

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

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 :-

Table with columns: Trade, Membership of Unions reporting at end of March, 1923., Unemployed at end of March, 1923., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Year ago.

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 showing the estimated number insured and the numbers and percentages 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.

Table with columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for March, 1923., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Days Worked per week by Mines., Days., Furnaces in Blast, Mills Working, Shifts Worked (one week).

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople Employed., Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Week ended 24th March, 1923., Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent.

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked-out are also excluded. † The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership reported on the returns, relate to January. ‡ In addition to those totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit." § The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers. || Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

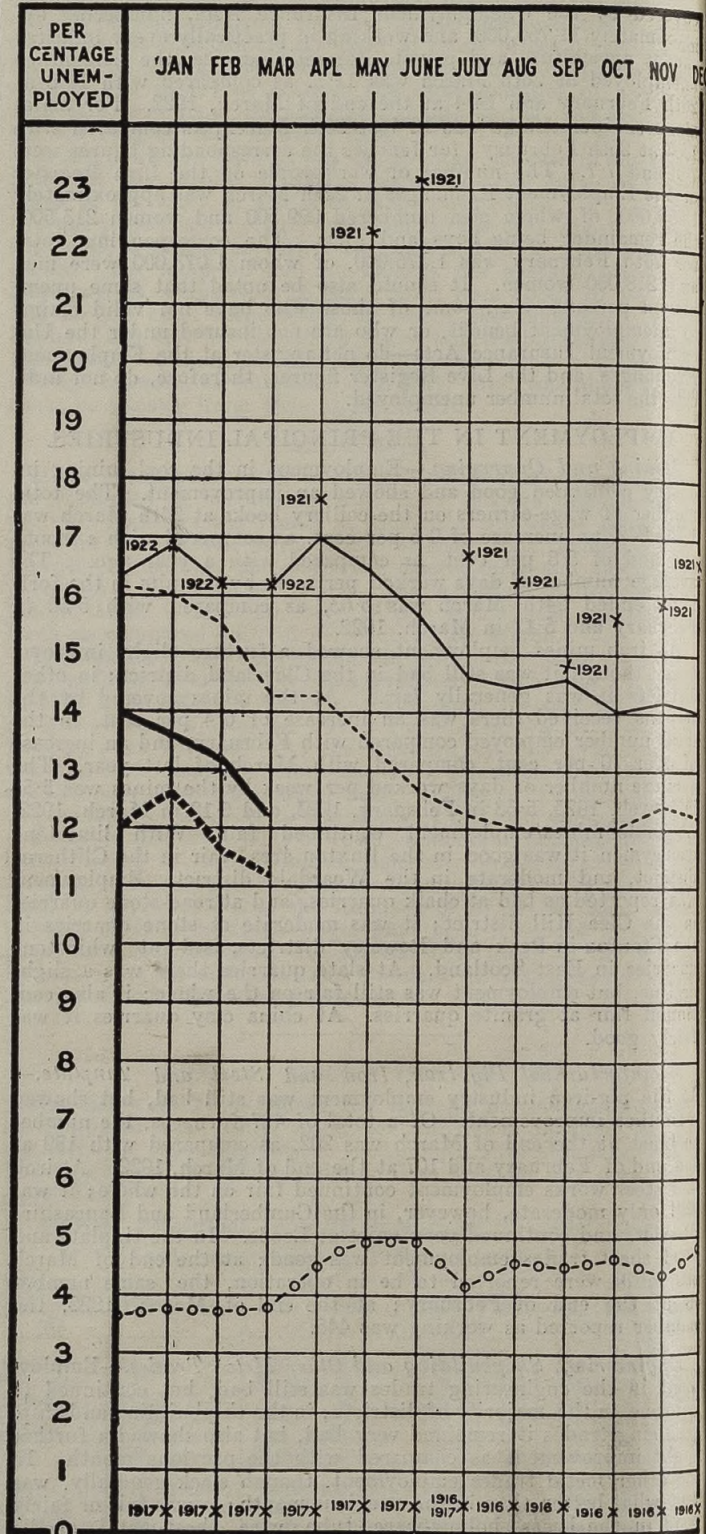
EMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

Thick Curve ————— = 1923. Thin Curve ————— = 1922. Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1913-22.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT :-

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



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 excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

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.

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, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males 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 5.8 per cent. on a year ago.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.6 per cent. at 26th March, as compared with 4.1 per cent. at 26th February.

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 returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 24th Mar., 1923., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines., Days., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago.

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits 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 trade. In the fortnight ended 24th February the average time lost was 0.27 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. For the fortnight ended 25th March, 1922, the average time lost was 0.58 of a day, nearly all due 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 24th March, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 22,702,600 tons, compared with 22,246,800 tons in the four weeks ended 24th February, and with 19,921,000 tons in the four weeks ended 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 tons more than in February.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron &c., 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. † Including Cannoek Chase.

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 :-

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns., Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Days., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago.

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, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation 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 :-

Table with columns: District., Total Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of Mar., 1923., Feb., 1923., Mar., 1922., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., on a Month ago., Year ago.

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.

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 to be in operation, the same number as at the end of February, compared with 445 a year ago.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 2,256 at 26th March, as compared with 2,575 at 26th February. The following Table shows the number of works reported to be open and the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received at the end of March, 1923:—

Table with 7 columns: Works, At end of March, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago, Number of Works Open, At end of March, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.

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 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:—

Large multi-column table summarizing iron and steel works data, including departments like Open Hearth Melting, Bessemer Converters, and districts like Northumberland and Durham.

The production of steel ingots and castings in March, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 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 men employed.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was still bad during March, but continued to improve in the majority of districts. In some cases, however, it was reported to have been affected by increased prices of materials. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment insurance books lodged at the 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 further decline in the textile machinery section at some centres in Lancashire and Cheshire, but general engineering improved a little on the whole. In Yorkshire what little change was apparent was in the direction of improvement; while conditions were somewhat better at Nottingham, and more markedly better at Lincoln. At Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton employment in the motor and cycle industries was fairly good, night shifts being resorted to in some instances. General engineering also improved somewhat at these centres. In the Eastern Counties employment, although generally slack, showed signs of improvement, and conditions were also rather better on the whole in the Southern Counties. In Wales an improvement was reported in general engineering, but a decline in marine engineering.

There was a slight improvement on the whole in the Glasgow district, and employment on the East Coast of Scotland maintained 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 of workpeople registered as unemployed in the engineering and ironfounding industry according to the Unemployment Insurance records at 26th March, as compared with 26th February:—

Table with 4 columns: Divisions, Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th March, 1923, Percentage of Unemployment at 26th March, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 26th Feb., 1923.

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 books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th March:—

Table with 4 columns: Division, Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th March, 1923, Percentage of Unemployment at 26th March, 1923, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 26th February, 1923.

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

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

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH, 1923.

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 December, 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 1,311,000 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 vessels under 100 tons gross.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING March employment continued good in the section of the trade spinning Egyptian cotton, the great majority of firms continuing to work full time. On the other hand, it was very bad, and worse than a month earlier, in the section spinning American cotton. In accordance with a resolution of the Federation of 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 firms stopping their mills for two weeks, whilst others stopped a proportionate amount of machinery. At a meeting held on the 16th March, the Federation issued a further recommendation that a similar curtailment of production (i.e., to the extent of 50 per cent.) should continue during April, in addition to any stoppage due to the Easter holidays.

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

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

Complex table with multiple sections: DEPARTMENTS (Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.), DISTRICTS (Ashton, Stockport, Hyde, etc.), and a summary table with columns for Department, District, Total, Number of Workpeople, and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.

In the Oldham district employment with spinners and weavers continued bad, and was worse than in February, and worse also than a year ago. During March over one-fourth of the operatives covered by the returns in this district were stopped for two weeks, about one-fourth were stopped for one week, and nearly one-fourth were on short time for one or more weeks; the remainder (slightly over one-fourth) worked full time. In many cases the Easter Holiday stoppage was extended. In the Stockport and Ashton districts 53 per cent. and 38 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, to the extent of about 18 and 12 hours per week on the average, respectively.

At Bolton employment remained fair with spinners, only about 6 per cent. of the spindles being stopped, but was very poor with weavers, with whom it showed a marked decline; with

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

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 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 Darwen 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 stoppage at Preston was prolonged by many firms, generally to the extent of 14 days. Many weaving operatives in the various districts were working less than the usual number of looms. Employment 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 10,831,600 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.

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 employment generally showed a decline; but there was less unemployment with willayers and fettlers, and a further improvement in the low woollen trade in the Leeds and Morley districts. In the blanket and rug trade a slight decline was reported, though employment was still fairly good; in the rag and shoddy trade employment, though poor, showed a further slight improvement. 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 unemployment in the tweed trade.

The following Table summarises the information received from those firms which furnished returns for the three dates under review:—

Table with columns: Districts, Departments, Total, Number of Workpeople, and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.

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.

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

Table with columns for Departments, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and various percentage changes for Week ended 24th Mar., 1923, and Year ago.

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 continued 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.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the boot, shoe and slipper making and repairing trades, as indicated by the unemployment 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.

Table showing Number of Workpeople and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople for England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain, broken down by district and department.

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.

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.

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 February :-

Table showing Occupation, Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 26th Mar., 1923, Percentage of Unemployment at 26th Mar., 1923, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 26th Feb., 1923.

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

BRICK TRADE.

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 Employment Exchanges at 26th March was 12.4, as compared with 14.1 at 26th February.

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

Table showing Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, and various percentage changes for Week ended 24th Mar., 1923, and Year ago.

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, 1923.

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

Table showing BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and various percentage changes for Week ended 24th Mar., 1923, and Year ago.

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 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.

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 :-

Table showing Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in, and various percentage changes for Mar., 1923, and Year ago.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during March continued slack, but was slightly better than in the previous month. The percentage 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.

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 :-

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London, broken down by Period, In Docks, and At Wharves making Returns.

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 teamers 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 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 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.

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.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Mining and Quarrying, Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture, and Engineering, Shipbuilding, Etc.

* 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, slagers, fillers, etc., is 69 1/2 in the Worthington area and 64 1/2 in the Furness area. § The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. ¶ 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 2 1/2 per cent. on base rates, or 1 1/2 of war advances should take effect in two instalments, viz.: 1 1/2 per cent. on 11th March and 1 1/2 per cent. on 31st April. ** 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. 6d. per week or more (including 10s. war bonus).

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Engineering, Shipbuilding, Etc., Other Metal Trades, Heating and Domestic Engineering, Stamped or Pressed Metal Ware Manufacture, Surgical, etc., Instrument Manufacture, Case-Hame, Chain and Cart Gear Making, Farriery, and Hosiery Manufacture.

* 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. § 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 2 1/2 per cent. and that further reductions, each of 2 1/2 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.

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

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for Textile Trades, Clothing Trades, and various manufacturing sectors.

* 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 1d. 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 census, administered by Urban District Councils or other local authorities. Class B.—Those employed in other areas.
|| Other than machinists who do the whole machining on a garment.

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

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for Clothing Trades, Agriculture and Fishing, Paper, Printing and Allied Trades, Furniture and Woodworking Trades, and Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades.

* The rate was not agreed to by the Workers' side of the Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the Employers' Executive.
† The rates were agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Act (Repeal) Act, 1921.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number.
§ Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, and Tyne Dock.
¶ The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry. A list of the districts comprised by each class was given on page 55 of the GAZETTE for October, 1921.
** The reduction was arranged to take effect six clear weeks after the 1st pay day in February.

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

Main table on page 144 with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Baking and Confectionery, Brewing, Milk Distribution, Miscellaneous Trades and Occupations, and Brush and Broom.

* 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 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.

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

Main table on page 145 with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Miscellaneous Trades and Occupations and Public Utility Services.

* The undertakings affected by the reduction include the following:—Zone A: Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and District Electric Lighting Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly), South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland Tynemouth, West Hartlepool. Zone B: Skelton and Bratton Electric Supply Undertaking Ltd., Berwick-on-Tweed Urban Electric Supply Co., Ltd. Zone C: Northern Counties Electricity Supply Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly). The rates actually paid to labourers by some of these undertakings are higher than the minimum rates quoted above, which are those recognised by the District Joint Council.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN APRIL, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions already reported as having been arranged to take effect in 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 labourers in Northern Ireland; coopers; leather tanners and carriers; workpeople employed in the gas and electricity supply industries.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

The results of recent ascertainment of the selling prices of iron are given below:-

Table with columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit, Period covered by last Audit, Average Selling Price Per Ton, Previous Audit, A Year ago.

Pig Iron.—The rise in the ascertained selling price of Cleveland pig iron for the quarter ended March, 1923, resulted in an increase of 4½ 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 blastfurnacemen, 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 quarrymen were also increased by 1½d. per shift. The ascertainment for Cumberland pig iron in February resulted in an increase of 1½d. per shift for limestone quarrymen 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 England resulted in an increase in the wages of puddlers and millmen of 2½ 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.

Table with columns: Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales in the Fourth Quarter of (1922, 1921, 1917), Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with (Year ago, Five Years ago).

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:-

Table with columns: Destination, Applications received in March, Assisted Passages granted in March, Total Assisted Passages granted (1922, Jan.-Mar. 1923).

* 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, inclusive of dependants.

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.

From early in 1910 to the year 1920 statistics were regularly collected by the Department and published in this GAZETTE, showing 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 discontinued after October, 1920; but as the influence of these two factors has become less marked, publication was resumed last month.†

Returns have been received from 142 Local Authorities 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:-

Table with columns: District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received, Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 142 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) MARCH, 1923. Table with columns: ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire and Cheshire, North and West-Midland Counties, South-Midland and Eastern Counties, Outer London, South-Eastern Counties, South-Western Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire, SCOTLAND, Total.

(b) JANUARY TO MARCH, 1923. Table with columns: ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire and Cheshire, North and West-Midland Counties, South-Midland and Eastern Counties, Outer London, South-Eastern Counties, South-Western Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire, SCOTLAND, Total.

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 £4,100,000, compared with an average of £3,300,000 in the preceding two months. Dwelling 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 Department.

* There are some exceptions e.g., Government Buildings, Asylums. † See MINISTRY 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.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and the Board of Health in Scotland.)

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.

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 district (172 per 10,000) and in the Stockton and Tees district (117 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 seven districts showed increases ranging from 10 to 42 per 10,000 of the population.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day* in March, 1923 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Population (Estimated Population), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago).

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 31st March, and those for Scotland to 17th March. † These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district. ‡ 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.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

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.

Table with columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING—Among Operatives engaged in (Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Printing, File Cutting and Hardening, Tinning of Metals, Other Contact with Molten Lead, White and Red Lead Works, Pottery, Vitreous Enamelling, Electric Accumulator Works, Paint and Colour Works, Indiarubber Works, Coach and Car Painting, Shipbuilding, Paint used in other Industries, Other Industries), (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING (Mercury Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, Toxic Jaundice, Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas, Other, Epitheliomatous Ulceration—Paraffin, Pitch, Tar, Chrome Ulceration—Manufacture of Bichromates, Dyeing and Finishing, Chrome Tanning, Other), (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—Wool, Handling of Horsehair, Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.), Other Industries, TOTAL ANTHRAX, HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.†

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during March, 1923, was 196, as compared with 224 in the previous month and 214 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:-

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE (Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, Guards (Passenger), Permanent Way Men, Porters, Shunters, Mechanics, Labourers, Miscellaneous, Contractors' Servants), FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Boiler Making & Constructional Engineering, Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft, Other Metal Trades, Shipbuilding, Wood, Gas, Electric Generating Stations, Clay, Stone, Glass, etc., Chemicals, etc., Food and Drink, Paper, Printing, etc., Tanning, Currying, etc., Rubber Trades, Other Non-Textile Industries), MINES (Underground, Surface), QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, TOTAL RAILWAY SERVICE, TOTAL MINES, TOTAL QUARRIES, TOTAL FOR FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AND WORKSHOPS, TOTAL ACCIDENTS UNDER NOTICE OF ACCIDENTS ACT, 1894, Total (excluding Seamen).

* 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.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(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 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 forthwith, 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 side 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 Compensation Act, 1906, but liability was denied by the respondents on three grounds, one of which was that the accident arose from a breach of a statutory prohibition.

The Judge of the Dewsbury County Court held that the workman 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 4½ to 5½ ft., whilst the tubs were 3 ft. in width, and the rate of haulage was about 4½ miles 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 what the statute enjoined.—*Hawkrigge 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 Railway, brought by a father in respect of his son, who was a fireman 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 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 application, on the ground that the accident arose through the negligence 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.

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, which 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. 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 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 UNEMPLOYED—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION—DEFINITION OF “ORDINARILY 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 December, 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) (ii).

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.

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 recommendation. He did not think that the applicant, who had carried on his employment as branch secretary for only three weeks concurrently 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 appointed and recognised as branch secretary as from 16th November, 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.”

“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.”

“In the case of an occupation which is not so regularly followed for long periods of time as an additional spare-time occupation, I 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 followed it in addition to his usual employment. In the case of a branch secretary, however, I think that the Act is intended to mean that this condition is fulfilled provided that the branch secretaryship is taken up in the normal way, by a man who is in employment at the time, and no particular period can be 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—“REMUNERATION”—CLUB STEWARD RECEIVED NO WAGES BUT GIVEN FREE ACCOMMODATION.

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

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that on each evening 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.

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—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION AS SECRETARY RENEWED WITH NEW EMPLOYER—DIFFERENCE IN REMUNERATION IMMATERIAL.

The applicant, who lost his employment as a correspondence clerk in September, 1921, had carried on in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation the unpaid duties of branch secretary of his trade union since 1918. He gave up his post as branch secretary on losing his work in his usual 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.

The claim for benefit was disallowed on the ground that the applicant was not unemployed as from 15th December, 1921.

Recommended by the Court of Referees, held on 7th December, 1922, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii). The Court held that the applicant's work as secretary of the Allotments Association was not an occupation which had been ordinarily carried on in addition to his usual occupation.

The applicant's association appealed to the Umpire. They contended that the applicant's present occupation was similar in character to the work he had carried on as branch secretary of his trade union, and that he had, therefore, ordinarily carried on an occupation as secretary in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation at a remuneration of less 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 occupation” 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 Allotments Association.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim should be allowed.”

“Applicant had whilst in his usual employment ordinarily followed in addition thereto and outside the working hours thereof the occupation of branch secretary of his trade union. After he lost his usual employment he ceased to be branch secretary, and he took up the secretaryship of an Allotments Association at a salary less than 3s. 4d. per day. The work was clerical and substantially of the same kind as that of a branch secretary though the employer was changed.”

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

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

RAILWAY ELECTRICAL SHOPMEN (LONDON DISTRICT).—Electrical Trades Union v. Metropolitan District Railway Company, London Electric Railway Company, City and South London Railway Company, Central London Railway Company. Prior to the issue of Decision No. 542 of the Industrial Court negotiations were in progress for the purpose of securing uniform rates and conditions of service for employees in railway workshops; these negotiations failed, and the matter, which was referred to the Court, resulted in Decision No. 728. Decision No. 542 was expressly issued as an interim decision and was not to prejudice the negotiations referred to. Although the electric railway companies concerned had taken part in the negotiations, they were not parties to Decision No. 728, but afterwards applied the decision to the shopmen in their employment. The question before the Court is whether the rates laid down in Decision No. 542 shall be the rates payable to men engaged on work which might ordinarily be carried out by electrical contractors. Decision.—Since Decision No. 728 has introduced uniform rates of pay and conditions of service into railway workshops it follows that Decision No. 542 has ceased to operate, and the rates laid down

* See also page 153, as to Appointment of a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act.

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 19th March, 1923. (768.)

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

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' Representative) and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's Representative). Award—The wages of the men concerned should be reduced as follows:—

14" Mill—By a gross sum of 7½ %.
28" „ —By a gross sum of 12 %.

The parties should agree in what manner the above reductions should be apportioned on the rates of the men concerned. Effective on the first day on which pays are made up next after the date of award. Issued 9th March, 1923. (I.R. 347/2/1923.)

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 understanding 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.)

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, Manufacturing 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 6½d. per hour for female workers (including home workers), other than learners, with rates for female learners ranging from 1½d. to 5½d. 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 7½d. per hour.

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.

The general minimum time-rates as varied are:—

(a) for male workers:—

(i) Foremen; Area A 51s., Area B 64s., Area C 70s. 6d. per week; (ii) sterilizers (other than assistant sterilizers) of 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; (iii) Clerks of 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

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

(b) for female workers:—

- (i.) Roundswomen (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 51s. 6d., Area B 36s., Area C 42s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (iii.) shop assistants of 21 and over: Area A 27s., Area B 51s., 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.

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 effective.

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. 1½d. 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 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, 11½d. 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).

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, burnishers, 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. 4½d. 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. 4½d. per hour respectively for dippers who are also bronzers of Grades I., II. and III.; and (d) 1s. 1d., 1s. 3½d. 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. 3½d., 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 7½d. per hour; (b) 1s. 3½d. per hour; (c) 1s. 3½d., 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 7½d. per hour; (d) 1s. 3½d., 1s. 6½d. and 1s. 8½d. 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).

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 6½d. per hour for other female workers of 18 years of age and over, with lower rates for workers under that age.

The piece-work basis time-rates as varied are 1s. 2½d. per hour for all male workers and for female workers employed in the specified occupations, and 7½d. 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) 2½d. to 11d. per hour (according to age) for all other male workers (including male apprentices under 22 years of age).

(c) 2½d. to 7½d. per hour (according to age) for all female workers.

The guaranteed time-rate (as varied) for male apprentices is 11s. per week of 48 hours.

The piece-work basis time-rate (as varied) for female workers is 7½d. per hour.

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

Order N.I.W.D. (12), dated the 12th March, 1923, confirming 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 8½d. per hour for all workers, other than learners, according to classification.

(b) 1½d. to 5½d. per hour for learners, according to age and classification.

The piece-work basis time-rates (as varied) are:—

8d. to 9½d. per hour for all workers, other than learners, according to 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:—

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

(a) 2½d. to 1s. 5d. per hour for male workers, other than learners and apprentices, according to age and classification.

(b) 2½d. to 7½d. per hour for male apprentices, according to apprenticeship period and classification.

(c) 2½d. to 9½d. per hour for male learners, according to age and classification.

(d) 6½d. to 10½d. per hour for female workers, other than learners, according to classification.

(e) 1½d. to 5½d. per hour for female learners, according to age and classification.

The piece-work basis time-rates (as varied) are:—

(a) 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 6½d. per hour for male workers, other than apprentices and learners, according to classification.

(b) 9½d. to 11½d. per hour for female workers, other than learners, according to classification.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

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

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

(a) 6d. per hour for female workers other than learners.

(b) 1½d. to 4½d. per hour for learners.

The piece-work basis time-rate for female workers is 7d. per hour.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.M. (10 and 11), dated the 29th March, 1923, confirming 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.

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

(a) 10½d. to 1s. 2½d. per hour for male workers, other than learners, according to classification.

(b) 2½d. to 8½d. per hour for male learners, according to age.

(c) 6d. per hour for female workers other than learners.

(d) 2½d. 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 reduction the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for 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 make Special Orders varying by way of correction the descriptions of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade and of the Button-making Trade for purposes of the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918. Copies of the Notices and draft Special Orders can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

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

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

COMMITTEES AND INQUIRIES.

RESCUE WORK IN MINES.

The Secretary for Mines has appointed a committee “to investigate the present arrangements for the provision and maintenance of appliances for use in rescue work, and for the formation and training of Rescue Corps and Rescue Brigades, and to report what steps, if any, should be taken to improve these arrangements by 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 Mines Department (Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, Westminster, S.W. 1).

CIVIL SERVICE (EX-SERVICE MEN).

The 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.”

As stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of 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 advise whether any, and, if so, what, modifications should be made in these rates.”

It will be an instruction to the Committee to give immediate consideration to the question of initial rates of remuneration, and to 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 employment of the various classes of State servants employed 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 personnel 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

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. 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).

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.

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 tipplers and trimmers 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).

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. publication; 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 examine the question of the danger from the use of lead paints to workers in the painting trades, and the comparative efficiency and cost, and effect on the health of white lead and leadless paints respectively.* (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.) (See also page 120 of this GAZETTE.)

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—*National Health Insurance Fund Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1922.* Exchequer and Audit Department. (H.C. 21; price 1s.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—*Persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief in England and Wales; quarterly statement, 30th December, 1922.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

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

SAVINGS BANKS.—(1) *Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Funds Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1922.* (2) *November, 1920.* Treasury. (H.C. 139; price 2d.) (3) *Accounts of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December, 1920.* National Debt Commission (1921); price 2d.) (4) *Report of the trustee savings banks for the year ended 31st December, 1922.* (S.O. publication; 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 Co., 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 & 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., Birmingham.—**Electrodes:** Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Fire-hearth Gear:** Carron Co., Falkirk; Darwin, Yearley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield; C. Portway & Son, Halstead; 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. C. Fréché, Ltd., Taunton; North of England Chamis 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., London, E.—**Hides and Leather Goods:** Geo. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Barrowfield Leather Co., Glasgow; J. & F. J. Baker & Co., Ltd., Colyton, Devon; John S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; F. C. Jenner & Co., London, S.E.; J. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Halifax; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Insulators, Porcelain:** Bullers, Ltd., Hanley & Tipton, Staffs.; Taylor, Tunnicliffe & Co., Ltd., Hanley, Staffs.—**Ironplate Workers' Wares:** W. B. Bawn & Co., Ltd., London, E.; F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Cockburns, Ltd., Glasgow; Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston; Lancaster & Co. (Bow), Ltd., London, E.; Pratt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; Sheet Iron Workers, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Ironmongery:** Carron Co., Falkirk; Douglas Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; W. Gilpin, Senr., & Co. (Tools), Ltd., Cannock; J. Hill & Sons, Stourbridge; G. Hughes & Sons, Wolverhampton; A. E. Jenks & Cattell, Ltd., Wolverhampton; S. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Dudley; Emma Orton, Willenhall; E. Partridge & Co., Old Hill; H. J. & E. Shorthouse, Birmingham; Swindell & Co., Netherton; W. H. Tildesley, Willenhall; T. B. Wellings & Co., Ltd., Old Hill.—**Lace, Gold:** William Bunn & Son, London, S.W.—**Lamps, Blow and Gear:** Howes & Burley, Ltd., Birmingham; The Kitson Eng. Co. (London), Ltd., Stamford, Lincs.—**Linoleum:** Tayside Floorcloth Co., Ltd., Newburgh, Fife.—**Machine, Coil Winding:** Igranic Electric Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Machines, Milling:** Cunliffe & Croom, Ltd., Manchester.—**Manganese Bronze Ingots:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Marine Glue Pitch:** Grindley & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Map Heads:** T. M. Clewes & Son, Cradley, Worcs.—**Motors:** Lawrence, Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—**Mustard:** J. Farrow & Co., Ltd., Peterborough; Keen, Robinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Packing, Cotton and Hemp:** J. W. Roberts, Ltd., Arnhem, Leeds.—**Plant, Cellulose:** Masson, Scott and Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Plates, Cast Steel Bed:** J. Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Walsingham.—**Scuttles, Side and Deadlights:** Gabriel & Co., Birmingham.—**Shorts, Cellular and Cotton Fabric:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Starter, Automatic, for 1,100 H.P. Motor:** Brook, Hirst & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Tallow:** L. & M. Maclellan, Glasgow; Thornet & Fehr, London, E.C.—**Timber, English:** E. Batcheller & Sons, Ltd., Maidstone; Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgwater; Child & Son, Slinfold; C. R. Claridge, Exeter; Miles & Sons, Stamford; G. Randle & Son, Ltd., Bridgwater; E. C. White & Son, Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Timber, Yellow Pine:** E. N. Christensen, London.—**Timber, Rock Elm:** Price & Pieson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tin and Japanned Wares:** John & Robertson, Aberdeen; G. Welford & Son, Ltd., London, E.; M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Griffiths & Brockett, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Welsh Tinplate and Metal Stamping Co., Ltd.,** Birmingham.—**Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd.,** Bilston; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Llanelly; Farmer & Chapman, Ltd., Bilston; T. G. Blood, Birmingham.—**T. J. Bartlett, London.—Varnishes, Lacquers, etc.:** Birmingham; J. & Co., Ltd., Hull; Robert Ingham, Clark & Co., Blundell, Speckholt, Co., Ltd., Hull; Robert Ingham, Clark & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Jenson & Nicholson, Ltd., London, E.; Naylor Bros. (London), Ltd., Slough; C. Orme & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Parry, Ltd., London, W.; C. W. Waters, Ltd., London, E.C.; L. G. Wilkinson, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. Wills & Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Vests, Summer:** I. & R. Morley, Nottingham.—**Vests, Winter:** Atkins Bros., Hinckley.—**Wire Rope Patent:** Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wire Ropes:** Links Bros., Ltd., London, E.; Caledonian Wire Rope Co., Ltd., Lairdie; E. Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Glahelm & Robson, Ltd., Sunderland; Webster & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; Whitecross & Co., Ltd., Warrington.

ADMIRALTY.
(CIVIL ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S DEPARTMENT.)

Devonport: Portland Cement: Smeed, Dean & Co., Ltd., Sittingbourne.—**Liverpool, R.N.V.R.:** Berthing of H.M.S. "Irwell," Construction and Completion of Reinforced Concrete, Dolphins, Bollards, etc.: B. Morton & Sons, Manchester.—**Portsmouth:** Steel Sashes: J. Williams & Co., Cardiff. Asphalt Macadam: The Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Portland Cement:** The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad:** Steel Fencing and Gates: Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paint Materials:** Craig & Rose, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Asbestos Cement Slates and Sheets:** Bell's Polite & Everite Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Oil Pipework for Pump House:** Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd., Kilmarnock. O.I. Pipes, Valves and Filters: Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd., Kilmarnock. Steel Fencing and Gates: W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge; Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, London, E.C.

WAR OFFICE.

Acid, Sulphuric: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—**Bicycles:** Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham.—**Bodies, Motor:** John C. Beadle, Ltd., Dartford; The London Improved Motor Coach Builders, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Boots:** Adams Bros., Raunds; W. Lawrence, Ltd., Raunds; W. Nichols & Son, Ltd., Kettering; W. Patterson & Sons, Ltd., Dundee.—**Shoes, Canvas:** Adams Bros., Raunds; R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; Stead & Simpson, Ltd., Leicester.—**Cloth, Blue:** J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; Wilcock & J. Rhodes, Ltd., Leeds.—**Cloth, Scarlet:** W. & T. Huggan, Leeds.—**Cotton Drill, Khaki:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Cotton, Waste:** Cotton Cellulose Co., Ltd., Rawtenstall.—**Cresoli, Liquor, Saponatus Fortis:** Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., Plaistow, E.—**Crucibles, Plumbago:** The Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Curtains, Sandifly:** Thos. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; Frank Lane, London, E.C.; Waring & Gillow, Ltd., London, W.—**Drill, Khaki:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Elastic, Special Wide Black:** Rufus Jones & Son, Nuneaton.—**Films, Cinema:** British & Colonial Kine Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Fuel Oil (Heavy, Light and Gas):** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Gas Burners:** Messrs. Alrae & Co., London, N.W.—**Haversacks, Respirator:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Maple & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Kerosine:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lace, Worsted, Various Colours:** Dalton, Barton & Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Lead:** British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lead, Pig, Soft:** Cookson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linen:** Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Masts, etc.:** Vickers, Ltd., Erith and Barrow.—**Motor Spirit:** Anglo-American Oil Co., London, S.W.; British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Pig Iron:** Barrow Hamatite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; Distington Hamatite Iron Co., Workington.—**Roofing Felt:** Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E.—**Stoves and Portable Boilers, etc.:** Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Summerford Iron Co., Ltd., Falkirk.—**Surgical Dressings:** A. Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Surgical Instruments:** General Surgical Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tracks Fitted to a 3-ton Peerless Lorry:** Armstrong, Siddley, Ltd., Coventry.—**Tubes, Angle:** Eli, Griffiths & Sons, Birmingham.—**Waistoats, Cardigan:** Pryce, Jones, Ltd., Newtown, N. Wales.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Lydd: G. Bates, West Rye, Lydd; J. H. Bates, Lydd. Glen Parva Barracks: Chitham & Co., Ltd., Leicester. Shorncliffe: Lewis & Sons (Dover), Ltd., Dover. Scotton Camp: W. Metcalfe, Richmond. Hipswell Camp, Yorks.: G. Shaw, Richmond.—**Building Works and Services:** Whittington Barracks, Lichfield: A. Robinson, Idle, Bradford.—**Installations:** Feltham Aerodrome: G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. 4.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes; Supermarine Aviation Co., Ltd., Southampton; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft Modification:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Aircraft and Spares:** Short Bros., Rochester.—**Aircraft Spares:** Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes.—**Caps (Making-up):** Myers & Co., London, E.C.—**Conversion of Dope:** The British Cellulose & Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Conversion of Buildings (Kenley):** T. & W. Heath, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Crossley Chassis:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Electric Cable and Wires:** The Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Electrical Wires:** The General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Engine Spares:** Armstrong-Siddley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; The Bristol Aeroplane strong-Siddley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield, Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Experimental Bombs:** Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield.—**"Fire Snow" Extinguishers and Refills:** John Morris (Fire Snow), Ltd., Manchester.—**Ford Chassis:** Wallace, Harmer Motors, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Furnace Fuel Oil:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Leyland Spares:** Leyland Motors

Ltd., Leyland, Lancs.—**Lifts, Hand Power:** Holt & Willetts, Cradley Heath.—**Married Quarters, Erection of (Duxford):** A. Negas & Sons, Cambridge.—**Mechanical Transport Spirit:** The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow; British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Modifying "Dreadnought" Engine:** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil Purifiers:** A. W. Empson, London, S.W.—**Paraffin:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**R.A.F. Universal Type Magnetos:** The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Rectification and Testing "Cross-head" Engine:** Ricardo & Co., Engineers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Repairs, etc., to London Hirings:** Cole, Loasby & Co., London, W.C.—**School Desks:** North of England School Furnishing Co., Ltd., Darlington.—**Test on "Jupiter" Engine:** The Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Type Test on "Lion" Engine:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Air Compressors, etc.: Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—**Axles for Carriages and Wagons:** J. Baker & Co., Rotherham.—**Blankets:** Hepworth & Haley, Dewsbury.—**Blasting Powder:** Curtis's & Harvey, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Blocks, C.I. for Land Anchors, etc.:** Drillmet Co., Ltd., Warwick.—**Blouses:** D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill.—**Boat, Ferry:** Wm. Denny Bros., Ltd., Dumbarton.—**Boilers, Locomotive:** Kitson & Co., Leeds.—**Books, etc.:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Brass, White:** Manganese Gas & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Buoy, etc., Automatic Gas Light:** Trinity House, London, E.C.—**Calf Lymph:** Dr. A. B. Green, Cornwall.—**Carriage Ironwork Forgings:** R. Y. Pickering & Co., Wislaw.—**Cars:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., London, W.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., London, E.C.; T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., Cardiff; Tunnell Portland Cement Co., London, E.C.—**Chains and Shackles:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Chairs, etc.:** H. H. Peach, Leicester.—**Clothing:** J. & B. Pearce & Co., London, E.—**Coal Tar:** J. E. C. Lord, Manchester.—**Coupons, Export, Rubber:** T. de la Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Crane, Portal:** S. Butler & Co., Ltd., Stanningley, near Leeds.—**Drill:** Union Mill Co., Manchester; J. H. Peck & Co., Manchester.—**Fencing and Gates:** Armstrongs & Main, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Fishbolts, etc.:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., London Works, near Birmingham.—**Flannel:** J. Bradbury & Co., Yorks; Smethurst & Holden, Manchester.—**Headlight Spares:** C. Stewart & Co., Glasgow.—**Hose, Fire, Canvas:** McGregor & Co., Dundee.—**Iron and Steelwork for Sheds:** F. Morton & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Lanterns:** James Hinks & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lead, Pig:** G. Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Locks, etc.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Locomotives, Parts for:** North British Loco. Co., Glasgow.—**Locomotive Turntables:** Horsehay Co., Ltd., Shropshire.—**Locomotive Couplers:** A.B.C. Coupler & Engg. Co., London, S.W.—**Machine, Rail Planing:** Loudon Bros., Ltd., Johnstone.—**Machine, Milling, Universal:** British Machine Tool Makers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Machines, Screwing:** Kendall & Gent, Ltd., Manchester.—**Motor Chassis:** Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Motor Inspection Cars:** Drewry Car Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Motor Lorries and Spares:** Dennis Bros., Ltd., Guildford.—**Motor Fire Engine:** Merryweather & Sons, London, S.E.—**Oil, Fuel:** British Petroleum Co., London, W.C.—**Oil, Lubricating:** Wakefield & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paint:** Torbay Paint Co., London, E.C.—**Pine, Pitch:** C. Leary & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pipes, etc., Spigot and Socket:** Staveley Coal & Iron Co., near Chesterfield.—**Pipes, etc., Water:** Cochran & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees.—**Post Office Call Boxes:** S. Withers & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Puttees:** T. & J. Tinker, Huddersfield.—**Rails and Fishplates:** Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Railway, Portable:** R. Hudson, Ltd., Leeds.—**Rice Mill and Spares:** Wm. McKinnon & Co., Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Rollers, Motor:** Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Sheets, etc., Asbestos Cement, Corrugated:** British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Sheets, etc., G.S. Corrugated:** Wolverhampton Corr. Iron Co.: Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—**Spreader:** S. Thornely, Mott & Vines, London, S.W.; Whitakers (Engineers), Ltd., Leeds.—**Static Transformers:** English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Surgical Instruments:** Down Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Surgical Dressings:** Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Switchgear:** British Thomson Houston Co., London, W.C.—**Tar:** Shields & Ramsay, Glasgow.—**Tarco:** R. S. Clare & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Underframes, Goods Wagon:** Hurst, Nelson & Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Wagons, Platform:** J. Fowler & Co., Leeds.—**Wheels and Axles for Carriages and Wagons:** Owen & Dyson, Ltd., Yorks.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Apparatus, Tosting, Protective, etc.:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Bicycles, Maintenance Parts for:** B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham.—**Blocks, Terminal:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., Hanley.—**Bolts, Arm:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Boots:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; S. Walker, Walgrave, Northampton.—**Boxes, Battery, Leclanche:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Boxes, Packing, Cardboard:**

E. J. Bradstreet & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Boxes, Packing, Wood:** W. Bridgwater & Sons, Birmingham; Calder & McDougall, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brackets, G.I.:** D. Willetts, Ltd., Cradley Heath, Staffs.—**Cabinets, Telephone:** Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Submarine:** Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Telegraphic and Telephonic:** Connolly's (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley; Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; General Electric Co., Ltd. (Messrs. Peel-Conner Telephone Works), Coventry; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Castings, Joint Box:** J. Varley & Company, Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—**Cells, Secondary, Parts for:** Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Chains, Bicycle:** Coventry Chain Co., Ltd., Spon End, Coventry.—**Cloth:** J. Halliday & Co., Ltd., Pudsey.—**Coils, Loading:** Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Compound:** W. H. Keys, Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Cords, Telephone:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Desiccators and Pumps:** Lacy-Hulbert & Co., Ltd., Beddington, Croydon.—**Ducts:** G. Jennings, Parkstone, Dorset; Mountford, Phillips & Co. (1920), Ltd., Llantrisant, Glam.—**Insulators:** Taylor, Tunnicliffe & Co., Ltd., Hanley, Longton & Stone.—**Irons, Loop:** D. Willetts, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Kiosks:** D. G. Somerville & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Laundry Work:** Woodbridge Laundry Co., Ltd., Guildford.—**Markers, Joint:** Jones & Attwood, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Meters, Ampere Hour:** Chamberlain & Hookham, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Paint:** Foster, Mason & Harvey, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Paper, Baudot, Gummed:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E. and S.E.—**Pipes, Steel:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Halesowen and Coatbridge.—**Plates, Earth:** J. Ash & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rags, White:** A. Armitage, Dewsbury; J. T. Dobbins, Ltd., Ardwick, Manchester.—**Re-inforcing Material:** Barb Engineering Company, Saltney, Chester; Indented Bar and Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—**Screws, Coach:** T. W. Lench, Ltd., Blackheath, Staffs.—**Screws for Wood:** Nettlefold & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Sleeves, Joining:** Dugard Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; C. M. Powell, Bros., Birmingham.—**Sleeves, Lead:** Baxendale & Company, Ltd., Manchester; G. Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; W. T. Glover & Company, Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester.—**Spindles:** Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., Smethwick.—**Spirit, Motor:** Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Stayblocks and Stayguards:** Burt, Boulton and Haywood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Straw:** Turner, Byrne and Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Tape, Linen:** Bole Hall Mill Company, Tamworth; G. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley.—**Tube, Lead, Pneumatic:** Baxendale & Company, Ltd., Manchester.—**Vehicles, Motor and Parts:** Austin Motor Company, Ltd., Longbridge, Birmingham.—**Wire, Bronze:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, Staffs.; British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Company, Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith & Co., Incorporated in the London Electric Wire Company & Smiths, Ltd., Salford, Manchester.—**Wire, Copper:** Elliotts Metal Company, Ltd., Selly Oak, Birmingham; Shropshire Iron Company, Ltd., Hadley, Wellington, Salop.—**Wire, Flameproof:** Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Wire, Switchboard:** General Electric Co., Ltd. (Messrs. Peel-Conner Telephone Works), Coventry.

Conduits, Laying: Kirkcaldy-Dundee (Sec. V.): J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Hammersmith (King Street):** Lordship Lane and Honor Oak; and Little Ilford Lane: O. C. Summers, London, N. Glasgow (Bell); Haddington; R. Thorburn & Son, Glasgow. Birkenhead (Upton Road); Liverpool Royal (Church Street, Section II.): H. C. Pullar & Co., Manchester. New Cut-Marshalsea Road, S.E.; Croydon: Greig and Matthews, London, E.C. Middleton (Lancs.); Manchester (Rochdale Road): W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd., Manchester. Luton-Bedford (Sections I, II and III.): G. P. Trentham, Ltd., Birmingham. Penmaenmawr (Pen-y-Clip) and Portmadoc: C. A. Horton, Brierley Hill, Staffs. Manchester Relief Scheme (Section I.): Chandler Bros., Waterloo Buildings, 10, Piccadilly, Manchester. Goldthorpe: W. & J. Cunliffe, 41, George Road, West Bridgford, Notts. Lennard Road, S.E.: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., 41, Ebury Bridge Road, S.W. 1. Liverpool (Queen's Drive); Cheadle Hulme (Cheshire); and Mottram (Cheshire): E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Dudley Port, Staffs. Rugby: Whittaker, Ellis, Ltd., 121, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. Morecambe (East) and Broadstairs (Kingsgate): J. F. Hodge & Co., Rednal, near Birmingham. Manchester-Atherton-Leigh: Wm. Irwin & Co., Ltd., Burley Road, Leeds. Wimbledon (Worpole Road and The Ridgeway): H. Collingridge, Harrow Drive, Romford, Essex. Tavistock: S. Ambrose, 19, Green Park, Bath, Somerset.—**Bristol-Avonmouth Junction and Stoke Bishop, and Bristol (North):** C. V. Buchan & Co., Ltd., Victoria Road, Southwick, Brighton.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** Golders Green: The General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: The D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Chelmsford, for Charging Machines. Woodford: The General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., W.C., for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Chelmsford, for Charging Machines. Whitley Bay: The Brit. L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., "International Buildings," 67/73, Kingsway, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., W.C., for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Chelmsford, for Charging Machines. Woolland Bros., Ltd., S.W.: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Manchester (Central): The General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Bank of England (Finsbury Circus): The Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Telephonic Repeater Station Equipment:** Ipswich: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works, etc.: Acton Employment Exchange—Alterations, etc.: A. Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, W. Joinery: Frazers Joinery Co., Ltd., Norwich. Plastering: G. Fletcher, London, W. Plumbing: W. H. Gascoigne & Co., London, W. Steelwork: The Somerville Barnard Construction Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Bridging Post Office.—Joinery: E. W. King, Newport, Mon. Hyde Telephone Exchange—Plastering: James Glynn, Oldham. Liverpool Telephone Exchange—Alterations, etc.: C. & G. L. Desoer, Ltd., Liverpool. Ludlow Sorting Office—Felt Roofing: Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E. Slating: Ellis, Partridge & Co., Ltd., Leicester. Newport District—Plumbing and Gasfitting: Beaven & Sons, Ltd., Newport, Mon. Ordinary Works and Repairs—Bath: Hayward & Wooster, Bath. Chester: John Mayers, Sons & Co., Ltd., Chester. Derby: J. K. Ford & Weston, Ltd., Derby. Exeter: Woodman & Son, Exeter. Gloucester: Wm. T. Nicholls, Ltd., Gloucester. London: John Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Netley: H. G. Ross, Netley Abbey. Rampton State Institution—Foundations and Subways: Thornhill Bros., Lincoln. Science Museum—Slating: J. J. Etridge, Junr., Ltd., London, E. Sheffield Telephone Exchange—Stanchion Bases and Lift Well Walls: Dawson, Jones & Rodgers, Ltd., Sheffield. Shepherd's Bush Employment Exchange—Granolithic Steps and Paving: A. C. W. Hobman & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Threadneedle Street Post Office—Demolition: Henry Allen, Ltd., London, E. Staircase and Slabs: Stuart's Granolithic Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Steelwork: H. Young & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Warwick State Institution—Redrainage: The Exors. of the late R. Bowen, Leamington. Woolwich Telephone Exchange—Erection: F. R. Hipperson, London, E.C. Yiewsley Housing Scheme—Tar Paving: Peter Harle, Sunderland.—**Engineering Services:** Windsor—Supply of Engineering Labour: The Alpha Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Painting:** W. Firth, Barrow-in-Furness; Hampton & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; S. Lupton & Sons, Bradford; Bruce Mackenzie, Aberdeen; George Penny & Co., London, N.W.—**Miscellaneous:** Bridgend Housing Scheme—Gates, Fencing, etc.: Ernest Clarke, Melton Mowbray. Roads and Paths: Beaufort Quarries, Ltd., Penarth. Cartage—Regent's Park: Capon & Sons, Ltd., London, N. Chimney Sweeping—London District: T. Freebury, Senr., London, W.; T. H. Freebury, London, N.; C. J. Miller, London, N.; Phillips & Lewis, London, S.W.; The Westminster Chimney Sweeping Co., London, S.W. Floor Polishing—London District: The Great Metropolitan Window Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Merthyr Tydfil Housing Scheme—Gates, Fencing, etc.: W. J. Simms, Sons & Cooke, Ltd., Nottingham. Racking: Thomas Bradford & Co., Salford; George E. Gray, Ltd., London, E.; The Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors, London, S.W. Towels: Woods, Sons & Co., London, E.C. Window Cleaning—London District: The Great Metropolitan Window Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Adding Machines: Burroughs Adding Machine, Ltd., Nottingham.—**Arms for Sewing Machine:** Smythe, Horne, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Calculator:** Muldivo Calculating Machine Co., London, E.C.—**Carbonic Paper:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable.—**Cloth, Tracing:** B. J. Hall & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Cord:** J. Holmes & Son, East Ardsley; Forth & Clyde Roperie, Kirkcaldy; Dixon & Corbitt & R. S. Newall & Co., Ltd., Gateshead; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Dating Stamps:** Aresco, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Envelopes:** Pirie, Appleton & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Graph Composition:** Copying Apparatus Co., Ltd., Hampton-on-Thames.—**India Tags:** Sensitive Honing Co., Ltd., London, N.; Spickett & Downs, London, E.—**Ink, Duplicator:** Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey.—**Ledger Posting Machine:** Elliott, Fisher & Co., London, E.C.—**Millboards:** Jackson's Millboard & Paper Co., Ltd., Bourne End.—**Motor Haulage—Hollinwood and Liverpool and Salford Docks, Contract for:** Wm. Cooper, Manchester.—**Motor Spirit, Contract for Supply of:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., Skewen.—**Pads, Self-Inking I.R. Stamp:** B. Sculthorpe & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paper of Various Descriptions:** Backhouse & Coppock, Ltd., Macclesfield; J. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd., King's Norton; Bathford Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Bathford; J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik; Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Caldererux and Airdrie; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal; Darwen Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Darwen; J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Watford; Ford Paper Works (1923), Ltd., Sunderland; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton; Grosvenor, Chater & Co., Ltd., Holywell; Guard Bridge Paper Co., Ltd., Guard Bridge; Hartlepool Paper Mill Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool; Hendon Paper Works Co., Ltd., Sunderland; Hill, Craig & Co., Balerno; Hollingworth & Co., Maidstone; Inveresk Paper Co., Ltd., Musselburgh; Wm. Joynson & Son, St. Mary Cray; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford; C. Marsden & Sons, Ltd., Barnsley; National Paper & Pulp Co. (1920), Ltd., Bury; Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; Olive and Partington, Ltd., Glossop; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury; A. M. Peebles & Son, Ltd., Accrington; M. W. Raggett, London, E.C.; Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Ramsbottom; Ryburndale Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Ripponden; Smith, Anderson & Co., Ltd., Leslie; R. Sommerville & Co., Ltd., Creech St. Michael; Tullis, Russell & Co., Ltd., Markinch; Ulverston Paper Co., Ltd., Ulverston; Waterside Paper Mills, Ltd., Darwen; Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Dover, Stoneywood and Hele; J. Wild & Sons, Ltd., Radcliffe; George Wilmot, Ltd., Shoreham.—**Pencils:** Royal Sovereign Pencil Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; H. J. Billinge & Co., Ltd., Keswick; Alcco Pencils, Ltd., London, E.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:** Group 155 (1923)—Admiralty: Specified Items, No. 2 B: 182,000

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The price of the "MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE" is 6d. Annual subscription (post free) 8s. 6d.

The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.G. 2, and branches (see Cover).

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY WYMAN & SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C. 4.