930 37,900	30,120 21,250 8,910 34,650 7,730	65,010 69,290 77,380 71,580 45,630	4,761 5,167 8,449 3,713 7,567	2,510 2,043 1,161 4,264 671	7,271 7,210 9,610 7,977 8,238	13.6 10.8 12.3 10.1 20.0	8·3 9·6 13·0 12·3 8·7	11-2 10-4 12-4 11-1 18-1	$\begin{array}{rrrr} - & 0.9 \\ - & 1.0 \\ - & 1.8 \\ - & 1.2 \\ - & 1.0 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 0 \\ - & 0 \\ - & 1 \\ - & 1 \\ - & 1 \\ - & 0 \\ \end{vmatrix}$		
to.). al College, Club, etc., Services indry Service	86,470 15,980 120,610	190,560 87,730 81,640	277.030 103,710 202,250	11,969 1,304 8,675	15,394 4,2 <i>2</i> 9 2,545	27,363 5,533 11,220	13·8 8·2 7·2	8·1 4·8 3·1	9-9 5-3 5-5	$\begin{array}{c} - & 0.9 \\ - & 0.8 \\ - & 0.3 \end{array}$	0·3 - 0·3 - 0·2	- 0 [.]		
nsport Services:	241,530 93,900 158,410 110,810 190,040 32,780	12,670 5,190 4,080 1,490 2,940 5,560	254,200 104,090 162,490 112,300 192,980 38,340	16,909 3,900 26,898 2 : 787 37,1 24 6,409	601 155 111 113 359 538	17,510 4,055 27,009 22,900 37,483 6,947	7.0 3.9 17.0 20.6 19.5 19.6	4·7 3·0 2·7 7·6 12·2 9·7	6·9 3·9 16·6 20·4 19·4 18·1	$\begin{array}{rrrrr} - & 0.8 \\ - & 0.3 \\ - & 0.8 \\ - & 1.8 \\ - & 0.5 \\ - & 1.8 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{rrrrr} + & 0.2 \\ - & 0.3 \\ - & 0.4 \\ - & 2.4 \\ - & 0.8 \\ - & 1.4 \end{array}$	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 0 \\ - & 0 \\ - & 0 \\ - & 1 \\ - & 0 \\ - & 1 \\ - & 1 \\ \end{vmatrix}$		
Ing Industry:- Coal Mining and Ironstone Quarrying Other Mining Quarrying (other than Ironstone), Clay, Sand, etc., Digging.	1,214,990 22,920 9,810 59,330	9,670 60 230 770	1,224,660 22,980 10,040 60,100	43,308 3,713 2,240 3,800	437 14 54	43,745 3,713 2,254 3,854	3.6 16.2 22.8 6.4	4·5 6·1 7·0	3.6 16.2 22.5 6.4	- 0.5 - 3.8 - 2.0 - 1.1	$ \begin{vmatrix} - & 11.7 \\ - & 0.9 \\ - & 0.5 \end{vmatrix} $	- 0 - 3 - 1 - 1		
nting and Paper Trades — Paper Making and Staining Manufactured Stationery Printing. Publishing and Bookbinding	43,340 22,220 131,330	17,660 47,980 81,820	61,000 70,200 213,150	3,273 1,577 8,661	1.073 3.023 3,897	4,346 4,600 12,558	7.6 7.1 6.6	6·1 6·3 4·8	7·1 6·6 5·9	- 0.4 - 0.5 - 0.8	$ \begin{array}{r} + & 0.1 \\ - & 0.2 \\ - & 0.4 \end{array} $	- ŭ - Ŭ - Ū		
ctile Trades:	220.320 111,820 11,460 28,270 11,930 7,250	381,150 156,570 22,050 62,480 30,180 14,870	601,470 268,390 33,510 90,750 42,110 22,120	32,267 5,918 762 4,567 1,686 920	54,984 3,195 1,029 12,013 3,480 1,727	87,251- 9,113 1,791 16,580 5,166 2,647	14.6 5.3 6.6 16.2 14.1 12.7	14·4 2·0 4·7 19·2 11·5 11·6	14.5 3.4 5.3 18.3 12.3 12.0	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	$\begin{array}{rrrr} + & 3.6 \\ - & 0.4 \\ - & 0.5 \\ - & 0.7 \\ - & -7 \\ + & 1.5 \end{array}$	+ 3 - 0 - 0 + 0		
facture. Hosiery Trade	19,080 10,860 9,990 78,600 13,200	65,560 16,960 14,050 26,620 31,340	84,64) 27,820 24,040 105,220 44,540	793 1,881 393 5,519 1,144	1,883 1,108 378 1,638 2,697	2,681 2,983 771 7,157 3,841_	4.2 17.3 3.9 7.0 8.7	2·9 6·5 2·7 6·2 8·6	3.2 10.7 3.2 6.8 8.6	$\begin{array}{rrrrr} + & 0.2 \\ - & 4.3 \\ - & 0.1 \\ - & 1.0 \\ - & 0.5 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + & 0.5 \\ - & 0.5 \\ - & 0.5 \\ + & \overline{0.2} \end{array}$	+ 0 - 2 - 0 - 0		
thing Trades — Tailoring Trades Dress etc., Making, Millinery, Furriers, etc.	65,810 22,450	132,680 214,750	198,490 237,200	5,961 1,787	6,732 11,565	12,693 13,352	9·1 8·0	5·1 5·4	6·4 5·6	- 2.7 - 0.6	- 3·1 - 1·8	- 3		
Hats, Caps and Bonnets Corset Trade	13 190 2.160 97.300 18,790	20,880 12,180 53,080 23,000	34,070 14.340 150 380 41,790	1,290 113 10,655 1,987	1,057 629 2,324 1,224	2,347 742 12,979 3,211	9.8 5.2 11.0 10.6	5·1 5·2 4·4 5·3	6·9 5·2 8·6 7·7	$ \begin{array}{r} - 1.0 \\ - 0.2 \\ + 0.4 \\ - 0.6 \end{array} $	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 0.6 \\ + & 0.1 \\ + & 0.6 \\ - & 0.8 \end{vmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 0 \\ + & 0 \\ - & 0 \end{vmatrix}$		
d Drink and Tobacco : Manufacture of Food and Drink Tobacco, Cigar and Cigarette Manu- facture	270.310 13,990	174,790 32,970	445,100 46,960	25,862 1,301	20,123 3,363	45,935 4,664	9.6 9.3	11.5 10.2	10·3 9·9	- 0.2 + 0.5	$\begin{bmatrix} - & 0.2 \\ + & 1.7 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} - & 0 \\ + & 1 \end{vmatrix}$		
cellaneous Trades and Services : Public Utility Services Olicloth, Linoleum and Cork Carpets Distributive Trades National and Local Government Service.	216,270 9,800 573,720 250,240	12,580 3,370 437,800 73,780	228,850 13.170 1,011,520 324,020	16,697 558 45,180 26,742	488 117 23,024 3,461	17,185 675 68,204 30,203	7·7 5·7 7·9 10·7	3·9 3·5 5·3 4·7	7.5 5.1 6.7 9.3	$\begin{array}{rrrr} - & 0.3 \\ - & 0.4 \\ - & 0.3 \\ - & 0.4 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{rrrr} - & 0.6 \\ + & 0.2 \\ - & 0.3 \\ - & 0.6 \end{array}$	- 0 - 0 - 0		
Professional Services	63,160 160 790	69,550 59,410	132,710 220,200	3,737 40,578	1,705 5,869	5,442 46,447	5·9 25·2	2.5 9.9	4·1 21·1	- 03 - 06	- 0.1 - 0.3	- 0		
TOTAL	8,541,030	3,209,420	11,750,450	1,059,387	244,089	1,303,476	12.4	7.6	11.1	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 0'		

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THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE.

more than two days, during which the insured contributor has not been employed for more than 24 hours, or two periods of unemployment of not less than six days each, separated by an interval of not more than six weeks, shall be treated as continuous unemployment for this purpose. Persons employed in establish-ments where, owing to trade depression, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to fall within the above provision are accordingly eligible for benefit. Payment of unemployment benefit is subject to certain statutory conditions and disqualifications. The procedure requires the "lodging" of an unemployed person's unemployment book, and the record of books "lodged" thus affords a measure of the extent to which unemployment is prevalent in the insured industries. industries.

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TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade dis-putes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 52, as compared with 41 in the previous month and 46 in March, 1922. In these new disputes 47,000 workpeople were directly involved and 1,000 indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the directly and there the March, 1922. In these new disputes 47,000 workpeople were directly involved and 1,000 indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition 38,000 work-people were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 28 disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the begin-ning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 80, involving 86,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during March of 834,000 working days.

The largest dispute in progress was that which began in the Dundee jute industry on 23rd February and culminated on 23rd March in a general lockout, involving 29,000 workpeople (see page 123). Other large disputes affected about 10,000 building operatives in the Eastern Counties, 15,000 coal miners in Glamorganshire, and about 8,000 farm workers in Norfolk.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved (whether directly or indirectly) at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress :--

		er of Disp gress in M	Number of Work- people in-	Aggregate Duration inWorking		
Groups of Industries.	Started before 1st Mar.	Started in Mar.	Total.	volved in all Dis- putes in progress in Mar.	Days of all Dis- putes in progress in Mar.	
Building Mining & Quarrying Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	1 4 7	8 10 13	9 14 2)	13,000 24,000 2,000	173 000 150,000 16,000	
Textile Trades Agriculture and Fishing	3 2	3 1	6 3	32,000 11,000	313,000 138,00 0	
Printing, Paper, etc., Trades	2	2	4	1,000	26,000	
Other Trades	9	15	24	3,000	18,000	
Total, Mar., 1923	28	52	80	86,000	834,000	
Total, Feb., 1923	36	41	77	40,000	337,000	
Total, Mar., 1922	51	46	97	246,000†	2,980,000†	

Causes.—Of the 52 disputes beginning in March, 17, directly involving 22,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 10, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 11, directly involving 20,000 workpeople, on questions of unionism and non-unionism; and 14, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on other guestions.

April, 1923.

Results .- Settlements were effected during March in the case *Results.*—Settlements were effected during March in the case of 30 new disputes, directly involving 25,000 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, directly involving 1,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 18, directly involving 20,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 15, directly involv. ing 5,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 dis. putes, directly involving 160 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1922 AND 1923. * The following Table gives comparative statistics of disputes occurring in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the first three months of 1922 and 1923 :--

				January to March, 1923.				
Groups of Industries.	Number of Dis- putes.	Number of Work- people involved in all Dis- putes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Work- ing Days of all Dis- putes in progress,	Number of Dis- putes.	Number of Work- people involved in all Dis putes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Work. ing Days of all Dis. putes in progress.		
Building Mining and Quarrying Engineering and Ship- building Other Metal Textile Clothing Transport Agriculture and Fishing Printing, Paper, &c., Trades	23 37 19 14 2 9 19 2 3	3,000 25,000 213,000 12,000 2,00, 1,000 2,000 1,000	51,000 353,000 2,470,000† 273,000 43,000 8,000 24,000 39,000 32,000	14 50 19 13 10 6 8 3 5	$\begin{array}{c} 13,000\\ 52,000\\ 3,000\\ 1,000\\ 32,000\\ 3,000\\ 1,000\\ 11,000\\ 6,000\\ \end{array}$	175,000 400,000 25,000 15,000 330,000 19,000 11,000 150,000 117,000		
Woodworking and Fur- nishing	8 6 16 16 16 174	1,000 2,000 2,000 3,000 270,000	26,007 34,000 26,000 40,000 3,419,000	7 6 19 5 165	1,000 1,000 2,000 2,000 128,000	12,000 19,000 10,000 15,000 1,298,000		

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING MARCH, 1923.

Occupations and Locality.	Approx Number o people In	f Work-	Date who	en Dispute		The last state of the state	
	Directly. Indi- rectly.§		Began.	Ended.	Cause or Object.§	Result.§	
BUILDING TRADES : Building trades operatives Eastern Counties of England.	10,000		1 Mar.		Against proposed reduction in the rate of wages of painters below that of craftsmen in the	No settlement reported,	
Masons, bricklayers, joiners, slaters, plumbers and labour- ersGlasgow and West of Scotland.	2,000		5 Mar.	6 Mar.	other building trades. Against proposed reduction in wages of masons, bricklayers and labourers.	Proposal suspended.	
MINING AND QUARRYING:- Coal miners, etcNewport, Mon. (near).	2,300		5 Feb.		Refusal to work with non-mem- bers of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	No settlement reported.	
Coal miners, etc.—Maesteg, Garw, Ogmore and Gilfach Districts of Glamorganshire. METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIP- BUILDING TRADES :—	15,000		19 Mar.	22 Mar.¶	Refusal to work with non-mem- bers of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Non - members joined the Federation.	
Shipyard painters—Beliast TEXTILE TRADES :—	800		8 Mar.	14 Mar.	For advance in wages	Claim promised special considera tion.	
Cotton spinners, etc.—Stockport	939		22 Feb.	••	Against proposed change in piece price list, involving reduction	No settlement reported.	
Jute workers-Dundee AGRICULTURE AND FISHING ;-	29,000**		23 Feb.		in wages. See page 123.	No settlement reported.	
Fishing vessels' skippers, mates and crewsAberdeen.	700	2,400††	24 Feb.		Against landing of fish from German trawlers.	No settlement reported.	
Farm workers-Norfolk.	8,000‡‡		12 Mar.§§		Dispute arising out of proposed reduction in standard rate of wages from 6d. to 5½d. per hour, and increase in stan- dard working hours from 50 to	No settlement reported.	
OTHER TRADES : Manufacturing stationery, etc., employes London. Packers, porters, etc. (H.M. Sta-	748	••	9 Mar.		54 per week. Dispute arising out of objection to non-unionists.	No settlement reported.	
tionery Office)-London.	596	•	28 Mar.		Dispute arising out of refusal of workpeople to handle goods both to and from firm involved in strik ⁿ .	No settlement reported.	

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. † Disputes involving 130,000 workpeople in the engineering industry and 80,000 workpeople in shipyards were in progress in March, 1922. ‡ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the extent of such duplication is, however, very slight. § The occupations printed in italies are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes where the disputes are to be disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons [] Estimated number who ceased work. By the end of March the number absent from work was reported to have been considerably reduced. ¶ Date of termination of the dispute in the Garw district. In the Maesteg, Ogmore and Gilfach districts the dispute ended on 21st March. † In addition, about 250 market porters were rendered idle in connection with the dispute.

imated figure.

t Estimated figure. Date of commencement of dispute in a few districts. The numbers involved were considerably increased on 17 March and further augmented on 26 March.

April, 1923.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 920,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £650 in the wages of over 16,000 workpeople. The groups of industries principally affected are shown below :--

Group of Industries.	Appro Number people af	of Work-	Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.		
A STATE AND	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
Mining and Quarrying	12,000	665,000	£ 500	£ 35,600	
Iron and Steel, Sh p- building and Other Metal Food and Drink	4,000 	117,000 62,000 73,000	-130 -20	8,200 7,400 13,000	
Total	16,250	917,000	650	64,200	

The principal decreases in the mining group affected coal miners, whose wages were reduced in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midland area, Radstock and Scotland, the amount of reduction varying from under $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates in Radstock to nearly 3 per cent. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. In the case of iron ore miners in Cumber-land and the Furness district wages were increased by 2d. and

d. per shift respectively. In the metal group there were small reductions in the wages of emi-skilled men and labourers in steel melting shops generally, n puddling forges and rolling mills in the North of England, and n steel works in the West of Scotland. Men employed in nonin steel works in the West of Scotland. Men employed in non-federated shipyards at Belfast and in ship-repairing yards on the Mersey had their wages reduced by amounts varying from 2d. to to 2s. 6d. per week. Electric cable makers and heating and domestic engineers also sustained decreases. There was a reduc-tion of $\frac{1}{2}d$. per hour in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for men employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade. Blastfurnace workers in West Cumberland and wares trade. Blastfurnace workers in West Cumberland and North Lancashire received an increase in wages. In the food and drink trades there were reductions in the wages of male workers employed in the flour milling industry, amounting to 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week in the case of men and 1s. to 2s. per week in the case of youths 18 to 21 years of age. The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the milk distributive trade in England and Wales employed in the milk distributive trade in England and wates were reduced by amounts varying from 6d. to 5s. 6d. per week. Brewery workers at Burton also sustained a decrease. In other trades the principal reductions affected furniture trade operatives, mill sawyers and packing case makers in Scotland, fellmongers, and men employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire and the West Under the Trade Boards Acts, in addition to the reductions

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923.

NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in March, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during March are also included. The weekly rates quoted are in respect of a full ordinary working week and do not take into account the effect of short time working.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
		1	MINING AND QUARRY	NG.
	Northumberland			Decrease of 3.42 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 95.30 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a sub-
	Durham	Nation and	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or	bi 1879, subject to toot, but day. Sistence wage of 6s. 94d. per day. Decrease of 534 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 9168 per cent. above the standar of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a sub sistence wage of 6s. 84d. per day.
Coal Mining	Yorkshire and East Midland Areat Radstock	1 Mar.	about coal mines, other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other indus- tries	Decrease of 4.4 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 45.21 per cent. [‡] above th standard of 1911. Decrease of 0.58 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages 32.17 per cent. above the standar
	Scotland			of 1918. Decrease of 1.21 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, leaving wages 12419 per cent. above the standar of 1888, subject to the subsistence allowance for su face workers, operative from 1 January, 1922. (Se p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE.)

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, egricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, however, so far as reported to the Department, are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to weekly full-time rates of wages, on the basis of employment of the full numbers of persons in the respective industries.
 † Viz, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.
 ‡ In the case of West Yorkshire the surface worke is percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st March was 43:55 for the Eastern area and 40:21 for the Western Area.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

mentioned above, there were decreases in the minimum rates fixed for most classes of workpeople employed in the rope, twine and net trade in Great Britain, the retail bespoke tailor-ing, and brush and broom trades in Northern Ireland, and also for male workers in the retail bespoke tailoring trade in Great Britain, and for female workers in the retail bespoke dress-making trade in Northern Ireland. Of the decreases taking effect in March 21 amounting to

Of the decreases taking effect in March, 21, amounting to £36,000 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the £36,000 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or on selling prices; 8, amounting to nearly £13,000 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders (including £350 under a cost of living sliding scale); 12, amount-ing to £6,600 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £950 under a cost of living sliding scale); 13, amounting to £2,250 per week (including the amounts mentioned above) took effect under cost of living sliding scales; two, amounting to £250 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining 36 cases, amounting to £7,500 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. Reductions in wages preceded by disputes involving per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. Reductions in wages preceded by disputes involving stoppages of work accounted for less than £20 per week. Nine increases in wages were reported in March, six of which, amount-ing to nearly £500 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices, the remaining three increases being arranged by direct negotiation.

Summary of Changes in January march, 20		Summary o	of Changes	in	January-March, 192	3.
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Group of Industries.	Approx Number peo affected	of Work- ple	Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.		
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
			£	£	
Building and Allied Trades Mining and Quarrying Iron and Steel Engineering, Shipbuild	100 138,000 19,000	25,000 557,000 162,000	10 17,100 900	7,700 12 0 00 8,000	
ing, &c Other Metal Textile Clothing Transport	600 9,000 7,000 2,700	148,000 76,000 55,000 238,000 48,000	15 145 440 540	24,000 10,900 5,100 47,500 7,900	
Furniture and Wood- working	196 - CERT	27,000	-	4,700	
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c Food, Drink and Tobacco Public Utility Services Other		22,000 107,000 79,000 35,000	25 315	3,300 17,100 10,500 4,300	
Total	187,000	-1,579,000	19,490	163,000	

In the corresponding three months of 1922 there was a net reduction of $\pounds 1,210,000$ in the weekly wages of nearly 5,900,000 workpeople, and a net increase of about $\pounds 3,400$ in the wages of 20.000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported during March.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE.

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April, 1923.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARC

du stry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
	the second s	in an	MINING AND QUARRYING-	c ontinued).			EN	GINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, E	TC.—(continued).
and ducts	West Yorkshire	Week com- mencing	Cokemen and by-product	Decrease of 5-34 per cent. on standard base rates, leav- ing wages 91:68 per cent. above the standard, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day. Uniform addition of 47 per cent. made payable on basis rates. Rates after change for able-bodied work- men 21 years of age and over coke filters for the	Engineering, Shipbuilding,	Portsmouth		000.)	Decrease in war bonus of 1s. per week.*
cture	South Yorkshire	12 Mar.	workers	 Inducts 91 05 per cent. above the standard, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day. Uniform addition of 47 per cent. made payable on basis rates. Rates after change for able-bodied workmen 21 years of age and over: coke fillers, 6s. 2d. ram men and pipe fitters, 6s.; tar distiller men and leyellers, 5s. 11d.; trammers, values, daubers, quenchers, sulphate and benzol men, 5s. 9d.; washery men and washery enginemen, 5s. 6d.; pug mill men and labourers, 5s. 4d., plus in each case 47 per cent. Decrease of 4.4 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 45.21 per cent. above the standard. Increaset of 2d. per shift in the bargain price (9s. 7d. to 9s. 9d.) and of 2d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 11d. to 7s. 1d.). Increaset of 14d. per shift (8s. 5d. to 8s. 64d.). Increaset of 3d. per shift (8s. 4d. to 8s. 7d.) in the bargain price for miners, of 3d. per shift. (7s. 7d. to 7s. 10d.) in the minimum wage, of 24d. per shift for boys under 16. 	Ship- repairing, etc. (contd.)	Belfast (non- federated firms)	1 Mar.	Men employed in the shipbuild- ing, engineering, etc., trades	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 Ja were 52s. 6d. per week or over, and for piecewo with smaller amounts for timeworkers whose (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per and no reduction for those whose wages (inc 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were 3 per week or under.
((Including to the second secon	19 Mar.	Iron ore miners	ing wages 45.21 per cent. above the standard. Increased of 2d. per shift in the bargain price (9s. 7d. to 9s. 9d.) and of 2d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 11d. to 7s. 1d.).	A state of the second	the all a photo member	lon die ord Longi, obere	OTHER METAL TRADE	
ing	Cumberland Furness		Winding enginemen Other underground and surface workers Iron ore miners and surfacemen	Increase of 11d. per shift (8s. 5d. to 8s. 61d.). Increase of 1d. per shift for men and of 1d. for boys under 16. Rate after change for underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 3d. per shift.	the states the	Middlessex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire			Decreases of 2s. 4d. per week for men 21 year over, of 1s. 8d. per week for youths 18 years, of 8d. per week for boys 14 to 17 yea 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years. Rates change: men 21 years and over, 50s. 52d. to 56 youths 18 to 20 years, 35s. to 42s. 10d.; boys 14 years, 13s. 6d. to 23s. 32d.; women 18 years and 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 1 17s. 6d.
	West Cumberland	021487	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements) Limestone quarrymen	gain price for miners, of 3d. per shift (7s. 7d. to 7s. 10d.) in the minimum wage, of 2 ¹ / ₂ d. per shift for surfacemen, and of 1 ¹ / ₂ d. per shift for boys under 16.	energi itagin tak keke yar	and Berkshire	3rd pay	Workpeople employed in the	of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years. Rate change: men 21 years and over, 50s. 51d. to 56 youths 18 to 20 years, 35s. to 42s. 10d.; boys 1 years, 13s. 6d. to 23s. 32d.; women 18 years and
ying {	Leicestershire and		Granite quarrymen	Increaset of 1d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners and of 1 ¹ / ₂ d. per shift for other men and of ¹ / ₃ d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 4 ¹ / ₂ d. per shift; haulage enginemen, 8s. 0 ¹ / ₂ d.; day borers (1st class), 7s. 10 ¹ / ₂ d.; day labourers (1st class), 7s. 2 ¹ / ₂ d.; ruddmen, 6s. 8 ¹ / ₂ d. Decrease of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers and of ³ / ₂ d. per hour for timeworkers. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 11 ¹ / ₂ d. per hour.	Ar ann airtig an Ard Dicore 187 Chailter	Great Britain, other than the above counties	d y in Mar.	Workpeople employed in the electric cable making in- dustry (except plumber- jointers, etc.)	208. 6d. to SUS. 6d.; girla 14 to 17 years, 1 17s. 6d. Decreases of 2s. per week for men 21 years and of 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, per week for boys 14 to 17 years, of 1s. 6d. pe for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. pe for girls 14 to 17 years. Rates after change: years and over, 45s. to 51s.; youths 18 to 20 33s. to 39s. 6d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 12s. 9d. to 2 women 18 years and over, 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d. 14 to 17 years, 13s. to 17s. 6d. Decreases of from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 11d. per week. Further decreases of from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 11d. per week. Decreases of from 2s. 9d. to 3s. 11d. per week.
	Warwickshire		N AND STEEL SMELTING AND		Electric Cable Making	A SOLAT BURNING AND			for girls 14 to 17 years. Rates after change: years and over, 45s. to 51s.; youths 18 to 20 33s. to 39s. 6d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 12s. 9d. to 2 women 18 years and over, ‡ 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d 14 to 17 years 13s. to 17s. 6d
(West Cumberland and North Lan- cashire		Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen on maintenance work) employed at blastfur- naces		an the decents	North-East Coast District Yorkshire North - Western District of	{ 1 Feb. 18 Mar. 1 Mar. 1 Feb.	Viscos institutos bourds - vitatos tempera de contentes - les unas frem renaus - por	Decreases of from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 11d. per week. Further decreases of from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 11d. per Decrease of 3s. 11d. per week. Decreases of from 2s. 9d. to 3s. 11d. per week.
	England and West		Semi-skilled workers and labourers in steel melting shops:-	Decreaset of 21 per cent. on standard rates of 1921,		England South Wales and Monmouthshire West Midlands South Coast Dis-	1 Feb.	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates em- ployed in the electric cable making industry	Decreases of from 3s. to 5s. per week. Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week.
	of Scotland	11 Mar.	Men whose wages are based on a 47 hour week§	leaving wages 333 per cent. above the standard. Decreaset of $_{134}^{13}$ of the total amount of advance in wages between August, 1914 and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.	in 64th and and a second s	trict Devon and Corn- wall Scotland	a although an a little	Realized States and a second state of the second states and second	Decrease of 2s. per week. Decrease of 2s. per week. Decreases of from 2s. 7.64d. to 3s. 10.24d. per we
	ante ai		Semi - skilled workers and labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills:	and an action of special of the second product of the second seco	Heating and Domestic	England and Wales Scotland	1 Mar. 1 Mar.	Pipe fitters Pipe fitters and charge hands	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: A,§ 1s. 8d.; Grade B,§ 1s. 7½d.; Grade C,§ 1 Grade D,§ 1s. 5¾d. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates_after chang
and l oture	North of England	11 Mar.	Men whose wages are based on a 47 hour week§ Engineers, electricians, strikers,	Decrease of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages $33\frac{3}{2}$ per cent. above the standard. Decreaset of $1\frac{5}{12}$ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921. Decreaset of $1\frac{1}{12}$ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.	Engineering (to a start and a start and a start a s	(Male workers employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade:	fitters, 1s. 6½d.; charge hands-Glasgow and 1s. 7½d.; Edinburgh, 1s. 7½d. Decreases in the general minimum time and pi basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards follows (See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE)
a de a pr	render in A light for a light for		steel works		Stamped or Pressed	ADEAS ON ADEAS	26 Mar.	Workers employed as braziers, burnishers, drop- stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, or as annealers or polishers	Decreases in time rates of 1d. per hour for t years of age and over, of 1d. per hour for t years but under 21 years, and of 1d. per h those under 16 years; piecework basis time being fixed at the appropriate minimum time plus 25 per cent. of the time rates applicable,
128. 1	Barrow-in-Furness	the second s	WOTKS	Decreaset of 0.105d. per hour (1s. 2.37d. to 1s. 2.265d.). Decreaset of 0.10d. per hour (10.05d. to 9.95d.). Decreaset of 21 per cent., leaving wages 333 per cent. above the standard.	Metal Wares Manufacture	Great Britain	1 Mar.	Workers other than those employed as braziers, burn-	ing to the sliding scale, when the "cost of index number is less than 1. Decreases in time rates of 2d. per hour (112d. for those 21 years of age and over, and of 2d
	The design of the	II Mar.	ers in iron and steel works	Decrease of 0.12a. per hour (10.10d. to 9.98d.). Decreaset of 1^{2} of the total amount of advance in wages given between August 1914 and 30th April	L. BEL. DERDE.			ishers, drop - stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, or as annealers or polishers Surgical and dental instrument	per hour in certain time rates for those un years, piecework basis time rates being corr ingly reduced to 15 per cent. in excess of the priate minimum time rates. Addition of 55 per cent., previously paid, on
	West of Scotland	11 Mar.		1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921. Decreaset of 0.08d. per hour (9.30d. to 9.22d.).	Surgical, etc., Instrument Manufacture Nut and Bolt Manufacture	A LOS A MARCE MARCELLE	2nd pay day in	Adult male pieceworkers em- ployed in the nut and bolt	Addition of 623 per cent. on base piece-rate en previously paid, reduced to 60 per cent.
		Statul Contained	HINEERING SHIPBUILDING, ET	С.	Case-Hame,	A Second Street States	Mar.¶ $\int 5 Feb. $	trade Chain makers Cart-gear and odd workers	Decrease of 12 ¹ / ₂ per cent. Decrease of 10 per cent.
	Mersey District	5 Mar. M	ten employed in the ship-re- pairing trade (including engineers)	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were 52s. 6d. per week or over; and of smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages (in- cluding 10s where bonus) previous to the state of the second	Chain and Cart Gear Making	Walsall Newcastle, North and South	5 Mar 12 Feb.	Chain makers Cart-gear and odd workers Farriers	Further decrease of 121 per cent., leaving was per cent. above pre-war prices. Further decrease of 10 per cent., leaving wages cent. above pre-war prices. Decrease of 11d. per hour. Rates after chang men, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 51d.
ng, ng, g,			and a haven when donteen	cluding 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were 37s. 6d. per week or under.¶ Rates after change: angle-iron smiths and platers, 60s.; rivetters and caulkers, 54s.;	Farriery	and South Shields Wolverhampton	all an approximation	Farriers	men, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½a. Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after chang men, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d.
	Mersey District	5 Mar. Sa	THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE	smiths and platers, 60s.; rivetters and caulkers, 54s.; holders-up, 48s.; shipwrights, 54s.; ship joiners, 57s.; ship plumbers, 54s. 2d.; ship painters, 50s. 6d.; fitters and turners, 51s. 6d.; smiths, 52s.; labourers, 40s. 6d. Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week (52s. 6d. to 50s.).	Hosiery Manufacture	Dumfries and Dis- trict	lst week in Feb.	TEXTILE TRADES. Workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture	Decrease of 1d. in the shilling on rates fixed in ber, 1919, making a total reduction of 2d. shilling on those rates. Minimum rates after timeworkers-men, 46s. 8d.; women, 26s. 8d.

The 47 per cent. quoted is to operate until the first full pay in May. Future adjustments in wages are to be regulated quarterly by the price of coke.
† This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
‡ The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggers, fillers, etc., is 69½ in the Workington area and 64½ in the Furness area.
§ The men on 8-hour shifts referr d to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men mentioned.
Under an agreement arrived at between representatives of the employers and trade unions concerned it was arranged that in the case of men in receipt of base rates of 5s. per shift or less or 7.66d, per hour, or less, the reduction of 2½ per cent on base rates, or 1½ of war advances should take effect in two instalments, viz. :
It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 22nd January, 12th February and 5th March, making a total reduction after 5th March of 10s. per week in the case of workers whose wages, previous to 1st January, were 52s. 61. per week or more (including 10s.

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in September.

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* It was arranged that reductions, each of 1s. per week, were to be made on 1st December, 1922, 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st April, 1923.
* It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st April, making a total reduction after 1st April, of 10s per week in the case of pieceworkers and of timeworkers whose wages previous to 1st January were 52s. 6d. per week or more.
* Excluding any service bonus which may be due.
* Excluding any service bonus which may be due.
* Excluding any service bonus which may be due.
* The grades are as follows: Grade A: London. Grade B: Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Walsall, and all towns between, together with the Potteries District, Stafford, Coventry, Rugby, Tamworth, and Burton-on-Trent, Lancashire and Cheshire, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Scarborough. Grade C: Parts of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire not included above, and Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Cardiff and Bristol. Grade D: All other districts.
This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in accordance with the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number.
A decrease of 5 per cent. took effect on the 1st pay day in March, but it was subsequently agreed that the decrease in March should be limited to 2½ per cent.
A decrease of 5 per cent. took effect on the 1st pay day in March, but it was subsequently agreed that the decrease or should be limited to 2½ per cent.
And bat further reductions, each of 2½ per cent., should take effect on the 2nd pay day in June (in lieu of the 1st pay day as originally arranged) and the 1st pay day in September.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

April. 1923.

April, 1923.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
			TEXTILE TRADES—(continu	ed).				CLOTHING TRADES-(contra	nued).
		ani "Eni	Male workers	Decreases of from ½d. to 2d. per hour in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, and of 2d. or 2½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rates. Minimum time rates after change for those 21 years and over, 10d. to 11½d. per hour; piecework basis time rates (all ages), 11d. to 1s. 0½d. (See also p. 115 of	Retail Bespoke Tailoring (contd.)	Belfast	10 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the tailoring trade ("log" workers) AGRICULTURE AND FISH)	Rates adopted of 1s. 2d. per "log" hour in first clas shops, 1s. 1d. per "log" hour in second class shops and 1s. per "log" hour in third class shops, less 2 per cent. in each case. NG.
Bope, Twine and Net Manufacture	Great Britain	1 Mar. (Female workers	March GAZETTE.) Decreases of from ½d. to 1d. per hour in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, and of %d. or 1d. per hour in the piecework basis time rates. Minimum time rates after change for those 18 years and over, 6d. to 6%d. per hour; piecework basis time rates (all ages), 6½d. to 7½d. (See also p. 115 of March	Agriculture	Holland District Devonshire Somerset	5 Mar. 26 Mar. 25 Mar.	Adult male labourersMale labourersAdult male labourers	Rate of 63d. per hour adopted for a week of 54 hours. Rates adopted up to 29 September for a week of 5 hours, varying from 10s. at 14 and under 15 to 21s at 18 and under 19, and to 30s. at 21 and over.† Rate of 27s. adopted for a week of 54 hours.*
anere si . ; ;	the and the first show the		Pieceworkers	GAZETTE.) Reduced scale of minimum piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. (See also p. 115 of March GAZETTE.)	Fishing	Swansea	1 Mar.	Crews of trawlers	Decrease of 4s. per week for boatswains and of 5s. pe week for other classes. Rates after change: boat swains, 66s. per week, plus 6s. per £100 gross takings deck hands and cooks, 55s. per week, plus 2s. 6d. pe £100 gross; firemen, 62s. per week.
Boot and	Northern Ireland	5 Ma:.	Pieceworkers employed in the	New list of minimum net piece rates, fixed under the		when for a line a		PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIE	
Shoe Repairing			boot and shoe repairing trade	Trade Boards Acts, for making and repairing in lieu of the minimum piece rates, subject to deductions of 12½ per cent. to 20 per cent. previously fixed. (See also p. 115 of March GAZETTE.)	Printing	Manchester	Week enging 20 Jan.	Compositors, composing machine operators, etc., em- ployed in daily newspaper offices	Decrease of 3s. per week.
			Female workers other than learners and also except those 20 yea s and over with not less than two years' experience	Decrease in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for Class A ,* of $\frac{1}{2}d$. per hour for homeworkers, and of 1d. per hour for other workers, and for Class B ,* of 1d. per hour for all workers. Minimum time and piece-	and the second of the second o	and and and and a state of a	F	URNITURE AND WOODWORKIN	
Retail Respoke ressmaking	Northern Ireland	19 Mar. (after learnership who are fully qualified bodice, skirt, gown or blouse hands	Class A,* 72d., 82d., Class B,* 7d., 8d.	ratio calor	. one - stains - south		Journeymen	Decreases of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: skille processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane and cheap rus bottom chairmakers, packers, markers out an benders, 1s. 51d.
	Aller all aller		Female learners	New scales of minimum weekly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, starting at 6s. and 5s. for Class A* and Class B* respectively during 1st year, and increasing to 21s. and 18s. during 4th year.	sin at man	High Wycombe	Pay day in week ending 24 Mar.	Caners	Decreases of 1d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 2 and 23, and of 1d. per hour on Manchester rocker etc. (9d. to 81d.). Decreases of 1d. per chair on ordinary chairs, and pro portionate amounts on children's and kindergarte
10 100			Male workers (other than certain classes of learners and apprentices): With not less than five years'	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:- Decrease of 2d. per hour. Minimum time and piece-		TOL TOL STATES		Apprentices and learners	Decreases of from 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates afte change: 1st half-year, 10s. 6d., increasing to 32s. du
2012-201 10-11 10-11 10-11 10-11 10-11 10-11 10-11	Great Britain	1 Mar.	experience	Trade Boards Acts, starting at 6s. and 5s. for Cluss A* and Class B* respectively during 1st year, and increasing to 21s. and 18s. during 4th year. Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Decrease of 2d. per hour. Minimum time and piece- work basis time rates respectively after change: less than 1 year's employment after 5 years' apprentice- ship, 1s. 1d., 1s. 2d.; 1 year and less than 3 years, 1s. 2d., 1s. 3d.; not less than 3 years, 1s. 3d., 1s. 4d.; those employed on military dress uniforms (exclud- ing khaid), naval frock and aress uniforms, hunt coat and riding breeches, frock and dress coats and	Furniture Manufac-	<pre>//internation for the second commons. Shares and an inter internation of the reduktor in the second childheat all restrict anti-internation. So:</pre>		Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, up- holsterery sewers and sand paperers	ing 8th half-year. Decreases of 1d. per hour for men, ½d. per hour fo women, and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers. Minimur rates after change: Beith and Lochwinnoch, men 1s. 4d.; women, 8d.; Dundee and Kirkcaldy, men 1s. 4½d.; women, 8½d.; Glasgow, men, 1s. 5½d.; women 8½d.
200 52 1 10 5 300310/1031	in an and a start .		Other workers, except outters and trimmers Male timeworkers	Court and diplomatic garments, 1s. 5d., 1s. 6 ¹ / ₂ d. (See also pp. 114-5 of March GAZETTE.) Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum time rate after change, 1s. (See also pp. 114-5 of March GAZETTE.) Decrease of 8s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum	ture	Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Gree- nock, Kirkcaldy, Lochwinnoch and	lst full pay week in Mar.	Apprentices :	Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 20 per cen of the district minimum rates during 1st half of th 1st year, and increasing to 55 per cent. during 2n half of the 4th year.
henes C	Liverpool	Mar.	Male pieceworkers	rates after change: 60s.,† 64s. and 68s. Decrease of 1d. per log hour (London log). Log rates‡ after change: 1st class shops, 10½d.; 2nd class shops, 9¾d.; 3rd class shops, 9d. Trade Board rates tor timeworkers and niccomparture		Renfrew		All other male workers (5 years) Female workers (4 years)	Scale of minimum rates adopted, starting at 15 per cen of the district minimum rates during 1st year an increasing to 55 per cent. during 2nd half of the 5t year. Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 20 per cen
· · · · · ·			Log workers	to be paid (subject to higher rates for extra skill and experience); for those employed on log rates, the rates to be 1d. per hour less than for men. Decrease of 1d. per "log" hour (London "log"). Rates after change: males—No. 1 shops, 102d.; scheduled garments, 11d.; No. 2 shops, 92d.; scheduled gar- ments, 104d.; No. 3 shops, 9d. Females, 82d.	and as a	Aberdeen	1 Mar. {	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair- makers, upholsterers and french polishers	of the district minimum rates during 1st half of the 1st year, and increasing to 60 per cent. during th 2nd half of the 4th year. Decreases of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: woo carvers, 1s. 61d.; others, 1s. 51d.
			Pieceworkers	adopted for female workers so as to yield not less than 102d, per hour (42s, per meek) for morkers of	inci in inci inci inci inci inci inci inci inci	Tyne District Bristol	12 Mar. 6 Mar.	Women Labourers	Decreases of $\frac{1}{2}d$. per hour (9d. to $8\frac{3}{2}d$.). Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3d.). Decreases of $\frac{1}{2}d$. per hour (1s. $6\frac{1}{2}d$. to 1s. 6d.).
Retail espoke	Manchester	19 Mar. /	Male timeworkers	Grade I. as defined by the Trade Board, and 82d. per hour (34s. per week) for all other workers. Decreases of 6s. per week for Grade I. and II. workers, and 8s. per week for Grade III. workers. Rates after change: Grade I., 70s.; Grade II., 66s.; Grade	Mill Sawing	Scotland	2nd full pay in	sawyers employed in sawmills and box and packing case shops Woodcutting machinists	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after chang for journeymen, 1s. 41d.
ailoring	and the second s		Female timeworkers	III., 60s. Decreases of 2s. 6d. per week for Class A workers and 4s. per week for Class C workers, the rate for Class B workers remaining unchanged Rates after change.		Belfast	Mar. 6 Mar.	Sawyers and machinists	Decrease of 3s. 11d. per week. Rates after change sawyers, 60s. 5d. to 60s. 7d.; machinists, 63s. 1d. o 53s. 2d
		(Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade:	Class A workers, 42s. 6d.; Class B, 39s.; Class C, 30s. Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes			l Jan.	Yardmen and labourers Packing case makers	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week (43s. 6d. to 42s.). Decrease of 11d. per hour for men (1s. 81d. to 1s. 7d
A Partie La	and a strength a		Male workers: Not less than four years'	named respectively (see also p. 152):- Decreases of 2d. per hour for timeworkers and of 21d. and 2d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate for Class A and B respectively.§ Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 1s. 41d.; Class B, 1s. 5d. Decrease of 33d. and 13d. for Class A and B respec-	Packing Case Making	Manchester, Sal- ford and Bolton Scotland (except Aberdeen)	2nd full pay in Mar.	Packing case makers and wood- outting machinists employed in packing case shops	and of proportionate amounts for apprentices. Decrease of id. per hour for journeymen and of it per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: paci- ing case makers—Glasgow, 1s. 4id.; Edinburgh Leith, Dunfermline and Dundee, 1s. 3id.; wood cutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 4id.
	and the second sec		than four years' appren-	tively. Minimum time rates after change: Class A,		a distant a same for	ees : 1	FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO	and the second se
	Northern Ireland	10 Mar.(Male learners All other male workers (ex- cept cutters and trim- mers) Female workers:	1s. 2 ² / ₃ d.; Class B, 1s. 3 ¹ / ₃ d. Decreases varying from 1s. to 5s. 6d. per week. Decreases varying from 1s. to 6s. 6d. per week. Decreases varying from 3s. to 7s. 6d. and 1s. to 5s. 6d. per week in Class A and B respectively. [§] Minimum rates after change: Class A, under 15 years, 9s., in- creasing to 48s. 6d. at 22 and over. Class B, under 15, 11s., increasing to 50s. 6d. at 22 and over. Decrease of 1 ¹ / ₄ d. per hour. Minimum time rates after	Flour Milling	Great Britain¶		Male workers employed in the flour milling industry (includ- ing motor lorry drivers, carriers and horse carmen where previously included with mill employees)	Decreases, for those 21 years and over, of 2s. 6d. p. week for those in Class A, AA and B mills, and 2s. per week for those in Class BB and C mills, an of amounts varying from 1s. to 2s. per week for those 18 and under 21, the rates for those under 18 remains ing unchanged. Rates after change for men 21 an over: first rollermen-Grade IClass A, 68s.; Clas AA, 65s. 6d.; Class B, 63s.; Class BB, 59s. 6d.; Clas
			less than four years' ex-l perience, employed in cer- tain occupations.	changes: Class A, 104d.; Class B, 104d. Decrease of 1d. and 14d. per hour in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively. Minimum time rates after changes: Class A, 9d.;		atta a start, and atta atta a start, and atta a start a bita atta a start bita atta atta		teneri A later A later Manager All and the second of	A, 65.: Grade II.—Class A, 66s.; Class AA, 65s. 6d. Class B, 61s.; Class BB, 57s. 6d.; Class C, 54s.; Grad III.—Class BB, 55s. 6d.; Class C, 54s.; Grad labourers, etc., all grades—Class A, 52s.; Class AA 49s. 6d.; Class B, 47s.; Class BB, 43s. 6d.; Class C, 40a
			ployed as button-holers, finishers or machinists	Class B, 9 ¹ / ₂ d. Decreases varying from 1s. to 4s. 6d. per week.	* The rate was	a not agreed to by the Wo	rkers' side of	the Conciliation Committee, but formed on Committee set up under the Corn Pro	the subject of a recommendation by the Employers' Executive. duction Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921. rith the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number.

* Class A:-Workers employed within the areas of the County Boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry. Class B:-Workers employed in areas other than those specified in Class A.
† This rate is to be regarded as applying to old and slow workers.
‡ The log rates for special garments, *i.e.*, naval and military dress uniforms, hunt coats and breeches, frock and dress coats and court and diplomatic garments are is d. more in each case.
§ Class A.-Workers employed in (a) areas administered by Rural District Councils or (b) areas with a population not exceeding 2,000, as returned at the last ensus, administered by Urban District C uncils or other local authorities. Class B. - Those employed in other areas.
§ Other than machinists who do the whole machining on a garment.

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PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923-(continued).

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The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial comprised by each class was given on page 555 of the GAZ TTE for October, 1921. ** The reduction was arranged to take effect six clear weeks after the 1st pay day in February.

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PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923-(continued).

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S.s.

Indust y.	Locality.	Date from which change	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.	PRINCI	PAL CHANGES	IN RA	TES OF WAGES REPORT	TED DURING MARCH, 1923-(continued)
		took effect.	D, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRAD	(Decreases in italics.) ES-(continued).	Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
((Workpeople employed by co- operative societies:-	Decrease of 3s ner meets for adults and of 1s fd on					
	Certain towns in South Yorkshire and North Derby- shire, including Barnsley, Doncas- ter, Rotherham, Sheffield. Chester- field and Ponte- fract; also Grims- by	Pay day in week begin- upg 5 Mar.	Male workers Female workers	Decrease of 3s. per week for adults and of 1s. 6d. or 2s. 6d. per week for juniors. Bates after change: foremen, chargemen, singlehands, 70s. 6d.; dough- mixers, ovensmen, secondhands, 65s. 6d.; tablehands, 60s. 6d.; allied workers, 52s. 6d. Decreases of 2s. 6d. per week for those 18 and over and of 1s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years.	Co-opera- tive Distribution	Gloucester, Here- ford and Stroud	5 Mar.	ANEOUS TRADES AND OCCUPA Male assistants Female assistants	TiONS —(continued). New scale of rates adopted resulting in decreases from 6d. to 3s. per week (except for those of 22 yet for whom there was no change). Rate after cha at 23 years and over, 60s. New scale of rates adopted resulting in decreases from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. Rate after change 22 years and over, 36s.
Baking and			Workpeople employed by co- operative societies Male workers	Decrease of 3s. per week for adults and of 1s. 6d. or		due the real survey of		PUBLIC UTILITY SERVI	
Confec- ionery	Bradford, Dews- bury, Halifax, Harrogate, Hud- dersfield, Keigh- ley, Leeds, Wake- field and York	Pay day in week begin- ning 19 Mar.	Female workers	Decrease of 3s. per week for adults and of 1s. 6d. or 2s. 6d. per week for juniors. Bates after change: foreman, chargemen, singlehands, 70s. 6d.; dough- mixers, ovensmen and secondhands, 65s. 6d.; table- hands, 60s. 6d.; allied workers, 52s. 6d. Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for those 18 years and over, and of 1s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years.		North East Coast*			Bonus of 8½ per cent., previously paid, on total ea ings reduced to 4½ per cent. Minimum hourly ra after change for general indoor and outdoor labour respectively: Zone A, 7.25d., 7.75d.; Zone B, 6.56 7.05d.; Zone C, 6.28d., 6.75d.; plus, in each ca 21s. 9d. per week and 4½ per cent. Bates of wages adouted for electrical fitters and em
	Certain towns in North-East Lan- cashire* Bolton	10 Mar. 3 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners Bakers and confectioners	Decrease of 4s. per week for adults, and of 2s. per week for juniors. Rates after change: tablehands, 62s.; labourers, 50s. Decrease of 2s. per week for adults. Rate after change for tablehands, 68s.	Electricity Supply	Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North Notting- hamshire, 'and North Derby- shiret	lst fuli pay in Mar.	Workpeople employed by Elec- tricity Supply Undertakings	Rates of wages adopted for electrical fitters and we men, telephone electricians, mechanical fitters of armature winders, of 1s. 6d. per hour in Zone A are of 1s. 54d. in Zone B, of 1s. 44d. in Zone C, and decrease of 1d. per hour for other workpeon Minimum hourly rates after change for general ind and outdoor labourers respectively: Zone A, 1s. 9 1s. 24d.; Zone B, 1s. 14d., 1s. 14d.; Zone C, 1s. 0 1s. 04d +
rewing	Liverpool and Bir- kenhead	Week ending 3 Mar.	Male brewery workers Men 21 years and over	 Decrease of 3s. per week for men and of 1s. 6d. per week for juniors. Rate after change for men 21 and over, 63s. Decrease of 2s. per week. Standard rates after change: labourers, 51s.; loaders and stowers, 54s.; shiftmen, 55s.; lorry drivers, 61s.; carters—1-horse, 51s.; 2-horse, 	and the second	West Midlands	lst pay day in Feb.	Youths and apprentices em- ployed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Decrease of 0.32d ner hour (19 3d ner most) log
MCMINE	Burton-on-Trent	1 Mar. (Youths Women and girls	53s. Decreases of 1s. to 2s. per week. Decrease of 1s. per week. Standard rates after change: 14 years, 14s. 2å., increasing to 31s. at 21 and over.		Bradford	13 Mar.		
lines all the	presidentes de la serie la serieta de la serieta la serieta de la serieta la serieta de la serieta de la		Workpeople employed in the milk distributive trade: Male workers: Foremen	Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 151). Decreases of 5s. 6d., 3s. and 2s. for Areas A, B and C respectively. Minimum† rates after change: Area A, 51s.; Area B, 64s.; Area C, 70s. 6d. Decreases varying from 6d. to 5s. per week. Mini- mum† rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 46s. 6d.; Area B, 57s.; Area C, 61s. Decreases arguing from 6d. to 4s. 6d. ner week. Mini-	Tramways	Halifax	7 Mar. 7 Mar.	Motormen, conductors, car cleaners and general labourers employed by Corporation Motormen, conductors, car	at 20 years. Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rates after change: mo men, 1s. 2:66d. to 1s. 4:15d.; conductors, 1s. 2:475d. 1s. 3:85d.; car cleaners, 1s. 3:125d.; and labour 1s. 3:3d. per hour; handymen, 1s. 3:85d. Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rates after change: mo men, 1s. 24d. to 1s. 34d.; conductors, 1s. 14d. 1s. 24d.; car cleaners, 1s. 2d.; general labour 1s. 24d. to 1s. 24d. per hour. Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rates after change: mo men, 1s. 34d. to 1s. 34d.; conductors, 1s. 14d. 1s. 24d. to 1s. 24d. per hour. Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rates after change: mo men, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 34d.; conductors, 1s. 14d. to 1s. 2 car cleaners, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 24d. per hour. "Cost of living" bonus reduced from 90 per cent. to per cent. on basic rates. Schedule rates after chan Labourers-Zone A, 50s. 5d. (basic rate, 28s.); Zone
Milk istribu- tion	England and Wales	24 Mar. (Sterilizers (other than assistant sterilizers) and clerks Shop assistants, rounds- men, pasteurizers, assist- ant sterilizers and all other workers Female workers: Clerks	Decreases varying from 6d. to 5s. per week. Mini- mumt rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 46s. 6d.; Area B, 57s.; Area C, 61s. Decreases varying from 6d. to 4s. 6d. per week. Mini- mumt rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 42s.; Area B, 52s.; Area C, 56s. Decreases varying from 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimumt		Lancashire and Cheshire‡	1 Mar.	cleaners and car repairers employed by Corporation Manual workers employed in non-trading departments of certain Local Authorities (ex- cluding those whose wages are regulated by other trades)§	men, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 3d.; conductors, 1s. 14d. to 1s. 2 car cleaners, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 24d. per hour. "Cost of living" bonus reduced from 90 per cent. to per cent. on basic rates. Schedule rates after chan Labourers—Zone A, 50s. 5d. (basic rate, 28s.); Zone 46s. 10d. (basic rate, 26s.); Zone C, 45s. (basic r 25s.). Street sweepers, Zone A, 46s. 10d. (basic r 26s.); Zone B, 43s. 2d. (basic rate, 24s.); Zone 41s. 5d. (basic rate, 23s.); Zone D, 37s. 10d. (basic r 21s.).t
			Shop assistants All other female workers (except roundswomen)	rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 31s. 6d.; Area B, 36s.; Area C, 42s. 6d. Decreases varying from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week. Mini- mumt rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 27s.; Area B, 31s.; Area C, 36s. 6d.	Local Authority Services	West Midlands	lst pay day in Mar. 12 Mar.	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments of Local Authorities (excluding those whose wages are regu- lated by other trades)	Decrease of 2s. 1d. per week for Zones A1 and A2, of per week for B1, of 1s. 11d. for B2, of 1s. 9d. for of 1s. 7d. for C1, and of 1s. 5d. for C2. Minim weekly rates after change for general labourers scavengers: Zone A1 areas, 50s. 10d.; Zone A2, 49s. Zone B1, 46s. 8d.; Zone B2, 43s. 11d.; Zone B3, 41s. Zone C1, 37s. 7d.; Zone C2, 33s. 11d.]
		M	ISCELLANEOUS TRADES AND O			Kent	12 Mar. 19 Feb.	Roadmen employed by County Council Workpeople employed by County	Increase to a minimum rate of 30s. per week. Decrease of 5s. 81d. per week for vehicle drivers,
Fell- nongering	England and Wales	1. (Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and an aver- age decrease of about 5½ per cent. in piece rates for pulling. Rates after change for timeworkers: skilled, 1s. 2½d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 0½d.; unskilled, 11d. Decreases of ½d. to 1d. per hour. Decrease1 of 1d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 6d. to				Council	 4s. 2d. for foremen, of 3s. 8d. for skilled labourers, 2s. 7d. to 3s. 1d. for unskilled labourers and scal gers. Rates after change: vehicle drivers, 54s. 5 steam roller drivers, 53s. 12d.; skilled labour 42s. 82d.; unskilled labourers and scavenge 40s. 72d. to 41s. 8d.
Saddlery and Harness	London (Metropo- litan Police Area)	lst pay day in Mar.	etc. (wholesale trade) Brown saddlers	1s. 5d.) and of 7½ per cent in percentage payable on price lists for pieceworkers, leaving wages 82½ per cent. and 67½ per cent. above the list for heavy and light work respectively. Decreaset of 1d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.) and of 7½ per cent. in percentage payable on price lists for pieceworkers, leaving wages 67½ per cent.	Supply Undertaki Supply Co., Ltd. recognised by the t The above of	ng Ltd., Berwick-on-Twee partly). The rates actual District Joint Council. hauge took effect under T	d Urban Electry, ly paid to la	bourers by some of these undertakings	Middlesbrough, Newcastle and District Electric Lighting Co., 1 nemouth, West Hartlepool. Zone B: Skelton and Brotton Elec a Counties El ctricity Supply Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon Tyne Ele- are higher than the minimum rates quoted above, which are t al Court. The undertakings affected, and their respective Zones
	nation (1999), Posta Gallore : an (1999) of and (1999), an		Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:	above list prices. Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 152).	Doncaster, Dewsb undertakings are ‡ This decrea which was agreed	y, Harrogate, Keighley, higher than the minimum se includ-s a decrease of 5 upon in May, 1922, by the below. The fermion ber	Hannax, Hu Mexborough, rates quoted per cent. un Lancashire a	Scarborough Electric Supply Co, Ltd., above, which are those recognised by th der the "cost of living" sliding scale and nd Cheshire Provincial Council. The Au	Tham, Sheffield, Shipley. Zone B: Barnsley, Batley, Chestery Wakefield. The rates actually paid to labourers by some of t e District Join. Council. I also the last instalm nt, 5 per cent. of the 15 per cent. reduct thorities which follow the reductions decided upon by the al
			over (other than appren- tices) employed in certain operations§: Timeworkers Pieceworkers	Decrease of 11d. per hour (1s. 44d. to 1s. 3d.). Decrease in minimum piece rates, fixed in November, 1921, of 71 per cent. (except for fancy finishing, finishing, and hand boring), making a total reduction of 15 per cent.; and new minimum piece rates fixed	(25s.), Atherton, A Brierfield (26s.),	udenshaw, Bacup (25s.), Ba Bury, Chadderton (27s. 1d.)	rrow (26 1d , Ch ster (25	.), Barrowford (24s.), Billinge, lackr d (s.), Chorley (25s.), Clayton-le-Moors (6d.	23s. 6d.), Blackpool (26s. 7d.), Bollington, Bolton (28s.). Bowden (Der hour), (litheroe (27s.), Culington, Bolton (28s.). Bowden (
Brush and Broom	Northern Ireland	12 Mar. <	Male workers employed in painting brush making Other male workers (includ- ing apprentices) Female workers:	for single drafting. Decrease in minimum piece rates, fixed in January, 1922, of 7½ per cent., making a total reduction of 15 per cent. Decreases of from ¼d. to 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 11d.	Ramsbottom (24) Ramsbottom (24) with-Langtree (-5) Wallasey (25s.), W Withnell (21s.), ' § Excluding a I This decrea The Authorities	And the stall an	5340. per hou ford (26s.), S nd some at .s of Barton i as paviors, e West Midl ation includ	r), Rochdale, Royton (26s.), St. Helens winton and Peudlebury (26s.), St. Helens building rate), Westho ghton (27s.), W -upon Irwell (25.), Blackburn, Burnley street masons and sewermen; and in cert ands Joint Industrial Council and is disti e: Zone A 1: Birmingham; Zone A 2: Bi	worth (26s.), Fleetwood (25s.), Glossop (25s.), Globorne (25s.) ywood, Hindley, Hoylake and West Kirby, Hurst, Hyde, I of r hour), Little Lever, Liverpool (28s.), Lytham St. Anne's (Morecambe (25s.), Mossley (27s. 3d.), Nantwich (20s.), Newto n (26s. 10d.), Preston (27s.), Prestwich (28s. 5d.), Radelliffe ((26s.) Sale, Salford, Skelmersdale, Stalybridge (23s. 6d.), Stan- hitefield (25s.), Widnes (6§d. per hour), Wigan (27s. 3d.), Wilms hitefield (25s.), Widnes (6§d. per hour), Wigan (27s. 3d.), Wilms is Fylde, Leigh, Limehurst and West Lancashire (20s. and 21s.). tain cases, general yard labourers and road labourers. (See note inct from decreases resulting from the "cost of living" sliding s uton-on-Trent, Coventry (certain classes), Stoke-on-Trent, Wa Ger-Lyme, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Rugby, Stafford: Zone B2: An
			Timeworkers Pieceworkers	Decreases of 4d. or 4d. per hour, and decrease of 3d. per hour in piecework basis time rate. Minimum time rate after change at 21 years and over, 74d. Decrease in the minimum rates fixed in November, 1921, of 7½ per cent. for machine drawn work and hand drawing (except certain operations), making a total reduction of 15 per cent., and decrease rof 12½ per cent. for machine hands (boring and filling).	West Bromwich, Brierley Hill, Lic	Wolverhampton; Zone B hfield, Leek, Lye and Wo	1: Coseley, llescote, Shr	Kenilworth, Leamington, Newcastle-und wsbury, Sedgley, Stone, Warwick; Zon	der-Lyme, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Rugby, Stafford; Zone B2: Au e B3: Tettenhall; Zone C1: R.D.C.'s of Cannock, Cheadle.

Including Accrington, Blackburn, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Great Harwood, Nelson and Southport.
† Area A.-(a) All areas administered by Rural District Councils and (b) all areas administered by Municipal Borough Councils and Urby in District Councils which according to the most recent census had a population of less than 10,00; but so as in neither case to apply to any area within the Metropolitan Police District. Area B.-All areas other than those to which scales A and C apply. Area C.-The area comprising the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost of living is index number.
‡ Pan (hair and bass), huirs, finishing, boring (hand and machine), drawing, bone brush cutting, fashioning, drilling and profiling, the manufacture of artists' medical, painting, whitewash and tar brushes, and brushes not otherwise specified, the drafting, dressing (including cutting), or mixing of animal hair, bass, whisk or other fibre where the operative performs the aforesaid operations singly or in combination by hand or partly by hand and partly by may chine, the working of ivory or celluloid, and the turning of bone.

19

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

April :-- Men employed by public works contractors in London ; shipbuilders at Belfast; metallic bedstead makers in the Midlands; copper workers in South Wales; seamen; dock abourers in Northern Ireland; coopers; leather tanners and curriers; workpeople; employed in the gas and electricity supply industries. In the case of the following groups increases in wages have been arranged, with effect from various dates in April; irsontone miners in Cleveland; iron ore miners in Cumberland; blastfurnace workers in Cleveland; ironworkers in the North of England and the Midlands; and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

•

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE. THE results of recent ascertainments of the selling prices of iron are given below :-

(assiute	Price acco last A	ording to udit.*	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit [•] on			
Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Average Selling Price Per Ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.		
Pig Iron: Cleveland (No. 3) Cumberland	JanMar. {JanFeb. Jan. Feb.	s. d. 92 10≩ 95 7 94 6 96 6	s. d. + 4 6 + 3 4 + 2 3 + 2 0	$ \begin{array}{r} $		
Manufactured Iron: North of England (Bars and angles) West of scotland (Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)	JanFeb. JanFeb.	206 113 216 113	+ 7 2 + 0 6	- 29 10‡ - 38 7‡		

Pig Iron.—The rise in the ascertained selling price of Cleve-land pig iron for the quarter ended March, 1923, resulted in an increase of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard wages of blastfurnacemen (with effect from 1st April, 1923). The rise in the ascertained price of Cumberland pig iron for January and February resulted in an increase of 2 per cent. on standard rates for blastfurnace-men, while the rise in the ascertained price for January resulted in an increase of 3d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron ore miners, and the wages of limestone quarymen were also increased by $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift. The ascertainment for Cumberland pig iron in February resulted in an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift for limestone quarymen and of 2d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron ore miners. *Manufactured Iron.*—The rise in the ascertained selling price of manufactured iron for January and February in the North

of manufactured 1707.—116 rise in the ascertained sening price of manufactured iron for January and February in the North of England resulted in an increase in the wages of puddlers and millmen of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on standard rates from 2nd April, 1923. In the West of Scotland the ascertainment for the same two months left wages unchanged.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES. QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES.

Names of Societies and		t in the Fo Quarter of	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with		
Nature of Business.	1922.	1921.	1917.	Year ago.	Five Years ago.
ENGLISH WHOLESALE	£	£	£		
SOCIETY : Distributive Departments Productive "	18,190,082 5,256,491	19,609,224 5,847,379§	14,265,096 4,633,892	-7.2 -10.1	+ 27.5 + 13.4
SCOTTIGH WHOLESALE SOCIETY : Distributive Departments Productive "	4,624,733 1,395,373	5,287,870 1,588,747	4,654,268 1,799,373	- 12.5 - 12.2	- 0.6 - 22.5
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE : - Productive Departments	140,121	139,431	161,276	+ 0.5	- 13.1
Fotal Distributive Departments Initial Productive Departments ments	22,814,815	24,897,094 7,575,557§	18,919,364	- 8·4 - 10·3	+ 20.6
ments	6,791,985 29,606,800	-		$\frac{-10.3}{-8.8}$	+ 16.0

ASSISTED PASSAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE numbers of applications received and of assisted passages granted during March, 1923, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act (see March, 1923, GAZETTE, page 84), together with the number of assisted passages granted from the inception of these schemes to the end of March, 1923, are shown in the following table :--

	Applica- tions	Assisted Passages		Assisted s granted.
Destination.	received in March.	granted in March.	1922.	JanMar 1923.
Australia New Zealand Ontario	10,000¶ 268 (Not avai!ahle.)	2,391 437 371	7,058 1,133	6,483 1.222 771

Stated to the nearest farthing.
No ascertainment was made for this period.
The figures given for Productive Departments represent Sales and Transfers to the Distributive Departments.
Revised figures.
These figures relate to a period of 14 weeks.
Approximate total.

The numbers of applications shown are exclusive of any dependants of the applicants for whom assisted passages are desired, but the numbers of passages granted relate to the total numbers, nclusive of dependants.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED. BEFORE building operations are begun in this country, the plans of the buildings* which are to be erected have generally to be submitted for approval to the competent Local Authority of the district; accordingly, periodical statistics of the estimated cost of buildings for which plans have been approved provide an indication of the prospects of employment for workpeople in the building trades and various subsidiary industries. Trom early in 1910 to the year 1920 statistics were regularly collected by the Department and published in this GAZETTE, show-ing the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans had been approved in a considerable number of the principal towns. In view of the rapid changes in the costs of building and of the considerable number of plans approved upon which work was not proceeding, the publication of these statistics was discon-tinued after October, 1920; but as the influence of these two factors has become less marked, publication was resumed last month.†

month.+ Returns have been received from 142 Local Authorities giving Returns have been received from 142 Local Autorities giving particulars of the numbers and estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed in March. The summarised figures for March are given in the following Table, together with similar figures relating to plans passed in these 142 localities in the first three months of this year :--

	Estimate approved	i in the	f Buildin 142 tow we been	ns from	hich pla which	ns were returns
District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from- which returns have been received. (Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other business premises.	Churches. Schools and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.
	(a) MA	ARC H , 192	23.		- 3	and a start a
NGLAND AND WALES-	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (852,887) Yorkshire (2,376,167)	71,600 425,700	5,000 44,200	38,400 54,300	80,600	32.2C0 116,5C0	147 200 721,300
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,304,845)	434,300	45,500	24,400	24,600	73,600	612,400
North and West-Midland Counties (1,565,321)	124,900	29,500	22,500	16,200	80,500	283,600
South-Midland and East- ern Counties (€41,260) Outer London (2,097,303)	171,600 939,500	12,0C0 34,9C0	8,700 143,000	4.5C0 24,400	22.400 73,600	219,200 1,215,400
South-Eastern Counties (1,038,221)	166,900	15,000	8,500	2,300	89,200	281,900
South-Western Counties (432,465)	34,100	3,000	2,100	-	13,100	52,300
Wales and Monmouth- shire (834,190)	124,500	15,500	8,700	14,100	14,900	177,700
COTLAND (2,146,377)	94,200	13,700	7.200	44,600	248,100	407,800
Total (14,289,036)	2,587,300	228,300	327,800	211,300	764,100	4,118,800
(6)	JANUARY	TO MAI	кон, 1923	10 : A 6 •081 ; 199		
ENGLAND AND WALES :	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (852,987) Yorkshire (2,376,167) Lancashire and Cheshire	183,200 824,800	33,700 143,700	50,600 151,700	29,100 196,200	71,600 339,200	368,200 1,656,200
(2,304,845)	946,300	131,800	126,200	46,700	181,500	1,432,500
North and West-Midland Counties (1,565,321)	322,400	124,000	98,300	127,800	236,800	909,300
South-Midland and East- ern Counties (641,260) Outer London [‡] (2,097,303)	46?,800 2212000	44,100 81,600	38,000 250,800	16,200 148,100	57,500 222,600	624,600 2,915,100
South-Eastern Counties (1,038,221)	635,600	20,400	44,300	32,300	204,400	937,000
South-Western Counties (432,465)	177,000	3,800	8,000	13,000	40,400	242,200
Wales and Monmouth- shire (834,190)	214,000	20,600	37,900	21,200	42,700	336,400
SCOTLAND (2,146,377)	427,100	82,400	24,600	158,700	629,600	1,322,400
Total (14,289,036)	6,411,200	686,100	830,400	789,900	2,026,300	10743900
			1 - De Martin	1	and and the second	12 Augusta

It will be seen that the estimated cost of the buildings for It will be seen that the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed in March, in the 142 localities to which the figures relate, is approximately $\pounds 4,100,000$, compared with an average of $\pounds 3,300,000$ in the preceding two months. Dwel-ling houses account for over one-half of the estimated total cost of all the buildings for which plans were approved by the Local Authorities who have supplied information to the Depart-ment.

ment

There are some exceptions. e.g., Government Buildings, Asylums.
† See MINI-TRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1923, page 85.
‡ The figures are exclusive of the London County Council area, as to which particulars are not available.

April, 1923.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Board of Health in Scotland.)

THE total number of cases[†] of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1923, was 36. Two deaths due to lead poisoning (one in the pottery industry and one in electric accumulator works) and one due to toxic jaundice were reported during the month. Five cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during March, but notification of these cases is not obligatory. (Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and the THE number of persons relieved on one day* in March, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 533 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 20 per 10,000 on the previous month and a decrease of 16 per 10,000 on a year ago. is not obligatory.

As compared with February, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 35,605 (or 3.7 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was lower by 1,221 (or 1.0 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 34,384 (or 4.1 per cent.). One district showed no change, five districts showed increases, and every other district showed a decrease. The greatest decreases were in the Coatbridge and Airdrie dis-trict (172 per 10,000) and in the Stockton and Tees district (117 per 10,000) per 10,0001.

per 10,000). As compared with March, 1922, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 28,514 (or 3.0 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 1,512 (or 1.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 30,026 (or 3.6 per cent.). Nineteen districts showed decreases and every other district showed an increase. The most marked changes were decreases in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (472 per 10,000), and in the Stockton and Tees district (325 per 10,000), and increases in the Paisley and Greenock district (250 per 10,000 of population), and in the Glasgow district (238 per 10,000).

Three districts showed increases ranging from 77 to 142, and even districts showed increases ranging from 10 to 42 per 10,000 of the population.

	- an an an	No. Sant	and the	101 11			Shipbuilding POISONING
	Numb of poor	r-law re	rsons in lief on o rch, 1923		Decre	se (+) or ase (-)	Paint used in other In- dustries
	100000 100000	1		12.12 2 3	10,0	te per 00 of	Other Industries 1 Handling of Horsehair
Selected Urban Areas.†	「高麗」	Ont	nora g	Rate per 10,000	com	tion as pared h a	TOTAL OF ABOVE 23 Handling and Sorting (Tanners, Fellmongers,
	Indoor	door.	Total.	of Esti- mated	Cucht 1	1	- &c.) 1
		3.9	1.2005	Popu- lation.	Month ago.	Year ago.	HOUSE PAINTING AND Other Industries
ENGLAND & WALES.				Salar -	3		PLUMBING 5 TOTAL ANTHRAX 5
Metropolis. West District	9,367	11,044	20,411	251	- 16	- 54	EATAL INDUCTDIAL ACCIDENTS +
North District	10,436	27,820	38,256	380 437	-21 -13 -14 -23	-54 -6 -51	FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.
East District South District	10,135 20,039	55,687 90,159	65,822 110,198	1,038 581	-14 -23	+ 134 - 3	THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and
TOTAL, Metropolis	52,577	187,922	240,499	536	- 20	+ 5	Northern Ireland during March, 1923, was 196, as compared with 224 in the previous month and 214 a year ago. The dis-
West Ham	4,247	68,778	73,025	991	- 16	+ 142	tribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows :
Other Districts. Newcastle District	2,690	31,493	34,183	703	- 17	+ 77	RAILWAY SERVICE. Brakesmen and Goods (continued):
Stockton and Tees Dis- trict§ Bolton, Oldham, etc	1,217 3,992	21,259	22,476 10,979	855 141	-117	- 325	Guards 1 Boiler Making & Con-
Wigan District	1,792 8,893	6,987 12,614 34,141	14,406	332 426	+ 4 - 1 + 7	$ \begin{array}{r} + & 14 \\ - & 78 \\ - & 55 \\ - & 149 \\ - & 71 \end{array} $	Engine Drivers 2 structional Engineering Firemen 2 Locomotives, Railway &
Liverpool District Bradford District	10,232 1,755	57,744 4,987	43,034 67,976 6,742	575	+ 7 - 8 - 9	- 149	Guards (Passenger) Tramway Carriages.
Halifax and Hudders-	1,251	3,566	4,817	128	+ 3	- 50	Porters 3 Other Metal Trades 1
Leeds District	2,467 910	10,125 8,409	12,592	262 298		+ 37	Mechanics 3 Shipbuilding 8
Sheffield District	2,654 1,818	47,169	9,319 49,823 15,638	990 505	-68 -20	- 129 - 11	Labourers 2 Gas 4
North Staffordshire Nottingham District	2,065 2,094	5,992 9,485	8,057 11,579	19 254	$ \begin{array}{r} - 28 \\ - 19 \\ - 68 \\ - 20 \\ - 12 \\ - 25 \\ - 17 \end{array} $	-25 -129 -11 -26 +22	Miscellaneous 2 Contractors' Servants 2 Electric Generating Sta- tions
Leicester District Wolverhampton Dis-	1,184	2,816	4,000	171	NELSE ENER	- 40	- Clay, Stone, Glass, etc 3
trict Birmingham District	3,239 7,175	27,544 53,555	30,783 60,730	439 660	- 44 - 63	- 143 - 198	- Food and Drink 4
Bristol District Cardiff and Swansea	2,562 2,418	13,075 15,718	15,€37 18,136	386 3 93	-30 + 17	$+ 10 \\ - 7$	Underground 79 Paper, Printing, etc 2 Tanning, Currying, etc
							Surface 17 Rubber Trades
TOTAL "Other Districts"	60,408	380,499	440,907	437	- 21	- 66	TOTAL, MINES 96 Other Non-Textile Indus- tries 4
SCOTLAND.1	an enter				The second	1. 191-19-1	QUARRIES over 20 feet deep 4 TOTAL FOR FACTORIES
Glasgow District Paisley & Greenock Dist.	812	111,512 16,103	116,481 16,915	1,203 884	- 13 - 55	+ 238 + 250	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS 60 Docks, Wharves, etc.,
Edinburgh & Leith Dist. Dundee and Dunfermline	1,634 749	16,261 3,658	17,895 4,407	426 214	+ 5	+ 42 + 25 + 20 - 472	Cotton 2 s. 104 7
Aberdeen	520 399	5,914 7,629	.6,434 8,028	405 791	- '9 -172	+ 20 - 472	Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy 3 Buildings, s. 105 7 Other Textiles Warehouses, s. 104 and
TOTAL for the above }		Toole D			Sector Sector		Textile Bleaching and Railway Sidings. s. 106 1
Scottish Districts	9,083	161,077	170,160	832	- 19	+ 126	Dyeing TOTAL 75 Metal Extracting and TOTAL 75 Refining 5
TOTAL for above 31 Dis- tricts in March, 1923	126,315	798,276	924,591	533	- 20	- 16	Metal Conversion, inclu- ding Rolling Mills and Notice of Accidents Act,
	21.110 5		1.0		TOW OF		Tube Making 6 1894
• The figures for Englan for Scotland to 17th March	- 200 200 V					570% 151% H	Metal Founding 5 Engineering and Machine Total (excluding Sea-
t These urban areas i more than one poor-law	union.	except	in the	Leiceste	r. Birmi	ngham.	Making 3 men) 196
and West Ham districts;	and m	ore the	an one	parish :	in the	case of	

and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district. I Exclusive of Casuals; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. The figures for Scotland include destitute able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor-law relief. The numbers included for the Middlesbrough Union do not cover changes which have taken place since the 24th March, 1923. Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.
 † Cases include all attacks 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.
 † Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZE'1.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

to and the

a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF
Among Operatives engaged in—	POISONING.
Smelting of Metals 2	Mercury Poisoning
Plumbing and Soldering 4	Phosphorus Poisoning
D	Arsenic Poisoning
Frile Cretting 1	Toxic Jaundice—
File Cutting and	Arseniuretted Hydrogen
Hardening	Gas 1
Tinning of Metals	Other 1
Other Contact with	Epitheliomatous Ulcera-
Molten Lead 3	Dama (C.
White and Red Lead	
Works 1	Ten
Pottery	Chrome Ulceration—
Vitreous Enamelling	Manufacture of
Electric Accumulator	Bichromates 2
Works 6	Dyeing and Finishing 1
Paint and Colour Works 2	Chrome Tanning
	Other 1
Indiarubber Works	
Coach and Car Painting	TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF
Shipbuilding	POISONING 8
Paint used in other In-	
dustries 3	(c) CASES OF ANTIRAX— Wool
011 T 1	
Other Industries 1	Handling of Horsehair 2 Handling and Sorting
	of Hides and Skins
COTAL OF ABOVE 23	(Tanners, Fellmongers,
	&c.) 1
THE IS SAL THE REAL	Other Industries
IOUSE PAINTING AND	
PLUMBING 5	TOTAL ANTHRAX 5

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS

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

I.-FOOD.

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

	1724	July, 1914.*						
Country.		July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	Latest figures available.		
		1010.	10101	10011	1000	Rise.	Date.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.	-	109	158	120	80	68	31 Mar. '23	
\ustria (Vienna)		-	359	9,320†		1078300	Feb. '23	
Belgium: Czechoslovakia			17.9.12.12.12.12.12.1	310	281	339 834	Mar. '23 Feb. '23	
Danmark		112	153	136	84	80	Jan. '23	
Finland			882	1,178	1,005	980	Jan. '23	
France (Paris) §		161 1880	273 288	206 250	197	221 231	Mar. '23 Feb. '23	
Germany		1000	2000	1,391	6,736	331,400	Mar. '23	
Holland (The Hague)			143	113	80	66	Nov. '22	
, (Amsterdam)		110	117	85	44	45	Jan. '23	
Italy (Rome) (Milan)		106 210	218 345	302 406	359 392	376 400	Dec. '22 Feb. '23	
Norway		189	219	195	133	114	Mar. '23	
Poland (Warsaw)				45,555	129,711	493,032	Jan. '23	
Sweden		210	197	132	79 57	66 51	Mar. '23 Feb. '23	
United States		86	115	45	39	39	Mar. '23	
BRITISH DOMINIONS. &C.	127	Contraction of the	the starts	1		1 The second		
Australia		47	94	61	48	44	Feb. '23	
Canada		86	127	48	38	45	Mar. '23	
India (Bombay) Irish Free State			88	74	60 87†	49 96	Mar. 23 Jan. 23	
Now Zoalanti	••	44	67	64	44	41	Jan. 23 Mar. 23	
South Africa	-	39	97	39	16	17	Feb. '23	

• Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Piand, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in March the increase for all working-class families ranged from 339 to 349 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. [] Figure for August.

II.-ALL ITEMS.

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

	Items on	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†							
Country.	which Computa- tion is based.*	July, 1919.			July, 1922.	Latest figures available.			
erte antionen	literarie (j	10101	10101	1921.		Rise.	Date.		
UNITED KINGDOM	A, B, C, D, E	Per cent 105-	Per cent. 152	Per cent. 119	Per cent 84	Per cent. 74	31 Mar.		
FOREIGN COUNTRIES Austria (Vienna) Belgium Bulgaria Deumark	A, B, C, D, E A, C, D, E A, D A, B, C, D, E	110 111	353 162	9,700§ 279 1,512 137	254400 266 2,331 99	960,000 308 2,398 98	^{'23} Feb. ^{'23} Mar. ^{'23} Oct. ^{'22} Jan. ^{'23}		
Finland France (Paris)	A, B, C, D, E A, B, C, D, E		811 263‡	1,039 195‡	1,018 189‡	1,033 200	Jan. '23 4th Qtr. 1922		
Germany Italy (Rome) , (Milan)	A, B, C, D A, B, C, D, E A, B, C, D, E	105 180	213 341	287 394	5,282 329 388	285,300 339 397	Mar. '23 Dec. '22 Feb. '23		
Luxemburg Norway Poland Spain (Madrid)	A, C, D A, B, C, D, E A, B, C, D, E A, D	180 741	202§	284 202§ 25,609 84		299 140 571,125 81	Dec. '22 Mar. '23 Feb. '23 Feb. '23		
" (Barcelona) Sweden Switzerland	A, D A, B, C, D, E A, D	81‡ 157	91‡ 170	78 136	73 90 59	64 77 57	Feb. '23 Apr. '23 Feb. '23		
BRITISH DOMINIONS,&C. Australia	A, B, C, D, E A, B	77§ 33‡	117§ 67‡	80 46‡	67 § 43	70 43	Dec. '22 3rd Qtr.		
Canada Egypt (Cairo)	A, B, C, E A, B, D A, D	56	90		··· 46 72	42 52 69	1922 Aug. '22 Mar. '23 Jan. '23		
Lgypt (Cairo) Iudia (Bombav) Irish Free State New Zealand	A, B, C, D A, B, C, D, E A, B, C, D, E	··· ··· 32	89 49	77	65 85§ 44	54 90 43	Mar. '23 Jan. '23 Nov. '22		
South Africa	A, B, D	25	62	30‡	20	20	Feb. '23		

• A=Food; B=House-Rent; C=Clothing; D=Fuel and Light; E=Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914: Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan, Luxemburg and New Zealand, January to June. 1914; Egypt and Germany, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914: United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. || Figure for May.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

April, 1923.

IN.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries, are, however, not the same as those of the United King-dom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 129-130 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment" (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

GERMANY.

GERMANY. Employment in February.—The issue of the Reichs-Arbeits-blatt for 1st April reports that throughout February the labour market continued to show signs of worsening. Contrary to ex-pectation, however, a progressive slackening of the rate of decline in the number unemployed, together with a positive increase in the number of employed women, were observable during the month. Short-time working on a considerable scale enabled many manufacturers in unoccupied Germany who could find no market for their products to retain the greater part of their staffs. The additional opportunities for employment which present them-selves with the advent of spring appear also to have had some effect. The figures relating to the number of totally unemployed per-

effect. The figures relating to the number of totally unemployed per-sons in receipt of out-of-work donations in February are incom-plete, returns from important areas not being received. So far as can be ascertained, the total for 1st March was 194,591, as compared with 149,181 for 1st February. Returns from trade unions show an increased number of organised workers out of employment. Out of 5,600,000 included in the returns 319,117, or 5.7 per cent. of the total, were out of work on 24th February, as compared with 4.4 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 2.7 per cent. at the end of February, 1922. The following Table gives particulars for the leading unions included in the returns :--

	Member- ship reported	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.				
Unions.	at end of Feb. 1923.	Feb., 1923.	Jan., 1923,	Feb., 1922.		
ll Unions making Returns	5,599,029	5•7	4.4	2.7		
BINCIPAL UNIONS : Building (Soc. Dem.) " (Christian) Painters (Soc. Dem.) " (Hirsch-Duncker) " (Hirsch-Duncker) textile (Soc. Dem.) ", (Christian) Boot and shoe Boot and shoe Bookbinding Bookbinding Bookbinding Bookbinding Bookbinding " Porcelain Food preparation	459,060 58,243 55,118 927,730 120,354 706,817 134,540 81,940 98,645 493,458 64,108 97,406 430,667 63,663 67,619 79,906	16:9 13:1 14:7 2:3 0:5 4:8 4:4 2:9 4:6 2:6 8:4 4:4 2:7 1:2 1:3 2:1	12.4 6.6 12.7 1.3 0.5 3.3 2.3 2.0 3.9 2.7 8.4 4.6 2.4 0.6 3.4	14·1 6·1 10·7 0·7 0·3 0·9 0·4 4 0·2 1·7 2·6 1·7 0·9 1·0 2·4 2·2 		
(Soc. Dem.) Tobacco (Soc. Dem.)	77,457 95,326	9·0 27·9	9.6 23.8	4·5 8·0		
Factory workers (irrespective of trade)	654,027	4.8	4.2	2.4		
Factory and transport work- ers (Christian) Municipal and State workers	126,766 227,011	·1 2·5	5·3 2·4	1.7 2.2		

The above totals do not include persons only partially employed, of whom in February there were 16.5 per cent. among

employed, of whom in February there were 16.5 per cent. among the 4,777,000 trade union members covered by the returns on this subject. The corresponding percentage for January was 13.0. The returns from public Employment Exchanges, which show the position on 16th March, indicate a considerably larger num-ber of applications for employment, and also an increased number of vacancies notified. At 705 of the larger Exchanges the applications numbered 520,493, as against 63,698 offers of situations. In the preceding month the totals were 426,967 and 54 439 respectively.

situations. In the precenting month the could write height a 54,439 respectively. Statistics of membership of sickness insurance societies show that in 5,589 societies making returns the membership (*i.e.*, the number of persons under obligation to insure, and hence assumed to be in work) fell from 12,793,802 on 1st February to 12,734,040 on 1st March, or by 0.5 per cent.

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in March.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 31st March was 8,868 (6,275 men and 2,593 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,112 (4,725 for men and 4,387 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 25,232 persons

* Bulletin du Murché du Travail, 6th April, 1923. Paris.

April, 1923.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTA

(20,060 men and 5,172 women) in situations, and in addition found employment for 5,199 foreign immigrants. found employment for 5,199 foreign immigrants. According to the latest returns six departmental and thirty-seven municipal unemployment funds were in opera-tion throughout France on 5th April, the number of per-sons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 2,560 (2,303 men and 257 women). This total shows a decrease of eleven when compared with the corresponding figure (2,571) for the preceding week. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully indicate the number of persons out of em-ployment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

The total number of unemployment funds established is 264, of which thirty-one are departmental and 233 municipal. The maximum number of persons in receipt of donations (91,225) was reached in March, 1921.

BELGIUM.*

BELGIUM.* Unemployment in January and February.—The most recent figures available are provisional in character and relate to Feb-nary. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,680 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 663,188, show that 20,236 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The aggregate days of unemployment in February numbered 289,933, as against 392,869 in January. Revised and final figures are given for January, in which month 1,755 funds, with an aggregate membership of 667,873, reported 11,386 (or 1.7 per cent.) wholly unemployed and 14,343 partially so on the last working day of the month (3rd February). During February 12,692 applications for employment were re-ceived at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 15,950 in January. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 10,612 (13,153 in January). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 120 applications, as compared with 121 in January. January.

SWITZERLAND.+

SWITZERLAND.⁺ Unemployment in February.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland, on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" on the 28th February was 52,734 (as compared with 56,275 at the end of the preceding month, and 99,541 at the end of February, 1922). Of these, 13,644 were employed on relief works, leaving 39,090 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 10,132 normally engaged in the building trades, 6,378 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 6,035 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, and 4,655 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 21,791 were reported as only partially employed, including 10,569 in the textile trades, 4,854 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 1,825 in the food preparation trades, and 1,790 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. The vacancies offered by employers remaining unfiled at the end of February numbered 2,109. During the month of February on an average 558 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men and 187 for each 100 for women. In January the figures were 624 and 196 respectively.

SWEDEN.[‡]

Unemployment in January.—The percentage of unemployed embers of trade unions on J1st January was 21.4, as compared ith 21.7 at the end of the preceding month and 34.9 on 31st anuary, 1922. The following Table gives corresponding par-culars for the principal unions covered by the returns :—

		Membership	Percentage Upemployed.				
Unions.	AND DAY	reporting on 31st Jan., 1923.	31st Jan., 1923.	31st Dec., 1922.	31st Jan., 1922.		
All Unions making Ret	urns	113,483	21.4	\$121.7	34-9		
vod trade rewery obacco vodworking		8,294 2,375 31,484 2,025 5,535 2,553 6,039 3,501 2,171 2,952 6,079 6,295 7,706 12,566	40-5 27-0 25-9 20.1 4-0 266 7-5 12-5 9-5 2-7 31-6 6-7 3-7 28-2	24-7 40-6 25-9 20-3 3-0 25-1 6-6 20-0 7-0 20-0 28-6 7-6 4-7 29-5	32-4 805 41-8 24-4 6-7 18-1 17-7 11-2 9-3 155 54-3 366 6-0 445		

Imployment Exchanges in February.—Returns from Employ-nt Exchanges show that for every 100 vacancies notified by ployers there were, on an average, 308 applications from un-ployed workpeople, as compared with 346 in the preceding ath and 479 in February, 1922.

Revue du Travail, March, 1923. Brussels. Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmetekt. 15th March, 1923. Berne. Sociala Meddelanden, No. 3, 1923. Stockholm

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HOLLAND.

in the

Unemployment in February.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 24th February, out of 326,223 members of unemployment funds making returns, 45,769 (or 14 per cent.) were totally unemployed and 11,685 (3.6 per cent.) partially so. In the last week of the preceding month (ended 27th January) the corresponding per-centages were 14 and 3.2 respectively.

AUSTRIA.*

AUSTRIA.* Trade Union Unemployment in December.—On 31st December, 1922, trade unions with a total membership of 620,573 reported 138,583, or 22.3 per cent., unemployed. In addition 206,257 members were reported to be working short time. Of the 24 unions covered by the returns, the building workers and the boot and shoe makers had the greatest percentages of unemployed members (50.9 and 44.3 respectively). while unem-ployment was least among engine-drivers, leather workers, artificial flower makers, leather fancy goods makers and textile workers (among whom the proportion out of work was less than 10 per cent.).

UNITED STATES.+

UNITED STATES.† Employment in February.—The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in February, 1923, from 4,848 representative establishments, covering 1,924,372 workers in forty-three manu-facturing industries. A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in January, 1923, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 25 per cent. in the number of persons employed in the later month. Increases are shown in thirty-two industries and decreases in eleven. The largest in-crease (17.2 per cent.) appears in the fertiliser industry. Agri-cultural implements and automobiles show increases of 12.3 and 9 1 per cent. respectively. Decreases are shown in shaughtering and meat packing (4.4 per cent.), and car building and repair-ing (2.5 per cent.). ing (2.5 per cent.)

ing (2.5 per cent.). An increase of 5.1 per cent. over the preceding month is shown in the aggregate wages paid : in thirty-four of the forty-three industries there were increases and in nine decreases. The largest increase (20.8 per cent.) appears in the automobile in-dustry. Increases are also shown in agricultural implements (15.1 per cent.), and in the fertiliser and women's clothing indus-tries (each 9.1 per cent.). The following Table affords a comparison between returns from identical establishments in February, 1923, and February, 1922 :--

	Num- ber o' Estab-		umber oikpeor		Aggregate Weekly Earnings.		
Industry.	lish- ments report- ing.	Feb., 1922.	Feh., 1923.	Iuc.(+) or Dec.(-)	1000	Feb., 1923.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-)
and a second sec	a segur	o that		Per cent.	Dollars	Dollars	Per cent.
Iron and steel Car building and	108	119,463	157,430	+ 31.8	2,364,429	4,365,120	+ 84.6
repairing Automobiles Cotton manufac-	56 43	38,756 93,285	56,265 137,407	+ 45.2 + 47.3	1,025,960 2,517,473	1,512,704 4,511,689	+ 47.4 + 79.2
turing	61 17	58,586 12,164	60,628 13,877	+ 3.5 + 14.1	979,461 234,596	1,075,469 309,207	
goods	76 23 43 43	30.495 23.654 17,523 29,471	30,172 26,373 17,647 29,320	$ \begin{array}{r} - 1.1 \\ + 11.5 \\ + 0.7 \\ - 0.5 \end{array} $	574,723 499.905 366,641 813,674	619.383 385,064	+23.9 + 5.0
Boots and shoes Tobacco, &c Leather Paper	74 54 32 48	56,338 15,020 11,470 23,068	57,435 16,125 12,394 24,568	+ 1.9 + 7.4 + 8.1 + 6.5		1,329.886 282,256 278,776	+ 3.6
and the second of the second sec	and a service a	States and and	and the second second	A PARTY NUMBER	CARGE STREET		

The net increase in the number of persons employed in the thirteen industries was 20'8 per cent. Eleven industries show increases and two decreases. Automobiles, car building and repairing, and iron and steel show the largest increases (47.3 per cent., 45.2 per cent., and 31'8 per cent. respectively). All thirteen industries show increases in aggregate earnings, that of 84'6 per cent. in the iron and steel industry being the largest reported.

CANADA.1

Employment in March.—For 1st March returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 6,587 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 743,128. On the 1st February the same firms reported 741,511 persons employed. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index num-ber of employment for 1st March is 89.9, as compared with 89.5 for 1st February and 81.9 for 1st March, 1922. Trade Union Unemployment in February.—At the end of February the percentage out of work among members of trade unions furnishing returns was 6.4, as compared with 7.8 at the end of the preceding month and 10.6 at the end of February, 1922.

Industrial and Labour Information, 9th March, 1923. Geneva.
 † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.
 ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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(1) Coal Mines Act, 1911. ACCIDENT TO MINER WALKING ALONG HAULAGE ROAD-BREACH

OF STATUTORY REGULATION-COMPENSATION NOT ALLOWED. SECTION 43 of the Coal Mines A.t, 1911, provides that no person other than an official of the mines Act, 1911, provides that no person other than an official of the mines or a person employed on the road in connection with the haulage, or a person engaged in carrying out any repairing work required to be carried out forth-with, shall, while the haulage is in motion, travel on foot on any haulage road on which the haulage is worked by gravity or mechanical power, except-

(a) where there is provided on one side of the road clear space of at least 2 ft. in width between the tubs and that ide of the road, and the rate of haulage is not more than 10 miles an hour.

A workman was employed as a hurrier in a mine, and at the conclusion of the night shift, having missed the paddy train, he proceeded to walk along the haulage road, at a curve in which he stumbled, with the result that his leg was caught between the haulage rope and the wall. He was severely injured, and in consequence was totally disabled. The workman brought an action against his employers under the Workmen's Compensa-tion Act 1006 but liability was denied by the respondents on tion Act, 1906, but liability was denied by the respondents on three grounds, one of which was that the accident arose from a

The Judge of the Dewsbury County Court held that the work-The Judge of the Dewsbury County Court heid that the work-man was not entitled to compensation, against which decision he appealed. From the evidence it appeared that the haulage road in the mine varied in width from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft., whilst the tubs were 3 ft. in width, and the rate of haulage was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour. At the spot in the road where the workman fell the width was 8 ft

an hour. At the spot in the road where the workman fell the width was 8 ft. The Court of Appeal held that the County Court Judge's finding that there had been a breach of Section 43 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, and that the workman was not entitled to compensation, was correct. The County Court Judge had stated that he was not satisfied that the prohibition of this section of the Act had in fact been brought to the workman's notice, yet the workman could not be heard to say that he did not know the workman could not be heard to say that he did not know what the statute enjoined.—Hawkridge v. Howden Clough Collieries, Ltd. Ct. of App. 20th Feb.

(2) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

WORKMAN'S DISREGARD OF THE RULES-FAILURE OF COMPENSATION ACTION.

A claim was heard at the Birmingham County Court under the above Act against the London, Midland and Scottish Rail-way, brought by a father in respect of his son, who was a fire-man employed by the Railway, and was killed by being crushed between two trucks. For the applicant it was contended that the accident arose out of the fireman's employment, and the sum of £250 was claimed on behalf of his mother and sister, who was a stringly dependent upon the fireman's earnings. For the sum of £250 was claimed on behalf of his mother and sister, who were partially dependent upon the fireman's earnings. For the Railway Company it was argued that the accident arose in consequence of the deceased's negligence in going between the carriages when they were being eased up. Employees had been warned against such a practice, and it was their duty to use a shunting pole when trucks were in motion. The fireman had been supplied with a Book of Rules, in which this warning was clearly set forth. After hearing the evidence. His Honour dismissed the applica-

After hearing the evidence, His Honour dismissed the applica-After hearing the evidence, His Honour dismissed the applica-tion, on the ground that the accident arose through the negli-gence of the deceased. On behalf of the Railway Company it was stated that it was necessary to fight these cases in order that employees should obey the rules which had been made for their own protection.—Simons v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Birmingham C. Court. 26th March.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

VOLUMES containing the collected decisions of the Umpire appointed under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, respecting disputed claims to benefit, are published by H.M. Stationery Office Stationery Office.

Cases after No. 2000 will not be published in volume form, but Cases after No. 2000 will not be published in volume form, but summaries of the decisions are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, for an annual subscription of 7s. 6d., payable in advance. All applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office, or at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this Gazette.

The following are recent decisions of general interest :-

CASE No. 4205, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—Available for Work— Engineer Accompanying Wife with Theatrical Touring PARTY-OWN PROSPECTS OF WORK DIMINISHED.

The applicant, whose usual occupation was that of an engineer, reported at the Swindon Employment Exchange on 4th December, 1922, and asked that his claim for benefit should be transferred to that office from the Birmingham Exchange. He had left Birmingham on 19th November, 1922.

He stated that he was travelling about the country with his wife, who was a member of a theatrical touring company, whic was performing in Swindon during that week, and he would be proceeding to Bath with the company in the following week. He submitted that he was improving his prospects of securing work by travelling about, and, in the event of his being able to secure work anywhere, he would accept it. *Recommended* by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation

benefit should be allowed. The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation. He did not think the applicant satisfied the conditions of Section 7 (1) (iii), while touring the country. The fact that the applicant remained only 1 week in any particular town made it almost impossible for the Employment Exchanges to keep in touch with him for the purpose of offering work. *Decision.*—" On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. "The applicant who is an engineer by trade, cannot, in my

"The applicant, who is an engineer by trade, cannot, in my opinion, be held to be available for work while he is travelling about the country with a touring theatrical company."

CASE No. 4266, SECTIONS 7 (1) (ii) AND 7 (2) (a)—Not UNEM-PLOYED—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION—DEFINITION OF "ORDI-NARILY FOLLOWED"—THREE WEEKS SUFFICIENT IN CASE OF AN ASSOCIATION BRANCH SECRETARY.

The applicant, whose last spell of employment in his usual trade as sheet iron worker lasted for 3 months and ended on 7th Decem-ber, 1921, was reported to be following an additional occupation as branch secretary of his association, but it was contended that he had not ordinarily followed this occupation contemporaneously with his usual employment. His claim for benefit, which he lodged on 8th December, 1921, was disallowed in December, 1922, under Section 7. (1).

under Section 7 (1) (ii). The applicant stated he was appointed branch secretary on 16th The applicant stated he was appointed branch secretary on 16th November, 1921, and acted as secretary in conjunction with the retiring secretary until the end of December, 1921. On 1st January, 1922, he took over the full control of the branch, doing all the work outside his usual working hours as sheet iron worker, performing the bulk of the work on Friday evenings and Sundays. He produced figures covering the period 1st January, 1922, to 30th September, 1922, proving that his remuneration from his occupation as branch secretary was less than 3s. 4d. per day on the average the average.

the average. Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed under Section 7 (2) (a). The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recom-mendation. He did not think that the applicant, who had carried mendation. He did not think that the applicant, who had carried on his employment as branch secretary for only three weeks con-currently with his usual occupation, could be said at the date of his claim for benefit to have ordinarily carried on the work as branch secretary in addition to his usual occupation. The applicant's association stated that the applicant was ap-pointed and recognised as branch secretary as from 16th Novem-ber, 1921, and was paid his salary from that date. The retiring secretary merely assisted him until the end of the year. *Decision.*—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim should be allowed.

claim should be allowed. "The duties of branch secretary of a trade union are ordinarily carried on by a working member in his spare time, and it appears from further evidence now submitted that the applicant whilst still in his usual employment succeeded to the office and followed this occupation in addition to his usual employment for a period of about three weeks, when he lost his usual employment through depression of trade

through depression of trade. through depression of trade. "In the case of an occupation which is not so regularly followed for long periods of time as an additional spare-time occupation, J should have some hesitation in saying that a person who has followed such occupation concurrently with his usual employment for only three weeks, and who may at any time cease to follow this additional occupation, can be said to have ordinarily fol-lowed it in addition to his usual employment. In the case of a hyperbal secretary, however, I think that the Act is intended to

lowed it in addition to his usual employment. In the case of branch secretary, however, I think that the Act is intended t mean that this condition is fulfilled provided that the branc secretaryship is taken up in the normal way, by a man who in employment at the time, and no particular period can b specified during which the usual employment and the occupation of branch secretary must have been followed concurrently."

CASE NO. 4281, SECTION 7 (1) (ii)—Not UNEMPLOYED—"R MUNERATION"—CLUB STEWARD RECEIVED NO WAGES BU GIVEN FREE ACCOMMODATION.

The applicant, who had last been working as a butcher, has employment on 30th October, 1922, and on 29th Novemb lodged a claim for benefit, which was disallowed under Section (1) (ii). It was stated that on 23rd November, 1922, he becar (1) (1). It was stated that on 25rd November, 1922, he beca engaged at a club as a steward, being required to be present the club from 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. to closing time. During the d his wife looked after the premises. In return for their servic the applicant and his wife were supplied with accommodation the da two rooms on the club premises; no monetary payment was ma to them.

to them. Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that on each even of the week the applicant was following an occupation from which he derived remuneration in the form of accommodation, and which occupation had not ordinarily been followed by him in addition to his usual occupation

to his usual occupation. Leave to appeal to the Umpire was granted. The applicant stated that actually his wife was appointed as stewardess of the

club, and she took all the responsibility. He did not refute the statement that he acted as steward in the evenings. Decision.—" On the facts before me my decision is that the

claim for benefit should be disallowed. "I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The accommodation in the club given to the applicant and his wife must be regarded as remuneration for his services."

CASE No. 4282, SECTION 7 (1) (ii)-Not UNEMPLOYED-ADDI-TIONAL OCCUPATION AS SECRETARY RENEWED WITH NEW EMPLOYER—DIFFERENCE IN REMUNERATION IMMATERIAL.

The applicant, who lost his employment as a correspondence object in September, 1921, had carried on in addition to and out-side the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation the impaid duties of branch secretary of his trade union since 1918. He gave up his post as branch secretary on losing his work in his issual trade, and on 15th December, 1921, he became secretary of an Allotments Association at a salary of £26 per annum. The salary had been withdrawn, however, as from October, 1922, and he was now unpaid. This office required him to attend on three evenings each week meetings of about one hour's duration e was now unpaid. This office required him to attend on three venings each week meetings of about one hour's duration. The claim for benefit was disallowed on the ground that the pplicant was not unemployed as from 15th December, 1921. *Recommended* by the Court of Referees, held on 7th December, 922, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed under lection 7 (1) (ii). The Court held that the applicant's work as ecretary of the Allotments Association was not an occupation which had been ordinarily carried on in addition to his usual eccupation.

The applicant's association appealed to the Umpire. They con-nded that the applicant's present occupation was similar in maracter to the work he had carried on as branch secretary of is trade union, and that he had, therefore, ordinarily carried on n occupation as secretary in addition to and outside the ordinary orking hours of his usual occupation at a remuneration of less 4d. per day.

than 3s. 4d. per day. At a hearing before the Umpire it was submitted on behalf of the Insurance Officer that "secretarial work" was too wide and vague to be called "an occupation." If the change were from secretary of a football club to secretary of a cricket club, that might not be a change of occupation, but it would be a change to become secretary of a public company. The words "that occu-pation" in the fourth line of Section 7 (2) (a) of the Act meant the occupation from which remuneration was derived. In reply it was explained by the association that their rules provided for payment of branch secretaries, but the applicant in question had chosen not to claim his payment; the money due to him had, however, been placed to his account by their finance department. It was also submitted that the duties of a branch secretary were very similar to those of a secretary of an Allot-

tary were very similar to those of a secretary of an Allot-Association

ecision.—" On the f m should be allowed. " On the facts before me my decision is that the

Applicant had whilst in his usual employment ordinarily Applicant had whilst in his usual employment ordinarily lowed in addition thereto and outside the working hours preof the occupation of branch secretary of his trade union. ter he lost his usual employment he ceased to be branch secre-y, and he took up the secretaryship of an Allotments Associa-n at a salary less than 3s. 4d. per day. The work was clerical d substantially of the same kind as that of a branch secretary bugh the employer was changed.

'I am of opinion that the conditions of the exception in tion 7 (2) (a) of the Act are complied with if the occupation owed whilst out of work is substantially of the same nature amount as that followed ordinarily by the applicant whilst smployment, although the employer may not be the same and duties to be performed and remuneration received are not isely the same." isely the same

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.*

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

RAILWAY ELECTRICAL SHOPMEN (LONDON DISTRICT).—Electrical rades Union v. Metropolitan District Railway Company, London Electric Railway Company, City and South London Railway ompany, Central London Railway Company. Prior to the issue t Decision No. 542 of the Industrial Court negotiations were in rogress for the purpose of securing uniform rates and conditions for service for employees in multiplication to the service of securing uniform rates and conditions with rates for female learners ranging from 14d. to 54d. per hour, according to six-monthly period of employment and age on commencing employment. The *piece-work basis time-rate* for all female workers is 7¹/₂d. per hour. service for employees in railway workshops; these negotia-ns failed, and the matter, which was referred to the Court, ulted in Decision No. 728. Decision No. 542 was expressly red as an interim decision and was not to prejudice the negotia-be profession of the set of the s Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales). Order (M.D. 9 and 10), dated 16th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male and female workers, and specifying 24th March, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective. has referred to. Although the electric railway companies incerned had taken part in the negotiations, they were not rties to Decision No. 728, but afterwards applied the decision the shopmen in their employment. The question before the urt is whether the rates laid down in Decision No. 542 shall the rates payable to men engaged on work which might dinarily be carried out by electrical contractors. *Decision.*— the Decision No. 728 has introduced uniform rates of pay and additions of service into railway workshops it follows that excision No. 542 has ceased to operate, and the rates laid down with lower rates for workers under 21: (iii.) Clerks cf 21 years of age and over : Area A 46s. 6d., Area B 57s., Area C 61s. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (iv.) shop assistants, roundsmen, pasteurizers, assistant sterilizers and all other • See also page 153, as to Appointment of a Court of Inquiry under the ndustrial Courts Act.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE.

therein are no longer payable. In the case of a class of work for which no rates are laid down in Decision No. 728 it is open to any of the parties to apply to the Court to have a rate fixed, but having regard to the general nature of the question at issue, the Court refrain from dealing with the rates which should be paid at the Central Overhaul Depot at Acton, although it may be observed that the work carried out there is work executed by the company in the ordinary course of their business and similar to work undertaken from time to time by the company. Issued to work undertaken from time to time by the company. Issued 19th March, 1923. (768.)

to and the

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

MINISTER OF LABUUK. IRON AND STEEL WORKERS: SCUNTHORPE.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association. Difference—Claim by the Frodingham Iron and Steel Company, Limited, Scunthorpe, Lincs., for a reduction in the rates being paid to certain men in connection with their 14" and 28" mills due to improvements in plant and working facilities. Board of Arbitration—Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. W. Simons (Employers' Repre-sentative) and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's Representative). Award—The wages of the men concerned should be reduced as follows : follows :--

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY WORKERS.—Electrical Power Engineers' Association v. Employers' Side of the National Joint Board of Employers and Members of Staffs, Electricity Supply Industry. Difference—Withdrawal of the employers from the Board. Agreement—The Board should resume its functions on the under-standing that in cases in which it failed to agree recourse should be had to arbitration under the Industrial Courts Act. 1919. standing that in cases in which it failed to agree recourse should be had to arbitration under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. The Minister of Labour should decide the form of arbitration in cases of failure to agree on this point. Neither side of the Board, nor any constituent member, should secede from the Board without giving six months' notice. The employers would raise no objection to agreements between the Association and any other trade union for joint action against undertakings refusing to abide by decisions of the Board or of Joint Industrial Councils for the Industry, provided that such action be confined to the defaulting authority. Agreed 24th March, 1923. (I.R. 510/1923.) 510/1923.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

ORDERS confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the following Trade Boards have been made under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918 :--

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).

Order (W.D.S. 14), dated 10th April, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for female workers in the Wholesale, Manufac-turing and all other branches of the trade, except the Retail Branch, and specifying 1st May, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The general minimum time-rates as varied are 6¹/₂d. per hour for female workers (including home workers), other than learners,

workers of 21 years of age and over : Area A 42s., Area B 52s., Area \cup 56s. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21;

(b) for female workers :-

(i.) Roundswomen (the rates for whom have been in Koundswomen (the rates for whom have been in operation since 1st February, 1922): Area A 37s., Area B 42s., Area C 49s. 6d. per week for workers of 21 years and over, with lower rates for workers under 21; (ii.) clerks of 21 years of age and over: Area A 31s. 6d., Area B 36s., Area C 42s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (ii.) becausitation of 21 and over . Area A 27s. Area week, with lower lates for workers inder 21; (iii,) shop assistants of 21 and over : Area A 27s., Area B 31s., Area C 36s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (iv.) all other female workers of 21 and over : Area A 26s. 6d., Area B 30s., Area C 34s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21 under 21.

Note.—" Area A" rates apply to all areas administered by (a) Rural District Councils and (b) Urban District Councils which, according to the most recent census, had a population of less than 10,000, but so as in neither case to apply to any area within the Metropolitan Police District.

Area B" rates apply to those areas to which Scales "A"

and "C" do not apply. "Area C" rates apply to the area comprising the City of London and Metropolitan Police District.

Ostrich and Fancy Feather and Artificial Flower Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (O.F. 6 and 7), dated 20th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male workers, and specifying 1st May, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become

The general minimum time-rates as varied for male workers, excepting workers employed as dyers in the feather trade are 1s. per hour for workers of 21 years of age and over, and lower

rates for workers under 21. The *piece-work basis time-rate* as varied for male workers is 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}d$, per hour.

Sack and Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (S.B. 7), dated 26th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male workers, and specifying 9th April, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

the rates as varied become effective. The general minimum time-rates as varied are 1s. 2d. per hour for male workers of 21 years of age and over employed as superintendents of packing presses (hand or machine) or press foremen (hand or machine) and setters-up and operators of branding machines, 11¹/₂d. per hour for other male workers of 21 and over, and lower rates for male workers under 21 years of age.

Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain).

Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain). Order (Q. 24), dated 19th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male workers employed as braziers, bur-nishers, drop-stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, or as annealers or polishers, and specifying 7th April, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective. The general minimum time-rates as varied for male workers of 21 and over of the classes specified are: (a) 1s. 1d., 1s. 3d. and 1s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour respectively for braziers, burnishers or drop stampers of Grades I., II. and III.; (b) 1s. 1d. per hour for dippers and annealers; (c) 1s. 1d., 1s. 3d. and 1s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour respectively for dippers who are also bronzers of Grades I., II. and III.; and (d) 1s. 1d., 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1s. 5d. per hour respectively for polishers of Grades I., II. and III. The piece-work basis time-rates for the classes of male workers specified above are respectively : (a) 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1s. $5\frac{5}{2}$ d. and 1s. $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The piece-work basis time-rates for the classes of mate workers specified above are respectively: (a) 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1s. $5\frac{5}{2}$ d. and 1s. $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour; (b) 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour; (c) 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1s. $5\frac{5}{2}$ d. and 1s. $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour; (d) 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1s. $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. The general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates for male workers under 21 years of age engaged on these specified operations are correspondingly lower.

Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain).

(Great Britain). Order (F. 11), dated 28th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male and female workers, and specifying 9th April and 9th July, 1923, as the dates from which the rates as varied respectively become effective. The general minimum time-rates as varied are 1s. 0½d. per hour from 9th April to 8th July, 1923, and 1s. per hour as from 9th July, 1923, for workers of 24 years of age and over (with corresponding lower rates for younger workers), in the case of male workers and certain classes of female workers engaged in specified occupations, and 6¾d. per hour for other female workers of 18 years of age and over, with lower rates for workers under that age.

that age. The piece-work basis time-rates as varied are 1s. 21d. per hour for all male workers and for female workers employed in the specified occupations, and 7³/₂d. per hour for all other female workers

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland),

Order N.I.B.B. (19, 20, 21 and 22), dated the 6th March, 1923 confirming general minimum time-rates, guaranteed time-rate piece-work basis time-rate, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers and specifying the 12th March, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :—

(a) 1s. 3d. per hour for male workers of 21 years of age
and over (other than apprentices under 22 years of age) employed in certain operations.
(b) 2³/₄d. to 11d. per hour (according to age) for all other male workers (including male apprentices under 22 years)

of age). (c) $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour (according to age) for all female workers.

workers. The guaranteed time-rate (as varied) for male apprentice is 11s. per week of 48 hours. The piece-work basis time-rate (as varied) for femal workers is 7³/₄d. per hour.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.D. (12), dated the 12th March, 1923, confirmin Order N.I. W.D. (12), dated the 12th March, 1923, confiring general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in the Retail Dressmaking branch of the trade, and specifying the 19th March, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective. The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :--(a) 7d. to $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for all workers, other than learners, according to classification. (b) 11d to 51d per hour for learners, according to an

(b) 14d. to 54d. per hour for learners, according to age and classification.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland). Order N.I.T.R.B. (17), dated the 5th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 10th March, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective :--

offective :-The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :-(a) 24d. to 1s. 5d. per hour for male workers, other than learners and apprentices, according to age and classification.
(b) 24d. to 74d. per hour for male apprentices, according to apprenticeship period and classification.
(c) 24d. to 98d. per hour for male learners, according to age and classification.

(d) $6\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $10\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour for female workers, other th learners

arners, according to classification. (e) 14d. to 55d. per hour for female learners, according ge and classification.

age and classification. The piece-work basis time-rates (as varied) are :---(a) 1s. 4¹/₄d. to 1s. 6¹/₄d. per hour for male workers, othe than apprentices and learners, according to classification. (b) 9³/₄d. to 11³/₄d. per hour for female workers, other tha learners, according to classification.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.S. (12), dated the 19th March, 1923, confirm general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rate an general minimum piece-rates for female workers, and specifyin the 2nd April, 1923, as the date from which these rates ar effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as fixed and varied) are :--(a) 6d. per hour for female workers other than learner (b) $1\frac{p}{2^n}d$. to $4\frac{1}{1^n}d$. per hour for learners. The piece-work basis time-rate for female workers is 7d. pe

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.M. (10 and 11), dated the 29th March, 1923. firming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time rate and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 7th April, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective. effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :

(a) $10\frac{1}{2}d$. to 1s. $2\frac{1}{4}d$. per hour for male workers, other than learners, according to classification. (b) $2\frac{1}{2}d$. to $8\frac{3}{4}d$. per hour for male learners, according to

(c) 6d. per hour for female workers other than learners.
(d) 24d. to 6d. per hour for female learners.
The piece-work basis time-rate (as fixed) for female workers is 7d. per hour.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal (W.D.S. 13), dated 11th April, 1923, to vary by duction the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates female learners in the Retail Branch of the trade.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO MAKE SPECIAL ORDERS. The Minister of Labour has issued Notices of Intention to The Minister of Labour has issued Notices of the Minister of Labour has issued Notices of the descrip-ke Special Orders varying by way of correction the descrip-ns of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade and of the tton-making Trade for purposes of the Trade Boards Acts, 9 and 1918. Copies of the Notices and draft Special Orders 1 be obtained on application to the Secretary, Ministry of bour, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

Particulars of the minimum rates of wages referred to above, regards Great Britain, may be obtained by reference to the NDON and EDINBURGH GAZETTES.

Particulars regarding minimum rates of wages proposed, fixed varied by Trade Boards established in Northern Ireland, may obtained from the Secretary, Office of Trade Boards (Northern land), 14, Bridge Street, Belfast.

COMMITTEES AND INQUIRIES.

RESCUE WORK IN MINES.

IE Secretary for Mines has appointed a committee "to investi-te the present arrangements for the provision and maintenance appliances for use in rescue work, and for the formation and aining of Rescue Corps and Rescue Brigades, and to report hat steps, if any, should be taken to improve these arrangements amendment of the law or regulations or otherwise." The members of the Committee are :—

Mr. T. H. Mottram, C.B.E., H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines

(Chairman). Mr. F. H. Wynne, H.M. Divisional Inspector of Mines. Mr. Percy Ward. Mr. Robert Clive.

Mr. William H. Telfer. The Rt. Hon. Thomas Richards, P.C. Mr. Frank B. Varley.

Mr. James Doonan. The secretary of the Committee is Mr. F. Mallinson, of the lines Department (Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, Westminster, W. 1)

CIVIL SERVICE (EX-SERVICE MEN).

HE Government are appointing a Committee "to inquire into the action taken throughout the Civil Service in consequence of the Report of the Committee set up in July, 1920, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Lytton; to consider the arrangements for the appointment of ex-Service men to posts in the Civil Service, whether permanent or temporary; and to report to what extent practical effect has been given to the Committee's recommendations in the various Government Departments."

ther any, and, if so, what, modifications should be

made in these rates. It will be an instruction to the Committee to give immediate insideration to the question of initial rates of remuneration, and

report thereon. The membership of the Committee is not yet completed

CIVIL SERVICE AND FIGHTING SERVICES.

THE Government have set up a Committee "to inquire into the present standard of remuneration and other conditions of mployment of the various classes of State servants employed in the Civil Service and in the three Fighting Services, and

"in the Civil Service and in the three Fighting Services, and "to make recommendations thereon." The members of the Committee are :— Sir Alan Garrett Anderson, K.B.E., *Chairman*. General the Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, K.C.B. Sir W. Peter Rylands. The Committee have been asked to include in their report a classified statement of increase in the numbers and cost of per-sonnel in these services consequent on duties imposed on them since July, 1914, and the expansion of duties then existing.

PRISON OFFICERS.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a Committee " to consider " and report whether any, and, if so, what changes should be " made in the remuneration or other conditions of service of " officers at the prisons and Borstal institutions in England and " Scotland, and at Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, other " than the clerical staffs which have been assimilated to the scales

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Committee's recommendations in the various Government Departments." As stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House Commons on 12th April, the Committee has also been asked to consider the recommendation in paragraph 43 of the Third Interim Report of the Committee regarding the initial rates of remuneration to be prescribed for successful candidates at the special limited competitions for the clerical class, and to advice whether any and if so what modifications should be

^{**} of pay laid down in the report of the Re-organisation Committee
^{**} of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service.''
^{**} The members of the Committee are :-The Earl Stanhope (*Chairman*).
Mr. James Brown, O.B.E., M.P.
Mr. J. H. McC. Craig.
^{**} The Hon. Lobus Descent Mr. J. H. McC. Orag. The Hon. John Dewar. Mr. A. L. Dixon, C.B., C.B.E. Lt.-Col. Sir Raymond Greene, Bt., D.S.O., M.P. The secretary is Mr. L. W. Fox, of the Home Office (Whitehall, London, S.W. 1).

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DOMESTIC SERVICE.

THE Minister of Labour has set up a Committee "to inquire "into the present conditions as to the supply of female domestic "servants, and, in particular to inquire into the effect of the "Unemployment Insurance Scheme in this connection; and to "make recommendations." The members of the Committee are :—

Mrs. E. M. Wood, C.B.E. (*Chairman*). Lady Askwith, C.B.E. Mrs. Harrison Bell. Mrs. Burgwin.

Mrs. Cohen.

Mrs. Cohen. Lady Procter, C.B.E. Miss Julia Varley. Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. The secretary is Miss E. S. Fraser, of the Ministry of Labour (Queen Anne's Chambers, 28, Broadway, Westminster, S.W. 1).

COAL TRIMMERS (SOUTH WALES).

THE Minister of Labour has appointed a Court of Inquiry, under Part II. of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to inquire into the necessity of putting on a third shift for coal tippers and trimmers in the South Wales coal exporting district.

in the South Wales coal exporting district.
The members of the Court are :--Mr. John A. Compston, K.C. (Chairman).
Mr. J. T. Clatworthy.
Mr. C. T. Cramp.
Mr. L. Lougher, M.P.
Mr. T. H. Rendell.
The secretary to the Court is Mr. A. B. Valentine, of the Ministry of Labour (Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1). S.W. 1).

S. W. 1). The Court held its first meeting on the 23rd March, and sat a second time, for the hearing of evidence, at the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce on the 9th April.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED **RELATING TO LABOUR.**

CENSUS.—(1) Census of England and Wales, 1921. County of London. Text. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.) (2) Census of Scotland, 1921. Vol. I. Part 28. County of Perth. (S.O. publication; price 9s.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the local government of Greater London. (Cmd. 1830; price 6s. 6d.)

MINING.—(1) Report of the Committee appointed by the University Grants Committee (at the request of the Miners Welfare Committee) to enquire into the existing facilities for education in coal mining at the universities and technical schools in Britain. Board of Trade, Mines Department (S.O. publica-tions relief of 10) Memorandum on errolosives for use in tion; price 6d.) (2) Memorandum on explosives for use in fiery and dusty mines, and the methods of testing them, by the Explosives in Mines Research Committee. Safety in Mines Research Board. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

INDUSTRIAL PAINTS.—Report of a Committee appointed to re-examine ... the question of the danger from the use of leader paints to workers in the painting trades, and the comparativ efficiency and cost, and effect on the health ... of ... rice tcad and leadless paints respectively. (S.O. publication;) 2s. 6d.) (See also page 120 of this GAZETTE.)

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—National Heal. h Insy Fund Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1920. chequer and Audit Department. (H.C. 21; price 18.)

Relief in Poor Law Relief.—Persons in receipt of Poor Law England and Wales; quarterly statement, 30th Decer Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price '4d.) ber. 1922.

o and pay ROAD FUND.—Abstract account of the receipts i ments out of the Road Fund in the year ender 31st together with the report of the Comptroller General thereon. (H.C. 18; price 2d.) March, 1922; and Auditor

General thereon. (H.C. 18; price 2d.) SAVINGS BANKS.—(1) Savings Banks and F Funds Accounts for the year ended 31 ft D November, 1920. Treasury. (H.C. 139; Accounts of all deposits received and paired ended 31st December, 1920. National Perpec (1921); price 2d.) (3) Report of the is 20th trustee savings banks for the year ended stion Thirty-first annual report. (S.O. publics iendly Societies ccember and 20th price 2d.) (2) during the year Office. (H.C. 143 t Office. pection committee of 20th November, 1922. ion; price 3d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MARCH, 1923.

ADMIRALTY.

CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.

Balata Belting: J. Tullis & Son, London, E.C.-Bedding Lockers: F. Braby & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Estler Bros., London, E.-Bluett Combination Suits: Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.-Brass Bars, High Tension: Manganese Bronze & Brass Ltd., London, S.W.-Candles: Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Prices Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Cans, Oil: J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Canvas: Francis Webster & Sons, Arbroath.—Casks and Drums: L. Berger & Webster & Sons, Arbroath. Casks and Ertitler E. Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; Jukes, Coulson, Stokes & Co., Ltd., London, E.; F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; P. D. Mitchell, Ltd., Dundee; B. Noakes & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.— Cells: Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath.-Cells, Inert: The Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End.-Condensers: Dubilier Condenser Co. (1921), Ltd., London, W .-Cooking Equipment, Electric: General Electric Co., Ltd., mingham.-Electrodes: Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, E.C.-Firehearth Gear: Carron Co., Falkirk; Darwin, Yeardley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield; C. Portway & Son, Hal-stead; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; H. Wilson & Co. (1920), Ltd., Liverpool.—Flour: W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; North Shore Mill Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Marriage, Neave & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Furnace Control Equipment, Electric: Watford Electric & Mfg. Co., Ltd., Watford.-Glands, Bulkhead and Cable: Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham.-Gloves, Leather: John S. Deed & Son, London, W.C.; E. & W. French, Ltd., Taunton; North of England Chamois Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne,-Hammers, Pneumatic Riveting: Globe Pneumatic Eng. Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Helmets, Sun: E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans; J. Compton & Sons, Ltd. (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans; J. Compton & Sons, Ltd. London, E.-Hides and Leather Goods: Geo. 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