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**EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES,
AND PRICES IN MAY.**

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during May, though still bad generally, was slightly better than in April. In the tinplate, cotton, jute, hosiery and wool textile industries, and in the clothing trades, the improvement previously reported was maintained, and there was also a slight improvement in the building and pottery trades. There was a decline, however, in employment at coal mines; and certain trades, notably iron and steel manufacture, and some other sections of the metal industries, were adversely affected by the continuance of the engineering dispute.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns were received was 16·4 at the end of May, as compared with 17·0 at the end of April. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act was 13·5 at 22nd May, as compared with 14·4 at 24th April. The percentages for males and females at 22nd May were 15·9 and 7·3 respectively, compared with 16·8 and 8·6 at the end of April. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 22nd May was approximately 1,566,000, of whom 1,264,000 were men and 218,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 24th April the number on the live register was 1,699,000, of whom 1,346,000 were men and 259,000 were women. A small part of this decrease is due to the temporary exhaustion of insurance benefit.

In addition to those unemployed, 84,000 males and 50,000 females were registered on 22nd May as working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 24th April the corresponding figures were 114,000 males and 75,000 females.

The number of vacancies notified by employers to Exchanges and unfilled at 22nd May was 18,000, of which 4,400 were for men and 11,600 for women, compared with 18,400 at 24th April.

WAGES.

The fall in rates of wages continued during May. The changes reported as having taken effect in that month in those industries and services for which statistics are compiled by the Department resulted in a total reduction of over £390,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 2,200,000 workpeople. The increases reported amounted to less than £4,000 in the wages of about 175,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were coal miners in many districts, shipyard workers, seamen, boot and shoe operatives, brickmakers, gasworkers, and tramway men. In the case of coal miners there were reductions varying from 1½ to 7½ per cent. on current rates in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire, the Radstock and Bristol districts and Scotland. In Northumberland and Durham, on the other hand, there were small increases. Shipyard workers resumed work early in May, after a stoppage of nearly six weeks, at rates of wages 10s. 6d. per week lower than those prevailing before the dispute, and later in the month sus-

tained a further reduction of 3s. per week. Seamen's wages were reduced by 10s. per month. Boot and shoe operatives sustained decreases of 4s. and 2s. per week in the case of adult male and female timeworkers respectively, and 2½ per cent. in the case of pieceworkers. The wages of men in the brick industry were reduced by 4s. per week. In the gas industry there was a reduction of ½d. per hour or 4d. per shift, and in the tramway services a reduction of 2s. per week.

Since the beginning of 1922 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £2,300,000 in the weekly rates of wages of nearly 7,000,000 workpeople, and a net increase of a little over £3,000 in the wages of nearly 18,000 workpeople.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in May was 38. In addition, 55 disputes, which began before May, were still in progress at the beginning of the month. In the engineering industry the lock-out of members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, which began on 13th March, was extended, on 3rd May, to members of other Trade Unions, and continued throughout the month. The dispute in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries, which had been in progress since the end of March, was settled early in May, except in London and on the Mersey.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in May (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 370,000, as compared with 270,000 in the previous month and 1,170,000 in May, 1921. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during May was about 7,200,000 working days, as compared with 5,800,000 days in April, 1922, and over 23,500,000 days in May, 1921. The exceptional magnitude of the figures for May, 1921, is due to the general stoppage of work in the coal mining industry at that date.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 1st June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was about 80 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st May was 81 per cent. and that for 1st June, 1921, was 119 per cent. The highest point reached by the figure was 176 per cent. above the pre-war level, in November, 1920. Apart from a slight interruption in the summer of 1921, there has been a continuous decline since that date, and the figure now recorded is lower than that for any date since October, 1917.

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 those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

THE ENGINEERING TRADE DISPUTE.

THE Report of the Court of Inquiry into the Engineering Trade Dispute having been issued on the 10th May*, negotiations between the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations and all the Trade Unions concerned were resumed on the 16th May. On the following day the employers put forward new proposals which, with one important variation, were in sympathy with the suggestions made in the Report of the Court of Inquiry. The Court of Inquiry had recommended that the Unions should be consulted *beforehand* when any workshop change was in contemplation; the employers' new proposal was for prior consultation only where a contemplated change would result in a general displacement of one class of workpeople in an establishment by another. In the case of any contemplated change of this nature, the employers now proposed that "the Management shall, unless the circumstances arising are beyond their control, give . . . not less than ten days' intimation of their intention, and afford an opportunity for discussion . . . with a deputation of the workpeople concerned and/or their representatives in the shop. Should a discussion not be desired, the instructions of the Management shall be observed; . . . should a discussion take place and no settlement be arrived at, the Management shall give a decision upon which work shall proceed pending the recognised procedure being carried through. The decision shall not be prejudicial to either party in any subsequent discussion which may take place." The employers further promised consideration to the case of workpeople of any class displaced by reason of any act of the Management, with a view, if practicable, of affording them in the establishment work suitable to their qualifications; and agreed that, where a change is made by the Management involving questions of money payment, and the claim of the workpeople is subsequently established under the recognised procedure, the decision may be made retrospective. The proposals in regard to overtime were in the same terms as Section 2 of the Memorandum of the 17th and 18th November, 1921.†

These proposals were not accepted by the Executive of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who held that they contained the same principles as the Memorandum of the 17th and 18th November, 1921, which had been rejected by a ballot vote; and this decision was supported by a conference of the District Organisers of the Union, held on the 19th May. On the other hand, the Negotiating Committee of the other Unions involved came to a provisional agreement with the employers on the 20th May, on the basis of the employers' proposals; and the Executive Councils of the Unions, at a Conference held on the 23rd May, decided to submit the provisional agreement to a ballot vote.

On the 24th May a further meeting took place between the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Employers' Federations, when counter-proposals were put forward by the Unions but rejected by the employers. In consequence of this breakdown in the resumed negotiations a national conference of delegates of the Amalgamated Engineering Union was held on the 2nd June at York, when it was decided, by 204 votes to 47, to submit the new proposals of the employers to a ballot vote, to be taken on the 8th and 9th June. The ballot papers contained no recommendation for or against acceptance; but Mr. Brownlie, President of the Union, addressed a letter to the members strongly advising them to vote in favour of acceptance. He pointed out that the decisions reached at the Conference were "tantamount to a recommendation by the National Conference that members should accept the proposals"; and drew attention to the important concession now embodied in the employers' proposals, under which ten days' notice and an opportunity for discussion must be given by the Management when a workshop change is contemplated which will result in one class of workpeople being replaced by another in the establishment.

Meanwhile, the result of the ballot of the other Unions was announced on the 2nd June, as follows:—

For acceptance	99,313
Against	46,881

Majority for acceptance 52,432

On the same day representatives of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, the National Federation of General Workers and the Amalgamated Operative Spindle and Flyermakers' Trade and Friendly Society signed the agreement with the Employers' Federations. Two Unions, however (the Boilermakers' Society and the National Union of Foundry Workers), had decided not to be bound by the pooled vote of all the Unions; and as their own members had shown a majority, in each case, against acceptance, they were not parties to the settlement. Work was, as far as possible, resumed on the 6th June by members of those Unions which had accepted the settlement.

The result of the ballot of the Amalgamated Engineering Union was declared on the 13th June, as follows:—

For acceptance	75,478
Against	39,423

Majority for acceptance 36,055

A second ballot which had been taken by the National Union of Foundry Workers was, on the same day, stated to have shown a majority for acceptance, though the actual figures were not

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1922, page 200.
† See LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1922, page 106.

announced. Arrangements were accordingly made with the Employers' Federations for the immediate resumption of work by members of both these Unions. The only Union, therefore, that has not accepted the settlement is the Boilermakers' Society.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

DURING the four weeks from the 1st to the 28th May fourteen meetings of Joint Industrial Councils were reported to the Department. A number of meetings of District and Provincial Councils and Sub-Committees have also been held.

WAGES.

Reductions in wages have been agreed by the Northern District Council for the *Wool (and Allied) Textile* Industry. The difference between the two sides of the *Admiralty* Joint Council on the subject of women's wages was settled by an award of the Industrial Court, to which the question had been referred.* The *Tinplate* Joint Industrial Council has agreed to the continuance of the special bonus to mitigate the hardships of low wages under the strict interpretation of the sliding scale agreement. Having adopted a regrouping of processes deemed to be women's work, the Joint Industrial Council for the *Lock, Latch and Key* Industry has agreed to an immediate reduction of wages and to future adjustment by a "cost of living" sliding scale for the processes under the new grouping. The Home Counties District Council of the *Water-works* Joint Industrial Council has deferred until June the reconsideration of the sliding scale agreement of 26th September, 1921, and has rescinded the provision made in the agreement for its reconsideration when the "cost of living" index figure fell to 100 per cent. above pre-war level. The bonus scheme of the Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Council for *Local Authorities Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers)* has been modified. The *Glove Manufacturing* Joint Industrial Council has agreed to extend the current wages agreement until the 30th September, on the understanding that anomalies in piece prices will be discussed locally and that a special meeting of the Council to deal with the whole wages question will be called before the end of July.

Wages questions were also discussed by the *Lead* Joint Industrial Council and by the District Council for No. 5 (West Midland) Area of the *Electricity Supply* Joint Industrial Council.

ORGANISATION.

The National Federation of Building Trades Employers had tendered notice of withdrawal from the *Building* Industrial Council, to take effect on the 30th June. At the meeting of the Council on the 18th May one of the employers moved that the Council should be held in a state of suspense for one year, and that the Administrative Committee should be kept in existence to be called together if occasion required; further, that a conference between the Administrative Committee of the Industrial Council and the Administrative Committee of the Employers' Federation be sought, with a view to seeing if it were not possible for the Federation again to take its place as a constituent part of the Council. This motion was eventually withdrawn in view of lack of support. Another meeting of the Council will be held, at which the remaining representatives on the Council will have to decide on the future of the depleted body. Meanwhile, the Administrative Committee has been instructed to take steps to enable the work of the Education Committee and of the Safety and Welfare Committee to be continued, it being agreed that the work of these Committees has been of considerable value.

OTHER TOPICS.

In connection with Safety and Welfare, the *Quarrying* Joint Industrial Council has submitted a revised draft of Special Rules for Quarries to the Mines Department of the Board of Trade, and it has also taken steps to collect data on the matter of Silicosis. The latter subject, in relation to stone masons, has also been considered by the *Building* Council's Safety and Welfare Committee, who have recommended that the Home Office be asked to consider a scheme of compensation for those stone masons who are exposed to silica dust, under the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act, 1918. The *Painters' and Decorators' Joint Council* (a sub-Council of the *Building* Council) has agreed upon various suggested amendments to the draft regulations prepared by the Home Office relating to the use of white lead.

The question of the statutory enforcement of agreements made by joint bodies is under consideration by the Association of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees, which has appointed a Special Committee to deal with this matter. The *Pottery* Joint Industrial Council has devoted attention to recent activities in this direction. The *Electrical Cable Making* Joint Industrial Council has agreed to take steps to secure an amendment to the Fair Wages Resolution, embodying the principle that rates of wages and hours of labour agreed to by Joint Councils should be recognised as "fair."

Foreign competition has been closely watched by the *Gas Mantle* Joint Industrial Council, who give their support to the application, which has been made to the Board of Trade by the Incandescent Mantle Manufacturers' Association, for protection under Part II. of the Safeguarding of Industries Act.

* For a Summary of the Award see page 278.

EXPENDITURE ON RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE THE ARMISTICE.

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on the 19th May, the Minister of Labour gave the following figures relating to expenditure on the relief of unemployment since the Armistice:—

I.—UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF WORK.

As many of the schemes to which the Government has contributed are in progress, there is no complete central record of actual expenditure up to date. The figures below are, therefore, given in terms of grants indicated by the Government, together with corresponding sums which the local authorities were required to raise.

(a) Ministry of Transport—Arterial and other road work.

Grants indicated	£6,200,000
Contribution by local authorities	£6,200,000

£12,400,000

(b) Unemployment Grants Committee.

(i) Grants on basis of 60 per cent. of wages bill.

Grants allocated (deducting schemes which will not rank for grant)	£2,630,000
Balance of cost to be paid by local authorities	£6,353,000

£8,983,000

(ii) Loans Scheme.—In addition, capital expenditure to the amount of £17,238,000 has been approved for contribution towards the loan charges under the Loans Scheme.

(c) Agricultural Schemes:

(i) Ministry of Agriculture—Land Drainage Schemes.

Maximum commitments to date	£388,000
Note.—Of this sum £113,000 is recoverable from Drainage Boards and landowners.	

(ii) Ministry of Agriculture—Water Supply Schemes:

Grants promised	£9,600
The total cost of these schemes is estimated at £28,200, of which £18,600 is borne by landowners.	

(iii) Scottish Board of Agriculture—Land Drainage Schemes.

Grants sanctioned	£21,000
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Note.—This figure is approximately one-half of the total cost of the schemes.

(d) Forestry Commission:

Estimated cost of approved unemployment schemes additional to normal estimates	£206,000
Estimated expenditure to be incurred by landowners and local authorities on certain of these schemes	£141,000

£347,000

(e) Office of Works:

(i) Emergency schemes (winter, 1920-21)

of decorating and repair work in Government Departments	£77,000
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(ii) Relief work—Royal Parks (winter, 1921-22)

	£50,000
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£127,000

(f) Local Authorities:

In addition to relief measures outlined above to which the Government have been contributing, local authorities throughout the country have instituted a substantial amount of relief work without Government assistance. Figures as to expenditure incurred in this way are not available, but returns received from local authorities show that throughout the last 18 months they have been employing between 8,000 and 10,000 men in this way. The present number reported to be so employed exceeds 10,000.

II.—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, ETC.

(a) Out-of-work Donation:

(i) Ex-service men and women	£40,000,000
(ii) Civilians	£22,000,000

(b) Unemployment Benefit (including dependants' grants)

	£82,000,000
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£144,000,000

III.—OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.

(a) Resettlement Training

	£26,692,000
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(b) Civil Liabilities Grants

	£3,450,000
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(c) Overseas Settlement

	£1,850,000
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Note.—In addition, £375,000 was set aside from the National Relief Fund for this purpose.

IV.—OTHER MEASURES.

In addition to the foregoing schemes the Government have instituted the following measures, namely:—

- (1) *Trade Facilities Scheme.*
Maximum sum the Treasury may guarantee for capital works . . . £25,000,000
Guarantee given or sanctioned to date £16,752,000
- (2) *Export Credit Scheme.*
Total sum which may be sanctioned £26,000,000
Advances, guarantees and credits sanctioned £12,250,000
- (3) *Acceleration of Government Contracts.*
Sum set aside by Government in autumn, 1921, for contract acceleration £563,000
- (4) *Land Settlement for ex-service men.*
Expenditure by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries £1,523,860
- (5) *Loans under the Land Facilities Act, 1919, made by the Public Works Loan Commissioners to County Councils for capital expenditure on small holdings for ex-service men* £12,269,000

The Minister also stated that the present average weekly rate of expenditure on unemployment benefit is approximately £1,100,000, and the corresponding figure for outdoor relief of the unemployed is £247,000.

PRIVATE BILLS AFFECTING LABOUR.

THE following is an account of certain Bills dealing with labour questions which have been introduced in the House of Commons during the current Session of Parliament, otherwise than by the Government.

Prevention of Unemployment Bill.—This Bill represents the official policy of the Labour Party for dealing with the question of unemployment. Part I. of the Bill proposes to transfer to the Minister of Labour (1) all the powers and duties of the Ministry of Health, Local Authorities, etc., "related to or connected with the prevention of destitution among, or the relief of, the able-bodied poor, including workmen in distress from unemployment and vagrancy"; (2) such of the powers and duties of the Board of Trade and of the Home Office relating to the regulation of the hours and conditions of labour as may be prescribed by Order in Council, and the powers and duties of these Departments relating to the collection and preparation of industrial statistics; and (3) powers and duties with regard to emigration and immigration. In addition it is proposed to entrust the Minister of Labour with other powers and duties designed to regularise the national aggregate demand for labour.

The Minister would further have power to make the use of the Employment Exchanges by employers compulsory in the case of any employment declared by him, after public inquiry, to be "casual labour of an undesirable character," defined as any trade or occupation, the method of employment in which is such as to give rise to widespread under-employment; and it would be the duty of the Minister to establish and maintain institutions, such as receiving houses for temporary accommodation, and day and residential colonies, admission to or attendance at such institutions to be voluntary.

Part II. of the Bill would make each Borough, Urban District or County Council the "Local Employment Authority" for its district, one or more Employment Committees being established by each Council. When any unemployed person has applied to an Employment Exchange, and no work has been found for him and he has not been admitted to an institution, it would be the duty of the Council, through its Employment Committee, either (a) to provide him with suitable employment, or (b) to ensure that he and those legally dependent upon him are provided with such maintenance as the medical officer of health may certify to be necessary to maintain them in a state of physical efficiency. The Council would not, however, have to provide employment or to secure the provision of maintenance for persons who (a) have refused employment under conditions not lower than those commonly obtaining in the area; or (b) have refused reasonable employment on work provided under the Bill; or (c) have refused, without reasonable cause, maintenance under training (in an institution). The expenses incurred under the Bill by any Council in excess of a penny rate would be recoverable from the Treasury.

The motion for the Second Reading of the Bill was defeated in the House of Commons on the 12th May by 172 votes to 82. The Minister of Labour, in opposing the Bill, suggested that relief work only touches the fringe of the problem. £40,000,000 had been provided by the municipalities and by the State for relief work, which had employed on an average 100,000 men; but, however much relief work might be undertaken under the Bill, there would still be well over 1,000,000 people unemployed. To open State factories to employ them on production work, he said, could only be done at an enormous cost, which would have to be met by borrowing, thereby raising the cost of living, widening the gap between the real and the nominal value of wages, and displacing those already employed in making similar goods. The only way to find work for the unemployed was to get the wheels of trade going round again.

The *Industries Unemployment Insurance Bill*, introduced on the 1st March by Colonel J. Ward at the instance of the General Federation of Trade Unions, aims at creating specific unemploy-

ment insurance schemes for each of a large number of scheduled industries, to be prepared and administered by boards jointly representative of, and selected by, employers' and workmen's associations in the industry concerned. It provides that the contributions to every scheme must take the form of a percentage on wages, the employer paying the contribution and being entitled to recover one-fifth of it by deductions from wages or otherwise. The State contribution to each scheme would be one-fifth of the amount paid out in benefit under the scheme in each year. The benefits that each scheme would have to provide would be not less than 20s. a week, payable for not less than 16 weeks in a year. A central contingencies fund is provided for, to be formed by payments from those schemes, formed under the Bill, which show an excess of income over expenditure; and grants would be payable from this fund to those schemes which show an excess of expenditure over income, due to causes which could not with due care have been provided against.

Mr. Clynes, speaking for the Labour Party, was opposed to the principle of the Bill on the grounds that insurance should be a pooling of risks, and that the more favoured occupations should not be free from their share of the general liability.

The *Trade Union Act (1913) Amendment Bill*, introduced by Colonel Meysey-Thomson, was read a second time on the 19th May. The object of the Bill is to amend those provisions of the Trade Union Act, 1913, which relate to the use of Trade Union funds for certain political purposes. The main provisions of the Bill would require (a) that the application of Trade Union funds for these purposes should be approved by a 20 per cent. majority in a ballot at which at least 50 per cent. of the members entitled to vote have voted; and (b) that members willing to submit to a levy for political objects should give notice of their willingness in writing, such notice to be renewable every year. This would reverse the provision of the existing Act, under which members unwilling to submit to a political levy must give written notice.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 30th May, 1922, the number of men in training was 21,479, and the number awaiting training 26,043. Since 1st August, 1919, 55,257 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to 31st May, 1922, 44,670 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,812 employers, as compared with 44,651 apprentices with 17,805 employers on 26th April, 1922.

The apprentices rejected up to 31st May, 1922, numbered 2,169, compared with 2,166 on 26th April, 1922. Of those accepted 39,077 terminated training and 5,593 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on 26th April, 1922, were 38,266 and 6,385 respectively.

The number of men who have received Institutional Training has been increased during the five weeks from 2,147 to 2,172.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

Up to and including the 31st May, 1922, 30,341 employers had enrolled under the National Scheme for the Employment of Disabled Ex-Service Men, and their names had been added to the King's National Roll. The undertakings given by these employers cover 359,786 disabled ex-Service men.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

The following have been nominated members of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Government Training of Disabled ex-Service Men, appointed in accordance with the resolution of the House of Commons reported in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* for May (page 202):—Captain Bowyer, Sir Thomas Bramson, Major Cohen, Mr. Colin Cooze, Major-General Sir John Davidson, Lieut.-Commander Dean, Major John Edwards, Major Entwistle, Dr. Farquharson, Captain Gee, Colonel Henderson, Mr. Lawson, Colonel Watts-Morgan, Colonel Raw and Mr. Frederick Roberts.

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

The fifty-fourth annual Congress of delegates from Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom was held at Brighton on the 5th, 6th and 7th June, 1922, and was attended by about 1,400 delegates, representing 476 societies. There were also representatives from various outside bodies in the United Kingdom and from co-operative organisations in Belgium, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Russia and Sweden. The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a Federation of about 1,300 societies, with an aggregate membership of over 4,500,000.

The Congress President was Miss Margaret Llewellyn Davies, this being the first occasion on which a woman president had been elected.

Educational matters received a fair share of discussion. On the report of the College Committee a controversy took place as to whether the proposed college should be controlled entirely by the co-operative movement or worked in conjunction with Ruskin College and Labour Colleges. The official view that the college should be under co-operative control was accepted, and

the report adopted. Resolutions were adopted urging the Board of Education to publish full information regarding developments in public education at home and abroad, protesting against the reduction of national expenditure on education, and demanding that effect be given to the Education Act of 1918.

International affairs were discussed on the report of the International Co-operative Alliance. A proposal to appoint a Committee to survey the work of the Alliance during the years 1914-1921 was rejected.

Considerable discussion took place on the question of a daily newspaper. A resolution was proposed by the Co-operative Party in favour of the Co-operative Movement approaching the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party to consider the establishment of a joint organ. This was defeated by an amendment confining the proposals to the Co-operative Movement.

The next Congress is to be held in Edinburgh in Whit week, 1923.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR WOMEN.

The National Conference of Labour Women, organised by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, was held this year at Leamington on the 9th and 10th May. Miss Margaret Bondfield presided at the conference, which was attended by 338 delegates, representing chiefly the women's sections of local Labour Parties, and also Labour Parties, Trade Unions and other organisations.

The chief discussion centred round the interim report on Motherhood and Endowment, which had been prepared, at the request of last year's Women's Conference, by a special committee of the Joint Research Department of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party. The Report suggested means of endowment in services or in kind (e.g., by provision of meals, clothing and boots for all children attending school), and in money, "as a practical programme which a Labour Government should endeavour to carry out as quickly as possible." After considerable discussion an amendment to the Report was moved accepting endowment in kind as an emergency policy only, and calling on the Labour Party to aim at securing to mothers of dependent children the direct control of a money income proportionate to their family obligations. The amendment was, however, lost, and the Report was adopted by 241 to 20 votes.

Other resolutions called on the Government to ratify the "Maternity" and "Hours" Conventions adopted by the Washington International Labour Conference; to provide work or maintenance for the unemployed from the National Exchange; to maintain all the powers now possessed by Trade Boards; and to establish free education with adequate maintenance grants from 12 to 16 years of age. Resolutions were also passed dealing with the promotion of international co-operative trade through co-operative channels; disarmament and foreign policy; the amendment and extension of factory law; support of the Maintenance and Separation Bill now before Parliament; the right of free speech; unemployment; Poor Law relief; the maintenance of national health, housing and education services; the necessity for organisation of women in industry; higher education for working women; and housing conditions.

BELFAST RELIEF WORKS.

UNDER the London Agreement, dated March 30th, between the Imperial Government, the Government of Northern Ireland and the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland, a sum of £500,000 is being given by the Imperial Government for relief works in Belfast and neighbourhood. In addition, the Government of Northern Ireland has set aside a sum of £50,000 to be expended in the rest of Northern Ireland for a similar purpose. Relief works are being undertaken in Belfast by the different public bodies. A grant from the £500,000 is made to them in respect of wages, 50 per cent. of the wages being paid in the case of revenue-producing schemes and 60 per cent. in the case of non-revenue-producing schemes, the public authorities providing the rest of the wages and the whole of the materials. A similar arrangement is being made with the local authorities in Northern Ireland outside Belfast. In the case of Belfast one-third of the employees are to be Roman Catholics and two-thirds Protestants. A preference is being given in the case of Protestants to ex-Service men, and in the case of Roman Catholics to expelled workers. As regards the grant of £50,000 to be spent in Northern Ireland outside Belfast, a preference will be given to ex-Service men and expelled workers.

Various relief works have been started in Belfast, consisting of parks, cemeteries, flood prevention works, sewers, roads, etc. A housing scheme has also been sanctioned, and it is hoped that a circular road round Belfast will be built. Works of a somewhat similar nature will, it is hoped, be started at a very early date in those districts in Northern Ireland outside Belfast where unemployment is severe.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

AN interim report has just been issued by an Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister of Labour for Northern Ireland to consider the working of the Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance System. In addition to official evidence the Committee has received a considerable volume of evidence

from representative employers and trade union officials, and has reached the unanimous conclusion that Local Employment Committees, which hitherto have not been established anywhere in Ireland, should be immediately appointed.

The Committee recommends that they should be utilised to bring the local knowledge and experience of their members to bear upon the whole administration of the Exchanges. They should be invited to advise upon all questions affecting employment and unemployment in the Exchange areas, and they should be asked to consider and to make recommendations upon claims for "uncovenanted" unemployment benefit.

With regard to the latter point the Committee recommends a divergence from the practice in Great Britain. It is of opinion that too heavy a strain will be placed upon the committees if they are asked to consider all claims for uncovenanted benefit. The Committee accordingly advises that all straightforward cases of this nature should be dealt with by the Department, and that only those claims as to the admissibility of which there is a reasonable measure of doubt should be referred to the committees.

The report has been laid before the Parliament of Northern Ireland, and steps are now being taken to establish Local Employment Committees on the lines recommended in the report.

RAILWAY COMMISSION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

THE Minister of Labour for Northern Ireland has appointed the following to constitute a Commission of Enquiry into the Railways of Northern Ireland:—

Rt. Hon. Mr. Justice Brown (Chairman).

Alderman G. M. Donaldson.

Mr. H. L. Garrett.

Mr. W. Grant, M.P.

Mr. W. Jackson, J.P.

Alderman S. Kyle.

Major D. G. Shillington, M.P.

Major J. W. McConnell (Secretary).

The terms of reference are as follows:—

"To advise the Government of Northern Ireland as to what changes (if any) are desirable in the administration of the railway undertakings in Northern Ireland, and, in particular, to report on:—

(a) The financial position and earning powers of the several railway undertakings, including those in receipt of baronial guarantees.

(b) The best means of consolidating or otherwise working the different railways in the future, and of providing the rolling stock and other equipment used on railways.

(c) The remuneration and conditions of employment of the salaried and wages staff, and arrangements for the future settlement of questions relating to such matters.

(d) Any other matters affecting the working and administration of the railways upon which, in the opinion of the Commission, it is expedient to report in the interests of the proprietors of the railway companies, the employees and the public."

The Commission held its first meeting on 30th May.

CHILD LABOUR LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES.

ON 15th May the Federal "Child Labour Law" of 1919 was declared by the United States Supreme Court to be unconstitutional.

In 1916 an attempt was made by Congress to regulate child labour in virtue of its authority to control inter-State commerce. An Act was passed to exclude from inter-State commerce the products of plants in which child labour was employed. This was declared unconstitutional on 3rd June, 1918. An attempt was then made to effect the same end by using the power of Congress to impose taxation. The Revenue Act of 1919, which took effect in April of that year, levied a tax of 10 per cent. on the net earnings of plants (a) employing on any conditions children under 14 years of age, or (b) employing children between 14 and 16 for more than eight hours in any day or six days in any week or between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. The constitutionality of the Act was immediately impugned—like that of its predecessor—by a North Carolina district court; it has thus taken three years to secure a final ruling by the Supreme Court. In the meantime, it is claimed, the number of children employed has been reduced by 40 per cent. The provision is now declared void on the ground of its prohibitory and regulatory intention applied to a subject not entrusted to Congress, but left by the Constitution to the control of the States.

The direct course of seeking to amend the Constitution so as to permit the national Government to control, regulate or prohibit the employment of children under 18 years of age is now being followed, a joint resolution to that effect having been submitted by Senator Johnson of California and Representative Fitzgerald of Ohio. A campaign in support of the proposal was launched at a national conference at Chicago on 1st June. Proposals have also been made for the completion of a system of State legislation, and for Federal action in a positive (not prohibitory) form by the making of grants in aid to States in which children maintain a satisfactory standard of school attendance.

In the last six years child labour laws have been passed by several State legislatures. The number of States which allow children to work in factories at night has been reduced from 10 to 7; the number which allow children to work in factories for more than eight hours a day has fallen from 25 to 16; the number allowing children under 16 to work in mines and quarries has fallen from 27 to 6. The nullification of the Federal law will, however, make it legal for children of 14 to be employed for a 10-hour day and a 60-hour week in Rhode Island, Delaware and Georgia. The decision involves also the discontinuance of the Child Labour Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labour.

HOURS OF LABOUR OF FRENCH SEAMEN.*

JOINT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER REVISION OF EIGHT-HOUR DAY REGULATIONS

AN Order, dated 27th March, provides for the institution, at the Under Secretariat for the Mercantile Marine, of a joint committee to examine the question of amending the regulations issued on 24th February, 1920†, which provide for an eight-hour day in the Mercantile Marine Service.

The committee consists of six representatives of employers appointed by the Central Federation of French Shipowners, six representatives of seamen appointed by the seamen's federations concerned, and including one captain (foreign trade), one captain (coasting trade), one engineer officer in the mercantile marine, and three representatives of the crew (deck hands, firemen, etc., and other workers on board ship).

RELATION OF WAGES TO SELLING PRICES OF COAL IN BELGIUM.‡

THE following Table, showing the relation of wages to selling prices of coal in the various coal districts of Belgium in April, 1920, and January, 1922, is extracted from information furnished by the Belgian *Administration des Mines*:—

District.	April, 1920.		January, 1922.	
	Average selling price.	Amount spent in wages.	Average selling price.	Amount spent in wages.
	<i>Francs</i>	<i>Francs</i>	<i>Francs</i>	<i>Francs</i>
	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.
Mons basin	90.50	47.22	78.33	48.29
Centre	86.25	44.16	84.32	44.25
Charleroi	84.99	41.94	80.81	41.75
Namur	81.69	40.52	69.66	43.27
Liège	90.75	47.95	83.56	49.96
Hervé	85.22	36.25	84.57	43.58
Southern basin ..	86.50	44.37	82.95	45.27
Averages for all Districts.	86.56	43.20	82.03	45.19

From this Table it appears that, while the average selling price per ton of coal had decreased by 5.2 per cent., the average amount spent in wages per ton had increased by 4.6 per cent. At meetings held by the National Joint Committee for the Mining Industry in March and April, it was decided to reduce wages by 5 per cent. on 12th March and by a further 8 per cent. on 1st May.

GERMAN COST-OF-LIVING INDEX NUMBER: CHANGE IN METHOD OF COMPUTATION.

THE computation of an official cost-of-living index number for Germany as a whole was begun in the winter of 1919-20. Some modifications were introduced in January and July, 1921, but not of such extent as to invalidate comparison with earlier figures. In January of the current year further amendments were decided on at a conference of officers of the provincial and municipal statistical departments.

Hitherto all prices data used were based on returns relating to one particular day in the middle of the month. In future the price of each article will be the mean of the prices returned at two dates in the month.

The composition of the standard family food regimen has been modified so as to bring it into closer relation with the actual state of things. Thus the quantity of meat reckoned to be consumed has been doubled and that of fish about halved. It is held that this does not involve any appreciable change in the total number of units of nourishment in the regimen selected. Petroleum will no longer be considered as indispensable for the purpose of the computation, and will be dropped.

In the early days of the index number, when several foods were still rationed and the ration fell short of the quantity allowed for in the standard regimen, the cost was computed at the controlled price for the rationed portion and at the illicit dealer's prices for the quantity by which the ration fell short of the assumed requirement. This method is no longer necessary. For bread (which is still rationed) the open market prices only are now used to compute cost. Under "fats" olive oil or other edible oils are no longer included.

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 7th April, 1922.

† The substance of these regulations, issued in accordance with the law of 2nd August, 1919, was given in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* for April, 1920, page 174.

‡ Based on despatches from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Brussels for week ending 11th May, and on *Revue du Travail* for March and April, 1922.

As a consequence of the foregoing and certain other minor changes, the 1913-14 base has had to be re-calculated, and all former computations carefully revised. The number of towns on which the advance computation of the National Index (Eildienst) is based is now 71 instead of 47. An improved method of "weighting" according to population has also been introduced so as to give more weight to the smaller towns.

On the amended method of computation the cost of living index number for Germany in May was 3,462 (as against 100 in 1913-14). This is based on the cost of food, fuel and light, and rent required by a family of five persons. The index representing the expenditure on food alone was 4,680 (100 in 1913-14). The effect of the revision in method for each of the months March, April and May is shown below:—

	Index Numbers (1913-14 = 100).	
	Former Method.	New Method.
All Items (Food, Fuel and Lighting, Rent)—		
March	2,302	2,639
April	2,804	3,175
May	3,048	3,462
Food Alone—		
March	3,152	3,602
April	3,730	4,356
May	4,111	4,680

GERMAN POLICE AND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.*

In *Soziale Praxis*, No. 14, 1922, it is reported that the Prussian Minister of the Interior has issued an Order declaring that for public officials generally, and for police officers in particular, a right to strike cannot be admitted, and that even a declaration of neutrality or of sympathy on the part of an organisation of public officials constitutes a breach of official duty. The Minister requires that these principles shall be unequivocally affirmed in the bye-laws of all trade unions which include police officers among their members. It is further laid down that in times of political excitement trade unions must abstain from exercising any influence upon the activities of the police.

On the question of the right of the police officers to strike, the National Police Union has published the following declaration:— "The use of the strike weapon for the purpose of achieving trade union aims is rejected by the National Union as incompatible with the principles governing the rights of public officials. In all economic conflicts the police must observe the strictest neutrality. In this sense it is a matter of principle with the National Police Union to abstain from exercising any influence on the official activities of the police authorities and officers. These lines of action were recognised by the provincial branches, and were observed during the recent railway strike."

STRIKE IN THE SOUTH GERMAN METAL INDUSTRY.†

For several months the question of working hours (which in the German metal working industry are as a rule fixed at 46 per week in accordance with various collective agreements) has been occupying the attention of the South German metal trades. On the occasion of a claim for increased wages the employers demanded the recognition of the 48-hour week as a preliminary to negotiations. The Stuttgart Conciliation Committee on 24th February declared in favour of the 48-hour week, but the workers, by a large majority, refused to accept the award, and as a consequence partial strikes broke out in Württemberg and Bavaria. By the end of March over 50,000 workers were on strike in Württemberg.† On the failure of their efforts to secure a settlement, the Bavarian Federation of Employers in the metal industry declared a lock-out in Augsburg, Nuremberg, Fürth and Munich, which affected about 60,000 workers. Baden was also affected.

Negotiations initiated by the Ministry of Labour proved fruitless, and on 16th May the Employers' Association decided to extend the lock-out to the workers (about 30,000) in the Frankfurt and Darmstadt districts. About a week later the efforts of the Bavarian Government to reach a settlement were successful, and an agreement was concluded of which the terms included:—(1) The maintenance of the 46-hour week, on the condition that hours may be increased to 48 a week where the management consider it necessary and the works council gives its consent. (2) Large increases in wage rates; the basic rates to be from 19.80 to 21 marks an hour and the average earnings about 26 marks an hour. A similar agreement was afterwards adopted in Württemberg, Baden and Hesse. Work was resumed on 29th May.

OFFICIAL WAGES STATISTICS IN GERMANY.

The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* of 13th May reports that a Government Bill has been introduced into the Reichstag permitting the Government, with the assent of the Reichsrat, to order inquiries into wages, salaries and other conditions of

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1922, page 160.
† Based on despatches from His Majesty's Consul General at Munich dated from 24th March to 26th May, and on the *Reichsanzeiger* of various dates.
‡ According to the Belgian *Revue du Travail* for April the total number of workers affected by the strike was 350,000.

employment of manual and non-manual workers. A Wages Statistical Council is to be created, consisting of representatives of employers and workers, appointed by the Economic Council, which will conduct the inquiries. The expenses arising from the Federal States will be met by the Federal Government. Contravention of the Act will be punished by a fine not exceeding 100,000 marks.

The preamble of the Bill points out that wages statistics in conjunction with statistics of the cost of living are indispensable to a sound wages policy. As a commencement inquiries will be held monthly in industries where wage conditions are comparatively simple. At somewhat longer intervals inquiries will be held throughout Germany in about 15,000 typical industrial establishments.

WORKING OF THE AUSTRIAN TRADE BOARDS ACT.

The chief sections of the Austrian Act of 19th December, 1918, for the Regulation of Labour and Wages Conditions in Home Work* provide for the establishment, in every branch of trade in which goods are produced by means of home work, of a Central Committee to regulate working conditions and wages, with power to fix legal minimum wage rates for home workers and minimum piece prices for sub-contractors. Local committees may be established where necessary. The committees consist of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers appointed by the Secretary of State for Social Welfare, after consultation with the organisations concerned, and of experts appointed by the Minister for National Health. The supervision of the Act is in the hands of the Factory Inspectorate. Central Home Work Committees have been established in the Clothing, Underclothing, Boot and Shoemaking, Knitted Goods, Artificial Flower and Fancy Feather Trades.

According to the 1920 reports of the Factory Inspectors † owing to lack of staff the inspection of home workers could only be very inadequately carried out. Only 318 home workers were visited. The lists of home workers which must be supplied to the factory inspectors were very incomplete, as many of the home workers, who are very poorly organised, were ignorant of the existence of the Act. In most undertakings the lists of wage rates prescribed by the Act were not posted up.

The employment of home workers has to some extent been restricted by the operation of the Order prohibiting the discharge of factory operatives, the result of which has been that manufacture for stock which used to be given out to home workers is now done in the factory in the summer months. Many home workers have given up the work because they can earn more as charwomen, washerwomen or small shopkeepers, or because their husbands are earning higher wages. The number of women home workers has, however, been increased through recruitment from the middle classes, whom the rising cost of living has forced to earn money. It is very difficult for the factory inspectors to get into touch with this class of worker, who is inclined to remain as obscure as possible.

CHANGES OF WAGES IN DENMARK: FOURTH QUARTER OF 1921.

The issue for 3rd June, 1922, of the journal (*Statistiske Efterretninger*) of the Danish Statistical Department contains statistics of wages for the fourth quarter of 1921, compiled from returns furnished by the Danish Employers' Association. The data relate to a number of trades which it is stated are representative of manufactures and handicrafts in Denmark generally. The figures bring the information concerning the general movement of wages in the principal trades in that country down to the fourth quarter of 1921. (For information relating to the previous quarter, see p. 58 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1922.)

The number of workpeople covered by the latest returns is approximately 85,500, and the industries most strongly represented are metal and engineering (18,600), food preparation (12,200), building (9,600), pottery, glass and stone (7,500) and textile (5,300).

The general result of the computation shows that, if the country be taken as a whole, the average hourly earnings in the industries covered had fallen by 0.6 per cent. (viz., from 1.70 to 1.69 kroner) since the previous quarter, and that they were still 237 per cent. above the level of 1914. For skilled workmen the average hourly earnings remained the same as in the third quarter (viz., 2.05 kroner), while for unskilled workmen they rose from 1.68 kroner in the third quarter to 1.69 kroner in the quarter under review. The average hourly earnings of female workers during the same period fell from 1.06 to 1.04 kroner.

GENERAL LOCK-OUT DENMARK. (EXPLANATION.)

H.M. COMMERCIAL SECRETARY at Copenhagen is not responsible for the statements made in the second sentence of the article under this heading in the LABOUR GAZETTE for May (p. 205). These statements are not in accord with his impressions, nor are they borne out by the full history of the dispute since published in the Danish Foreign Office Journal. The Commercial Secretary's despatches were not the only source used in preparing the article. (See first footnote to the article in question.)

* i.e. "outwork" as regards the factory.
† *Soziale Praxis*, 3rd May, 1922.

RETAIL PRICES at 1st JUNE, 1922.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 80%
Food only 70%

FOOD.

DURING May there was a further slight fall in the general level of retail prices of the principal articles of food, the average advance above the level of July, 1914, in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary, being about 70 per cent. at 1st June, as compared with about 72 per cent. at 1st May.

During the month there was an average fall of about 3½d. per lb. in the prices paid for tea, consequent on the reduction in the tea duty, and there were also further slight reductions in the average prices of eggs, cheese, milk, butter and fish. On the other hand, potatoes, British meat and bacon were dearer than a month earlier. Imported meat, flour, bread, sugar and margarine showed, on the average, no appreciable change in price.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, on 1st May, 1922, and on 1st June, 1922:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated).			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st June, 1922, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st May, 1922.	1st June, 1922.	July, 1914.	1st May, 1922.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	0 9½	1 6½	1 6½	+ 0 9	+ 0 0½
Thin Flank	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 4½	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 3½	—
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 6½	0 6½	+ 0 1½	—
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 10	1 10½	+ 1 0½	+ 0 0½
Breast	0 6½	1 0½	1 1	+ 0 6½	+ 0 0½
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 9	1 9½	+ 0 10½	+ 0 0½
Flour .. per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 6	1 6	+ 0 7½	—
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 4½	—
Tea	1 5½	2 6½	2 3½	+ 0 8½	- 0 3½
Sugar (granulated)	0 2	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 3½	—
Milk per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	- 0 0½
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	1 10½	1 10	+ 0 7½	- 0 0½
Salt	1 2	1 9½	1 9	+ 0 7	- 0 0½
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)*	0 8½	1 1½	1 1	+ 0 4½	- 0 0½
Margarine	0 7½	0 7	0 7	- 0 0½	—
Eggs (fresh) .. each	0 1½	0 1½	0 1½	+ 0 0½	—
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 9½	0 10½	+ 0 5½	+ 0 1

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st June, 1922, in relation to the prices of July, 1914, and 1st May, 1922:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st June, 1922, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st May, 1922.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs	93	87	90	85
Thin Flank	69	73	71	70
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	51	44	47	47
Thin Flank	27	32	30	30
Mutton, British—				
Legs	124	114	119	114
Breast	103	93	98	96
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	85	76	80	79
Breast	25	31	28	29
Bacon (streaky)*	102	83	93	88
Fish	93	80	86	95
Flour	66	74	70	70
Bread	76	73	75	75
Tea	47	49	48	66
Sugar (granulated)	179	166	172	173
Milk	41	58	50	55
Butter—				
Fresh	50	54	52	57
Salt	50	50	50	52
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)*	46	51	48	58
Margarine	—	—	—	—
Eggs (fresh)	51	40	40	52
Potatoes	135	91	113	94
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	72	68	70	72

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

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, special enquiries have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, and from the results of these enquiries it is estimated that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st June, 1922, was about 54 per cent. Of the total increase nearly one-half is accounted for by increases in rates and water charges, and one-third is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Act falling within the remainder.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and 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 June the level of retail prices of clothing, quality for quality, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes, averaged about the same as a month earlier, and about 140 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the prices of coal in many districts were reduced during May, mostly by 1d. to 2d. per cwt., with the result that the average increase since July, 1914, in the retail prices of coal was about 100 per cent. at 1st June, as compared with between 105 and 110 per cent. at 1st May. Other items in this group showed little change in price during the month. For gas the increase at 1st June was about 100 per cent., for lamp oil it was 95 per cent., and for candles (cheap kinds) 70 per cent. on the pre-war level. Matches show a much greater increase. Taking the group as a whole, the average increase over the pre-war level was about 105 per cent. at 1st June, as compared with 110 per cent. a month earlier.

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 95 per cent., the same as a month earlier), the resultant figure for 1st June, 1922, is about 80 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 81 per cent. for 1st May.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1922 as in 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 1922.

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 from January, 1915, to the present time:—

Month (beginning of)	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)							
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	160	119	80
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	—
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	—
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	—
October ..	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	—
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	—

NOTE.

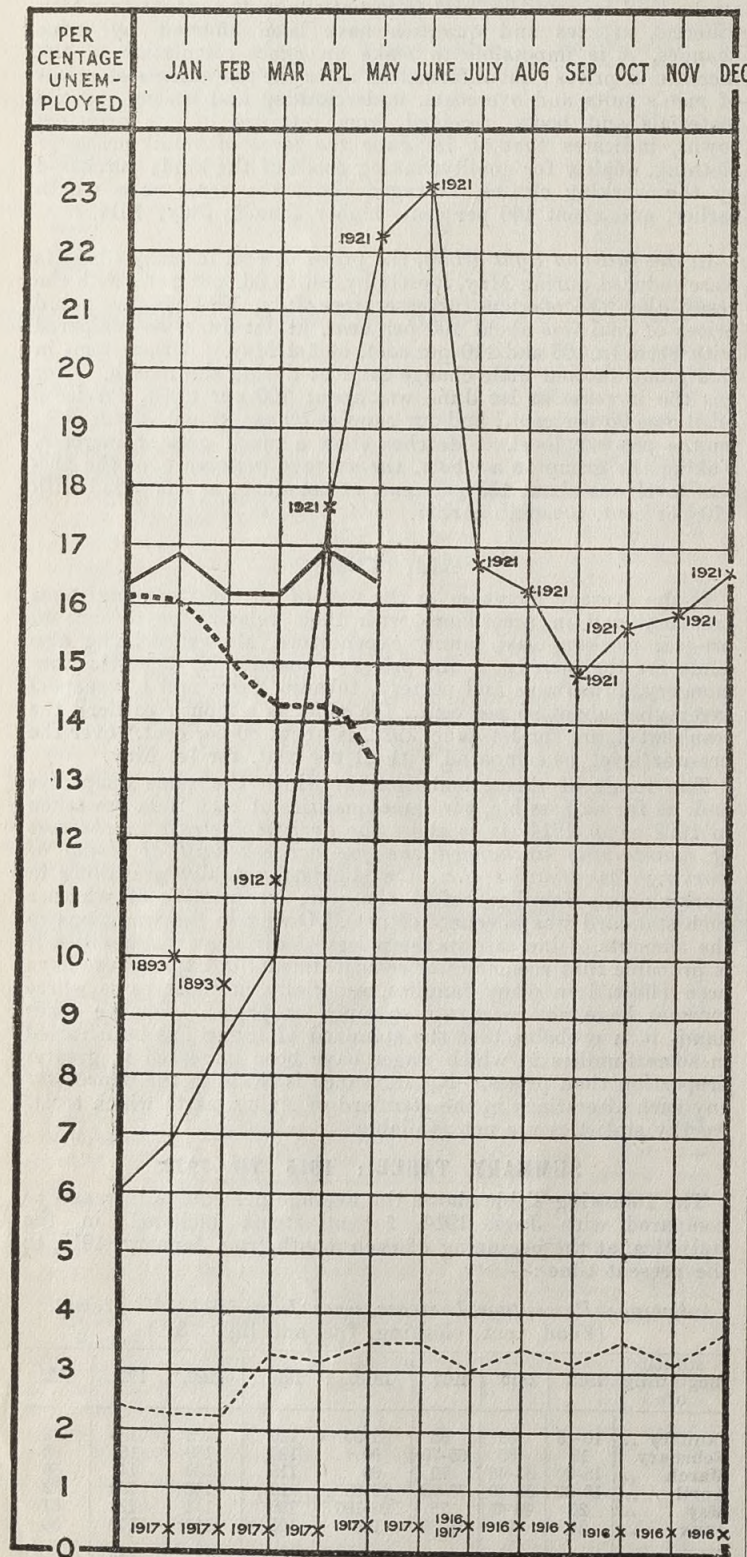
THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

* If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 1st June, 1922, is about 5 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

- (1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.*
- Thick Curve = 1922. Thin Curve = 1921.
- Thin Dotted Curve = Mean of 1912-21.
- × The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1892-1921.
- (2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.†
- Thick Dotted Curve = 1922.



EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY FOR MAY.

EMPLOYMENT during May, though still bad generally, was slightly better than in April. In the tinplate, cotton, jute, hosiery and wool textile industries, and in the clothing trades, the improvement previously reported was maintained, and there was also a slight improvement in the building and pottery trades. There was a decline, however, in employment at coal mines; and certain trades, notably iron and steel manufacture and some other

* Trade Union returns are furnished by various 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 on page 253.
† The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and exclude the Irish Free State.

sections of the metal industries, were adversely affected by the continuance of the engineering dispute.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns were received was 16.4 at the end of May, as compared with 17.0 at the end of April. Among the workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act,* numbering approximately 11,900,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 22nd May was 15.5, as compared with 14.4 at 24th April. For males alone the percentage claiming benefit was 15.9 at 22nd May, as compared with 16.8 at 24th April; for females the corresponding figures were 7.3 and 8.6. The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges* at 22nd May was approximately 1,566,000, of whom men numbered 1,264,000 and women 218,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 24th April was 1,699,000, of whom 1,346,000 were men and 259,000 were women. A small part of this decrease is due to the temporary exhaustion of insurance benefit. It should also be noted that some unemployed persons not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and the Live Register figures, therefore, do not indicate the total number unemployed.

In addition to those totally unemployed, large numbers of workpeople were registered as working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 22nd May these numbered 134,000, of whom 80,000 were men and 45,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; the corresponding numbers on 24th April were 189,000 (109,000 men and 67,000 women).

The total number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges and unfilled at 22nd May was 18,000, of which 4,400 were for men and 11,600 for women; the corresponding number at 24th April was 18,400 (4,600 for men and 11,300 for women).

Employment at coal mines was quiet on the whole, and showed a decline. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 27th May was 1,094,187, an increase of 0.5 per cent., as compared with a month ago. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 27th May was 4.85, compared with 5.30 in April. At shale mines employment continued fairly good; at iron mines it was still bad, but was somewhat better than in April. At lead and zinc mines employment on the whole was slack, and at tin mines work was practically suspended. With quarrymen employment was generally moderate; it continued fair at slate quarries.

Employment in the pig-iron industry continued bad. At iron and steel works employment showed a decline, and was bad, many of the works being closed down, and others were only working short time. At tinplate and steel sheet mills employment showed a further improvement, and was fairly good.

The dispute in the engineering trade continued throughout the month; the dispute in the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades was settled early in May, but employment, which had been very bad before the dispute began, showed no recovery. In the other metal trades employment continued bad.

In the cotton trade there was a further improvement in all branches; there was also a further slight improvement in the woollen and worsted industry, where, however, employment was still bad on the whole in the woollen section; in the worsted branch it was good generally with wool sorters and woolcombers, but bad with weavers. In the hosiery trade employment improved, and was fairly good; in the jute trade it also showed a further improvement, and was fair; in the carpet trade it was fair. In the other textile trades it was bad.

Employment in the ready-made branch of the tailoring trade showed an improvement in most centres, and was fairly good; in the bespoke branch there was also a seasonal improvement. With London dressmakers and milliners, and in the wholesale mantle, costume, etc., trades, employment was fairly good generally; in the corset trade it was fair.

In the boot and shoe trades employment showed a further slight improvement; it was still bad in the heavy boot section, but was fairly good with operatives in the light boot trade. In the leather trades generally employment was moderate.

In the building trades employment on the whole showed a slight improvement; it was fairly good with plasterers, slacks with bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers and masons, and bad with labourers and with workpeople employed in construction of works. In the brick and cement industries employment continued very slack. There was an improvement in the furnishing trades and with coopers, and employment in coachbuilding was fair. In the paper, printing, and bookbinding trades some improvement was reported, but employment was still bad.

In the glass trade employment continued bad; in the pottery trade it was also bad, but was better than in April.

Among dock labourers employment was moderate; with seamen there was also an improvement, and employment was fair on the whole; with fishermen it was moderate. In agriculture there was a further decrease in unemployment, but the supply of labour was still generally in excess of the demand.

* See Footnote in previous column.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of May, 1922.	Unemployed at end of May, 1922.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	129,307	8,728	6.7	- 0.5	- 1.6
Coal Mining	180,647	23,760	13.2	+ 0.7	†
Engineering and Shipbuilding	473,509	149,989	31.7	- 0.8	+ 2.3
Miscellaneous Metal	62,836	8,713	13.9	- 0.9	- 11.1
Textiles—					
Cotton	97,012	3,693	3.8	- 2.4	- 10.7
Woollen and Worsted	12,294	180	1.5	- 0.7	- 19.2
Other	78,758	3,678	4.5	- 0.1	- 9.4
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	98,654	6,670	6.8	- 0.4	- 6.2
Furnishing	35,596	1,809	5.0	- 1.8	- 8.5
Woodworking	48,748	4,813	9.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Clothing—					
Boot and Shoe	77,320	3,485	4.5	- 0.6	- 3.7
Other Clothing	50,218	1,110	2.2	- 0.9	- 6.7
Leather	9,541	1,098	11.5	+ 0.3	- 6.0
Glass	1,292	59	4.8	- 0.4	- 5.3
Pottery	33,000	7,800	23.6	- 3.0	- 67.2
Tobacco ‡	4,770	2,353	49.3	- 24.1	+ 12.9
Total	1,393,452	227,838	16.4	- 0.6	- 5.8

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

Detailed particulars will be found on page 263.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1922.	May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	1,094,187	4.85	Days	Days.
Iron	5,652	5.05	+0.26	†
Shale	3,634	5.94	-0.04	-0.06
Pig Iron	14,804	Furnaces in Blast. 110	Number.	Number.
		Mills Working 470	- 2	+ 108
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	—	Shifts Worked (one week). 250,379	+13	+ 457
Iron and Steel	51,440		Per cent.	Per cent.
			- 9.4	†

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Month ago.**	Year ago.**
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.**	Year ago.**		
Textiles—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Cotton	91,755	+ 4.3	+ 99.1	174,908	- 7.0	+ 103.3		
Woollen	14,408	+ 2.1	+ 25.9	30,428	+ 3.3	+ 46.1		
Worsted	23,803	+ 0.9	+ 43.6	62,470	- 1.1	+ 86.3		
Linen	22,281	+ 5.4	+ 47.4	31,405	+ 5.9	+ 61.6		
Jute	13,255	+ 2.9	+ 29.1	21,909	+ 3.7	+ 66.5		
Hosiery	15,366	+ 2.4	+ 40.3	30,060	+ 5.8	+ 62.3		
Lace	4,190	+ 2.6	+ 10.6	7,989	+ 5.6	+ 43.0		
Other Textiles	17,028	+ 1.3	+ 10.6	31,036	+ 2.5	+ 24.4		
Bleaching, etc.	22,903	+ 1.2	+ 21.4	65,304	+ 5.1	+ 48.9		
Total Textiles	231,089	+ 3.0	+ 51.3	456,009	- 1.0	+ 71.3		
Boot and Shoe	48,969	+ 1.6	+ 7.3	118,026	+ 3.7	+ 21.4		
Shirt and Collar	11,213	+ 2.2	+ 12.2	16,886	+ 3.3	+ 39.9		
Readymade Tailoring	20,100	+ 0.6	+ 12.5	37,015	+ 8.7	+ 38.5		
Paper	11,659	+ 1.6	+ 22.6	30,857	+ 3.3	+ 20.4		
Printing and Bookbinding	14,554	- 0.2	- 3.8	45,199	+ 1.1	- 0.9		
Pottery	11,731	+ 1.1	+ 350.8	21,939	+ 2.9	+ 236.4		
Glass	6,117	+ 0.5	+ 137.1	15,095	+ 1.3	+ 151.5		
Brick	7,556	- 2.2	+ 23.9	17,548	- 4.0	+ 0.2		
Cement	5,894	+ 5.9	+ 19.1	18,086	+ 1.4	- 31.5		
Food Preparation	63,882	+ 1.6	+ 9.7	146,668	+ 2.7	+ 6.4		
Grand Total	432,754	+ 2.2	+ 32.2	923,316	+ 1.0	+ 38.3		

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked-out are also excluded.

† The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership reported on, the returns relate to April.

‡ Figures not available owing to the general coal stoppage.

§ In addition to those totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."

¶ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.

‡ Owing to the dispute in the coal mining industry, almost all the iron mines were closed.

** Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May was quiet on the whole, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month; it continued fair, however, in the Northern Counties, South Yorkshire, Wales, and some of the Scottish districts.

The average weekly number of days (4.85) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 27th May showed a decrease of 0.45 days, as compared with the week ended 29th April. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 27th May showed an increase of 5,675 (or 0.5 per cent.) on the number at 29th April, 1922.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.3 per cent. at 22nd May, compared with 7.9 per cent. at 24th April.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked by the collieries, as indicated by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals. Statistics for a year ago are not available owing to the general stoppage of work at coal mines in May, 1921:—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books.		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*	
	Fortnight ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fortnight ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Per cent.	Days	Days
Northumberland	58,539	+ 0.5	5.41	+ 0.39
Durham	153,577	+ 0.9	5.06	- 0.17
Cumberland	11,337	+ 0.5	5.24	- 0.42
South Yorkshire	103,043	+ 0.3	5.24	- 0.30
West Yorkshire	65,321	+ 0.9	4.25	- 1.12
Lanc. and Cheshire	103,751	- 0.3	4.06	- 0.60
Derbyshire	62,756	+ 0.4	3.78	- 1.47
Notts. and Leicester	62,368	- 0.2	3.88	- 1.14
Warwick	21,861	- 0.1	3.74	- 1.34
North Staffordshire	33,824	+ 0.1	4.54	- 0.55
South Staffs., † Worc. and Salop	33,815	+ 0.5	3.96	- 1.83
Glouc. and Somerset	14,236	+ 0.4	4.04	- 1.02
Kent	1,509	+ 5.5	6.00	+ 0.53
North Wales	16,289	+ 1.4	5.26	- 0.20
South Wales and Mon.	225,403	+ 1.3	5.74	- 0.11
England and Wales	967,629	+ 0.6	4.84	- 0.52
SCOTLAND:				
Mid & East Lothians	14,868	- 0.2	5.28	+ 0.29
Fife and Clackmannan	28,238	+ 3.1	5.17	+ 0.12
Rest of Scotland	83,452	- 1.2	4.75	+ 0.01
Scotland	126,558	- 0.1	4.91	+ 0.07
Great Britain	1,094,187	+ 0.5	4.85	- 0.45

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 27th May was 0.89 of a day, of which 0.83 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. In the week ended 29th April the average time lost was 0.43 of a day, of which 0.38 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The non-winding time on each of these periods was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 27th May, 1922, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,145,500 tons, compared with 18,049,500 tons in the four weeks ended 29th April, 1922.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted in May, 1922, to 6,986,978 tons, or 1,267,766 more than in April.

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

† Including Cannock Chase.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

Iron.—Employment, though somewhat better than in the previous month, was still bad, and a number of mines remained entirely closed.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to employment in May as compared with April. A year ago the mines were generally closed down in consequence of the dispute in the coal mining industry.

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines.	
	Fort-night ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fort-night ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Cleveland	1,821	+ 3.6	4.27	- 0.22
Cumberland and Lancashire	2,207	+ 14.7	5.39	+ 0.56
Other Districts	1,624	+ 4.2	5.45	+ 0.37
All Districts	5,652	+ 7.9	5.05	+ 0.26

Shale.—Employment continued fairly good at shale mines. Returns received from firms employing 3,634 workpeople in the fortnight ended 27th May, 1922, showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the total number employed compared with the previous month, and an increase of 94.1 per cent. compared with May, 1921, when the coal mining dispute was in progress. The average number of days worked per week by the mines which were open was 5.94 in May, 1922, 5.98 in April, 1922, and 6.00 in May, 1921.

Tin, Lead and Zinc.—Work remained practically suspended at tin mines during May, and on the whole remained slack at lead and zinc mines.

QUARRYING.

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

—	No. of Workpeople employed at Quarries included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Quarries.	
	Fort-night ended 27th May, 1922.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fort-night ended 27th May, 1922.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Limestone	3,367	+ 1.8	5.27	+ 0.30
Sandstone	1,244	+ 5.9	4.82	- 0.10
Granite	1,750	+ 1.4	5.10	+ 0.80
Slate	4,816	+ 1.6	5.73	+ 0.38
Basalt	771	+ 4.5	5.98	+ 1.13
Whinstone	369	+ 2.5	5.38	- 0.12
All Quarrying	12,317	+ 1.2	5.43	+ 0.40

At limestone quarries employment generally varied from moderate to fair, and showed no great change compared with April. In May of last year many quarries producing limestone for blastfurnaces and iron and steel works were idle in consequence of the national stoppage at coal mines. At sandstone quarries employment varied considerably; taken as a whole, it ranged from moderate to fair, and was slightly better than in the previous month. At granite quarries producing road materials, setts, etc., employment on the whole was moderate, but there was much variation between different districts. At slate quarries employment remained fair. At basalt and whinstone quarries supplying road materials, employment was fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued bad. The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, as shown by the returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 110, compared with 112 at the end of April, two furnaces having been re-lit and four having gone out of blast.

Returns received by the Federation from 71 firms employing 14,804 workpeople at the end of May showed a decrease of 3.3 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of April.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1922, April, 1922, and May, 1921, according to returns collected by the Federation:—

* See note * at foot of second column on page 253.

District.	Total Number of Furnaces at May, 1922.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May on a	
		May, 1922.	April, 1922.	May, 1921.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Durham and Cleveland	115	27	29	1	- 2	+ 26
Cumberland and N. Lancs.	46	11	12	..	- 1	+ 11
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield.	38	11	11	..	..	+ 11
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	20	20	..	..	+ 20
Lincolnshire	22	9	9	..	..	+ 9
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick.	58	12	10	1	+ 2	+ 11
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	8	9	..	- 1	+ 8
Total (England and Wales)	385	98	100	2	- 2	+ 96
SCOTLAND	102	12	12	..	..	+ 12
TOTAL	487	110	112	2	- 2	+ 108

The production of pig iron in May amounted to 407,900 tons, as compared with 394,300 tons in April and 13,600 tons in May, 1921, when the industry was disorganised by the general stoppage at coal mines.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued bad, and showed a further decline on the whole, as compared with the previous month. Many of the works were closed and others were working short time owing to lack of orders.

According to returns received from firms employing 51,440 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 27th May (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, multiplied by the number of shifts during which the works were carried on) showed a decrease of 9.4 per cent. on the previous month.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns. In May, 1921, a large number of the works were closed on account of the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

—	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*	
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
DEPARTMENTS.				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	5,675	+ 9.4	31,207	+ 10.5
Crucible Furnaces	151	- 33.2	471	- 45.0
Bessemer Converters	274	- 52.8	1,306	- 52.8
Puddling Forges	2,728	- 3.9	10,278	- 7.0
Rolling Mills	19,644	- 5.0	87,238	- 5.7
Forging and Pressing	1,612	- 23.2	5,817	- 40.2
Founding	2,917	- 45.0	15,084	- 42.6
Other Departments	3,949	- 18.8	20,653	- 20.6
Mechanics, Labourers	14,490	- 0.8	78,325	- 0.9
Total	51,440	- 8.8	250,379	- 9.4
DISTRICTS.				
Northumberland and Durham	3,981	- 6.5	20,244	- 1.1
Cleveland	5,835	- 2.1	29,972	+ 4.3
Sheffield and Rotherham	9,401	- 32.5	43,334	- 35.4
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	1,007	- 40.2	4,936	- 43.9
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	4,845	- 15.0	23,543	- 14.9
Staffordshire	7,162	+ 10.6	35,261	+ 10.2
Other Midland Counties	3,289	+ 8.6	13,862	- 8.6
Wales and Monmouth	6,124	- 2.6	33,270	- 3.5
Total, England and Wales	41,644	- 12.0	204,422	- 12.8
Scotland	9,796	+ 8.3	45,957	+ 9.3
TOTAL	51,440	- 8.8	250,379	- 9.4

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 462,300 tons in May, 1922, compared with 404,200 tons in April.

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

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good during May, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. At the end of May 470 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 457 at the end of April. The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3,680 at 22nd May, 1922, as compared with 4,918 at 24th April, 1922.

The following Table shows the number of works open and the number of mills in operation at the end of May, 1922:—

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation	
	At end of May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate	71	+ 3	357	+ 13
Steel Sheet	14	..	113	..
TOTAL	85	+ 3	470	+ 13

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1922, amounted to 85,713 tons, or 9,204 tons more than in April, 1922, and 62,684 tons more than in May, 1921.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THE lock-out of members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union by firms affiliated to the Engineering and National Employers' Federations was extended on 3rd May to members of other Trade Unions employed by the same firms, and the dispute continued throughout the month. (See special article on page 246.) At non-federated firms employment continued bad generally.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople registered as unemployed, according to the Unemployment Insurance records at 22nd May, as compared with 24th April. Insured persons who have lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which they were employed are not generally eligible for benefit and are not, therefore, included in the figures:—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 22nd May, 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 22nd May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 24th April, 1922.
London	28,987	20.1	- 0.6
South Eastern	16,414	20.2	- 1.6
South Western	10,349	18.2	+ 0.1
Midlands	55,644	26.4	- 1.0
North Eastern	72,964	31.9	- 0.3
North Western	62,643	28.0	- 1.1
Scotland	55,869	33.0	+ 0.1
Wales	2,825	22.9	+ 1.2
Northern Ireland	4,643	38.1	- 1.1
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND)	310,338	27.2	- 0.7
Males	300,165	28.4	- 0.7
Females	10,173	12.1	- 0.3

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

THE dispute in these trades which was in progress during April came to an end in most districts on 6th May, and men were re-started on 8th May, so far as required. Employment, however, which had been very bad before the dispute began, showed no recovery in May, and was adversely affected by the continuance of the dispute in the engineering trades.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople registered as unemployed, according to the Unemployment Insurance records, at 22nd May:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 22nd May, 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 22nd May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 24th April, 1922.	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
London	6,536	39.8	- 1.6	- 2.3
South-Eastern	2,136	19.1	- 3.5	- 3.5
South-Western	8,787	19.8	- 3.0	- 3.0
Midlands	228	26.0	+ 2.2	+ 2.2
North-Eastern	41,846	46.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
North-Western	20,945	43.5	- 2.0	- 2.0
Scotland	40,451	46.1	+ 3.8	+ 3.8
Wales	6,537	37.2	- 4.4	- 4.4
Northern Ireland	10,737	29.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND)	138,001	39.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
Males	137,265	39.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
Females	736	12.0	- 1.2	- 1.2

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades remained bad generally during May, and some sections were affected by the dispute in the engineering trades. Much short time was again worked.

Brasswork.—Employment continued bad, though, on the whole, somewhat better than in April. At Manchester, however, it was slightly worse; while in the Birmingham area unemployment increased, largely as a result of the dispute in the engineering trades.

Bedsteads.—Employment in the bedstead trade continued bad. *Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.*—With makers of nuts, bolts, rivets and spikes at Blackheath and Halesowen employment was again reported slack; with makers of best nuts and bolts at Darlaston it was fair. In the shoe rivet, wire nail and cut nail trades at Birmingham employment was fair, though some shops were still on short time.

Locks and Latches.—Employment in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall area was again reported very bad.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, etc.—In the cutlery and file trades at Sheffield employment was again bad; with edge tool makers at Wednesbury it was reported quiet; with spade and shovel makers at Wolverhampton it continued fair. In the bit and stirrup and the saddle and harness furniture-making trades at Walsall employment remained bad.

Needles, etc.—In the Redditch district employment remained fair with needle and fish-hook makers and fairly good in the fishing tackle making trade.

Tubes.—Employment continued quiet at Wednesbury and slack at Landore; at Birmingham it was worse than last month, and half-time was generally worked.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment continued bad with anchor smiths, shackle and ship tackle makers, and very bad with cable chain and block chain makers. With anvil and vice makers at Dudley employment was slack, and with axle and spring makers at Wednesbury it remained quiet.

Sheet Metal.—Employment was bad and rather worse than in April, being adversely affected by the engineering dispute; short time was worked in many districts. At Wolverhampton, Bristol and Edinburgh, however, an improvement on April was reported.

Wire.—Employment, as a whole, was still slack, but slight improvements were reported in some districts.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment, though slightly better than in last month, was generally bad. At Sheffield a decline was reported.

Jewellery, Plated-Wire, etc.—Employment in these trades remained bad generally, and much short time was again worked.

Hollow-ware.—At Wolverhampton employment was again reported quiet with tin and enamel hollow-ware makers and cast iron hollow-ware makers; it was fair with galvanised hollow-ware workers. Iron plate hollow-ware makers in Birmingham remained well employed.

Farriers.—Employment among farriers continued slack on the whole, but an improvement was reported in some of the South Western Counties.

COTTON TRADE.

THERE was a further improvement in employment during May, affecting all branches of the trade and nearly all the principal districts. Mills and sheds were re-opened in several districts, and there was less short time and under-employment. The improvement was especially marked at Ashton-under-Lyne, where all the spinning mills were on full time at the end of May. At Blackburn the number of weaving sheds entirely closed was reduced from 20 to 11 during the month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.0 at 22nd May, as compared with 13.5 at 24th April.

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

—	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.*
DEPARTMENTS.				
Preparing	11,706	+ 7.7	21,315	- 4.7
Spinning	22,977	+ 5.1	42,963	- 6.2
Weaving	40,373	+ 3.7	70,563	- 8.1
Other	9,046	+ 1.4	23,831	- 5.1
Not specified	7,653	+ 3.0	16,236	- 10.6
TOTAL	91,765	+ 4.3	174,908	- 7.0

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Ashton	4,483	+11.0	8,319	+9.7	+123.6
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	5,918	+9.9	14,160	-5.2	+135.9
Oldham	10,415	+1.4	21,792	-8.2	+99.3
Bolton and Leigh	15,829	+3.5	23,122	-10.6	+84.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	7,861	+1.8	13,164	-2.5	+197.3
Manchester	4,880	+3.1	8,407	-12.4	+66.3
Preston and Chorley	4,804	+1.1	7,865	-16.8	+71.2
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	12,156	+7.7	23,547	-8.8	+95.7
Burley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	12,512	+2.1	27,069	-6.2	+135.2
Other Lancashire Towns	3,098	+3.6	5,189	-6.0	+55.7
Yorkshire Towns	3,981	+1.3	7,181	-6.3	+111.1
Other Districts	5,838	+8.9	10,993	+0.3	+76.4
Total	91,755	+4.3	174,908	-7.0	+03*

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 113,775,400 lbs. in May, 1922, compared with 94,732,200 lbs. in the previous month, and 69,188,500 lbs. in May, 1921.

The exports of cotton yarn were 20,767,500 lbs. in May, 1922, compared with 21,327,800 lbs. in April, 1922, and 8,553,900 lbs. in May, 1921; the exports of cotton piece goods were 341,424,800 square yards, as compared with 302,598,200 square yards in the previous month, and with 145,603,800 square yards in May, 1921.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED INDUSTRY.

THERE was a further slight improvement, on the whole, in these trades during May; though the improvement did not affect all firms, or all branches of the industry, equally. The worsted trade, taken as a whole, was better employed than the woollen trade, in which there was still much short time and much machinery standing idle.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.9 at 22nd May, as compared with 7.2 at 24th April.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

Employment showed a further slight improvement, but on the whole was still bad. There was an improvement in the weaving department with firms manufacturing the better qualities of cloth; though even here it was estimated that not more than 75 per cent. of the normal output was being produced.

Employment in the heavy woollen trade, and in establishments producing lower quality woollens, was bad, and showed little improvement: it was estimated that the loom running time averaged about a quarter of the normal for the whole of these trades. There was a marked improvement in the tweed trade of Scotland. Employment in the blanket trade showed a decline. In the flannel trade there were consistent signs of improvement, except at Rochdale, where employment in this trade was quiet.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	381	+5.8	915	+9.2	+49.8
Spinning	3,380	+1.6	6,912	+4.4	+48.5
Weaving	5,563	+2.4	10,523	+2.2	+47.5
Other Departments	4,246	+1.8	9,985	+3.8	+35.8
Not Specified	838	+2.2	2,083	+0.9	+95.8
TOTAL	14,408	+2.1	30,428	+3.3	+46.1
Districts.					
Huddersfield District	1,099	+0.7	2,870	-0.3	+95.4
Leeds District	1,441	+13.3	3,324	+12.6	+111.5
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,394	+0.6	3,059	-2.3	+24.8
Other Parts of West Riding	1,940	+0.6	4,198	-2.3	+66.5
Total, West Riding	5,874	+3.5	13,451	+1.5	+67.5
Scotland	3,794	+3.4	8,008	+8.5	+63.1
Other Districts	4,740	-0.4	8,969	+1.7	+13.7
TOTAL	14,408	+2.1	30,428	+3.3	+46.1

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment in this trade showed a further slight improvement, and was considerably better than a year ago.

In the Bradford district wool sorters remained fully employed, and a scarcity of sorters was reported. With woolcombers employment in the finer sections of the trade continued good, and there was some improvement in the remaining sections. In the spinning department there was an increase in the number of spindles engaged in spinning "cross-bred" wool; but towards the end of the month there was a slight falling off in employment with firms hitherto largely engaged in spinning knitting yarns.

In the principal weaving districts employment was still bad. In the women's wear trade of Bradford, Keighley, Halifax and Silsden it was estimated that 50 to 60 per cent. of the normal production was attained; but the state of employment differed widely between one firm and another. In the finest men's wear trade employment showed no signs of real improvement.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	4,317	+2.1	12,678	-1.3	+117.0
Combing	15,851	+0.7	27,436	-1.9	+77.0
Spinning	4,836	+0.1	10,437	-1.9	+114.5
Weaving	2,505	+1.3	6,947	+1.9	+58.4
Other Departments	2,294	+0.3	4,913	+1.2	+68.7
Total	29,803	+0.9	62,470	-1.1	+86.3
Districts.					
Bradford District	14,321	+1.1	31,792	-1.3	+86.2
Keighley District	5,365	+1.0	10,973	-0.3	+185.2
Halifax District	3,351	+0.1	6,606	-2.0	+44.6
Huddersfield District	2,602	+2.1	5,604	-0.2	+64.1
Other parts of West Riding	3,092	-0.2	5,788	-1.5	+59.2
Total, West Riding	28,731	+0.9	60,763	-1.1	+86.7
Other Districts	1,072	+0.8	1,707	-2.0	+71.2
TOTAL	29,803	+0.9	62,470	-1.1	+86.3

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,572	-1.5	3,157	+0.9	+51.3
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,239	+5.4	1,894	+0.3	+0.6
Eastern Counties	1,962	+1.1	3,342	+3.6	+59.0
Other Districts, including Scotland	897	+1.1	1,178	-1.7	+32.4
Total	5,670	+1.3	9,571	+1.4	+37.5

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 16,481,000 square yards, compared with 14,001,700 square yards in April, 1922, and 7,491,400 square yards in May, 1921.

The exports of blankets were 54,105 pairs, 33,874 pairs, and 43,811 pairs in May, 1922, April, 1922, and May, 1921, respectively.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 98,889,300 lbs. in May, 1922, compared with 68,164,700 lbs. in April, 1922, and 35,870,500 lbs. in May, 1921.

HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the hosiery trade continued fairly good on the whole, and was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 2.2 at 22nd May, as compared with 2.8 at 24th April.

Practically no short time was reported in Leicestershire, but in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and in Scotland short time was still being worked by some firms.

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

District.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester	7,580	+3.5	15,876	+6.0	+59.9
Leicester County Dist.	1,191	+1.9	2,242	+5.9	+36.4
Nottingham and Derbyshire	3,571	+0.7	6,601	+5.4	+58.3
Scotland	1,904	+0.8	3,504	+5.3	+99.3
Other Districts	1,120	+3.3	1,837	+5.9	+79.6
Total	15,366	+2.4	30,060	+5.8	+62.3

Of 12,361 workpeople employed by firms making reports as to short-time working, about 10 per cent. were losing on the average about 12 hours a week.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

SILK TRADE.

THE slight improvement in this trade was maintained during May, though much short time was still reported and employment was still slack. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.3 at 22nd May, as compared with 6.8 at 24th April.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	806	+1.0	1,042	-0.7	+60.8
Spinning	1,514	+0.6	2,606	-4.5	+25.1
Weaving	1,893	+2.2	3,205	+5.5	+45.2
Other	1,062	+1.4	1,989	+3.5	+26.0
Not specified	395	...	729	+3.3	+58.5
Total	5,670	+1.3	9,571	+1.4	+37.5
Districts.					
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,572	-1.5	3,157	+0.9	+51.3
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,239	+5.4	1,894	+0.3	+0.6
Eastern Counties	1,962	+1.1	3,342	+3.6	+59.0
Other Districts, including Scotland	897	+1.1	1,178	-1.7	+32.4
Total	5,670	+1.3	9,571	+1.4	+37.5

The imports (less re-exports) of raw silk in May, 1922, were 53,718 lbs., compared with 64,550 lbs. in April, 1922, and 19,223 lbs. in May, 1921, and those of spun silk yarn were 51,526 lbs., compared with 28,016 lbs. in April, 1922 and 20,243 lbs. in May, 1921. The exports of spun silk yarn of British manufacture in May, 1922, were 22,223 lbs., compared with 29,296 lbs. in April, 1922, and 13,474 lbs. in May, 1921; those of silk broadstuffs were 440,248 square yards, compared with 409,697 square yards in April, 1922, and 161,770 square yards in May, 1921.

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade, though still bad, showed a slight improvement on the whole as compared with the previous month. Unemployment and short time working were again prevalent in the principal districts. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.1 at 22nd May, as compared with 14.1 at 24th April.

At Nottingham and Long Eaton employment continued fair in the curtain section, and remained bad in the levers and plain net sections, although there was a slight improvement in the former section. In Scotland employment was again moderate.

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

Branches.	Total Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Lavers	763	+6.6	1,398	+10.3	+32.8
Curtain	1,372	+1.7	3,067	+4.2	+47.5
Plain Net	1,526	+1.7	2,679	+6.2	+39.7
Others	529	+2.3	855	+1.3	+56.6
Total	4,190	+2.6	7,989	+5.6	+43.0
Districts.					
Nottingham City	1,450	+1.6	2,549	-2.1	+33.1
Long Eaton and other outlying Districts & Other English Districts	1,684	+3.8	3,086	+10.7	+46.5
Scotland	1,056	+2.1	2,354	+8.3	+50.3
Total	4,190	+2.6	7,989	+5.6	+43.0

Returns received from certain firms employing about 3,100 workpeople showed that about 30 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, 19½ hours less than full time in the week ended 27th May.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the linen trade continued bad on the whole. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the flax, linen and hemp trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.1 at 22nd May, as compared with 21.4 at 24th April.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the number of workpeople employed and the wages paid in the week ended 27th May :-

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	3,044	+7.2	3,940	+4.1	+67.0
Spinning	5,648	+5.8	6,320	+5.3	+91.0
Weaving	7,123	+0.4	10,578	+4.8	+56.7
Other	3,830	+0.3	7,997	+4.5	+32.2
Not specified	2,636	+23.6	3,470	+16.5	+110.8
Total	22,281	+5.4	31,405	+5.9	+61.6
Districts.					
Belfast	10,224	+12.5	14,474	+10.5	+86.2
Other places in Ireland	6,320	+0.2	8,416	+3.3	+45.0
Total, Ireland	16,544	+7.4	22,890	+7.7	+68.6
Fife	1,418	-0.3	2,081	+1.1	+19.5
Other places in Scotland	4,319	-0.1	6,434	+1.4	+56.4
Total, Scotland	5,737	-0.2	8,515	+1.3	+45.4
Total	22,281	+5.4	31,405	+5.9	+61.6

Returns from firms employing 20,700 workpeople showed that about 40 per cent. of the workpeople were working on an average 17 hours less than full time in the week ended 27th May, 1922.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in Dundee and the surrounding districts showed a further improvement, and was fair on the whole. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.5 at 22nd May, as compared with 14.2 at 24th April.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago.*	
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	3,148	+3.7	4,841	+4.2	+64.0
Spinning	3,837	+8.7	5,776	+10.3	+70.1
Weaving	3,676				

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades during May continued slack on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. There was a considerable amount of unemployment and short-time in the principal districts, although a little overtime was reported by several firms in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.7 at 22nd May, as compared with 11.9 at 24th April.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers employed and the wages paid in the week ended 27th May:—

Trades:	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bleaching	2,004	+ 0.9	+30.1	4,528	+ 3.1	+59.1
Printing	711	+ 0.1	+107.9	2,198	+ 2.8	+137.9
Dyeing	12,380	+ 1.6	+12.7	39,333	+ 7.2	+40.8
Trimming, Finishing, and other Departments	7,385	+ 0.9	+28.3	18,654	+ 1.3	+59.1
Not specified	423	- 1.2	+18.5	1,091	+10.9	+43.6
Total	22,903	+ 1.2	+21.4	65,804	+ 5.1	+48.9
Districts:						
Yorkshire	11,421	+ 1.3	+11.9	37,385	+ 6.7	+44.0
Lancashire	7,430	+ 1.8	+36.2	19,074	+ 3.4	+63.9
Scotland	1,745	- 0.3	+33.0	5,565	- 1.4	+34.2
Ireland	470	+ 3.8	+30.6	871	+ 9.7	+15.1
Other Districts	1,837	- 0.6	+20.1	4,909	+ 3.7	+54.1
Total	22,903	+ 1.2	+21.4	65,804	+ 5.1	+48.9

Returns received from firms employing about 18,500 workpeople showed that in the week ended 27th May about 55 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, eleven and a half hours less than full time.

FELT HAT TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the felt hat trade was moderate on the whole, but showed an improvement on the previous month; considerably less short time was reported. Trade Unions at Denton, Stockport, Bredbury, Bury and Hyde, with a membership of 4,976, reported that 2.1 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 3.3 per cent. at the end of April. At Denton employment continued quiet, but showed an improvement; 50 per cent. of the workpeople were reported to be working short time. At Stockport it was fair and better than in April; 50 per cent. of the workpeople were working short time. In Warwickshire employment was good, and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month.

TAILORING TRADES.

BESPOKE.

London.—The improvement previously reported in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was maintained during May, and employment was fairly good on the whole. Returns received from firms paying £11,610 in wages to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor) during the four weeks ended 27th May showed an increase in the amount paid of 20 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 5.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—A further improvement was reported in nearly all the provincial centres, with a reduction in short time working and unemployment generally.

READY-MADE.

Employment in this branch of the tailoring trade was fairly good during May, showing an improvement in most centres on a month and a year ago.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the number of work-

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

people employed and the wages paid in the week ended 27th May:—

District.	Number of Indoor Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Indoor Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leeds	4,897	+ 2.3	+35.1	9,029	+ 9.6	+85.0
Manchester	2,362	+ 3.3	+28.0	4,784	+10.9	+78.2
Other places in Yorks., Lancs. and Cheshire	3,043	+ 1.1	+12.1	5,097	+ 9.7	+51.3
Bristol	1,283	+ 4.8	+12.1	2,323	+20.3	+42.1
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	1,725	+ 4.5	+10.6	2,934	+10.1	+38.8
South Midland and Eastern Counties	1,790	+ 3.9	+ 5.3	2,786	+10.5	+10.0
London	2,305	- 2.0	- 6.4	5,269	+ 1.0	- 4.4
Glasgow	961	- 2.9	+23.4	1,731	-10.1	+ 9.8
Other Districts	1,734	+ 0.2	- 0.5	3,082	+18.6	+26.5
Total	20,100	+ 0.6	+12.5	37,015	+ 8.7	+38.5

Of the employees covered by the returns relating to short time about 19 per cent. were losing, on the average, about 12½ hours in the week ended 27th May.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

THERE was a slight improvement in the state of employment in the shirt and collar trade during May, but it continued slack on the whole. Short time working was again prevalent, more especially in the South-western Counties, and at Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers employed and wages paid:—

District.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	2,720	+ 3.1	+ 2.1	4,737	+ 5.4	+46.5
Manchester	1,547	+ 2.4	- 3.6	2,586	+ 4.7	+37.9
Rest of Yorks., Lancs., and Cheshire	1,225	- 1.4	+31.6	1,467	- 4.6	+39.6
South Western Counties	1,125	- 0.2	- 2.4	1,529	+ 3.0	+15.8
Rest of England and Wales	721	+ 6.3	+52.4	1,101	- 3.3	+125.6
Glasgow	1,928	+ 0.9	+24.4	2,907	- 3.9	+26.7
Londonderry	907	+ 2.3	+31.9	1,267	+20.3	+46.1
Belfast	490	+ 2.7	+ 7.0	640	+10.9	+22.4
Other parts of Ireland	450	+10.0	+21.3	642	+15.9	+56.2
Total	11,213	+ 2.2	+12.2	16,886	+ 3.3	+39.9

Returns received from firms employing about 9,200 workpeople showed that 30 per cent. of that number worked, on an average, 12½ hours less than full time during the week ended 27th May.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

EMPLOYMENT during May with dressmakers in London again improved, and, on the whole, was fairly good. Returns from retail firms (chiefly in the West End) employing 1,379 workpeople in the week ended 27th May showed an increase in the number employed of 3.1 per cent. in comparison with April, and of 1.0 per cent. in comparison with a year ago.

In the West End employment with milliners was fair, and showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month.

WHOLESALE MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, Etc., TRADES.

Employment in London was fairly good generally, showing an improvement on the previous month, with a considerable reduction in short time. Returns from firms employing 2,347 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th May showed an increase in the number employed of 7.8 per cent. on a month ago, and of 11.0 per cent. on May, 1921.

In Manchester employment declined slightly, but, on the whole, remained fair. Some short time was reported. Returns from firms employing 1,206 workpeople showed a decrease in the number employed of 3.3 per cent. compared with April, but an increase of 19.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

Employment in Glasgow in the mantle trade remained moderate generally, but was worse than during April, much short time being worked.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment in the corset trade was fair, showing a slight decline compared with the previous month, and short time continued to be worked in some establishments. Returns from firms employing 5,986 workpeople in the week ended 27th May showed a decrease in the number employed of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 22.9 per cent. compared with May, 1921.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

DURING May there was a further slight improvement in this trade. Employment was still bad in the heavy boot trade, but fairly good on the whole in the lighter sections.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the boot, shoe and slipper making and repairing trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.7 at 22nd May, as compared with 10.0 at 24th April.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th May, 1922.	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	1,997	+ 2.4	+18.9	4,809	+ 0.3	+19.0
Leicester	8,486	+ 1.3	- 1.6	23,223	+ 1.6	+22.4
Leicester Country District	2,228	+ 0.2	+11.3	5,441	+ 1.1	+15.9
Northampton	6,717	+ 1.3	- 1.2	17,643	+ 6.2	+ 7.3
Northampton Country District	7,061	+ 2.4	+ 9.6	16,558	+12.1	+22.0
Kettering	2,849	- 0.7	+ 4.1	7,292	+ 0.5	+11.1
Stafford and District	2,431	+ 0.5	+ 3.4	6,044	+ 0.9	+ 5.7
Norwich and District	4,347	+ 0.9	+11.4	9,639	- 0.0	+30.8
Bristol and Kingswood	1,043	+ 6.4	+17.5	2,299	+ 7.3	+27.9
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	1,666	+ 2.4	+ 5.4	3,568	+ 3.0	+29.9
Birmingham and District	3,789	+ 2.3	+24.3	9,157	+ 1.3	+106.8
Other parts of England and Wales	990	+ 0.6	+ 7.8	2,039	+ 1.8	+ 4.1
England and Wales	2,552	+ 2.9	+ 4.9	4,632	+ 3.6	+ 2.5
Scotland	46,156	+ 1.6	+ 7.8	112,344	+ 3.8	+22.3
Ireland	2,341	+ 0.6	- 0.1	4,706	+ 0.8	+ 6.7
Total	462	+14.1	- 2.1	976	+39.6	+ 3.0
Total	48,959	+ 1.6	+ 7.3	118,026	+ 3.7	+21.4

Returns received from firms employing 35,200 workpeople showed that about 21 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, losing 12 hours a week on the average.

The improvement affected nearly all the principal centres except Stafford and Norwich (where employment was already good before the beginning of the month), and the Scottish centres, in most of which employment was still very quiet. Much short time was, however, still reported, particularly at Kettering, and in districts where the principal production is heavy boots (notably Bristol and Kingswood and Leeds). On the other hand, a certain amount of overtime was worked by some firms at many centres towards the end of the month to complete urgent orders for Whitsuntide.

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1922, amounted to 59,844 dozen pairs, or 831 dozen pairs less than in April, 1922, but 26,913 dozen pairs more than in May 1921.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tanning and currying section continued moderate; a slight improvement was shown as compared with April. In the manufactured leather goods section also an improvement was reported in some branches and on the whole employment was moderate. A considerable amount of short time continued to be worked in these trades. Returns received from trade unions covering 9,541 workpeople showed that 11.5 per cent. of their members were unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 11.2 per cent. in April and 16.5 per cent. in May, 1921.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.6 at 22nd May, as compared with 13.8 at 24th April.

With skimmers, tanners and curriers employment showed a slight improvement, but remained moderate; considerable short time continued to be worked at most centres. With saddle, harness and horse-collar makers at Walsall employment remained slack; at Birmingham harness makers were slack, a three-day

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

working week being the rule at most establishments, but in some sections saddle makers were well employed, and full time was generally worked. Employment with portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather workers was fair, showing an improvement compared with the previous month; at Birmingham, however, it was reported as quiet with trunk and suit-case makers, the working week being three days only, on the average.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade during May remained very slack on the whole. In Suffolk and Essex, however, employment was good, and in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire it was reported as fair.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick and tile and cement trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd May, was 17.4, as compared with 18.2 at 24th April.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers of workpeople employed and the wages paid in the week ended 27th May:—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,093	- 2.2	+66.5	5,058	- 5.5	+30.0
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,120	+ 2.6	+23.3	6,898	+ 0.6	+ 3.4
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,196	+ 4.6	+11.3	3,129	+ 4.1	+18.5
Other Districts	1,147	-18.1	+ 9.1	2,461	-19.7	-20.9
Total	7,556	- 2.2	+29.9	17,546	- 4.0	+ 0.2

Returns from firms employing 6,018 workpeople in this trade show that about 40 per cent. of their workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 12 hours on the average, during the week ended 27th May.

CEMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during May was still bad. Returns from employers employing 5,894 workpeople in the week ended 27th May, 1922, showed an increase of 5.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid in comparison with the previous month. Compared with May, 1921, there was a decrease of 19.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 31.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid by these firms.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, taken as a whole, showed a slight improvement during May; it continued slack, however, at the majority of centres. There were slight decreases in the numbers registered as unemployed in all the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below.

With plasterers employment remained fairly good, and it continued to improve with painters; it was slack with bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers and masons, and bad with labourers and with workpeople employed on construction of works.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 22nd May:—

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 22nd May, 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 22nd May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 24th April, 1922.
Building Trade.			
Carpenters	11,972	8.8	- 1.2
Bricklayers	6,489	10.3	- 0.9
Masons	2,513	10.4	- 1.2
Plasterers	696	4.0	+ 0.1
Painters	10,811	9.3	- 3.1
Plumbers	3,644	10.0	- 0.2
All other occupations	83,758	22.1	- 1.2
Total	119,883	15.5	- 1.4

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 22nd May, 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 22nd May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 24th April, 1922.
Construction of Works.	9,765	27.0	- 2.6
Navvies	16,494	21.6	- 0.3
All other occupations			
Total	26,259	23.3	- 1.1
Grand Total	146,142	16.5	- 1.4
Divisions.			
London	31,421	16.7	- 1.8
South-Eastern	13,917	10.8	- 1.8
South-Western	14,129	13.5	- 1.7
Midlands	18,897	19.6	- 1.0
North-Eastern	19,600	17.4	- 0.4
North-Western	22,745	19.1	- 1.2
Scotland	14,421	17.1	- 0.7
Wales	6,588	17.8	- 2.2
Northern Ireland	4,444	32.1	- 0.8
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	146,142	16.5	- 1.4
Males	145,713	16.6	- 1.4
Females	399	5.4	-

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was moderate on the whole during May. There was a general improvement in the furnishing trade, but with other trades employment showed little change from the level of the previous month. Returns were received from trade unions covering 84,344 workpeople, of whom 7.9 per cent. were stated to be unemployed at the end of May (exclusive of considerable numbers on short time), as compared with 8.7 per cent. at the end of April and 11.2 per cent. in May, 1921.

Mill-Sawing and Machining.—Employment generally continued slack, with considerable short time. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the mill-sawing and machine wood working trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd May, was 12.0, as compared with 13.1 at 24th April.

Furnishing.—A general improvement was reported in this trade, but employment was still rather slack, though with less short time than in the previous month.

Coach Building.—Employment generally was fair, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. It was affected in several districts by the engineering dispute.

Coopering.—Employment showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. It varied considerably in the different localities, but was better on the whole in the wet section than in the dry section.

Miscellaneous.—Employment continued fair with brush makers and improved slightly with basket makers. Some improvement was reported with packing-case makers, although employment was still poor. It remained slack with wheelwrights and smiths.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the printing and bookbinding trades continued bad generally during May, but showed a slight improvement in some branches. Employment showed some improvement in the paper trade.

With letterpress printers employment was, on the whole, slack in London, but generally showed a slight improvement on the previous month. In the provinces it continued bad generally, and although some improvement was reported from certain centres (including Bolton, Derby, Bristol and Dundee), in other districts there was a slight decline. In the lithographic printing trade employment continued bad and short time was prevalent. Of over 7,500 workpeople employed in the letterpress and lithographic printing trades covered by returns received by the Department 22 per cent. were working short time, and losing on an average 8½ hours each per week, while 16 per cent. were working overtime to an average extent of 5 hours each per week.

Employment in the bookbinding trade continued bad, though a slight improvement was reported in London. Of over 4,000 workpeople included in the returns received by the Department 37 per cent. were working, on an average, 9 hours per week short of full time.

In the paper trade a slight improvement was reported in some districts, but employment on the whole was only moderate. Of 9,700 workpeople covered by the returns received 13 per cent.

were working, on an average, 12 hours per week short of full time.

The following Table summarises the Returns from Trade Unions relating to unemployment in May, 1922, in comparison with April, 1922, and with May, 1921:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1922.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		May, 1922.	Apr., 1922.	May, 1921.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Printing	77,026	6.3	6.5	8.2	- 0.2	- 1.9
Bookbinding	14,756	8.9	10.4	10.1	- 1.5	- 1.2

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

	Number of Workpeople		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Paper	11,659	+ 1.6	30,857	+ 3.3
Printing	9,753	- 0.4	34,344	+ 1.0
Bookbinding	4,801	+ 0.1	10,855	+ 1.5
Total	26,213	+ 0.6	76,056	+ 2.0

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during May was still bad on the whole, and much short time continued to be worked.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.2 at 22nd May, as compared with 15.0 at 24th April, 1922.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers employed and wages paid in the week ended 27th May, 1922:—

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
China Manufacture ..	1,428	+ 1.7	2,699	+ 0.9
Earthenware Manufacture ..	8,529	+ 0.6	16,332	+ 3.9
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,574	+ 3.5	2,908	- 0.7
Total	11,731	+ 1.1	21,939	+ 2.9
DISTRICTS.				
Potteries	8,764	+ 0.8	15,571	+ 3.1
Other Districts	2,967	+ 2.2	6,368	+ 2.3
Total	11,731	+ 1.1	21,939	+ 2.9

Returns received from employers relating to short time working showed that 46 per cent. of 10,000 workpeople covered by the returns were working, on an average, 18 hours short of full time in the week ended 27th May.

The exports of china, earthenware and pottery in May, 1922, amounted to 227,743 cwts., or 41,652 cwts. less than in April, 1922, and 9,155 cwts. more than in May, 1921.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was bad on the whole during May, although in some districts there was a slight improvement.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the glass trades (excluding optical and scientific glassware), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.7 at 22nd May, as compared with 22.2 at 24th April.

The improvement in some sections of the trade at Glasgow was maintained, but the glass bottle trade was very bad in all districts. Flint glass cutters and plate glass bevellers at Birmingham reported a slight improvement.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT remained moderate on the whole during May.

The number of fishermen whose unemployment books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd May, was 3,061, as compared with 3,024 at 24th April.

East, South and West Coasts.—Employment at Hull remained fair with fish dock labourers, and improved to good with fish curers, but declined to moderate with fishermen. At Grimsby it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers and good with fish curers. At Yarmouth employment showed a little improvement towards the end of the month and employment was fair on the whole. At Lowestoft it remained fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers and moderate with fish curers. At Plymouth employment was moderate. At Brixham it was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers. At Looe and St. Ives it was good with fishermen and moderate with fish dock labourers, and at Newlyn employment was good. On the South Wales coast employment continued slack.

Scotland.—Employment at Aberdeen was moderate with fishermen and good with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Peterhead it remained moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Macduff it continued fair with fishermen, and showed an improvement on the previous month; it was again bad with fish dock labourers, but improved to fair with fish curers. At Fraserburgh it was again moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers and curers.

The total quantity of fish landed in Great Britain during May, 1922, was 1,362,384 cwts., as compared with 800,199 cwts. in May, 1921. The value of all fish landed in May, 1922, including shell fish, was £1,405,440, as compared with £1,517,879 in May, 1921. The following Table shows the quantity and value of fish landed in Great Britain in May, 1922, as compared with May, 1921:—

	Quantity of fish landed.		Value.	
	May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with May, 1921.	May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with May, 1921.
Fish (other than shell):—	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	1,014,759	+453,898	1,024,854	- 28,763
Scotland	347,625	+108,287	268,699	- 82,412
Total	1,362,384	+562,185	1,353,553	-111,175
Shell Fish	—	—	51,887	- 1,264
Total	—	—	1,405,440	-112,439

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during May was moderate on the whole and slightly better than in April at some ports. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd May, 1922, was 21.5, as compared with 22.2 at 24th April.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and at the principal wharves in each week of the month:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			
	In Docks.		Total.	At Wharves making Returns.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.		
Week ended—				
6th May, 1922	5,608	3,499	9,107	8,360
13th "	5,740	3,756	9,496	8,384
20th "	5,167	2,623	7,790	8,295
27th "	5,004	2,944	7,948	8,234
Average for 4 weeks ended 27th May, 1922	5,380	3,206	8,586	8,318
Average for April, 1922	5,184	2,980	8,164	8,606
Average for May, 1921	6,190	2,890	9,080	8,029

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers employed and wages paid in the week ended 27th May, 1922, in comparison with a month earlier and with May, 1921:—

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Glass, Bottle	3,947	- 0.7	10,165	+ 1.1
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,586	- 0.9	3,604	- 2.8
Other Branches	584	+ 14.5	1,326	+ 16.0
Total	6,117	+ 0.5	15,095	+ 1.3
DISTRICTS.				
North of England	835	- 0.7	1,912	+ 1.9
Yorkshire	2,576	+ 1.4	6,330	+ 2.6
Lancashire	804	+ 0.6	1,971	+ 10.9
Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire	515	+ 3.0	1,205	+ 10.9
Scotland	821	- 0.4	2,248	+ 1.7
Other parts	566	- 2.6	1,429	- 20.1
Total	6,117	+ 0.5	15,095	+ 1.3

Returns covering 5,008 workpeople showed that in the week ended 27th May 50.5 per cent. were working, on the average, 17 hours less than full time.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was only moderate in the food preparation trades as a whole during May, the exceptions being the sugar refining, and cocoa, chocolate, etc., trades, in which it continued fair. In most of these trades there was little change compared with the previous month, but an improvement was reported in the jam and marmalade making trade.

Short time was reported in biscuit and cake making, 40 per cent. of the workpeople reported on averaging eight hours short time, and in pickle and sauce making, where 22 per cent. worked ten hours short of full time, on the average, in the week ended 27th May. To a lesser extent short time was also reported in the other trades in this group, but in sugar refining and jam and marmalade making more overtime than short time was reported.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished returns as to the numbers employed and wages paid in the week ended 27th May, 1922, in comparison with a month earlier and a year earlier:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 27th May, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Sugar Refining, etc. ..	7,277	+ 1.1	24,518	+ 0.1
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ..	31,322	+ 1.2	66,104	+ 1.0
Biscuits and Cakes	14,860	+ 1.0	31,321	- 0.1
Jams and Marmalade ..	6,775	+ 7.3	16,432	+22.8
Bacon and Preserved Meats	2,100	- 3.1	5,155	+ 2.2
Pickles and Sauces	1,548	+ 6.2	2,928	+ 2.6
Total	63,882	+ 1.6	146,658	+ 2.7

AGRICULTURE. †

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE supply of labour continued ample during May, and was again generally in excess of requirements. In many districts, however, the numbers of unemployed were reported to be less than in the previous month.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages, and in May, 1921, employment in most industries was adversely affected by the general stoppage of work at the coal mines.

† Based on information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May, was 33, involving (directly or indirectly) about 22,000 workpeople; in addition, about 350,000 workpeople were involved in 55 disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The total number of new and old disputes in progress in May was thus 93, involving about 372,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during May of over 7,200,000 working days.

The stoppage of work in the shipbuilding trades, which began at the end of March, terminated in most districts on 6th May. The stoppage involving members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in the employment of firms affiliated to the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations, which began on the 13th March, was extended on 3rd May to members of other Trade Unions in the engineering trade, and continued throughout the month. Details are given on page 246.

The following Table classifies the disputes by groups of trades:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Disputes in progress in May.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in May.	Aggregate Duration of all Disputes in progress in May.
	Started before 1st May.	Started in May.	Total.		
Building	8	3	11	500	6,000
Mining and Quarrying	12	9	21	23,000	210,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	22	9	31	343,000	6,940,000
Clothing	3	1	4	2,000	20,000
Food, etc., Trades	—	4	4	1,500	22,000
Other Trades	6	9	15	1,000	15,000
Employees of Public Authorities	4	3	7	1,000	16,000
Total, May, 1922	55	38	93	372,000	7,223,000
<i>Total, April, 1922</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>367,000</i>	<i>5,791,000</i>
<i>Total, May, 1921</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>1,167,000†</i>	<i>23,540,000†</i>

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN MAY, 1922.

Occupations and Locality.†	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began. Ended.		Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING:— Sunderland (near)	1,558	—	1921. 3 Oct.	..	Men demanded reinstatement of two dismissed pitmen. Subsequently employers demanded abolition of certain colliery customs.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc. } Mansfield (near)	2,729	..	1922 24 April	8 May	Alleged non-settlement of grievances respecting minimum wage and compensation cases.	Work resumed on employers' terms.
.. .. . } Burnley district	3,000	..	9 May	13-17 May	Dissatisfaction with reduction in wages in accordance with terms of National Agreement.	Work resumed at the reduced rates, as fixed by the Agreement.
.. .. . } Stoke-on-Trent (near)	4,000	..	10 May	13 May		
METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES:— Engineers, etc., in the employment of firms affiliated to the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations:— Members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union Members of other Trade Unions	250,000¶	—	13 Mar. 3 May	See page 246	Lockout consequent upon workpeople's refusal to agree that employers' instructions as regards changes in workshop conditions shall be observed pending the discussion, in accordance with the procedure for avoiding disputes, of any question in connection therewith. In the case of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the right of the employers to decide when overtime (on production work) is necessary (within the limit of 30 hours in any four weeks) was also contested.	(See page 246.)
Shipyards workers.—Federated districts and certain other districts.**	90,000†	¶	29 Mar.	6 May ††	Against proposed reduction of war bonus by 10s. 6d. a week from 29th March, with a further reduction of 6s. on 26th April.	Reductions accepted of 10s. 6d. a week as from 29th March, followed by 3s. on 17th May and 3s. on 7th June (see page 200 of LABOUR GAZETTE for May).
OTHER TRADES:— Workpeople employed in boot and shoe manufacture—Chesham. Women and men employed in boot and shoe manufacture—Leicester. Bakers and confectioners—Glasgow. Teachers (elementary schools)—Southampton.	500 1,160 1,100 464	.. 250	18 Mar. 15 May 1 May 3 April	9 June 16-22 May 7 June ..	For rate of wages prescribed by National Agreement. Against reduction in wages in accordance with terms of National Agreement. Upon expiry of national working agreement, employers demanded substitution of local agreement. Dispute arising out of the issue of notices (subsequently withdrawn) to reduce existing scale of salaries, the teachers claiming Burnham No. III. scale.	Demand conceded. Work resumed at the reduced rates, as fixed by the Agreement. Work resumed on employers' terms. No settlement reported.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† Revised figure. ‡ A general dispute in the coal-mining industry was in progress in May, 1921.
§ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals. The extent of such duplication is very slight except in the mining and quarrying group, where, in 1921, about 6,000 workpeople were involved in more than one dispute.
¶ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
** Estimated number involved, exclusive of workpeople unemployed when the stoppage began. Exact figures are not available.
*** The districts involved included the Clyde, E. Scotland, N.E. Coast, Hull, Barrow, Mersey, London, Southampton, and Portsmouth (private firms).
†† Date of acceptance of terms of settlement for shipyards controlled by the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation. With ship-repairing employers on the Mersey the dispute was not settled until early in June, and in London no agreement has yet been reported.

Causes.—Of the 33 disputes beginning in May, 16, directly involving about 9,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 12, involving 6,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 6, involving 3,500 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 4, directly involving nearly 2,500 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected of 23 new disputes, directly involving about 14,000 workpeople, and 13 old disputes, directly involving about 84,000 workpeople. Of these disputes 6, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 17, directly involving 14,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 13, directly involving 82,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 6 disputes, directly involving about 2,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1921 AND 1922. §
The following Table gives comparative statistics for the first five months of 1921 and 1922:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan. to May, 1921.			Jan. to May, 1922.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building	64	14,000	332,000	37	3,000	67,000
Mining and Quarrying	22	1,160,000†	45,711,000†	75	59,000	721,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	42	36,000†	2,721,000†	29	345,000	15,323,000
Other Metal	30	8,000	208,000	30	8,800	186,000
Textile	11	3,000	81,000	6	3,000	48,000
Clothing	12	4,000	67,000	15	4,000	55,000
Transport	19	22,000	249,000	35	6,000	79,000
Agriculture and Fishing	10	4,000	61,000	3	3,000	71,000
Woodworking	21	5,000	101,000	10	1,000	32,000
Food, etc., Trades	2	500	6,000	13	4,000	60,000
Other Trades	46	7,000	148,000	23	3,000	69,000
Employees of Public Authorities	12	2,500	32,000	23	4,000	72,000
Total	291	1,266,000	49,717,000	299	443,000	16,783,000

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 (see note in next column) the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May resulted in a reduction of over £590,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 2,200,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £4,000 in the wages of about 175,000 workpeople.

The groups of trades principally affected by the changes are shown below:—

Group of Trades.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying	171,000	633,000	£ 3,400	£ 89,800
Iron and Steel	1,500	108,000	50	16,600
Engineering, and Shipbuilding	—	477,000	—	130,900
Other Metal	—	135,000	—	24,400
Transport	—	186,000	—	23,700
Clothing	—	147,000	—	21,300
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc.,	—	123,000	—	22,100
Woodworking	—	57,000	—	11,600
Food, Drink and Tobacco	—	71,000	—	9,100
Public Utility Services	2,000	177,000	300	20,500
Other	—	57,000	—	23,400
Total	174,500	2,182,000	3,750	395,400

In the mining group there were reductions in the wages of coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire, Radstock and Bristol districts, and in Scotland, the amount of decrease varying from 1½ per cent. on current rates in Scotland to 7½ per cent. in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire. In Northumberland and Durham coal miners' wages were increased by about 1½ per cent. and ¾ per cent. on current rates, respectively.

Steel melters in England and Scotland generally and steel millmen, etc., in Scotland sustained a reduction of 13½ per cent. on standard rates (equivalent to about 8½ and 10 per cent. on current rates). Other workpeople in the iron and steel group affected by reductions in May included iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland and Siemens' steelworkers in South Wales.

Men employed in the shipbuilding industry in the principal districts in England and Scotland resumed work early in May, after a stoppage of nearly six weeks, at rates of wages 10s. 6d. per week lower than those prevailing before the dispute, and later in the month sustained a further reduction of 3s. per week. Women and girls employed in the engineering industry sustained reductions varying from 8d. to 2s. per week.

In other metal trades there was a decrease of 5 per cent. in the wages of silversmiths, jewellers, etc., in Birmingham, and at Sheffield the bonus was reduced by 10 per cent. The wages of men employed in various metal trades in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton districts were reduced by 6s. per week.

The principal reduction in the clothing group affected workpeople engaged in boot and shoe manufacture, whose wages were reduced by 4s. and 2s. per week in the case of adult male and female timeworkers respectively, while pieceworkers sustained a reduction of 2½ per cent. on earnings.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922.

NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in May, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. The weekly rates quoted are for a full ordinary working week and do not take into account the effect of short time working.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES (including Construction of Works).				
Building	Liverpool and Birkenhead Districts	1 May	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rates after change: plumbers, 1s. 11d.; masons' fixers, 1s. 10½d.; other tradesmen (including painters), 1s. 10d.; scaffolders, 1s. 6d.; tradesmen's labourers, 1s. 5½d.; general labourers and navvies, 1s. 5d.
	Derby, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Nuneaton and surrounding districts	5 May	Plumbers	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 11d. to 1s. 10½d.).
	Bideford	13 May	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
	Camborne, Falmouth, Hayle, Newquay	1 May	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease, under "cost of living" sliding scale, of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s.
	Penzance, Redruth, St. Ives and Truro	1 May	Skilled tradesmen (excluding painters) employed on local housing scheme	Bonus of 3d. per hour granted in February, 1921, withdrawn. Rate after change, 1s. 6d.

* Including Belper, Ilkeston, Long Eaton, Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield.

In the transport group, seamen on foreign going boats had their wages reduced by 10s. per month. There were also reductions of from 1s. to 3s. per week in the wages of road transport workers in various districts, including London, Glasgow and Manchester.

Brickmakers in most districts in England and Wales sustained reductions of 4s. per week in the case of adult workers and 2s. per week in the case of those under 18 years of age.

In the woodworking trades there was a decrease generally of 1½d. per hour in the wages of vehicle builders, while coopers sustained a decrease of 1d. per hour.

The wages of cocoa and chocolate makers were reduced by 2s. 6d. and 2s. per week in the case of adult males and females respectively. Men employed in flour mills sustained a decrease of 3s. per week.

In the public utility services the principal changes were decreases of ¼d. per hour or 4d. per shift in the wages of gas workers and of 2s. per week in the wages of tramwaymen.

Of the changes taking effect in May one affecting 50 workpeople was arranged by arbitration; 5 affecting over 9,500 workpeople were arranged by conciliation; 66 affecting 466,000 workpeople took effect under "cost of living" sliding scales; and 57 affecting 881,000 workpeople under other sliding scales; and the remaining 113 affecting nearly 1,000,000 workpeople were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, or took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Board Acts. In 6 cases, involving nearly 178,000 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary of Changes in January—May, 1922.

Group of Trades.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building	100	522,000	£ 20	£ 241,700
Mining and Quarrying	17,000	1,079,000	3,000	333,300
Iron and Steel	100	234,000	100	172,300
Engineering and Shipbuilding	—	1,308,000	—	338,200
Other Metal	—	334,000	—	113,500
Textile	200	930,000	50	301,300
Clothing	—	505,000	—	115,300
Transport	—	975,000	—	361,600
Paper, Printing, &c.	—	106,000	—	15,700
Furniture and Woodworking	—	87,000	—	35,100
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c.	—	250,000	—	101,900
Food, Drink and Tobacco	50	212,000	5	41,800
Public Utility Services	50	109,000	15	121,800
Other	—	—	—	25,200
Total	17,500	6,980,000	3,190	2,316,700

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in May.

[NOTE.—The above statistics exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, farm labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics.]

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.

* Viz. :- Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase, and Warwickshire.
† In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st May was 78.05 for the Eastern Area and 74.71 for the Western Area.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, OTHER METAL TRADES.

* It was arranged that in the case of men in receipt of base rates of 5s. per shift or 7.66d. per hour or less, the reduction of 13 1/2 per cent. on base rates or 1 1/2 of war advances should take effect in three instalments, i.e., 5 per cent. on 7th May, 5 per cent. on 11th June, and 3 1/2 per cent. on 9th July.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES—(continued).				
Hollow-Ware Manufacture	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge and Lye Districts; and Ilanely and Sheffield and Chesterfield	Pay day in week beginning 15 May	Skilled and semi-skilled adult males employed in the wrought hollow-ware trade (except galvanised section)	Decrease of 6s. per week.
Tube Manufacture	Glasgow, Airdrie and Coatbridge	8 May	General labourers employed in tube works	Decrease of 6s. per week.
Electric Cable Making	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire	3rd pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the electric cable making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.)	Decrease of 1s. 11d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of from 5d. to 1s. 5d. per week for youths 14 years to 20 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years.
	Great Britain, other than above counties	May		Decrease of 2s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week for youths 14 years to 20 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years. Decrease of 2s. per week (minimum rate after change, 47s.).
Wire Manufacture	Halifax and Sheffield	24 April	Ancillary workers employed in iron and steel wire manufacture	Decrease of 8s. 6d. per week.
	Middlesbrough ... Warrington ...	22 May ... 27 Mar.		Further decrease of 3s. per week (minimum rate after change, 47s.). Decrease of 8s. 6d. per week (minimum rate after change: 47s.). Decrease of 5s. per week.
Metallic Bedstead Making	Sheffield ...	7 April 1st pay after 1 May	Women and youths employed in iron and steel wire manufacture	Further decrease of 2s. per week.
	Birmingham, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge and Keighley	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade	Decrease of 2s. per week for men 18 years and over, and of proportionate amounts for other workers.
Gold, Silver and Allied Trades	Sheffield ...	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades	Bonus of 5 1/2 per cent. for timeworkers, and of 6 1/2 per cent. for pieceworkers, previously paid, reduced to 4 1/2 per cent. and 5 1/2 per cent. respectively. Hourly rates for males after change: skilled, 1s. or 11d. (according to occupation); semi-skilled, 10d.; unskilled, 9d.; plus in each case bonus of 4 1/2 per cent.
	Birmingham	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades	Decrease of 5 per cent.
Constructional Engineering	England and Wales	1st pay day in May	Steelwork erectors ...	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: London erectors, 1s. 6d.; sheeters, 1s. 8d.; sheeters' holders-up, 1s. 6d. England and Wales (excluding London)—erectors, 1s. 5d.; sheeters, 1s. 6d.; sheeters' holders-up, 1s. 5d.
Heating and Domestic Engineering	Scotland ...	1 Feb. 1 April	Heating and domestic engineers	Decrease of 1 1/2d. per hour. Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: pipe fitters, 1s. 8d.; charge hands (Glasgow and Paisley), 1s. 9d.; Edinburgh, 1s. 8d.
			Males, 21 years and over, employed as braziers, burnishers, drop-stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, annealers or polishers	Decrease of 2d. per hour in the minimum time rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. (See Order on p. 280.)
Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade	Great Britain ...	20 May	Males, under 21 years, employed as braziers, burnishers, drop-stampers, dippers who are also bronzers or annealers	Decreases of amounts varying from 3d. to 2d. per hour in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. (See Order on p. 280.)
			All other male workers ...	Decreases of amounts varying up to 1d. per hour in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. (See Order on p. 280.)
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	Birmingham and Wolverhampton Districts	29 May	All above workers ...	Piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 15 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time rates. (See Order on p. 280.)
			Males employed in miscellaneous metal trades	Decrease of 6s. per week.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
Woolen and Worsted Industry	Leicester ...	4, 5 or 6 May	Workpeople employed in lambs' wool and worsted yarn spinning industry (except workpeople such as engineers, belonging to Unions other than the Workers' Union)	Bonus decreased from 4d. in the shilling to 4d. Minimum weekly rate after change for timeworkers: men, 42s. 6d., plus 2d. in shilling; women, 25s. 6d., plus 4d. in shilling; pieceworkers, 25 per cent. above time rates.
	West of England District	1st full pay after 27 April	Workpeople employed in the woolen and worsted industry	Decrease of 5 per cent. in minimum time, piece and piecework basis time rates.
Silk Industry	Leek ...	1st pay day after 5 May	Workpeople employed in the silk manufacturing industry	Decrease of 2s. per week for men 22 years and over, 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 and over, and of 1s. per week for males under 22 years and girls under 18. Rates after change: men 22 years and over: pickers, 49s.; braidworkers, 50s. 6d.; fully qualified braid speeders and knitting tacklers, 57s.; millmen, 51s.; weavers, 55s.; women 18 years and over, 28s. 6d. Bonus of 7 1/2 per cent. on earnings, previously paid, reduced to 50 per cent.
Levers Lace Manufacture	Nottingham ...	15 May	Twisthands ...	Bonus of 7 1/2 per cent. on earnings, previously paid, reduced to 50 per cent.
			Warpers ...	Decrease of 16 1/2 per cent. on existing rate. Rate after change, 66s. 8d.
Calico Printing	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland, and certain firms in Yorkshire	Pay preceding 1st pay day in June	Auxiliary workers (males) ...	Decrease of 12 1/2 per cent. (or 1 1/2d. in 1s.) on wages or earnings.
			Auxiliary workers (females) ...	Decrease of 7 1/2 per cent. on earnings for slipwinders and menders, and of 12 1/2 per cent. on earnings for brass bobbin winders.
			Machine calico printers ...	"Cost of living" wage reduced from 66 per cent. to 60 1/2 per cent. on basic wages, the flat rate bonus of 15s. per week previously granted remaining unchanged.

* The above reductions were part of the reductions of 3s. per week for adult males and of proportionate amounts for youths and boys due to take effect under the sliding scale in February, but which were put into operation in two instalments in April and May.
 † This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
 ‡ Including spinners and straighteners, outers-up, polishers, testers, pickers, cleaners, warehouse and yard labourers, and furnacemen engaged on hardening, softening, patenting and galvanising.
 § The reductions took effect under arrangements made by the Birmingham Jewellers' and Silversmiths' Association, and the Gold, Silver, Electroplate and Allied Trades Manufacturers' Federation, and were not embodied in any formal agreement made with the Trade Unions concerned.
 ¶ Including ammunition, axes, springs and fittings for road vehicles; cast iron hollow-ware; malleable ironfoundry; metal rolling, and brassworking; metal smallware (including pin hook and eye); nail; spring; welded and welded tube; wire rope; etc.
 ¶ Including Stroud, Trowbridge, Frome, Westbury, Chippenham, Bath, Chipping Norton, Wellington, Witney, South Devon, and North Tawton.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
CLOTHING TRADES				
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	Great Britain*	2nd pay day in May	Workpeople, 16 years and over, employed in boot and shoe manufacture—	Decrease of 4s. per week for those 23 years and over (64s. to 60s.)† and of from 1s. 3d. to 3s. 3d. per week (according to age) for those 16 to 22 years. Decrease of 4s. per week for those 23 years and over (61s. to 57s.)† and of from 1s. 3d. to 3s. 3d. per week (according to age) for those 16 to 22 years.
			Male timeworkers—	
			Departments other than heel building and stock and shoe rooms	
			Heel building departments and stock or shoe rooms	
			Female timeworkers: Closing and heel building departments and stock or shoe rooms	Decrease of 2s. per week for those 20 years and over (38s. to 36s.)† and of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week (according to age) for those 16 to 19 years.
			Pieceworkers ...	Decrease of 2 1/2 per cent. on earnings.‡
			Shoe and slipper makers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on earnings.§
			Females: Other than wholesale cloth hat and cap making branch	
			LEARNERS: New scales of minimum hourly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, for Area A and Area B respectively, starting at 1 1/2d. and 1 1/2d. during 1st year of employment, and increasing to 6d. and 5 1/2d. during 4th year.¶	
			OTHER THAN LEARNERS: Decrease in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1 1/2d. or 1d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: Area A, 7 1/2d.; Area B, 7d.¶	
			LEARNERS: Reduced scale of minimum hourly rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts.¶	
			OTHER THAN LEARNERS: Decrease in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of 1d. per hour. Minimum time rate after change, 7 1/2d.¶	
			New scales of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases of from 3s. to 6s. per week for males and of 3s. 6d. or 5s. 6d. per week for females. (See Order on p. 279.)	
			New scales of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting in decreases of from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per week for males and of from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per week for females. (See Order on p. 279.)	
			Wholesale cloth hat and cap making branch	
			Learners ...	
			Apprentices not supplied with board or with full board and lodging	
			Males: Timeworkers ...	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: 1st class houses, 2s. 0d.; others, 1s. 10d.
			Pieceworkers ...	Decrease of 1d. per "top" hour. Rates after change: 1st class houses, 1s. 0d.; 2nd and 3rd class, 1s.
			Females: Timeworkers ...	Decrease of 7 1/2 per cent. Rates after change: 1st class workers, 1s. 3d.; 2nd class, 11d.; 3rd class, 7 1/2d.; learners, 6d.
TRANSPORT TRADES.				
			Foreign-going vessels on monthly articles—	
			Navigating and engineering officers	Decrease of £1 per month and £1 10s. per month for senior and junior officers respectively.
			Sailors, firemen, etc., and employees in Catering Department	Decrease of 10s. per month for able seamen, ordinary seamen, firemen, stewards, etc. Rates after change (with free food in addition): able seamen, £10; ordinary seamen, £5 10s. (12 to 24 months' service) and £7 (not less than 24 months' service); boatswains, £11 10s.*; boatswains' mates, quartermasters and firemen, £10 10s.
			Merchant Shipping Service	Minimum wage of 70s. per week previously paid reduced to 68s. per week.
			Coal tipplers, teamers, weighers, hoistmen and boxmen	Decrease of 6s. per week for men and of 3s. per week for boys. Rates after change: able seamen and firemen, 55s. per week; ordinary seamen (youths), 30s. per week.
			Tugboatmen ...	Decrease of 2s. per week. (See p. 138 of March GAZETTE for rates previously paid.)
			Workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Decrease of 4s. per week (60s. to 56s. per week).
			Coal carters ...	Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change for motormen: vehicles (1 to 2 tons), 62s.; (2 tons and over), 67s.; steam wagon drivers, 70s.; stokers, 59s.
			Workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Decrease to rates of 69s. per week for one-horse carters, assistant horse keepers and stablemen, of 65s. per week for two-horse carters, of 66s. per week for three-horse carters, of 70s. per week for four-horse carters, of 65s. per week for drivers of petrol vehicles (2 tons and under), of 73s. for drivers of petrol vehicles (over 2 tons) and steam wagon drivers and to 58s. for steam wagon mates. Wages of vanguards reduced to 18s. for first year, to 19s. second year, and 21s. for third year. †

* The change took effect under an agreement made between the Incorporated Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives.
 † It was provided that in the case of male time-workers 23 years and over and female time-workers 20 years and over who, under the Interim (1920) Agreement, received increases of less than 12s. or 6s. per week respectively, the present reductions should be one-third of the increases granted under that agreement instead of the reductions described above.
 ‡ The effect of this reduction is that in the case of statements compiled or revised under the 1919 agreement which came into force on or before 31st December 1921, advances of 2 1/2 per cent. and 5 per cent. on piecework earnings are now paid to women and men respectively; in the case of those which came into operation on or after 1st January, 1922, net list prices are now paid to men while women remain at 2 1/2 per cent. above the list; in the case of the Northampton County Clerks statement which came into operation on 2nd June, 1919, there is a total reduction of 2 1/2 per cent. and in the case of those statements, the piecework prices of which include the percentage increase granted by the Interim (1920) Agreement, there is a total reduction of 5 per cent. for men and 5 per cent. for women.
 § The decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
 ¶ Area A: To all Royal, Parliamentary and Police Burghs which had according to the most recent Census a population over 12,000; and to the following Special Lighting Districts, the boundaries of which have been defined, viz.: Bellshill and Mossend, Blantyre, Cambuslang, and Larkhill, all in the County of Lanark, and Vale of Leven in the county of Dumbarton. Area B: The whole of Scotland other than Area A.
 * See p. 238 of May LABOUR GAZETTE.
 † Boatswains on monthly articles on some Liverpool owned and North Atlantic passenger lines receive £2 per month additional.
 ‡ At Hull the minimum wage is on a daily and half-daily basis, and was reduced on 5th May from 14s. to 13s. 8d. per day and from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 4d. per half day. At Immingham the minimum rates remained unchanged at 14s. per full day, 8s. per half-day and 11s. on Saturday (6 hours).
 § Including Ashton-under-Lyne, Droylesden, Audenshaw, Salford, Hyde, Glossop, Stockport, Dukinfield, Mossley, Oldham, Middleton, Saddleworth, Manchester, Stalybridge, Littleborough and Warrington.
 ¶ Including Accrington, Bacup, Burnley, Bamber Bridge, Church, Clayton-le-Moor, Colne, Chorley, Great Harwood, Haslingden, Leyland, Nelson, Oswaldtwistle, Padiham, Preston, Rawtenstall, Whitworth, Rishton, Bolton, Darwen and Blackburn.
 † The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at between the London Cartage and Haulage Contractors' Association, the Metropolitan and Home Counties Road Transport Contractors' Association and the Motor Transport Employers' Federation on the one hand and the Transport and General Workers Union on the other.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Road Transport, Agriculture, Paper, Printing and Allied Trades, Furniture and Woodworking Trades.

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc. † The rates of wages and working hours referred to are those which have been agreed upon by the Local Conciliation Committees set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921. ‡ The new rate referred to was not accepted by the workers' side of the Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the employers' side. § It was agreed that there should be further decreases in the bonus of similar amount to those described above, in July, subject to total wages not falling below the minima and that thereafter bonuses should fluctuate on a "cost of living" sliding scale. ¶ Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham, and Preston.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Furniture and Woodworking Trades, Vehicle Building, Packing case making, Coopers.

* The decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc. † Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Seaham Harbour, Sunderland, Tyne Dock and Tees District (including Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Thornaby). ‡ In the new agreement the various towns have been divided up into three grades instead of four as heretofore. It was provided that in the case of towns which were previously in Grade IV, and which under the present agreement have been placed in Grade III (by which alteration the minimum is higher than formerly), no alteration in the previous minimum rate should at present be made. The following is a list of districts in the respective grades as now arranged:— Grade I: Alverthorpe, Ainsworth, Altrincham, Ashton, Accrington, Aberdare, Aston, Birmingham, Birkenhead, Bootle, Bolton, Bury, Bromley Cross, Barnsley, Basford, Batley, Bingley, Birstall, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bradford, Bristol, Bath, Burnley, Burslem, Church, Colne, Cardiff, Cheadle, Carlton, Cleckheaton, Cheltenham, Chesterfield, Chorlton, Chorley, Colwyn Bay, Denton, Dewsbury, Denby Dale, Didsbury, Darwen, Drayton, Dudley, Edinburgh, Erdington, Eastcote, Fenton, Fleetwood, Gateshead, Glossop, Great Crosby, Gildersome, Guiseley, Greenfield, Great Harwood, Heywood, Holmfrith, Hadfield, Handforth, Handsworth, Halesley, Hazel Grove, Higher Ince, Hindley, Hollingsworth, Hyde, Halifax, Haslingden, Huddersfield, Heckmondwike, Harrogate, Hull, Keighley, Kirkheaton, Long Eaton, Luddendenfoot, Lytham, Longwood, Littleborough, Liverpool (minimum for skilled men 1s. 7d.), Leigh, Liscard, Leeds, Leicester, Llandudno, London (all rates 1d., over Grade minimum; certain firms in West End pay 2½d. to 5d. more than other firms), Loughborough, Longton, Manchester, Middleton, Mansfield, Mossley, Mytholmroyd, Morley, Macclesfield, Monmouth, Merthyr, Medham, Newport, Mon., Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newcastle, Staffs., North Shields, North Staffordshire District, Nottingham, Normanton, Oldbury, Oxford, Ossett, Oldham, Padiham, Pennington, Penrith, Pennington, Preston, Rawdon, Rotherham, Rochdale, Reddish, Rossendale, Rawtenstall, Radcliffe, Sowerby Bridge, Salford, Shipley, Sale, Smeeth, Sutton Coldfield, South Shields, Sunderland, Stockport, Stoke, Stratford-on-Avon, Sheffield, Southport, St. Annes, St. Helens, Swansea, Skelmanthorpe, Slaithwaite, Tipton, Tunstall, Upholland, Wallsend, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Werneth, Warrington, Wigan, Wilmslow, Wakefield, Yeading. Grade II: Alnwick, Bacup, Barrow-in-Furness, Bishop Auckland, Bolton-by-Bowland, Blyth, Biggleswade, Bedford, Bridgwater, Boston, Bournemouth, Brigg, Brighton, Brighouse, Burton-on-Trent, Basingstoke, Carlisle, Caversham, Clitheroe, Chadburn, Chatham, Chesham, Chester-le-Street, Crewe District, Congresbury, Cuckfield, Darlington, Derby, Devonport, Doncaster, Durham, Dover, Eastbourne, Exeter, Evesham, Folkestone, Gainsborough, Gillingham, Gloucester, Godalming, Goole, Guildford, Grantham, Grimsby, Hartlepool, Horsham, Houghton-le-Spring, Huntingdon, Heanor and District, Ipswich, Knutsford, Kidderminster, Kettering, Lancaster, Lincoln, Lichfield, Lowestoft, Louth, Lewes, Maidstone, Merton Mowbray, Middlesbrough, Morecambe, Morpeth, Newark, Nelson, Nuneaton, Northampton, Newbury, Newton-le-Willows, Newport Pagnell, Norwich, Oswestry, Peterborough, Penrith, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Redditch, Ripon, Reading, Rochester, Swindon, Shirehampton, Shrewsbury, Stafford, Stamford, Southampton, Stockton-on-Tees, Scarborough, Sandbach, Thornaby, Thurston, Tunbridge Wells, Weston-super-Mare, Worcester, Wrexham, Warwick, Wyland, Windle, Wombwell, Wigton, Magna, Whalley, Wellington, Yarmouth, Yarm, Yeovil, York. Grade III: Alsager, Ammanford, Bedale, Caspally, Clayton West, Driffield, Garstang, Gorseinon, Helmsley, Holderness, Llanelli, Llandudno, Llandilo, Llantrisant, Longridge (Lancs), Morniston, Malton, Ormskirk, Penge, Porth, Rhondda, Ross-on-Wye, Rainford, Retford, Selby, Wensleydale, Whitehaven, Whitby, Workington. ‡ At Burton the rate for those at block and on unions and pressure work is 1s. 9d. per hour, and for rat makers 1s. 10d.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Furniture and Woodworking Trades, Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, Etc., Trades, Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades, and Baking and Confectionery.

* Plumbers employed in fertilizer works receive an additional 1/4d. per hour, but are not paid for Bank holidays.
† The decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
‡ The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Clay Industries.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Baking and Confectionery, Cocoa and Chocolate Confectionery Manufacture, Milk Distributive Trade, Basket Making, Artificial Limb Making, Sign Writing, Gas Undertakings, Waterworks Undertakings, Electricity Undertakings, Tramways Undertakings, and Local Authority Services.

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.
† The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Reconstruction Committee of the Cocoa, Chocolate, Sugar Confectionery and Jam Industries.
‡ See also p. 238 of May LABOUR GAZETTE.
§ The minimum rates shown are for towns in Group I. The rates for Group II. towns are 7 1/2 per cent. less than these rates, and for Group III. towns 10 per cent. less.
¶ This decrease is the second instalment of a decrease of 1d. per hour or 8d. per shift, and is subject to the bonuses of 12 1/2 per cent. and 7 1/2 per cent. in the case of timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively 21 years of age and over, where such bonuses have previously been paid.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1922—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Authority Services (cont'd.)	Northumberland and Durham	1st pay day in May	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments of local authorities	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum hourly rates after change for road sweepers and general labourers: Grade A areas, 1s. 2½d.; Grade B, 1s. 1½d.; Grade C, 1½d.*
	Yorkshire (West Riding)	1st full pay week in May	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments of local authorities	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum hourly rates after change for labourers, etc.: Grade A areas, 1s. 2d.; Grade B, 1s. 1d.; Grade C, 1s.; Grade D, 1½d.
	West Midlands (Shropshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Herefordshire)†	1 May	Able-bodied male manual workers employed in non-trading departments of local authorities	Grading scheme adopted under which the various occupations are divided into 8 Grades in each of the 7 Zones included in the Area, and minimum rates fixed for each Grade. The following rates were fixed for Zone A1:—Grade I, workpeople, 5s. 6d.; Grade II, 5s. 6d.; Grade III, 5s. 6d.; Grade IV, 5s. 6d.; Grade V, 6s. 6d.; Grade VI, 6s. 6d.; Grade VII, 6s. 6d.; Grade VIII, 6s. 6d. The rates for Grade VIII in other Zones are as follows: Zone A2, 6s.; Zone B1, 6s. 4d.; Zone B2, 5s. 7d.; Zone B3, 5s. 1½d.; Zone C1, 5s.; Zone C2, 4s. 2d. The rates for Grade I are those published on p. 233 of LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1922.
	Essex and Middlesex‡	May	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments of local authorities	Decrease of ½d. of the original bonus on minimum basic rates.
	Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire§	1 May	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments of local authorities	Decrease of 2s. per week, leaving minimum weekly rates after change: Grade A areas, 6s.; B1, 5s.; B2, 5s.; C1, 4s.; C2, 4s.; D, 4s.
	Bristol	1st pay in May	Labourers on repair of roads and sewers	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week (7s. to 6s. 6d.).
	Londonderry	5 May	General labourers, scavengers, etc.	Decrease of 2s. per week. Rates after change: general labourers, 47s. per week; scavengers, 45s.

* The Authorities reported as recognizing the Grade minima are as follows: Grade A: Darlington, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Wallsend, Ashington, Blith, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Earsdon, Felling, Hebburn, Leadgate, Longbenton, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Newburn-on-Tyne, Prudhoe, Ryton, Seaton Delaval, Stanley, Whitley and Monkseaton. Durham County Council (partly); R.D.C.s of Durham, Easington, Houghton-le-Spring, North Shields; Grade B: Benfieldside, Brandon and Byshtottles, Sheldon, Stanhope, Willington; R.D.C.s of Auckland and Sedgfield; Grade C: Amble, Seghill, Durham County Council (partly), Morpeth R.D.C. A further decrease of ½d. per hour was arranged to take effect in June.

† This decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, &c.

‡ The Authorities reported as recognizing the Grade minima are as follows:—Grade A: Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Leeds, Rotherham, Wakefield, Bolton-upon-Deane, Golcar, Thurnscoe; Grade B: Doncaster, Harrogate, Keighley, Ossett, Pontefract, Todmorden, Ardwick-le-Street, Bingley, Castleford, Elland, Featherstone, Honley, Normanton, Otley, Rothwell, Stanley, Skipton, Wath-upon-Deane, Wombwell, Rotherham R.D.C.; Grade C: Cudworth, Darfield, Farsley, Haworth, Hebdon Bridge, Horbury, Holmfirth, Meltham, Queensbury, Royston, Selby, Slaithwaite, Stocksbridge, Yeadon; Grade D: Horsforth, Mirfield, R.D.C.s of Doncaster, Halifax, Keighley, Kiveton Park, Todmorden, Pontefract.

§ The workpeople included in the various grades are as follows: Grade I, lavatory attendants, cemetery labourers, gully cleaners, lamp lighters, park patrols, porters, doorkeepers, road sweepers, highways scavengers, general labourers and sewage farm labourers; Grade II, batha, library, museum and market attendants, parks boatmen and gardeners, gravediggers, carters, horsekeepers, stablemen, refuse removal scavengers, day ashmen, chainmen, road roller flagmen, traction steersmen, sewer labourers and sewage disposal (bacteria bed) attendants; Grade III, roadstone spreaders, tar sprayers, bolers, layers, and spreaders; Grade IV, night men, ashmen, working gangers, stokers at baths, institutions and sewage works; Grade V, engine-men, sewer bootmen, sewer and drain pipe layers and jointers, destructor stokers and timbermen; Grade VI, motor vehicle drivers; Grade VII, steam and petrol roller drivers; Grade VIII, sewer heading drivers. The Authorities reported as recognizing the Grade minima are as follows:—Zone A. 1: Birmingham; Zone A. 2: Burton-on-Trent, Coventry, Kenilworth, Smethwick, Walsall, West Bromwich; Zone B. 1: Leamington, Nuneaton; Zone B. 2: Brierley Hill, Brownhills, Lye and Wollasecote, Shrewsbury, Warwick; Zone B. 3: Ambicote, Walsall R.D.C.; Zone C. 1: Cannock R.D.C.; Zone C. 2: Shifnal R.D.C.

¶ Including East Ham, Wembley, Acton, Hanwell, Middlesex County Council and Ilford.

‡ This decrease was agreed upon by the Joint Industrial Council for Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire; further decreases of 2s. per week each, are to take effect from 1st June and 1st July. The following Authorities follow the decisions of the Joint Industrial Council:—Grade A areas: Bristol (see separate entry for road labourers); Grade B. 1: Gloucester, Taunton, Kingswood; Grade B. 2: Frome, Warmley R.D.C. (partly), Yeovil; Grade C. 1: Midsomer Norton, Minehead, Radstock, Shepton Mallet, Warmley R.D.C. (partly); Grade C. 2: Wellington; Grade D.: Taunton R.D.C.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1922.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions reported as having been agreed to take effect in June: building trade operatives at all important towns except Liverpool and Birkenhead; men employed by electrical contractors; coal miners in various districts; iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands; shipbuilders; makers of light castings; woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire; paper makers; certain classes of printing trade operatives in Scotland. Particulars of these and other changes in June will be given in the July issue of the GAZETTE.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

The results of recent ascertainties of the selling prices of iron are given below:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Decrease of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average Selling Price Per Ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Pig Iron:				
Cumberland	April	s. d. 98 6	s. d. 1 3	126 1
Northamptonshire	Jan.-Mar.	78 2½	13 0½	151 11
Nottinghamshire	Jan.-Mar.	80 11	27 ½	127 9
West of Scotland	Jan.-Mar.	101 4	30 5	127 9
Manufactured Iron:				
North of England (Bars and angles)	Mar.-Apr.	225 10½	10 11½	255 3½
West of Scotland (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods.)	Mar.-Apr.	233 3½	22 3½	241 4

* Stated to the nearest farthing.
† No ascertainment was made for this period.

Pig Iron.—The fall in the ascertained selling price of Cumberland pig iron for April resulted in a decrease of 1d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron-ore miners. The wages of limestone quarrymen were also reduced by ¾d. per shift, while blastfurnacemen had their wages reduced by 1½ per cent. on standard rates. Particulars of these decreases are shown on page 266. The Northamptonshire ascertainment resulted in a decrease of 22½ per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen and ironstone and limestone quarrymen in that county. In Nottinghamshire the wages of blastfurnacemen, and in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire the wages of ironstone miners, were reduced by 8½ per cent. on standard rates. The West of Scotland ascertainment resulted in a decrease of 23 per cent. on standard rates. Particulars of these decreases were given on page 224 of the May LABOUR GAZETTE.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers and millmen were reduced by 5 per cent., while in the West of Scotland the reduction amounted to 10 per cent. Particulars of these decreases are given on page 267.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

The number of persons relieved on one day in May, 1922, in the thirty-one selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 641 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 25 per 10,000 on the previous month and of 365 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with April, 1922, the total number relieved increased by 43,173 (or 4.0 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief decreased by 1,662 (or 1.3 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients increased by 44,835 (or 4.7 per cent.). One district showed no change, seven showed decreases, and every other district showed an increase. The greatest increases were in the Stockton and Tees district (99 per 10,000), in the Sheffield and in the Paisley and Greenock districts (81 per 10,000).

Compared with May, 1921, the total number relieved increased by 633,808 (or 132.3 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 5,056 (or 4.3 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 628,752 (or 173.5 per cent.). Two districts showed decreases, while every other district showed an increase. The greatest increases were in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (1,025 per 10,000), in the Stockton and Tees district (833 per 10,000), in the Glasgow district (816 per 10,000), and in the Birmingham district (801 per 10,000). Fifteen districts showed increases ranging from 225 to 652, and ten districts showed increases ranging from 81 to 184:—

Selected Urban Areas.*	Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day in May, 1922.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
Metropolis						
West District	9,243	14,494	23,737	252	- 13	+ 128
North District	9,972	28,039	38,011	372	- 14	+ 129
Central District	2,706	3,853	6,559	494	-	+ 133
East District	9,668	54,687	64,355	1015	+ 24	+ 456
South District	19,104	100,636	119,740	631	+ 15	+ 353
TOTAL, Metropolis	50,693	201,709	252,402	563	+ 4	+ 269
West Ham	4,124	68,417	72,541	985	+ 39	+ 521
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,554	43,225	45,779	942	+ 53	+ 650
Stockton and Tees District‡	1,139	37,522	38,661	1,470	+ 99	+ 833
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	3,756	9,400	13,156	169	+ 20	+ 81
Wigan District	1,752	20,310	22,062	508	+ 52	+ 339
Manchester District	8,733	55,813	64,546	639	+ 1	+ 366
Liverpool District	9,738	92,471	102,209	864	+ 23	+ 652
Bradford District	1,714	7,058	8,772	239	- 4	+ 98
Halifax and Huddersfield	1,181	5,707	6,888	182	- 3	+ 85
Leeds District	2,418	13,179	15,597	325	+ 48	+ 184
Barnsley District	911	11,429	12,340	395	+ 32	+ 225
Sheffield District	2,679	63,208	65,878	1,309	+ 81	+ 311
Hull District	1,816	16,438	18,254	469	+ 50	+ 268
North Staffordshire	1,884	10,325	12,209	302	+ 61	+ 119
Nottingham District	2,047	11,968	14,015	307	+ 42	+ 136
Leicester District	1,126	4,619	5,745	245	+ 5	+ 113
Wolverhampton District	3,112	47,118	50,230	716	+ 38	+ 502
Birmingham District	6,912	90,835	97,747	1,032	+ 42	+ 801
Bristol District	2,548	14,109	16,657	411	+ 15	+ 266
Cardiff and Swansea	2,259	16,197	18,456	400	+ 11	- 130
TOTAL "Other Districts"	58,252	570,931	629,183	623	+ 32	+ 353
SCOTLAND.‡‡						
Glasgow District	4,726	97,528	102,254	1,056	+ 55	+ 816
Paisley & Greenock Dist.	748	14,504	15,252	797	+ 81	+ 647
Edinburgh & Leith Dist.	1,565	15,836	17,401	414	+ 17	+ 261
Dundee and Dunfermline	681	4,293	4,964	241	- 69	+ 94
Aberdeen	518	5,652	6,170	388	- 10	+ 251
Coatbridge and Airdrie	410	12,296	12,706	1,251	- 6	+ 1,025
TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts	8,648	150,099	158,747	776	+ 29	+ 580
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in May, 1922	121,717	891,156	1,112,873	641	+ 25	+ 365

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

† Exclusive of Casuals: of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only.

‡ The numbers included for the Middlesbrough and Sheffield Unions do not cover changes which have taken place since the 29th April, 1922, and the 8th April, 1922, respectively.

‡‡ The figures for Scotland include able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor law relief.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.*

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, 1922, was 178, as compared with 170 in the previous month and 82 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is as follows:—

RAILWAY SERVICE.		FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—(continued):	
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	2	Engineering Machine Making	4
Engine Drivers	3	Boiler Making, Constructional Engineering	4
Firemen	1	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft	3
Guards (Passenger)	1	Other Metal Trades	2
Permanent Way Men	4	Shipbuilding	5
Porters	4	Wood	1
Shunters	1	Gas	1
Mechanics	4	Electric Generating Stations	1
Labourers	1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc.	3
Miscellaneous	7	Chemicals, etc.	3
Contractors' Servants	1	Food and Drink	5
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	24	Paper, Printing, etc.	—
		Tanning, Currying, etc.	—
		Rubber Trades	—
		Other Non-Textile Industries	4
		TOTAL FOR FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AND WORKSHOPS	54
		Docks, Wharves, Warehouses, etc., s. 104	13
		Buildings, s. 105	8
		TOTAL	75
		Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	1
		TOTAL (excluding Seamen)	178

* Based on Home Office, Mines Department and Ministry of Transport Returns.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1922, was 33. There were no deaths reported during the month. Eleven cases of lead poisoning (two fatal) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during May, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

The cases of poisoning and anthrax are analysed below:—

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

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

† Of the 3 persons affected in the Pottery industry 2 were females.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information in each country, 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.]

GENERAL SUMMARY.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1914 to June 1922. Columns include Country, July 1918, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, and June 1922. Rows list United Kingdom, Foreign Countries (Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United States), and Overseas Dominions (Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa).

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other Towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in February the increase for all working-class families ranged from 292 to 299 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. || Figure for 3rd Quarter.

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.†

Table showing percentage increase in all items (Food, House-Rent, Clothing, Fuel and Light, Other) for various countries from July 1914 to June 1922. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1918, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, and June 1922. Rows list United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, and Overseas Dominions.

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

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, so 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 for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 252-253 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 pp. xxiv-xxvi and 8-20 of the Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics C.d. 5415 of 1911, also "International Labour Review," July-August, 1921, issued by the International Labour Office.]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in May.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at Employment Exchanges in the week ended 27th May was 10,003 (7,310 men and 2,693 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,864 (5,407 for men and 4,457 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 23,658 persons (18,738 men and 4,920 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 2,260 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-Work Benefit in May.—According to the latest returns, five departmental and 58 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 2nd June, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 5,647. Of this total, 2,980 were resident in the Seine Department, including 1,636 in Paris. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully indicate the total number of persons out of employment. Where unemployment funds are in operation particulars are not complete, while in localities where no fund exists the numbers out of work are not recorded. Further, the figures do not indicate the number of persons on short time.

GERMANY.

Unemployment in April.—The issue for 31st May of the official journal Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, in its summary statement concerning conditions in April, states that the favourable condition of the labour market hitherto prevailing continued during April, and that employment as a whole was entirely satisfactory. Various signs were regarded as indicating that some branches of industry had reached their maximum of activity, and doubts were expressed as to whether this condition could be maintained, especially by industries which depend upon export trade and the import of raw materials from abroad.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation fell from 116,502 (95,150 men and 21,352 women) on 1st April to 69,017 (53,345 men and 15,674 women) on 1st May, or by 59.3 per cent.

Returns from trade unions showed that out of a total membership of 5,991,685 in the organisations supplying particulars, 51,417, or 0.9 per cent., were out of work on the last day of April. The corresponding percentage for the end of March was 1.1 and for April, 1921, 3.9.

Table showing membership and unemployment statistics for various unions in Germany. Columns include Unions, Membership reported at end of April, 1922, and Percentage of Membership Unemployed (April 1922, March 1922, April 1921). Rows list All Unions making Returns, Principal Unions (Building, Painters, Metal, Textile, Clothing, etc.), and Factory workers.

The statistics of the sickness insurance societies for the month under review show that the number of persons under obligation to insure (and therefore assumed to be in work) in the 6,007 societies making returns, rose from 13,021,057 on 1st April to 13,305,900 on 1st May, or by 2.2 per cent.

* Journal Officiel, 3rd June, 1922. Paris.

Statistics based on returns from the Employment Exchanges show a decrease of 11.1 per cent. in the number of applications for employment, and a decrease of 10.8 per cent. in the number of situations offered. The total number of applications for employment was 810,778 (as against 911,649 in March), and that of vacancies notified by employers 720,408 (807,243 in March). For each 100 situations offered there were thus, in both March and April, 113 applications.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in March and April.—Returns relating to March were received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,841 unemployment funds, with an aggregate membership of 729,666. On the last working day of the month 38,050, or 5.2 per cent., were totally unemployed, and 28,912 partially so. The proportion totally unemployed for the previous month was 5.8 per cent. The aggregate days of unemployment in March numbered 1,079,522, as compared with 1,415,795 in February.

During April 17,095 applications for employment were received by the Employment Exchanges, as compared with 17,619 in March. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 12,266 (12,429 in March). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 139 applications, as compared with 142 in March.

NORWAY.†

Trade Union Unemployment in March.—The percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of March in certain trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was 21.9, as compared with 21.3 at the end of the preceding month and 14.9 in March, 1921.

Table showing membership and unemployment statistics for various unions in Norway. Columns include Unions, Membership (Mar. 31, 1922, Feb. 28, 1922, Mar. 31, 1921), and Percentage Unemployed (Mar. 31, 1922, Feb. 28, 1922, Mar. 31, 1921). Rows list Bricklayers and masons, Carpenters, Painters, Metal workers, etc.

SWEDEN.‡

Unemployment in March.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 31st March was 30.6, as compared with 32.1 at the end of the preceding month and 24.5 on 31st March, 1921.

DENMARK.§

Unemployment in April.—Out of a total of 278,105 workpeople covered by returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, 24.0 per cent. were unemployed on 28th April, as compared with 27.9 per cent. at the end of March and 21.7 per cent. at the end of April, 1921.

SWITZERLAND.||

Unemployment in April.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 30th April was 81,868. Of these, 24,777 were employed on relief works, leaving 57,091 entirely without work. Compared with March, the number of totally unemployed has decreased by 7,251. In the watchmaking industry the number of persons totally unemployed has fallen by 2,028 to 15,860, and in the building industry by 2,262 to 11,571. The number of persons partially unemployed was 39,249 at the end of April, as compared with 40,315 at the end of March.

Comparison with the corresponding statistics for September, 1921, shows that during the last seven months, while the number of persons totally unemployed has increased by 15,222 to 81,868, the number of partially unemployed has decreased by 30,172 to 39,249.

POLAND.

The Commercial Secretary at Warsaw, reporting to the Foreign Office on 2nd June, quotes statistics compiled by the Polish Ministry of Labour showing the number of persons reported unemployed in each month during the period from January, 1919, to April, 1922. At the latest of these dates there were 142,408 unemployed in Poland, as compared with 172,942 in the preceding month, 88,000 in April, 1921, 90,883 in April, 1920, and 323,248 in April, 1919.

* Revue du Travail, May, 1922. Brussels. † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics. ‡ Statistiska Meddelanden, No. 6, 1922. Stockholm. § Statistiske Efterretninger, 11th May, 1922. Copenhagen. || Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th May, 1922, and 13th October, 1921.

CANADA.*

Unemployment among Trade Union Members.—Returns relating to unemployment at the end of March were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 1,430 labour organisations, with a total membership of 157,639. For all trades reporting 9.6 per cent. of the members were unemployed, as compared with 10.6 at the end of the preceding month and 16.5 in March, 1921.

UNITED STATES.†

Employment in April.—The following tabular statements, showing the volume of employment in representative establishments in twelve industries in the United States in April, 1922, as compared with (a) the preceding month, and (b) April, 1921, are compiled from reports received by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics:—

(a) April, 1922, as compared with March, 1922.

Table showing employment statistics for various industries in the US (a). Columns include Industry, Number of Establishments reporting, Number of Workpeople (Mar. 1922, April 1922), and Earnings (Mar. 1922, April 1922). Rows list Iron and steel, Automobiles, Cotton manufacturing, etc.

The above figures show that in April there were increases in the number of persons employed in four industries and decreases in eight. The increases are shown in iron and steel (6.8 per cent.), automobiles (6.3 per cent.), railway and tramway car building and repairing (0.2 per cent.), and hosiery and underwear (0.1 per cent.). Cotton finishing shows a decrease of 15.1 per cent., and men's ready-made clothing one of 10.1 per cent. Two industries show an increase and ten a decrease in aggregate earnings. The increases, 21.8 and 7.5 per cent., appear in automobiles and iron and steel respectively. A decrease of 24.6 per cent. is shown in men's ready-made clothing, and one of 19.2 per cent. in silk.

(b) April, 1922, as compared with April, 1921.

Table showing employment statistics for various industries in the US (b). Columns include Industry, Number of Establishments reporting, Number of Workpeople (April 1921, April 1922), and Earnings (April 1921, April 1922). Rows list Iron and steel, Automobiles, Cotton manufacturing, etc.

A comparison of the figures for April, 1922, with those for April, 1921, shows increases in the number of persons employed in seven of the twelve industries. The most important increases are 34.9 per cent. in hosiery and underwear, 27.9 per cent. in leather manufacturing, and 14.9 per cent. in boots and shoes. Decreases of 25.7 per cent. and 11.9 per cent. are shown in cotton manufacturing and cotton finishing respectively. Four industries show an increase in the aggregate earnings, the greatest being in hosiery and underwear (33.6 per cent.) and leather manufacturing (17.5 per cent.). Percentage decreases of 34.6, 31.3 and 29.2 appear in cotton manufacturing, men's ready-made clothing and silk respectively.

* Employment, 1st May, 1922. Ottawa. † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington. ‡ The figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of the iron and steel, railway and tramcar building and repairing, and silk industries, and for one week in other cases.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, ETC.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

DECLARATION OF LIABILITY: AN "ODD LOT" IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

FIVE appeals were heard by the Court of Appeal, consisting of the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Scrutton, and Lord Justice Younger, which raised the important point whether a workman who had been to some extent permanently injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, had been paid full compensation, and had subsequently returned to work at equal or higher rates than he received before the accident, could at any later date apply for and obtain a declaration of liability on the ground that he has a disability, due to the accident, which may at some future date prevent him from earning as much as he otherwise would. These five appeals were from the decisions of the Yorkshire County Court Judge, who had decided in each case:

- (1) That there was no time limit for claiming a declaration of liability, that therefore
- (2) the question had arisen for arbitration, and
- (3) that the question for decision was whether the injury suffered was such as to render the workman an "odd lot" in the labour market.

The learned Judge held that, if the injury was of such a character, there was a reasonable probability of future incapacity, and that the workman was entitled to a declaration of liability. Against these decisions the employers appealed.

The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, said that the five cases were all of a similar type, initiated together, and that the legal arguments were put forward in one case alone. After decision the facts of the other cases would be dealt with. The one point common to them all was the grounds upon which the County Court Judge had made the declaration of liability. To his mind those grounds were entirely wrong, and particularly with regard to the expression "odd lot" which had been used in each case. The learned County Court Judge had said that the point at issue was: Was the nature and extent of the injury that the workman had suffered such as to render him an "odd lot" in the labour market, and to prevent him from obtaining work elsewhere in the event of his being discharged by the employer in whose service he was when the accident occurred? To his (his Lordship's) mind, the expression "odd lot," which had been invented by Lord Moulton, did not mean to convey that the man was an "odd lot," but that if the accident left the workman's labour in the position of an "odd lot" in the labour market the employer must show that a customer could be found who would take it. In his opinion the workman might be entitled to a declaration of liability, though his labour was not an "odd lot" in the market. The learned County Court Judge was wrong in all five cases, as his finding was contrary to the evidence, the reason for this evidently being that he had misunderstood the expression. This expression had been interpreted by the present and other County Court Judges as deciding that any man whose labour value had become depreciated in the open market owing to an accident had become an "odd lot." In none of the cases before them was there any evidence to support the finding that the man was an "odd lot." This, however, did not determine the question whether there ought or ought not to be a declaration of liability.

Certain propositions which were not disputed had been laid down, and shortly they were as follows:—That there was no statutory limit of time in which a declaration of liability could be applied for, but that in ordinary circumstances it should be applied for as promptly as possible, and the mere fact that the workman had suffered a serious injury was not of itself sufficient to entitle him to a declaration. In his Lordship's opinion, in several of the cases there was no evidence of the probability of future incapacity, and he proceeded to deal with each case separately upon the facts.

The first was that of a man who lost his sight during September, 1912, and, after being paid full compensation during total incapacity, resumed work in December of the same year, when he was able to earn an amount equal to or greater than his earnings before the accident. The applicant had not proved anything which would entitle him to a declaration, and the appeal was allowed.

The second case was allowed on similar grounds.

The third case was in a somewhat different category. The man injured his knee in 1920, and was at present suffering from arthritis in both knees, aggravated in the injured knee by septic conditions, and there was evidence before the County Court Judge that in all probability the knee would get worse. In these circumstances the workman was clearly entitled to a declaration on the proper grounds.

The fourth case was that of a boy of 17 who lost three fingers in an accident two years ago when working as a haulier. He had resumed work as a haulier, and he said that he expected to remain a haulier all his life. In that case again there was some evidence of increasing incapacity in the future, and the declaration of liability would remain.

The fifth case was that of a collier who lost the third finger of one hand in 1915, and again in that case the declaration would stand, as there was sufficient evidence before the County Court Judge that in the future the man might be disabled from work.

The result, therefore, would be that in the first two cases the appeals were allowed, but in the last three they were dismissed without costs, as the grounds of the County Court Judge's decisions had been wrong.—*Foster v. Wharnclyffe Woodmore Colliery Company, Limited. Farmery v. Same. Goodcliffe v. Same. Bateman v. Same. Parry v. Same.*

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

WOMEN EMPLOYEES—H.M. DOCKYARDS AND ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS.—Official Side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council v. Trade Union Side of the Council. Decision.—Reduction in rates of wages payable to women workers employed in colour lofts on sewing work, in laundries, in rope works on spinning and preparatory processes, and in various miscellaneous occupations, as follows:—

Women 18 years of age and over by 1s. 6d. a week from the beginning of the first pay period following 1st June, 1922, and by a further 1s. a week from the beginning of the first pay period following 1st July, 1922.

Girls under 18 years of age by 1s. a week on the first date above mentioned, and by a further 1s. a week on the second date.

The decision shall not operate so as to reduce the rate of any worker below that to which she may be entitled in virtue of any Act of Parliament. Issued 11th May, 1922. (724.)

NAVIES AND LABOURERS—MANCHESTER CORPORATION.—Corporation of the City of Manchester v. Municipal Employees' Association, National Union of General Workers. In October, 1919, following upon a stoppage of work, the Corporation granted building trade rates of wages and conditions of service to men employed in the Highways Department, which concession was extended in August, 1920, to men engaged upon similar work in the Tramways Department. The Corporation claim that the work in question is work of a civil engineering constructional nature. Decision.—The Court decide that the appropriate rate is that agreed by the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board for Grade I. towns, which at the date of the decision was 1s. 3½d. an hour for an average working week of 48 hours as compared with the building trade rate, which was 1s. 5d. an hour for a working week of 44 hours. The decision shall take effect as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of issue. Issued 12th May, 1922. (725.)

RELIEVING OFFICER—NORTHLEACH BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—Mr. A. J. Forty, Relieving Officer to the Northleach Union v. Northleach Board of Guardians. On 1st April, 1922, the bonuses of the officers of the Northleach Union, other than Mr. Forty, were reduced by 7-26ths, while Mr. Forty's bonus was reduced from £77 4s. to £20. Mr. Forty submitted that the bonus granted in July, 1919, was less favourable than that paid to civil servants, and that no reduction was due; but, since a reduction had been made in the case of the other officers, he was prepared to accept a similar one, provided the new bonus was fixed for a definite period, suggesting until 31st December, 1922. Decision.—The Court decide that the bonus of the Relieving Officer shall be reduced in a like manner to that of the other officers of the Northleach Union, and that it shall not be further varied before 30th September, 1922. Issued 30th May, 1922. (726.)

CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896, AND THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

MANUAL WORKERS, NON-TRADING SERVICES: GELLYGAER.—National Union of General Workers v. Gellygaer Urban District Council. Difference—As to whether the rates recommended by the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) should be paid to the Council's employees, or the rates offered by the Council, viz., 100 per cent. advance on pre-war rates. Arbitrator—Mr. F. H. McLeod, C.B. Award—A basic rate of 29s. per week should be paid to labourers and the basic rates of the other classes of workpeople concerned should be increased proportionately. To the basic rate should be added the percentage rise in the "Cost

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

ORDERS confirming minimum rates of wages as fixed and/or varied by the following Trade Boards, have been made by the Minister of Labour under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918:—

Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 24th May, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piecework basis time-rates and overtime rates, dependent upon the cost of living index figure, (as varied) for male workers in the coffin furniture section of the trade, and specifying 6th June, 1922, as the date from which the variation is effective.

General minimum time-rates per week of 47 hours, applicable when the cost of living index figure is (A) 101 or above, (B) 89-100, (C) 76-87, (D) 75 and below, for male workers of 21 years of age and over, employed as: (a) dressers and stampers (including wheelers), (A) 68s. 3d., 75s. 9d. and 81s. 9d., according to grade, (B) 64s. 4d., 71s. 10d., 77s. 10d., (C) 61s. 5d., 68s. 11d., 74s. 11d., (D) 57s. 6d., 65s., 71s.; (b) polishers and planishers (including wheelers), (A) 69s. 9d., 78s. 9s., 83s. 9d., (B) 65s. 10d., 74s. 10d., 79s. 10d., (C) 62s. 11d., 71s. 11d., 76s. 11d., (D) 59s., 66s., 73s.; (c) packers or on rough warehousing, despatching or other incidental operations, (A) 53s., 56s. and 62s., according to experience, (B) 51s., 54s., 60s., (C) 49s., 52s., 58s., (D) 47s., 50s., 56s., with lower rates for the above classes of workers under 21 years of age.

Piecework basis time-rates for all male workers of 21 years and over: (a) for the period during which the cost of living index figure is not less than 76, 12½ per cent. above the general minimum time-rate applicable; (b) for the period during which the figure is 75 or below, 15 per cent. above the general minimum time-rate applicable.

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 29th May, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piecework basis time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying 12th June, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The rates set out below will operate as follows:—(A) From 12th June up to and including 11th September, 1922, (B) from 12th September, 1922.

General minimum time-rates per week of 43 hours (or the number customarily worked, but not less than 44): (a) Male workers of 21 years of age and over: (i.) tenters, with a recognised full charge, (A) 59s. 10d., (B) 56s. 8d.; (ii.) under tenters, (A) 41s. 1d., 46s. 1d., 51s. 4d. (according to period of employment), (B) 38s. 11d., 43s. 8d., 48s. 7d.; (iii.) dressers, mounters, card-cutters and hacklers (hand-dressers), (A) 55s. 7d., (B) 52s. 8d.; (iv.) all other workers (except apprentices and improvers in tenting and dressing, and workers employed as hemp-rollers on non-reciprocating machines or as hemp-breakers). (A) 46s. 1d., (B) 43s. 8d., with lower rates for younger workers; (b) female workers of 18 years of age and over, (i.) spinners and card-cutters, weavers, winders and warpers, (A) 30s., (B) 29s.; (ii.) all other workers (except reelers and learners), (A) 26s., (B) 25s., with lower rates for younger workers and learners employed on weaving, warping, winding, spinning or card-cutting.

Piecework basis time-rates for female workers of all ages: (A) 7½d. per hour; (B) 7¼d. per hour.

General minimum piece-rates are confirmed for male weavers employed on weaving canvas.

Hollow-Ware Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 9th June, 1922, confirming the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers and the piece-work basis time-rate (as varied) for certain female workers, and specifying 19th June, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates.—(a) Male workers (other than learners), 1s. 0½d. per hour; (b) female workers (other than learners), 7¼d. per hour, with lower rates for learners in each case. Piece-work basis time-rate for female workers of 18 years of age or over, 8d. per hour.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 3rd June, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates dependent upon the cost of living index figure, (as varied) for male and female workers, and specifying 19th June, 1922, as the date from which the variation is effective.

[The rates confirmed are as proposed and set out in the Board's Notices (I.9 and I.10), dated 2nd March, 1922, particulars of which will be found on pages 148-9 of the March issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE.]

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 19th May, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female learners and apprentices, and specifying 29th May, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

of Living" as shown in the LABOUR GAZETTE. An average of the official index numbers should be made every three months and wages increased or reduced by 2s. per week or ½d. per hour for every complete rise or fall of six points. Changes of less than six points should be disregarded until the next quarterly ascertainment. The award should take effect from 13th February, 1922, and should remain in operation until the end of May, 1923. Either party may give three months' notice in writing prior to that date to terminate the award. Issued 31st May, 1922. (I.R. 124/39/1922.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

BUILDING TRADES OPERATIVES: PETERHEAD.—National Federation of Building Trades Operatives v. Peterhead Master Builders' Association. Difference—Arising out of the Employers' intention to reduce wages from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 6d. per hour as from 1st March. Agreement—The rate of wages for Joiners, Plasterers and Masons should be 1s. 7d. per hour as from 15th May, and should continue to be ½d. per hour below the rate paid to such men in Aberdeen. This arrangement would continue until 7th March, 1923, any alteration after that date to be subject to one month's notice on either side.

The rate of wages for Plumbers should be 1s. 8½d. per hour as from 15th May, and should continue to be ½d. below the rate paid to Plumbers in Aberdeen from time to time. Agreed—May, 1922. (I.R. 545/1922.)

HOSPITAL WORKERS: LONDON.—National Federation of General Workers, National Union of General Workers and Transport and General Workers' Union v. King's College Hospital, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Guy's Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. Difference—Proposal to modify the terms of Award No. 371 of the Industrial Court, dated 2nd July, 1920 (Hospital Workers, London Hospitals). * Agreement—The minimum wage of men should be reduced by 2s. 6d. per week as from 13th May and by a further 2s. 6d. as from 12th August. The minimum wage of women should be reduced by sums of 1s. 3d. per week as from the same dates. Where meals are provided the minimum rates so established should be reduced by such an amount as may be agreed between the parties, according to the circumstances of each individual case based on the cost to the hospital. The agreement should remain in force for one year and thereafter until revised or terminated, three months' notice to be given by either side.

[A reservation was made by Guy's Hospital that the agreement should not apply, inasmuch as the women employed by this Hospital have never been paid in accordance with Award No. 371.]

Agreed, 2nd May, 1922. (I.R. 1809/1921.)

BAKERS: SCOTLAND.—Scottish Union of Operative Bakers and Confectioners v. Scottish Association of Master Bakers and the Scottish Co-operative Societies engaged in the Baking Industry. Difference—Arising out of the Association's decision to terminate the operation of the National Working Agreement, and the Union's proposal for a new National Working Agreement for 1922-23. Agreement—The wages payable on the first pay day in May should be determined by the scale operative in the 1921-22 agreement, and thereafter wages should rise or fall 3s. per week for every variation of 10 full points in the "Cost of Living" figure as published in the LABOUR GAZETTE. Overtime on the six days of the week should be paid for at the rate of time and half, to be allowed on each day only after the expiry of the full working hours. Cases of systematic overtime should be reported to the Local Joint Committee. A Committee should be appointed to determine the application of the working hours and the daily allocation of the hours. Failing agreement, the Committee must make application to the Ministry of Labour for the appointment of an Arbitrator to determine the matter by 10th June, 1922. Excepting ovenmen, early men should not start earlier than 4 a.m. on the first five days and 3 a.m. on Saturday. The general body of men should not start earlier than 5 a.m. on the first five days and 4 a.m. on Saturday. Allowance for early men should be 5s. per week. The maximum overtime to be worked on Saturday to be one and a half hours. Payment for holidays, apprenticeship conditions, and other conditions fixed. Provision was made for the appointment of Local Joint Committees to adjust local conditions in accordance with the agreement, who, failing settlement, should submit the differences to the Reference Committee, whose decision would be final. The agreement should remain in operation until 30th April, 1923. Signed 26th May, 1922. (I.R. 184/2/1922.)

BRICKLAYERS: EBBW VALE.—Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers v. G. T. Gale, Builder, Ebbw Vale. Difference—Arising out of the dismissal of two members of the Operative Bricklayers' Society who refused to work beyond recognised Building Trade working hours on plain time rates. Agreement—The employer agreed to abide by the Working Rules of the Building Trade in their entirety, recognising that each day stood by itself as far as working hours were concerned, and would assist the above-mentioned Society in persuading any non-union bricklayers to join the Society. Agreed 30th May, 1922. (I.R. 808/1922.)

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1920, page 458.

The rates per week of 48 hours range as follows:—(a) Learners, (i.) males, from 9s. to 34s.; (ii.) females, from 6s. 6d. to 24s., according to year of apprenticeship; (b) apprentices not supplied with board or lodging, (i.) males, from 7s. to 32s.; (ii.) females, from 5s. to 29s., according to year of apprenticeship; (c) male and female apprentices, (i.) provided with board, 4s. to 21s.; (ii.) provided with full board and lodging, 2s. to 14s.

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

I.—Order, dated 12th May, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male workers, and specifying 20th May, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates for male workers of 21 years of age and over employed as (i.) braziers, burnishers or drop stampers, 1s. 4d., 1s. 6d. and 1s. 7½d. per hour, according to grade; (ii.) dippers, 1s. 4d. per hour; (iii.) dippers who are also bronzers, 1s. 4d., 1s. 6d. and 1s. 7½d. per hour; (iv.) annealers, 1s. 4d. per hour; (v.) polishers, 1s. 4d., 1s. 6½d. and 1s. 8d. per hour; (vi.) all other male workers, 1s. 1½d. per hour, with lower rates for workers under 21 years of age.

Piece-work basis time-rates for all male workers (all ages): 15 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time-rate as set out above.

II.—Order, dated 29th May, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for female workers, and specifying 10th June, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The rates set out below will operate as follows:—(A) From 10th June up to and including 14th July, 1922; (B) from 15th June, 1922.

General minimum time-rates: Female workers of 18 years of age and over employed as (i.) polishers or drop stampers, (A) 8½d., 9½d. or 10½d. per hour (according to length of service), (B) 8d., 9d. or 10d.; (ii.) hand-brush-japanners and hand-brush-lacquers who are capable of finishing all classes of work, blow-pipe-braziers, or solderers using ordinary hand-iron or blow-pipe with bar solder, (A) 7½d., 8½d. or 9½d. per hour, (B) 7d., 8d. or 9d. per hour; (iii.) all other workers, (A) 7½d., (B) 7d. per hour, with lower rates for workers under 18 years of age without periodical variation.

Piece-work basis time-rates for all female workers of the classes specified above: (i.) (A) 11½d., (B) 11d. per hour; (ii.) (A) 10½d., (B) 10d. per hour; (iii.) (A) 8½d., (B) 8d. per hour, with lower rates for workers under 18 years of age without periodical variation.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL to fix and/or vary minimum rates of wages have been issued by the following Trade Boards:—

Corset Trade Board.

Proposal (K 9), dated 10th May, 1922, to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers for the following periods:—(a) Three months from the date on which the proposed variation takes effect, (b) from the expiry of that period.

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (F.H. 14), dated 8th June, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates for certain classes of female learners employed in weaving by attaching a condition for securing their effective instruction in the trade.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

I. Proposal (J. 20), dated 2nd June, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male tenters of 21 years of age and over with a recognised full charge.

II. Proposal (J. 21), dated 9th June, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to fix general minimum piece-rates and to vary overtime rates for female workers employed on Hessian weaving in the areas of Dundee, Carnoustie and Tayport.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (H.L.9), dated 12th June, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers for the following periods:—(a) From the date on which the proposed variation takes effect until 31st December, 1922, (b) on and after 1st January, 1923; and to cancel the guaranteed time-rates for certain classes of female workers.

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

Proposal (Q. 16), dated 24th May, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male workers

other than workers who are employed as braziers, burnishers, drop-stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, annealers or polishers.

General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal, dated 28th April, 1922, to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal, dated 4th May, 1922, to vary the general minimum time-rates for female workers.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal, dated 24th May, 1922, to vary the general minimum time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

Particulars of the minimum rates of wages referred to above, as regards Great Britain, may be obtained by reference to the London and Edinburgh Gazettes.

Particulars regarding minimum rates of wages Proposed, Fixed or Varied by Trade Boards established in Northern Ireland may be obtained from the Secretary, Office of Trade Boards (Northern Ireland), Upper Queen Street, Belfast.

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 His Majesty's Stationery Office.

Cases after Number 2000 will not be published in volume form, but summaries of the decisions will be printed in a pamphlet 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 His Majesty's Stationery Office or at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 2121.—SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—CUSTOMARY HOLIDAYS DO NOT BREAK CONTINUITY—WAGES PAID FOR CUSTOMARY HOLIDAY.

The applicant had been employed as a labourer at a Government Factory, and had been working under a short-time system of one week's suspension in every six weeks. On the 24th December, 1921, he was suspended for one week in accordance with the system of short-time working, and he renewed his claim for Unemployment Benefit in respect of that week. The 26th and 27th December were customary holidays, and it appeared that, as the applicant had completed six months' satisfactory service at the factory, he was paid wages in respect of the two days holiday in accordance with the Aldershot Command Orders. The amount received by the applicant in respect of these holidays was 19s. 4d.

In view of the payment made to him in respect of the 26th and 27th December, his claim to benefit was disallowed for these two days on the ground that he was not unemployed within the meaning of the Act; and further, as the two days of customary holiday were not days of unemployment, they could not be linked with the signatures of the unemployed register on the remaining four days of the week in order to complete the six continuous signatures required under Section 7 (2) (b) towards establishing continuity of unemployment with the week's suspension which had taken place five weeks previously, and in respect of which the applicant had proved unemployment in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed, as the Court considered that the applicant could not be deemed to have been unemployed on the days in question.

In view of the important principle involved in this case, the Insurance Officer formally disagreed with the finding of the Court of Referees, in order to obtain an authoritative decision of the Umpire. He was of opinion that the days of customary holiday in respect of which wages were paid should in no circumstances be regarded as days of unemployment, and unless in addition to the holidays there had been a period of at least six days of unemployment, payment of benefit could not be made for the number of days in the period if less than six; and in view of the operation of the continuity rule [Section 7 (2) (b)], he was of opinion that a fresh waiting week would be essential when the applicant was next suspended under the short-time system.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed, except for 26th and 27th December.”

“The payment made to this applicant in respect of 26th and 27th December was only made to those labourers who had satisfactorily completed six months' service, and should accordingly be regarded as a gratuity for good service. The case is, therefore, in my judgment, substantially similar to Case No. 1047.”

CASE No. 2131.—SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—DEFINITION OF “OCCUPATION ORDINARILY FOLLOWED.”

The applicant, who lived at Leeds, and whose usual employment was that of a tool-maker, became unemployed in April, 1921. He lodged a claim for unemployment benefit on the 5th December, 1921, which was disallowed on the ground that he was not “unemployed” within the meaning of the Act.

Since becoming unemployed in April, 1921, the applicant and his wife obtained, in September, 1921, work as joint part-time caretakers at a local church. They performed the caretaking work in the evenings and on Sundays, and their joint salary up to the 31st December, 1921, was at the rate of £30 per annum and free accommodation, representing a total remuneration of £47 per annum. Since the 1st January, 1922, the joint salary had been increased by £10, making a total remuneration of £57 per annum.

The applicant stated that for 10 years up to about April, 1916, he had been employed in the evenings as a caretaker at a church at Woolwich, and during the day he had been employed as a tool-grinder and storeman at Woolwich Arsenal. He contended, therefore, that he had ordinarily followed the occupation as caretaker in addition to and outside the working hours of his usual employment, and that his remuneration from that occupation did not exceed 3s. 4d. per day.

Recommended, by the Court of Referees, that the claim for benefit should be allowed on the ground that the applicant was not disentitled to benefit under the provisions of Section 7 (2) (a).

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees. He was of opinion that the applicant had not followed the occupation as church caretaker at Leeds in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment as a tool-maker.

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

“I agree with the Court of Referees. The occupation which the applicant has followed in addition to his usual employment is the occupation of caretaker. He followed this occupation in addition to his usual employment for a long period of time, and it is immaterial that the premises of which he was then caretaker were not the same premises as those at which he is now occupied.”

CASE No. 2149.—SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—PROOF OF UNEMPLOYMENT—CUSTOMARY HOLIDAYS DO NOT BREAK CONTINUITY OF UNEMPLOYMENT—THEY CANNOT BE COUNTED AS PART OF “WAITING WEEK” OR AS DAYS FOR WHICH BENEFIT IS PAYABLE.

The applicant became unemployed on the 30th December, and he lodged a claim for unemployment benefit on the following day. He signed the Unemployed Register continuously up to the 9th January, 1922, and after a period of four days' employment he again proved unemployment from the 14th January to the 26th January, 1922. It appeared that the customary New Year's holidays of the firm at which he was employed were 2nd, 3rd and 4th January.

The claim was disallowed by the Insurance Officer on the ground that as the signatures of the Unemployed Register on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th January were in respect of customary holidays, the period from the 31st December to the 9th January was not a continuous period of unemployment within the meaning of Section 7 (2) (b); and, further, as there were only five days of unemployment, other than the holidays, in the period 31st December to 9th January, continuity of unemployment within the meaning of Section 7 (2) (b) could not be established between that period and the period commencing the 14th January. Accordingly the “waiting week” required to be served under the Act would commence on the 14th January, so that the first day for which benefit was payable would be the 21st January.

Recommended, by the Court of Referees, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed in accordance with the Insurance Officer's decision.

The applicant's Association declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees. It was submitted on appeal that the customary holidays should not be regarded as interrupting continuity of unemployment, and that the period of unemployment commencing the 31st December should be regarded as continuous with the period commencing the 14th January. Accordingly, while the customary holidays could not be regarded as days for which benefit was payable, or as part of the waiting week, it was submitted that, as there was a period of continuous unemployment amounting to nineteen days, there should only be deducted from this period three days in respect of customary holidays and six days in respect of the “waiting week,” leaving a period of ten days unemployment for which benefit would be payable.

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

“Having regard to the principle adopted in Cases Numbers 673* and 2038† the period of unemployment from 31st December to 9th January may be regarded as continuous with the period commencing 14th January. The customary holidays, however, 2nd, 3rd and 4th January, are not to be regarded as days for which benefit is payable or as part of the waiting week.”

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920 TO 1922.

References to the High Court of Justice under Section 10 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

PURSUANT to paragraph 6 of the Unemployment Insurance (Determination of Questions) Regulations, 1920, the Minister of Labour hereby gives notice of his intention to refer to the High Court for decision the following questions that have arisen in applications made to him for his decision under Section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, namely, whether the employment of a person as a

Pea picker and sorter in the seed warehouse of a firm of nurserymen and seed growers and merchants;

Cleaner, inside and outside business hours, to clean generally, and also to clean windows in departments, offices or workrooms forming part of the business premises of a West End store;

Cleaner, outside and during business hours, to dust, clean mirrors, remove waste-paper, etc., in departments, offices or workrooms forming part of the business premises of a West End store;

Cleaner, mainly outside business hours, to sweep, dust and scrub departments, offices or workrooms, also to take turn in cleaning floors of the restaurant department forming part of the business premises of a West End store;

Golf caddy at a members' golf club;

Chauffeur to a practising physician, driving exclusively for professional purposes,

is or is not employment within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

Under Rules 5 and 18 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for regulating appeals and references to the High Court under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, Section 10, any person who claims to be affected by the decisions to be given in the above-mentioned cases may apply to the Judge for leave to intervene.

The cases have been set down in the High Court, and will be heard in the near future.

In the event of any person desiring to intervene, all the necessary information and documents can be obtained by applying to the Solicitor to the Ministry of Labour, 3, Richmond-terrace, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MAY.

ENGINEERING TRADE DISPUTE.—(1) *Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning the engineering trades dispute, 1922.* Ministry of Labour. [Cmd. 1653: price 6d.] (2) *Engineering trade dispute (Poor Law relief).* Ministry of Health. [Cmd. 1693: price 2d.]

HEALTH AND SAFETY.—(1) *Miners' Lamps Committee. Minutes of evidence with index, and an appendix on the law of foreign countries in regard to safety lamps and their upkeep.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. [S.O. publication: price 30s.] (2) *First report of the Miners' Nystagmus Committee.* Medical Research Council. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.]

INSURANCE.—(1) *Eighth report on the work of the National Insurance Audit Department, 1921.* Treasury. [S.O. publication: price 9d.] (2) *Report by Government Actuary on the valuations of the assets and liabilities of approved societies as at 31st December, 1918.* Ministry of Health. [Cmd. 1652: price 3d.] (3) *National Health Insurance Funds and Unemployment Insurance Funds. Accounts showing amount of securities held for reduction of National Debt.* National Debt Office. [H.C. 80: price 2d.]

OLD AGE PENSIONS.—*Old Age Pensions Acts, 1908-1919, and Blind Persons Act, 1920. Financial instructions for Pensions Committees and sub-committees.* [Cmd. 1659: price 2d.]

POOR RELIEF.—*Parish of Poplar Borough. Report of special inquiry into the expenditure of the Guardians.* Ministry of Health. [S.O. publication: price 2s. 6d.]

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1921, page 507.
† See LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1922, page 242.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1922.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Accumulators, Charging Boards for: General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Anchors:** N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Dudley.—**Beef, Corned:** Ellis Bedford, London, E.C.; Gilbert, Kimpton & Co., London, E.C.—**Belted, Balata:** J. Dawson & Son, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Belting, Laminated Leather:** J. Hendry, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Biscuit, Cabin:** Peter Brown & Co., North Shields.—**Blades, Hack Saw:** Chas. Baynes, Ltd., Blackburn; J. W. & H. Platt, Harrow; Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Bolts and Nuts, Steel:** Guest, Keen & Nettelfolds, Ltd., Birmingham; F. W. Cotterill, Ltd., Darlaston; C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Bolts and Nuts, Bright Steel:** E. H. Bentall & Co., Ltd., Maldon, Essex; E. Mercer, Ltd., Manchester; J. C. Prestwich, Ltd., Manchester; C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Bolts and Nuts, Wrought Iron:** F. W. Cotterill, Ltd., Darlaston; Guest, Keen & Nettelfolds, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Boxes and Dry Cells:** Ever Ready Co. (Great Britain), Ltd., London, N.—**Bunting:** C. B. Brook & Co., Bradford.—**Capstans, Steam:** Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cases, Suit:** M. & A. Hess, London, E.C.; David Stocks, Edinburgh.—**Cells, Accumulator:** Fullers' United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—**Chain Cable and Gear:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; Earl of Dudley's Round Oak Works, Ltd., Brierley Hill; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney.—**Chemicals:** F. Allen & Sons (Poplar), Ltd., London, E.; Brunner, Mond & Co., Ltd., Northwich; Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., Ltd., London, E.; J. Crossfield & Sons, Ltd., Warrington; United Alkali Co., Ltd., Runcorn.—**Cloth, Leather:** Leather Cloth Co., Ltd., West Ham, E.—**Cloths, Cleaning:** B. Kershaw & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Coats, Waterproof, Officers':** B. Birnbaum & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; Green & Emanuel, Ltd., Manchester.—**Cocks, Gunmetal Steam, Valves and Torpedo Fittings:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; J. Blakebrough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse; Hayward, Tyler & Co., Ltd., Luton; J. Russell & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; Smith Bros. & Co. (Hyson), Ltd., Nottingham.—**Cocks, Gunmetal and Plated (not subject to steam pressure):** E. Barber & Co., London, N.; S. Birkett & Sons (Cleckheaton), Ltd., Cleckheaton; H. Bisseker, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Blakebrough & Sons, Ltd., Brighouse, Yorks; S. Booth & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Gummers, Ltd., Rotherham; Hyde & Sons, Wolverhampton; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; Smith Bros. & Co. (Hyson), Ltd., Nottingham.—**Dies, Gromets and Punches:** H. Hipkiss & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Drawers, Net Cotton, Officers':** I. & R. Morley, London, E.C.—**Drawers, Winter and Summer, Officers':** I. & R. Morley, London, E.C.; Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Loughborough.—**Dynamos, Auxiliary:** Laurence Scott & Co., Ltd., Gothic Works, Norwich.—**Electric Light and Power Installation:** W. H. Heath & Co., 41, George-street, Plymouth.—**Electric Supply Cables and External Electric Lighting Installation:** Foote, Milne & Co., 66, Victoria Street, S.W.—**Electrodes:** The Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Alloy Welding Processes, Ltd., London, N.—**Fearnought:** L. Harwood & Co., Ltd., Luddenden Foot.—**Fireheart Gear:** Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield; Carron Co., Falkirk; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire.—**Flour, S.R.:** V. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Frocks, Submarine:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Fuzes (Electric):** L. Weekes, Ltd., Luton.—**Gaiters, Black Leather:** Dunhills, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Glycerine:** C. Thomas & Bros., Ltd., Bristol.—**Hides, Buffalo, and Morocco Skins:** J. T. Hart & Sons, London, S.E.; J. T. Underwood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Hides and Leather Goods:** R. Gallsworthy & Sons, Lincoln; F. C. Jenner & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Bryant & Co., London, S.E.; G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Hipperholme, near Halifax; Fleming, Birkby & Goodall, Ltd., Halifax; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., Shadwell, E.—**Hoses:** The Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.—**Ironmongery:** J. Allen & Sons, Old Hill, Staffs.; Armstrong, Stevens & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath; J. Golcher, Ltd., Wednesbury; R. Green, Ltd., Cradley Heath; J. Hill & Sons, Lye, near Stourbridge; A. E. Jenks & Cattell, Ltd., Wolverhampton; S. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Withymoor, Dudley; Ley's Malleable Castings Co., Ltd., Derby; Old Hill Company, near Dudley; Emma Orton, Willenhall; H. J. & E. Shorthouse, Birmingham; T. B. Wellings & Co., Ltd., Old Hill, Staffs.—**Kersey:** Wm. Edelman, Sowerby Bridge.—**Lace, Gold:** Geo. Kenning & Son, London, E.C.—**Laces, Cotton, Boot and Shoe:** Brough, Nicholson & Hall, Ltd., Leek.—**Lead, Red:** Alexander Fergusson & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Foster, Blackett & Wilson, Ltd., Hebburn-on-Tyne; Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Walkers Bros. & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Lead, Sheet and Pipe:** A. D. Foulkes, Ltd., Birmingham; Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Locke Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Leather, for Royal Marines:** G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; F. C. Jenner & Co., London,

S.E.; H. Nickols, Ltd., Joppa, Leeds; Randall & Porter, Ulverston, Lancs.; J. Tullis & Son, Bridgeton, Glasgow.—**Leggings, Web:** Fleming, Birkby & Goodall, Ltd., Halifax; Mills, Equipment Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Lifts, Aircraft:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Lime Juice:** L. Rose & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Motors, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Kingsway, W.C.—**Nails, Iron and Steel:** D. Bennie & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Carlyle, Chirm & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Cooper & Turner, Ltd., Sheffield; Guest, Keen & Nettelfolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Hall & Rice, Ltd., W. Bromwich; S. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Dudley; W. Mills & Co., Old Hill, Staffs.; T. Parish & Son, Halesowen; J. Reynolds & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; The Tower Mfg. Co., Ltd., Worcester; The Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Oil, Lubricating (Light Torpedo Oil):** Silvertown Lubricants, Ltd., Silvertown, E.—**Oil, Lubricating ("Special" Mineral for Turbines):** Silvertown Lubricants, Ltd., Silvertown, E.; Rimer Bros., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Paint, Black:** J. Hare & Co., Bristol; Hemingway & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Paint, White Lead:** Brimsdown Lead Co., Ltd., Brimsdown; Cox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Derby; Foster, Blackett & Wilson, Ltd., Hebburn; Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Paint and Colours:** Blacklock & Macarthur, Ltd., Glasgow; Burrell & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Colthurst & Holding, Bristol; Docker Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; N. J. Fenner & H. B. Alder & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Golden Valley Ochre & Oxide Co., Ltd., Bristol; Goodlass Wall & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; John Hare & Co., Bristol; Naylor Bros. (London), Ltd., Slough; Andrew G. Soutter & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Wm. R. Todd & Son, Ltd., Hull.—**Panels, Contactor:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Castleton, Manchester.—**Peas, Marrowfat:** Willer & Riley (1910), Ltd., Manchester; C. Sharpe & Co. (1920), Ltd., Sleaford.—**Peas, Split:** B. Smith & Sons, London, E.C.—**Pump, Centrifugal Bilge:** Drysdale & Co., Yoker, Glasgow.—**Putty:** T. & W. Farmiloe, Ltd., London, S.W.; C. H. Musselwhite & Son, London, S.E.—**Radiators, Elements for:** Credenda Conduits Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Reps and Damasks:** Glover Bros. (Leeds), Ltd., Wortley, near Leeds; Walsh & McCrea, Ltd., Halifax; J. Holdsworth & Co., Ltd., Halifax.—**Rivets, Steel:** Guest, Keen & Nettelfolds, Ltd., Birmingham; Newport River Co., Ltd., Newport; Rivet, Bolt & Nut Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Sheets, Steel Ship:** Partridge, Jones & Paton, Ltd., Pontypridd; Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., Port Talbot; Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Redheugh Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne.—**Shirts, White Tunic:** Young & Rochester, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Shorts, Cellular and Cotton:** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Smiths' Work:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton; Douglas Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath; Horton & Son, Ltd., Darlaston; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham; T. B. Wellings & Co., Ltd., Old Hill; Vaughan Bros., Willenhall.—**Stockings, Waterboot:** W. Waddington & Co., Kendal.—**Stockings and Socks, Thin:** E. Gregson & Co., Leicester; A. E. Hill, Ltd., Wigston; F. Main, S. Wigston; A. Yates & Co., Leicester.—**Straps, Leather (or Millbands):** G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. H. Fenner & Co., Ltd., Manfield, Hull; E. Hallas & Sons, Ltd., Huddersfield; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., Shadwell, E.—**Switchgear, Transformers, etc.:** Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, S.E.—**Tapes, Measuring:** J. Rabone & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Howard Wall, Ltd., London, E.—**Telemotor System, Fittings for:** MacTaggart, Scott & Co., Loanhead, Edinburgh.—**Towelling, Terry:** Wm. R. Lee, Ltd., Haywood, Lancs.; Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton, Manchester.—**Tubes, Steel, Solid Drawn for Steam Pipes:** Perfecta Seamless Steel Tube and Conduit Co., Ltd., Aston, Birmingham.—**Vests, Net Cotton, Officers':** I. & R. Morley, London, E.C.—**Vests, Winter and Summer, C.P.Os.:** T. M. Butler & Co., Ltd., Leicester; Cooper Bros., Ltd., Nottingham; I. & R. Morley, London, E.C.; R. Rowley & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Vests, Winter and Summer, Officers':** I. & R. Morley, London, E.C.; Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Loughborough.—**Wire:** Latch & Batchelor, Ltd., Hay Mills, Birmingham; John Smith, Ltd., Birmingham; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Salop; Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Copper, Double and Single Cotton, and Double Silk Covered:** Kent Bros., London, S.E.; Electric Wire Co., London; E. H. Phillips, Ltd., London, S.W.—**London Electric Wire Co., London, E.C.:** Smiths, Ltd., London; Ward & Goldstone, Ltd., Manchester, S.W.—**Zinc Sheets and Slabs:** F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.; Locke, Lancaster, London, E.C.; W. W. R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London.

ADMIRALTY.

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

H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad:—**Filters, Valves and Fittings:** J. Blakebrough & Sons, Brighouse, Yorks.—**Steel Fencing:** Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge, Scotland.—**Portsmouth:**—**Corrugated Asbestos Sheets:** The British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., Erith, Kent.

WAR OFFICE.

Baths, Slipper: Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., Stratford, E.—**Boots:** Adams Bros., Raunds; St. Crispin Productive Society, Raunds; Northants Productive Society, Wellingborough.—**Brushes, Sweeping:** Phoenix Brush Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Vale & Bradnack, Walsall.—**Canvas Shoes:** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Caps, Service Dress:** E. Altman, Ltd., Aldershot; J. Compton & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; Myers & Co., London, W.—**Clothing, Miscellaneous:** J. & B. Pearce & Co., London, E.—**Copper Ingot, British-American Metal Co., Ltd., London, E.C.:** Elder Smith & Co., London, E.C.—**Cotton Waste:** Thos. Griffiths & Co., Manchester.—**Doors, Fireproof:** E. Wood & Co., Manchester.—**Flannelette:** Scholfield, Preston & Co., Ltd., Nelson.—**Fuel Oil:** Shell Mex, Ltd., Thames Haven.—**Guttering:** Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge.—**Grates with Mantels, etc.:** Bratt, Colbran & Co., and The Heaped Fire Co., Ltd., Cricklewood, N.W.; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., Stratford, E.—**Lamps, Electric:** Cryselco, Ltd., Bedford; General Electric Co., London, E.C.—**Lead, Pig:** British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linoleum:** Tayside Floor Cloth Co., Ltd., Newburgh, Fife.—**Motor Spirit and Kerosene:** Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pipes, Hose, Canvas:** Raven Hose & Belting Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Saddletrees, Repair to:** D. Mason & Sons, Birmingham.—**Saucepans:** Thos. Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Screws:** Hy. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Steel Tower and Staircase:** W. Wadsworth & Sons, Bolton.—**Stove Piping:** The Nestor Iron Works, Homerton.—**Zinc Spelter:** British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Works Services, Building Works:** Woolwich: G. Munday & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E. Chilwell: John F. Bush, Nottingham. Weedon: W. Higgins, Ltd., Northampton. Batterssea Park: E. Parry & Co., Putney, S.W.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aeroplane Modifications: Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—**Aeroplane Spares:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry.—**Balloons:** Rubber Novelties Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Conversion of Existing Building:** Watson & Sons, Perth.—**Electrical Accessories, Running Contract:** Sun Electrical Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Engines:** Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engine Gears:** Wayside Engineering Works, Ltd., Guildford.—**Engine Spares:** Delco-Remy, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Maintenance of Buildings (Digby):** W. Pattinson & Sons, Ltd., Sleaford.—(Milton): W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes.—**Metal Sheathing of Propellers:** Lang Propeller, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Motor Generators:** W. Mackie & Co., London, S.E.—**Photographic Material:** Houghton-Butcher Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Power and Pump House, Reservoir and Oil Storage Tank, Construction of:** Pearce Bros., Bromley.—**Radiators:** Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rapson Covers, Tubes and Deflectors:** Rapson Tyre & Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden, Surrey.—**Repairs and Alterations to R.A.F. Trawler No. 1:** J. T. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Southampton.—**Shock Absorber Cord:** Luke, Turner & Co., Leicester.—**Sparking Plugs:** Robinhood Eng. Works, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Stair Threads, Non-Slipping:** Lion Foundry Co., Ltd., Kirkintulloch.—**Streamline Wires:** Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Triple Flashing Lighthouses at Cranbrook and Cairo:** Gas Accumulator Co. (U.K.), Ltd., Brentford, Middlesex.—**Wireless Telegraphy Hut:** H. G. Ross, Netley Abbey.

POST OFFICE.

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