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

EMPLOYMENT.

THERE was a further decline in the state of employment during August. Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 25th August, 1924, was 10·6, compared with 9·9 at 28th July, 1924, and with 11·8 in August, 1923. Among the members of those Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 7·9 at the end of August, 1924, compared with 7·4 at the end of July, 1924. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th August, 1924, was approximately 1,152,000, of whom 876,000 were men and 203,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 28th July, 1924, the total was 1,052,000, of whom 804,000 were men and 185,000 were women.

Employment was good in the tinplate and steel sheet, carpet, jute, and brick trades; it was fairly good, on the whole, in the printing, silk, and Irish linen trades and in some branches of the woodworking industry; and fair in coal mining, in the tailoring and leather industries, and in certain branches of the metal trades. In many important industries, however, including iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding, and the cotton and wool textile trades, it continued slack.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are available, the changes in rates of wages reported in August resulted in an aggregate reduction of nearly £114,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 760,000 workpeople and in an aggregate increase of £55,000 in those of 628,000 workpeople.

The reductions in wages mainly affected coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, the Radstock district, and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by amounts ranging from 3 to 7 per cent. on current rates. Other important groups of workpeople who sustained reductions included those engaged in paper manufacture, iron miners in Cumberland, blastfurnace workers in Lincolnshire and in Scotland, steel sheet millmen and galvanisers, and leather belting makers.

The principal groups of workers who obtained increases in wages were steel smelters, who received advances equivalent to about 1 per cent. on current rates, iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, whose wages were raised by about 1½ per cent. on current rates, employees in H.M. Dockyards, who received an increase of 4s. per week, hosiery workers in the Midlands, whose bonus was raised from 7d. to 8d. in the shilling earned, and building trade operatives in most districts, who received an increase of ½d. per hour.

During the eight completed months of 1924 the changes reported to the Department have resulted in

net increases equivalent to over £550,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,600,000 workpeople and in net reductions of nearly £72,000 in the weekly wages of 725,000 workpeople. In addition, the wages of over 310,000 workpeople have been changed at various dates, but stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year. In the corresponding period of 1923 there were net reductions of over £500,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 3,230,000 workpeople, and increases of over £290,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 1,120,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 72 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 71 per cent. a month ago and 73 per cent. a year ago. The rise in the percentage during August was almost entirely due to increases in food prices; for food alone the average increase over the pre-war level was 66 per cent. at 1st September, as compared with 64 per cent. a month ago and 68 per cent. a year ago.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in August was 53. In addition, 43 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in August (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) cannot be stated precisely at present, but is provisionally estimated to be not far from 150,000 (about the same as in the previous month). The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during August was, as in July, about two million working days. The principal dispute in progress in August was that involving building trade operatives, which began on 7th July and terminated on 22nd August.

During the first eight months of this year, 484 disputes involving stoppages of work have been reported to the Department involving over half-a-million workpeople, and resulting (so far as can at present be estimated) in an aggregate loss of over seven million working days.

In the corresponding period of 1923, 440 stoppages were reported, involving approximately 340,000 workpeople, and resulting in an aggregate loss of about 7,280,000 working days.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE fifty-sixth annual Trades Union Congress was held at Hull on the 1st September and the five following days. The President was Mr. A. A. Purcell, M.P., Chairman of the General Council.

The number of delegates appointed to attend the Congress, as shown in the Statistical Statement compiled by the General Council, was 724; the number of organisations paying affiliation fees to the Congress (including a few organisations, with a membership of about 20,000, who paid such fees but did not appoint delegates) was 170, with a membership of approximately 4,328,000. In the following Table these figures are analysed by groups of Unions (the classification adopted being that used by this Department for its annual statistics of membership of Trade Unions), and corresponding figures are given for 1923. The figures for 1924 are provisional and subject to slight correction; those for 1923 have been slightly revised since their publication in the September, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE.

Group of Organisations.	1923.			1924.		
	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.	Number of Organisations.	Number of Delegates.	Number of Members.
Agriculture ..	1	4	30,000	1	4	30,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	7	175	784,617	8	171	789,411
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	42	96	706,231	42	109	670,782
Textile ..	26*	90	417,958	26*	92	405,807
Clothing ..	10	32	164,817	10	33	160,086
Woodworking and Furnishing ..	7	11	73,443	8	14	74,206
Paper, Printing, etc. ..	13	37	159,806	13	35	159,835
Building, Decorating, etc. ..	9	27	330,685	9	31	303,553
Railway Service ..	3	23	447,374	3	23	446,241
Other Transport ..	8	67	405,650	8	66	411,867
Commerce and Finance ..	7	24	168,650	8	26	162,250
Public Administration ..	10	26	183,264	10	21	146,864
Miscellaneous ..	18	24	89,512	18	24	85,875
General Labour†	6	61	407,261	6	70	481,458
TOTALS ..	167	702	4,369,268	170	724	4,328,235

The figures for 1924, which show little change compared with those for 1923, are stated to represent average membership calculated according to fees paid. The principal changes in the figures shown, as compared with those for the previous year, are a decrease in the Public Administration group and an increase in the General Labour group; these changes are largely due to the amalgamation of a large Trade Union of municipal employees with a General Labour Union.

The Congress opened, as usual, with an address from the President, and the consideration of the Report of the General Council.

The Congress adopted unanimously an "Industrial Workers' Charter," embodying the substance of a number of resolutions that have been passed at previous Trades Union Congresses. The Charter calls for the public ownership and control of natural resources and of services; a legal maximum working week of 44 hours, and a legal minimum wage for each industry or occupation; suitable provisions in relation to unemployment, with adequate maintenance of the unemployed; establishment of training centres for unemployed juveniles; extension of training facilities for adults during periods of industrial depression; provision of proper and adequate housing accommodation; full educational facilities to be provided by the State from the elementary schools to the Universities; adequate maintenance and compensation in respect of all forms of industrial accidents and diseases; pensions for all at the age of 60, and pensions for widowed mothers and dependent children.

Several of the matters included in the "Charter" were also the subjects of separate resolutions. It was also decided to institute a campaign to obtain for agricultural workers a legal minimum wage, a guaranteed 48-hour week, a weekly half-holiday, the full protection of the Rent Act for occupiers of tied cottages, and to secure the proper cultivation of all agricultural land.

A composite resolution was approved in regard to the Fair Wages Clause, proposing the employment of Trade Union labour on all Government and municipal contracts, the inclusion of clerks within the operation of the Clause, and the inclusion also of requirements as to the working conditions and housing of labour.

The safety and health of workpeople were the subject of numerous resolutions, including the following:—Proposing minimum limits of age for those in charge of locomotives and capstans or engaged in shunting, pressing for an enquiry into the mechanical departments of the mining industry, supporting the Offices Regulation Bill, revising the regulation as to certificates of competency for officials under the Mines Act, and drawing the attention of the Government to the insufficiency of inspection in the textile industries. Other resolutions urged the

* In some of the textile trades, not only are amalgamated associations represented as such, but the branch associations of which they consist send separate delegates. These branch associations have not been reckoned as separate organisations.

† Including general unions of Enginemen, etc.

compulsory employment of trailers on trailers, and the improvement of workshop accommodation.

A series of resolutions were put forward by the General Council, and carried, extending the powers of the General Council in regard to industrial disputes. Under these resolutions Trade Unions are required to keep the Council informed upon all disputes arising between themselves and employers or between one Union and another, and the Council are to disseminate, if deemed advisable, such information to all affiliated Unions that might be directly or indirectly affected. If negotiations break down, the Council are authorised to take steps to call the representatives of the Unions concerned together, and to render such advice and assistance as they deem necessary, any Unions who refuse such assistance or advice to be reported to Congress. If, in spite of this procedure, a stoppage takes place, the Council are forthwith to take steps to organise on behalf of the Union or Unions concerned all such moral and material support as the circumstances of the dispute may appear to justify.

Arising out of the strike of porters at Covent Garden Market a resolution was unanimously approved reaffirming "the vital constitutional right of Trade Unions to assist each other by direct industrial action or moral support in any strike or lock-out that may arise."

By another resolution that was carried unanimously Congress reaffirmed its determined opposition to compulsory arbitration, and declared that under no circumstances would it permit any interference with the right to strike.

A resolution asking for the legalisation of agreements entered into by Joint Industrial Councils was not voted upon, the previous question being carried.

Resolutions on Unemployment Insurance called for the abolition of the present special regulations governing the payment of uncovenanted benefit, asked that the applicant's Union should have the same right of appeal on behalf of a member who was refused "uncovenanted benefit" as it has in respect of "covenanted benefit," and protested against the refusal of benefit to a woman insured under the Act who refused to accept domestic work when such woman had been properly trained and had had long experience in another occupation. It was also agreed to ask that the regulations of the Ministry of Labour under the Unemployment Act of 1923 be amended so as to empower the Court of Referees to call upon any employer or his representative to be present at the hearing of any case where his written evidence was challenged by any member of the Court. A further proposal which was agreed to asked that no further requirement of "waiting days" should be imposed upon any unemployed person within twelve months after he or she has passed the six waiting days.

A composite resolution on education was agreed to, recommending that the school-leaving age should be raised to 15 years, with maintenance allowances where necessary; that fees in municipal secondary schools should be gradually abolished; that the scholarship system should be extended with a view to the development of free secondary, technical, and University education; and that education in continuation schools should be made obligatory in the employers' time up to 18 years. After a considerable amount of debate a resolution was also approved instructing the General Council to take a more active part in the furtherance of working class education.

A composite resolution dealing with Trade Union organisation declared (a) that the time has arrived when the number of Trade Unions should be reduced to an absolute minimum; (b) that the aim should be as far as possible organisation by industry, with every worker a member of the appropriate organisation; (c) that it is essential that a united front be formed for improving the standards of life of the workers; and instructed the General Council to draw up (i) a scheme for organisation by industry; and (ii) a scheme which may secure unity of action, without the definite merging of existing Unions. After some discussion this was agreed to by 2,503,000 votes to 1,428,000. Another resolution, carried unanimously, instructed the General Council to use all possible influence in urging all Trade Unionists to secure the enrolment in their appropriate Trade Unions of all members of their families and their relations working at any occupation. Proposals that Trades Councils should be admitted to direct representation to Congress and to the General Council, and that the National Unemployed Workers' Committee should be accepted into affiliation, were negatived.

A resolution proposing that each group should be represented by at least one representative who was a bona fide worker actually engaged at his trade was also negatived.

A resolution calling for the adoption of a definite policy with regard to Free Trade, Protection, and Imperial Preference was defeated.

Among numerous other topics which were the subject of resolutions approved during the week were the Russian Treaty, the international organisation of the workers, accessibility of lists of outworkers to Trade Union officials, definition of "workshop" under the Factory and Workshop Acts, enquiry into effects of hiring statutes, abolition of tied cottage system, registration of theatrical agents, improvement of animal slaughter conditions, abolition of fines and deductions in textile mills and in other occupations, labour conditions in Eastern countries, safeguarding of interests of emigrants, Asiatic labour on British ships, representation of workers on Royal Commissions, working-class housing, payment of wages to shipwrecked and sick sailors, and political rights of Civil Servants.

PROFIT-SHARING AND CO-PARTNERSHIP IN 1923.

THE Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-Partnership in the United Kingdom, prepared by the Ministry of Labour in 1919*, gave an account of the progress of the Profit-Sharing and Labour Co-partnership movement up to October in that year, together with statistics showing the results of the operation of profit-sharing and co-partnership schemes up to and including the year 1918. In the issues of this GAZETTE for July, 1920, September, 1921, October, 1922, and September, 1923, supplementary statistics were given relating to the operation of schemes (other than schemes in Co-operative Societies) in 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922, respectively. Enquiries have now been made as to the progress of this movement in 1923, and the information collected is summarised below. The figures relate only to definite schemes under which employees participate in profits on some pre-arranged basis.

For a period of about two years immediately following the war—a period of great industrial activity—there was a marked advance in the profit-sharing movement; but this advance received a severe check in the succeeding period of industrial depression. Thus in 1919 the number of schemes known to have been introduced was 51, and in 1920 a further 50 schemes were started; only 13 schemes, however, have been brought to the notice of the Department as coming into existence in 1921; while in 1922 and 1923 the numbers so reported were respectively only seven and eight. The schemes discontinued numbered nine in 1919, 13 in 1920, nine in 1921, five in 1922, and six in 1923.

TOTAL SCHEMES IN OPERATION IN 1923.

According to the returns received in connection with the enquiries made this year 228 firms were practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of 1923; six of these firms had each two separate schemes, so that the total number of schemes in operation was 234. Seven other schemes were in abeyance, though not definitely terminated, at the end of 1923; and, in addition, there were four schemes as to which no particulars could be obtained.

The number of workpeople employed by these 228 firms was about 325,000, of whom only approximately 160,000 appear to participate in the benefits conferred by the schemes. It should be observed that, in the case of a considerable number of schemes, such participation is restricted to certain classes of employees, or is available only to those who are able and willing to deposit savings with the firm, or to purchase shares in the undertaking. In most schemes, also, employees have to fulfil certain conditions, such as serving for a minimum period, in order to qualify for benefit.

Of the 228 firms, 38 (employing nearly 41,000 workpeople) were gas, water and electricity supply undertakings; 33 (employing 59,000 workpeople) were in the engineering, shipbuilding, and other metal trades; 34 (employing over 30,000 workpeople) were merchants, warehousemen, and retail traders; and 24 (employing over 40,000 workpeople) were textile manufacturing firms. The remaining firms were distributed among a number of different trades.

In the majority of industries the number of schemes, in proportion to the total number of firms engaged in the industry, is too small to afford any trustworthy indication of the extent to which conditions in the industry favour profit-sharing; and it is frequently the case that less than half the schemes started still remain in operation. The principal exception is the gas industry, in which a large proportion of the principal company-owned undertakings have introduced schemes, comparatively few of which have been terminated.

The type of scheme which is almost invariably adopted by gas companies provides for a bonus on the employees' wages at a rate varying inversely with the price charged for gas.

About 40 per cent. of all the schemes in operation in 1923 provided for the payment to the employees of a proportion of the profits, either in cash or in sums credited to a savings or deposit account, from which amounts may be withdrawn at short notice. In a smaller number of schemes (although this is the normal type of scheme in the gas industry) a proportion of the profits is partly or wholly retained for investment on behalf of the employees in the capital of the undertaking, or is set aside for provident purposes, superannuation, etc. A type of scheme which has become prominent in recent years consists in the admission of employees to a share in the profits by the issue of employees' shares, either free or on specially favourable terms as to price or dividend; over forty such schemes are at present in operation. Over twenty schemes are based on arrangements for the payment of interest, at a rate varying with the profits, on money deposited with the firm by its employees.

BONUSES PAID UNDER CERTAIN SCHEMES.

In the case of certain schemes information is available as to the bonuses paid or credited to employees. For a considerable number of schemes, however, these particulars cannot be given, owing in some cases to the firms' inability to furnish the required information, and in others to the nature of the scheme itself, which makes it impracticable to state the amount of the bonus and the proportion which it bears to earnings. Where, for example, shares are allotted to employees on specially favourable terms, the "bonus" is that part of the dividends on the shares which represents the advantage given to the employees over other shareholders—an advantage sometimes almost insusceptible of exact calculation.

* Cmd. 544: H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s. net.

The following Table gives details of the bonuses paid or credited during 1923 under 172 schemes, for which these particulars can be given:—

NOTE.—In a number of schemes included in these statistics the "bonus" consists of interest, at a rate varying with the profits, paid on sums deposited with the firm by its employees; and the amount of the bonus in such cases is therefore limited by the extent to which employees use the deposit fund. The figures italicised in this and in the succeeding Table show the result of excluding such schemes from the statistics.

Ratio of Bonus to Earnings.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Average number of Employees.	Number of Employees participating in 1923*.	Amount of Bonus paid (or credited) in 1923.
Nil	59	50,221	14,020†	£ Nil.
Under 2 per cent. ..	51	12,683	10,670‡	Nil.
	8	16,371	4,030	2,274
	6	2,030	1,864	873
2 and under 4 per cent. ..	21	37,732	26,679	129,182
	19	36,224	25,993	126,325
4 and under 6 per cent. ..	24	17,110	15,495	111,444
6 " " 8 " " ..	11	10,237	9,179	100,477
8 " " 10 " " ..	4	2,345	1,923	19,873
10 " " 12 " " ..	7	5,197	3,760	51,365
12 " " 16 " " ..	7	3,748	2,982	48,766
16 " " 20 " " ..	3	2,691	2,448	42,836
20 per cent. or over ..	6	2,819	2,243	103,160
Ratio not stated ..	22	76,813	38,263	273,978
	15	45,526	33,742	268,059
Total	172	225,284	121,022*	883,355
	153	140,610	110,304*	873,178

The results of these same schemes, classified according to the industry or business in which the firms are engaged, are shown below:—

Industry or Business.	Number of Schemes to which particulars relate.	Number of Employees participating in 1923*.	Average amount of Bonus per head.‡	Average Ratio of Bonus to Earnings. †§
Agriculture	7	290	£ 13 0	Per cent. 0.5
Engineering, Shipbuilding and other metal ..	22	13,464	19 9	0.8
	14	8,994	1 2 4	1.0
Textile	21	12,092	7 10 5	7.8
	18	10,559	6 12 6	4.6
Food and Drink (Manufacture) ..	16	7,771	12 9 3	5.1
	13	6,963	13 12 6	12.4
Paper, Printing, Bookbinding, Publishing &c. ..	15	4,878	7 5 11	5.1
	14	4,740	7 10 2	5.2
Glass, Chemical, Soap, Oil, Paint, etc. ..	10	23,127	8 17 2	6.0
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ..	9	23,033	8 17 7	6.0
Insurance	32	31,359	6 4 7	3.9
Merchants, Warehousemen and Retail Traders ..	31	37,133	6 5 2	3.9
Other Businesses ..	2	18,254	9 8 7	11
	24	5,148	12 1 5	8.0
	23	9,639	7 14 11	7.8
	22	6,240	11 10 9	7.8
Total	172	121,022*	7 6 0	5.1
	153	110,304*	7 18 4	5.5

It will be seen from the foregoing Tables that, of the total number of workpeople employed by the firms in question, the proportion entitled to participate in any bonus distributed was about 54 per cent. If the "deposit" schemes be excluded, however, the proportion was nearly 80 per cent. No less than one-third of the schemes failed, owing to insufficient profits, to provide a bonus. Measured by the number of employees entitled to participate, however, the proportion of such employees who did not receive a bonus was only about 10 per cent.

The results of these schemes during 1923 show a noticeable improvement as compared with the two previous years. The average amount of bonus paid under all the schemes included was £7 6s. 0d. per head in 1923, as compared with £6 5s. 3d. in 1922 and £6 14s. 3d. in 1921. The percentage addition to earnings represented by these bonuses (excluding a few cases for which this information is not available) was 5.1 in 1923, 3.9 in 1922 and 3.6 in 1921. In calculating these averages allowance has been made for schemes which failed to pay a bonus, numbering 59 in 1923, as compared with 71 in 1922 and 64 in 1921.

As in previous years a very high rate of bonus was paid by firms engaged in food and drink manufacture, viz., 12.4 per cent. on earnings, or nearly £12 10s. per head. An average bonus of over £12 per head, or 8.0 per cent. on earnings, was paid by twenty-four firms of merchants, warehousemen and retail traders; while in the glass, chemical, soap, etc., group the bonus averaged 6.0 per cent., or nearly £9 per head. Among insurance companies, banks, etc., particulars were available as to bonuses paid in two cases only; in these two businesses (both insurance companies) a bonus averaging nearly £9 10s. per head was

* Including those entitled to participate, in cases where the bonus was nil.

† This was the number entitled to participate if any bonus had been paid.

‡ Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included for the purpose of calculating the average amount of bonus and the average ratio of bonus to earnings.

§ Taking into account the schemes in which the bonus was nil, but excluding (necessarily) those in which the ratio of bonus to earnings could not be stated.

¶ Not available.

paid, but it was not possible to ascertain the proportion which this bonus bore to the earnings of the participants.

Only one scheme in agriculture was reported to have paid a bonus in 1923. As in the previous year a low average rate of bonus on earnings (1.0 per cent.) was paid by engineering, ship-building and other metal firms. Among gas, etc., companies there was an improvement on 1922 amounting to about £2 per head, or 1.5 per cent. on earnings, on the average.

NEW SCHEMES IN 1923.

In the following Table the main features of the eight new schemes known to have been started in 1923 are briefly summarised:—

Industry or Business.	Average Number of Employees.	Type of Scheme.
Chocolate, cocoa and confectionery manufacture.	7,000	After payment of a cumulative dividend of 7½ per cent. on capital, and setting aside certain sums for reserve (in which employees retain an interest), one-tenth of remaining profits is allotted to the Directors and five-tenths to the workpeople, the latter amount being distributed in proportion to earnings.
Chemical manufacture	6,800	Issue from time to time of ordinary shares to employees on specially favourable terms.
Banking	11,600	Provided that the dividend on shares is at a rate of not less than 10 per cent., an amount equal to one-half the difference between the total dividend and a dividend of 15 per cent. is set aside for distribution (in cash) to employees in proportion to salaries.
Millers, corn merchants, etc.	1,000*	A bonus is paid on staff salaries at a rate equal to the rate of dividend paid over and above 6 per cent.; one-quarter of the bonus is paid in cash and the remainder is invested in the Company's co-partnership shares.
Gas works	1,000	Whenever the price of gas falls below a certain "basic rate," one-sixth of the difference between the total realised by selling at the price actually charged and the total which would have been realised had the "basic rate" been charged is divided among the employees. One-half of the bonus is paid to a stock account and the other half to a cash account.
Gas works	130	Bonus calculated on wages and salaries at the rate by which the rate of dividend on share capital exceeds 2½ per cent. Bonus wholly retained for investment in shares of the undertaking until the employee has a prescribed holding, after which three-quarters is so retained and one-quarter is credited to a withdrawable account.
Chocolate distributors	70	A fixed percentage of the profits paid in cash to employees, approximately in proportion to earnings.
Farming	50	Twenty-five per cent. of the net profits is allotted to employees, 5 per cent. being set aside for a pension and disablement fund, and 20 per cent. distributed in cash, according to individual merit.

SCHEMES DISCONTINUED IN 1923.

Of the six schemes reported as terminated during 1923 two had been in existence since 1920, two since 1919, one since 1917, and one since 1904. Both of the schemes dating from 1920 were connected with small businesses; one, a quarrying undertaking, went into liquidation in 1923; the second, a firm of ironmongers and general merchants, discontinued profit-sharing owing to continued depression in trade. Of the cases dating from 1919, one, a firm of public caterers employing about 1,000 workpeople, discontinued profit-sharing because it did not find that the scheme had the desired effect of inducing interest in their work among the employees and retention of their services over longer periods; while the second, a farming business employing only a few men, discontinued profit-sharing mainly on account of lack of financial success. The scheme which had been started in 1917 concerned a textile spinning and manufacturing business employing about 2,500 workpeople; under this scheme the bonuses were retained for investment in securities held by a profit-sharing committee, but owing to the depreciation of these securities employees were stated to have left in order to realise their holdings, and in consequence the scheme was dropped. The sixth scheme, that which had been in operation since 1904, was in a woollen merchant's and wholesale clothing business, believed to employ about 250 workpeople, and was terminated owing to the reconstruction of the business.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

The following Table shows the total number of firms known to have been practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of each of the years 1913-23 and the total number of schemes in operation in connection with these firms; and also gives particulars, so far as available, of the average bonus paid. As explained above, it is not possible in the case of a number of schemes to obtain statistics of bonuses paid, and the figures given in the last two columns therefore relate only to certain schemes for which this information is available and not to the whole number of schemes counted in the third column:—

* This is the number of staff (managers, travellers, and clerks) only. The company has other profit-sharing arrangements for the benefit of its employees generally.

Year.	No. of Firms.*	No. of Schemes.*	Bonuses Paid.	
			Amount per Head.†	Percentage Addition to Earnings.‡
1913	140	142	£ s. d.	Per cent.
1914	152	156	5 6 0	5.9
1915	151	155	5 4 9	6.7
1916	143	148	3 18 0	5.3
1917	146	152	3 4 3	4.6
1918	150	155	3 15 2	5.3
1919	193	197	3 13 9	5.1
1920	228	234	5 0 8	4.9
1921	229	235	6 14 3	3.6
1922	233	238	6 5 3	3.9
1923	232	238	7 6 0	5.1

Of a total of 484 schemes of profit-sharing that are known to have been adopted up to the end of 1923, slightly under one-half are still actively in operation. Although the majority of existing schemes are of comparatively recent origin, a few have been in continuous operation for over forty years, and over 40 per cent. date from before the war.

The following Table shows the total numbers of schemes started in various periods, the numbers of such schemes no longer in existence, and the numbers still in operation at the end of 1923:—

Period in which started.	Total schemes started.	Schemes discontinued by the end of 1923.	Schemes suspended at the end of 1923.	Schemes still in operation at end of 1923.*
Up to 1880	35	29	—	6
1881-90	79	67	1	11
1891-1900	76	63	—	13
1901-05	26	19	—	7
1906-10	54	21	1	32
1911-15	63	20	2	41
1916-18	22	5	—	17
1919-20	101	15	2	84
1921-22	20	—	1	19
1923	8	—	—	8
Total ..	484	239	7	238

BUILDING INDUSTRY DISPUTE.‡

THE negotiations between the parties in connection with this dispute resulted, on the 22nd August, in the following settlement, work being resumed at nearly all centres throughout the country on the following Monday (August 25th):—

Wages.—That the wages of all craftsmen and labourers be advanced one-halfpenny per hour under clause 14 (c) of Agreement II, of the Constitution, such increased rate to be stabilised until February 1st, 1926. The said rate to come into operation immediately on resumption of work, except as hereinafter provided:—Towns which have received one penny and upwards by upgrading since September 26th, 1923, to receive the above advance of one-halfpenny as and from October 1st, 1924.

Regrading Applications.—Applications for regrading which are ordinarily due for October, 1924, shall be suspended until October, 1925. Applications due to be heard for July statutory meeting, 1924, to be dealt with.

Hours of Labour.—That the working hours shall be dealt with forthwith, as outlined in circular issued on June 16th, 1924. But in any event (other than in those localities that have agreed to vary the hours by mutual consent under the terms of the constitution) the summer working hours shall be 46½ per week as and from the commencement of official summer time, 1925.

Time Lost.—A joint committee of twelve members to be appointed by the employers and a similar number by the operatives to be set up to consider same. The following to be the terms of reference:—

"To inquire into the causes and circumstances of the incidence of time lost through inclement weather in the building industry, and to report on the facts in connection therewith, together with such recommendations as the committee deem desirable in regard to same. Such inquiry to be held at an early date, and endeavour to report within six months from date of this agreement."

London Position.—That the position of London in regard to the operatives' demand be made the subject of local inquiry and negotiation on its merits, with a view of reaching an agreed solution, subject to the approval of the National Wages and Conditions Council.

Liverpool.—The Liverpool, etc., operatives to agree that they will accept agreed national machinery for fixing wages and conditions if and when accepted by both national bodies after

* The figures as to schemes in operation exclude a few schemes temporarily suspended though not abandoned, but include schemes as to which no recent particulars have been received.

† Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included for the purpose of calculating the average amount of bonus and the average ratio of bonus to earnings.

‡ An account of the earlier stages of this dispute appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for July (pp. 237-8) and for August (p. 278).

§ This circular contained the following passage: "It is necessary that the disagreements with regard to the summer working hours should be settled without further delay. The joint negotiating committee therefore requests that, where there are differences still outstanding, the local employers and operatives meet within seven days to consider same. Failing agreement, Clause 1 of the National Working Rule Agreement as to summer hours shall become operative."

it has been submitted to a national vote of both sides, subject to the following:—

(1) A local agreement to be binding until December 1st, 1925.

(2) Wages and conditions (except Rules 14 and 15, which are to be eliminated) to be the same as prior to the dispute until December 1st, 1925, but no alteration to take place in wages and tool money until February 1st, 1926. In the event of national machinery not being in existence on December 1st, 1925, a local agreement to continue until such machinery is set up.

(3) All wages in Liverpool, etc., to be the same as other Grade A towns as and from February 1st, 1926.

(4) All national rules and conditions (other than wages) to be operative in Liverpool, etc., as and from December 1st, 1925.

Consequential Alterations to National Wages and Conditions Machinery.—Pursuant to the terms of Article 6 of this Agreement, and dealing with the consequential amendments, it shall be an instruction that such alterations or modifications shall aim at giving greater power to the joint regional wages committees to deal with such matters as are capable of regional settlement, subject to the approval of the National Wages and Conditions Council. Any amendment to be completed at the latest by the statutory meeting in July, 1925.

Resumption of Work.—It is agreed that work shall be resumed on August 25th, 1924; that, as far as practicable, the employers will reinstate their former employees and workmen will return to their former employers; that there shall be no victimisation on the part of either side in consequence of anything arising out of, or in connection with, the dispute; and that no influence will be exerted by either side which may prevent a mutual renewal of former relationships between employers and workmen.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET PORTERS' DISPUTE.

The porters employed in part of Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market, to the number of between 2,500 and 3,000, came out on strike at noon on the 14th August owing to their dissatisfaction with the reply of the employers to certain proposals put forward on their behalf by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The porters employed in another part of Covent Garden market, known as the Floral Hall, to the number of from 250 to 300, have had an agreement with their employers since 1921. In that same year the employers outside the Floral Hall brought into operation, without agreement with the Trade Union, a schedule of portage rates which was not so favourable to the men as the agreed schedule in the Floral Hall. In May, 1924, the Floral Hall brokers entered into a fresh agreement with the Union, still more favourable to the men, subject, however, to the condition that the revised schedule was only to be signed by the Floral Hall employers on the definite understanding that the rates and other conditions set out in it would be applied to the outside market as well. The Union accordingly prepared a claim intended to raise the portage rates in the outside market at least to the same level as those set out in the provisional agreement with the Floral Hall brokers. This they presented to the outside market employers on the 5th July.

A conference between the outside market employers and the Union took place on the 29th July to consider these proposals. On the 2nd August the employers intimated, by letter, the items of the claim which they were prepared to accept, and a few days later put forward counter-proposals which embodied the most they were prepared to concede. These counter-proposals were examined at further meetings on the 12th and 14th August, but no progress was made, the Union representatives maintaining that insistence on the first two clauses of the employers' counter-proposals (which alone were discussed with any thoroughness) would be insurmountable obstacles to any settlement. These two clauses read as follows:—

1. Employers shall be free to employ any man they desire. Men shall be free to belong to any Union they desire.

2. Outward portage as per 1921 schedule shall be paid free from deductions, except losses from wrong delivery.

The second clause means that the employers offered no general advance on the 1921 schedule for outward portage, except that the rates were to be paid (in general) free from deductions. Immediately after the meeting on the 14th August the porters in the outside market ceased work of their own accord, and without the sanction of their Union. The strike was, however, declared official by the Union on the following day; and some days later the Floral Hall porters struck in sympathy with the others, also without the Union's sanction.

On the 19th August instructions were issued by the Transport and General Workers' Union to order the men working in the docks to refuse to handle cargoes of fruit except with a permit from the Central Strike Committee, and there were stoppages that day in London and at several other places. The port employers contended that this procedure was in breach of the national agreement between the Union and the National Council of Port Labour Employers, and that no stoppage should have taken place until the matter had been referred to the local Joint Committees.

On the 26th August the Union addressed a circular to their members which (*inter alia*) called upon the officials of the Union in the various ports to call immediately meetings of their local Port Joint Committees, and to inform the employers that the members of the Union would be unable to handle any fruit or

vegetables until the employers in the Covent Garden market agreed to enter into negotiations with the Union to discuss the respective claims, with a view to reaching mutual agreement.

On the 1st September the Minister of Labour appointed a Court of Inquiry, under Part II. of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, with the following terms of reference:—

"To inquire into the causes and circumstances of the dispute at Covent Garden and the threatened stoppage of work at the ports and elsewhere arising therefrom, and to report thereon."

The members of the Court were:—Mr. John A. Compston, K.C. (Chairman), Sir Andrew R. Duncan, and Mr. J. Kaylor; with Mr. A. B. Valentine, of the Ministry of Labour, as Secretary.

The Court of Inquiry presented their Report* on the 11th September, in which they review in great detail the history and circumstances of the dispute, and give their conclusions thereupon. The following is a summary of some of their principal conclusions:—

The Court consider that the combination of circumstances which preceded the stoppage practically prevented the possibility of immediate agreement. They concur in the view of the employers that the intensive organised campaign of the Union, accompanied in certain cases by picketing, had tended to foster discontent. They do not, however, agree that the strike was deliberately contemplated by the Union; they take the view that "the actual stoppage, at the time when it did take place, was not the deliberate act of the Union."

On the other hand, the Court do not uphold the contention of the Union that the employers deliberately engineered the strike, and that they had been preparing for it even before the conference of the 29th July. They consider that the evidence disproves this conclusively.

On the question of the right of the employer to employ such men as he chooses to employ, and the right of the men to belong to such Unions as they elect to join, the Court refer to certain suggestions made at the hearing, to the effect that the clause might be acceptable if words were added to show that the Union was not to be debarred from approaching non-Union men with a view to their becoming members. The Court consider that some such arrangement ought to be workable, "provided that there is a clear understanding that a man is not to be debarred from taking employment as a porter simply on the ground that he is not a member of the Union."

The Court approve the principle of decasualisation, and suggest that the employers and workmen should consider together the practicability of some such scheme. They point out, however, that "it would inevitably mean that the work which is at present spread over a large number of temporary workers would be done by a smaller number of registered porters."

The Court consider that the employers would have been well advised to accept the invitation of the Minister of Labour to meet Sir David Shackleton. "They have created by their action an unfortunate impression that their case is not so strong as they would wish to have it appear." The Court, after hearing the evidence, consider "that a complete disclosure of all the circumstances of the dispute cannot weaken their position." In conclusion, the Court "recommend the employers to give serious consideration to the suggestion that, failing agreement by further conference with the executive of the Union, the matters in dispute should be submitted to arbitration."

With regard to the threatened stoppage at the ports and elsewhere, the Court were informed that the question of the interpretation of the agreements between the port employers and the Union was to be examined carefully by the Joint Industrial Council, and that the matter could only be settled after a full and exhaustive discussion and inquiry. In these circumstances the Court concur in the suggestion that the parties should be left to examine the question thoroughly before the Joint Industrial Council.

In connection with the examination of this question before the Industrial Council, the Court offer the general observation that "industrial agreements . . . must inevitably lose much of their value if their construction is based not upon the definite meaning of their actual phraseology so much as upon the discussions preceding their signature."

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

THE Ministry of Health have issued their fifth Annual Report, covering the year ended on the 31st March, 1924.†

ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW, ETC.

The average of the weekly numbers‡ in receipt of relief in England and Wales during the year 1923-24 was 1,285,848, or 214,089 less than the corresponding figure for the previous year. The number of persons in receipt of relief on the 31st March, 1923, was 1,345,634; and the number on the 29th March, 1924, was 1,225,768, the lowest figure recorded since the 17th September, 1921. There was thus a fall of nearly 120,000 during the year, but the decline was not uniform. The maximum for the year (1,427,254) was reached on the 21st April, probably as the result of the exhaustion of the continuous benefit payable during

* Cmd. 2244. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

† Cmd. 2218. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6s. net.

‡ The figures given as the number of persons in receipt of relief exclude (a) lunatics in County and Borough asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, (b) casuals, and (c) persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only. The numbers of these classes were approximately 115,000—119,000.

the first part of the "fourth special period" of unemployment benefit. The minimum for the calendar year 1923 was 1,237,481, reached on the 22nd September. Then followed a gap in unemployment benefit, when the number relieved rose to another peak figure of 1,319,882 on the 20th October. After the end of the gap the figure fell to 1,240,098 on the 22nd December. Another gap in unemployment benefit, and the railway dispute, which both fell in January, brought the number relieved to a final peak figure of 1,338,440 on the 2nd February, after which there was an almost uninterrupted fall.

The figures in all cases include persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act, and their wives and dependent children; the weekly average numbers of these who were in receipt of domiciliary relief were as follows:—

March, 1923	636,048	December, 1923	521,909
April, 1923	655,134	March, 1924	505,733

The Report states that "it is the variations in the numbers relieved from this class that have governed the variations in the total numbers, and have masked the summer fall and winter rise which characterised the pauperism curve before the war, and is still a marked feature in the case of those who are not insured persons."

"If the insured workers, and persons who are ordinarily employed, but not insured, are excluded, with their dependants, the remaining recipients of domiciliary relief may fairly be compared as a class with those who were so relieved before the war. During the year under review the average number of these persons in receipt of domiciliary relief was 445,502. In the last twelve months preceding the war the corresponding number was approximately 370,000, which leaves a rough figure of 75,000, or about 20 per cent., as the increase in outdoor pauperism since pre-war days which cannot be attributed directly to unemployment; though it is, no doubt, largely an indirect consequence of that cause. It must be remembered in this connection that the population has increased by nearly 5 per cent. between 1913 and 1923, and that the Old Age Pensions Act, 1919, now permits ordinary domiciliary relief to be drawn concurrently with an old age pension."

It is estimated that the total expenditure on Poor Law relief during the year under review was £38,000,000, as compared with £42,020,039 for the year 1922-23. The amount raised by rates for this purpose is estimated to have been £32,900,000, as compared with £12,078,000 in the year before the war, and with £38,537,000 in the year 1922-23.

At the end of the year there were 197 co-operative work schemes approved by the Ministry of Health. Under these schemes suitable applicants for relief are offered employment on public works. Under 90 of these schemes the men received no more than the amount of the relief they would otherwise have received unconditionally; while under 107 the Sanitary Authority employed the men, and paid an inclusive amount as wages, being afterwards reimbursed by the Guardians to an extent not exceeding the amount saved to the Guardians in relief.

HOUSING.

On the 31st March, 1924, the effect of the Housing Act of 1923 had been that 41,859 houses were to be provided under approved schemes of Local Authorities, 73,777 houses by private enterprise financially assisted under the Act, and 5,681 houses by public utility societies, etc., similarly assisted; making a total of 121,317, of which 8,140 were completed and 30,405 were in course of construction. On the same date 208,712 houses had been completed under the Housing Acts of 1919, 164,985 by Local Authorities, 39,186 by private builders, and 4,541 by public utility societies. The estimated final cost of the schemes of Local Authorities under these Acts is £179,400,000.

The number of houses known to the Ministry to have been provided during the year by private enterprise without assistance from public funds was 67,546 entered on the rate books during the year, and 37,953 under construction, or recently completed but not occupied, at the end of the year.

Of the 67,546 houses entered on the rate books during the year 49,439 were of a rateable value not exceeding £26 a year (or, in the Metropolitan Police District, £35 a year).

OTHER SUBJECTS.

Other sections of the Report deal with Public Health (infectious diseases, maternity and child welfare, welfare of the blind, inspection and supervision of food, general health questions, sanitary administration, town planning); Local Government and Local Finance; National Health Insurance. There is also a special section dealing with the Welsh Board of Health. Various statistical and other appendices are added to the Report.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 26th August, 1924, the number of men in training was 7,741, and the number awaiting training 3,119. Since 1st August, 1919, 86,069 men have terminated training.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

The latest returns show that there are approximately 23,500 firms on the King's National Roll, the number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms being approximately 350,000. The increase of 20,000 in the figure of disabled men employed on the figure published in the August issue of this GAZETTE is due almost wholly to the enrolment of two large railway companies.

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS IN AUGUST.

DURING the five weeks ended 30th August, 1924, ten meetings of Joint Industrial Councils were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

A meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council, *Local Authorities, Non-trading Services (Manual Workers)*, adjourned from 18th July, was held on 1st August, 1924.

The Council was mainly occupied in considering a disagreement on the London District Council regarding the "Municipal Charter" submitted to that Council by the National Federation of General Workers. The Charter covers a variety of matters relating to conditions of service, and these have been considered by a special Committee of the District Council, whose report was before the National Council.

The principal point of disagreement on which the National Council decision was desired was on wages. No decision was reached, however, and it was agreed to postpone the matter to the next meeting.

The monthly meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council for the *Tramway Industry* was held on 14th August. A special tribunal set up to consider the wages and conditions application of the 10th May, 1924 (see LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1924, page 279) reported that the parties had been heard on 29th, 30th and 31st July and 1st August, and that it was impossible to report finally before the 16th August, upon which date the notice by the employers' side for the termination of the national agreement expired. In these circumstances the delegates of both sides agreed to issue a notice cancelling the notice of the 7th July notifying certain reductions of wages, and also postponing for three months the notice by the employees' side to terminate the national agreement.

Various wages claims and questions of interpretation of wages agreements were discussed at meetings of other Councils. Amongst other questions discussed were re-grading proposals, the employment of juveniles, the proportion of apprentices to journeymen, and "blind-alley" occupations.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: CHIEF INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1923 has been issued.*

The number of registered factories† again increased during 1923, the total being 139,920, as against 137,858 in 1922. Workshops† declined from 145,684 to 140,850. This decrease in the number of workshops has been going on steadily for a number of years, and is largely due to the introduction of power, which immediately brings the premises under the classification of factories. Concurrently there has been, however, a steady closing of small workshops, mostly in rural areas.

The following Table shows the number of accidents reported during 1923, together with comparative figures for 1922, extracted from the Report for that year:—

Industry.	All Accidents (fatal and non-fatal).		Fatal Accidents.	
	1923.	1922.	1923.	1922.
Textile:—				
Cotton	6,538	5,463	24	26
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ..	2,729	2,438	26	24
Other Textile Industries ..	1,577	1,391	10	5
Non-Textile:—				
Conversion of Metals (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making)	20,099	13,996	90	82
Founding	7,443	5,038	29	30
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles	9,204	5,883	26	23
Shipbuilding	8,038	7,745	60	77
Other Non-Textile Industries	60,715	48,873	423	411
Docks and Warehouses, Buildings and Railways, under Sections 104-106 of the Factory Act, 1901	9,208	7,159	179	165
Total	125,551	97,986	867	843

The Report states that returning activity in industry is chiefly accountable for the increase in the total accidents reported, as compared with 1922. Further, as the result of more intensive inspection and the continuous instruction of employers, accidents are much better reported. Other causes suggested as contributing to the increase are:—

(1) Unemployment in the family of the worker, with resultant reduced standard of living, so that the worker is not so fit physically or so alert mentally.

(2) Workers unable to find employment at their own trade taking up work with which they are unfamiliar.

* Cmd. 2165. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. net.
† "Factories" are equipped with mechanical power; "workshops" are not so equipped.

(3) Anxiety on the part of elderly men to preserve their employment and full wages resulting in their concealing trivial injuries until compelled to lie off work by sepsis.

In regard to the large proportion of accidents not due to machinery the Report suggests that a reduction can only be accomplished through safety organisation within the industries themselves. Reports from the various parts of the country as to the growth of the "Safety First" movement are not altogether encouraging, although there are conspicuous examples, chiefly among the bigger firms, to the contrary. There is still much apathy and a certain amount of hostility, due really to ignorance of the system and of the beneficial and surprising results which the movement has already achieved.

Summarised by age and sex the accidents of the year 1923 were distributed as follows:—

	All Accidents.	Fatal Accidents.
Adults:		
Male	98,089	787
Female	8,945	16
Young Persons:		
Male	14,217	58
Female	4,300	6
All Ages:		
Male	112,306	845
Female	13,245	22
TOTAL	125,551	867

The report of the Senior Medical Inspector includes the following Table of notifications under Section 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, showing, as compared with 1922, an increase in the number of cases (though not in the deaths) from lead poisoning, a stationary condition as regards the total number of cases of anthrax, and a considerable increase in the number of reported cases of epitheliomatous ulceration.

Disease.	Cases.		Deaths.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
Lead Poisoning	247	337	26	25
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Mercurial Poisoning	6	4	1	—
Toxic Jaundice	3	7	—	2
Epitheliomatous ulceration ..	32	58	3	4
Chromic ulceration	42	58	—	—
Anthrax	45	46	5	5
TOTAL	375	510	35	36

Cases of lead poisoning show a very great reduction since the beginning of the century, the figures having been 1,058 in 1900 and 863 in 1901. Deaths from lead poisoning show a much smaller reduction, from 38 in 1900 and 34 in 1901. The reduction in the number of cases is almost entirely due to better conditions in the white and red lead industry and in the pottery industry, in which 377 cases and 210 cases, respectively, were reported in 1900, as against 37 and 44 in 1923. The industry responsible for the largest number of cases in 1923—viz., 95—was the manufacture of electric accumulators.

In a section of the Report dealing with *Employment* it is stated that the one-break day and the five-day week continue to extend in practice and popularity, and that the state of trade has presented few occasions for overtime, though there has been some disposition, in certain quarters, especially in trades employing large numbers of unorganised women and juvenile workers, towards a return to the full legal Factory Act day. The requirements of the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act, 1920, were found to be in general well observed, and attempts to employ children under the age of fourteen have practically ceased.

In regard to the two-shift system it is stated in the report that it has undoubtedly enabled firms in various branches of industry to accept important contracts for immediate early delivery which they must otherwise have declined, owing to their inability to execute them, with their existing plant, on a normal system of employment within the limit of time required, and that in this way a certain number of unemployed women and girls have found work for the time being. The total number of Orders in force at the close of 1923 authorising the working of two day-shifts was 323, as against 145 in 1921, the year in which the Act came into force. The increase is largely nominal. Only a proportion of the 323 Orders are in actual operation, the Orders having been for the most part obtained to meet a special emergency and allowed to fall out of use as soon as their purpose was fulfilled, although the right to resort to them remains with the occupier till December 31st, 1925.

With reference to the general conditions of women's employment the Report states that the reversal of the process of substitution which was so striking a feature of war-time industry is now practically complete. Women have returned to women's

industries, and very few of them are to be found even in those sections of men's trades for which war-time observation and experience showed them to be peculiarly well fitted.

Among other subjects dealt with in the Report are dangerous trades, sanitation, welfare, the working of the "particulars" section of the Factory Act (which requires employers in certain trades to publish particulars of the work to be done and of the rate of wages applicable thereto) and the Truck Acts. With regard to the last-named it is stated that while, in general, the decrease of fines and deductions may be said to continue, some of the inspectors' reports show that a partial revival of rules imposing fines has synchronised with bad trade and unemployment. There is general agreement among the Inspectors that the Trade Boards Acts, where they are in operation, have been instrumental in putting an end to unduly heavy fines and deductions for damaged work.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IN SWEDEN IN 1923.

ACCORDING to a report* recently issued by the Swedish Department for Social Affairs, the collective labour agreements concluded in Sweden during 1923 numbered 899. These were signed by or on behalf of 4,896 employers and determined the conditions of labour of 213,437 workpeople. The group of trades in which the greatest number were concluded was forestry and woodworking (182, affecting 43,291 workpeople), but those in the metal and engineering trades, though only 40 in number, affected 60,189 workpeople. At the end of the year 1,975 agreements were in force, covering 391,197 workpeople, as compared with 1,762 covering 312,765 workpeople in force at the end of 1922.

The period of validity provided for in the agreements concluded in 1923 was, on the whole, longer than that observed under earlier agreements. Nearly 12 per cent. were for a year or more, whereas in 1922 less than 1 per cent., and in 1921 only 3.1 per cent., fell within this category.

Working hours in industry in Sweden are limited to 48 per week under the law which came into operation on 1st January, 1920. As a rule, the agreements of 1923 lay down 8½ hours a day for the first five days of the week and 5½ hours on Saturday.

Provisions concerning the granting of an annual holiday occur in 671 agreements, affecting 165,609 workers. The length of such holiday is fixed at less than a week in 344 agreements (120,180 workers), at one week in 208 (20,932 workers), seven to eleven days in 90 (21,303 workers), and two weeks or over in 29 (3,189 workers).

Other matters dealt with in the 1923 agreements are the settlement of disputes, wages, overtime, compensation for accidents, relief in sickness, and apprenticeship.

CHANGES IN WAGES IN DENMARK: FOURTH QUARTER OF 1923.

A RECENT issue of the journal of the Danish Statistical Department† contains statistics of wages for the fourth quarter of 1923, compiled from returns furnished by the Danish Employers' Association. The data relate to a number of trades which, it is stated, are sufficient to be regarded as representative of manufactures and handicrafts generally.

The number of workpeople covered by the latest returns is about 106,000, and the industries most strongly represented are metal and engineering (25,000), building (12,500), food preparation (11,900), pottery, glass and stone (9,000), textiles (7,800), and printing and paper (6,600).

The general result of the computation shows that, if the country be taken as a whole, the average hourly earnings in the fourth quarter of 1923 amounted to 1.39 kroner (as compared with 1.37 and 1.34 kroner in the third and second quarters of 1923), and that they were 177 per cent. above the level of 1914. For skilled workmen the average hourly earnings increased from 1.67 kroner in the third quarter of 1923 to 1.71 kroner in the fourth quarter, and those for unskilled men increased from 1.34 kroner to 1.36 kroner. The average hourly earnings of female workers during the same period rose from .86 krone to .87 krone.

As regards later movements of wages, the Danish official journal states that since the end of 1923 wages have generally increased. For most trades the increase is estimated to amount to about 2 per cent., though in the case of the lowest paid workers the increase may be a little more. At the present time, if the country be taken as a whole, the average hourly earnings of skilled men may be assumed to lie between 1.74 kroner and 1.75 kroner, and for unskilled men between 1.39 kroner and 1.40 kroner, while the earnings of women may be taken to be about .89 krone per hour.

* *Arbetsinställelser och Kollektivavtal samt Föreningarnas Verksamhet* år 1923. K. Socialstyrelsen. Stockholm, 1924.
† *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 18th July, 1924. Copenhagen.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN POLAND: NEW ACT.

H.M. MINISTER at Warsaw transmits a translation of a new Polish Act, dated 18th July, 1924, by which a system of compulsory insurance against unemployment is introduced in Poland. The Act came into force on 31st August, 1924, and it must be made effective throughout Poland within a year from the date of its publication (31st July, 1924).

Scope of the Act.—Insurance against unemployment is compulsory for all workers of either sex over eighteen years of age engaged in industrial and mining enterprises, in commercial, communication and transport undertakings, etc., where more than five persons are employed. Certain classes of workmen employed in Government works and undertakings will also be included.

Funds.—An Unemployment Insurance Fund is to be established at the Ministry of Labour, which will derive its income from employers' and workers' contributions, subsidies from the public purse, interest on capital, donations, legacies, and from fines for infringements of the Act. Contributions are fixed at 2 per cent. of the wages paid; but all wages paid in excess of 5 zloty* a day will be disregarded for this purpose. Contributions are payable each month by the employer, who is entitled to deduct 25 per cent. of the amount from the worker's wage. The Treasury subsidy amounts to 50 per cent. of the contributions due. In districts in which large mining and industrial enterprises are situated, the local authorities may be called upon to contribute towards the Treasury subsidy a sum not exceeding one-half thereof. Provision is made for an adjustment of this system of levying contributions, should the amount collected prove insufficient or too large.

Benefits.—Benefits are in proportion to the amount of wages taken as a basis for the calculation of contributions. The scale fixed is as follows:

For a single worker, 30 per cent. of the wages.
For a worker with a family composed of 1-2 persons, 35 per cent. of the wages.
Ditto, 3-5 persons, 40 per cent. of the wages.
Ditto, over 5 persons, 50 per cent. of the wages.

Brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents, etc., who are wholly dependent on the worker, are counted as members of his or her family. Benefit begins ten days after registration, and lasts for a maximum of 13 weeks in one year. This term may be extended up to 17 weeks. To be entitled to benefit a worker must have been employed for at least 20 weeks during the year preceding registration.† He or she loses the right to benefit if suitable work is offered by the Employment Exchange and is refused, unless the work offered is in an undertaking where a strike is in progress. Persons employed on short time whose weekly earnings do not exceed the wages of three full days' work may receive 30 to 50 per cent. of the benefit provided for full-time unemployment. Persons suffering from ill-health, strikers (for the duration of the strike), and persons dismissed for misconduct are not entitled to benefit. A worker loses the right to benefit for a period of four weeks, if he or she gives notice without valid reason. Seasonal workers who are employed normally for not less than ten months in the year receive no benefit during the dead season. Exceptions to this provision will be made in times of great unemployment. Moreover, the Minister of Labour has power to abolish altogether the insurance of workers employed in factories working less than six months a year.

Administration.—The Unemployment Insurance Fund is administered by the Minister of Labour. The Council of Administration includes six representatives of the workers, four representatives of the employers, and four representatives of the municipal and parish councils. Representatives of these three interests, in the same proportions, will also be appointed to the local branches of the fund established at the District Employment Exchanges. These branches will collect contributions, pay benefits, fix the amount of both in relation to the wages received, keep the register of unemployed workers, and exercise control over these functions, where, as provided under the Act, they are carried out by parish councils or social institutions. To ensure proper control over unemployed workers, who must register within 30 days, the employer must provide a dismissed worker with a certificate of dismissal, and unemployed persons, after registration, must report themselves from time to time at the Employment Exchange (or at the offices of the parish council or social institution). The Minister of Labour has power to order employers in certain industries or branches of industry to notify all vacancies and new engagements of workers to the Employment Exchange.

Appeals and Penalties.—Provision is made for the lodging of appeals against the decisions of district offices. The District Appeal Commission is composed of a chairman and a representative of the workers and a representative of the employers. The Minister of Labour may cancel the decisions of the Commission. Penalties, either fines or imprisonment, may be imposed for infringements of the law or false declarations.

* Five zloty=4s. 4d. at exchange rate prevailing on 15th September, 1924.

† The wages referred to in this scale are subject to a limiting maximum of 5 zloty, i.e., the maximum daily benefit is 2½ zloty.

‡ The Minister of Labour is empowered to waive this condition.

LEGAL WORKING HOURS IN HOLLAND: DEVIATIONS AUTHORISED IN 1923.*

The total number of industrial establishments, offices, etc., in Holland coming within the provisions of the Dutch Labour Act of 1919 (as amended in May 1922) regulating and limiting hours of labour was 110,308 in 1923. Of these, 9,842, or about 8 per cent., obtained during that year permits to deviate from those provisions. The number of separate permits granted was 20,376, of which 15,276,† or 73 per cent., authorised extensions of the statutory weekly working time (48 hours). The limits of the extensions authorised exceed five hours per week in 64 per cent. and 7½ hours per week in 13 per cent. of these cases. In about half of the 15,276 cases the period for which the extension of hours was authorised did not exceed a fortnight. In about one-fifth of the cases the authorisation was for a period of three months or more.

IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING IN ITALY.

ACCORDING to a despatch from H.M. Commercial Secretary in Rome, official figures quoted in the Italian Press show a marked improvement in the present standard of living as compared with that of the pre-war period. The annual consumption of fresh meat has increased from fourteen kilogrammes to twenty-one kilogrammes per head, and that of salted meats from four kilogrammes to nineteen. As regards sugar and coffee, the increases are respectively from five to eight kilogrammes and from 800 to 1,300 grammes, while the consumption of olive oil has increased in the ratio of 19 to 29. The consumption of wine has increased from 40 litres per head to 50, and that of beer from two litres to three. The amount of electric current consumed has risen to 122 kilowatts per hour, the pre-war figure being 53 kilowatts per hour.

The following figures indicate also a notable increase in the means of locomotion:—

	Pre-war.	Present Day.
Bicycles	1,200,000	2,300,000
Motor-cycles	17,000	38,000
Motor-cars	19,000	54,000
Taxicabs	1,500	7,000
Motor-lorries	900	28,000
Motor-boats	100	1,600

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE UNITED STATES: 1914-1924.

THE United States Department of Commerce, in the May, 1924, number of its *Survey of Current Business*, publishes the following figures relating to earnings and hours of labour. The data were compiled by the National Industrial Conference Board from returns from 1,673 manufacturing plants, employing 506,315 workpeople in January, 1924, and representing 23 industries. The nominal hours per week represent the weighted number of hours the plants are supposed normally to operate, while the actual hours represent the average man-hours worked each week. The "grand total" weekly earnings were obtained by weighting the average earnings in each industry by the number of wage earners employed, as reported by the Census of Manufactures of 1919; but, as it was impossible to obtain the necessary weighting factors for the different classes of labour, the latter averages are unweighted.

Year and Month.	Average Weekly Earnings.					Average Weekly Hours of Labour.	
	Males.			Both Sexes Combined.	Nominal.	Actual.	
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	Total.				
	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.		
1914.						55.0	51.5
July 1924.	14.16	10.71	13.30	7.84	12.54	55.0	51.5
January..	30.38	23.04	28.64	17.38	26.94	49.6	48.5
February..	30.73	23.67	29.05	17.36	27.20	49.9	48.8
March ..	30.12	23.70	28.59	17.41	26.89	50.1	47.8
	Corresponding Index Numbers (July, 1914=100).						
1924.						90	94
January..	215	215	215	222	215	91	94
February..	217	221	218	222	217	91	94
March ..	213	221	215	222	214	91	98

* *Maandchrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, 30th June, 1924.
† The rest of the permits authorised work at night, on Saturdays or on Sundays, &c., without involving any extension of the statutory weekly limit of 48 hours.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	72 %
Food only	...	...	...	66 %

FOOD.

BETWEEN 1st August and 1st September there was a further fall of about 2d. per 7 lbs. in the average retail price of potatoes, but otherwise all the articles of food covered by these statistics showed an appreciable upward movement in price, except meat, sugar and margarine, the prices of which showed little or no change on the average. The greatest increases were in the average prices of butter (1½d. per lb.), bacon (1d. per lb.) and eggs (½d. each). As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics rose to about 66 per cent. at 1st September, as compared with about 64 per cent. at 1st August.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of food in July, 1914, and at 1st August and 1st September, 1924:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ¼d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Sept., 1924, as compared with		
	July, 1914.	1st Aug., 1924.	1st Sept., 1924.	July, 1914.	1st Aug., 1924.	
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Ribs	0 10	1 5½	1 6	+ 0 8	+ 0 0½	
Thin Flank	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	+ 0 —	
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs	0 7½	0 10	0 10½	+ 0 3	+ 0 0½	
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 0½	+ 0 0½	
Mutton, British—						
Legs	0 10½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 9½	—	
Breast	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 4½	—	
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs	0 6½	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 5½	—	
Breast	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	—	
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	1 4½	1 5½	+ 0 6½	+ 0 1	
Flour	per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 4½	1 5	+ 0 6½	+ 0 0½
Bread	per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 3½	+ 0 0½
Tea	per lb.	1 6½	2 3½	2 3½	+ 0 9½	+ 0 0½
Sugar (granulated)	per lb.	0 2	0 4½	0 4½	+ 0 2½	—
Milk	per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 2½	+ 0 0½
Butter						
Fresh	per lb.	1 2½	2 0	2 1½	+ 0 11½	+ 0 1½
Salt	per lb.	1 2½	1 11½	2 0½	+ 0 10½	+ 0 1½
Cheese†	per lb.	0 8½	1 1	1 1½	+ 0 4½	+ 0 0½
Margarine	per lb.	0 7	0 6½	0 6½	- 0 0½	—
Eggs (fresh)	each	0 1½	0 2	0 2½	+ 0 1	+ 0 0½
Potatoes	per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 10½	0 8½	+ 0 4	- 0 2

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Sept., 1924, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st Aug., 1924.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—				
Ribs	83	77	80	79
Thin Flank	52	53	53	52
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	42	41	42	39
Thin Flank	13	16	14	12
Mutton British—				
Legs	94	95	94	94
Breast	74	71	72	72
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	84	76	80	77
Breast	26	28	27	25
Bacon (streaky)*	58	53	55	47
Fish	116	97	106	101
Flour	57	62	60	55
Bread	66	62	64	60
Tea	48	52	50	48
Sugar (granulated)	132	118	125	125
Milk	60	67	63	60
Butter				
Fresh	75	78	76	65
Salt	73	74	73	64
Cheese†	54	56	55	51
Margarine	- 4	- 7	- 6	- 6
Eggs (fresh)	89	88	88	71
Potatoes	91	71	81	122
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	67	65	66	64

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September, 1924, was approximately 47 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st September the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, was between 125 and 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the average retail price of coal at 1st September was slightly higher than a month earlier and about 95 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, and the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches also showed no appreciable change. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st September, as compared with July, 1914, was nearly 85 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September is approximately 72 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 71 per cent. a month earlier.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken for 1924 as for 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1924.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914.—All items.
(Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)

Month (beginning of)	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	138	82	74	78
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72
October ..	30	50-55	85-90	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	—
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	108	80	75	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	—

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation on commodities since July, 1914, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE decline in employment which was observed in July continued during August. Employment was good in the tinplate and steel sheet, carpet, jute and brick trades; it was fairly good on the whole in the printing, silk and Irish linen trades, and in some branches of the woodworking industry; and fair in coal-mining, in the tailoring and leather industries, and in certain branches of the metal trades. In many important industries, however, including iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding, and the cotton and wool textile trades, it continued slack.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 25th August, 1924, was 10.6, compared with 9.9 at 28th July, 1924, and 11.8 at the end of August, 1923. For males alone the percentage was 11.3 at 25th August as compared with 10.5 at 28th July, 1924; for females the corresponding figures were 8.8 and 8.1. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage of unemployed was 7.9 at the end of August, 1924, compared with 7.4 at the end of July and with 11.4 at the end of August, 1923. The number of workpeople registered at Employment Exchanges as applicants for employment was approximately 1,152,000 at 25th August, 1924, of whom men numbered 876,000 and women 205,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 28th July, 1924, was 1,052,000, of whom 804,000 were men and 185,000 were women. (It should be noted that some unemployed persons—e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts—do not register at the Employment Exchanges.)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines continued fair on the whole, but showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd August was 1,170,525, a decrease of 0.7 per cent. as compared with July, 1924, but an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with August, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 23rd August was 5.17, as compared with 4.61 in the fortnight ended 26th July and 5.14 in August, 1923.

At iron mines employment showed a decline; it was very bad in the Cleveland district, slack in Cumberland and Lancashire, and moderate in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns received there was a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with July, 1924, but an increase of 2.7 per cent. compared with August, 1923. The average number of days worked by those mines which were working during the fortnight ended 23rd August, 1924, was 5.28, a decrease of 0.19 days as compared with July, 1924, but an increase of 0.03 days as compared with August, 1923. At shale mines employment remained fair. At limestone quarries in the Clitheroe district employment again declined; in the Weardale district it continued moderate, and in the Buxton district it was reported as fairly good. At slate quarries in North Wales it continued good. With granite quarrymen in the Aberdeen district it improved to good, and in the East of Scotland whinstone quarries it remained fair. At china clay quarries it continued fairly good; at tin mines it was reported as good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig iron industry employment continued slack. Of a total of 482 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of August was 173, compared with 175 in July, 1924, and with 196 in August, 1923. At iron and steel works employment showed a slight decline, and was bad on the whole. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades it continued good; at the end of August 540 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 514 in August, 1923.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades continued bad and showed a decline, which was partly due to dislocations caused by the usual annual holidays. In general, marine and textile engineering employment was bad; in electrical engineering it continued fairly good; in the motor section the seasonal decline continued, but employment was fair on the whole for the time of year; in railway engineering employment was quiet. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued very bad, and showed a decline compared with the previous month. Employment in the other metal trades was moderate to fair on the whole, and showed little change as compared with July. It was fairly good in the axle and spring, and hollow-ware trades; fair in the brasswork, cutlery and file, edge tool, farriery, metallic bedstead, sheet metal, stove and grate, and tube trades; moderate in the wire trade, and slack or bad in the jewellery and plated ware, needle and fishing tackle, nut, bolt and nail, saddle and harness furniture, anvil and vice, chain and anchor, and lock, latch and key trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment showed little change. It continued very slack with spinners except in the Egyptian section, and bad with weavers other than those engaged on fancy goods. Employment in the woollen and worsted trades continued slack.

Employment in the hosiery trade continued bad generally, and in the Nottingham district a further slight decline was reported; it was also bad in the lace trade, and there was a further decline in the curtain branch. In the silk trade employment showed a slight decline, but was fairly good on the whole. In the jute and carpet trades employment was good on the whole. In the Irish linen trade employment was fairly good; in Scotland it showed a further decline, and was fair. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment was slack generally, but with silk dyers at Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton it was reported as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in all branches of the tailoring trade showed a seasonal decline, and was fair on the whole. There was a decline in the dressmaking and millinery trade, and employment was moderate to fair; in the blouse and light underclothing trade it continued fair in the London district, and was reported as bad in the Glasgow and West of Scotland district. In the corset trade employment continued slack on the whole, while in the shirt and collar trade it was fair. In the felt hat trade there was a further improvement, and employment was reported as good in some centres. In the boot and shoe trade employment showed a slight decline, and was moderate.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section continued fair; it was also fair with portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather workers, but a slight decline was reported at Birmingham. With saddlery and harness makers it remained bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trade continued to be affected by the general dispute during the greater part of August; following a settlement of the dispute work was generally resumed on 25th August, and, by the end of the month, employment was again good in most districts with skilled operatives (except painters), but generally slack with unskilled workers. In the brick trade employment showed an improvement and was good on the whole.

In the furnishing trades a slight improvement was reported except with upholsterers, but employment was still moderate on the whole. With millawyers employment remained fairly good; with coachbuilders it declined slightly and was fair; with coopers it remained good except in Belfast, where it was still bad. With brushmakers employment was fairly good; with packing-case makers it continued slack; with basket-makers it declined and was bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued moderate on the whole. With letterpress printers employment was fairly good on the whole; in London there was a slight decline with compositors, but proof-readers, electrotypers and stereotypers were well employed. In the lithographic section employment was also fairly good generally; with lithographic artists in London and Manchester it was good; in the bookbinding trade employment continued moderate.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade employment showed a slight decline and was slack on the whole; it continued good in the tile, sanitary earthenware and fire clay sections, and fair in the stoneware branch in Scotland. In the glass trades employment continued moderate.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture the supply of labour was generally sufficient for requirements, but in some districts more casual labour could have been employed had it been available; in the fishing industry employment improved and was fairly good.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers and seamen during August continued moderate on the whole.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed (a) among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, and (b) among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, month by month, since August, 1923:—

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among			
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
1923.				
August	11.4	12.4	10.1	11.8
September ..	11.3	12.3	10.0	11.7
October	10.9	12.4	9.8	11.7
November .. .	10.5	12.1	9.7	11.5
December .. .	9.7	11.2	9.1	10.7
1924.				
January	8.9	12.5	10.2	11.9
February .. .	8.1	11.1	9.5	10.7
March	7.8	10.3	8.8	9.9
April	7.5	10.2	8.4	9.5
May	7.0	9.9	8.1	9.4
June	7.2	10.0	7.8	9.0
July	7.4	10.5	8.1	9.0
August	7.9	11.3	8.8	10.6

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 977,715 in branches covered by the returns received reported 76,892 (or 7.9 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of August, 1924, compared with 7.4 per cent. at the end of July, 1924, and 11.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1923.

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of August, 1924.	Unemployed at end of August, 1924.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining .. .	138,590	7,957	5.7	+ 0.8	+ 4.6
Engineering and Ship-building .. .	359,443	48,880	13.6	+ 0.7	- 9.0
Miscellaneous Metal .. .	48,322	3,013	6.2	+ 0.3	- 3.1
Textiles:—					
Cotton .. .	59,453	4,050	6.8†	+ 0.3	- 2.2
Woollen and Worsted .. .	12,081	389	3.2	- 0.4	- 1.5
Other .. .	57,535	1,205	2.1	+ 0.1	- 1.9
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper .. .	99,684	3,330	3.3	- 0.2	- 1.7
Furnishing .. .	27,376	1,738	6.3	- 0.3	- 0.9
Woodworking .. .	37,657	1,708	4.5	+ 0.5	- 1.2
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe .. .	78,698	2,900	3.7	+ 0.4	- 2.3
Other Clothing .. .	47,099	315	0.7	+ 0.2	- 1.3
Leather .. .	5,966	414	6.9	- 0.3	- 3.3
Glass .. .	1,187	58	4.9	+ 0.9	+ 2.5
Pottery .. .					
Pottery .. .	4,624	935	20.2	- 3.6	- 6.1
Tobacco .. .					
Total	977,715	76,892	7.9‡	+ 0.5‡	- 3.5‡

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10.6 per cent. (males 11.3 per cent., females 8.8 per cent.) at 25th August, 1924, as compared with 9.9 per cent. (males 10.5 per cent., females 8.1 per cent.) at 28th July, 1924, and 11.8 per cent. (males 12.4 per cent., females 10.1 per cent.) at 27th August, 1923. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 332 and 333.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in August, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 326 to 331.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for August, 1924.	August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining .. .	1,170,525	5.17	+ 0.56	+ 0.03
Iron	8,093	5.28	- 0.19	+ 0.03
Shale	4,176	6.00	+ 0.34	+ 0.06
		Furnaces in Blast	Number.	Number.
Pig Iron	—	173	- 2	- 23
		Mills Working		
Tinplate and Steel Sheet .. .	—	540	- 2	+ 26
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel .. .	67,610	359,827	- 2.0	- 3.4

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 23rd August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.¶
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	
Textiles:—					
Cotton .. .	81,627	- 0.8	+ 5.4	145,147	- 1.0
Woollen .. .	14,732	- 0.7	+ 5.6	30,906	+ 0.1
Worsted .. .	28,387	- 0.2	- 2.6	53,580	+ 0.6
Boot and Shoe .. .	52,200	+ 0.2	+ 4.8	117,163	- 4.5
Pottery .. .	12,774	+ 0.0	+ 5.5	23,058	- 2.6
Brick	8,065	+ 1.2	+ 15.1	20,657	+ 2.9
Total	197,835	- 0.3	+ 4.4	390,511	- 1.7

* 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.
 † In addition to those shown, who were 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."
 ‡ Comparative figures for August, 1924, July, 1924, and August, 1923, are not at present available.
 § The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.
 ¶ Building trade unions are excluded in August, 1924, and July, 1924, in view of the trade dispute, but are included in August, 1923.
 †† Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

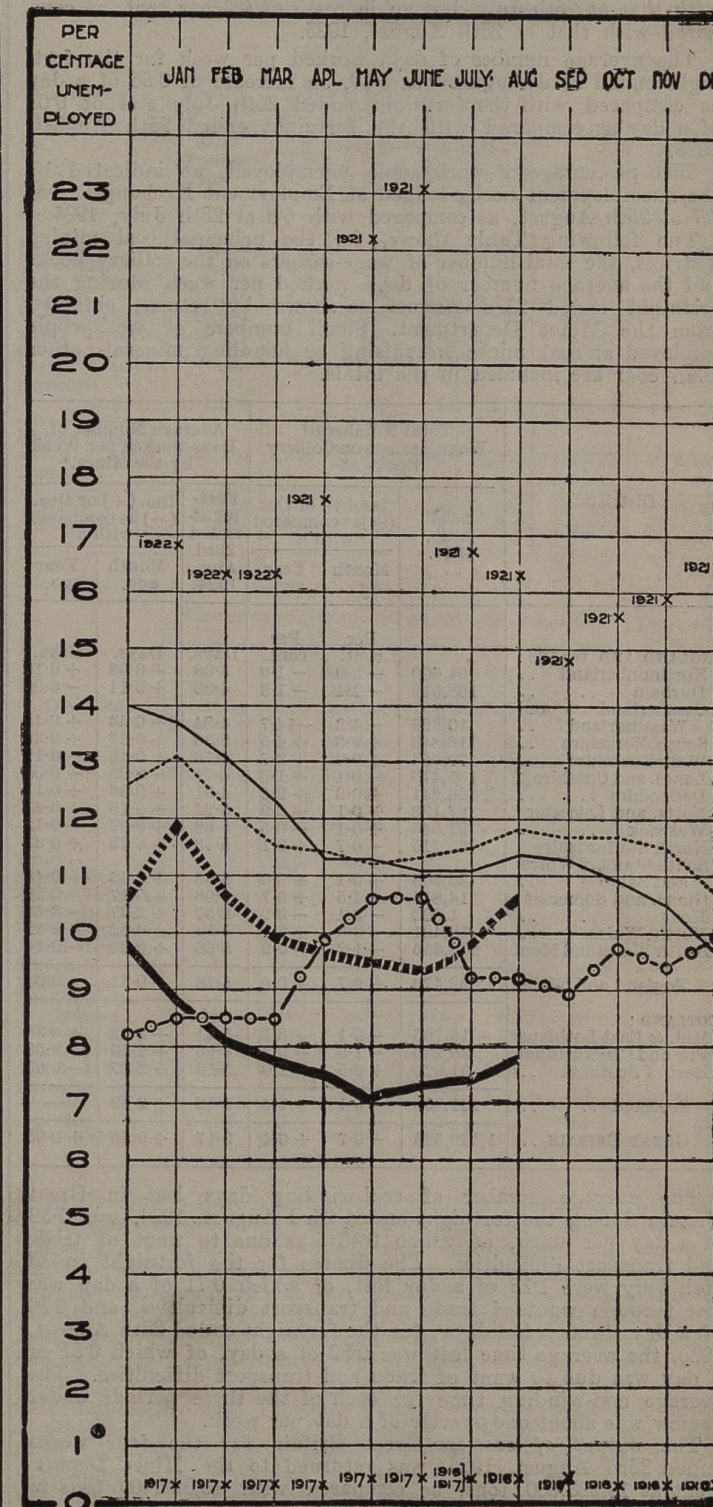
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1924.
 Thin Curve ————— = 1923.
 Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1919-23.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1894-1923.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORK-PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT:—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1924.
 Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1923.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 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 are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail on pages 332 and 333.

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 to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry during August continued fair on the whole, but showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. Employment was slack in Northumberland and Durham, and there was a decline in South Wales. The increase in the number of days worked per week in all areas in Scotland is due mainly to the close of the holiday period.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd August showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. as compared with that at 26th July, but an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with that at 25th August, 1923.

The average number of days worked per week for the fortnight ended 23rd August was 5.17, an increase of 0.56 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 26th July and of 0.03 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th August, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.7 at 25th August, as compared with 6.8 at 28th July, 1924.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 23rd August, as shown by returns obtained from the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Fortnight ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
Northumberland ..	61,600	-3.0	-1.9	5.08	+0.63	+0.10
Durham ..	168,016	-1.4	-1.8	4.88	+0.11	-0.09
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	10,329	-4.2	-14.7	4.84	+0.53	+0.45
South Yorkshire ..	116,846	+0.3	+4.5	5.30	+0.27	+0.30
West Yorkshire ..	70,554	+0.3	+3.7	4.76	+0.43	-0.17
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	105,410	-0.1	+1.3	4.71	-0.03	+0.08
Derbyshire ..	66,241	+0.3	+2.3	4.91	+0.36	+0.11
Notts. and Leicester ..	67,133	-0.1	+2.9	5.24	+0.76	+0.45
Warwick ..	21,545	+0.1	-0.5	5.62	+0.37	-0.12
North Staffordshire ..	35,715	-0.7	+3.1	5.43	+0.25	+0.21
South Staffs.,† Wores. and Salop ..	36,308	+0.1	+3.0	5.63	+0.43	+0.43
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,814	-1.5	+0.7	5.08	+0.17	-0.26
Kent ..	1,822	-3.1	-3.0	2.37	+2.87	-3.31
North Wales ..	18,481	-0.6	+3.7	5.14	+0.72	-0.22
South Wales and Mon. ..	238,656	-1.2	-0.9	5.66	+0.30	-0.14
England and Wales	1,033,470	-0.7	+0.6	5.18	+0.31	+0.04
SCOTLAND:						
Mid. & East Lothians ..	15,795	-0.1	+0.5	5.41	+2.82	+0.33
Fife and Clackmannan ..	30,236	-1.6	-0.3	4.96	+2.69	+0.03
Rest of Scotland ..	91,024	+0.5	-2.0	5.13	+2.87	-0.05
Scotland ..	137,055	-0.1	-1.4	5.12	+2.49	—
GREAT BRITAIN ..	1,170,525	-0.7	+0.4	5.17	+0.56	+0.03

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 23rd August, 1924, was 0.59 of a day per week, of which 0.48 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 26th July were 1.15 of a day lost, of which 0.71 of a day was lost through want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0.39 of a day through holidays; for the fortnight ended 25th August, 1923, the average time lost was 0.62 of a day, of which 0.51 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 23rd August, 1924, was returned to the Mines Department at 18,928,500 tons, as compared with 19,382,400 tons in the four weeks ended 26th July, 1924, and with 19,107,800 tons in the four weeks ended 25th August, 1923.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 7,005,123 tons in August, compared with 7,392,803 tons in July.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.

† Including Cannock Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

In the Cleveland district employment continued very bad. In Cumberland and Lancashire it was again slack, and showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. In other districts employment again showed a decline, and was only moderate on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.1 at 25th August, as compared with 17.6 at 28th July.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines.		
	Fortnight ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Fortnight ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ..	3,647	-0.2	+13.0	4.93	-0.27	+0.05
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	2,680	-0.2	-6.7	5.51	-0.11	-0.11
Other Districts ..	1,766	-2.1	-0.8	5.64	-0.16	+0.30
ALL DISTRICTS	8,093	-0.6	+2.7	5.28	-0.19	+0.03

Shale Mining.

At shale mines employment was fair on the whole. At mines employing 4,176 workpeople during the fortnight ended 23rd August, 1924, there was an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 3.3 per cent. as compared with August, 1923. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 6.00 in August, 1924, 5.66 in July, 1924, and 5.94 in August, 1923.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued slack, and showed little change compared with July. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.3 at 25th August, 1924, as compared with 14.5 at 28th July, 1924.

Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms, employing 21,060 workpeople, at the end of August showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with July, and a decrease of 2.8 per cent. compared with August, 1923.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of August, as shown by the returns collected by the Federation, was 173, compared with 175 at the end of July and 196 at the end of August, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of August, 1924, July, 1924, and August, 1923:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in August on a	
		August, 1924.	July, 1924.	August, 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
Durham and Cleveland ..	111	44	45	42	-1	+2
Cumberland and W. Lancs. ..	47	11	11	12	..	-1
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks. (including Sheffield) ..	35	12	16	17	-4	-5
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants. ..	73	42	42	38	..	+4
Lincolnshire ..	23	14	15	17	-1	-3
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ..	60	11	10	16	+1	-5
South Wales ..	32	10	7	9	+3	+1
Total, England and Wales	351	144	146	151	-2	-7
SCOTLAND ..	101	29	29	45	..	-16
Total ..	452	173	175	196	-2	-23

* See note * in previous column.

The production of pig iron in August amounted to 588,900 tons, as compared with 615,600 tons in July and 599,800 tons in August, 1923.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

DURING August, employment at iron and steel works declined slightly, and was bad on the whole. The depression was greatest on the North East Coast, where employment was much worse than in July, or in August of last year.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.1 on 25th August, as compared with 19.7 on 28th July.

According to returns received from firms employing 67,610 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 23rd August (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) decreased by 2.0 per cent. as compared with the previous month and by 3.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.3 in the week ended 23rd August, 1924, the same as in the corresponding weeks in July and a year ago.

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

Divisions.	Number of Workpeople Unemployed at 25th August, 1924.						Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th July, 1924.
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering and Marine Boiler Making.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	
London ..	9,212	363	95	144	2,176	11,990	+ 426
South Eastern ..	3,503	235	98	61	1,237	5,124	+ 450
South Western ..	2,129	43	444	66	66	3,499	+ 147
Midlands ..	11,615	1,345	60	672	12,212	25,004	+ 3,827
North Eastern ..	19,784	476	5,930	773	675	27,638	+ 825
North Western ..	30,371	816	382	143	1,710	38,422	+ 3,916
Scotland ..	16,184	188	2,378	1,217	753	20,720	- 900
Wales ..	..	790	9	17	100	988	- 7
Northern Ireland ..	1,806	30	1,520	14	172	3,542	+ 74
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	95,394	3,518	10,916	3,097	19,852	132,777	+ 8,758
Males ..	92,986	2,862	10,875	3,043	18,191	127,957	+ 7,823
Females ..	2,408	656	41	54	1,661	4,820	+ 935
DEPARTMENTS.		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.	
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ..	7,903	- 8.1	+ 0.4	44,476	- 8.5	+ 1.1	
Puddling Forges ..	3,078	+ 2.5	-10.9	14,172	+ 3.7	- 4.7	
Rolling Mills ..	23,973	+ 0.4	- 4.8	120,714	+ 2.0	- 3.9	
Forging and Pressing ..	3,237	- 2.8	+ 2.9	17,281	+ 0.2	+ 5.4	
Founding ..	3,165	- 0.1	- 1.2	45,999	+ 0.3	+ 1.9	
Other Departments ..	6,308	-11.0	-11.9	31,646	-18.3	-17.2	
Mechanics, Labourers ..	14,946	- 0.2	- 3.8	85,539	+ 1.0	- 3.1	
TOTAL ..	67,610	- 2.1	- 4.2	359,827	- 2.0	- 3.4	
DISTRICTS.							
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ..	10,119	-19.0	-17.3	54,502	-22.3	-16.0	
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	19,354	+ 1.1	- 2.2	102,403	+ 2.8	+ 0.1	
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,434	+ 6.4	- 2.0	12,782	+ 3.8	- 6.4	
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ..	6,630	+ 2.6	-16.3	34,355	+ 1.1	-18.1	
Staffordshire ..	8,246	+ 1.0	+ 6.6	43,048	+ 1.6	+ 7.7	
Other Midland Counties ..	4,423	+ 2.9	+ 4.0	23,436	+ 2.6	+ 3.7	
Wales and Monmouth ..	8,808	- 4.5	- 3.1	47,238	- 5.9	- 4.9	
Total, England and Wales ..	60,014	- 3.3	- 5.5	317,764	- 4.1	- 5.2	
Scotland ..	7,596	+ 8.8	- 7.1	42,063	+17.8	+12.6	
TOTAL ..	67,610	- 2.1	- 4.2	359,827	- 2.0	- 3.4	

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 527,500 tons in August, as compared with 693,300 tons in July, and 567,500 tons in August, 1923.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during August. At the end of the month 540 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 542† in July and 514 at the end of August, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.6 on 25th August, compared with 2.6 on 28th July.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open				Number of Mills in Operation			
	At end of August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Tinplate ..	78	..	+ 3	413	- 5†	+ 24		
Steel Sheet ..	14	+ 1	+ 1	127	+ 3	+ 2		
TOTAL ..	92	+ 1	+ 4	540	- 2†	+ 26		

* 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 were actually worked by all the men employed.

† Revised figures.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in August, 1924, amounted to 89,758 tons, or 14,217 tons less than in July, 1924, but 6,173 tons more than in August, 1923.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry remained bad on the whole during August, and showed a decline, partly attributable to dislocation caused by the usual annual holidays. In general, marine, and textile engineering employment was bad. In electrical engineering it continued fairly good. In the motor section the seasonal decline continued, but employment was fair on the whole for the time of year. In railway engineering employment was quiet, some short time being worked.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th August, 1924, and the increase or decrease as compared with 28th July, 1924:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th August, 1924.						Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th July, 1924.
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering and Marine Boiler Making.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	
London ..	9,212	363	95	144	2,176	11,990	+ 426
South Eastern ..	3,503	235	98	61	1,237	5,124	+ 450
South Western ..	2,129	43	444	66	66	3,499	+ 147
Midlands ..	11,615	1,345	60	672	12,212	25,004	+ 3,827
North Eastern ..	19,784	476	5,930	773	675	27,638	+ 825
North Western ..	30,371	816	382	143	1,710	38,422	+ 3,916
Scotland ..	16,184	188	2,378	1,217	753	20,720	- 900
Wales ..	..	790	9	17	100	988	- 7
Northern Ireland ..	1,806	30	1,520	14	172	3,542	+ 74
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	95,394	3,518	10,916	3,097	19,852	132,777	+ 8,758
Males ..	92,986	2,862	10,875	3,043	18,191	127,957	+ 7,823
Females ..	2,408	656	41	54	1,661		

remained fair on the whole, but short time continued in operation in the railway engineering section. Employment continued fair also at Leicester.

Little change was experienced in the Eastern Counties, apart from dislocation caused by holidays, employment continuing moderate generally except at Colchester, where it remained slack. In London employment was still moderate, and, apart from holidays, continued to improve. In the Southern Counties also it remained moderate on the whole; in the motor and aircraft section it was fairly good, but at railway engineering works it was quiet. In South Wales employment remained slack on the whole.

In Glasgow and the West of Scotland some improvement was experienced, but employment was still very bad, while in the East of Scotland conditions remained bad, and showed little general change. At Belfast employment was still very bad.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries continued very bad during August, and showed a decline compared with the previous month.

On the North-East Coast employment was bad in most branches, though moderate with joiners and shipwrights, and showed a slight decline on the whole. A decline was also shown on the East Coast, while on the Thames employment continued bad. At Southampton the improvement previously reported was not maintained, but at other ports on the South Coast employment was still moderate, and showed some improvement. On repair work at the Bristol Channel Ports employment was adversely affected by a dispute (see p. 335). On the Mersey employment was slack and showed a decline, especially upon new work, but at Barrow it continued to improve. In Scotland employment remained bad generally, except with joiners and shipwrights, for whom there was some demand; at Dundee, however, it was fair on the whole. At Belfast and Londonderry it remained very bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th August, 1924, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd July, 1924:—

Divisions.	Total number of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th Aug., 1924.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 23rd July, 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at 25th Aug., 1924.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with 23rd July, 1924.	
				Percentage	Change
London	3,764	- 173	26.6	-	1.2
South Eastern ..	1,440	+ 174	15.3	+	1.9
South Western ..	4,318	+ 889	13.9	+	2.9
Midlands	137	+ 28	27.4	+	5.6
North Eastern ..	24,090	+ 1,295	33.2	+	1.7
North Western ..	10,669	+ 1,927	29.7	+	5.3
Scotland	17,870	- 757	24.9	-	1.1
Wales	5,170	+ 1,281	40.6	+	10.1
Northern Ireland ..	9,213	- 5	37.7	-	—
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	76,671	+ 4,659	28.1	+	1.7
<i>Males</i>	<i>76,419</i>	<i>+ 4,587</i>	<i>28.5</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>1.7</i>
<i>Females</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>+ 72</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>1.8</i>

COTTON TRADE.

DURING August employment showed little change as compared with the previous month, but was appreciably better than in August of last year. With spinners employment continued very slack, except in the Egyptian section; and in the weaving department employment was bad, except with weavers engaged on fancy goods. Employment was affected by annual holidays in certain districts.

At a meeting of the American Section of the General Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, held on 8th August, a resolution was adopted recommending spinners of American cotton to continue short time working on the lines which have been adopted since February, viz., by stopping their spinning spindles 21½ hours per week, or equivalent thereto, during the months of October, November and December. The Short-Time Organisation Committee are, however, empowered to vary the amount of curtailment of production as the state of trade may warrant.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.3 on the 25th August, as compared with 15.8 on the 23rd July.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment

with spinners continued bad; organised short time was maintained in the American section, and the trade holidays were extended in many cases. In the manufacturing section there was also no improvement. In the Bolton district employment was fairly good with card-room workers, but not so good as in July; it continued good with spinners and fair with weavers. At Leigh employment in the spinning department continued good; at Bury and Rochdale it continued bad.

In the principal weaving districts employment continued slack, and showed little change on the month, but was somewhat better than in August of last year. Production was curtailed in various ways, some mills working alternate weeks, while in others a proportion of the looms were standing idle. At Burnley there was much under-employment, weavers working two and three looms instead of four or six, the normal number. At Darwen employment was reported as slack. At Preston also it was slack generally, and the trade holidays were extended at ten of the local mills; but firms making fancy goods were reported to be busy. At Blackburn no improvement was reported on July, but employment was considerably better than in August of last year.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	11,105	+ 0.4	+ 7.7	17,617	+ 0.7	+ 6.6
Spinning	21,053	- 0.8	+ 7.3	35,917	- 1.2	+ 9.2
Weaving	33,403	- 1.4	+ 4.1	58,190	- 1.7	+ 9.5
Other	7,710	- 0.7	+ 0.7	18,080	+ 0.4	+ 5.1
Not specified	8,356	- 0.3	+ 7.3	15,343	- 1.8	+ 0.1
Total	81,627	- 0.8	+ 5.4	145,147	- 1.0	+ 7.5
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	4,408	+ 1.5	+ 0.3	7,199	+ 1.8	- 8.3
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	7,939	+ 0.1	+ 11.9	13,265	- 5.2	+ 15.2
Oldham	8,158	- 1.2	+ 7.4	13,588	+ 7.2	+ 3.4
Bolton and Leigh ..	11,673	- 0.3	+ 3.5	21,058	- 0.8	+ 3.6
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	7,572	+ 0.6	+ 2.8	11,168	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Manchester	5,196	- 7.1	- 0.7	9,263	- 5.4	+ 5.4
Preston and Chorley ..	6,506	- 2.0	+ 2.8	11,143	- 6.2	+ 8.1
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	9,845	- 0.6	+ 14.3	18,137	- 2.4	+ 13.0
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	10,740	- 1.0	- 0.4	23,486	- 0.2	+ 9.1
Other Lancashire Towns ..	2,971	- 0.1	+ 6.4	4,972	+ 0.4	+ 6.3
Yorkshire Towns	3,986	+ 0.5	+ 13.9	7,314	- 0.2	+ 28.8
Other Districts	2,633	+ 0.4	+ 6.4	4,554	+ 2.1	+ 17.5
Total	81,627	- 0.8	+ 5.4	145,147	- 1.0	+ 7.5

Returns from firms employing about 71,500 workpeople showed that 19 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent of 19½ hours on the average in the week ended 23rd August.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 4th August, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 90 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 4th August, 1924.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 7th July, 1924.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card & Blowing Room ..	2,128	11,507	13,635	- 200	+ 91	- 109
Spinning	11,237	9,539	20,776	- 485	- 404	- 889
Beaming, Winding and Winding	2,401	10,276	12,677	- 75	- 524	- 599
Weaving	4,347	10,840	15,187	+ 272	+ 1,019	+ 747
Other Processes	931	475	1,406	- 28	- 81	- 109
Total	21,044	42,637	63,681	- 516	- 1,937	- 2,453

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 58,352,700 lbs. in August, 1924, compared with 64,387,000 lbs. in the previous month and with 46,470,900 lbs. in August, 1923.

The exports of cotton yarn were 11,851,900 lbs. in August, 1924, compared with 12,665,000 lbs. in July, 1924, and 12,802,800 lbs. in August, 1923.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 373,643,900 square yards, as compared with 383,760,900 square yards in the previous month and with 329,945,600 square yards in August, 1923.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

In these trades employment during August continued slack, and showed little change as compared with the previous month, but was affected by holidays. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.6 on 25th August, as compared with 7.0 on 23rd July. Employment with wool-sorters during August continued bad, but was reported to be slightly better than in July. In the wool-combing departments in the Bradford district the position was rather worse than in July; employment in the cross-bred section was slightly better than in the merino section, but practically all the mills were working short time, with only about half the machinery running. In the spinning sections employment showed little change, but signs of improvement were reported in the worsted spinning section in all branches except the fine coloured yarns trade. In the worsted stuff trade of Salsden, Keighley, Bradford and Apperley Bridge there was a slight improvement; in the woollen trade generally employment was described as poor, but an improvement was reported towards the end of the month. With flannel workers in the Rochdale district employment was improved by some public contract work in addition to the ordinary civilian trade; at Trowbridge employment was described as fair.

In Scotland some seasonal slackness was reported in the tweed trade, but employment at Galashiels was still described as good.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers of workpeople employed and the total amount of wages paid in the three periods under review:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	516	+ 3.2	+ 17.5	1,046	+ 5.4	+ 12.7
Spinning	3,716	+ 0.4	+ 10.3	7,513	+ 0.1	+ 12.7
Weaving	5,350	- 1.3	+ 4.2	10,291	+ 2.4	+ 13.9
Other Departments ..	4,168	- 1.5	+ 4.2	9,765	- 2.4	+ 8.7
Not specified	1,032	- 0.2	- 2.0	2,286	- 1.4	+ 0.1
TOTAL	14,782	- 0.7	+ 5.6	30,906	+ 0.1	+ 10.8
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
DISTRICTS.						
Huddersfield District ..	1,563	+ 0.6	+ 3.4	3,861	- 0.7	+ 9.6
Leeds District	1,567	- 3.8	+ 12.3	3,775	- 0.8	+ 25.6
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,196	- 0.8	+ 4.2	2,678	- 5.6	+ 16.9
Other Parts of West Riding	1,609	- 0.4	+ 0.2	3,713	- 1.3	+ 12.1
Total, West Riding ..	5,935	- 1.2	+ 6.2	14,027	- 1.9	+ 15.6
Scotland	3,807	+ 0.3	+ 3.3	7,559	- 4.8	+ 17.6
Other Districts	5,040	- 0.9	+ 3.1	9,320	+ 7.9	- 0.2
TOTAL	14,782	- 0.7	+ 5.6	30,906	+ 0.1	+ 10.8

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

DEPARTMENTS.	Week ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,236	- 1.0	- 1.6	10,564	+ 2.2	+ 11.8
Spinning	14,172	+ 0.4	- 3.6	21,942	+ 2.7	+ 5.4
Weaving	5,367	+ 0.9	+ 5.0	11,066	- 0.6	+ 13.6
Other Departments ..	2,858	- 2.0	- 5.2	7,137	- 3.6	- 1.6
Not specified	1,754	- 1.6	- 13.3	2,871	- 5.0	- 15.3
TOTAL	28,387	- 0.2	- 2.6	53,580	+ 0.6	+ 5.8
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
DISTRICTS.						
Bradford District	14,232	+ 0.0	- 4.3	28,398	+ 3.5	+ 4.6
Keighley District	4,961	- 1.3	+ 4.2	9,245	- 4.1	+ 5.7
Halifax District	2,651	+ 0.8	- 4.5	4,340	- 2.7	+ 1.9
Huddersfield District ..	2,652	+ 0.3	- 0.0	4,848	- 1.7	+ 14.0
Other Parts of West Riding	2,410	- 1.4	- 4.0	4,285	- 2.4	+ 11.7
Total, West Riding ..	26,906	- 0.2	- 2.8	51,056	+ 0.5	+ 6.0
Other Districts	1,481	- 0.2	+ 0.6	2,524	+ 3.0	+ 2.8
TOTAL	28,387	- 0.2	- 2.6	53,580	+ 0.6	+ 5.8

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 13,734 workpeople, showed that nearly 21 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 23rd August to the extent, on the average, of seven hours. In the worsted section, returns from firms employing 25,706 workpeople in the same week showed that about 14 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent of about twelve hours on the average.

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

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 4th August, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 71 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 4th August, 1924.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 7th July, 1924.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting	390	3	393	- 6	-	- 6
Wool Washing and Preparing	590	129	719	+ 21	- 16	+ 5
Wool Combing	865	864	1,729	+ 16	+ 45	+ 61
Wool Carding	668	66	734	+ 86	+ 1	+ 87
Woolen Spinning	217	103	320	+ 62	+ 25	+ 87
Worsteds Drawing and Spinning	230	1,756	1,986	+ 39	+ 100	+ 139
Wool Winding and Winding	99	70	169	+ 35	- 2	+ 33
Worsteds Winding and Winding	35	489	524	- 36	+ 74	+ 38
Woolen Weaving	299	691	990	+ 147	+ 175	+ 322
Worsteds Weaving	103	1,315	1,418	+ 12	+ 440	+ 452
Other Processes	671	137	808	+ 56	-	+ 56
Total	4,167	5,623	9,790	+ 432	+ 842	+ 1,274

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs') were 16,530,300 lbs. in August, 1924, compared with 26,191,700 lbs. in July, 1924, and 13,182,100 lbs. in August, 1923.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,856,000 lbs. compared with 4,642,800 lbs. in July, 1924, and 4,004,800 lbs. in August, 1923.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 22,450,800 square yards, compared with 26,643,600 square yards in July, 1924, and 19,016,400 square yards in August, 1923.

The exports of blankets were 148,487 pairs, 172,195 pairs and 116,984 pairs in August, 1924, July, 1924, and August, 1923, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

In this trade employment during August continued moderate, and was not so good as in July; short time was again prevalent. Compared with a year ago, however, there was an improvement at almost all centres.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.7 on the 25th August, as compared with 7.5 on the 23rd July.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Aug., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
England and Wales:—						
London	2,250	- 0.9	+ 11.8	4,985	- 3.9	+ 18.3
Leicester	8,350	- 0.8	- 2.2	19,476	- 7.9	+ 2.0
Leicester Country District	2,413	+ 1.2	+ 3.4	5,536	+ 0.8	+ 13.3
Northampton	6,676	+ 0.5	+ 1.5	16,739	- 2.9	+ 8.3
Northampton Country District	8,126	+ 0.8	+ 6.5	18,881	+ 1.0	+ 12.6
Kettering	3,433	+ 0.3	+ 3.0</			

tained. At Wellingborough employment was described as very poor, with a large amount of unemployment and short time, particularly in men's occupations; there was also much unemployment at Kettering. A slight improvement was reported in the Higham and Rusden districts, and employment was fair. At Leeds employment continued slack with makers of heavy and medium boots, and was worse than in the previous month. At Stafford there was a considerable amount of short time and unemployment, partly due to seasonal slackness, and employment was considerably worse than a month earlier. Employment in the slipper trade of the Rossendale Valley continued good, but showed a slight decline.

At Norwich employment continued good, and skilled workers especially were well employed, although overtime was not so general as previously. In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment was fair and somewhat better than in July; while at Street it continued good.

Employment was reported as good at Kilmarnock and slightly better than in July; at Glasgow it showed a decline. It was fair at Maybole, slack at Edinburgh, and bad at Arbroath.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 4th August, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 75 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered:—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 4th August, 1924.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 7th July, 1924.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department	123	35	158	+ 16	+ 10	+ 26
Rough Stuff Department	391	14	405	+ 41	+ 8	+ 49
Clicking Department	873	14	887	+208	+ 6	+214
Closing Department	23	841	869	- 1	+183	+182
Making Department	2,218	48	2,266	+246	+ 16	+262
Finishing Department	1,271	255	1,526	+191	+ 22	+213
Slipper Making	209	77	286	- 71	- 64	-135
Clog Making	43	3	46	- 2	+ 2	..
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work	651	4	655	- 40	..	- 40
Total	5,807	1,201	7,008	+588	+183	+771

The exports of boots and shoes in August, 1924, amounted to 114,177 dozen pairs, or 36,828 dozen pairs less than in July, 1924, but 14,766 dozen pairs more than in August, 1923.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade was moderate on the whole, and showed a slight general improvement on the previous month. Although in several districts full time was being worked, a number of mills elsewhere were working irregularly. An improvement was reported in the hand-made section, but in the wrapping paper section employment continued bad.

With letterpress printers employment was mainly fairly good. In London there was a slight decline with compositors, but proof readers, electrotypers and stereotypers were again reported to be well employed. There was a slight improvement at a few of the provincial centres, principally at Leeds, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh; but in a few other districts, including Manchester and Sheffield, a slight decline was reported.

In the lithographic printing trade employment was generally fairly good, and an improvement was reported in some districts. Employment was good with lithographic artists in both London and Manchester. With bookbinders employment continued moderate on the whole, but it was slack at Newcastle, Leeds and Manchester.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 5.1 at 25th August, 1924, compared with 4.9 at 28th July, 1924. In the paper and paper board making industry the percentage was 7.8 at 25th August, compared with 6.6 at 28th July. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery trades the percentage was 6.5 at 25th August, compared with 6.6 at 28th July.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of August, 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Aug., 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Aug., 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Printing	77,989	3.0	2.7	4.7	+ 0.3	- 1.7
Bookbinding	14,899	3.3	4.3	5.3	- 1.0	- 2.0

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade continued to be adversely affected by the general dispute during the greater part of August; following a settlement of the dispute, work was generally resumed on 25th August, and, by the end of the month, employment was again good in most districts with skilled operatives (except painters), but generally slack with unskilled workers. Reports from a number of centres indicate a shortage of one or more classes of craftsmen, especially bricklayers and plasterers.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts registered as unemployed at 25th August, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 28th July. Insured persons whose unemployment at 28th July was due to a stoppage of work owing to a trade dispute at the premises at which they were employed were not generally eligible for benefit, and such workpeople, therefore, were not included in the figures for July, when the dispute in this industry was in progress.

Occupations	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th August, 1924.	Approximate Percentage* Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with 28th July, 1924.	
			Per cent.	Per cent.
Carpenters	4,749	3.8	+ 0.9	
Bricklayers	1,807	3.2	+ 0.9	
Masons	821	3.7	+ 1.2	
Slaters	394	7.6	+ 1.5	
Plasterers	804	5.0	+ 1.8	
Painters	12,038	11.3	+ 1.6	
Plumbers	2,315	6.7	+ 0.1	
Labourers of above	28,955	11.4	+ 0.4	
All other occupations	26,185	27.4	+ 2.2	
Total	78,068	10.9	+ 1.0	
Divisions.				
London	20,745	12.9	- 0.3	
South-Eastern	7,630	7.0	+ 0.6	
South-Western	7,315	8.4	+ 1.1	
Midlands	8,317	10.7	+ 1.1	
North-Eastern	8,489	10.0	+ 1.5	
North-Western	12,843	13.7	+ 2.2	
Scotland	6,788	10.3	+ 1.9	
Wales	2,929	11.2	+ 1.5	
Northern Ireland	3,012	23.6	- 0.3	
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	78,068	10.9	+ 1.0	
Males	77,865	11.0	+ 1.0	
Females	203	2.4	+ 0.3	

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS from Local Authorities in 139 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,837,000, show that in August, 1924, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £2,853,100, as compared with £5,297,200 in July, 1924, and £2,519,600 in August, 1923. Of the total for August, 1924, dwelling-houses accounted for £1,840,800, factories and work shops for £107,000, shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £216,500, and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £688,800.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade in August continued good on the whole, and showed an improvement on the previous month; full time was worked in most districts, and compared with a year ago employment was much better. At Nottingham employment was very good, and at Peterborough there was a shortage of skilled labour.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges on 25th August, was 7.4, as compared with 6.4 on 28th July.

The following Table summarises the information received as to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid by those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under consideration:—

* Figures are not available as to the exact numbers of insured workpeople in each of the occupations shown in the first column of the Table in the building industry. For the purpose of computing the percentages given in the third column, the total numbers insured, in each occupation, have been estimated by applying ratios obtained from the exchange of unemployment books which took place in 1922 to the total number of insured workers engaged in the building industry as shown by the 1923 exchange of books. The estimated numbers so arrived at were given on page 20 of the January issue of this GAZETTE. In view of the possibility that some changes may have taken place, since 1922, in the ratios referred to, the percentages of unemployment, as given in the third column, should be regarded as only approximate.

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on		Week ended 23rd August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,973	+ 0.4	+ 16.1	4,756	- 1.2	+ 20.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties	4,652	+ 2.5	+ 17.1	12,122	+ 6.1	+ 31.3
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,229	+ 0.7	+ 9.4	3,232	- 0.4	+ 22.0
Scotland	211	- 12.8	+ 0.5	547	- 8.8	+ 14.7
Total	8,065	+ 1.2	+ 15.1	20,657	+ 2.9	+ 26.6

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery industry showed a slight decline and was still slack on the whole. It continued good, however, in the tile, sanitary earthenware and fireclay sections, and was fair in the general earthenware, rockingham and jet sections of the trade.

Employment continued good at Bristol, and fair in the stone-ware branch in Scotland.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 25th August, 1924, was 13.4, as compared with 11.6 at 28th July.

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

	Number of Workpeople.			Total wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on		Week ended 23rd August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
BRANCHES.						
China Manufacture	1,380	+ 1.2	+ 1.6	2,553	- 2.6	+ 14.1
Earthenware Manufacture	9,576	- 0.2	+ 6.2	17,053	- 3.0	+ 7.3
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,518	+ 0.2	+ 5.3	3,452	- 0.5	+ 10.7
Total	12,774	+ 0.0	+ 5.5	23,058	- 2.6	+ 8.5
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	9,844	+ 0.1	+ 4.6	16,857	- 2.9	+ 5.4
Other Districts	2,930	- 0.2	+ 8.8	6,201	- 1.6	+ 18.0
Total	12,774	+ 0.0	+ 5.5	23,058	- 2.6	+ 8.5

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 11,751 workpeople employed, 3,120, or 27 per cent., were working on an average 13 hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd August, 1924.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during August remained moderate on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 25th August was 18.5, compared with 18.2 at 28th July.

On the Thames the demand for men improved in the second and third weeks of August, and declined afterwards, being described as moderate at the end of the month. On the Tyne it was generally fair. It was moderate on the Wear and dull on the Tees. At Hull employment was fair until the last week of the month, when a decline occurred. The demand at Southampton was moderate, but improved somewhat in the latter part of August. Employment at Bristol was very quiet at the beginning of August, and improved later, being reported as moderate at the end of the month. It was fairly good at Avonmouth and fair at Newport. At Cardiff it was moderate on the whole. The demand at Swansea improved during August, and was described as fair at the close of the month. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand improved until the last week of August, when a decline set in. At Manchester it was generally fair.

The demand for men on the Clyde was moderate on the whole. It was reported as quiet to fair at Leith, and very quiet at Belfast.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* Shipped at the Ports shown.				
	August, 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Eight months ended	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	August, 1924.	August, 1923.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool	13,761	+ 1,203	- 679	92,740	96,780
Manchester	740	+ 58	- 21	6,184	5,653
London	7,625	- 2,995	+ 404	65,375	56,223
Southampton	11,042	+ 2,745	- 409	66,798	74,692
Tyne Ports	2,073	- 113	+ 1,165	14,088	9,719
Sunderland	382	+ 111	+ 190	1,721	1,428
Middlesbrough	376	- 225	- 81	3,463	3,005
Hull	1,520	- 425	- 686	12,301	11,754
Grimsby	13	- 8	44	149	136
Bristol	1,155	+ 102	+ 14	7,460	8,122
Newport, Mon.	858	+ 332	+ 146	6,871	7,743
Cardiff	3,028	- 162	+ 901	23,566	22,106
Swansea	616	- 570	- 157	6,169	6,469
SCOTLAND:					
Leith	411	- 8	+ 65	2,902	2,989
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	327	- 277	+ 239	2,291	1,927
Glasgow	3,967	+ 264	+ 387	25,283	23,105
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	179	- 135	- 304	1,710	2,014
Total	48,079	- 767	+ 1,130	339,071	333,870

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during August remained moderate on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 26.5 per cent. were unemployed at 25th August, compared with 25.0 per cent. at 28th July.

The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.				
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.	At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
Week ended—					
2nd August, 1924	4,512	2,173	6,685	7,155	13,840
9th "	4,559	2,330	6,889	7,132	14,021
16th "	4,428	2,078	6,506	7,328	13,834
23rd "	4,452	1,619	6,071	7,412	13,483
30th "	4,470	1,636	6,106	7,084	13,190
Average for 5 weeks ended 30th August, 1924	4,481	1,955	6,436	7,226	13,662
Average for July, 1924	4,872	2,288	7,160	7,353	14,513
Average for August, 1923	3,503	1,476	4,979	6,395	11,374

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in August was 864, as compared with 754 in the previous month and with 949 in August, 1923.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers on the Tyne and Wear was slack and worse than in July, but, on the other hand, employment on timber imports was good at various north-east coast ports, notably at North and South Shields and Hartlepool. At Middlesbrough employment was fair, but slightly worse than in July. At Hull and Grimsby and at most other East Coast ports it was fair.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment was slack and rather worse than in the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool docks scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 25th August was 14,755, compared with 14,914 in the four weeks ended 28th July and with 15,049 in August, 1923. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £40,360 in the four weeks ended 25th August, compared with £41,003 in the four weeks ended 28th July. At Manchester employment continued fair.

At South Wales ports employment generally was slack with coal trimmers, but showed an improvement on timber cargoes. At Bristol and Avonmouth employment improved and was generally fairly good. At Southampton employment was fair and slightly better than in July. At Plymouth and other South-Western ports it was slack.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow, Leith, Ayr and Dundee employment was fair and somewhat better than in July. At Aberdeen it declined. At Belfast it was good and better than during July.

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

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 25th August, 1924. "Unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 25th August, 1924, were not at work because they were suspended, "stood off," "furloughed," or on short time, and whose unemployment books were lodged at Exchanges, are counted in the statistics as "unemployed."

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all employed persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Employees of local authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme, may, in certain circumstances, be excepted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under sixteen years of age.

The statistics take account only of persons insured under the Acts. Such persons number approximately 11,500,000 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This figure is computed annually, and is obtained from a count of the unemployment books which must be held by all insured persons, and which are exchanged at the beginning of each insurance year in the early weeks of July.* In arriving at the estimated number of current books regard is paid not only to those books actually exchanged, but also to those which are likely to be exchanged in the course of the insurance year. The issue of new books between the exchange of books and the date of the estimate is also included, and at the same time allowance is made for wastage by deaths, emigration, leaving industry, etc.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must

lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim. It is possible therefore to obtain from a count of the lodged books a record of unemployment in insured trades. The figures given of numbers unemployed are not, however, confined to persons in receipt of benefit. They include:—

- (a) Insured persons unemployed and in receipt of benefit;
- (b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;
- (c) Insured persons who are not in receipt of benefit and are not maintaining registration, but whose unemployment books remain lodged at Employment Exchanges. Provided there is no definite evidence of employment these are counted in the statistics for two months after the insured person's last attendance at an Exchange.

Concurrently with the exchange of insurance books in the middle of July, 1923, opportunity was taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population. At the same time the industrial classification was amended. Previously it had not been on a strictly industrial basis, but in some cases had followed an occupational grouping. At the exchange of books in 1923 all unemployment books were classified according to the industry of the employer, or, in the case of unemployed persons, of the last employer. As the composition of the several industrial groups has undergone modification the statistics subsequent to June, 1923, are not strictly comparable with those prior to that date.

Insured persons who are disqualified from receiving unemployment benefit by reason of the provisions of Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924 ("Trade Dispute" cases), are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923.* (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)												NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 25TH AUGUST, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)												PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH AUGUST, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)												INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 25TH JULY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)		
	Males.			Females.			Total.			Males.			Females.			Total.			Males.			Females.			Total.			Males.	Females.	Total.									
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.															
Fishing	23,600	530	24,130	2,620	85	2,705	11.1	16.0	11.2	11.2	+0.1	-2.7	+0.1																										
Mining:—																																							
Coal Mining	1,258,650	8,200	1,266,850	96,353	855	97,208	7.7	10.4	7.7	7.7	+0.9	+0.3	+0.9																										
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	19,670	50	19,720	3,956	4	3,960	20.1	8.0	20.1	20.0	+2.4	+4.0	+2.5																										
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,000	70	5,070	862	—	862	17.2	—	17.0	17.0	+1.0	-1.4	+1.0																										
Stone Quarrying and Mining	32,060	270	32,330	1,677	12	1,689	5.2	4.4	5.2	4.9	+0.6	+1.4	+0.6																										
Slate Quarrying and Mining	8,000	20	8,020	85	—	85	1.1	—	1.1	1.1	+0.1	—	+0.1																										
Other Mining and Quarrying	24,960	1,550	26,510	1,410	158	1,568	5.6	10.0	5.9	5.7	+1.4	-0.9	+1.3																										
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	12,520	170	12,690	545	24	569	4.4	14.1	4.5	4.3	+0.5	+1.7	+0.5																										
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—																																							
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	15,070	200	15,270	1,084	48	1,132	7.2	24.0	7.4	7.4	-0.5	+9.5	-0.4																										
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	10,090	660	10,750	1,609	66	1,675	15.9	10.0	15.6	15.6	+1.1	+0.8	+1.2																										
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	16,080	620	16,700	1,103	41	1,144	6.9	6.6	6.9	6.8	-0.6	+1.1	-0.5																										
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	54,340	7,500	61,840	3,694	877	4,571	6.8	11.7	7.2	7.2	+0.6	+1.0	+0.6																										
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	35,750	36,380	72,130	3,921	5,743	9,664	11.0	15.8	13.4	13.4	+1.5	+2.0	+1.8																										
Glass Trades:—																																							
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	22,880	4,990	27,870	3,271	473	3,744	14.3	9.5	13.4	13.4	+0.9	+1.0	+0.9																										
Glass Bottle Making	14,950	1,650	16,600	3,511	168	3,679	23.5	10.2	22.2	22.0	+4.7	+3.8	+4.7																										
Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc.:—																																							
Chemicals Manufacture	80,430	24,940	105,370	7,750	1,559	9,309	9.6	6.3	8.8	8.7	-0.2	+0.7	—																										
Explosives Manufacture	13,960	5,120	19,080	1,215	388	1,603	8.7	7.6	8.4	8.4	+0.5	+0.3	+0.4																										
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	10,920	2,950	13,870	488	166	654	4.5	5.6	4.7	4.7	-0.1	+0.4	—																										
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	57,530	21,620	79,150	4,518	1,362	5,880	7.9	6.3	7.4	7.4	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3																										
Metal Manufacture and Secondary Processes:—																																							
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	29,310	240	29,550	4,177	34	4,211	14.3	14.2	14.3	14.2	-0.2	+2.5	-0.2																										
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	210,150	4,480	214,630	49,178	318	49,496	23.4	7.1	23.1	23.1	+3.5	+0.1	+3.4																										
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	33,510	4,000	37,510	4,362	371	4,733	11.3	9.3	11.1	11.2	+0.2	+1.1	+0.3																										
Manufacture of Tin Plates	25,860	4,330	30,190	925	150	1,075	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	+1.1	+0.2	+1.0																										
Iron and Steel Tube Making	23,900	1,450	25,350	3,572	185	3,757	14.9	12.8	14.8	14.8	+1.6	-0.4	+1.5																										
Wire, Steel Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	20,650	3,940	24,590	2,535	515	3,050	12.3	13.1	12.4	12.4	—	+2.1	+0.3																										
Engineering and Ironfounding:—																																							
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	635,260	39,660	674,920	92,986	2,408	95,394	14.6	6.1	14.1	14.0	+0.6	+1.3	+0.6																										
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	79,020	6,890	85,910	9,185	846	10,031	11.6	12.3	11.7	11.5	+1.2	+2.1	+1.3																										
Electrical Engineering	50,570	11,710	62,280	2,862	656	3,518	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	+0.1	+0.1	—																										
Marine Engineering and Marine Boiler Making	65,760	1,110	66,870	10,875	41	10,916	16.5	3.7	16.3	15.4	+0.2	-0.3	+0.2																										
Constructional Engineering	22,940	840	23,780	3,043	54	3,097	13.3	6.4	13.0	13.0	+1.2	+1.9	+1.1																										
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—																																							
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	174,590	19,830	194,420	18,191	1,661	19,852	10.4	8.4	10.2	10.2	+1.9	+2.1	+1.9																										
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	25,540	2,400	27,940	2,716	229	2,945	10.6	9.5	10.5	10.3	-0.3	+0.9	-0.2																										
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	50,560	1,280	51,840	3,164	53	3,217	6.3	4.1	6.2	6.2	+0.9	+2.4	+0.8																										

* A new insurance year began on the 7th July, 1924, and unemployment books began to be exchanged on that date. The results of the count of unemployment books exchanged, however, are not yet available.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.—continued.

INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)*												NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 25TH AUGUST, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)												PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH AUGUST, 1924.			INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 25TH JULY, 1924. (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)		
	Males.			Females.			Total.			Males.			Females.			Total.			Males.			Females.			Total.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.						
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing:—																														
Shipbuilding	268,520	4,010	272,530	73,419	252	76,671	28.5	6.3	28.1	27.2	+1.7	+1.8	+1.7																	
Metal Trades:—																														
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	11,010	860	11,870	1,202	20	1,222	10.9	2.3	10.3	10.1	+0.2	+0.4	+0.2																	
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	48,480	24,360	72,840	3,832																										

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from workpeople—at 25th August, 1924, was 1,152,433, of whom 876,283 were men, 39,548 boys, 203,379 women and 33,223 girls. Compared with 28th July there was an increase of 99,976, which was distributed as follows:—Men, 71,982; women, 18,251; juveniles, 9,743.

During the four weeks ended 25th August the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 74,076, of which 39,845 were for men, 19,083 for women and 15,148 for juveniles.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 25th August, 1924:—

Week ended	Applications from Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Reg'r.)	From Employers.
28th July, 1924 ..	24,053	20,818	1,052,457	23,704
4th August, 1924 ..	18,580	16,083	1,083,553	22,279
11th " " ..	20,464	17,256	1,097,557	21,962
18th " " ..	23,077	19,974	1,127,008	21,156
25th " " ..	24,410	20,763	1,152,433	20,396
Total (4 weeks) ..	86,531	74,076	—	—

The figures above include casual occupations, such as dock labourers and coal porters. In the following paragraphs statistics of these occupations are not included.

A detailed analysis of the figures above is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 4th August are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 772,564 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 4th August showed a daily average of 33,590. Of this daily average men accounted for 21,922, women for 8,668 and juveniles for 3,000. In the preceding month the corresponding averages were:—Men, 21,580; women, 8,740; juveniles, 2,541.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 4th August there were 87,902 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,822. Of this daily average 1,837 were for men, 1,204 for women and 781 for juveniles, compared with a daily average during the previous month of 2,267 men, 1,426 women and 852 juveniles.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 75,337, a daily average of 3,276, as compared with 3,795 for the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average men accounted for 1,670, women for 930 and juveniles for 676. The corresponding figures for the previous month were:—Men, 2,042; women, 1,079; and juveniles, 674.

Juveniles.—During the period 36,842 applications were received from boys and 32,156 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 9,705, and 8,427 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls 8,263 vacancies were notified and 7,113 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles 27.6 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Statistics relating to *Building Trades* (men) and to *Domestic Service* occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 4th August have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below.

In the building trades, 4,569 vacancies were notified for men and 3,892 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were:—Carpenters, 815 vacancies notified and 691 filled; bricklayers, 317 vacancies notified and 242 filled; painters, 1,533 vacancies notified and 1,337 filled; and builders' labourers, 795 vacancies notified and 755 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 58,500 at 4th August, compared with 50,338 at 7th July.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 4th August was 14,884. Of this number 5,401 were for resident domestic servants, 3,520 for non-resident domestic servants, 2,708 for charwomen and 2,576 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 679.

Of the 10,192 vacancies filled, 2,894 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,412 as non-resident, 2,432 as charwomen and 1,923 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 4th August for work in domestic service was 24,875, compared with 26,834 on 7th July.

* The figures exclude workpeople on systematic short time, but include workpeople "suspended" or "stood off." For Great Britain alone the figures, as published in the Press, show that on 25th August, 1924, there were on the Registers 866,800 men, 207,800 women, and 74,500 juveniles, as compared with 947,000 men, 267,000 women, and 72,000 juveniles, at 31st December, 1923. These figures include 37,300 persons on 25th August, 1924, and 35,500 on 31st December, 1923, who were employed on a basis of systematic short time, but were not actually at work on the date in question.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons remaining on the "Live Registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th August, 1924. In certain cases—e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.—the figures cover more than one Exchange area:—

Area.	Number of Persons remaining on the Live Registers at 25th August, 1924.				Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) as compared with 28th July, 1924.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ..	127,426	27,818	11,774	167,018	+ 10,098
South Eastern Division ..	38,841	6,547	3,940	49,328	+ 4,426
Brighton ..	2,010	370	188	2,568	+ 421
Chatham ..	2,780	283	587	3,650	+ 182
Ipswich ..	2,425	411	203	3,039	+ 325
Norwich ..	2,778	309	188	3,225	+ 583
Rest of South Eastern ..	28,848	5,174	2,824	36,846	+ 2,915
South Western Division ..	49,857	8,818	4,871	63,546	+ 7,163
Bristol ..	11,612	2,684	1,472	15,768	+ 1,805
Plymouth ..	4,645	543	1,407	6,595	+ 288
Portsmouth ..	5,710	692	523	6,925	+ 425
Reading ..	1,489	150	278	1,917	+ 270
Southampton ..	4,593	371	484	5,448	+ 801
Swindon ..	305	69	103	477	+ 60
Rest of South Western ..	21,503	4,309	1,904	27,716	+ 3,514
Midlands Division ..	106,543	32,997	8,191	147,731	+ 10,833
Birmingham ..	25,697	8,774	2,496	36,967	+ 3,066
Coventry ..	4,242	817	105	5,164	+ 1,442
Cradley Heath ..	3,619	943	163	4,725	+ 321
Derby ..	1,287	377	261	1,925	+ 293
Leicester ..	2,355	950	135	3,440	+ 582
Northampton ..	1,087	280	131	1,498	+ 100
Nottingham ..	7,397	1,858	451	9,706	+ 85
Smethwick ..	3,059	1,237	288	4,584	+ 492
Stoke-on-Trent ..	6,639	4,672	390	11,701	+ 1,398
Walsall ..	4,084	930	403	5,417	+ 165
West Bromwich ..	2,846	412	150	3,408	+ 607
Wolverhampton ..	4,213	1,828	173	6,214	+ 256
Rest of Midlands ..	40,018	10,419	3,045	53,482	+ 2,196
North Eastern Division ..	173,832	23,092	12,852	209,776	+ 23,357
Barnsley ..	1,051	90	36	1,177	+ 299
Bradford ..	5,350	2,685	196	8,231	+ 202
Darlington ..	1,694	134	150	1,978	+ 76
Dewsbury ..	729	274	51	1,054	+ 260
Doncaster ..	202	127	195	524	+ 61
Gateshead ..	5,528	684	628	6,840	+ 167
Grimsby ..	2,151	218	371	2,740	+ 293
Hull ..	1,272	800	41	2,113	+ 112
Hartlepool ..	4,624	145	244	5,013	+ 166
Huddersfield ..	2,086	1,639	217	3,942	+ 788
Hull ..	7,949	669	914	9,532	+ 181
Leeds ..	10,439	2,138	326	12,903	+ 2,081
Lincoln ..	2,139	401	226	2,766	+ 7
Middlesbrough ..	9,376	259	647	10,282	+ 132
Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	13,760	1,225	1,671	16,656	+ 1,450
Rotherham ..	5,348	156	399	5,903	+ 4,219
Sheffield ..	19,785	2,648	1,377	23,810	+ 2,609
South Shields ..	5,347	343	293	5,983	+ 477
Stockton-on-Tees ..	4,724	174	157	5,055	+ 392
Sunderland ..	10,928	810	720	12,458	+ 1,354
York ..	1,529	297	430	2,256	+ 177
Rest of North Eastern ..	57,821	7,196	3,593	68,610	+ 11,330
North Western Division ..	175,947	68,410	17,077	261,434	+ 19,616
Accrington ..	1,567	839	100	2,506	+ 35
Ashton-under-Lyne ..	2,134	1,311	120	3,565	+ 38
Barrow ..	3,490	382	209	4,081	+ 227
Birkenhead ..	4,796	360	448	5,604	+ 107
Blackburn ..	2,804	1,587	237	4,628	+ 276
Blackpool ..	592	183	45	820	+ 126
Bolton ..	4,925	1,964	493	7,382	+ 1,084
Burnley ..	2,723	2,386	261	5,370	+ 569
Bury ..	1,577	1,270	177	3,024	+ 287
Chorley ..	1,927	449	59	2,435	+ 447
Liverpool ..	46,329	6,392	4,411	57,132	+ 4,046
Manchester ..	19,982	7,981	1,844	29,807	+ 2,427
Nelson ..	957	563	47	1,567	+ 462
Oldham ..	15,621	6,833	1,225	23,679	+ 227
Preston ..	2,988	1,892	127	5,007	+ 305
Rochdale ..	4,513	2,446	354	7,313	+ 1,139
St. Helens ..	2,126	296	199	2,621	+ 504
Salford ..	7,832	3,894	1,370	13,096	+ 1,362
Stockport ..	3,040	2,237	243	5,520	+ 421
Warrington ..	2,392	267	118	2,777	+ 312
Wigan ..	4,038	3,595	801	8,434	+ 950
Rest of North Western ..	40,324	21,283	4,189	65,796	+ 8,357
Scotland Division ..	118,762	25,714	9,604	154,080	+ 4,900
Aberdeen ..	4,112	794	143	5,049	+ 652
Clydebank ..	1,886	290	108	2,284	+ 102
Dundee ..	5,850	1,899	125	7,874	+ 253
Edinburgh ..	9,840	1,927	1,046	12,813	+ 1,558
Glasgow ..	52,379	11,462	4,741	68,582	+ 764
Greenock ..	4,187	807	298	5,292	+ 78
Motherwell ..	629	269	135	2,033	+ 499
Paisley ..	3,870	828	428	5,126	+ 58
Rest of Scotland ..	35,009	7,488	2,580	45,027	+ 1,560
Wales Division ..	53,117	2,381	3,418	58,916	+ 18,564
Cardiff ..	6,039	590	513	7,142	+ 2,761
Llanelli ..	695	84	48	827	+ 267
Newport ..	2,539	181	256	2,976	+ 650
Swansea ..	3,266	226	268	3,760	+ 650
Rest of Wales ..	40,578	1,300	2,333	44,211	+ 14,197
Northern Ireland ..	31,958	7,602	1,044	40,604	+ 1,088
Belfast ..	22,911	5,274	771	28,956	+ 390
Londonderry ..	2,125	558	61	2,744	+ 381
Lurgan ..	168	95	2	265	+ 138
Lisburn ..	446	164	30	640	+ 138
Newry ..	891	177	8	1,076	+ 68
Rest of Northern Ireland ..	5,417	1,334	172	6,923	+ 147
Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland ..	876,283	203,379	72,771	1,152,433	+ 99,976

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 53, as compared with 57 in the previous month and 45 in August, 1923. In addition, 43 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of new and old disputes in August was thus 96.

Information as to the total number of workpeople involved in the principal dispute, affecting large numbers of building trade operatives in all the principal centres and in many smaller towns, is not at present available, but it is provisionally estimated that the number of workpeople who went on strike or were locked out or were thrown out of work at establishments where disputes occurred, in consequence of the disputes, in all the 96 disputes in progress in August was not far from 150,000, and that the aggregate number of working days lost in all the disputes during the month was about 2,000,000.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in August.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in August.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in August.
	Started before 1st Aug.	Started in Aug.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ..	12	11	23	17,000	133,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	11	11	22	15,000	162,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ..	3	4	7	↑	↑
Transport ..	..	7	7	5,000	44,000
Other ..	17	20	37	12,000	96,000
Total Aug., 1924 ..	43	53	96	49,000	437,000
Total, July, 1924 ..	38	57	95	1,200,000	1,740,000
Total, Aug., 1923 ..	28	45	73	68,000	1,200,000

Causes.—Of the 53 disputes beginning in August, 29, directly involving 19,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 14, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 2, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and 8, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 29 new disputes and 17 old disputes. Of these new and old disputes, 14 were settled in favour of the workpeople, 12 were settled in favour of the employers, and 20 were compromised. In the case of 13 disputes work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1923 AND 1924. †

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first eight months of 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923:—

Groups of Industries.	January to August, 1923.			January to August, 1924.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Agriculture ..	7	9,000	248,000	..	..	..
Mining & Quarrying ..	114	142,000	1,004,000	143	107,000	1,190,000
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, etc. ..	12	1,000	48,000	17	3,000	68,000
Chemical ..	10	2,000	19,000	8	1,000	10,000
Engineering ..	13	2,000	20,000	22	11,000	80,000
Shipbuilding ..	26	40,000	2,888,000	29	33,000	525,000
Other Metal ..	30	5,000	64,000	46	20,000	274,000
Textile ..	23	35,000	1,213,000	26	5,000	128,000
Clothing ..	18	4,000	28,000	24	3,	

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £55,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 628,000 workpeople and in a reduction of nearly £114,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 760,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	1,000	688,000	£ 50	£ 104,600
Metal	140,000	18,000	11,500	2,100
Textile	57,000	250	4,050	10
Building	415,000	—	37,500	—
Other	15,000	52,500	2,100	6,900
Total	628,000	758,750	55,200	113,610

The wages of coal miners were reduced in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, the Radstock district and Scotland, the percentage reductions on standard rates in the different coalfields being equivalent to reductions ranging from 3 to 7 per cent. on current rates. There were also reductions in the wages of iron miners and limestone quarrymen in Cumberland and of iron miners in North Lincolnshire.

In the metal group there was an increase of about 1½ per cent. on the current wages of iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, and of about 1 per cent. on the current rates of workers in steel smelting shops in various districts in England and Scotland, and in steel rolling mills in Scotland. A special bonus, varying in amount according to earnings, was also granted to semi-skilled and unskilled workers in steel smelting shops and steel mills in various districts. Workpeople employed in the electrical cable making industry had their wages increased by 2s. or 2s. 4d. per week for adult male timeworkers and by 1s. 6d. per week for women. Steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in England and Wales had their wages reduced by nearly 5 per cent. on current rates. Other workers whose wages were reduced during the month included blastfurnace workers in Lincolnshire and Scotland. In addition to the above changes, there was an increase of 4s. per week in the wage advance of employees in H.M. Dockyards, which is not included in the statistics.

The principal change in the textile group was an increase in the bonus of workpeople employed in the hosiery manufacturing trade in the Midlands, from 7d. to 8d. in the shilling on earnings. Workpeople in the hosiery bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades in the Midlands received increases amounting to ½d. or ¾d. per hour in the case of adult time workers. There were also increases of varying amounts in the wages of lace dyers, dressers, finishers, etc., at Nottingham.

Building trade operatives received an increase of ½d. per hour in nearly all districts, except those in which an increase of 1d. per hour and upwards had been granted since 26th September, 1923, as a result of upgrading.

There were reductions in the wages of workpeople employed in the paper making trade amounting in the case of adult time

workers to ¾d. or 1d. per hour for men and from ½d. to ¾d. per hour for women. Other classes of workers whose wages were reduced included leather belting makers, and employees in the non-trading departments of Local Authorities in London and the West Riding of Yorkshire. Amongst those whose wages were increased were furniture trade operatives at Manchester and other towns in Lancashire, dock labourers at Belfast, and warehousemen at Liverpool.

Of the decreases operating in August, 22, amounting to £106,800 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices of manufactured products or on the proceeds of the industry; and 9, amounting to £6,800 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales, including £2,500 under such scales agreed upon by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople. Of the increases, 34, amounting to £3,800 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the selling prices of manufactured products; 9, amounting to £4,100 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; 3, amounting to £1,400, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; and the remaining changes, amounting to £45,900, were arranged by negotiations between employers and workpeople. In 5 cases, amounting to £38,000 per week, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary of Changes in January–August, 1924.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the eight completed months of 1924, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	857,000	362,500	£ 219,000	£ 39,500
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	220,000	250	34,300	30
Iron and Steel	157,000	41,000	18,400	5,300
Engineering and Shipbuilding	154,000	8,000	30,800	1,750
Other Metal	69,000	33,000	11,300	2,470
Textile	15,250	84,000	1,000	4,000
Clothing	3,500	62,500	700	6,300
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	67,000	6,000	12,500	900
Woodworking, etc.	41,000	7,000	7,300	650
Paper, Printing, etc.	1,250	56,000	100	6,500
Building and Allied Trades ..	471,000	250	87,200	50
Transport	290,000	14,500	92,500	1,250
Public Utility Services	195,500	23,000	28,100	1,600
Other	58,500	27,000	9,200	1,400
Total	2,600,000	725,000	552,400	71,700

In the corresponding eight months of 1923 there were net reductions of over £500,000 in the weekly wages of 3,250,000 workpeople and net increases of over £290,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 1,120,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The only important change in hours of labour reported in August affected dock labourers at Belfast, whose hours were reduced by 2 per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1924.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Fishing	Peterhead	19 Aug.	Enginemen, firemen and cooks employed on fishing vessels	Increase of 5s. per week. Rates after change: engine-men, 65s.; firemen and cooks, 55s.
	Northumberland ..	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 14.68 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 106.95 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower-paid day-wage men (21 years and over) receiving a subsistence wage of 7s. 7.69d. per day.†
Coal Mining	Durham	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 6.38 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 113.74 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower-paid day-wage men (21 years and over) receiving a subsistence wage of 7s. 6.56d. per day.†

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to full-time rates of wages, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working.

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of over 310,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ In accordance with the terms of the National Agreement of June, 1924, the above changes were subject to the condition that the wages of an adult day-wage workman should not fall below a sum represented by adding 40 per cent. to the "standard wages" of the lowest paid class of day-wage workmen in the district.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Coal Mining	Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire and Warwickshire	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 11.46 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 68.37 per cent. above the standard of 1911.†
	Radstock	31 July	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 7.42 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages 50.60 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	Scotland	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 17.94 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1888, leaving wages 133.33 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to a subsistence allowance for surface workers (amongst labourers in the case of men 18 years and over to 1s. 1½d. per shift worked, but gross daily wage not to exceed 7s. 10½d. per shift.†
Coke and By-Products Manufacture	Durham	1 Aug.	Coke men and by-product workers	Decrease of 6.38 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 113.74 per cent. above the standard, subject to lower-paid men (21 years and over) receiving a subsistence wage of 7s. 6.56d. per day.
	West Yorkshire ..	1st full pay in Aug.	Coke men and by-product workers	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 60 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: coke fillers, 6s. 2d. per day; rammen and pipe fitters, 6s.; trammers, daubers, winchmen, coke screeners, and scrubbers, 7s. 9d.; pug mill men and labourers, 5s. 4d.; plus, in each case, 60 per cent.
Iron Mining	South Yorkshire ..	1 Aug.	Iron ore miners	Decrease of 11.46 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 68.37 per cent. above the standard. Decrease of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (9s. 11d. to 9s. 10d.) and of 1d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 3d. to 7s. 2d.).
	Cumberland	18 Aug.	Winding enginemen Other underground and surface workers	Decrease of ¾d. per shift (8s. 8d. to 8s. 7½d.). Decrease of ¾d. per shift for men and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 3½d. per shift; joiners, 9s. 0½d. per shift plus 6d. per shift tool allowance; blacksmiths, 9s. 0½d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire ..	3 Aug.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on the standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 56½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	West Cumberland ..	11 Aug.	Limestone quarrymen	Decrease of ¾d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of ¾d. per shift for other men, and of ¾d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 6d. per shift; haulage enginemen, 8s. 2d.; blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 6½d.; day borers—1st class, 8s.; day labourers, 7s. 9d.; riddmen, 6s. 10d.
Quarrying	Derbyshire	1 Aug.	Gritstone quarryworkers ..	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: stone cutters, stone sawyers, engine drivers and blacksmiths, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
	Thames and Medway Districts	1st full pay in July	Chalk quarryworkers	Increase of ½d. per hour for wagon repairers and ¾d. per hour for labourers and loco. drivers on the south side of the River Thames, and of ½d. per hour for all timeworkers on the north side of the River Thames, with a proportionate increase for pieceworkers. Rate after change for labourers, 1s. 0½d. per hour.
	Box and Oorsham (Wiltshire)	25 Aug.	Stonemasons, sawyers and labourers in saw mills and stone yards	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: stone masons, 1s. 4½d. per hour; sawyers, 1s. 2d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
Brickmaking	South Wales	5 July	Masons and quarrymen in penant stone quarries	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 8d. per hour; quarrymen, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.
	Sheffield	Pay day in week ending 6 Sept.‡	Brickmakers (male workers) ..	BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES. Increase of ½d. per hour for those 21 years and over, and of ¾d. per hour for those 18 and under 21 years, and of proportionate amounts for pieceworkers. Aggregate minimum rate after change for men 21 years and over, 1s. 2d.
Glass-working	Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Huddersfield and York	25 Aug.	Decorative glassworkers	Increase of ½d. per hour. Standard rate after change, 1s. 8d.
	England and Wales (except London)¶	25 Aug.	Building trade artisans employed by chemical manufacturers	Increase of ½d. per hour.¶
Chemical Manufacture	London	25 Aug.	Plumbers employed in chemical works	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 10d. to 1s. 10½d.).
	Glasgow and District	25 Aug.	Plumbers employed in chemical works	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rate after change: 1s. 8d. per hour plus special allowance of ½d. per hour.
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Lincolnshire ..	3 Aug.	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces and in steel works	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, leaving wages 56½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 3s. 8d., plus 5½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	West of Scotland ..	3 Aug.¶	Blastfurnacemen	Decrease of ¼ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 39 per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus. Rates after change: patternmakers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians, armature winders, 42s.; machinemen (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers (after 1 year's service), 32s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 39 per cent. and a tonnage bonus.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	England and Wales	4 Aug.	Steel sheet millmen	Decrease of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32 per cent. above the standard.
	Wales	4 Aug.	Steel sheet millmen	Decrease of 8 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 58 per cent. above the standard of 1891.

* In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1 August was 66.71 for the Eastern Area, and 63.37 for the Western Area.

† See note † on p. 336.

‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

§ In respect of the full pay week.

¶ By an agreement dated 27 October, 1922, between the Chemical Employers' Federation and the Trade Union concerned, the rates of wages are to be per hour below those paid to similar classes of workpeople in the building trade. It is understood, however, that in the case of plumbers in certain districts, including Manchester and Swansea, the same rate is paid as to house plumbers.

‡ This change took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st August; in most cases this was 3rd August.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE—(continued).					
Iron and Steel Manufacture (contd.)	Midlands and part of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire	4 Aug.	Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen Non-scale workers employed in iron and steel works Men employed in steel melting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas-producers and charge wheelers Semi-skilled workers and labourers:— Men on 8-hour shifts† ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 65 per cent. above the standard. War bonus increased* by 6d. per week for men, 3d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years, and 1½d. per week for boys under 18 years. Increase* of 1½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, making wages 42½ per cent. (basic process) and 17½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard.	
	England and West of Scotland†	3 Aug.	Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week‡ Unskilled and semi-skilled men (21 years and over) employed in steel smelting shops and steel mills, whose base earnings are not more than 7s. per shift	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease since 1st May, 1921, 1½ of such advance. Bonus granted as follows:—men at present on a base rate of 3s. 10d. per shift but not exceeding 4s., 1s. 2d. per shift; over 4s. but not exceeding 4s. 6d., 1s. per shift; over 4s. 6d. but not exceeding 5s., 10d. per shift; over 5s. but not exceeding 5s. 6d., 8d. per shift; over 5s. 6d. but not exceeding 6s., 5d. per shift; over 6s. but not exceeding 6s. 6d., 3d. per shift; and over 6s. 6d. but not exceeding 7s., 2d. per shift.‡	
	England and West of Scotland§	24 Aug.	Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on basis rate, making wages 11.375d. per hour, plus 42½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.¶	
	Certain districts in England, also West of Scotland||	3 Aug.	Bricklayers and masons employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works in England and steel works in West of Scotland Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc lamp trimmers, boiler makers and patternmakers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.	
	North of England	3 Aug.	Bricklayers' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills:— Men on 8-hour shifts† ...	Increase* of 0.10d. per hour (11.53d. to 11.63d.).	
	North-East Coast area†	3 Aug.	Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week‡	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.	
	Workington ...	3 Aug.	Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers Engineers employed in steel works Workpeople employed in steel works:— Rail millmen ...	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance. Increase* of 1½d. per cent., making wages 42s. per week, plus 42½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.	
	Barrow-in-Furness	3 Aug.	Engineers, crane men, etc.	Increase* of 1½ per cent., making wages 33½ per cent. above the standard of 1909.	
		4 Aug.	Wire and hoop millmen ...	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 65 per cent. above the standard.	
	Scunthorpe ...	3 Aug.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers and general labourers Bricklayers and joiners' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works	Increase* of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard. Increase* of 0.12d. per hour. Rate after change: 10.70d. or 10.71d. per hour.	
	South and West Wales	25 Aug.	Bricklayers employed in Siemens steel works Men employed in steel rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producers, enginemen, crane men and firemen	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
	West of Scotland	3 Aug.	Semi-skilled workers and labourers	Increase* of 1½ of the total amount of war advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making a total decrease since 1 May, 1921, of 1½ of such advance.	
		25 Aug.	Bricklayers' labourers employed in steel works Joiners employed in steel works	Increase* of 0.11d. per hour (9.66d. to 9.77d.). Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
	ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.				
	Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing	Great Britain ...	1st full pay after 1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the Royal Dockyards, and other Admiralty establishments where wages have moved in step with those in the Dockyards	War advance increased from 10s. to 14s. per week. (See Industrial Court Decision No. 967 on p. 346.)
Barry, Cardiff, Newport, Penarth, Port Talbot, Swansea, Sharpness, Avonmouth and Bristol		14 July	Shipwrights employed in the ship-repairing trade	Bonus of 2s. 6d. per week granted. Time rate after change: 65s., plus 2s. 6d. per week.	
Thames district ...		14 May	French polishers employed in the ship-repairing trade	Increase of 6s. per week (63s. to 69s.).	

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
† The change applied to firms who are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, those in England being situated principally in the North-East Coast District, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.
‡ The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned.
§ This change took effect under an agreement made between the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. It applies mainly to men employed on North East Coast, in Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and the West of Scotland.
|| This change took effect under an arrangement made by the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, the West Coast Ironmasters' Association and the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association, with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.
¶ Except certain men employed at Newburn and West Hartlepool.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Galvanising	England and Wales*	4 Aug.	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing)	Decrease† of 8 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 58 per cent. above the standard.
	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire	3rd pay day in Aug.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.)	Increase of 2s. 4d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 8d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 8d. per week for boys 14 to 17 years, of 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years; corresponding increases for pieceworkers. Rates after change:—men 21 years and over, 55s. 3½d. to 61s. 2d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 38s. 5½d. to 46s. 3½d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 14s. 10½d. to 24s. 8d.; women 18 years and over, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 14s. to 18s. 6d.‡
Electrical Cable Making	Great Britain, other than the above counties	1 Aug.	Jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable making industry	Increase of 2s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 9d. per week for boys 14 to 17 years, of 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years of age and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years; corresponding increases for pieceworkers. Rates after change: men 21 years of age and over, 49s. 6d. to 55s. 6d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 36s. to 42s. 6d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 14s. 3d. to 23s. 3d.; women 18 years and over, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 14s. to 18s. 6d.‡
	Greater London area Various districts in Great Britain§	1 Aug.	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable making industry	Decrease|| of ½d. per hour.¶
Gold, Silver and Allied Trades	Greater London area Various districts in Great Britain§	Pay day following 20 Aug.	Jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable making industry Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates employed in the electrical cable making industry	Increase of ½d. per hour.**
	Birmingham ...	6 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades	Hourly rates adopted in lieu of weekly rates, resulting in slight increases in some cases, and decreases in other cases varying up to 1s. 5d. per week for men and 1s. 0½d. per week for women. New hourly rates as follows:—men—skilled, 1s. 4½d. and 1s. 3d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 0½d. and 11½d.; unskilled, 1s. and 10½d.; women—skilled, 7½d. and 6½d.; semi-skilled, 6½d. and 5½d.; unskilled, 5½d. and 4½d.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Hosiery Manufacture	Various districts in Midland counties††	25 Aug.	All classes of workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery (except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.)	Bonus of 7d. in the shilling on earnings increased|| to 8d. in the shilling.
	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 16 Aug.	Male workers employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trades	Decrease|| of 6d. per week for those 14 to 18½ years of age and of 9d. per week for those 19 years and over. Rates after change: 15s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 30s. 6d. at 18 years, 43s. 9d. at 21, and to 49s. 9d. at 22½ years.
Textile Dyeing, Bleaching, Finishing, etc.	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby and Hinckley	Week ending 30 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the hosiery bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades:— Timeworkers ...	Increase|| of ½d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, ½d. per hour for menders, and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 and over, and proportionate increases for auxiliary workers under 18.†† Rates after change: dyers and scourers, 1s. 5d.; auxiliary workers—Leicester, Loughborough, and Hinckley: men 18 to 21, 10d.; 21 and over, 1s. 2d.; women 18 and over, 9d.; qualified menders, 11d.
	Nottingham ...	1st pay after 25 Aug.	Pieceworkers:— Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers) Web trimmers and jersey trimmers Dyers, scourers, menders and other pieceworkers Lace dyers ... Lace dippers and stainers ...	Bonus of 50 per cent. on list prices previously paid increased|| to 60 per cent. Bonus of 3½ per cent. on list prices previously paid increased|| to 40 per cent. Increase|| of 1s. in the £. Increase|| of ½d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3d.). Increase|| of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 62s. Increase|| for timeworkers of ½d. per hour for men and ½d. per hour for boys, women and girls, and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers. Rates after change: men 21 and over, 1s.; women 18 and over, 7½d.; women takers-off and takers-down, 7½d. Increase|| of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: dollymen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Baking and Confectionery	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 11 Aug.	Bakers and confectioners:— Adult workers ...	Increase of 3s. per week. Rates after change in ordinary bakeries: forehands, 68s.; singlehands and secondhands, 66s.; tablehands, 64s.; factories, 5s. per week more in each case.
	Melton Mowbray ...	{ 5 July 9 Aug.	Youths and deliverers under 21 Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase of 1s. 9d., 2s. 3d., and 2s. 7d. per week for those of 18, 19 and 20 years of age respectively. Rates after change: 18 years, 35s. 6d.; 19 years, 43s. 6d.; 20 years, 52s. 2d. Decrease of 3s. per week. Increase of 3s. per week. Rates after change: forehands, 66s.; singlehands and secondhands, 64s.; tablehands, 62s.

* Certain firms—members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.
† This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.
‡ Excluding any service bonus which may be due.
§ Viz.—Yorkshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire, West Midlands, West of England, East Midlands, East Coast District, Home Counties, South Coast District, Devon and Cornwall, and Scotland.
¶ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
** This decrease was due under the sliding scale to take effect on 1st July, but was postponed until the date shown.
†† This increase was given as a result of a decision to suspend the further operation of the reduction under the sliding scale until the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry "have accepted, rejected or failed to agree upon" the Report and Recommendations of the Tribunal appointed in connection with the claim of the workpeople for a general advance in wages.
‡‡ Viz., Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley and Coventry districts.
§§ The increase did not apply to auxiliary workers at Nottingham.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	
Mill-sawing	Cardiff, Newport, Swansea	Pay on 8 Aug.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers 21 years of age and over	Increase of 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after change: 1s. 7d.	
	Belfast	1 Aug.	Sawyers and machinists	Increase of 3s. 11d. per week. Rates after change: sawyers, 6s. 3½d. to 6s. 6d.; machinists, 6s. 11d.	
	Sheffield	5 July	Labourers	Increase of 3s. per week.	
	Manchester, Salford, Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport	1 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the retail furniture trade	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled men, 1s. 8d.	
Furniture Manufacture	Oldham	1 Aug.	Furniture trade operatives	Increase of 3d. per hour for male workers and 1d. per hour for female workers, with proportionate increases for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists (after 4 years on machines), upholsterers, polishers and mattress makers, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.; glassworkers—bevelers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 8d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 9d.; fitters, 1s. 6d.; packers, 1s. 5d.; upholsteresses and female polishers, 1s.	
	Rochdale	25 Aug.	Upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of 3d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
	Warrington	25 Aug.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of 3d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
	Wigan	Aug.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of 3d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
	Leicester	25 Aug.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: carvers, 1s. 10d.; others, 1s. 6½d.	
	Peterborough	25 Aug.	Labourers employed in the furniture trade	Increase* of 3d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d.).	
	High Wycombe	Pay day in week ending 23 Aug.	Cabinet makers and machinists	Increase of 3d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
	Edinburgh	25 Aug.	Upholsterers and french polishers	Increase of 3d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.).	
				Female polishers and sewers	Increase of 4d. per hour (9½d. to 9½d.).
	Paper Making	PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.			
Great Britain		1st pay day in Aug.	All classes of workpeople employed in paper mills (except mechanics, etc., and those employed in hand-made paper mills and board mills):— Timeworkers:— Men 21 years and over ...	Decrease* of 3d. per hour for Class III. day-workers and of 1d. per hour for other workers. Minimum rates after change: Class I. occupations—Shiftworkers, 1s. 5d.; Class II.—shiftworkers, 1s. 2d.; dayworkers, 1s. 0½d.; Class III.—shiftworkers, 1s. 0½d.; dayworkers, 11d.; West of England, Scotland and Wales, 1d. per hour less.	
			Boys and youths under 21 years	Decrease* of from 3d. to 3½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 3½d. at 14 years, increasing to 10½d. at 20 years; West of England, Scotland and Wales, 2½d. at 14 years, increasing to 9½d. at 20 years.	
			Women and girls	Decrease* of from 3d. to 3½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 3½d. at 14 years, increasing to 6½d. at 18 years and over; West of England, Scotland and Wales, 2½d. at 14 years, increasing to 5½d. at 18 years and over.	
Building	BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
	Various towns in Great Britain†	25 Aug.	Pieceworkers	Decreases* proportionate to those for timeworkers.	
			Building trade operatives (except plasterers and painters in Scotland)	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Grade A towns, 1s. 8d.; 1s. 3½d.; Grade A1, 1s. 7½d., 1s. 2½d.; Grade A2, 1s. 7d., 1s. 2½d.; Grade A3, 1s. 6½d., 1s. 2½d.; Grade B, 1s. 6d., 1s. 1½d.; Grade B1, 1s. 5½d., 1s. 1½d.; Grade B2, 1s. 5d., 1s. 1d.; Grade B3, 1s. 4½d., 1s. 0½d.; Grade C, 1s. 4½d., 1s. 0½d.; Grade C1, 1s. 4d., 1s. 0½d.; Grade C2, 1s. 3½d., 1s. 0½d.; London district—painters, 1s. 7½d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 8½d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d.†	
	Certain districts in Scotland‡	25 Aug.	Plasterers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change in Grade A towns, 1s. 9d.‡	
	Inverness	1 Aug.	Masons, joiners and slaters	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: masons and slaters, 1s. 5d.; joiners, 1s. 4½d.	
	Asphalting	London	1 July 5 Aug.	Asphalte workers	Decrease* of 3d. per hour. Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: spreaders, 1s. 5½d.; potmen and labourers, 1s. 2½d.; apprentices (starting rate), 6½d.
	Gas Fitting	Birmingham and District	1 Aug.	Gas fitters	Increase of 3d. per hour (1s. 5½d. to 1s. 6d.).
	Glazing	London	Aug.	Glaziers and assistants	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: glaziers, 1s. 7½d.; assistants, 1s. 5d.
	Glassworking, etc.	Manchester, Salford and District	25 Aug.	Decorative glassworkers and lead light cementers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: decorative glassworkers, 1s. 8d.; lead light cementers, 1s. 3½d.
	Merchant Shipping Service	Great Britain	1 Aug.	Sea-going wireless telegraphists	New schedule of rates adopted resulting in increases of 25s. per calendar month for those with service up to the sixth year, and of 22s. 6d. per calendar month for those in seventh, eighth and ninth year. Rates after change: starting at 58 17s. 6d. per calendar month in first year, and increasing with each year of service to £14 in fifth year and £20 in ninth year.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices in the following areas:—London, Yorkshire, West Midlands, East Coast, Home Counties, South Coast, West of England, Devon and Cornwall, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland. The changes did not apply to electrical fitters and wiremen in the London, West of England and East Coast Areas.
† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
‡ This decrease was due under the sliding scale to take effect on 1st July, but it was postponed till the date shown.
§ This increase was given as a result of a decision to suspend the further operation of the reduction under the sliding scale until the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry "have accepted, rejected or failed to agree upon" the Report and Recommendations of the Tribunal recently appointed in connection with the claim of the workpeople for a general advance in wages.
¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreement of the West Riding of Yorkshire Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services and include:—Grade A areas: Bradford, Golear, Halifax, Harrogate, Rotherham, Rothwell, Stanley, Wakefield. Grade B1 areas: Doncaster, Kesteven, Queensbury (made change from 5th September), Rawmarsh, Spenborough, Whitwood (made change from 1st full pay in September), West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade B2 areas: Altofts, Featherstone, Mirfield (made change from 2nd full pay in August), Normanton, Ossett, Royston, Salby, Sowerby Bridge, Wath-upon-Dearne, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade C1 areas: Stocksbridge, West Riding C. C. (certain districts), Rivelton Park R.D.C. Grade C2 areas: Clayton, Denby and Cumberworth, Denholme (made change from 28th August), Gulseley (made change from beginning of 2nd week in August), Penistone, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade D1 areas: West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade D2 areas: West Riding C.C. (certain districts), Doncaster R.D.C.
‡ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements as revised in July, 1922, of the London District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services and include:—London County Council, Camberwell, Chelsea, East Ham, Finsbury, Fulham, Hackney, Hampstead, St. Mary-above, Shoreditch, Southwark, Stepney, Leyton U.D.C.
§ The Authorities affected are those which follow the June, 1920, wages agreements of the London District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services, and include:—Kensington, Lewisham, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster (pays 2s. per week above scheduled base rates).
¶ This increase took effect from the first pay day after 21st July, 1924, for the period to which that pay day relates, and was for four months only.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)	
Transport Trades—(continued).	Lower Thames	8 Aug.	Tugboatmen	Increase of 10s. per week for masters and engineers, of 7s. 6d. per week for mates and leading firemen, of 5s. 3d. per week for firemen, of 5s. per week for deck hands, and of 2s. 9d. per week for boys. Rates after change: engineers, 12s. 6d.; mates and leading firemen, 90s.; firemen, 74s. 3d.; deckhands, 69s. 9d.	
	Dock, Wharf, and Riverside Labour		Dock labourers, etc., on cross-Channel boats	Increase of 4s. per week for permanent men, and of 1½d. per hour for casual men. Rates after change: permanent men, 68s. per week; casual men, 1s. 7½d. per hour; winchmen, crane-men and holdsmen-in-charge, 1s. 8½d.*	
	Belfast	18 Aug.	Dock labourers and other workers employed in coal trade	Rates of 1s. 3d. and 10d. per ton fixed for shipmen in lieu of rates of 1s. 4d. and 11d. per ton, less 3d. per hour, and an increase of 4s. 6d. per week granted to yardmen (5s. to 55s. 6d.)*	
	Road Transport	Darlington	20 May	Road transport workers	Increase to a rate of 50s. per week for single horse drivers, 55s. for two horse drivers, 60s. for motor drivers, and 50s. per week for motor drivers' mates.
Public Utility Services.	PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
	Waterworks Undertakings	Swansea	31 July	Adult male manual workers	Increase of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, 1s. 4d. per hour; pipe layers, 1s. 5½d.
	Electricity Supply Undertakings	Various districts in Great Britain†	1 Aug. Pay day following 20 Aug.	Adult male workers (except electrical fitters and wiremen in certain districts)‡	Decrease of 3d. per hour.† Increase of 2d. per hour.‡
		Great Britain	1 Aug. Pay day following 20 Aug.	Adult male workers employed in the electricity generating stations and substations of railway companies (excluding electrical fitters, etc., engaged in installation work and other craftsmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their respective trades)	Decrease of 3d. per hour.† Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change in London: switchboard attendants up to 5,000 k.w., 1s. 7½d. per hour; 5,000 k.w. and over, 1s. 10½d.; turbine mechanics, 1s. 7½d.; drivers, 1s. 6d.; leading stokers, 1s. 7d.; other stokers, 1s. 5½d.; trimmers, 1s. 3½d., plus in each case 1d. per hour for shift workers.‡
		Swansea	31 July	Unskilled and semi-skilled male manual workers	Increase of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, 1s. 4d. per hour; stokers, 7s. 10d. per week.
	Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Certain Authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire**	1st full pay in Aug.	Male manual workers	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change:—Grade A areas: steam wagon and roller drivers, 1s. 2d.; petrol wagon, motor and roller drivers, 1s. 1½d.; dry ashmen and horse drivers or carters, 1s. 1d.; gully cleaners, sweepers, drivers' helpers, yard labourers, dustmen, sewage works labourers, storekeepers and labourers, 1s. 0½d.; Grade B1 areas, 3d. per hour less; Grade B2 areas, 1d. per hour less; Grade C1 areas, 1½d. per hour less; Grade C2 areas, 2d. per hour less; Grade D1 areas, 2½d. per hour less; and Grade D2 areas, 3d. per hour less than rates quoted for Grade A areas.
		York	7 Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: night scavengers, 1s. 2½d.; day scavengers, 1s. 1½d. labourers and refuse collectors, 1s. 1½d.
		Blackburn	25 Aug.	Manual workers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: paviors and masons, 1s. 8d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 3½d.; scavengers, 10s. per day; road sweepers, 6s. 6d.
		Bolton, Preston and Rochdale	25 Aug.	Paviors, labourers, etc.	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: paviors, 1s. 3d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 3½d.
	Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Burnley	5 July	Craftsmen and general labourers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rate after change for labourers, 1s. 3½d. per hour.
Coventry		5 July	Craftsmen and general labourers	Decrease of 1½d. of "cost of living" bonus as revised in July, 1922, making a total reduction of 2½ths from such revision. Scheduled minimum rates after change: general labourers, 60s. 5d. per week; scavengers, 57s. 2d.; female lavatory and bath attendants, 44s. 8d.††	
London (certain Authorities)††		1 Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of 2½ths of original bonus as agreed in June, 1920, making a total reduction of 1½ths. Scheduled minimum rates after change: general labourers, 56s. 11d. per week; scavengers, 53s. 6d.; female lavatory and bath attendants, 41s. 11d.††	
London (certain other Authorities)††		1 Aug.	Manual workers	Decrease of 2½ths of original bonus as agreed in June, 1920, making a total reduction of 1½ths. Scheduled minimum rates after change: general labourers, 56s. 11d. per week; scavengers, 53s. 6d.; female lavatory and bath attendants, 41s. 11d.††	
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	London	1st pay day after 21 July‡‡	Engineers and labourers in Chief Engineer's, Tramways, Mental Hospitals' Engineer's Departments and Fire Brigade Workshops of County Council	War wage of 15s. 6d. previously granted increased to 21s. per week.§§	
	Exeter	25 Aug.	Manual workers employed on roads, footpaths and sewers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: paviors and masons, 1s. 6d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 1½d.	
	Plymouth	5 July 1 Aug.	Masons, paviors and labourers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Further increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 7½d. per hour; paviors, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.	

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
† The Undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry in the following areas:—London, Yorkshire, West Midlands, East Coast, Home Counties, South Coast, West of England, Devon and Cornwall, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland. The changes did not apply to electrical fitters and wiremen in the London, West of England and East Coast Areas.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
§ This decrease was due under the sliding scale to take effect on 1st July, but it was postponed till the date shown.
¶ This increase was given as a result of a decision to suspend the further operation of the reduction under the sliding scale until the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry "have accepted, rejected or failed to agree upon" the Report and Recommendations of the Tribunal recently appointed in connection with the claim of the workpeople for a general advance in wages.
** The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreement of the West Riding of Yorkshire Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services and include:—Grade A areas: Bradford, Golear, Halifax, Harrogate, Rotherham, Rothwell, Stanley, Wakefield. Grade B1 areas: Doncaster, Kesteven, Queensbury (made change from 5th September), Rawmarsh, Spenborough, Whitwood (made change from 1st full pay in September), West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade B2 areas: Altofts, Featherstone, Mirfield (made change from 2nd full pay in August), Normanton, Ossett, Royston, Salby, Sowerby Bridge, Wath-upon-Dearne, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade C1 areas: Stocksbridge, West Riding C. C. (certain districts), Rivelton Park R.D.C. Grade C2 areas: Clayton, Denby and Cumberworth, Denholme (made change from 28th August), Gulseley (made change from beginning of 2nd week in August), Penistone, West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade D1 areas: West Riding C.C. (certain districts). Grade D2 areas: West Riding C.C. (certain districts), Doncaster R.D.C.
†† The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements as revised in July, 1922, of the London District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services and include:—London County Council, Camberwell, Chelsea, East Ham, Finsbury, Fulham, Hackney, Hampstead, St. Mary-above, Shoreditch, Southwark, Stepney, Leyton U.D.C.
‡‡ The Authorities affected are those which follow the June, 1920, wages agreements of the London District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services, and include:—Kensington, Lewisham, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster (pays 2s. per week above scheduled base rates).
§§ This increase took effect from the first pay day after 21st July, 1924, for the period to which that pay day relates, and was for four months only.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Authorities (contd.)	Certain Authorities in Monmouthshire	14 July	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments	Increase of 1d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change include labourers and sweepers, 1s. 2d.; ashmen, 1s. 2½d.*
Leather Belt Manufacture	Great Britain	1st pay day in Aug.	Timeworkers (skilled)	Decrease† of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: London, 1s. 3½d.; Provinces, 1s. 3½d.
Basket Making	London	1st pay day in Aug.	Pieceworkers and cutters on daywork	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, decreased† from 75 to 70.
Warehousing	Liverpool	22 Aug.	Basket makers	Bonus of 40 per cent. on 1916 list increased to 45 per cent. Rate after change for timeworkers, 1s. per hour plus 45 per cent.†
			Warehousemen employed in the cotton, rubber, canned goods, provision, etc., trade:—	
			Casual men	Increase of 6d. per day (1s. 6d. to 12s.).
			Permanent men	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week (62s. 6d. to 65s.).

* This increase took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Wages Board of Local Authorities of Monmouthshire (Non-Trading Services). The authorities affected include Abercarn, Abertillery, Bedwelty, Brynmawr, Mynyddislwyn, Nantylgo and Blaina, Newport, Rhyimey, Risca, Tredegar.
 † The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 ‡ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1924.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Dock, etc., Labour	Belfast	18 Aug.	Dock labourers, etc., employed on cross-Channel boats and in coal trade	Decrease of 2 hours per week (46 to 44).*
Basket Making	London	1st pay day in Aug.	Basket makers	Increase of 1 hour per week (47 to 48)*

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

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 August, 1924, was 192, as compared with 208 in the previous month and with 191 a year ago:—

RAILWAY SERVICE	Factories and Workshops (continued):
Brakemen and Goods Guards ... 1	Engineering and Machine Making ... 2
Engine Drivers ... 1	Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ... 2
Firemen ... 1	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... 5
Guards (Passenger) ... 1	Other Metal Trades ... 4
Permanent Way Men ... 3	Shipbuilding ... 9
Porters ... 1	Wood ... 2
Shunters ... 3	Gas ... 2
Mechanics ... 1	Electric Generating Stations ... 1
Labourers ... 1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 5
Miscellaneous ... 8	Chemicals, etc. ... 3
Contractors' Servants ... 2	Food and Drink ... 3
	Paper, Printing, etc. ... 4
	Tanning, Currying, etc. ... 1
	Rubber Trades ... 1
	Other Non-Textile Industries ... 5
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ... 20	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901:
	Docks, Wharves, etc. ... 9
	Buildings ... 6
	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ... 4
	TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, AND PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106 ... 82
	TOTAL (excluding Seamen) ... 192
MINES.	
Underground ... 79	
Surface ... 4	
TOTAL, MINES ... 83	
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ... 7	
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	
Cotton ... 2	
Wool, Worsted & Shoddy ... 2	
Other Textiles ... 2	
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ... 3	
Metal Extracting and Refining ... 1	
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ... 8	
Metal Founding ... 1	

* Based on returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

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 August, 1924, was 44. Two deaths, both due to lead poisoning, were reported during the month, one in the pottery industry and one in the coach and car painting industry. In addition seven cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during August, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.
Among Operatives engaged in—	Mercury Poisoning ... 1
Smelting of Metals ... 3	Phosphorus Poisoning ... 1
Plumbing and Soldering ... 1	Arsenic Poisoning ... 1
Shipbreaking ... 12	Toxic Jaundice—
Printing ... 1	Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas ... 1
Tinning of Metals ... 1	Benzene, etc., derivatives ... 1
Other Contact with—	Epitheliomatous Ulceration—
Molten Lead ... 1	Paraffin ... 1
White and Red Lead Works ... 1	Pitch ... 1
Pottery† ... 3	Tar ... 1
Vitreous Enamelling ... 2	Oil ... 1
Electric Accumulator Works ... 4	Chrome Ulceration—
Paint and Colour Works ... 2	Manufacture of Bichromates ... 1
Indiarubber Works ... 1	Dyeing and Finishing ... 2
Coach and Car Painting ... 2	Chrome Tanning ... 1
Shipbuilding ... 1	Other Industries ... 1
Paint used in other Industries ... 3	TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ... 9
Other Industries ... 1	
TOTAL OF ABOVE ... 35	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—
	Wool ... 1
	Handling of Horsehair ... 1
	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, etc.) ... 1
	Other Industries ... 1
	TOTAL, ANTHRAX ... 4
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING ... 7	

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.
 † Cases include all attacks reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.
 ‡ The persons affected in the Pottery industry were males.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons‡ relieved on one day* in August, 1924, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 731,249, or 47 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 17.5 per cent. less than in August, 1923. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 411, 431 and 501§ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons‡ in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day* in August, 1924.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Metropolis.						
West District	8,602	6,506	15,108	183	– 8	– 29
North District	9,976	18,867	28,843	282	– 16	– 44
Central District	2,238	2,629	4,867	362	– 25	– 51
East District	9,749	48,767	58,516	907	– 6	– 227
South District	18,895	68,902	87,797	452	– 18	– 91
TOTAL, Metropolis	49,460	145,671	195,131	427	– 14	– 87
West Ham	4,377	68,831	73,208	963	– 15	+ 24
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,507	24,321	26,828	538	– 27	– 241
Stockton and Tees District	1,091	11,103	12,194	446	– 229	– 472
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	3,994	8,411	12,405	156	+ 1	+ 7
Wigan District	1,699	9,317	11,016	245	– 32	– 43
Manchester District	8,324	25,812	34,136	328	– 6	– 58
Liverpool District	9,328	45,724	55,052	448	– 63	– 89
Bradford District	1,747	4,021	5,768	155	+ 13	– 16
Hull District	1,203	3,001	4,204	110	+ 5	– 15
Leeds District	2,357	7,972	10,329	210	– 8	– 41
Barnsley District	872	7,362	8,234	253	+ 1	– 10
Sheffield District	2,388	26,635	29,023	563	– 73	– 262
North Staffordshire	1,649	10,219	11,868	371	– 34	– 139
York District	2,020	5,252	7,272	174	– 22	– 22
Nottingham District	1,994	8,817	10,811	280	– 24	– 25
Leicester District	1,175	2,698	3,873	162	+ 5	– 9
Wolverhampton District	3,206	18,118	21,324	291	– 9	– 108
Birmingham District	6,791	26,865	33,656	355	– 50	– 195
Bristol District	2,315	12,241	14,556	352	– 22	– 48
Cardiff and Swansea	2,309	12,751	15,060	317	– 5	– 2
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	56,969	270,640	327,609	315	– 29	– 92
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales	110,806	485,142	595,948	379	– 24	– 85
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District	4,700	84,716	89,416	918	+ 8	– 167§
Paisley and Greenock District	742	13,515	14,257	739	– 19	– 413
Edinburgh	1,621	16,587	18,208	428	..	+ 9
Dunfermline and Dunfermline	682	2,772	3,454	157	– 6	– 25
Aberdeen	492	3,084	3,576	224	– 1	– 131
Perth and Dundee	375	6,015	6,390	626	+ 33	– 28
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts	8,612	126,689	135,301	652	+ 3	– 129§
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in August, 1924	119,418	611,831	731,249	411	– 20	– 90§

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted, and of departures, during August, 1924, under the Act, and the total number of passages granted and of departures since the inception of these schemes are shown in the following Table:—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted.			Departures.		
	In August, 1924.	1922 and 1923.	Jan.-and Aug., 1924.	In Aug., 1924.	1922 and 1923.	Jan.-and Aug., 1924.
Australia	1,806	32,928§	15,534§	1,960	31,067	16,605
New Zealand	658	7,572§	5,745§	156	6,889	4,438
Canada:						
Dominion of Canada	453	3,557	7,077§	398	3,519	7,071
Province of Ontario	—	1,343	24	—	1,312	44
Other Schemes	60	1,662	1,107§	83	1,624	949
TOTAL	2,977	47,062§	29,487§	2,597	44,361	29,107

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 30th August, and those for Scotland to 15th August.
 † 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 and Edinburgh districts.
 ‡ Exclusive of casuals, of lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only.
 § The figures previously published have been revised.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*				Latest figures available.	
	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	Rise.	Date.
UNITED KINGDOM	Per cent. 158	Per cent. 120	Per cent. 80	Per cent. 62	Per cent. 66	29th Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna)	9,700†	328,600	1,291,000	1,565,100	August	August
Czechoslovakia	1,246	1,830	821	809	July	July
Denmark	153	138	84	88	100	July
Finland	882	1,178	1,005	868	916	July
France (Paris)	273	206	197	221	266	August
(other towns)§	288||	250||	212||	240||	293	May
Holland (The Hague)	111	80	40	60	62	July
(Amsterdam)	111	80	40	36	36	June
Italy (Milan)	345	406	392	396	408	July
Norway	219	195	133	118	187	August
Sweden	197	132	79	60	63	August
Switzerland	110	57	64	68	68	July
United States	115	45	39	44	40	July
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.						
Australia	61	48	64	49	49	June
Canada	127	48	38	37	37	August
India (Bombay)	88	74	60	48	56	July
Irish Free State	..	..	85†	82	85	July
New Zealand	67	64	44	42	49	July
South Africa	97	39	16	16	17	July

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.*	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†				Latest figures available.	
		July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	Rise.	Date.
UNITED KINGDOM	A, B, C, D, E	Per cent. 152	Per cent. 119	Per cent. 84	Per cent. 69	Per cent. 73	29th Sept.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna)	A, B, C, D	9,700§	264,400	1,090,200	1,314,100	August	August
Belgium	A, C, D, E	353	279	266	329	398	August
Denmark	A, B, C, D, E	162	187	99	104	114	July
Egypt (Cairo)	A, D	..	93	72	52	46	June
Finland	A, B, C, D, E	811	1,039	1,018	990	1,032	July
France (Paris)	A, B, C, D, E	263†	195†	189†	231†	266	2nd Qr.
Greece (Athens)	A, B, C, D, E	..	516	933	1,140	June	June
Hungary	A, B, C, D, E	3,661	15,579	225,167	159,490	June	June
Italy (Milan)	A, B, C, D, E	341	394	888	887	412	July
Luxemburg	A, C, D	284	259	840	381	July	July
Norway	A, B, C, D, E	202§	202§	155§	139§	151	June
Spain (Madrid)	A, D	90†	84	79	72	66	June
(Barcelona)	A, D	91†	78	73	65	89	June
Sweden	A, B, C, D, E	170	136	90	74	71	July
Switzerland	A, D	..	59	66	69	69	July
United States	A, B, C, D, E	117§	80||	67§	70§	70	March
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.							
Australia	A, B	67†	46†	43†	56†	50	1st Qtr.
Canada	A, B, D	90	52	46	46	45	August

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 324-325 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in August.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges on 30th August was 8,919 (5,664 men and 3,255 women). At the end of July the corresponding total was 8,592, and in August, 1923, 9,964. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 10,594 (5,661 for men and 4,933 for women), as compared with 10,791 at the end of July and 9,319 in August, 1923. During the last week of August the Exchanges succeeded in placing 34,945 persons in situations, including 11,274 dock workers at seaports, and, in addition, found employment for 3,664 foreign immigrants.

The latest returns show that 5 departmental and 19 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 4th September, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit through their agency being 479 (450 men and 29 women). The corresponding total for the preceding month was 490, and that for August, 1923, 1,575. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and, where they do exist, their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.†

Employment in July.—The tendency of the labour market continued on the whole to be in an unfavourable direction, although some relief was afforded in the majority of districts by possibilities of employment upon harvest work.

The statistics of health insurance societies show a greater decline in membership than in the preceding month. (Members of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums and therefore assumed to be in work.) On 1st July the total membership of the 5,419 societies reporting was 12,292,464, and on 1st August 12,077,762—a decrease of 1.7 per cent., as against a decrease of 1.0 per cent. between 1st June and 1st July.

Returns from trade unions point to a more extensive depression in employment than in June. Thirty-seven unions with an aggregate membership roll of 3,833,182 had 427,683, or 12.5 per cent., out of work on 26th July, as compared with 10.5 per cent. at the end of June and 3.5 per cent. at the end of July, 1923.

Percentages for the principal unions included in these totals are given in the following Table:—

UNIONS.	Membership reported on at end of July, 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		July, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1923.
All Unions making Returns ..	3,417,541	12.5	10.5	3.5
Building (S. D.) ..	324,000	10.6	—	3.4
Painters (S. D.) ..	33,000	2.4	1.8	2.6
Metal (S. D.) ..	702,000	20.2	16.5	3.9
(H. D.) ..	107,000	9.0	7.7	0.4
Textile (S. D.) ..	349,000	6.8	4.3	2.7
(O.) ..	90,000	8.1	5.0	4.1
Clothing (S. D.) ..	67,000	12.8	7.5	3.8
Boot and shoe (S. D.) ..	69,000	16.9	11.9	2.7
Saddlery, bagmaking, &c., (S. D.) ..	30,000	14.3	10.3	4.0
Transport (S. D.) ..	273,000	8.7	9.2	3.4
Printing (S. D.) ..	66,000	3.9	3.8	3.0
Bookbinding (S. D.) ..	51,000	9.6	7.5	4.7
Woodworking (S. D.) ..	293,000	15.4	12.0	2.4
Baking and confectionery (S. D.) ..	50,000	12.9	11.4	8.3
Food preparation (S. D.) ..	63,000	2.6	2.7	0.9
Tobacco (S. D.) ..	59,000	18.3	12.1	16.3
Factory workers (trades not specified) (S. D.) ..	277,000	12.7	8.9	2.2
Engine drivers and firemen (S. D.) ..	41,000	15.6	13.2	1.2
Factory and transport (C.) ..	55,000	25.7	27.2	3.4
Municipal and State workers (S. D.) ..	143,000	1.7	2.8	1.6

The figures in the Table relate solely to persons entirely unemployed. In addition statistics are available showing the proportion of short time workers. Of the 2,950,000 members of 33 trade unions making returns upon this point 830,844, or 28.2 per cent., were only partially employed at the end of July, as against 19.4 per cent. at the end of June.

The number of totally unemployed in receipt of the statutory out-of-work benefit increased from 277,237 on 15th July to 328,111

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 5th September, 1924. Paris.
† Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st September, 1924. Berlin.

on 1st August, and again to 355,848 on 15th August. These totals are for the unoccupied area of Germany only.

During July the applications for work at the Employment Exchanges rose in number by 7.8 per cent., as compared with those recorded in the preceding month, while offers of situations by employers decreased by 9.6 per cent. For every 100 vacancies for men there were on an average 425 applications, and for every 100 for women 207 applications; in June the corresponding figures were 359 and 171. The decline would have been greater but for opportunities of employment afforded by harvest work.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in July.—The latest figures available relate to July, but are provisional only. Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,454 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 654,441, show that 4,934 (0.8 per cent.) were totally unemployed and 16,264 partially so at the end of the month. The total days lost through unemployment in July numbered 240,520, or 1.53 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.50, and in July, 1923, 1.02.

During July 13,711 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 13,177 in the preceding month. Vacancies notified by employers in July numbered 11,717, as against 10,869 in June. There were thus on an average 117 applicants for each 100 situations registered as vacant, as compared with 121 in June.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in July.—According to figures compiled by the Swiss Federal Labour Office, the number of applicants for work on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges at the end of July was 8,235, as compared with 10,938 at the end of the preceding month and 22,722 at the end of July, 1923. The 8,235 applicants for work included 1,373 in commercial employment, shops, etc., 1,121 normally engaged in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 951 in the building trades, and 743 in the textile trades. The number of situations remaining unfilled at the same date was 4,461, as against 4,915 at the end of the preceding month and 2,579 on 31st July, 1923.

Taking July as a whole there were on an average 145 applications for each 100 vacancies for men and 63 for each 100 for women. In June the ratios were 143 and 57 respectively.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in July.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th August, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 65,232 at the end of July, as compared with 63,479 at the end of the preceding month and 87,155 at the end of July, 1923. In Vienna alone there were 41,542 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of July, 37,986 at the end of June, and 59,086 at the end of July, 1923.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in July.—The issue of *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (the journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office) for 30th August publishes figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 255,311 members of unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 26th July, 16,119 (6.3 per cent.) were unemployed for six days in the week, and 4,396 (1.7 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 28th June) the percentages were respectively 5.7 and 1.4, and in the week ended 28th July, 1923, 10.2 and 2.9.

SWEDEN.§

Unemployment in June.—Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 191,951 reported 14,053, or 7.3 per cent., out of work on the last day of June, as against 7.6 per cent. at the end of May, and 9.8 per cent. at the end of June, 1923. The following Table gives particulars for the principal unions included in the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 30th June, 1924.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		30th June, 1924.	31st May, 1924.	30th June, 1923.
All Unions making Returns ..	191,951	7.3	7.6	9.8
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Carpenters and joiners ..	5,690	8.8	11.6	8.5
Iron and steel ..	13,493	7.5	8.3	13.7
Foundry workers ..	3,791	11.3	11.1	13.3
Engineering ..	38,618	8.3	7.7	11.1
Textile ..	9,042	3.6	3.1	5.1
Clothing ..	4,444	5.9	5.4	2.9
Boot, shoe and leather ..	8,281	5.6	8.7	5.9
Food preparation ..	6,448	5.8	5.4	12.2
Sawmilling ..	17,179	13.2	15.7	13.3
Woodworking trades ..	5,479	6.5	6.5	3.3
Paper and pulp ..	15,445	2.5	4.4	1.8
Municipal workers ..	10,342	0.8	1.6	7.2
Commercial employees ..	6,799	7.0	6.8	20.4
General and factory workers .. (trades not specified)	18,407	14.1	13.2	

* *Revue du Travail*, 31st August, 1924. Brussels.

† *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*, 15th August, 1924. Berne.

§ Owing to a change in the method of compiling these statistics the figures for July are not strictly comparable with those for the preceding month and for July, 1923.

§ *Sociala Meddelanden*, No 8, 1924. Stockholm.

HUNGARY.

Unemployment in July.—In a despatch dated 8th August, H.M. Representative at Budapest reports that 16.6 per cent. of the members of Trade Unions making returns were unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 12.3 per cent. at the end of June. Full particulars are not available, but the figures supplied show that the groups of trades most seriously affected by unemployment were the building (8,560 out of work at the end of July) and metal (7,780).

CANADA.

Employment in August.*—For 1st August, 1924, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,727 firms, with an aggregate of 775,759 upon their pay-rolls. On 1st July the same firms reported 786,378 employed. The total for 1st August thus shows a decrease of 10,619 persons. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st August, 1924, is 94.7, as compared with 95.9 in the preceding month and 100.2 for 1st August, 1923.

Trade Union Unemployment in July.†—On 31st July 5.4 per cent. of the aggregate membership of Trade Unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 5.9 per cent. at the end of July and 2.9 per cent. in July, 1923.

UNITED STATES.‡

Employment in July.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in July, based on returns from 8,789 establishments in 52 manufacturing industries, covering 2,489,747 workpeople, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments in June reported 2,592,712 persons employed, and the July figures consequently indicate a net decrease of 4 per cent. The aggregate wages paid show for the same period a decrease of 7.8 per cent., and the average weekly earnings a decrease of 4 per cent. Seven of the 52 industries record increases in the number of workpeople employed in July, the largest—brought about by seasonal activity—being in the ice-cream industry (6.9 per cent.). The greatest decreases were in stoves (17.5 per cent.), pottery (15.4 per cent.), hosiery and knit goods (14.4 per cent.), rubber boots and shoes (12.0 per cent.), and the cotton manufacturing industry (9.5 per cent.).

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1923 in the same 52 industries, returns from 6,057 establishments show a decrease of 14.3 per cent. in the number of persons employed, a decrease of 19.3 per cent. in aggregate wages, and a decrease of 5.9 per cent. in average weekly earnings. Four industries only report increases in the number employed, the largest being in cane-sugar refining

* The August Employment Situation, 1924. Ottawa.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Canadian Department of Labour.

‡ Employment in Selected Industries, July, 1924. Washington.

(4.9 per cent.). The greatest decreases shown were in agricultural implements (31 per cent.), women's clothing (28.3 per cent.) and in foundries and machine shops (27 per cent.). (See also special article below.)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: INDEX NUMBERS.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics of the United States have published monthly statistics of the numbers employed in manufacturing industries since November, 1915. At first the returns utilised came from 234 establishments in 13 industries, but the numbers have been extended until in the latest month for which published figures are available, they cover 8,789 establishments employing some 2½ million workpeople in 52 industries.

In the issue of the *Monthly Labour Review* (the bulletin of the Bureau of Labour Statistics) for April last index numbers based on the changes shown by these monthly statistics were published for the first time, the monthly average for the year 1923 being taken as the standard of comparison (or 100 per cent.). This base was selected, firstly because the monthly average of employment in that year was neither extremely high nor extremely low, and secondly because the representative nature of the returns was then considered to have reached a satisfactory point (approximately 40 per cent. of the workers employed in each industry in each State).

The weights employed in combining the various index numbers for individual industries into group indexes, and finally into the general index, represent the number of wage earners in the respective industries in 1919, the date of the last Census of Manufactures.

The following Table is from the July issue of the *Monthly Labour Review* in which the general index of employment in manufacturing industries is taken back to June, 1914:—

Monthly average, 1923=100.

Month.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January	—	82	105	117	115	110	116	77	87	98	95
February	—	83	108	117	115	104	115	83	88	100	97
March ..	—	84	110	117	116	104	117	84	84	102	96
April ..	—	94	109	115	115	104	117	84	83	102	95
May ..	—	95	110	115	114	107	117	85	85	102	91
June ..	99	96	110	115	113	109	118	85	87	102	88*
July ..	96	95	111	114	115	111	110	85	87	100	85*
August	93	96	110	113	115	110	110	86	88	100	—
September	95	99	111	111	114	112	107	87	91	100	—
October	95	101	113	113	112	107	103	89	93	99	—
November	94	104	115	116	113	110	97	89	94	99	—
December	93	106	115	117	114	113	91	90	97	97	—

* The index numbers for June and July, 1924, are from a monthly statement on employment issued by the Bureau of Labour Statistics in advance of the *Monthly Labour Review*.

OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

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 are not 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 at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 7691, SECTIONS 8 (1) AND (2) AND 47 (C).—TRADE DISPUTE AND EMPLOYMENT LEFT VOLUNTARILY—OUTWORKERS WITHDRAWN FROM EMPLOYMENT BY THEIR UNIONS—EMPLOYERS' FACTORY, WHERE THERE WAS NO STOPPAGE OF WORK, HELD TO BE THE PREMISES, ETC., AT WHICH THEY WERE EMPLOYED—APPLICANTS GIVEN INDOOR WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE—TRADE AGREEMENT FORBODE EMPLOYMENT OF OUTWORKERS WITHOUT PERMITS.

Three applicants who had been employed as hand-lasters on outwork by a firm of boot and shoe manufacturers for periods varying from 3 days to 2 years were withdrawn from the employment by their trade unions on various dates between 20th February and 5th March, 1924, on the ground that the employers were not complying with the agreed working conditions for the boot and shoe industry. The applicants lodged claims for payment in lieu of benefit with their Associations, but the claims were disallowed under Section 8 (1).

The Associations appealed to the Court of Referees. They stated that the employers, a non-federated firm, were, in employing the applicants as outworkers, contravening an agreement between one of the Associations and the Employers' Federation to the effect that all hand-lasters were to be employed on the firm's premises. The agreement provided, however, that if a man, owing to physical disability, found difficulty in getting

employment, the Association which was a party to the agreement would issue a permit allowing him to be employed as an outworker. No permits had been issued in respect of the applicants, and accordingly they were withdrawn from the employment. The Associations stated that there was no stoppage of work on the part of the men employed at the firm's premises.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be disallowed. The Court considered that there was no stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, but in view of the periods during which the applicants had accepted the terms of the employment, that they had left the employment voluntarily without just cause.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court. In his opinion the circumstances constituted a trade dispute, and not a question of leaving voluntarily. If there was no dispute he thought the claims should be allowed on the ground that the applicants were not unable to obtain suitable employment.

The employers subsequently reported that they had since found indoor work for two of the applicants, but the third, a disabled man, was still unemployed, apparently because a permit to do outwork was not to be issued to him on the ground that he was not a member of the Association concerned in the agreement.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that if the above-named employed persons had made a claim for unemployment benefit the claim would have been allowed. The applicants were outworkers who contracted with a firm of bootmakers to do hand-lasting. Whilst so occupied they were following an occupation from which they derived profit or remuneration, but they were not working under a contract of service, and accordingly were not engaged in such employment as made them employed persons within the meaning of that expression as used in the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The Association to which two of the applicants belonged had a dispute with the firm because the Association objected to the firm giving out their work to outworkers who had not permits from the Association to work in that way. The applicants had not permits, and in consequence of the dispute they ceased to follow their occupation as outworkers. I have some doubt whether this was a trade dispute as defined by Section 47 of the Act of 1920, but it is not necessary to decide this point, as I am of opinion that there was no stoppage of work at the premises at which the applicants were employed.

"Their own homes, where presumably they did the work, cannot, in my opinion, be regarded as the factory, workshop or other premises at which they were employed. If their occupation was employment within the meaning of Section 47 they were employed at the factory from which the work was given out to them, and there appears to have been no stoppage of work there.

"The firm appear to have given way at once, and it is clear that the applicants would have been given inside work at once if there had been room for them. Two of them were taken in as soon as room could be found.

"The Court of Referees were of opinion that the applicants left voluntarily without just cause. I cannot say whether or not they had just cause for leaving without adjudicating on the merits of the dispute, which I am not competent to do.

"It may be observed, however, that the employment of these men as outworkers without permits was not in accordance with terms agreed to by the Federated Employers."

CASE No. 7712, SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—DOCK LABOURERS NOT UNEMPLOYED FOR 12 DAYS IN EXCESS OF CUSTOMARY HOLIDAYS.

The claims for benefit lodged by two applicants, who had last been employed as dock labourers, were disallowed under Section 7(1) (ii) in respect of Good Friday and Easter Monday (18th and 21st April, 1924) on the ground that these days were customary holidays in the district.

The applicants appealed to the Court of Referees and stated that they were not tally holders. One of them had last worked prior to the holidays on 8th April, and did not secure further employment until 22nd April. The other had last worked on 7th April, and remained unemployed until 23rd April. Each applicant submitted that he was definitely discharged prior to the holidays, and should, therefore, be regarded as unemployed.

Recommended by the Court of Referees, that the claims for benefit should be allowed in respect of 18th and 21st April, 1924.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation on the ground that the applicants were not unemployed for a period of 12 consecutive working days in addition to the customary holidays, and were not therefore entitled to benefit in respect of such days of holiday.

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

"In a long series of cases, beginning in 1912 with No. 228 (Benefit 1911 Act), the Umpire has held that persons cannot be regarded as unemployed on customary holidays falling within a period of employment, although they do no work and get no wages, and, further, that the same principle is applicable to persons whose employment is temporarily suspended on a short time system or otherwise, when a holiday happens to fall in a week or other short period of suspension. It is otherwise when an applicant for benefit has before the holiday finally left or been finally discharged or indefinitely suspended for so long that his employment may be fairly regarded as having come to an end.

"By decisions 473, 535, 536, 579, 614 and 635, given soon after the passing of the Act of 1920, my predecessor held that in considering whether a person had been so long suspended that his employment may be fairly considered to have come to an end before the holiday, a fair test to apply is that which has become known as the 12 days' rule, namely, that where the total period of suspension amounts to two weeks, or 12 working days, in addition to the holiday period, it should generally be considered that the employment has come to an end before the holiday; but that where the period of suspension is less an applicant for benefit should generally be considered as only temporarily suspended and not finally discharged, and therefore not entitled to benefit in respect of the holidays.

"The principle underlying these decisions was established and well recognised before the passing of the Act of 1920, which (so far as it affects this question) is merely a re-enactment of the Act of 1911, and the principle must now be regarded as accepted by the Legislature. And since the 12 days' rule was laid down it has become a part of the recognised practice. Amending Acts have been passed conferring additional rights to benefit, and as Parliament has not seen fit to alter the rule I think I should not be justified now in departing from it.

"The 12 days' rule, however, was never intended to be a final and conclusive test as to the right to benefit, and it is open to any applicant to show that, notwithstanding that he has been without work for less than 12 days in addition to a holiday period, he had been finally discharged or had finally left his employment before the holiday period, in which case, of course, he is entitled to benefit on the days of holiday.

"In decisions 579 and 3599 my predecessor held that this general principle is applicable to persons engaged in the semi-casual work of ship-repairing yards.

"The question now arises as to whether the principle is applicable to dock labourers whose work is more completely casual than that of shipyard workers. I am of opinion that it is. It has been in fact adopted for a considerable time in some districts, but not in all, though the question has not hitherto come before the Umpire for final decision.

"In the decision on Case No. 5819, following a number of earlier decisions of my predecessor, I held that a dock labourer who ordinarily applies daily for work from a particular employer or at a particular dock or docks is not for the purposes of Section 8 (1) of the Act to be regarded as having lost his employment at the end of each day's work, although it is often quite uncertain whether he will get a call on the following day; after each day's work he is suspended until required again, but not finally discharged. And in that case, I thought, having regard to the extreme irregularity of their work, that dock

labourers ought not to be regarded as having finally lost employment until they had failed to get work for a month.

"For the purpose of the present cases, however, I think the 12 days' rule should be applied as in the case of other workers in irregular or intermittent employment, and if questions under Section 8 (1) should arise as to dock labourers in connection with some future trade dispute, I shall be prepared to consider whether the same period should be taken in considering whether an applicant has lost employment by reason of a trade dispute.

BANKING INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME, ORDER, 1924.

THE Unemployment Insurance, Banking Industry Special Scheme, Order, 1924, setting up a special scheme under Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the Banking Industry came into force on the 14th July, 1924. The full text of the Order and accompanying schedules S.R. and O., 1924, No. 817, can be obtained (price 5d.) from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses mentioned on the cover of this GAZETTE.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS—CLAIM FOR INCREASE IN WAGES AMOUNTING TO £1 PER WEEK TO ALL EMPLOYEES.—The Trade Union Side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments v. The Official Side. Decision.—Having regard to the present position in the Engineering Industry, the war bonus payable to Admiralty employees should, as a temporary measure, be brought more closely into relation with changes in the cost of living. Accordingly the existing war bonus of 10s. per week shall be increased to 14s. per week as from the beginning of the first full pay following date of Decision. Issued 1st August, 1924. (967.)

COIR MAT AND MATTING INDUSTRY—WAGES—CONDITION OF INDUSTRY—STABILISATION OF WAGES.—The Workpeople's Side of the Joint Industrial Council v. The Employers' Side.—Decision.—The industry in its present condition cannot bear an advance in wages; there should be no reduction in wages; the existing scale of wages should remain in force until after the expiration of three months' notice in writing by either side to put an end to the same, but such notice not to be given before 1st November, 1924. Issued 8th August, 1924. (968.)

ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS, WRABNESS AND CROMBIE—WORKMEN RESIDING SOME DISTANCE FROM FACTORY—CLAIM FOR ADDITIONAL RATE—METHOD OF DETERMINATION OF WAGES IN ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Trade Union Side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments v. The Official Side. Decision.—Neither at Wrabness nor at Crombie are there such peculiar local conditions as entitle the men concerned to the payment of rates in excess of those commonly paid throughout the Royal Dockyards and other Admiralty Establishments. Issued 18th August, 1924. (969.)

WEAVERS, BRAINTREE AND HALSTEAD—CLAIM FOR WAGE INCREASE—MODIFICATION OF PRESENT SYSTEM OF PAYMENT OF WAGES—ADOPTION OF LANCASHIRE PERCENTAGES—FUTURE METHOD OF REGULATING RISE AND FALL IN WAGES.—The Workers' Union and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. Courtaulds, Ltd. Decision.—The 10 per cent. now being paid shall be increased to 15 per cent. in the case of pieceworkers and an advance of 2s. per week made in the case of adult male time workers and 1s. per week in the case of adult female time workers, and that no alteration be made in the case of juvenile time workers. Effective as from the beginning of the next full pay following the date of the Decision. With regard to the firm's claims for the same percentages to be paid on their existing time and piece rates as those now paid in Lancashire on the Uniform, Colne and Bocking Lists, and as to the future method of regulating the rise and fall of wages, the matter is remitted to the parties for their further consideration. In the event of no adjustment being arrived at, it will be open to either party to bring the matter again before the Court. Issued 26th August, 1924. (970.)

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

QUARRY WORKERS.—The National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. The Penderyn Quarry Company (Hirwain), Limited, and Mr. Thomas Purcell and Mr. David Lewis (Contractors). Difference: That twopence per hour be granted to all weekly wage men and 1½d. per ton to all men paid on tonnage basis, and that the Arbitrator shall decide whether any award shall be retrospective; and, if so, the date from which any advance shall be applied. Arbitrator, Mr. W. H. Stokes, K.C. Award: The claim as made has not been established. Issued 22nd August, 1924. (I.R. 1297/2/1924.)

CONSTRUCTIONAL ENGINEERS.—The Constructional Engineering Union v. The Bridgebuilding and Constructional Engineering Employers' Association. Difference: Whether outside men in the employment of Messrs. Lambourne and Company, Limited, of Manchester, and engaged on steelwork erecting at their contract at Cheadle Heath, are entitled to the payments in respect of travelling specified in Article 9 of Award No. 387 of the

Industrial Court, dated 12th July, 1920, in cases where the men were engaged (i.e., taken on) at the site. Arbitrator, Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. Award: The Arbitrator agreed that the "central point" is one that has to be determined from time to time, according to the situation of the site of the contract. It is not a fixed point but a moveable one. It was obviously contemplated by Decision No. 387 that where the site of the contract is near a town or industrial centre, such town or industrial centre may reasonably be fixed as the central point. A "central point" is not necessarily determined by the town or area in which the employers have their headquarters; other factors are to be considered, such as the site of the job and its proximity to a town or industrial centre. If, in the present case, St. Anne's Square, Manchester, has been agreed by the parties as the "central point" for the job at Cheadle Heath, the rates claimed by the Union are the proper rates to be paid; and if the "central point" has not been agreed, it is necessary for the parties to agree one. Issued 29th August, 1924. (I.R. 1349/2/1924.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

COPPER WORKERS: GARSTON.—The Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers v. Messrs. J. Bibby, Sons and Co. (Garston), Ltd. Difference: Claim by the Unions for increase in the minimum rates. Agreement: The employers' offer was accepted under protest. Piecework rates are still to be discussed. Agreed August, 1924. (I.R. 956/1924.)

TEXTILE WORKERS: ESSEX.—The Workers' Union and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. Messrs. Courtaulds, Limited. Difference: An application for 10 per cent. increase at Braintree and Halstead from the Union; and a proposal by the firm to modify the present payment of wages and to settle the future method of regulating wages. Agreement: It was agreed to refer the matter in dispute to arbitration. Agreed 11th August, 1924. (I.R. 1320/1924.)

CHEMICAL WORKERS: LUTON.—The National Drug and Chemical Union v. B. Laporte, Limited, Chemical Manufacturers. Difference: The firm refused to employ men who were members of the Union. Agreement: The firm agreed to withdraw the condition of employment that their workpeople should not be members of the National Drug and Chemical Union. Agreed 13th August, 1924. (I.R. 1395/1924.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

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

ORDER Q. (28), dated 1st September, 1924, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male workers who are employed as Braziers, Burnishers, Drop-Stampers, Dippers, Dippers who are also Bronzers, or as Annealers or Polishers in the Stamped or Pressed Metal-ware trade. The variations, which are effective as from 8th September, 1924, involve increases in general minimum time-rates varying from 1s. per week for workers under 15 years of age to 3s. 6d. per week for workers over 21 years of age. Copies of the above-mentioned Order may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain). Proposal D. (27), dated 6th September, 1924, to fix certain general minimum piece-rates and to vary the overtime rates for the workers employed on such general minimum piece-rates, and to vary general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male apprentices.

Fur Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal Z. (15), dated 8th September, 1924, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers, including learners and apprentices.

CHANGES IN MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES DUE TO AN ALTERATION IN THE "COST-OF-LIVING" FIGURE.

Higher wage rates have become operative as from 1st September, 1924, in the undermentioned trades. The minimum rates of wages now applicable are those appropriate to the "Cost of Living" Figure of 71, and are set out in the Controlling Orders quoted, which may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net:—

Brush and Broom (Great Britain): M. (35) (36) and (37), Col. 10.
Boot and Shoe Repairing (Great Britain): D. (24), Col. 2.
Paper Bag (Great Britain): P. (10), Col. 8.
Paper Box (Great Britain): B. (11), Col. 3.

COAL MINES (MINIMUM WAGE) ACT, 1912.

MR. E. SHINWELL, M.P., Secretary for Mines, announces that, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon the Board of Trade by the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, he has appointed His Honour Judge J. W. McCarthy to be Chairman of the West Yorkshire Joint District Board in the place of His Honour R. H. Amphlett, K.C., who has resigned.

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

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

An Examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under Managers of Mines will be held on the 26th and 27th November, 1924, at Edinburgh; Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Sheffield; Wigan; Cardiff and Birmingham.

The written part of an Examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the same centres on the 27th November, 1924.

Applications for the necessary forms should be made not later than the 1st October, 1924. In order that the appropriate forms may be sent it is important that candidates should state whether they have already sat at one or more of the Board's examinations.

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

ACCIDENTS.—Report of the Departmental Committee on accidents in shipbuilding and ship-repairing. Home Office. (S.O. publication: price 1s. 9d.)

ALIENS.—Aliens Order, 1920. A return of alien passengers, excluding transmigrants, landed, embarked and refused leave to land, in the United Kingdom during the three months ending June 30th, 1924. (Cmd. 2134-1: price 2d.)

CENSUS.—Census, 1921: (a) Classification of industries; (b) classification of occupations. (S.O. publications: price 3s. 6d. 7s. 6d., respectively.)

COVENT GARDEN DISPUTE.—Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning the dispute at Covent Garden, and a threatened stoppage of work at the ports and elsewhere arising therefrom. Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 2244: price 9d.)

EMIGRATION.—General information as to Kenya Colony and Protectorate. Revised edition, February, 1924. Oversea Settlement Office. (S.O. publication: price 8d.)

HEALTH, MINISTRY OF.—Fifth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health, 1923-4. (Cmd. 2218: price 5s.) (See page 319.)

MINING.—(1) Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the year 1923. 1. Scotland Division. 2. Northern Division. 3. York and North Midland Division. 4. Lancashire and North Wales Division. (S.O. publications: price 5s., 5s., 7s., 5s. 6d., respectively.) (2) Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during quarter ended March 31st, 1924. (S.O. publication: price 4d.) (3) List of quarries (under the Quarries Act, 1894) in Great Britain and the Isle of Man, year 1922. (S.O. publication: price 35s.) (4) Report on tests of miner's flame safety lamps fitted with open-mesh gauzes, carried out at the Mines Department Lamp Testing Station, Eskmeads. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication: price 3d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—(1) Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending March, 1924, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief. Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication: price 4d.) (2) Statement showing the moneys expended and received during the financial year ended 31st March, 1922, by Boards of Guardians and other local authorities charged with the administration of the laws relating to the relief of the poor in England and Wales (Part I. of the Annual Local Taxation Returns, England and Wales, 1921-22). Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication: price 3s. 6d.)

SAFETY.—Memorandum on dry cleaning. Form 824. 2nd Edition. July, 1924. (S.O. publication: price 1d.)

STATISTICS.—(1) Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom for each of the fifteen years from 1908 to 1922. Sixty-eighth number. Board of Trade, Statistical Department. (Cmd. 2207: price 10s.) (2) The Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales for the year 1923. Tables: Part I., Medical. (New Annual Series, No. 3.) (S.O. publication: price 15s.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, AUGUST, 1924.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Dalmore, Invergordon: Removal of Railway and Pier: John MacWilliam, Glasgow.—*Holton Heath: Portland Cement:* The British Standard Cement Co., London, E.C.—*Plymouth District: Portland Cement:* Smeed, Dean & Co., Ltd., Sittingbourne, Kent.—*Portsmouth: Removal of Steel Work:* T. W. Ward & Co., London, E.—*Steel Bars:* The District Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Smethwick.—*Shotley: Road Resurfacing Works:* E. J. Edwards, Norwich.—*H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad: Grabs:* Lobnitz & Co., Ltd., Renfrew, Scotland.—*Timber:* John B. Lee & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.

(Contract and Purchase Department).

Alternators, Motor, etc.: W. Mackie & Co., London, S.E.; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—*Alternators, Starters, Regulators and Spare Parts for:* Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—*Ammunition Boxes:* Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—*Brushes, Painters':* F. Brockley & Son, Epsom; Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham, Bucks; Chadwick & Shapcott, Ltd., London, W.C.; A. Reid & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., London, E.—E. A. & W. Greenslade & Co., Ltd., Bristol; J. Root & Son, London, N.; Newton & Cook, London, S.W.; C. H. Leng & Son, Birmingham; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall.—*Candles:* Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Cells, Inert:* General Electric Co., Ltd., Wotton, Birmingham.—*Chain, etc., Mooring:* H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney, Chester.—*Cloth, American, Leather:* The Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Compasses and Standards, Aircraft:* H. Hughes & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; Dent & Co., & Johnson, Ltd., Paisley; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Kelvin, Bottomley & Baird, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Compasses, Aircraft, Reconditioning of:* Dent & Co., & Johnson, Ltd., Paisley.—*Compasses, Conversion of:* Kelvin, Bottomley & Baird, Ltd., London, S.E.; H. Hughes & Son, Ltd., London, W.C.—*Compasses, Repair and Conversion of:* Dent & Co., & Johnson, Ltd., Paisley.—*Cranes, Electric Travelling:* Sir W. Arrol & Co., Ltd., Parkhead, Glasgow; Vaughan Crane Co., Ltd., Openshaw, Manchester.—*Drying Room:* Manlove, Alliott & Co., Ltd., Nottingham.—*Electric Generating Plant, Turbo:* P. Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—*Electrodes:* Alloy Welding Processes, Ltd., Islington, N.; The Quasi Arc Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Fire Hose Fittings:* Meryweather & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Gauges, Cordite, Pressing:* F. W. Potter & Co., London, E.C.—*Gloves, Leather:* North of England Chamois Co., Ltd., Newcastle; C. Ockwell & Co., Ltd., Cricklade; J. J. Williamson & Sons, Canterbury.—*Hides and Leather Goods:* G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle; J. & F. J. Baker & Co., Ltd., Colyton; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Randall & Porter, Ltd., Ulverston; J. Tullis & Son, Ltd., Glasgow.—*Jam:* Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Cambridge; Maconochie Bros., Ltd., London, E.; Southwell & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Barnes & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; C. & E. Morton, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Lamps and Lanterns and Gear:* Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Griffiths & Sons, Birmingham.—*Lanterns, Navigation and Gear:* W. Harvie & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Telford, Grier & Mackay, Ltd., Glasgow.—*Lathe:* J. Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone, near Glasgow.—*Lead (Sheet and Pipe):* A. D. Foulkes, Ltd., Birmingham; Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—*Leather:* R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; G. Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; H. Nickols, Ltd., Leeds; Randall & Porter, Ltd., Ulverston; Thos. Ware & Sons, Ltd., Bristol.—*Linoleum:* Barry, Ostlers & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy; Michael Nairn & Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—*Machine Hydraulic Riveting:* Hugh Smith & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—*Mills, Rolling:* Greenwood & Batley, Ltd., Leeds.—*Pipes, Charging:* The Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.; The Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.—*Plant, Distilling:* J. Kirkcaldy, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Plates, Steel, Boiler:* D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Guest, Keen & Nettelfolds, Ltd., Cardiff.—*Pumps, Fuel Oil:* Douglas & Grant, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—*Rope, Steel Wire:* Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Soot-Cleaning Installation:* British Vacuum Cleaner & Eng. Co., Ltd., Parsons Green Lane, S.W.—*Tanks, Steel:* T. Piggott & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—*Tapes:* E. B. Hamel & Son, Tamworth; J. & N. Phillips & Co., Ltd., Tean; G. H. Wheatcroft & Co., Worksworth.—*Telephone Exchanges, Automatic:* Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., Streatham Hill, S.W.; Siemens Bros., Woolwich, S.E.—*Towelling, Terry:* Barlow & Jones, Ltd., Manchester; Stott & Smith, Ltd., Manchester.—*Transmitters:* B. Hesketh, Ltd., Slough.—*Oil, Linseed:* Dixon & Cardus, Ltd., Southampton; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Smith Bros. & Co., London, E.; Youngusband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.—*Oil, Rapeseed:* J. L. Seaton & Co., Ltd., Hull.

WAR OFFICE.

Accumulators: Chloride Electric Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester.—*Alcohol, Absolute:* Hammersmith Distillery Co., London, W.—*Asbestos Cement Slates:* British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., Erith.—*Ball Bearings, Various:* The Skefko Ball Bearing Co., Ltd., Luton.—*Basins, Soup:* Mintons, Ltd., Stoke.—*Bedford Cord:* Atkinson Bros., Leeds.—*Beeswax:* Wilkins, Campbell & Co., Ltd., West Drayton, Middlesex.—*Billets, Steel Carbon:* Jno Spencer & Sons, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—*Billets, Steel Nickel:* Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield.—*Brushes, Sweeping:* Phoenix Brush Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Vale & Brad-

nack, Walsall; Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham; W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Stonehouse (Glos.).—*Capsules, Preventive:* J. Bell Hills & Lucas, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Cloth, Box:* A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley, Leeds.—*Clothing, Hospital:* J. Hammond & Co., Newcastle, Staffs.—*Coats, Warm:* Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Wathen, Gardiner & Co., Bristol.—*Cotton Rags:* E. Austin & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—*Cotton Waste, Coloured:* Redmayne & Isherwood, Kirkham, Lancs.—*Curtains, Mosquito:* T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—*Deals, Yellow:* Gabriel, Wade & English, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Feltwork:* McNeill & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Glazing:* W. H. Heywood & Co., Huddersfield; Mellowes & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—*Harness—Collars, Head Stable; Straps, Neck, Stable and Reins, Leading:* Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Harness—Flaps, Universal and Seats S.A.:* D. Mason & Sons, Birmingham.—*Harness—Collars, Head, Stable:* S. E. Norris & Co., London, E.—*Helmet Bodies:* E. W. Vero & Co., London, S.E.—*Hides:* Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Carr, Clothing & Belting, Ltd., Halifax.—*Kettles, Tea:* Iznos & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—*Lead, Pig:* Cookson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; British Metal Corp., Ltd., London, E.C.; Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—*Lifters, Drop Stamp:* Sam Platt, Ltd., Wednesbury.—*Linoleum:* Barry, Ostlers & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—*Mattress Cases:* T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—*Mattresses, Coir:* Siddall Mfg. Co., London, E.C.—*Metal Rod "A":* Delta Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—*Nickel:* Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Oak, English Spoke Pieces:* T. James, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Oil Lubricating:* How & Co., London, E.—*Pontoons:* Harland, Wolff, Ltd., Liverpool.—*Portland Cement, Blast Furnace:* Glasgow Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Wishaw, Lanarkshire.—*Rod Metal; Rod Metal "G":* King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., King's Norton.—*Shalloon, Red:* J. Clough & Son, Baildon Green.—*Shoes:* Adams Bros., Raunds.—*Steel, Flat:* Monks Hall & Co., Ltd., Warrington.—*Steel, Mild and Rod:* Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—*Steel Sheets:* W. Jessop & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—*Tables, Trestle:* Lawson & Co., Glasgow.—*Tubs, Washing, I.G.:* S. Turner & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge.—*White Spirit:* S. Banner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Works Services:* Maintenance Works at Weedon—Steel Works, Bain & Co., Coatbridge. Colchester—Roads: Chambers & Son, Colchester. Northampton—Slatting Roofs: A. L. & H. W. Chown, Northampton. Canterbury: Highways Construction Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Londonderry: J. McBride, Londonderry. Colchester—Roads: J. Tovell, Ltd., Colchester. Buildings Works at—Netheravon—Quarters: G. Greenwood & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Crowborough: F. R. Hipperson, Norwich. Bovington Camp—Officers' Mess and Quarters: Jenkins, Hitt & Grant, Ltd., Weymouth. Aldershot—Married Soldiers' Quarters: G. Kemp, Stroud & Co., Ltd., Aldershot. Lydd: Nissens, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Painting:* Portsmouth; Chatham; Arundel (Painters), Ltd., Bradford. Shrewsbury: E. H. Nicholas, Shrewsbury. Lichfield; F. Perks & Son, Ltd., Long Eaton. Colchester: Schofield, Son & Crees, Colchester. Cardiff: J. Stephens, St. David's, Pembrokehire.—*Installations:* Redford Barracks—Heating: W. Jackson, Edinburgh. Fort George—Electric Light: Ponsford & McHardy, Dundee. Fort George—Heating: H. Twaddle & Son, Glasgow.

AIR MINISTRY.

A.G.S. Parts: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Blackburn Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Leeds; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—*Aircraft Engine Installation; Aircraft (Experimental Floats):* Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—*Aircraft Modifications:* A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—*Aircraft (Reconditioning):* Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—*Aircraft Repairs:* Handley Page, Ltd., Cricklewood.—*Aircraft, Repair of; Aircraft Repairs:* A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—*Aircraft Spares:* Blackburn Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Leeds; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—*Aircraft Trolley:* Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—*Aircraft, Work on:* Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—*Aviation Spirit (Iraq):* Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Boister Trolleys:* J. S. White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes, I.W.—*Bolster (Hair):* Thos. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—*Bombs, Experimental:* Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—*Boundary Lights (Croydon Aerodrome):* Gas Accumulator Co. (U.K.), Ltd., Brentford.—*Brackets:* Adamant Engineering Co., Ltd., Luton.—*Brooke Marine Engine Spares:* J. W. Brooke & Co., Ltd., Lowestoft.—*Building Works Service:* Alterations to Officers' Mess (Lee-on-Solent): John Hunt, Gosport. Barrack Blocks (Tangmere): Leslie & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Erection of Married Quarters (Biggin Hill): Pearce Bros., Bromley. Painting (Henlow): M. Greenwood & Son, Ltd., London, N.W.—*Canvas, Packing, Hessian:* Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee.—*Carburettor Spares:* H.M. Hobson, Ltd., London, S.W.—*Carburettors and Spares:* The Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—*Cinematograph Film:* British Instructional Films, Ltd., Boreham Woods, Herts.—*Coal (Eastchurch):* J. H. Gilman & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Coal (Spittlegate):* Peake, Oliver & Peake, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Crossley Motor Spares:* Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—*Delco Ignition Spares:* Delco-Remy, Ltd., London, S.W.—*Engines (Aircraft); Engine (Aircraft) Spares:* Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—*Engines (Aircraft), Experimental*

Work on: W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Engines (Mono) Spares:* Welworthy, Ltd., Lymington, Hants.—*Engine Starters, Noakes Aero:* Monarch Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—*Extinguishers (Pyrene):* Pyrene Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*Felt (Greys):* Bury Felt Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bury.—*Lamps, Brazing:* W. Parkinson & Co., Birmingham.—*Lancia Spares:* Curtis Automobile Co., Ltd., London, W.—*Linen Fabric Strip:* Wood, Sons & Co., London, E.C.—*Nails:* Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.—*Petrol Tanks (Portable):* F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—*Rolls Royce Motor Spares:* Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—*Sheets, Cotton:* G. J. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester.—*Sitka Spruce:* Cox, Long & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—*Solder, Tinman's:* E. Austin & Sons, London, E.—*Stays for W/T Masts:* Halls Barton Ropery Co., Ltd., Hull.—*Thornycroft Marine Engine Spares:* J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke.—*Timber, Ash:* Geo. Boxall & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—*W/T Valves:* The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Fire Alarm: General Electric Company, Ltd., Coventry.—*Apparatus, Telephonic:* Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L.M. Ericsson Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Beeston; General Electric Company, Ltd., Coventry; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.; Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham; Western Electric Company, Ltd., London, E., or Southgate.—*Apparatus, Protective:* British L.M. Ericsson Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Beeston.—*Arms, Wood:* Millars Timber and Trading Co., Ltd., Purfleet.—*Beeswax:* Wilkins, Campbell & Company, Ltd., West Drayton.—*Bells:* Plessey Company, Ltd., Ilford; Radio, Phonopore & Electricals, Ltd., Southall; Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham.—*Belts, Safety:* Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Blocks for Covers, Jointing Pit:* A. Bailey, Stone, Staffs.—*Boxes, Coin Collecting:* Hall Telephone Accessories, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Brackets:* Burton, Delingpole & Co., Ltd., Old Hill, Staffs.—*Bodies for Ford Chassis:* W. H. Perry, London, N.—*Bodies for Austin Chassis:* Jas. Bartle & Co., Ltd., London, W.—*Cable:* British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescot; Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Belvedere, Kent; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Union Cable Company, Ltd., Dagenham Dock; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—*Casing and Cover:* Wm. Duncan Tucker and Sons, Ltd., London, N.—*Castings, Joint Box:* Frederick Bird & Co., Ltd., West Drayton; Ladywood Iron Works, Ltd., Lutterworth; United Steel Companies, Ltd., Wallingborough; John Varley, Ltd., St. Helens.—*Cells, Dry:* Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., London, E.; Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.—*Coils, Loading:* Western Electric Company, Ltd., London, E.—*Cords, Instrument:* British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Ward and Goldstone, Ltd., Pendleton.—*Couplings:* Ladywood Iron Works, Ltd., Lutterworth.—*Ducts:* Donington Sanitary Pipe and Fire Brick Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; Doulton & Co., Ltd., Dudley; G. Jennings, Parkstone, Dorset; Jas. Oakes & Company, Jacksall; Oates and Green, Ltd., Halifax; Sutton & Company (Overseas), Ltd., Overseas; Jas. Woodward, Ltd., Swadincote.—*Dynamotors:* A. W. Woods, Colchester.—*Handcarts:* W. Goodgear & Sons, Ltd., Dudley.—*Irons, Anchor:* Bullers, Ltd., Lipton.—*Jars, Stoneware:* J. Bourne & Son, Ltd., Denby.—*Labels:* British Metal (Kingston), Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—*Material, Reinforcing:* Richard Hill & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—*Motor Generator Sets:* Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—*Mouthpieces:* India Rubber Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.—*Paper, Condenser:* Britains, Ltd., Leek, Staffs.—*Pipe, W.I.:* Russell Bros. (Millwall), Ltd., Walsall; Talbot Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Walsall.—*Plugs, Cable Distribution:* Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—*Plugs, Switchboard:* E. Turner, Wycombe.—*Receivers, Bell:* Radio, Phonopore and Electricals, Ltd., Southall.—*Rope, Hemp:* Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow.—*Stamps, Metal:* G. de Lacy & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Stamps, Metal, Repair of:* Chas. Wright, Ltd., Edgware.—*Stayblocks:* Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., Newport.—*Thread:* W. Barbour & Sons, Ltd., Lisburn, Ireland.—*Wire, Bronze:* T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescot; Richard Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Beswick; Shropshire Iron Company, Hadley; F. Smith & Co., Incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Manchester.—*Wire, Copper:* T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor; British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescot; Elliotts Metal Company, Ltd., Selly Oak; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; Richard Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Beswick; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley; F. Smith & Co., Incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Manchester; John Wilkes, Sons and Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham; Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., Manchester; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton.—*Wire, Flameproof:* Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby.—*Conveyance of Mails:* Mr. H. H. Withers, Haverhill, Suffolk.—*Building Alterations:* Dalton-in-Furness P.O.: Henry Britton, Warwick Street, Barrow-in-Furness.—*Battery Renewals:* City (London) Telephone Exchange: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—*Cable, Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing:* Paisley-Beith-Dalry Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E. Holmfirth; Cardiff; Merphilly: Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—*Conduits, Laying:* Walton-on-Naze (Essex): H. Collingridge, Romford, Essex. Ninfeld (Sussex); Sevenoaks & Snodland (Kent); Ridge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham, New-

port-Risca: G. F. Leadbeter, Newport, Mon. Stroud Green (N.): O. C. Summers, London, N. Port of London Authority; Camden Square (N.): W. Muirhead, Macdonald, Wilson & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. West Bromwich, Oldbury and Smethwick; West Bridgford (Nottingham); Willesden (Church Road): Whitaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Longton (Staffs): E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Knockholt (Kent), Groombridge (Sussex) and Pound Hill: J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Paignton; Paignton-Brixham: W. Dobson, Edinburgh. Brixton-Holborn Junction: H. Farrow, London, N.W. Washington (Co. Durham); Manchester-Sheffield, Section I; Section II; Section III; Ashbourne (Derbyshire): W. Turner (Ardwick), Ltd., Manchester. Newport-Caerleon; Flax Bourton (Somerset); J. Joiner & Sons, Ltd., Newnham, Glos. Northampton-Rugby, Section I; Section II; Section III: W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Grappenhall, Warrington. Ingatstone and Hatfield Peverel (Essex): F. R. Hipperson, London, E.C. Birkenhead-Hoylake-Neston and Heswall-Gayton-Barnston; Manchester-Sheffield (Section IV.): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Merthyr: H. Smith, Newport, Mon. Ringwood (Hants); Melksham (Wilts); Stephen Ambrose, Ltd., Bath. Inverness: Dobbie & Son, Leith.—*Electrical Installation:* Birmingham Head Post Office: W. T. Hellaby & Co., Birmingham.—*Loading Manholes:* London-Sevenoaks-Tunbridge Wells (Section II.): S. M. MacGuire & Co., London, S.W.—*Telephone Exchange Equipment:* James Keiller & Sons, Ltd. (Dundee); Ansell's Brewery (Aston, Birmingham); Spillers Milling and Associated Industries, Ltd.; F. J. Parsons, Ltd. (Hastings): The Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Openshaw (Manchester); The General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W., for Batteries; Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Machines. Holborn Tandem: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., London, S.W., for Batteries; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby, for Machines. London (Trunk); Manchester: The General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry.—*Telephonic Repeater Station—Power Plant:* Birmingham: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—*Wireless Station—Supply of Power Cables:* Rugby: The Leicestershire & Warwickshire Electric Power Co., London, E.C.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Contract for the Insertion of Advertisements in the Agriculture Market Reports: Walter Judd, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Calico:* Ashtun Bros. & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—*Carbonic Paper:* Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey.—*Cloth, Tracing:* Cousins & Co., Manchester; B. J. Hall & Co., Ltd., Cheadle.—*Cord:* J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Birmingham; H. P. Cooper, Ltd., Burnley; J. Holmes & Son, East Ardsley.—*Copier, Composition:* Edwardson & Co., Enfield Highway.—*Envelopes:* Smith & Young, London, E.C.; Martin, Billing & Co., Birmingham; Millington & Sons, Ltd., London, N.; Chapman & Co. (Balham), Ltd., London, S.W.—*Files, Automatic Box:* A. E. Walker, Ltd., London, N.—*Ink, Duplicating:* Crusader Manufacturing Co., London, E.—*Paper of Various Descriptions:* Basted Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Sevenoaks; J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik; Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Caldercruix; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton, Bristol; Grosvenor, Chater & Co., Ltd., Holywell, Flint; S. Jones & Co., Ltd., Tillicoultry and London, S.E.; W. Joynson & Son, St. Mary Cray; C. Marsden & Sons, Ltd. (Receiver for), Tamworth; Olive & Partington, Ltd., Glossop; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; St. Neots Paper Mill Co., Ltd., St. Neots; Spicers, Ltd., London, S.E.; Wiggins, Teape, & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Aberdeen and Chorley; G. Wilmot, Ltd., Shoreham.—*Pencils:* F. Chambers & Co., Ltd., Stapleford.—*Pens:* British Pens, Ltd., Birmingham.—*Pins:* D. F. Taylor and Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—*Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:* Contract for Supplying Coloured Pictorial Postcards: W. F. Sedgwick, Ltd., London, E.C.—*Northern Ireland—Group 13 (1924):* Miscellaneous Bookwork, No. 1: R. H. Ritchie, Enniskillen.—*Northern Ireland—Group 14 (1924):* Miscellaneous Bookwork No. 2: The Northern Whig Ltd., Belfast.—*England—Northern Area (1924):* Letterpress Book Binding: John Heywood, Ltd., Manchester. 345,000 Files 133G—Inland Revenue; 265,000 Files 133H—Inland Revenue; McNaughton & Sinclair, Glasgow. 375,000 Files 133G—Inland Revenue; 1,100,000 Files 133H—Inland Revenue; J. Heywood, Ltd., Manchester. 1,022,000 Files 133H—Inland Revenue; Burrup, Mathieson & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. 170,000 Files 133—Inland Revenue: Blackfriars Press, Ltd., Leicester. Bdg. 75,000 Small Arms Training, Vol. I: G. & J. Kiteat, Ltd., London, E.C. 5,000,000 Form M.O.D., No. 3/D: C. Nicholls & Co., Ltd., Manchester. 100,000 Form U.I.92: R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Manchester. 30,000 Books C. No. 233: Dawson & Thompson, Manchester. 4,500 Books P.1037; 250,000 Blotters—National Savings Committee: H.M. Stationery Office Press, Harrow. 5,000 Books D.491: Willmott & Sons, London, E.C. 1,910,000 N.H.I. Cards—Class A; 1,475,000 N.H.I. Cards—Class E: Mackie & Co., Ltd., Warrington. 2,400,000 N.H.I. Cards—Class A; 840,000 N.H.I. Cards—Class E: Marsden & Co., Manchester. 202,000 File Covers, P.F. Series, Ministry of Pensions: J. F. Warren, London, N. 2,500 Books P.1054: John Corah & Son, Loughborough. 6,000 Books, D.193; 30,000 Pads S.1320C, Admiralty: McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton. 3,500 Ring Binders: A. E. Walker, Ltd., London, N. 1,000 Books, D.190: Swiss & Co., Devonport. 20,000 Books, S.325/A, Admiralty: Metcalfe & Cooper, Ltd., London, E.C. Bdg. 25,000 Small Arms Training, Vol. I; Bdg. 2,429 Telephone Directories, Vol. 5, August, 1924: J. Adams, London, E.C. 10,000 Portfolios; 3,000 Official Receivers Files and Millboards; 100,000

Signal Pads, Admiralty; 1,000 Books D.4; 10,000 Naval Savings Bank Pass Books; 5,000 Books S.353E; 28,000 Books Motor Licences; 1,000 Books S.250a; 15,000 Books D.17a: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Silk Sheets:** Zygad Manufacturing Co., London, E.C.—**Stencil Paper:** Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey.—**Tape:** J. Taverner & Sons, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; Bale Hall Mill Co., Tamworth.—**Wrappers, Newspaper and Book Post—Contract for Supply of:** John Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Hemel Hempstead.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works, etc.: Blackburn Post Office Extension—Painter: John Leaver & Son, Blackburn. Plasterer: W. H. Ainsworth, Blackburn. Plumber: W. H. Law & Sons, Blackburn. Slater: George Dewhurst & Sons, Blackburn. Steelwork: Foster Bros., Blackburn. Blaydon-on-Tyne Post Office—Alterations: A. Anderson, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Bridgeton, Glasgow, Employment Exchange—Painter: T. Hastie, Glasgow. Plumber: Hugh Twaddle & Son, Glasgow. Catterick Repeater Station—Erection of Steelwork—A. Lynn, Glasgow. Darwen Post Office—Erection: Robert Shorrocks & Son, Ltd., Darwen. Hoylake Post Office—Plumber: Higginbotham & Sons, Bradford. London, Wood Street Site—Pile Driving: John Gill Contractors, Ltd., London, S.W. London, The Mall—Re-laying Roadway: The Improved Wood Pavement Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Mossley Hill Hospital, Liverpool—Adaptation, etc.: J. W. Jones & Sons, Ltd., Liverpool. National Physical Laboratory—Steelwork: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Newcastle (Staffs) Telephone Exchange—Asphalte: The Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W. Steelwork: Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Portpatrick Wireless Station—Alterations, etc.: John Taylor, Clydebank. Redditch Post Office—Alterations, etc.: Harry H. Crump, Birmingham. Royal College of Art—Roofing Works: E. D. Winn & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Rugby Wireless Station—Glazing, Painting and Plumbing: Higginbotham & Sons, Bradford. Sheffield, Beauchief, Telephone Exchange—Erection: W. & A. Forsdike, Ltd., Sheffield. Shoreditch—Erection of Flats: Chessums, Ltd., London, N. Stanley Housing Site—Roads, etc.: D. & J. Crombie & Co., Sunderland. Threadneedle Street Post Office—Fittings, etc.: The Educational Supply Association, Ltd., London, W.C.; John Greenwood, Ltd., London, E.C. Marble Work: Anselm Odling & Sons, Ltd., London, N. Western Telephone Exchange—Steelwork: Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Painting, etc.:** Charles Bell (Manchester), Ltd., Manchester; Campbell, Smith & Co., Ltd., London, W.; Dilliway & Co., London, W.; Waring & Gillow, Ltd., London, W.; E. D. Winn & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engineering Services:** Duke of York's School, Dover—Fuel Economiser: E. Green & Son, Ltd., Wakefield. Edinburgh Inland Revenue Office—Heating Apparatus: Hugh Twaddle & Son, Glasgow. Houses of Parliament—Vacuum Cleaning Plant, etc.: The British Vacuum Cleaning & Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W. National Physical Laboratory—Rotary Converter, etc.: Mather & Platt, Ltd., London, S.W. Public Record Office—Vacuum Cleaning Plant: The Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Royal College of Art—Electric Lighting: T. Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Science Museum—Heating Services, etc.: Jas. Combé & Son, Ltd., London, S.W. War Office, etc.—Heating Apparatus: William Freer, London, W.C. Whitehall Public Offices—Heating Apparatus: The Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Windsor Castle—Electric Lighting: T. Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Furniture, etc.:** The Barnstaple Cabinet Co., Barnstaple; Wm. Bartlett & Son, Ltd., High Wycombe; The Bath Cabinet Makers' Co., Ltd., Bath. D. Burkle & Son, Ltd., London, N.W. Gimson & Slater, Nottingham; J. L. Green & Vardy, Ltd., London, N.; H. Herrmann, Ltd., London, E.; W. Keen, High Wycombe; W. & T. Lock, Bath; Longstaff & Pitcher, Ltd., London, N.W.; The North of England School Furnishing Co., Ltd., Darlington; Matthew Pollock, Ltd., Beith; John Taylor & Son (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh; R. Tyzack, Ltd., High Wycombe; Wake & Dean, Ltd., Yatton; A. Younger, London, E.C.—**Miscellaneous:** Carpet: Carpet Trades, Ltd., Kidderminster; The Wilton Royal Carpet Factory Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Coal Cartage: Tozer & Sons, London, N.W.; Phillips, Mills & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Lorry Hire: T. W. Davies & Son, London, S.W. Pyjamas, etc.: G. & A. Miller, London, S.E.; Samuel Moses & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; I. Eker, London, E. Upholstery: Maple & Co., Ltd., London, W.; White, Allom & Co., London, W. Sanitary Fittings: Dent & Hellyer, Ltd., London, W.C.

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