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## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.

### EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed continued improvement in almost every industry. The improvement was again most marked in those industries in which unemployment nevertheless remained severe, such as shipbuilding, marine engineering, public works contracting, and the hand tool and cutlery industry. In the building and clothing industries there was a further seasonal improvement, and employment was good on the whole. There was also an improvement in general engineering, in the wool textile industry, textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., and the boot and shoe industry. In the coal-mining industry both the numbers wholly unemployed and the numbers temporarily stopped showed a slight decrease as compared with 25th April, but employment remained slack on the whole. Employment in the tinplate industry and among workers in the canal, river, dock, etc., service continued bad, and was worse than in the previous month.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) in all industries taken together at 23rd May, 1927, was 8·8, as compared with 9·4 at 25th April, 1927, and 14·3 at 24th May, 1926. The percentage wholly unemployed declined from 7·2 at 25th April to 6·7 at 23rd May. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th May, 1927, was approximately 1,015,000, of whom 823,000 were men and 136,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 25th April, 1927, it was 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women, and at 31st May, 1926, it was 1,675,000, of whom 1,246,000 were men and 333,000 were women. The figures for May, 1926 (although exclusive of coal miners disqualified for unemployment benefit under the trade dispute provisions), were, of course, affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £77,600 in the weekly full-time wages of 512,000 workpeople and in an increase of £600 in those of 9,000 workpeople. The reduction was accounted for mainly by decreases in the coal-mining industry in Yorkshire, Scotland, the Forest of Dean, and Shropshire, the amounts of reduction ranging from nearly 5 per cent. of current wages in the Forest of Dean to about 10 per cent. in Scotland. In the iron and steel industry the wages of various

groups of workers were reduced under the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices. There were also reductions, under cost-of-living sliding scales, in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing, paper box, paper bag, and brush and broom trades, and in the wages of electrical cable makers, penmakers at Birmingham, dyers and dry cleaners, road transport workers in Scotland, tramway workers at Liverpool, and the employees of various local authorities in London and the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The principal group of workpeople who obtained increases in rates of wages during May were iron-ore miners in Cumberland and Furness.

During the first five months of 1927 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics are compiled have resulted in net increases amounting to £23,250 in the weekly full-time wages of 311,000 workpeople and in net reductions of £167,000 in those of 1,120,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1926 there were net increases of £14,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 116,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £52,000 in those of 519,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 63 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. a month ago and 68 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 54, 54 and 58 respectively.

The fall in the index number at 1st June, as compared with a month earlier, was due to reductions in retail prices of coal.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and 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.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in May was 38. In addition, 15 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in May (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 16,000; and the aggregate duration of all disputes during May was about 73,000 working days. The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first five months of 1927 was about 594,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 45,000.

**PROFIT-SHARING AND LABOUR CO-PARTNERSHIP IN 1926.**

ENQUIRIES have recently been made by the Department as to the operation, in 1926, of schemes of profit-sharing and labour co-partnership known to have been in existence in that year, and statistics compiled from the information obtained are given below together with comparative figures for earlier years. These statistics are in continuation of those contained in the Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-partnership in the United Kingdom issued in 1920 (Cmd. 544) and in annual articles subsequently published in this GAZETTE. The figures relate only to definite schemes under which employees participate in profits on some pre-arranged basis; schemes consisting in the giving of bonuses or gratuities at the discretion of the employer, without any specified basis, and schemes providing for bonuses which depend only on output, sales, etc., and not on profits, are excluded from these statistics.

**ALL SCHEMES IN OPERATION.**

The total number of undertakings of all kinds known to have been practising profit-sharing at the end of 1926, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 424. Of these, six firms had each two separate schemes in operation, and the total number of schemes was therefore 430. About 426,000 workpeople were employed in the businesses concerned, of whom about 218,000 participated, or were entitled to participate, in the benefits of the schemes.

The following Table gives comparative figures for the years 1923-26 as to the numbers of schemes in operation, the numbers of employees covered, and also, so far as the information is available, as to the bonuses paid under these schemes:—

| Year. | Number of firms or societies.* | Number of schemes.* | Approximate number of employees entitled to participate. | Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available. |                           |   |  |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|--|
|       |                                |                     |  | Number of schemes.†   | Average amount per head.‡ | Average percentage addition to earnings.‡ |  |
| 1923  | 407                            | 413                 | 189,000  | 334   | £ s. d.<br>6 16 5         | 4.8                                       |  |
| 1924  | 414                            | 420                 | 202,000  | 339   | 7 13 2                    | 4.8                                       |  |
| 1925  | 422                            | 428                 | 211,000  | 352   | 9 0 6                     | 5.1                                       |  |
| 1926  | 424                            | 430                 | 218,000  | 351   | 8 16 5                    | 4.4                                       |  |

The figures given in the above Table include schemes in co-operative societies as well as schemes in ordinary businesses. Detailed particulars for each of these two groups are given below.

**I.—SCHEMES IN BUSINESSES OTHER THAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.**

According to the returns received in connection with the enquiries made this year, 270 firms were practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of 1926; six of these firms had each two separate schemes. In addition there were four schemes as to which no recent returns have been received but which are still in operation so far as is known to the Department, making totals of 274 firms and 280 schemes at the end of 1926, as compared with 268 firms and 274 schemes at the end of 1925. Five other schemes were suspended, though not definitely terminated, at the end of 1926.

The number of workpeople employed by the 274 firms in 1926 was approximately 400,000, of whom about 193,000 were eligible to participate in the benefits conferred by the schemes. In the previous year the number participating in the schemes then in existence was 187,000. In the case of a considerable number of schemes, such participation is available only to those who are able and willing to deposit savings with the firm, or to purchase shares in the undertaking. In most schemes, also, employees have to fulfil certain conditions, such as serving for a minimum period, in order to qualify for benefit.

The following Table shows, for various groups of industries, the total number of schemes known to have been started in past years, the number of such schemes still in operation at the end of 1926, and the number of employees covered by these schemes:—

| Industry or Business.   | Total number of schemes started. | Schemes still in operation at 31st December, 1926.‡ |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
|   |                                  | Number of schemes.                                  | Total number of employees. | Approximate number of employees entitled to participate. |
| Agriculture ... ..  | 30                               | 6   | 700                        | 300  |
| Glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. ... ..  | 28                               | 15  | 48,300                     | 24,800   |
| Engineering, shipbuilding or other metal ... ..   | 81                               | 44  | 71,900                     | 22,200   |
| Textile ... ..  | 39                               | 26  | 43,900                     | 16,200   |
| Food or drink (manufacture) ... ..  | 55                               | 28  | 43,400                     | 27,300   |
| Paper manufacture; printing, bookbinding, publishing, etc. ... ..                         | 57                               | 21  | 7,600                      | 5,200  |
| Gas, water or electricity supply; insurance, banking or other financial businesses ... .. | 60                               | 49  | 45,400                     | 39,300   |
| Merchants, warehousemen or retail traders ... ..  | 9                                | 9   | 36,800                     | 32,600   |
| Other businesses ... ..   | 92                               | 41  | 36,700                     | 9,800  |
|   | 103                              | 41  | 65,100                     | 15,200   |
| Total ... ..  | 554                              | 280   | 399,800                    | 192,900  |

\* The figures exclude schemes reported as suspended in any year.  
† Schemes in operation under which no bonus was paid are included.  
‡ Exclusive of schemes temporarily suspended.  
§ The firms in this group are almost entirely gas companies.

In the majority of industries the number of schemes which are known to have been started is very small in proportion to the total number of firms engaged in the industry. In several of the groups of industries, also, less than one-half of the schemes started still remain in operation. An exception is the gas industry, in which a large proportion of the principal company-owned undertakings have introduced schemes, comparatively few of which have been terminated.

**Types of Scheme.**

In the simplest, and most numerous, type of profit-sharing scheme the employees' bonus consists of a specified proportion of the total net profits, or of the profits remaining after a certain minimum return has been paid on capital; in other schemes the bonus is a sum which automatically rises or falls with the rate of dividend paid on capital. A type of scheme which has become prominent in recent years admits employees to a share in the profits of the undertaking by the issue of employees' shares, either free or on specially favourable terms as to price or dividend; 49 such schemes are at present known to be in operation. Twenty-seven further schemes are based on arrangements for the payment of interest on money deposited with the firm by its employees, a guaranteed minimum rate being paid, together with an additional rate which varies with the profits or with the rate of dividend on capital. In the gas companies' schemes, the bonus usually takes the form of a percentage on wages varying inversely with the price charged for gas, which itself regulates the rate of dividend paid on the capital; in some cases the bonus is a percentage on wages varying directly with the rate of dividend, or is a fixed percentage of the amount paid in dividends.

The majority of schemes provide for the payment of employees' bonuses in cash, or in credits to savings or deposit accounts from which amounts may readily be withdrawn. In 34 cases (including 23 gas companies) the whole bonus is retained for investment in the capital of the undertaking, or the bonus itself is paid in the form of shares; in some of these schemes, however, employees may receive part or the whole of their subsequent bonuses in cash, etc., after a given period or after they have accumulated a given amount of capital. In other cases a portion—frequently one-half—of the bonus is retained for investment, the remainder being paid out in cash or credited to a provident fund, etc.; gas companies account for no fewer than 21 out of 30 such cases. In twelve schemes, the bonus is wholly set aside for provident purposes, superannuation, etc.

**Bonuses Paid.**

In the case of 205 of the total of 280 schemes in operation at the end of 1926, the Department has been able to collect information as to the bonuses paid or credited to employees in that year. For certain schemes, however, these particulars cannot be obtained, owing in some cases to the firms' inability to furnish the required information, and in others to the nature of the scheme itself, which makes it impracticable to state the amount of bonus and the proportion which it bears to the earnings of those participating. Where, for example, shares are allotted to employees on specially favourable terms, the "bonus" may be regarded as that part of the dividends on the shares which represents the advantage given to the employees over ordinary shareholders—an advantage usually unsusceptible of exact calculation.

The following Table gives details of the bonuses paid or credited during 1926 under the 205 schemes for which these particulars can be given:—

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

| Industry or Business.   | Number of schemes to which particulars relate. | Number of employees entitled to participate in 1926. | Average amount of bonus per head.* | Average percentage addition to earnings.* |
|---|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Agriculture ... ..  | 2  | 100  | £ s. d.<br>0 18 7                  | 0.9                                       |
| Glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. ... ..                    | 10   | 21,400   | 6 8 3                              | 3.8                                       |
| Engineering, shipbuilding or other metal ... ..                   | 9  | 21,300   | 6 8 0                              | 3.8                                       |
| Textile ... ..  | 23   | 17,800   | 2 17 4                             | 2.6                                       |
| Food or drink (manufacture) ... ..                                | 21   | 13,900   | 3 11 5                             | 3.5                                       |
| Paper manufacture; printing, bookbinding, publishing, etc. ... .. | 22   | 12,200   | 2 1 3                              | 2.2                                       |
| Gas, water, or electricity supply ... ..                          | 18   | 10,700   | 2 6 7                              | 2.5                                       |
| Insurance, banking or other financial businesses ... ..           | 23   | 23,600   | 8 5 7                              | 5.6                                       |
| Merchants, warehousemen or retail traders ... ..                  | 20   | 22,700   | 8 11 5                             | 5.8                                       |
| Other businesses ... ..   | 18   | 4,700  | 10 1 3                             | 7.1                                       |
|   | 17   | 4,500  | 10 7 10                            | 7.4                                       |
|   | 46   | 39,000   | 7 9 7                              | 4.1                                       |
|   | 45   | 38,700   | 7 10 5                             | 4.1                                       |
|   | 5  | 24,400   | 23 16 0                            | †   |
|   | 26   | 5,900  | 18 8 2                             | 11.0                                      |
|   | 24   | 5,800  | 18 13 7                            | 11.0                                      |
|   | 25   | 10,900   | 6 9 3                              | 5.6                                       |
|   | 24   | 7,800  | 9 0 10                             | 8.0                                       |
| Total ... ..  | 205  | 160,000  | 9 8 7                              | 4.4                                       |
|   | 183  | 149,000  | 10 0 7                             | 4.7                                       |

\* Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included for the purpose of calculating the average amount of bonus per head and the percentage addition to earnings; but in calculating the latter figure it was necessary to omit certain cases in which the percentage could not be stated.  
† Not available.

The results of the same schemes, classified according to the rate of bonus paid, are shown below:—

| Percentage addition made by bonus to earnings. | Number of schemes to which particulars relate. | Total number of employees. | Number of employees entitled to participate in 1926. | Amount of bonus paid (or credited) in 1926. |
|--|--|----------------------------|--|---|
| Nil ... ..                                     | 52   | 120,700                    | 37,900   | £ Nil.                                      |
| Under 2 per cent. ... ..                       | 42   | 47,800                     | 29,400   | Nil.  |
| 2 and under 4 per cent. ... ..                 | 10   | 4,500                      | 2,400  | 4,300                                       |
| 4 " 6 " ... ..                                 | 8  | 2,700                      | 2,100  | 3,300                                       |
| 6 " 8 " ... ..                                 | 26   | 37,500                     | 32,800   | 225,700                                     |
| 8 " 10 " ... ..                                | 31   | 26,500                     | 24,600   | 183,600                                     |
| 10 " 12 " ... ..                               | 23   | 16,900                     | 14,900   | 156,400                                     |
| 12 " 16 " ... ..                               | 11   | 17,900                     | 12,000   | 173,400                                     |
| 16 " 20 " ... ..                               | 7  | 4,300                      | 3,800  | 47,800                                      |
| 20 per cent. or over ... ..                    | 12   | 4,400                      | 3,000  | 57,400                                      |
| Percentage not stated ... ..                   | 4  | 3,300                      | 2,700  | 50,300                                      |
|  | 5  | 2,300                      | 1,800  | 77,400                                      |
|  | 24   | 36,100                     | 24,100   | 532,300                                     |
|  | 16   | 26,900                     | 22,800   | 528,300                                     |
| Total ... ..                                   | 205  | 274,400                    | 160,000  | 1,508,600                                   |
|  | 183  | 190,400                    | 149,900  | 1,503,600                                   |

Of the 274,400 workpeople employed by the firms included in the foregoing Tables, 122,100, or about 44 per cent., actually received a bonus in 1926. In almost exactly one-quarter of the schemes, however, no bonus was available owing to insufficient profits having been made; the number of employees who would have participated under these latter schemes had sufficient profits been available was 37,900, so that in all 160,000, or about 58 per cent., of the 274,400 employees of these firms participated, or were entitled to participate, in bonuses. These figures include 20 schemes where the bonus consists of interest paid on sums deposited by employees with the firm; and in these schemes, taken as a whole, only about 12 per cent. of the workpeople employed avail themselves of the benefit of the schemes. If these 20 schemes are excluded from the statistics, the proportion of the total number of employees who actually received a bonus in 1926 is increased from 44 per cent. to 63 per cent., and the proportion who either participated or who would have done had profits sufficed is increased from 58 per cent. to 79 per cent.

The bonuses yielded by profit-sharing schemes in 1926 were on the average slightly below the level of the previous year. The average amount paid or credited, per head, in the 205 schemes in 1926 was £9 8s. 7d. as compared with £9 12s. 8d.\* in 204\* schemes in 1925. In certain cases firms found it impossible to express the bonus as a percentage addition to the earnings of those participating; but averaging all those cases for which this information was available the bonuses in 1926 represented an addition to earnings of 4.4 per cent., as compared with 5.3 per cent. in 1925. In calculating these average amounts and percentages, those schemes which yielded no bonus owing to insufficient profits have been included.

In 1926, as in 1925, the highest average amount of bonus (£25 16s. 0d. per head) was paid in the small group of insurance, banking, etc. businesses; but it was not possible to obtain sufficient information to calculate the average percentage addition to earnings in this group. For some years comparatively high rates of bonus have been paid by firms in the group "merchants, warehousemen or retail traders," and 1926 was no exception, the average bonus in 1926 amounting to £18 8s. 2d. per head, or 11.0 per cent. on earnings. Firms engaged in paper manufacture, printing, book-binding, publishing, etc., paid bonuses averaging £10 1s. 3d. per head, approximately the same average as in 1925; in the glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. group the bonus averaged £6 8s. 3d. per head, a figure well below the level of the last two or three years. Out of six schemes in agriculture only two supplied information as to bonuses paid in 1926, and in these two cases the average bonus amounted to less than £1 per head.

**New Schemes in 1926.**

Eleven new schemes have come to the notice of the Department as having been introduced in 1926. These schemes are briefly summarised below:—

| Industry or Business.                    | Approximate total number of employees. | Type of scheme.   |
|--|--|---|
| Road transport ... ..                    | 3,700                                  | Deposits received from employees on which interest is paid at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, with an additional 2½ per cent. when a dividend of 10 per cent. or more is declared on the ordinary shares.  |
| Cycle and motor-cycle manufacture ... .. | 3,150                                  | Bonus distributed to employees in cash as a percentage on wages, the total sum distributed varying with the amount by which profits exceed, or fall short of, the profits of a specified basis year.  |
| Brewing ... ..                           | 3,000                                  | Employees receive a bonus equalling from one to three weeks' wages, the amount depending upon the dividend in excess of 10 per cent. paid on the Company's deferred ordinary stock.   |
| Brick manufacture ... ..                 | 2,900                                  | Each employee having attained the age of 21 years, with three years' service or more, receives a bonus in cash, equivalent to the dividend which would be payable on five ordinary £1 shares for each year of service up to a maximum of ten years. |

\* The figures published in the June, 1926, GAZETTE have since been revised to include returns received subsequent to publication.

| Industry or Business.  | Approximate total number of employees. | Type of scheme.  |
|--|--|--|
| Electrical engineering ... ..                                | 1,700                                  | After setting aside sums for reserve, depreciation, etc., and after payment of 10 per cent. on ordinary shares, the remaining profits are apportioned between the employees and the shareholders in proportion to the total wages and salaries and the amount paid in dividends, respectively. |
| Chocolate, cake and biscuit manufacture, and catering ... .. | 800                                    | Deposits received from employees carrying a fixed rate of interest of 6 per cent. per annum. If dividend on ordinary shares exceeds 10 per cent., employees are entitled to a supplementary rate of interest of 1 per cent. for each 1 per cent. of dividend over 10 per cent.                 |
| Varnish, paint and printing ink manufacture ... ..           | 670                                    | Issue of employees' cumulative participating preference shares on favourable terms.  |
| Brewing ... ..   | 400                                    | For each 8 per cent. dividend paid on ordinary shares employees get a bonus in cash equal to one week's wages or salary.   |
| Mill furnishing, ironmongery, etc. ... ..                    | 110                                    | After setting aside an amount sufficient to pay a fixed percentage on capital, one-half of remaining profits is allocated to employees. Bonus is paid in cash, but the right is reserved to pay not more than 50 per cent. in ordinary shares.   |
| Metal and rubber dealing, etc. ... ..                        | 90                                     | Fixed percentage of profits, after payment of 5 per cent. dividend on share capital, devoted to building up pension fund for staff.  |
| Engineering and boilermaking ... ..                          | 80                                     | After setting aside the equivalent of 10 per cent. on share capital for dividends and reserve, employees receive a bonus equal to the whole of the first £500 of remaining profits, plus one-half of all further profits.  |

**Schemes discontinued in 1926.**

Three schemes were reported to the Department as having been definitely terminated during 1926; details of these schemes are given below:—

| Date of starting. | Industry or Business.                                   | Approximate total number of employees. | Reasons given by employers for termination.                       |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| 1917              | Engineering ... ..                                      | 520                                    | Dissatisfaction of firm with results.                             |
| 1916              | Coco mat and matting manufacture and engineering ... .. | 500                                    | Do. do.   |
| 1922              | Drapers and furnishers ... ..                           | 200                                    | Substitution of other benefits; e.g., extension of sick pay, etc. |

In addition to the above cases, one firm modified its scheme during 1926 in such a way that it no longer came within the definition of profit-sharing adopted for the purpose of these statistics; this scheme formerly consisted of an arrangement under which interest, varying with the profits, had been paid on employees' deposits, but in 1926 the arrangement was abandoned in favour of the payment of a fixed rate of interest irrespective of profits.

**Comparison with previous years.**

The following Table shows the total number of firms known to have been practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of each of the years 1910-26, the number of schemes in operation in connection with these firms, and the approximate number of employees entitled to participate under the schemes. The Table also gives particulars, so far as these are available, of the average bonus paid in each year; but, as explained above, it is not possible in the case of a number of schemes to obtain statistics of bonuses paid, and the figures given in the last two columns, therefore, relate only to certain schemes for which this information is available.

| Year. | Number of firms.* | Number of schemes.* | Approximate number of employees entitled to participate. | Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available. |                           |   |  |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|--|
|       |                   |                     |  | Number of schemes.†   | Average amount per head.‡ | Average percentage addition to earnings.‡ |  |
| 1910  | 118               | 119                 | 57,000   | 76  | £ s. d.<br>+ +            | 5.0                                       |  |
| 1911  | 122               | 123                 | 61,000   | 89  | + +                       | 5.5                                       |  |
| 1912  | 134               | 136                 | 68,000   | 98  | 5 0 6                     | 5.9                                       |  |
| 1913  | 145               | 147                 | 73,000   | 111   | 5 6 0                     | 5.9                                       |  |
| 1914  | 158               | 162                 | 79,000   | 117   | 5 4 9                     | 6.7                                       |  |
| 1915  | 158               | 162                 | + +  | 99  | 3 18 0                    | 5.3                                       |  |
| 1916  | 151               | 156                 | + +  | 101   | 3 4 3                     | 4.6                                       |  |
| 1917  | 155               | 161                 | + +  | 105   | 3 15 2                    | 5.3                                       |  |
| 1918  | 161               | 166                 | 103,000  | 107   | 3 13 9                    | 5.1                                       |  |
| 1919  | 208               | 212                 | 108,000  | 122   | 5 0 7                     | 4.9                                       |  |
| 1920  | 247               | 253                 | 134,000  | 150   | 9 17 11                   | 6.4                                       |  |
| 1921  | 249               | 255                 | 149,000  | 182   | 6 13 10                   | 3.5                                       |  |
| 1922  | 257               | 262                 | 145,000  | 186   | 6 8 1                     | 4.0                                       |  |
| 1923  | 259               | 265                 | 167,000  | 188   | 7 5 7                     | 5.1                                       |  |
| 1924  | 261               | 267                 | 180,000  | 192   | 8 2 1                     | 5.0                                       |  |
| 1925  | 268               | 274                 | 187,000  | 204   | 9 12 8                    | 5.3                                       |  |
| 1926  | 274               | 280                 | 193,000  | 205   | 9 8 7                     | 4.4                                       |  |

Of a total of 554 schemes of profit-sharing or co-partnership that are known to have been started up to the end of 1926, approximately one-half were still in operation at the end of that year. Over one-half of the schemes still existing date from after the war; of the remainder, 31 date from 1900 or earlier.

\* The figures exclude schemes reported as suspended in any year.  
† Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included.  
‡ Statistics not available.

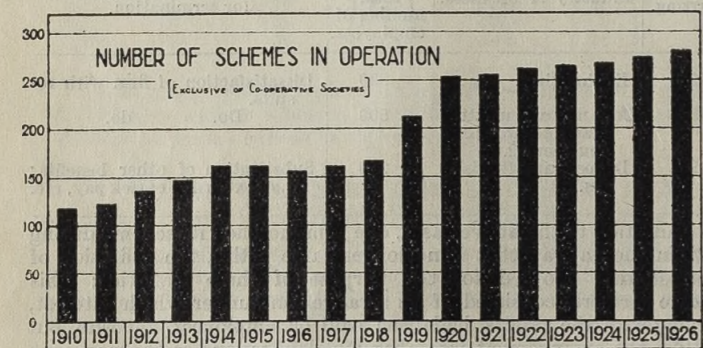
For a period of about two years immediately following the war—a period of great industrial activity—there was a marked advance in the profit-sharing movement. In these two years 112 schemes are known to have been started; and, after allowing for schemes discontinued, there was a net addition of 83 schemes in this period. During the succeeding period of industrial depression, though this advance has been checked, there has nevertheless been a slight but continuous increase in the numbers of schemes; during the years 1921-26, 76 new schemes were started, and 43 schemes were terminated the net addition being thus 28.

The following Table shows the total numbers of schemes started in various periods, the numbers of such schemes no longer in existence, and the numbers still in operation at the end of 1926:—

| Period in which started. | Total schemes started. | Schemes discontinued by end of 1926. | Schemes suspended at end of 1926. | Schemes still in operation at end of 1926. |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Up to 1880 ...           | 35                     | 30                                   | ...                               | 5  |
| 1881-1890 ...            | 80                     | 68                                   | ...                               | 12   |
| 1891-1900 ...            | 77                     | 63                                   | ...                               | 14   |
| 1901-1905 ...            | 25                     | 19                                   | ...                               | 7  |
| 1906-1910 ...            | 55                     | 24                                   | ...                               | 31   |
| 1911-1915 ...            | 67                     | 24                                   | 2                                 | 41   |
| 1916-1918 ...            | 25                     | 10                                   | 1                                 | 15   |
| 1919 ...                 | 56                     | 16                                   | ...                               | 40   |
| 1920 ...                 | 56                     | 12                                   | 1                                 | 43   |
| 1921 ...                 | 14                     | 1                                    | ...                               | 13   |
| 1922 ...                 | 11                     | 1                                    | ...                               | 10   |
| 1923 ...                 | 18                     | 1                                    | 1                                 | 16   |
| 1924 ...                 | 10                     | ...                                  | ...                               | 10   |
| 1925 ...                 | 12                     | ...                                  | ...                               | 12   |
| 1926 ...                 | 11                     | ...                                  | ...                               | 11   |
| Total ...                | 554                    | 269                                  | 5                                 | 280  |

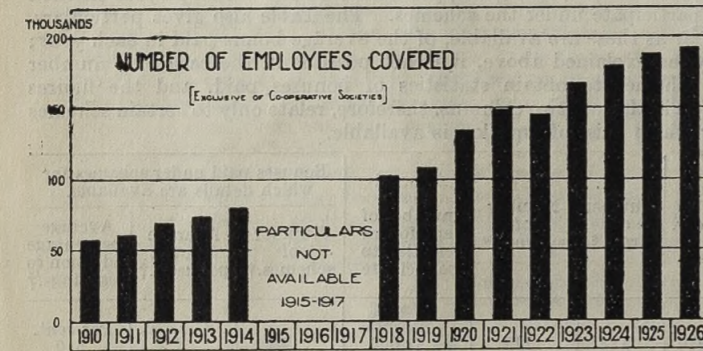
The variations from year to year in the number of schemes in operation, as shown in the above Table, are illustrated in the following diagram:—

DIAGRAM I.



The next diagram illustrates the variations in the numbers of employees covered, i.e., participating or entitled to participate in the schemes concerned:—

DIAGRAM II.



II.—SCHEMES IN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

In the article on profit-sharing and labour co-partnership in 1925 which appeared in the June, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, some statistics were given relating to profit-sharing in co-operative societies in the years 1923-5 inclusive. These statistics were based mainly upon returns furnished to the Department by societies which were known to have paid a bonus to their employees under profit-sharing schemes in one or more of those years. Returns have now been obtained from these same societies as to the operation of their schemes during 1926; and in addition enquiries have been addressed to a number of other societies which did not appear to have paid any bonus to their employees in the last three or four years, but which were nevertheless believed to have incorporated in their constitution and rules the principle of sharing profits with their workers. As a result of these latter enquiries a number of additional societies were found to have definite profit-sharing schemes in operation, although in many cases the profits realised in recent years have not sufficed to permit of any bonus to employees under the provisions of the schemes.

In connection with the above enquiries information was collected regarding a total of 150 schemes in operation in co-operative societies at the end of 1926. About 26,000 workers were employed by the societies having these schemes in operation, and nearly 25,000 of these workers participated, or were entitled to participate, in bonuses in 1926.

Of the 150 societies referred to above, 48 were agricultural societies employing about 500 workpeople in the aggregate, and 102 were industrial productive or retail distributive societies. With one exception, the schemes in force with the agricultural societies provided for a bonus to employees consisting of a fixed proportion of the net profits.

Of the 102 industrial societies, 49, employing about 7,100 workpeople, were workers' productive societies; one, employing about 2,000 workpeople, was a baking society; and 52, employing 16,600 workpeople, were retail distributive societies. Practically all of the 52 retail distributive societies have sections engaged in production, and in such cases the profit-sharing arrangement applies almost invariably to both the productive and the trading sections. The schemes adopted by the majority of productive societies provide for a specified proportion of the profits to be set aside for the workers, but in a number of cases the employees receive a bonus on wages at a rate which varies with the rate of dividend declared on customers' purchases. The type of scheme most favoured in the retail distributive societies consists in paying employees "not less than ¼d. in the £ on gross sales and ½d. in the £ on net profits"; in which case, of course, the portion of the bonus representing the farthing in the pound on gross sales, and therefore having no element of profit-sharing, usually far exceeds the profit-sharing bonus proper. In many societies, however, the employees' bonus is at a rate which varies with the rate of dividend declared upon customers' purchases.

The Department has collected particulars relating to the bonuses paid in 1926 under 146 of the 150 schemes known to have been in operation in that year. The summarised figures for 1926 are shown below, together with comparable figures for the years 1923-25:—

| Year.                                   | Total number of schemes in operation. | Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available. |  |                                    |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
|   |                                       | Number of schemes to which particulars relate.              | Number of employees entitled to participate. | Average amount of bonus per head.* | Average percentage addition to earnings.* |
| <i>Agricultural Societies</i>           |                                       |   |  |                                    |   |
| 1923                                    | 48                                    | 48  | 500  | £ 3 5 9                            | 3.0                                       |
| 1924                                    | 51                                    | 49  | 500  | 2 17 1                             | 2.5                                       |
| 1925                                    | 51                                    | 48  | 600  | 1 19 10                            | 1.7                                       |
| 1926                                    | 48                                    | 46  | 500  | 2 0 6                              | 1.6                                       |
| <i>Industrial Productive Societies.</i> |                                       |   |  |                                    |   |
| 1923                                    | 49                                    | 49  | 8,200  | 4 17 5                             | 4.3                                       |
| 1924                                    | 50                                    | 49  | 8,300  | 5 4 9                              | 4.9                                       |
| 1925                                    | 50                                    | 50  | 8,500  | 4 18 6                             | 4.6                                       |
| 1926                                    | 50                                    | 50  | 8,700  | 5 0 11                             | 4.5                                       |
| <i>Retail Distributive Societies.</i>   |                                       |   |  |                                    |   |
| 1923                                    | 51                                    | 49  | 12,500                                       | 3 13 3                             | 2.9                                       |
| 1924                                    | 52                                    | 49  | 12,900                                       | 4 1 5                              | 3.2                                       |
| 1925                                    | 53                                    | 50  | 14,000                                       | 4 13 6                             | 3.5                                       |
| 1926                                    | 52                                    | 50  | 15,500                                       | 4 17 0                             | 3.8                                       |
| <i>Totals—All Societies.</i>            |                                       |   |  |                                    |   |
| 1923                                    | 148                                   | 146   | 21,200                                       | 4 2 5                              | 3.5                                       |
| 1924                                    | 153                                   | 147   | 21,700                                       | 4 9 8                              | 3.8                                       |
| 1925                                    | 154                                   | 148   | 23,100                                       | 4 14 1                             | 3.9                                       |
| 1926                                    | 150                                   | 146   | 24,700                                       | 4 17 2                             | 4.1                                       |

In the case of those retail distributive societies which pay a bonus to employees of ½d. in the £ on sales and ¼d. in the £ on profits, only that part of the bonus which depends on profits has been included in the statistics given above. The statistics also exclude arrangements under which societies pay their employees additional remuneration in the form of bonus on output, commission on sales, etc., and other benefits not coming within the Department's definition of profit-sharing.

During the four years covered by the above Table the average bonus paid by the societies furnishing returns has shown a slight but steady increase, rising from £4 2s. 5d., or 3.5 per cent. on earnings, in 1923 to £4 17s. 2d., or 4.1 per cent. on earnings, in 1926; but in each of these years the average has been below that shown for schemes in force in businesses other than co-operative societies in the Table on page 208.

The agricultural type of society, on the average, paid the lowest rate of bonus in each of the years in question; many paid no bonus for one or more of the years. In 1926, for example, no bonus was paid under 13 of the 46 schemes included in the Table. With productive societies, failure to pay any bonus was still more prevalent; in 1926 one-half of the societies paid no bonus, while in roughly two out of every five cases no bonus was paid in any of the four years. Owing, however, to the fact that the type of scheme adopted in this class of society usually provides that a large share of the profits, if any, shall be set aside for the workers, the average rate of bonus in the productive societies was higher than that in the other groups of societies in each of the four years.

\* Schemes under which no bonus was paid are included.

REST-PAUSES IN INDUSTRY.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued a Report,\* summarising the knowledge at present available on the subject of rest-pauses in industry.

The wide adoption in recent years of the one-break day in industries has almost always been accompanied by the division of the full working day into two work spells of approximately equal length, separated by a meal interval of about one hour's duration. At the same time the breaking up of the spells themselves by means of one or more short pauses interpolated at regular intervals has become an increasingly common practice, and much investigation has lately been devoted to its effects.

In the opinion of the Board there are strong grounds for thinking that, as a general rule, the influence of such rest-pauses is definitely beneficial. In many of the cases tried, the introduction of the system has been followed by an unconscious response on the part of the workers, reflected in an increase in the total output in spite of the reduction in the actual working time; whilst the opinions of the workers themselves, after they have once become accustomed to the change of practice, have usually been favourable.

It should be noted that the increase, or even the maintenance, of total output shown in many of the instances investigated clearly cannot always be expected. In strictly automatic processes, where production depends upon the machine alone, there must necessarily be a loss in output corresponding with the time spent in resting; even in these cases, however, rest-pauses may be found beneficial to the worker, though not reflected in increased production.

The effect of a rest is particularly beneficial in repetitive work of a monotonous character, and the influence on production is most marked in processes which are largely dependent on the activities of the worker. Heavy muscular work, and operations involving a continuous standing or sitting posture, are also suitable cases for the introduction of rests. The speed of industrial operations is another factor which should be considered in relation to rests. Industrial conditions which require a working rate in excess of the natural rhythm of the body are conducive to fatigue; and, if unavoidable, their effects should certainly be alleviated by means of suitable rests.

The introduction of rest-pauses has been mostly empirical, and carried out without due regard to the nature and conditions of work. In such cases the results have sometimes been unfavourable; and it is suggested that, before rest-periods are introduced, a careful investigation of the existing conditions of work should be made, and when possible a typical curve of output obtained. A consideration of such a curve will show whether a rest is necessary, and will indicate the most suitable position for the pause. Results obtained have shown that, in certain cases, shorter but more frequent rests are preferable to fewer but longer rests.

Individuals vary in their susceptibility to the effects of rest, and consequently the effects are more favourable in some cases than in others. In practice, however, it is necessary to determine the conditions which will give the best average results. Further, an operative rests better when all the others are also resting; and her inclination to work is stimulated by the atmosphere of industry in the room.

The possibility of combining rests with team work has not been sufficiently explored. The few results which have been obtained show that such an arrangement is capable of reducing the cost of production, and at the same time enables the work to be done with less fatigue.

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE fifty-ninth annual Congress of delegates from co-operative societies in the United Kingdom was held at Cheltenham on the 6th, 7th and 8th June, 1927, and was attended by about 1,630 delegates, representing some 566 Societies. There were also representatives from various other bodies in the United Kingdom and from co-operative organisations in Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine. 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 some 4,850,000. The Congress President was Mr. J. T. Jackson, General Manager of the Gloucester Co-operative Society.

The Chairman of the Labour Committee, in moving the adoption of the Committee's Report to the Congress, called attention to the fact that no labour disputes had occurred in the movement during 1926. "In a year of unparalleled trouble in the industrial world the co-operative movement was in the happy position of peace with its employees in 1926." A resolution was passed expressing "regret that workers employed by co-operative societies were required to cease work during the national strike of 1926," and welcoming "the decision of the Co-operative Union and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress to appoint a joint committee to formulate proposals intended to promote closer harmony between the two movements and to prevent a repetition of events which occurred during the national strike of 1926." Another resolution regretted "that a large number of the societies affiliated to the Co-operative Union have not yet established Joint Advisory Councils, composed of representatives of their management committee and their employees, of the type approved by the Southport (1925) Congress," and now urged all to do so without delay. The question of shop hours was discussed, and a resolution declared:

\* Industrial Fatigue Research Board; Report No. 42. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net.

"That this Congress views with apprehension the pressure which is being brought to bear upon the Government to amend the Shops (Early Closing) Act by extending the hours of opening. . . ." A resolution calling upon the Co-operative Union to initiate a national scheme of superannuation for co-operative employees was lost in favour of an amendment, which affirmed that societies should initiate schemes for their own employees.

On the Report submitted to the Congress by the Co-operative Party, a resolution was proposed asking the Congress to accept "the agreement reached between the National Committee of the Co-operative Party and the National Executive of the Labour Party," and affirming "that the agreement provides the basis of an amicable understanding between the two movements." The agreement in question is one designed to secure co-operation for political purposes between the two national executives and to avoid the possibility of the two parties opposing each other in the constituencies; it is optional upon local co-operative and labour parties. The resolution was carried on a card vote by 1,960 votes to 1,843.

A resolution proposing that, commencing with the 1927 Congress, any resolution passed at the annual Co-operative Congress should be subject to a referendum of the societies, members of the Co-operative Union, if demanded within 21 days by ten societies, members of the Union, was lost.

The standing orders were suspended to permit the taking of an emergency resolution regarding relations with Russia; and a resolution was carried unanimously: "That this Congress renews its greetings of friendship to Russian co-operators, and urges all sections of the Co-operative Movement to maintain and develop trading relations with the Russian co-operative movement, and to work for the full renewal of peaceful relations with that country."

Other resolutions dealt with the work of the International Co-operative Alliance, with the methods of voting at Congress, and with the rules of the Co-operative Union.

The next Congress is to be held at West Hartlepool in Whit-week, 1928.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.

ENGLAND AND WALES: QUARTER ENDING IN MARCH, 1927.

A STATEMENT\* has been issued by the Minister of Health showing the number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in March, 1927 (excluding lunatics in the county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals), and giving some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of relief.

The total number of persons (men, women and children) in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales on the last Saturday in March, 1927, was 1,240,500 (equivalent to 319 per 10,000 of the estimated population), compared with 1,484,000 at the end of December, 1926, 1,240,000 at the end of March, 1926, and 644,000 at the end of March, 1914.

The totals given above include large numbers returned as persons who would ordinarily be employed. Nearly all the relief given to these persons is domiciliary. The following Table, giving comparative figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales for the months of February, 1927, and February, 1926, may therefore be taken to include practically all the "unemployed" persons in receipt of poor-law relief together with their wives and dependent children:—

| Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.   | England and Wales. |   |
|--|--------------------|---|
|  | Numbers.           | Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population. |
| 1. Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts (i.e., persons holding the appropriate form issued by an Employment Exchange) and their dependants ... | 429,000            | 110   |
| 2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants ...  | 43,000             | 11  |
| 3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants ...   | 108,000            | 28  |
| 4. Totals of above three classes:—<br>February, 1927 ...   | 580,000            | 149   |
| February, 1926 ...   | 559,000            | 144   |
| 5. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief:—<br>February, 1927 ...  | 485,000            | 125   |
| February, 1926 ...   | 432,000            | 124   |
| 6. Totals (all persons in receipt of domiciliary relief):—<br>February, 1927 ...   | 1,065,000          | 274   |
| February, 1926 ...   | 1,041,000          | 268   |

The 580,000 persons recorded in the first three classes in February, 1927, included 159,000 men, 137,000 women, and 284,000 children. This figure of 580,000 shows a decrease of 910,000 compared with the corresponding total in November, 1926, during the period of the coal dispute.

Statistics relating to the numbers of persons receiving poor-law relief in certain districts in May, 1927, are given on page 237 of this GAZETTE.

\* H.M. Stationery Office (32-187-1-27); price 4d. net.

## GERMAN LABOUR COURTS ACT.

AN Act, dated 23rd December, 1926, provides for the establishment in Germany of a system of Labour Courts, and for the abolition of the existing Industrial and Commercial Courts\* and other bodies at present empowered to deal with certain classes of labour disputes. The powers of the new Labour Courts are wider than those of the Industrial and Commercial Courts, and, unlike these bodies, they are directly connected with the Department of Justice.

The tribunals under the new Act are to be: (1) the local Labour Courts; (2) the State Labour Courts; and (3) the Federal Labour Court. The Labour Courts have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of the ordinary courts, and irrespective of the amount in dispute, in all civil disputes between parties to collective agreements, or between such parties and third parties in disputes arising out of collective agreements, or concerning the existence or non-existence of collective agreements, or between parties competent to make collective agreements or between these parties and third parties with regard to illegal actions, "so far as measures for the purpose of the labour conflict or questions of the right of combination are concerned."† They also have jurisdiction in disputes between employers and workers arising out of employment or apprenticeship, or concerning the existence or non-existence of a contract of employment or apprenticeship, or arising out of illegal actions in so far as these are concerned with employment or apprenticeship, or in disputes arising out of the Works Council Act for which the conciliation committees have hitherto been competent.

The new Labour Courts have no jurisdiction in disputes relating to conditions of employment when they arise out of a claim to vary such conditions. The competent authorities in this class of case are the Conciliation Committees.

The courts of first instance or local Labour Courts, whose area of jurisdiction will normally coincide with that of one or more of the local civil courts,‡ will consist of the requisite number of presidents, vice-presidents and assessors. Each chamber of the Court is to consist of one chairman with one assessor representing the employers and one representing the workers. In cases arising out of collective agreements, the membership of the chamber is to be increased by two assessors, one representing the employers and one the workers. Chambers are to be set up to deal with disputes affecting manual and non-manual workers respectively and special chambers (handicrafts courts) must be set up for disputes relating to handicrafts. Where necessary, special chambers may be set up to deal with disputes in particular occupations and trades or particular groups of workers.

The presidents and vice-presidents are to be appointed by the State Department of Justice, in conjunction with the Supreme State Authority for social administration. They are either to be judges or persons possessing special knowledge of labour matters, preference being given to judges who are ex-chairmen of conciliation committees. They are to be appointed for not less than one year and not more than nine. After holding office for three years, presidents may be appointed for life. Presidents and vice-presidents have the rights and duties of State judicial officials. Assessors are to be appointed by the Higher Administrative Authorities for a period of three years (with due consideration for minority representation) from nomination lists submitted by the local trade associations of employers and workers. Persons appointed as assessors may not refuse to act except for serious (specified) reasons. Assessors receive compensation for travelling expenses and loss of wages or salary arising out of the execution of their office.

Similar regulations apply to the constitution of the State Labour Courts, which are normally to be presided over by judges on the rota of the State Labour Court who are specially qualified by their knowledge of labour matters. The Federal Labour Court will function as a branch of the Federal Court and will consist of presidents chosen from the chief judges of the Federal Court, judicial assessors, and non-judicial assessors, representing employers and workers, appointed by the Federal Minister of Labour in conjunction with the Federal Minister of Justice from nomination lists submitted by the respective national trade organisations.

Assessors representing employers and workers are to have the official title of "Labour Judge," "State Labour Judge" or "Federal Labour Judge," as the case may be.

Disputes are to be settled by judgment or decision.§ The local Labour Courts have jurisdiction in the first instance. Appeal may be made to the State Labour Courts in cases where the amount in dispute exceeds 300 Reichsmarks, or where the local court admits the appeal on account of the importance of the dispute. In special cases appeal may be had from the judgment of the State Labour Courts to the Federal Labour Court. The ordinary procedure is similar to that applicable to civil disputes. It is laid down that legal procedure in all the labour tribunals shall be conducted expeditiously.

Litigants in the local courts may appear in person or be represented by duly accredited members or officials of their respective trade associations. Solicitors or counsel are not permitted to appear on behalf of clients in these courts. Proceedings in the State Labour

\* These courts were State or communal institutions of old standing which were not connected with the Department of Justice. They existed primarily to adjust individual disputes and claims, but, on the request of both parties to a collective dispute, they could act as boards of conciliation and arbitration. Neither the industrial courts nor the nominated boards of conciliation possessed powers to enforce their decisions. Later, under the Conciliation Order of 30th October, 1923, in order to lighten the work of the conciliation committees, all "individual" disputes were transferred to these courts, pending the establishment of the Labour Courts.

† The conciliation committees appointed under the order of 30th October, 1923, are the competent bodies for assisting in the conclusion of collective agreements.

‡ In setting up local Labour Courts, regard is to be had, wherever possible, to the areas of jurisdiction of the former Industrial and Commercial Courts.

§ Decisions are given in cases arising under the Works Council Act.

Courts may be conducted either by solicitors or counsel or by accredited members or officials of the trade association of the litigant; while in the Federal Labour Court parties to disputes must be legally represented.

Labour Court fees are to be a proportion of the amount involved in the dispute; one mark if the amount involved is 20 marks or less; two marks if the amount is from 20 to 60 marks; three marks if the amount is from 60 to 100 marks, rising by three marks for every additional 100 marks up to a maximum of five hundred marks.

The costs of the local and State Labour Courts are to be borne by the State by which they are established, and the costs of the Federal Labour Court by the Reich.

The last section of the Act contains provisions relating to agreements for excluding the jurisdiction of the labour tribunals. The parties to a collective agreement may, by express agreement, exclude the jurisdiction of the Labour Courts in respect of such agreement, on condition that disputes arising out of the agreement are to be settled by an arbitration court. Such an arbitration agreement is to constitute a bar to all legal proceedings. The arbitration court is normally to consist of an equal number of employers and workers. It may also include impartial persons. The award of the court is given by a simple majority of the members and has the same effect as a judgment of the Labour Court. Appeal for annulment of such award may be made to the Labour Court which would be competent to enforce the award.

The parties capable of entering into an arbitration agreement in connection with labour disputes may also, without excluding the jurisdiction of the Labour Court, agree that legal proceedings may be preceded by conciliation proceedings conducted by persons agreed upon between them. Such a conciliation agreement also constitutes a bar to legal proceedings. The bar is removed after conciliation has failed.

Parties to an agreement who are capable of concluding an arbitration agreement in labour disputes may also, without excluding the jurisdiction of the Labour Court, agree that questions of fact material to the settlement of the dispute shall be decided by expert arbitration (expert arbitration agreement). All questions so settled by arbitration are excluded from the matters requiring proof in the legal proceedings before the Labour Court.

The Act is to come into force on 1st July, 1927, unless the Federal Minister of Labour in conjunction with the Federal Minister of Justice decides on a later date, and the relevant provisions of other Acts will thereafter be repealed. Detailed regulations for the application of the Act are to be issued by the Federal Ministers of Labour and Justice jointly.

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF GERMAN INDUSTRIAL CENSUS, 1925.

THE publication of the Federal Statistical Office, *Wirtschaft und Statistik* (No. 4 for the current year), contains provisional results of the German industrial census carried out simultaneously with the quinquennial census of population in June, 1925. The former comprised all industrial and commercial undertakings in Germany (with the exception of the Saar Territory), including establishments owned by Federal, State, communal and other public authorities. The information furnished covers the number of undertakings, the number of workers employed, the horse-power of the machinery in use, and of motor vehicles, watercraft and aircraft utilised in connection with the various undertakings. The most recent comparable figures available are those resulting from the Census of Occupations taken in 1907, but owing to differences in the methods adopted, exact comparisons are in many cases impossible. Moreover, the 1907 figures include those districts ceded to other States under the Peace Treaty of 1919, as well as the Saar Territory. Allowing for these factors, and excluding from the 1925 figures those relating to State, etc., establishments (which were not dealt with in the 1907 census) the figures for the respective years are as follows:—

| Total Number of                              | 1907.<br>Present German<br>territory<br>excluding Saar. | 1925.<br>Present German<br>territory<br>excluding Saar. | Percentage<br>increase in<br>1925 compared<br>with 1907. |
|--|---|---|--|
| Industrial undertakings ... ..               | 2,983,000   | 3,412,000   | 14.4   |
| Employed persons (male) ... ..               | 9,993,000   | 12,488,000  | 25.0   |
| Employed persons (female) ... ..             | 3,282,000   | 4,565,000   | 39.1   |
| Total employed persons (male and female) ... | 13,275,000  | 17,053,000  | 28.5   |

While the total population of Germany (excluding the Saar) is stated to have increased by 13.5 per cent between 1907 and 1925,\* it will be seen from the above figures that the number of persons employed in industry and commerce increased by 28.5 per cent. It is pointed out, however, that this census was taken in a period of considerable industrial prosperity, and that, owing to the subsequent economic depression, the number of manual and non-manual workers in employment is now about one million less than it was in June, 1925.

The total number of undertakings and employed persons (including those categories disregarded in the above table in order to afford a comparison with the 1907 figures) are stated to be respectively 3,455,111 and 18,388,696.

\* The total population of Germany (excluding the Saar), according to the provisional results of the 1925 population census, was 62,539,098 (Supplement No. 2, *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, 1925).

## ITALIAN LABOUR CHARTER.

THE *Gazzetta Ufficiale* for 30th April, 1927, contains the text of a "Labour Charter" drafted by the Italian Prime Minister and other Ministers, in accordance with a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Fascist Grand Council held in January last. This document, which has no legislative effect, is intended as a definition of the rights and duties of citizens and groups of citizens towards the Fascist State as a whole. Certain sections have already found expression in recent legislation, e.g., the regulation of collective labour relations and the co-ordination of the corporate organisations of employers and workers\*; while, according to a statement recently made by the Prime Minister, legislative effect will shortly be given to the clauses of the Charter dealing with collective labour agreements, employment exchanges, and social welfare work.

The full text of the Charter is as follows:—

*The Corporative State and its Organisation.*

1. The Italian Nation is an organism having aims, life and modes of action superior in power and duration to those of the separate individuals or groups composing it. It is a moral, political and economic unity, which is integrally realised in the Fascist State.

2. Labour in all its organising and executive forms, intellectual, technical and manual, is a social duty. This constitutes its sole and only title to be protected by the State. The whole body of production is unitary from the national point of view: its objects are unitary and are summed up in the well-being of individuals and the development of the power of the nation.

3. Occupational and trade organisation is free. But only trade associations which are legally recognised and placed under the supervision of the State have the right to represent legally the whole category of employers or workers for which they are constituted, to safeguard their interests in relation to the State and to the other occupational associations, to conclude collective labour agreements which are binding on all persons belonging to each category, to collect contributions from them, and to exercise on their behalf delegated functions of public interest.

4. The solidarity between the various factors of production finds its concrete expression in the collective labour agreement, by means of the conciliation of the opposing interests of the employers and workers, and their subordination to the higher interests of production.

5. The Labour Courts are the organs by means of which the State intervenes to settle labour disputes, whether they turn on the observance of agreements or other existing rules, or on the determination of new conditions of labour.

6. The legally recognised trade associations will ensure juridical equality between employers and workers, and maintain and endeavour to perfect the discipline of production and labour.

The corporations constitute the unitary organisation of the forces of production and completely represent its interests.

By reason of this complete representation and inasmuch as the interests of production are national interests, the corporations are legally recognised as State organs.

As representing the unitary interests of production, the corporations may prescribe compulsory rules to govern labour relations and also to co-ordinate production, whenever so authorised by the conjoint associations.

7. The Corporative State considers private enterprise in the field of production the most efficacious and useful instrument in the interests of the Nation.

Since the private organisation of production is a function of national interest, the organiser of an undertaking is responsible to the State for the direction of production. From the collaboration of productive forces is derived a reciprocity of rights and duties. The worker, whether technical, non-manual or manual, is an active collaborator in the economic undertaking, the direction of which devolves upon the employer, whose responsibility it is.

8. Trade associations of employers are required to promote in every way the increase and improvement of production and the reduction of costs. The representatives of persons engaged in a liberal profession or an art and associations of public employees will co-operate in safeguarding the interests of art, science and literature, in the improvement of production, and in the fulfilment of the moral objects of the corporative order.

9. The State will intervene in economic production only when private enterprise is lacking or is inadequate, or when the political interests of the State are at stake. Such intervention may assume the form of supervision, encouragement or direct management.

10. In the case of collective labour disputes, recourse may not be had to legal action until the corporative organ has previously made efforts at conciliation.

In individual disputes concerning the interpretation and application of collective labour agreements, trade associations have the right to interpose their services for conciliation.

The ordinary courts are competent to deal with such disputes with the assistance of assessors nominated by the trade associations concerned.

*Collective Labour Agreements and Labour Guarantees.*

11. Trade associations are required to regulate, by means of collective agreements, labour relations between the categories of employers and workers whom they represent.

\* See this GAZETTE, June, 1926, page 207, and October, 1926 page 366.

The collective labour agreement is concluded between associations of the first grade, under the direction and supervision of the central organisations, subject to substitution by the higher grade association in cases provided for by law and the articles of association.

Every collective labour agreement must, under penalty of nullification, contain precise rules concerning disciplinary relations, periods of probation, the rates and methods of payment of wages, and hours of work.

12. Trade association action, the conciliatory activities of the corporative organs and the awards of the Labour Courts will ensure that wages are commensurate with the normal requirements of life, with the possibilities of production, and with the output of labour.

The determination of wages is not governed by any general rules, but is subject to agreement between the parties to collective agreements.

13. The data collected by Public Departments, by the Central Statistical Institute, and by legally recognised trade associations, concerning conditions of production and labour, the state of the money market, and variations in the workers' standard of living, after having been co-ordinated and prepared by the Ministry of Corporations, will serve as the criterion for the mutual adjustment of the interests of the various categories and classes among themselves and of these interests with the higher interests of production.

14. Remuneration should be paid in the manner most suitable to the requirements of the worker and the undertaking.

When wages are paid on a piece-work basis, and the settlement of the piece account takes place over periods of more than a fortnight, adequate fortnightly or weekly payments on account must be made.

Night work not included in regular periodical shifts must be paid at a higher rate than day work.

When wages are paid on a piece-work basis, the rates must be calculated in such a manner that a diligent worker of normal capacity may be enabled to secure minimum earnings higher than the basic wage.

15. The worker is entitled to a weekly rest day coinciding with Sunday.

Collective agreements will apply this principle, taking into account existing laws and the technical requirements of the undertaking, and, subject to these requirements, will further ensure that civil and religious holidays are respected in accordance with local traditions. The time-table must be scrupulously and rigidly observed by the workers.

16. After one year's unbroken service, workers in undertakings working the year round have the right to an annual period of paid holiday.

17. In undertakings working the year round, the worker, if dismissed through no fault of his own, has the right to an indemnity proportionate to his years of service. Such indemnity is also due in the event of the death of the worker.

18. In undertakings working the year round, the transfer of the ownership of the undertaking does not terminate the labour agreement, and the staff employed therein retain their rights under the new proprietor. Similarly, the sickness of the worker, if it does not exceed a certain period, does not terminate the labour agreement. Recall to the army or militia does not constitute a cause of dismissal.

19. Breaches of discipline and acts which disturb the normal working of the undertaking, committed by the worker, are punished, according to the gravity of the offence, by fine, suspension from duty, or, in the case of more serious offences, by summary dismissal without indemnity.

The cases in which the employer may inflict fines, or may suspend or summarily dismiss a worker without indemnity, will be specified.

20. A newly engaged worker is subject to a period of probation, during which the right to cancel the agreement may be exercised by either party, subject only to payment of remuneration for the time during which work was actually performed.

21. The benefits and discipline of collective agreements are also applicable to home workers. Special rules will be prescribed by the State to ensure cleanliness and hygiene in home work.

*Employment Exchanges.*

22. The State investigates and supervises the phenomenon of employment and unemployment among the workers, which together form an index of the conditions of production and labour.

23. Employment exchanges are set up on a joint basis under the supervision of the corporative organs of the State. Employers are required to engage workers through these exchanges. They are at liberty to select from the persons on the registers, giving preference to members of the Fascist party and trade unions, according to seniority of registration.

24. Workers' trade associations are required to exercise a selective action among the workers with the view of improving progressively their technical ability and moral qualities.

25. The corporative organs ensure the observance of laws for the prevention of accidents, and of labour regulations as regards the various members of the conjoint associations.

*Insurance, Social Assistance and Education.*

26. Insurance is a lofty manifestation of the principle of collaboration. The employer and the worker must contribute proportionately to the cost thereof. The State, through the medium of the corporative organs and the trade associations, will seek to co-ordinate and standardise, as far as possible, the insurance system and institutions.

27. The Fascist State proposes—  
 (1) To perfect the accident insurance system.  
 (2) To improve and extend maternity insurance.  
 (3) To introduce a system of insurance against occupational diseases and tuberculosis, with a view to the inauguration of a general system of insurance against all diseases.  
 (4) To perfect the system of insurance against involuntary unemployment.  
 (5) To adopt special forms of insurance for the endowment of young workers.

28. It is the task of the workers' associations to safeguard the interests of their members in administrative and legal matters in connection with accident insurance and social insurance.

Collective labour agreements will, whenever technically possible, provide for the setting up of mutual sickness benefit funds to which employers and workers will contribute, to be administered by representatives of both parties under the supervision of the corporative organs.

29. It is the right and the duty of the trade associations to assist the persons they represent, whether members or not. The former must exercise their functions of assistance directly: they may not delegate them to other bodies or institutions except for purposes of a general character which go beyond the sphere of interest of the individual categories.

30. One of the chief duties of the trade associations is the education and instruction, in especial the technical instruction, of the persons they represent, whether members or not. They must support the activities of the National Workers' Spare-Time Institutes and other educational schemes.

### WAGES IN THE METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES IN THE NETHERLANDS.

The April issue of the *Maandschrift*, the journal of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, contains particulars of the wages paid and the hours worked in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries of the Netherlands, from which the Tables given below are extracted. (Corresponding details for earlier periods were published in this GAZETTE for May and July, 1926). The data relate to 102 undertakings employing 36,030 workers, of whom 28,772 were adults. Of the latter number, 13,505 were skilled, 8,970 semi-skilled, and 6,297 unskilled workers.

The following Table affords a comparison of the actual hourly earnings of adult workmen of the above mentioned categories during the second half of 1926, compared with the average of the hourly rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927, and the average minimum hourly wage recognised by the *Metaalbond* (an association of employers in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries).

For the purpose of regulating wages, the various centres of the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands have been divided by the *Metaalbond* into four groups. Class I includes Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Schiedam; Class II, Utrecht, Haarlem, Dordrecht, Hengelo, Flushing, etc.; Class III, Breda, Winschoten, Deventer, Kinderdijk, etc.; while Class IV comprises less important towns.

| Class of Town. | Skilled.  |   |  | Semi-skilled.                                       |   |  | Unskilled.  |   |  |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|                | Actual Hourly Earnings during second half of 1926.* | Average of the Hourly Rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927. | Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the <i>Metaalbond</i> . | Actual Hourly Earnings during second half of 1926.* | Average of the Hourly Rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927. | Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the <i>Metaalbond</i> . | Actual Hourly Earnings during second half of 1926.* | Average of the Hourly Rates actually paid at 1st January, 1927. | Average Minimum Hourly Rates Recognised by the <i>Metaalbond</i> . |
|                | Cents.†   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| I              | 70  | 57  | 54   | 65  | 53  | 47   | 54  | 46  | 40   |
| II             | 65  | 54  | 50   | 56  | 47  | 43   | 51  | 44  | 36   |
| III            | 58  | 52  | 47   | 49  | 43  | 40   | 43  | 39  | 33   |
| IV             | 59  | 51  | 45   | 52  | 46  | 38   | 41  | 37  | 31   |

The next Table contains particulars of the average hourly earnings of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled adult workmen in these industries in six towns during the second half of 1926, showing the class to which each town belongs and the number of workpeople concerned.

| Name of Town. | Class of Town. | Skilled.               |                          | Semi-skilled.          |                          | Unskilled.             |                          |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|               |                | Number of Work-people. | Average Hourly Earnings. | Number of Work-people. | Average Hourly Earnings. | Number of Work-people. | Average Hourly Earnings. |
| Cents.†       |                |                        |                          |                        |                          |                        |                          |
| Amsterdam     | I              | 2,328                  | 76                       | 1,154                  | 69                       | 701                    | 59                       |
| Rotterdam     | I              | 5,042                  | 68                       | 2,908                  | 64                       | 2,826                  | 53                       |
| Hengelo       | II             | 1,291                  | 67                       | 921                    | 58                       | 378                    | 52                       |
| Haarlem       | II             | 601                    | 68                       | 374                    | 63                       | 258                    | 52                       |
| Flushing      | II             | 896                    | 61                       | 409                    | 53                       | 312                    | 44                       |
| Kinderdijk    | III            | 268                    | 55                       | 172                    | 48                       | 56                     | 45                       |

\* These are the rates shown in the middle column under each category, increased by payments for piecework, contract work, bonuses, etc., including payments for overtime.  
 † 100 cents = 1 Gulden (or florin) = 1s. 8d. approximately.

### EARNINGS AND HOURS IN THE UNITED STATES.

#### FOUNDRIES AND MACHINE SHOPS IN 1925.

The United States Bureau of Labour Statistics have published the results\* of an inquiry made in the spring of 1925 into earnings and hours of labour in representative foundries and machine shops. The foundries covered by the inquiry were mainly engaged in the production of castings which go to machine shops of the kind investigated. The latter shops were producing engines, machines for mines, saw mills, cotton ginning and textile factories, for excavating, roadbuilding, hoisting, steel mills and rolling mills; ice, brick, rubber, shoe and sugar making machinery, conveyers, pumps, printing presses, and other machinery of like nature.

Particulars as to hours and earnings in 1925 were obtained in respect of 40,393 foundry workers and of 86,274 machine shop workers employed in 413 foundries and 511 machine shops.

The following Table shows for some of the principal occupations and for all workpeople covered by the inquiry (including those not separately specified) the average full-time hours per week and the average earnings per hour and per week at the period of the investigation:—

| Occupation.                         | Sex.       | Average full-time hours per week. | Average Earnings per hour. | Average full-time earnings per week. |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| I.—FOUNDRIES.                       |            |                                   |                            |                                      |
| Moulders, hand, bench               | Male       | 50.2                              | .768                       | 38.55                                |
| " hand, floor                       | "          | 50.4                              | .802                       | 40.42                                |
| " machine                           | "          | 50.1                              | .753                       | 36.72                                |
| Pattern makers                      | "          | 50.4                              | .804                       | 40.52                                |
| Chippers and rough grinders         | "          | 51.5                              | .521                       | 26.83                                |
| Core makers                         | "          | 50.3                              | .734                       | 36.92                                |
| Labourers                           | "          | 52.5                              | .481                       | 25.25                                |
| All occupations†                    | "          | 51.5                              | .612                       | 31.52                                |
| "                                   | Female     | 49.0                              | .427                       | 20.92                                |
| All occupations†                    | Both Sexes | 51.5                              | .610                       | 31.42                                |
| II.—MACHINE SHOPS.                  |            |                                   |                            |                                      |
| Drill presshands and operators      | Male       | 50.4                              | .579                       | 29.18                                |
| Assemblers                          | "          | 49.6                              | .634                       | 31.45                                |
| Fitters and bench hands             | "          | 49.8                              | .643                       | 32.02                                |
| Lathe hands and operators           | "          | 50.3                              | .663                       | 33.35                                |
| Engine                              | "          | 50.2                              | .647                       | 32.48                                |
| Turret                              | "          | 49.9                              | .702                       | 35.03                                |
| Machinists                          | "          | 50.2                              | .653                       | 32.45                                |
| Milling machine hands and operators | "          | 49.7                              | .653                       | 32.45                                |
| Planers and operators               | "          | 50.2                              | .705                       | 35.39                                |
| Toolmakers                          | "          | 50.0                              | .727                       | 36.35                                |
| Labourers                           | "          | 50.6                              | .456                       | 23.07                                |
| All occupations†                    | "          | 50.4                              | .604                       | 30.44                                |
| "                                   | Female     | 49.3                              | .420                       | 20.71                                |
| All occupations†                    | Both Sexes | 50.4                              | .602                       | 30.34                                |

As compared with 1923, when a similar inquiry was made, there was an average reduction of nine-tenths of an hour in the weekly full-time working hours in foundries and of four-tenths of an hour in machine shops. The average hourly earnings per head rose in the same period by 5.2 cents in foundries and by 4.3 cents in machine shops.

### EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

#### KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

The latest returns show that there are approximately 27,500 employers on the King's National Roll. Enrolled employers include Government Departments and Government industrial establishments, Local Authorities, railway companies, electricity, gas and water authorities, and most of the large industrial and commercial undertakings in the country.

The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by enrolled employers is approximately 380,000.

#### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 31st May, 1927, the number of men in training was 244, and the number awaiting training, 80. Since August, 1919, 100,141 men have terminated training.

\* *Bulletin of the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics, No. 422. Wages and Hours of Labour in Foundries and Machine Shops, 1925.* Washington, January, 1927.  
 † Including certain occupations not separately specified in this Table.

### CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st JUNE.

#### Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... .. 63%  
 Food only ... .. 54%

#### FOOD.

At 1st June the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food was about the same as a month earlier, small increases in the average prices of flour and bread and potatoes being counterbalanced by small reductions in the average prices of fish, milk and butter.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 54 per cent. at 1st June, 1927, as compared with 54 per cent. a month ago, and 58 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 30th April and 1st June, 1927:—

| Article.                 | Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1d.) |                   |                 | Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st June, 1927, as compared with |                   |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
|                          | July, 1914.  | 30th April, 1927. | 1st June, 1927. | July, 1914.  | 30th April, 1927. |
| Beef, British—           | s. d.  | s. d.             | s. d.           | s. d.  | s. d.             |
| Ribs ... ..              | 0 10   | 1 4½              | 1 4½            | + 0 6½   | ...               |
| Thin Flank ... ..        | 0 6½   | 0 9½              | 0 9½            | + 0 2½   | ...               |
| Beef, Chilled or Frozen— |  |                   |                 |  |                   |
| Ribs ... ..              | 0 7½   | 0 9½              | 0 9½            | + 0 2½   | ...               |
| Thin Flank ... ..        | 0 4½   | 0 5               | 0 5             | + 0 0½   | ...               |
| Mutton, British—         |  |                   |                 |  |                   |
| Legs ... ..              | 0 10½  | 1 6½              | 1 6½            | + 0 7½   | ...               |
| Breast ... ..            | 0 6½   | 0 10              | 0 10            | + 0 3½   | ...               |
| Mutton, Frozen—          |  |                   |                 |  |                   |
| Legs ... ..              | 0 6½   | 0 11½             | 0 11½           | + 0 4½   | ...               |
| Breast ... ..            | 0 4  | 0 4½              | 0 4½            | + 0 0½   | ...               |
| Bacon (streaky)*         | 0 11½  | 1 5               | 1 5½            | + 0 6  | + 0 0½            |
| Flour ... per 7 lb.      | 0 10½  | 1 5½              | 1 5½            | + 0 7½   | + 0 0½            |
| Bread ... per 4 lb.      | 0 5½   | 0 9½              | 0 9½            | + 0 4  | + 0 0½            |
| Tea ... ..               | 1 6½   | 2 4½              | 2 4½            | + 0 10½  | ...               |
| Sugar (granulated) ...   | 0 2  | 0 3½              | 0 3½            | + 0 1½   | ...               |
| Milk ... per quart       | 0 3½   | 0 5½              | 0 5½            | + 0 2  | - 0 0½            |
| Butter—                  |  |                   |                 |  |                   |
| Fresh ... ..             | 1 2½   | 1 9½              | 1 9½            | + 0 6½   | - 0 0½            |
| Salt ... ..              | 1 2½   | 1 8½              | 1 8½            | + 0 6½   | ...               |
| Cheese† ... ..           | 0 8½   | 1 0½              | 1 0½            | + 0 4  | ...               |
| Margarine ... ..         | 0 7  | 0 7½              | 0 7½            | + 0 0½   | ...               |
| Eggs (fresh) ... each    | 0 1½   | 0 1½              | 0 1½            | + 0 0½   | ...               |
| Potatoes per 7 lb.       | 0 4½   | 0 8               | 0 8½            | + 0 3½   | + 0 0½            |

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

| Article.   | Average Percentage Increase at 1st June, 1927, as compared with July, 1914. |                           |                  | Corresponding General Average for 30th Apr., 1927. |
|--|---|---------------------------|------------------|--|
|  | Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).                                      | Small Towns and Villages. | General Average. |  |
| Beef, British—   | Per cent.   | Per cent.                 | Per cent.        | Per cent.  |
| Ribs ... ..  | 70  | 66                        | 68               | 67   |
| Thin Flank ... ..  | 38  | 39                        | 39               | 39   |
| Beef Chilled or Frozen—  |   |                           |                  |  |
| Ribs ... ..  | 32  | 31                        | 31               | 31   |
| Thin Flank ... ..  | 1   | 8                         | 5                | 5  |
| Mutton, British—   |   |                           |                  |  |
| Legs ... ..  | 74  | 75                        | 75               | 75   |
| Breast ... ..  | 54  | 51                        | 53               | 53   |
| Mutton, Frozen—  |   |                           |                  |  |
| Legs ... ..  | 67  | 60                        | 63               | 64   |
| Breast ... ..  | 18  | 19                        | 19               | 19   |
| Bacon (streaky)*   | 54  | 53                        | 53               | 52   |
| Fish ... ..  | 115   | 92                        | 104              | 115  |
| Flour ... ..   | 64  | 69                        | 66               | 65   |
| Bread ... ..   | 69  | 66                        | 67               | 65   |
| Tea ... ..   | 51  | 59                        | 55               | 55   |
| Sugar (granulated) ...   | 94  | 81                        | 88               | 88   |
| Milk ... ..  | 55  | 63                        | 59               | 63   |
| Butter—  |   |                           |                  |  |
| Fresh ... ..   | 46  | 48                        | 47               | 50   |
| Salt ... ..  | 45  | 44                        | 44               | 45   |
| Cheese† ... ..   | 46  | 49                        | 48               | 47   |
| Margarine ... ..   | 10  | 5                         | 8                | 8  |
| Eggs (fresh) ... ..  | 24  | 15                        | 19               | 18   |
| Potatoes ... ..  | 86  | 57                        | 71               | 65   |
| All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ... .. | 55  | 53                        | 54               | 54   |

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

#### RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st June, 1927, was approximately 51 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st June the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged between 110 and 115 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, prices of coal showed a further decline, and at 1st June were, on the average, between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The price of gas remained about 70 per cent. dearer than in July, 1914. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st June, as compared with July, 1914, was about 75 per cent.

#### ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st June is, approximately, 63 per cent.\* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. at 30th April, 1927, and 68 per cent. at 1st June, 1926.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1927 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 readjustments 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 those 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: 1918 TO 1927.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1918:—

#### Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

| Month.    | 1918    | 1919    | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1926 | 1927 |
|-----------|---------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Jan. ...  | 85-90   | 120     | 125  | 165  | 92   | 78   | 77   | 80   | 75   | 75   |
| Feb. ...  | 90      | 120     | 130  | 151  | 88   | 77   | 79   | 79   | 73   | 72   |
| Mar. ...  | 90      | 115     | 130  | 141  | 86   | 76   | 78   | 79   | 72   | 71   |
| April ... | 90-95   | 110     | 132  | 133  | 82   | 74   | 73   | 75   | 68   | 65   |
| May ...   | 95-100  | 105     | 141  | 128  | 81   | 70   | 71   | 73   | 67   | 64   |
| June ...  | 100     | 105     | 150  | 119  | 80   | 69   | 69   | 72   | 68   | 63   |
| July ...  | 100-105 | 105-110 | 152  | 119  | 84   | 69   | 70   | 73   | 70   | ...  |
| Aug. ...  | 110     | 115     | 155  | 122  | 81   | 71   | 71   | 73   | 70   | ...  |
| Sept. ... | 110     | 115     | 161  | 120  | 79   | 73   | 72   | 74   | 72   | ...  |
| Oct. ...  | 115-120 | 120     | 164  | 110  | 78   | 75   | 76   | 76   | 74   | ...  |
| Nov. ...  | 120-125 | 125     | 176  | 103  | 80   | 75   | 80   | 76   | 79   | ...  |
| Dec. ...  | 120     | 125     | 169  | 99   | 80   | 77   | 81   | 77   | 79   | ...  |

Figures for dates prior to 1918, together with the average increases for each of the five main groups of items (i.e., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items) month by month from January, 1915, to December, 1925, are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics" (Cmd. 2740).

#### NOTE.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed continued improvement in almost every industry. The improvement was again most marked in those industries in which unemployment nevertheless remained severe, such as shipbuilding, marine engineering, public works contracting, and the hand tool and cutlery industry. In the building and clothing industries there was a further seasonal improvement and employment was good on the whole. There was also an improvement in general engineering, in the wool textile industry, in textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., and in the boot and shoe industry. In the coal-mining industry both the numbers wholly unemployed and the numbers temporarily stopped showed a slight decrease as compared with 25th April, but employment remained slack on the whole. Employment in the tinplate industry and among workers in the canal, river, dock, etc., service continued bad, and was worse than in the previous month.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 12,000,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 23rd May, 1927 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 8·8 as compared with 9·4 at 25th April, 1927, and 14·3 at 24th May, 1926. For males alone the percentage at 23rd May was 10·0, as compared with 10·8 at 25th April, 1927; for females the corresponding figures were 5·3 and 5·7. The percentage wholly unemployed declined from 7·2 at 25th April to 6·7 at 23rd May. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 30th May, 1927, was approximately 1,015,000, of whom 823,000 were men and 136,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 25th April, 1927, it was 1,075,000, of whom 867,000 were men and 144,000 were women; and at 31st May, 1926, it was 1,675,000, of whom 1,246,000 were men and 333,000 were women.

The following Table shows, month by month since May, 1926, the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

| Month.        | Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among Insured Workpeople. |          |                    |                      | Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc. |
|---------------|---|----------|--------------------|----------------------|--|
|               | Males and Females.  |          |                    |                      |  |
|               | Males.  | Females. | Wholly Unemployed. | Temporarily Stopped. |  |
| 1926.         |   |          |                    |                      |  |
| May ...       | 14·9  | 12·6     | 8·7                | 5·6                  | 1,675,000*   |
| June ...      | 15·4  | 12·2     | 9·0                | 5·6                  | 1,699,000*   |
| July ...      | 15·1  | 12·7     | 8·9                | 5·5                  | 1,664,000*   |
| August ...    | 14·9  | 11·6     | 9·0                | 5·0                  | 1,606,000*   |
| September ... | 14·7  | 11·0     | 9·0                | 4·7                  | 1,582,000*   |
| October ...   | 14·8  | 10·3     | 9·3                | 4·3                  | 1,610,000*   |
| November ...  | 14·8  | 10·0     | 9·4                | 4·1                  | 1,545,000*   |
| December† ... | 15·1  | 8·4      | 9·1                | 2·8                  | 1,357,000*   |
| 1927.         |   |          |                    |                      |  |
| January ...   | 13·3  | 8·5      | 9·5                | 2·6                  | 1,375,000  |
| February ...  | 12·2  | 7·5      | 8·8                | 2·1                  | 1,208,000  |
| March ...     | 11·2  | 6·2      | 7·9                | 2·0                  | 1,115,000  |
| April ...     | 10·8  | 5·7      | 7·2                | 2·2                  | 1,075,000  |
| May ...       | 10·0  | 5·3      | 6·7                | 2·1                  | 1,015,000  |

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—In coal-mining employment continued slack. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 28th May, 1927, was 1,025,670, a decrease of 0·3 per cent. as compared with April; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th May was 4·63, as compared with 5·04 in April.

In the iron mining industry the total number of workpeople employed in the mines from which returns were received showed no change as compared with the previous month, but there was a decline in the number of days worked per week in the Cleveland district. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was a slight decrease in the workpeople employed as compared with April, 1927, and a decrease of 2·3 per cent. compared with May, 1926. Employment at limestone quarries continued good in the Weardeale district, and fair in the Clitheroe district. At slate quarries in North Wales it improved, and was reported as good. At chalk quarries it remained very slack. At tin mines it continued good; at china clay quarries it was still moderate, on the whole.

**Manufacture of Pig-Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.**—In the pig-iron industry employment showed a further improvement, in spite of the fact that, of a total of 464 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May, 1927, was 184, compared with 189 in April, 1927, and with 23 in May, 1926.

In the iron and steel trades employment continued slack on the

\* In the coal-mining industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the trade dispute were taken into account in the unemployment statistics.

† For insured workpeople and for numbers registered the figures relate to 20th December, 1926.

whole, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade employment was bad, and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. The number of mills in operation at the end of May was 470, as compared with 541 in April, 1927, and with 264 in May, 1926.

**Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.**—In the engineering trades employment was still slack, on the whole, but continued to show an improvement in all sections, while in the motor vehicle and electrical sections it remained fairly good. It was very bad in marine engineering, and much short time was worked in the textile machinery section; in railway engineering little time was lost, and at some works overtime was reported. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued to improve, but was still very bad on the whole. In the other metal trades employment remained moderate on the whole. It was fairly good in the nut and bolt, lock and latch, and hollow-ware trades; fair in the sheet metal, tube, and file trades; moderate in the stove and grate, brass-work, needle and fishing tackle, and cutlery trades; and slack in the key, wire, metallic bedstead, chain and anchor, jewellery and plated ware trades.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the cotton trade showed little change on the whole as compared with the previous month.

In the American spinning section employment was reported to represent about 75 per cent. of full time working; in the Egyptian spinning section nearly full time working continued general; in the weaving department there was still much under-employment, except with manufacturers of fine and fancy cloths, who were generally busy.

In the wool textile trade there was a further improvement in the woollen section, particularly in the heavy woollen branch; in the worsted section there was a slight decline in the wool sorting and combing and in the spinning departments, but a slight improvement in the weaving department.

In the hosiery trade employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, employment was fairly good; in the lace trade it showed an improvement; in the linen trade it also showed a further improvement, and was fairly good, on the whole; in the jute trade there was a marked decline. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment improved slightly, but was still slack.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade continued to improve, and was good generally. In the wholesale bespoke and ready-made branch of the trade, employment was also good on the whole; a shortage of skilled labour was reported from several districts. The seasonal improvement in the dress-making and millinery trades continued, and employment was good generally. In the corset, and shirt and collar trades employment continued fairly good in most districts. In the felt-hat trade, employment continued good, with very little short time working. In the boot and shoe industry, employment showed a considerable improvement in all departments, and in all districts except Scotland.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the tanning and currying section, it continued fair; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections it was moderate; with saddlery and harness makers it was slack.

**Building, Woodworking, etc.**—Employment in the building trades showed a further improvement, and was generally good with skilled operatives, and fair with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, employment was very good with bricklayers; with plasterers it improved, and was also very good in most centres. With masons, carpenters and joiners, it continued to improve, and was good in most districts; with slaters, it was fairly good; with plumbers it was moderate. Employment was again better with painters and decorators and was very good generally with skilled men; it improved, and was fair, on the whole, with tradesmen's labourers. With brickmakers employment continued good.

Employment in the furnishing trades, with mill-sawyers, and with coachbuilders improved during the month and was fairly good; with coopers it also improved, but was still poor; with packing-case makers it continued bad.

**Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.**—In the paper trade, employment showed some improvement, and was fairly good on the whole. With letterpress printers, employment continued moderate; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was very good in London and at Manchester, and better than during April; in the lithographic printing trade it continued fair, on the whole; at Liverpool and Manchester, however, it was still bad. In the bookbinding trade employment remained moderate on the whole.

**Pottery and Glass.**—Employment in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire showed a slight improvement, and some sections were fairly well employed. In the glass trade employment was moderate on the whole but showed an improvement, particularly in the bottle making branch.

**Agriculture and Fishing.**—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour at the end of May was quite sufficient for the demand, and little unemployment was reported. In the fishing industry employment showed a further improvement.

**Dock Labour and Seamen.**—Employment with dock labourers declined slightly and was bad; with seamen employment was moderate to fair; the number of engagements showed an increase as compared with the previous month.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. It will be seen that in Great Britain the rates of unemployment continue to be highest in the areas which include the greatest proportions of coal mining and the heavy iron and steel industries:—

| Divisions.           | Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1926. (Totals.) | Percentage Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927. |          |        | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a |              |
|----------------------|--|--|----------|--------|--|--------------|
|                      |  | Males.                                   | Females. | Total. | Month before.  | Year before. |
|                      |  |  |          |        |  |              |
| London ...           | 2,105,400  | 6·2                                      | 3·4      | 5·3    | -0·5   | -2·7         |
| South-Eastern ...    | 840,200  | 4·4                                      | 3·1      | 4·1    | -0·6   | -2·4         |
| South-Western ...    | 810,900  | 7·0                                      | 4·0      | 6·4    | -0·8   | -2·6         |
| Midlands ...         | 1,777,400  | 9·1                                      | 6·4      | 8·3    | -1·2   | -5·2         |
| North-Eastern ...    | 2,020,500  | 13·7                                     | 6·5      | 12·2   | -1·3   | -6·4         |
| North-Western ...    | 2,143,700  | 10·8                                     | 6·4      | 9·4    | -0·6   | -8·2         |
| Scotland ...         | 1,323,100  | 11·4                                     | 6·3      | 10·0   | -0·6   | -8·4         |
| Wales ...            | 626,800  | 16·7                                     | 5·3      | 15·6   | +0·9   | -6·0         |
| Northern Ireland ... | 266,000  | 17·0                                     | 5·4      | 12·5   | -0·7   | -12·4        |
| Special Schemes      | 125,000  | 1·8                                      | 0·4      | 1·3    | -0·1   | -0·5         |
| TOTAL ...            | 12,041,000   | 10·0                                     | 5·3      | 8·8    | -0·6   | -5·5         |

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

TABLE SHOWING, BY DIVISIONAL AREAS, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 1927.

| Area.                         | Men.   | Boys.  | Women. | Girls. | Total.  |  |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--|
|                               |        |        |        |        | Number. | Percentage of numbers insured at July, 1926. |
| South-Eastern:                |        |        |        |        |         |  |
| (a) London ...                | 1,696  | 5,729  | 2,621  | 5,605  | 15,651  | 0·74   |
| (b) Rest of South Eastern ... | 1,573  | 2,763  | 1,034  | 2,116  | 7,486   | 0·89   |
| South-Western ...             | 1,513  | 2,192  | 1,075  | 1,562  | 6,342   | 0·78   |
| Midlands ...                  | 1,287  | 4,430  | 1,087  | 3,946  | 10,760  | 0·60   |
| North-Eastern ...             | 1,554  | 5,450  | 1,328  | 3,437  | 11,769  | 0·58   |
| North-Western ...             | 1,424  | 4,485  | 1,606  | 3,955  | 11,470  | 0·53   |
| Scotland ...                  | 1,132  | 3,408  | 967    | 2,871  | 8,378   | 0·63   |
| Wales ...                     | 573    | 2,042  | 512    | 615    | 3,742   | 0·60   |
| GREAT BRITAIN ...             | 10,752 | 30,499 | 10,230 | 24,107 | 75,588  | 0·65   |

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to employment, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

| Trade.                       | Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1927. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a |                       |
|------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
|                              |   | Month before.                           | Year before.          |
| Coal Mining ...              | 1,025,670   | Days Worked per week by Mines. 4·63     | -0·41                 |
| Iron ...                     | 7,347   | 5·56                                    | -0·20                 |
| Shale ...                    | 2,710   | 5·75                                    | -0·07                 |
| Pig Iron ...                 | ...   | Furnaces in Blast. 184                  | Number. 5 + 161       |
| Tinplate and Steel Sheet ... | ...   | Mills working. 470                      | Number. 71 + 206      |
| Iron and Steel ...           | 74,722  | Shifts Worked (one week). 405,825       | Per cent. 0·5 + 172·5 |

(b) OTHER TRADES.

| Trade.            | Number of Workpeople Employed. |                           |              | Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople. |                           |              |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|                   | Week ended 28th May, 1927.     | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |              | Week ended 28th May, 1927.          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |              |
|                   |                                | Month before.             | Year before. |                                     | Month before.             | Year before. |
| Textiles—         |                                | Per cent.                 | Per cent.    | £                                   | Per cent.                 | Per cent.    |
| Cotton ...        | 80,520                         | +0·0                      | +3·3         | 150,864                             | +0·5                      | +11·5        |
| Woollen ...       | 64,452                         | +1·1                      | +6·4         | 138,386                             | +2·8                      | +19·8        |
| Worsted ...       | 89,551                         | -0·0                      | +1·3         | 172,849                             | -0·3                      | +6·0         |
| Carpet ...        | 9,890                          | +0·6                      | +2·0         | 18,501                              | +1·9                      | +5·3         |
| Boot and Shoe ... | 50,258                         | +1·0                      | +6·8         | 123,054                             | +4·9                      | +18·9        |
| Pottery ...       | 10,800                         | +1·1                      | +29·8        | 20,706                              | +2·0                      | +53·6        |
| Brick ...         | 9,490                          | +0·7                      | +20·9        | 26,696                              | +0·6                      | +32·1        |

\* Statistics not available. In May, 1926, there was a general stoppage of work at coal mines and most of the iron mines were closed.

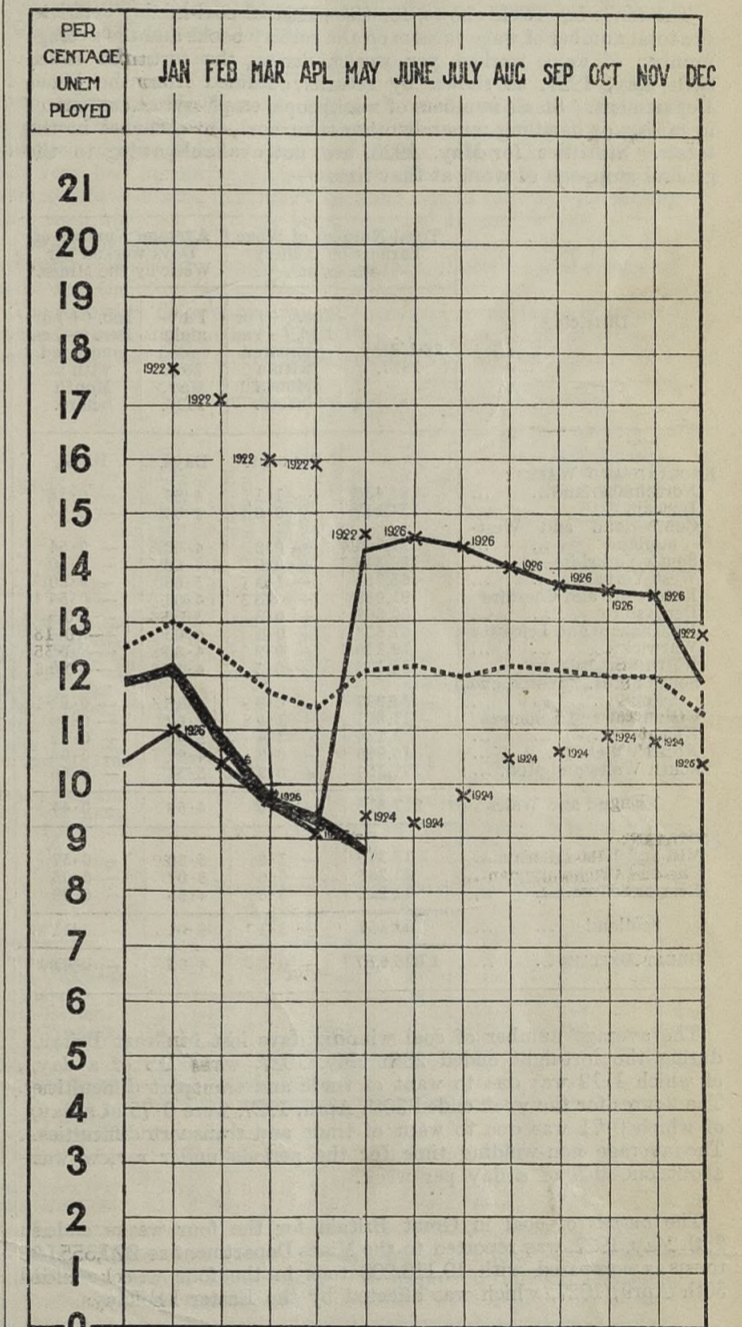
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS:—

Thick Curve - - - - - = 1927.  
Dotted Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1922-26.  
Thin Curve - - - - - = 1926.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-1926.



NOTE.—From May to December, the curve for 1926 and the curve showing the mean for the years 1922-26 are influenced by the heavy increase in unemployment in those months due to the stoppage in the coal-mining industry of last year. The diagram shows that while the percentage rates of unemployment in January and February, 1927, were higher than those for the corresponding months of 1926, this difference had almost disappeared in March and April, and the downward trend of the curve continued during May. For the whole period of five months the rates were well below the mean for the past five years. The figures for the first two months of 1927 were still affected in some industries by the results of the coal-mining dispute and also by a comparatively high rate of unemployment in coal mining itself. The influence of the latter factor remained at the end of May.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued slack. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.2 at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 17.8 at 25th April, 1927.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 28th May, 1927, showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent., as compared with 30th April, 1927, and the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, was 4.63, a decrease of 0.41 of a day as compared with the week ending 30th April, 1927.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week\* during the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, as shown by returns obtained from the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals. Statistics for May, 1926, are not available owing to the general stoppage of work at that time:—

| Districts.                           | Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at |   | Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.* |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
|                                      | 28th May, 1927.                                   | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. | Fortnight ended 28th May, 1927.                       | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES:                   |   |   |   |   |
| Northumberland...                    | 54,430  | - 1.1   | 4.96  | - 0.18  |
| Durham ...                           | 134,537   | + 0.0   | 4.84  | - 0.24  |
| Cumberland and Westmorland ...       | 11,794  | + 0.2   | 4.98  | - 0.54  |
| South Yorkshire ...                  | 120,843   | + 0.0   | 4.58  | - 0.50  |
| West Yorkshire ...                   | 65,354  | + 1.1   | 3.86  | - 0.50  |
| Lancashire and Cheshire ...          | 91,069  | + 0.3   | 4.08  | - 0.54  |
| Derbyshire ...                       | 60,662  | + 0.3   | 3.55  | - 0.55  |
| Nottingham and Leicester ...         | 67,534  | + 0.1   | 4.03  | - 0.18  |
| Warwick ...                          | 19,130  | - 0.9   | 4.88  | - 0.35  |
| North Staffordshire ...              | 33,129  | + 0.3   | 4.58  | - 0.56  |
| South Staffs.,† Wores. and Salop ... | 33,997  | - 0.9   | 4.13  | - 0.81  |
| Gloucester and Somerset ...          | 11,891  | + 1.4   | 4.07  | - 0.79  |
| Kent ...                             | 2,124   | - 3.4   | 5.45  | + 0.59  |
| North Wales ...                      | 15,965  | - 0.2   | 4.91  | - 0.93  |
| South Wales and Mon. ...             | 197,354   | + 0.2   | 5.31  | - 0.48  |
| England and Wales                    | 917,813   | + 0.0   | 4.59  | - 0.44  |
| SCOTLAND:                            |   |   |   |   |
| Mid and East Lothians...             | 13,379  | - 3.8   | 5.20  | - 0.37  |
| Fife and Clackmannan ...             | 23,266  | - 0.6   | 5.07  | - 0.03  |
| Rest of Scotland...                  | 71,212  | - 3.8   | 4.95  | - 0.09  |
| Scotland ...                         | 107,857   | - 3.1   | 5.01  | - 0.11  |
| GREAT BRITAIN ...                    | 1,025,670   | - 0.3   | 4.63  | - 0.41  |

The average number of coal winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, was 1.15 of a day, of which 1.12 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the week ended 30th April, 1927, were 0.75 of a day, of which 0.71 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for the periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 28th May, 1927, was reported to the Mines Department as 20,355,600 tons, as compared with 19,118,200 tons in the four weeks ended 30th April, 1927, which was affected by the Easter holidays.

The export of coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,507,600 tons in May, as compared with 5,669,800 tons in April, 1927.

The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas are shown in the following Table:—

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

| Area.                           | Percentage Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927. |                      |        | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentages as compared with |                      |        |                   |  |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------|--|----------------------|--------|-------------------|--|
|                                 | Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).       | Temporary stoppages. | Total. | A month before.  |                      |        | Two years before. |  |
|                                 |  |                      |        | Wholly Unemployed.   | Temporary stoppages. | Total. |                   |  |
| ENGLAND AND WALES:              |  |                      |        |  |                      |        |                   |  |
| Northumberland...               | 9.3                                      | 2.0                  | 11.3   | + 0.6  | - 1.5                | - 0.9  | - 14.7            |  |
| Durham ...                      | 17.0                                     | 5.2                  | 22.2   | - 1.1  | + 4.2                | + 3.1  | + 1.1             |  |
| Cumberland and Westmorland ...  | 3.2                                      | 2.0                  | 5.2    | - 0.3  | + 1.9                | + 1.6  | - 12.3            |  |
| Yorkshire ...                   | 3.6                                      | 6.4                  | 10.0   | + 0.3  | - 7.0                | - 6.7  | + 4.4             |  |
| Lancashire and Derbyshire ...   | 6.0                                      | 13.7                 | 19.7   | + 0.2  | + 5.1                | + 5.3  | + 4.2             |  |
| Derbyshire ...                  | 2.8                                      | 26.6                 | 29.4   | + 0.1  | - 9.2                | - 9.1  | + 16.0            |  |
| Notts and Leicester ...         | 2.1                                      | 10.5                 | 12.6   | - 0.1  | - 7.8                | - 7.9  | - 5.9             |  |
| Warwick ...                     | 2.6                                      | 1.9                  | 4.5    | + 0.1  | + 1.9                | + 2.0  | + 3.3             |  |
| Staffs, Worcester and Salop ... | 4.7                                      | 10.5                 | 15.2   | + 0.2  | + 2.1                | + 2.3  | + 8.8             |  |
| Glos. and Somerset ...          | 8.5                                      | 4.1                  | 12.6   | - 0.8  | - 8.1                | - 8.9  | - 4.7             |  |
| Kent ...                        | 4.3                                      | 0.5                  | 4.8    | + 1.3  | - 3.2                | - 1.9  | - 1.5             |  |
| Wales and Monmouth ...          | 12.6                                     | 7.3                  | 19.9   | - 1.2  | + 3.2                | + 2.0  | + 3.5             |  |
| England and Wales ...           | 8.7                                      | 8.6                  | 17.3   | - 0.3  | - 0.4                | - 0.7  | + 2.5             |  |
| SCOTLAND ...                    | 12.2                                     | 4.8                  | 17.0   | + 0.8  | - 0.4                | + 0.4  | - 5.8             |  |
| GREAT BRITAIN ...               | 9.1                                      | 8.1                  | 17.2   | - 0.2  | - 0.4                | - 0.6  | + 1.4             |  |

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

THE total number of workpeople employed in the mines from which returns were received showed no change compared with the previous month. There was a substantial decline, however, in the average number of days worked per week by the mines in the Cleveland district.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.9 at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 9.6 at 25th April, 1927, and 61.0 at 24th May, 1926.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for April and May, 1927. In May, 1926, most of the mines were closed owing to the stoppage of work at coal mines.

| Districts.                    | Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns. |   | Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.* |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                               | Fortnight ended 28th May, 1927.                                 | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. | Fortnight ended 28th May, 1927.                    | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. |
| Cleveland ...                 | 2,943   | - 1.5   | 5.07   | - 0.41  |
| Cumberland and Lancashire ... | 3,031   | + 1.6   | 6.00   | ...   |
| Other Districts ...           | 1,373   | - 0.1   | 5.61   | + 0.22  |
| ALL DISTRICTS ...             | 7,347   | + 0.0   | 5.56   | - 0.20  |

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received, 2,710 workpeople were employed in the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 2.3 per cent. compared with May, 1926. The average number of days\* worked per week by the mines from which returns were received was 5.75 in May, 1927, compared with 5.82 in April, 1927, and 5.86 in May, 1926.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed some further improvement during May. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.5 on 23rd May, 1927 (including 2.5 per cent. temporarily stopped), compared with 13.5 on 25th April, 1927 (including 3.7 per cent. temporarily stopped), and with 58.4 on 24th May, 1926.

\* See footnote \* in previous column.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 184 furnaces were in operation at the end of May, compared with 189 at the end of April, and 23 at the end of May, 1926. Returns from firms employing 20,905 workpeople showed an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with April.

| District.  | Total Number of Furnaces. | Number of Furnaces in Blast. |              |            | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |              |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|  |                           | May, 1927.                   | April, 1927. | May, 1926. | Month before.             | Year before. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES:                                 |                           |                              |              |            |                           |              |
| Durham and Cleveland ...                           | 107                       | 43                           | 47           | 7          | - 4                       | + 36         |
| Cumberland and W. Lancs ...                        | 45                        | 16                           | 16           | ...        | ...                       | + 16         |
| Paris of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield) ... | 34                        | 14                           | 15           | 1          | - 1                       | + 13         |
| Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants ...          | 69                        | 33                           | 33           | 6          | ...                       | + 27         |
| Lincolnshire ...                                   | 23                        | 15                           | 15           | 2          | ...                       | + 13         |
| Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...      | 55                        | 16                           | 16           | 2          | ...                       | + 14         |
| South Wales ...                                    | 33                        | 10                           | 10           | 1          | ...                       | + 9          |
| England and Wales                                  | 366                       | 147                          | 152          | 19         | - 5                       | + 128        |
| Scotland ...                                       | 98                        | 37                           | 37           | 4          | ...                       | + 33         |
| Total ...  | 464                       | 184                          | 189          | 23         | - 5                       | + 161        |

The production of pig iron in May amounted to 720,100 tons, as compared with 680,000 tons in April, 1927.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in May continued to be slack on the whole. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.5 on 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 17.3 on 25th April, 1927, and 58.1 on 24th May, 1926. Employment in May, 1926, was affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

According to returns received from firms employing 74,722 workpeople in the week ended 28th May, 1927, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 0.5 per cent. as compared with April, but showed an increase of 172.5 per cent. as compared with a year before. The average number of shifts\* during which the works were open was 5.4 in May, 1927, the same as in April, 1927.

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

| DEPARTMENTS.                             | No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns. |   |              | Aggregate number of Shifts.* |   |              |
|--|---|---|--------------|------------------------------|---|--------------|
|  | Week ended 28th May, 1927.                          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a |              | Week ended 28th May, 1927.   | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a |              |
|  |   | Month before.                           | Year before. |                              | Month before.                           | Year before. |
| OpenHearth Melting Furnaces ...          | 9,334   | + 4.2                                   | + 3152.3     | 53,137                       | + 2.9                                   | + 3841.9     |
| Puddling Forges ...                      | 2,854   | + 1.1                                   | + 78.0       | 11,572                       | + 1.6                                   | + 85.3       |
| Rolling Mills ...                        | 27,440  | - 2.1                                   | + 239.3      | 140,754                      | - 1.3                                   | + 287.0      |
| Forging & Pressing ...                   | 3,294   | + 8.0                                   | + 36.9       | 17,925                       | + 3.5                                   | + 57.7       |
| Founding ...                             | 8,187   | + 0.4                                   | + 17.4       | 47,341                       | + 0.7                                   | + 31.5       |
| Other Departments (Mechanics, Labourers) | 8,466   | + 2.1                                   | + 73.8       | 47,865                       | + 2.1                                   | + 83.5       |
| TOTAL ...                                | 74,722  | - 1.0                                   | + 148.3      | 405,825                      | - 0.5                                   | + 172.5      |
| DISTRICTS.                               |   |   |              |                              |   |              |
| Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ... | 16,355  | - 0.9                                   | + 253.6      | 92,200                       | + 0.5                                   | + 282.7      |
| Sheffield & Rotherham ...                | 19,834  | + 0.6                                   | + 64.4       | 108,256                      | + 2.3                                   | + 86.7       |
| Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...                | 1,630   | - 20.7                                  | - 14.6       | 8,801                        | - 20.6                                  | - 14.5       |
| Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...      | 7,234   | + 5.8                                   | + 84.3       | 36,985                       | + 4.5                                   | + 106.7      |
| Staffordshire ...                        | 5,973   | - 2.7                                   | + 288.6      | 31,819                       | - 1.2                                   | + 286.9      |
| Other Midland Counties                   | 3,515   | - 1.8                                   | + 25.4       | 19,636                       | - 0.5                                   | + 28.8       |
| Wales and Monmouth ...                   | 7,350   | + 3.4                                   | + 343.8      | 39,664                       | - 0.5                                   | + 333.6      |
| Total England and Wales ...              | 61,891  | - 1.4                                   | + 117.0      | 337,350                      | - 0.5                                   | + 136.1      |
| Scotland ...                             | 12,831  | + 0.9                                   | + 716.2      | 68,465                       | - 0.3                                   | + 1029.6     |
| TOTAL ...                                | 74,722  | - 1.0                                   | + 148.3      | 405,825                      | - 0.5                                   | + 172.5      |

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 882,500 tons in May, 1927, as compared with 850,100 tons in April, 1927, and 45,700 tons in May, 1926.

\* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown were actually worked by all the men employed. Works closed are omitted in computing the average numbers of shifts.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during May was bad on the whole, and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. At the end of May, 470 tinplate and steel-sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 541 in the previous month and with 264 in May, 1926. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 19.9 on 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 10.9 on 25th April, 1927, and with 75.3 on 24th May, 1926.

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

| Works.       | Number of Works Open |                           |              | Number of Mills in Operation |                           |              |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|              | At end of May, 1927. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |              | At end of May, 1927.         | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |              |
|              |                      | Month before.             | Year before. |                              | Month before.             | Year before. |
| Tinplate ... | 63                   | - 11                      | + 26         | 343                          | - 63                      | + 166        |
| Steel Sheet  | 13                   | ...                       | + 5          | 127                          | - 18                      | + 40         |
| TOTAL ...    | 76                   | - 11                      | + 31         | 470                          | - 71                      | + 206        |

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1927, amounted to 125,102 tons, or 18,102 tons more than in April, 1927, and 30,522 tons more than in May, 1925.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during May was still slack on the whole, but continued to show improvement in all sections, while in the motor vehicle and electrical sections it remained fairly good. Conditions were still very bad in marine engineering, and much short time was still worked in the textile machinery section; but in railway engineering little time was lost, overtime being reported at some works.

Conditions were much better than in the corresponding period of last year when employment was seriously affected by the general strike and the stoppage in the coal mining industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

| Divisions.                             | Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927. |                         |                          |                             |   |        | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a |              |
|--|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------|---|--------------|
|  | Engineers, Iron and Steel Foundries.                       | Electrical Engineering. | Marine Engineering, etc. | Constructional Engineering. | Construction and Repairing of Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft. | TOTAL. | Month before.                                   | Year before. |
| London ...                             | 4,950  | 406                     | 61                       | 103                         | 1,459   | 6,979  | - 655   | - 4,068      |
| South-Eastern ...                      | 1,648  | 240                     | 151                      | 49                          | 915   | 3,003  | - 702   | - 3,735      |
| South-Western ...                      | 1,952  | 142                     | 536                      | 55                          | 1,446   | 4,131  | - 262   | + 143        |
| Midlands ...                           | 5,377  | 1,041                   | 37                       | 587                         | 5,513   | 12,555 | - 777   | - 12,910     |
| North-Eastern ...                      | 18,774   | 571                     | 4,439                    | 738                         | 774   | 25,295 | - 2,531   | - 15,997     |
| North-Western ...                      | 15,530   | 1,289                   | 127                      | 117                         | 1,397   | 18,460 | - 2,662   | - 15,929     |
| Scotland ...                           | 8,754  | 195                     | 2,153                    | 598                         | 676   | 12,376 | - 1,593   | - 14,734     |
| Wales ...                              | 890  | 20                      | 24                       | 120                         | 108   | 1,162  | - 170   | - 4,079      |
| Northern Ireland                       | 1,384  | 15                      | 1,915                    | 2                           | 166   | 3,482  | - 2   | - 296        |
| GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ... | 59,259   | 3,919                   | 9,443                    | 2,369                       | 12,454  | 87,444 | - 9,354   | - 71,605     |

Percentages Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927.

| Divisions.        | Percentage Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927. |                         |                          |                             |   |        | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a |              |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------|---|--------------|
|                   | Engineers, Iron and Steel Foundries.     | Electrical Engineering. | Marine Engineering, etc. | Constructional Engineering. | Construction and Repairing of Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft. | TOTAL. | Month before.                                   | Year before. |
| London ...        | 5.9                                      | 3.6                     | 9.5                      | 3.5                         | 4.1   | 5.2    | - 0.5   | - 3.0        |
| South-Eastern ... | 3.9                                      | 2.8                     | 4.5                      | 7.7                         | 3.5   | 3.7    | - 0.8   | - 4.7        |
| South-Western ... | 4.5                                      | 4.5                     | 8.4                      | 7.1                         | 6.1   | 6.0    | - 0.3   | ...          |
| Midlands ...      | 5.9                                      | 4.4                     | 2.4                      | 9.1                         | 5.9   | 5.8    | - 0.4   | - 5.9        |
| North-Eastern ... | 15.1                                     | 7.2                     | 20.4                     | 9.6                         |   |        |   |              |

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING

EMPLOYMENT during May, though still very bad on the whole, continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. The improvement as compared with the previous month affected all the principal districts except the Bristol Channel, where there was a decline in repair work towards the end of the month. At Dundee employment was good for skilled workpeople.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with 25th April, 1927, and with 24th May, 1926 :-

| Divisions.                                    | Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a |                 | Percentage Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a |              |
|---|--|---|-----------------|--|---|--------------|
|   |  | Month before.                                   | Year before.    |  | Month before.   | Year before. |
|   |  |   |                 |  |   |              |
| London...                                     | 1,904  | - 111   | - 1,426         | 16.7                                     | - 1.0   | -10.1        |
| South-Eastern...                              | 804  | - 88  | + 136           | 9.0                                      | - 1.0   | + 2.3        |
| South-Western...                              | 2,753  | - 705   | - 1,658         | 11.6                                     | - 2.9   | - 5.9        |
| Midlands...                                   | 33   | - 5   | - 121           | 11.0                                     | - 2.0   | - 44.0       |
| North-Eastern...                              | 18,716   | - 3,042   | - 15,157        | 29.7                                     | - 4.9   | -20.9        |
| North-Western...                              | 8,265  | - 98  | - 2,849         | 25.6                                     | - 0.3   | - 8.3        |
| Scotland...                                   | 12,167   | - 2,320   | - 14,346        | 20.5                                     | - 3.9   | -20.5        |
| Wales...                                      | 3,185  | + 392   | - 2,644         | 30.2                                     | + 3.8   | -23.3        |
| Northern Ireland...                           | 4,034  | - 185   | - 2,764         | 27.6                                     | - 1.3   | - 9.0        |
| <b>GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND</b> ... | <b>51,866</b>  | <b>- 6,163</b>                                  | <b>- 40,829</b> | <b>23.1</b>                              | <b>- 2.8</b>  | <b>-15.2</b> |

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

DURING May there was a further improvement in the woollen section particularly in the heavy woollen branch; in the worsted section there was a slight decline in the wool sorting and combing and in the spinning departments, but a slight improvement in the weaving department, partly owing to pressure for delivery of seasonal goods before Whitsuntide. In the wool textile industry as a whole there was, on balance, a slight improvement.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.4 on 23rd May, as compared with 9.4 on 25th April, and with 21.0 on 24th May, 1926.

In the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, there was a slight decline as compared with April. Employment in the wool sorting and combing departments was not so good as a month earlier. About 36 per cent. of the workpeople in those departments covered by the returns received worked short time in the week ended 28th May, with a loss of about 11 hours each on the average; on the other hand, about 3 per cent. worked nearly 6 hours each, on an average, in overtime. In worsted spinning there was also a slight decline on the whole; about 28 per cent. of the spinners covered by the returns received lost nearly 11 hours each, on an average, in short-time working during the week ended 28th May. In the worsted weaving section employment showed a slight improvement, except in the fine worsted section. In Bradford half the looms on the fine worsted goods (dress goods) were reported to be idle. In the Keighley and Halifax districts under-employment was common, and at Keighley there was a sharp decline in employment; while in the Armley area of Leeds there was much short time. In the Huddersfield district some improvement was reported. The returns received from employers for the week ended 28th May showed that nearly 18 per cent. of the worsted weavers worked short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 13\* hours each.

The returns received from employers in the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, showed that, in the week ended 28th May, 25\* per cent. of their workpeople were on short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 11\* hours each; while 4 per cent. were working overtime, to the average extent of about 6 hours each.

In the woollen section of the industry there was an improvement, particularly in areas where low-grade goods are manufactured. In the spinning section about 21 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 28th May, with a loss on the average of nearly 10 hours each; the corresponding figures for the weaving section were also 21 per cent. and nearly 10\* hours. On the other hand, 13\* per cent. of the spinners were on overtime, to the extent of about 9 hours on the average, while about 8 per cent. of the weavers worked on an average 5 hours per week overtime. Taking the woollen section as a whole about 20 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, 10\* hours each in short-time working; while 10 per cent. worked an average of about 8 hours each in overtime.

In the Huddersfield district there was little change as compared with the previous month. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley) and at Morley increased activity was reported, and there was a decrease in the numbers unemployed. Some mills

\* These figures do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

were working overtime, and weavers were better employed than for many months; a large number of weavers who had worked intermittently for more than two years were employed for the full 48-hour week. With woollen workers in the Leeds and Wakefield districts employment was fairly good. In the Stockport district there was a decline, and employment was only fair.

With blanket manufacturers employment showed a decline at Hebden Bridge, but some improvement at Dewsbury. At Witney the operatives were fully employed. In the flannel trade of Rochdale and Saddleworth employment was reported as moderate to fair; some overtime was reported at Saddleworth.

The mills at Newtown and Llanidloes worked intermittently throughout the month, owing to shortage of orders.

In Scotland employment continued good. At Galashiels most of the firms were on full time, with some overtime in the spinning and carding departments; and in the Border district generally operatives engaged in the tweed trade were well employed; much of the machinery which was inactive a year ago had been put into operation. There was also an improvement in tweed mills at Dumfries.

In the carpet trade there was an improvement as compared with a month earlier, and less short time was reported. At Kidderminster employment continued good, full time being general. In the West Riding there was an improvement, especially in the Halifax district. Taking the carpet trade as a whole, the employers' returns for the week ended 28th May showed 14 per cent. of the operatives working short time, with a loss on the average of about 8 hours each; while about 4 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each on an average.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers :-

| Departments :                              | Number of Workpeople.      |   |                           | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. |   |                           |
|--|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | Week ended 28th May, 1927. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before. | Index figure, 1926 = 100. | Week ended 28th May, 1927.          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before. | Index figure, 1926 = 100. |
|  |                            |   |                           |                                     |   |                           |
| <b>WORSTED SECTION :</b>                   |                            |   |                           |                                     |   |                           |
| Wool Sorting and Combing ...               | 11,433                     | - 0.2                                   | 102.9                     | 27,953                              | - 3.4                                   | 97.4                      |
| Spinning...                                | 43,208                     | + 0.0                                   | 99.4                      | 67,471                              | + 0.7                                   | 95.8                      |
| Weaving...                                 | 21,688                     | + 0.2                                   | 99.7                      | 45,006                              | + 1.0                                   | 101.3                     |
| Other Depts. ...                           | 11,280                     | + 0.6                                   | 100.1                     | 28,361                              | + 1.6                                   | 100.0                     |
| Not specified ...                          | 1,942                      | - 0.8                                   | 104.6                     | 4,058                               | + 2.0                                   | 107.5                     |
| <b>Total—Worsted</b> ...                   | <b>89,551</b>              | <b>- 0.0</b>                            | <b>100.0</b>              | <b>172,849</b>                      | <b>- 0.3</b>                            | <b>99.5</b>               |
| <b>WOOLLEN SECTION :</b>                   |                            |   |                           |                                     |   |                           |
| Wool Sorting and Combing ...               | 1,039                      | + 1.2                                   | 101.5                     | 2,569                               | + 1.7                                   | 109.5                     |
| Spinning...                                | 14,831                     | + 0.7                                   | 100.7                     | 33,302                              | + 2.3                                   | 115.9                     |
| Weaving...                                 | 27,192                     | + 1.1                                   | 107.1                     | 51,753                              | + 1.8                                   | 116.4                     |
| Other Depts. ...                           | 19,064                     | + 1.5                                   | 101.1                     | 45,478                              | + 4.3                                   | 110.4                     |
| Not specified ...                          | 2,326                      | + 0.8                                   | 100.2                     | 5,284                               | + 4.8                                   | 105.5                     |
| <b>Total—Woollen</b> ...                   | <b>64,452</b>              | <b>+ 1.1</b>                            | <b>103.5</b>              | <b>138,386</b>                      | <b>+ 2.8</b>                            | <b>113.6</b>              |
| <b>CARPET SECTION ...</b>                  | <b>9,890</b>               | <b>+ 0.6</b>                            | <b>101.0</b>              | <b>18,501</b>                       | <b>+ 1.9</b>                            | <b>88.8</b>               |
| <b>Total—Wool Textile Industry</b> ...     | <b>163,893</b>             | <b>+ 0.5</b>                            | <b>101.2</b>              | <b>329,736</b>                      | <b>+ 1.1</b>                            | <b>104.4</b>              |
| <b>Districts* :</b>                        |                            |   |                           |                                     |   |                           |
| <b>WORSTED SECTION :</b>                   |                            |   |                           |                                     |   |                           |
| Bradford ...                               | 39,948                     | - 0.4                                   | 99.4                      | 80,070                              | - 1.9                                   | 94.8                      |
| Huddersfield ...                           | 10,335                     | + 0.9                                   | 105.8                     | 23,181                              | + 1.1                                   | 111.5                     |
| Halifax ...                                | 10,170                     | - 0.7                                   | 94.6                      | 17,534                              | + 0.2                                   | 92.9                      |
| Leeds ...                                  | 8,863                      | - 0.2                                   | 100.5                     | 16,006                              | + 1.7                                   | 100.0                     |
| Keighley ...                               | 9,424                      | + 0.5                                   | 102.2                     | 17,631                              | - 0.6                                   | 114.2                     |
| Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ... | 3,472                      | - 0.4                                   | 99.7                      | 5,816                               | + 4.6                                   | 109.1                     |
| <b>Total—West Riding</b> ...               | <b>82,212</b>              | <b>- 0.2</b>                            | <b>100.0</b>              | <b>160,238</b>                      | <b>- 0.5</b>                            | <b>99.5</b>               |
| <b>West of England and Midlands ...</b>    | <b>5,042</b>               | <b>+ 1.6</b>                            | <b>100.6</b>              | <b>9,076</b>                        | <b>+ 2.9</b>                            | <b>94.7</b>               |
| Lancs ...                                  | 336                        | - 2.3                                   | 116.9                     | 562                                 | - 15.5                                  | 93.2                      |
| Scotland ...                               | 1,961                      | + 2.1                                   | 98.4                      | 2,973                               | + 5.2                                   | 123.0                     |
| <b>Total—Worsted</b> ...                   | <b>89,551</b>              | <b>- 0.0</b>                            | <b>100.0</b>              | <b>172,849</b>                      | <b>- 0.3</b>                            | <b>99.5</b>               |
| <b>WOOLLEN SECTION :</b>                   |                            |   |                           |                                     |   |                           |
| Huddersfield ...                           | 12,388                     | - 0.1                                   | 101.0                     | 29,951                              | - 0.7                                   | 106.7                     |
| Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ... | 12,975                     | + 3.9                                   | 104.7                     | 28,741                              | + 8.7                                   | 123.2                     |
| Leeds ...                                  | 8,852                      | + 2.8                                   | 107.3                     | 19,957                              | + 6.8                                   | 126.8                     |
| Halifax and Calder Vale ...                | 2,858                      | + 0.8                                   | 97.8                      | 5,982                               | + 4.0                                   | 94.3                      |
| Bradford ...                               | 1,048                      | + 1.2                                   | 108.2                     | 2,478                               | + 2.5                                   | 109.3                     |
| <b>Total—West Riding</b> ...               | <b>38,121</b>              | <b>+ 2.0</b>                            | <b>103.4</b>              | <b>87,109</b>                       | <b>+ 4.4</b>                            | <b>114.6</b>              |
| <b>Lancs ...</b>                           | <b>6,133</b>               | <b>+ 0.2</b>                            | <b>102.3</b>              | <b>12,959</b>                       | <b>+ 0.5</b>                            | <b>111.9</b>              |
| <b>West of England and Midlands ...</b>    | <b>4,602</b>               | <b>+ 0.8</b>                            | <b>108.0</b>              | <b>8,520</b>                        | <b>+ 3.4</b>                            | <b>120.9</b>              |
| Scotland ...                               | 15,469                     | - 0.2                                   | 102.6                     | 29,600                              | - 0.5                                   | 110.3                     |
| Wales ...                                  | 127                        | - 29.1                                  | 143.7                     | 198                                 | - 18.5                                  | 155.3                     |
| <b>Total—Woollen</b> ...                   | <b>64,452</b>              | <b>+ 1.1</b>                            | <b>103.5</b>              | <b>138,386</b>                      | <b>+ 2.8</b>                            | <b>113.6</b>              |
| <b>CARPET SECTION ...</b>                  | <b>9,890</b>               | <b>+ 0.6</b>                            | <b>101.0</b>              | <b>18,501</b>                       | <b>+ 1.9</b>                            | <b>88.8</b>               |
| <b>Total—Wool Textile Industry</b> ...     | <b>163,893</b>             | <b>+ 0.5</b>                            | <b>101.2</b>              | <b>329,736</b>                      | <b>+ 1.1</b>                            | <b>104.4</b>              |

\* Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed on the whole little change as compared with the previous month. In the American spinning section employment was reported to represent about 75 per cent. of full-time working. The Cotton Yarn Association issued, on 19th May, a recommendation to spinners of American cotton in favour of a further curtailment of production, to take effect from 23rd May. In the Egyptian spinning section nearly full-time working continued general. In the weaving department there was still much under-employment, except with manufacturers of fine and fancy cloths, who were generally busy.

In all sections and departments employment was better than in May, 1926, when it was affected by difficulties of transport and by coal shortage.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.9 on 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 6.8 on 25th April, 1927, and with 26.5 on 24th May, 1926.

Employment in all districts, with very few exceptions, was better than in May, 1926. In the Oldham and Ashton districts employment continued slack; short time was worked by most firms in accordance with the recommendations of the Cotton Yarn Association. In the weaving department at Oldham employment was also slack, nearly all weavers being under-employed: usually this under-employment consisted in working with a reduced number of looms; some improvement was reported with velvet weavers, but employment in this section was still particularly bad. A shortage of juvenile labour was reported at Royton (in the Oldham district). At Stalybridge and Stockport much short time was again reported; but a slight improvement was reported at Hyde.

At Bolton employment showed little change; it was reported as fair with spinners and as good with card-room workers. At Leigh employment in the spinning department was good, and better than in April. At Rochdale employment with spinners was slack, and a further decline was reported. At Bury much short time was worked.

At Preston the employment situation was reported as good with some firms, but others were still adversely affected by the almost total absence of demand from China. At Blackburn the position was moderate, less favourable than in May, though still very much better than at the beginning of the year; there was a good deal of under-employment. At Great Harwood there was slackness in the preparatory departments of the weaving section. At Accrington employment was good, and there was still an unsatisfied demand for weavers; with winders, on the other hand, employment was irregular. At Darwen the satisfactory position previously reported was generally maintained, but the demand for weavers was less urgent, and employment in the preparatory processes (winders, etc.) was somewhat irregular. At Burnley employment was moderate, and not so good as in April; a considerable amount of unsystematic short time was worked during the month by women weavers and winders. At Colne employment was good. At Nelson, many operatives, although working full time, were running two or three looms instead of four.

At Todmorden there was very little total unemployment, but 70 per cent. of the operatives were reported to be under-employed. At Halifax, Hebden Bridge, and Sowerby Bridge, the operatives, with few exceptions, were on full time. At Huddersfield there was a slight decline.

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

| DEPARTMENTS.                                       | Number of Workpeople.      |   |              | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. |   |               |
|--|----------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | Week ended 28th May, 1927. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before. |              | Week ended 28th May, 1927.          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before. |               |
|  |                            | Month before.                           | Year before. |                                     | Month before.                           | Year before.  |
| <b>TOTAL</b> ...                                   | <b>80,520</b>              | <b>+ 0.0</b>                            | <b>+ 3.3</b> | <b>150,864</b>                      | <b>+ 0.5</b>                            | <b>+ 11.5</b> |
| <b>DISTRICTS.</b>                                  |                            |   |              |                                     |   |               |
| Ashton ...   | 4,186                      | - 2.0                                   | + 2.9        | 7,248                               | - 4.0                                   | + 18.4        |
| Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...                    | 8,185                      | + 0.9                                   | + 5.3        | 14,769                              | + 2.8                                   | + 12.5        |
| Oldham ...   | 8,951                      | - 1.9                                   | + 4.4        | 17,439                              | + 5.0                                   | + 10.4        |
| Bolton and Leigh ...                               | 14,078                     | - 0.1                                   | + 2.9        | 25,406                              | + 0.5                                   | + 7.6         |
| Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ... | 7,076                      | - 0.3                                   | - 1.5        | 12,946                              | + 4.4                                   | + 28.7        |
| Manchester ...                                     | 4,864                      | - 3.7                                   | + 11.9       | 8,335                               | - 1.0                                   | + 16.9        |
| Preston and Chorley ...                            | 6,459                      | - 0.9                                   | - 0.1        | 11,562                              | + 0.4                                   | + 2.4         |
| Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...               | 8,771                      | + 4.0                                   | - 0.2        | 17,851                              | - 0.5                                   | + 0.6         |
| Burnley, Padham, Colne and Nelson ...              | 8,252                      | + 1.0                                   | + 2.8        | 18,088                              | + 1.0                                   | + 5.9         |
| Other Lancashire Towns ...                         | 3,425                      | - 1.2                                   | + 11.7       | 5,795                               | + 1.4                                   | + 39.2        |
| Yorkshire Towns ...                                | 3,654                      | + 1.2                                   | + 4.0        | 6,854                               | + 8.6                                   | + 30.6        |
| Other Districts ...                                | 2,619                      | + 1.9                                   | + 5.6        | 4,571                               | + 4.4                                   | + 17.3        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> ...                                   | <b>80,520</b>              | <b>+ 0.0</b>                            | <b>+ 3.3</b> | <b>150,864</b>                      | <b>+ 0.5</b>                            | <b>+ 11.5</b> |

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed, in the week ended 28th May, 1927, by firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 30th April, 1927 :-

| Districts and Departments.                        | Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. |              |              |              |                                       |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
|   | Wool Sorting and Combing.  | Spinning.    | Weaving.     | Other Depts. | All Depts. (including not specified). |
| <b>WORSTED SECTION :</b>                          |  |              |              |              |                                       |
| Bradford ...                                      | - 1.6  | - 0.0        | - 0.2        | - 2.0        | - 0.4                                 |
| Huddersfield ...                                  | - 0.9  | + 1.4        | - 0.5        | + 2.5        | + 0.9                                 |
| Halifax ...                                       | + 4.3  | - 0.2        | + 1.0        | + 1.5        | - 0.7                                 |
| Leeds ...   | + 3.2  | - 1.0        | - 0.1        | + 1.8        | - 0.2                                 |
| Keighley ...                                      | + 0.4  | + 0.5        | + 0.5        | + 0.4        | + 0.5                                 |
| <b>Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...</b> | <b>- 2.0</b>   | <b>- 0.3</b> | <b>- 2.2</b> | <b>- 0.3</b> | <b>- 0.4</b>                          |
| <b>Total, West Riding</b> ...                     | <b>- 1.2</b>   | <b>- 0.0</b> | <b>- 0.1</b> | <b>+ 0.5</b> | <b>- 0.2</b>                          |
| <b>West of England and Midlands ...</b>           | <b>+ 23.6</b>  | <b>- 0.6</b> | <b>- 1.7</b> | <b>+ 0.8</b> | <b>+ 1.6</b>                          |
| Lancashire ...                                    | + 3.2  | - 0.7        | -            | - 15.8       | - 2.3                                 |
| Scotland ...                                      | + 1.2  | + 2.5        | -            | + 1.6        | + 2.1                                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> ...                                  | <b>- 0.2</b>   | <b>+ 0.0</b> | <b>- 0.2</b> | <b>+ 0.6</b> | <b>- 0.0</b>                          |
| <b>WOOLLEN SECTION :</b>                          |  |              |              |              |                                       |
| Huddersfield ...                                  | + 2.9  | + 0.5        | - 0.9        | + 0.5        | - 0.1                                 |
| Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...        | + 0.6  | + 5.9        | + 4.1        | + 3.1        | + 3.9                                 |
| Leeds ...   | + 5.1  | + 1.8        | + 2.3        | + 4.3        | + 2.8                                 |
| Halifax and Calder Vale ...                       | + 3.1  | - 0.5        | -            | + 4.0        | + 0.8                                 |
| Bradford ...                                      | + 5.9  | - 2.3        | + 1.2        | + 3.4        | + 1.2                                 |
| <b>Total, West Riding</b> ...                     | <b>+ 2.6</b>   | <b>+ 2.2</b> | <b>+ 1.6</b> | <b>+ 2.6</b> | <b>+ 2.0</b>                          |
| Lancashire ...                                    | + 0.5  | - 0.5        | + 1.4        | - 1.0        | + 0.2                                 |
| <b>West of England and Midlands ...</b>           | <b>-</b>   | <b>- 0.9</b> | <b>+ 3.1</b> | <b>+ 0.2</b> | <b>+ 0.8</b>                          |
| Scotland ...                                      | + 1.9  | - 2.0        | - 0.4        | + 0.8        | - 0.2                                 |
| Wales ...   | - 38.5   | - 40.0       | - 25.0       | - 24.1       | - 29.1                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b> ...                                  | <b>+ 1.2</b>   | <b>+ 0.7</b> | <b>+ 1.1</b> | <b>+ 1.5</b> | <b>+ 1.1</b>                          |

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 23rd May, 1927 :-

| Department.             | Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 23rd May, 1927. |              |              |                      |              |               |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                         | Wholly Unemployed.   |              |              | Temporarily Stopped. |              |               |
|                         | Men.   | Women.       | Total.       | Men.                 | Women.       | Total.        |
| <b>Total</b> ...        | <b>1,882</b>   | <b>1,429</b> | <b>3,311</b> | <b>2,760</b>         | <b>5,895</b> | <b>11,966</b> |
| <b>Wool Sorting</b> ... | 87   | 1            | 88           | 212                  |              |               |



Returns from firms employing about 78,700 workpeople in the week ended 28th May showed that about 12 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 9½ hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 23rd May, 1927:—

Table showing numbers of men and women on the register at 23rd May, 1927, categorized by department and employment status (wholly unemployed, temporarily stopped).

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th April, 1927:—

Table showing the increases and decreases in the number of men and women on the register compared with 25th April, 1927.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 117,666,000 lbs. in May, 1927, compared with 179,879,000 lbs. in April, 1927, and with 99,732,500 lbs. in May, 1926.

The exports of cotton yarn were 22,817,600 lbs. in May, 1927, compared with 17,327,600 lbs. in April, 1927, and with 10,579,000 lbs. in May, 1926.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 413,615,200 square yards, as compared with 316,947,700 square yards in the previous month, and with 304,213,500 square yards in May, 1926.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a considerable improvement in all departments, and in all districts except Scotland. Makers of women's and children's shoes and of sports goods, in particular, were often well employed; though the heavy boot trade remained depressed. Towards the end of the month many firms were very busy getting out orders before the Whitsuntide holiday; a fair amount of overtime was worked, while short time was reduced to a lower level than for many months.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.3 on 23rd May, as compared with 8.1 on 25th April, and with 19.5 on 24th May, 1926.

Employment in London continued to be fair on the whole. At Leicester it was fair, and showed a considerable improvement; some short time was still worked, but on the other hand some overtime was worked on orders to be delivered before the Whitsuntide holidays. There was also an improvement at Hinckley, where employment was fair. At Northampton there was some improvement, and most of the larger factories were on full time at the end of the month in consequence of seasonal activity; but under-employment was still reported in many of the smaller factories. Employment continued good in the Higham and Rushden district; short time was exceptional, and some overtime was worked. At Wellingborough employment showed a further improvement, and was fairly good; most firms were on full time, and some overtime was worked. Employment was poor at Earls Barton and at Wollaston; but at Raunds and at Irthlingborough it remained fair. At Desborough it was good, and better than in April. At Kettering there was a decided improvement; most factories were on full time, and some on overtime, at the end of the month.

There was a marked improvement at Stafford; employment was brisk, and some overtime was worked. At Norwich employment was moderate, except in the turnshoe department, which was very slack; there was some unemployment and irregular employment, especially among clickers in all departments. In the Bristol and Kingswood district there was a great improvement, particularly in the light shoe trade; but employment in the heavy boot trade was still very quiet, with much short time. At Leeds employment was better generally, and some of the bigger factories were well

employed, particularly in the sports goods department; but employment in the heavy boot trade was still only moderate. Employment was good generally in the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley and at Preston, and better than in April.

At Kilmarnock employment remained fairly good; at other Scottish centres it was generally poor.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers:—

Table summarising information received from employers, including workpeople, wages, and percentages in various districts.

Returns from firms employing nearly 47,000 operatives in the week ended 28th May showed that about 20 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, losing 8½ hours each on the average. On the other hand, nearly 16 per cent. were working overtime in that week, to the extent of about 5 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 23rd May, 1927:—

Table showing the number of men and women on the register at 23rd May, 1927, for the boot and shoe industry.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th April, 1927:—

Table showing the increases and decreases in the number of men and women on the register compared with 25th April, 1927.

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1927, amounted to 99,672 dozen pairs, or 3,729 dozen pairs less than in April, 1927, but 19,158 dozen pairs more than in May, 1926.

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

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued good and showed a further improvement; it was much better than in the year before, when employment was adversely affected by the stoppage of work at coal mines.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, tile, etc. trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.3 at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 5.5 at 25th April, 1927, and 20.8 at 24th May, 1926.

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

Table summarising information received from employers in the brick trade, including workpeople, wages, and percentages.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further and general improvement during May, when weather conditions were very favourable for outside work; it was generally good with skilled operatives and fair with unskilled workers. Employment was better than in May, 1926, with all classes of operatives, except plasterers, and in practically all districts, especially in Scotland and Northern Ireland; it was adversely affected at that time, however, by shortage of materials due to transport and other difficulties.

As regards individual occupations employment was very good with bricklayers; it improved and was also very good, at most centres, with plasterers, and a shortage of these classes of operatives was again reported from a number of districts. Employment continued to improve with carpenters and joiners and with masons and was good in most districts; it remained fairly good with slaters and moderate with plumbers. Employment was again better with painters and decorators and was very good generally with skilled men; it improved and was fair, on the whole, with tradesmen's labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with May, 1926:—

Table showing numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts.

Table showing occupational breakdown of workpeople in the building trade, including carpenters, masons, etc.

Table showing divisional breakdown of workpeople in the building trade, including London, South-Eastern, etc.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 137 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council Area), with a total population of 15,925,000, show that in May, 1927, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,979,800, as compared with £5,537,200, in April, 1927, and £5,283,000 in May, 1926. Of the total for May, 1927, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,835,800; factories and workshops for £377,600; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £274,600; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,491,800.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

In the paper trade employment was fairly good on the whole, and showed some improvement on the previous month. A certain amount of irregularity was reported in some districts owing to a lack of orders.

With letterpress printers employment continued moderate on the whole; it showed an improvement in London, and in other districts was generally about the same as in April. It was again reported as bad at Liverpool and Manchester. With electrotypists and stereotypers employment was very good in London and at Manchester, and better than in April at both centres; elsewhere it was generally good.

In the lithographic printing trade employment remained fair on the whole; at Liverpool and Manchester, however, it was still bad. With lithographic artists employment remained fair generally; it was reported as better than in the previous month in London and at Manchester.

Employment in the bookbinding trade was again moderate on the whole.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-binding trades was 4.7 at 23rd May, compared with 4.9 at 25th April and 5.8 at 24th May, 1926. In the paper and paper board industry, the percentage was 5.8 at 23rd May, compared with 6.5 at 25th April and 10.4 at 24th May, 1926. In the cardboard box, paper-bag and stationery trades, the percentage was 4.9 at 23rd May, compared with 5.2 at 25th April and 8.4 at 24th May, 1926.

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

Table summarising returns received from Trade Unions, including membership and percentage unemployed.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a slight improvement, but there was still much short-time working. At Worcester employment continued good; at Derby it was fairly good; at Bristol it showed an improvement, and was fair. In the stoneware section in Scotland it was reported to be moderate, and better than during the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.3 at 23rd May, as compared with 13.0 at 25th April, 1927, and 46.8 at 24th May, 1926.

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

Table summarising information received from employers in the pottery industry, including workpeople, wages, and percentages.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,692 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 2,908, or 27 per cent., were working on an average about 15 hours less than full time in the week ended 28th May, 1927.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during May was moderate to fair on the whole; the number of engagements was considerably higher than in the previous month.

The demand for men on the Thames was fair at the beginning of May, but showed a substantial decline towards the middle of the month; afterwards, however, it was fairly brisk.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports, May 1927, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a, Five Months ended (May 1927, May 1926). Rows include England & Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT declined slightly and was bad during May. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 25.7 per cent. were unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 25.0 per cent. at 25th April, 1927, and with 29.5 per cent. at 24th May, 1926.

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

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Sub-columns: In Docks (By Port of London Authority, By Ship-owners, etc.), At Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during May was 1,007, compared with 1,030 in April and with 1,754 in the fortnight ended 29th May, 1926.

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals. † Including Birkenhead and Garston. ‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead. § Including Barry and Penarth.

East Coast.—Employment on the North-East coast with coal trimmers was fair, but not so good as in April. With other classes of dock workers it was fair on the Tyne and moderate on the Wear and at Blyth.

Liverpool.—Employment continued fair with coal trimmers, but declined with other dock workers. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 27th May, was 15,116, compared with 15,627 in April, and with 16,398 in May, 1926.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports continued fairly good, a decline in coal shipments being counter-balanced by increased imports of iron ore, timber, fruit and general cargoes.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Dundee was bad and worse than in April. It was fairly good at Aberdeen, fair at Leith and Granton, and moderate at Glasgow.

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.\*

At 30th May, 1927, the number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 985,513; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,015,011.

Comparative figures for men, boys, women and girls, separately, for 25th April, and 30th May, are given below :-

Table showing Work of Employment Exchanges. Columns: 25th April, 1927, 30th May, 1927. Rows: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Sub-sections for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the five weeks ended 30th May, 1927.

Table showing Work of Employment Exchanges (Particulars). Columns: Week ended, Applications from Employers (During Week, At end of Week), Vacancies Filled, Number of Work-people on Registers.

\* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† The figures, in addition to those wholly unemployed, include persons "suspended" or "stood off," and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question.

‡ "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 30th May, 1927.

Table showing Work of Employment Exchanges (Administrative Areas). Columns: Area, Number of Persons on Registers at 30th May, 1927 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 25th April, 1927.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

ON page 226 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 23rd May, 1927, for the total of each group included in these statistics.

Table showing Composition of Statistics. Columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows: 1. Unemployed - Special Schemes, 2. Claims admitted or under consideration, 3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration, etc.

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted to Local Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople.

The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 12th April to 9th May, 1927 :-

Table showing Claims to Extended Benefit. Columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows: Applications considered by Committees during period, Applications admitted by Committees during period, Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period, etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 28th May, 1927, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table :-

Table showing Unemployment Fund. Columns: Four weeks ended 28th May, 1927, Five weeks ended 30th April, 1927, Four weeks ended 29th May, 1926. Rows: Contributions (Receipts), Payments, Treasury Advances Outstanding.

\* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, interest on Treasury Advances, etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 23rd May, 1927, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be exempted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, *inter alia*, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone

abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 224 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

The statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated numbers insured and the percentages unemployed.

Each of these Tables gives an analysis of the figures, distinguishing between persons who are wholly unemployed (in the sense that they are definitely without a job) and those who are temporarily stopped or suspended from the service of an employer. The figures under the heading "temporary stoppages" include those persons recorded as unemployed on the date of the return who were either on short time or were otherwise stood off or suspended on the definite understanding that they were to return to their former employment within a period of six weeks from the date of suspension. In cases where there was no definite prospect of return within six weeks the individuals have been included in the statistics as "wholly unemployed." The only exception to this rule arises in the small number of cases where, although the expectation of resumption within the six weeks' period was not realised, a definite date for resumption of work had nevertheless been fixed. In such cases the individuals concerned have been included under the heading "temporary stoppages." The figures given in the grand total columns in both Tables are strictly comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total). Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, etc. Making, Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass, Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total). Rows include Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Construction of Works, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

\* Including 69,969 Casuals (Males 69,343, Females 625).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (25th APR., 1927, 24th MAY, 1926, 25th MAY, 1925), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (25th APR., 1927, 24th MAY, 1926, 25th MAY, 1925), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD MAY, 1927.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, differed from the figures for 25th April, 1927, to the extent of 1,000 or more. The Table shows the increases and decreases for males and females separately, together with the total net variation for all insured industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 25th April, 1927 (Males, Females, Total).

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 23rd May, 1927, as compared with 25th April, 1927 (Males, Females, Total).

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of £77,600 in the weekly full-time wages of 512,000 workpeople and in an increase of about £600 in those of 9,000 workpeople. The industries principally affected were as shown below:—

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases).

There were reductions in the percentage additions to the base rates of coal miners in Yorkshire, Scotland, the Forest of Dean and Shropshire, the amount of reduction, compared with the rates previously in force, varying from nearly 5 per cent. in the Forest of Dean to 10 per cent. in Scotland. In the latter district subsistence allowances were also reduced. The increase in the mining group mainly affected iron ore miners in Cumberland and Furness, amounting to 2d. or 3d. per shift.

In the metal group Siemens steel workers in South West Wales, with the exception of the lower-paid men, had their wages reduced by an amount equivalent to over 2 per cent. on the previous rates. There was a reduction of nearly 5 per cent. on the previous rates of blastfurnace workers in Scotland, and of about 1½ per cent. on those of iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England. Electrical cable workers sustained reductions amounting to 1s. 11½d. or 2s. per week in the case of men and 1s. per week in that of women.

The principal body of workpeople in the clothing group whose wages were changed were those employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade, the minimum time rates of adult workers being reduced by 2s. or 3s. per week. There were also reductions in the wages of workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry.

The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the paper box and paper bag making trades were reduced under cost-of-living sliding scales, the reductions in the minimum time rates of men amounting to from 2s. to 3s. per week and in those of women to 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week.

In the public administration services there was a reduction of ½d. per hour in the wages of men employed in the non-trading services

of various local authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and the wages of similar classes of men in London were reduced by an amount equivalent in most cases to 1s. 8d. or 1s. 9d. per week.

In industries other than the above there were reductions in the wages of road transport workers in Scotland, brush and broom makers, leather belt makers, and tramway workers at Liverpool.

Of the total reduction of £77,600 per week, £60,000 took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry (coal mining) or on selling prices; £16,500 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including over £8,000 under scales embodied in Trade Board Orders, and over £4,000 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople. The remaining sum was mainly the result of direct negotiation between the parties.

Of the total increase of £620, £400 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remainder was mainly the result of direct negotiation.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MAY, 1927.

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net, Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases).

In the corresponding five months of 1926, there were net increases of £14,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 116,000 workpeople and net reductions of £52,000 in those of 519,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The changes reported during May resulted in an average increase of 4.5 hours in the normal working week of 3,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of 1 hour in that of 400 workpeople. During the first five months of 1927, there has been an average increase of 3.3 hours per week for 7,700 workpeople and a reduction of 1.3 hours per week for 600 workpeople.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927.

Main table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes Agriculture, Coal Mining, Iron Mining, Lead Mining, Other Mining, Quarrying, and Iron and Steel Industries.

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rate of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Continuation of the main table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes Agriculture, Coal Mining, Iron Mining, Lead Mining, Other Mining, Quarrying, and Iron and Steel Industries.

\* The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under an Order of the Agricultural Wages Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924. † In the case of adult day-wage workmen whose gross wages are less than 8s. 9d. per shift a subsistence allowance is granted sufficient to bring wages up to 8s. 9d. per shift, provided that the maximum addition in any instance does not exceed 6d. per shift.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927.

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Iron and Steel Industries, Other Metal Industries, Textile Industries, and Clothing Industries.

\* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. † Men in receipt of base rates of 50s. 1d. to 51s. 8d. per week (i.e., those who do not receive a bonus) are to receive a make-up sufficient to bring their gross earnings up to those of men with a base rate of 50s. per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Clothing Industries, Food, Drink and Tobacco Industries, and Woodworking and Furniture Industries.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, and Pontefract. ‡ Including Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Didsbury, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Stretford, Urmston, Flixton, Irlam and Cadishead, Barton, Patricroft, Eccle.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Woodworking and Furniture Industries, Paper, Printing and Allied Industries, Building and Allied Industries, Transport, and Public Administration Services.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Padiham and Preston. ‡ A "day's work" signifies a quantity of paper, which varies according to the different sizes. § Excluding those starting at 14 years of age in their first six months' employment, for whom the rate remained unaltered. ¶ The increase described is in accordance with the terms of a recommendation made for re-grading under the Grading Scheme of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, and approved by the National Council. The towns re-graded are as follows:—Abergele, Baglitt, Bettws-y-Coed, Colwyn Bay, Conway, Denbigh, Holywell, Llandudno, Mostyn, Prestatyn, Rhyl, Ruthin and St. Asaph. ¶ Including Aberdeen, Bathgate, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, Motherwell, Paisley, Stirling. \*\* The authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council, and include:—Grade A areas: Batley, Dewsbury, Halifax, Harrogate, Leeds, Rotherham, Wakefield, Bolton-upon-Dearne, Conisbrough, Darfield, Golcar, Holmfirth, Honley, Kirkheaton, Lepton, Linthwaite, Marsden, Meltham, Oxenhope, Saddleworth, South Crosland, Stanley, Yeadon, West Riding C.C. (urban areas). Grade B1: Brighouse, Doncaster, Keighley, Pontefract, Todmorden, Adwick-le-Street, Bingley, Castleford, Maltby, Rawmarsh, Spensborough, Whitwood. Grade B2: Ossett, Aitoffs, Barnoldswick, Featherstone, Mirfield, Normanton, West Riding C.C. (urban and rural areas, partly industrial), Rotherham R.D.C. Grade C1: Horbury, Horsforth, Hunsforth, Stocksbridge. Grade C2: Clayton, Farsley, Garforth, Gildersome, Greasborough, Haworth, Hebden Sowerby. Grade D1: Pontefract R.D.C. Grade D2: Barmley R.D.C. (made change from Bridge, Oakworth, Penistone, Royston, West Riding C.C. (rural areas). Grade D3: Pontefract R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the minimum rates shown.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Public Administration Services, Miscellaneous Industries, and Leather Belt Manufacture.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MAY, 1927.

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Shale Mining and Typefoundry.

\* The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the District Joint Industrial Council and include: London County Council, Battersea, Chelsea, Finsbury, Fulham (certain classes excluding labourers), Greenwich (certain classes, excluding labourers), Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Leyton, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Stoke Newington, Walthamstow (subject to a minimum wage of 43 per week), Wandsworth. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the scheduled rates quoted above. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ This change was made at 11th May to take effect from the date shown under an arrangement approved by the District Joint Industrial Council. The new rates were established for twelve months. § Viz., men with three years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of such operations. ¶ The above change in hours took effect under an agreement between the London Master Typefounders' Association and the Amalgamated Typefounders' Trade Society. Under a previous agreement, the hours worked were 50 per week, but only 45 were paid for—the remaining two hours being credited to the employees and paid for as holidays. Under the new Agreement, the workpeople work 49 hours, but only 48 are paid for—the extra hour, together with another hour per week, being credited to the employees and paid for as holidays.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1927.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in rates of wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in June: the changes referred to in all cases involve reductions.—Coal miners in Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and South Staffordshire; iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; furniture trade operatives in Scotland (excluding Edinburgh); men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales; farmers in London and at Liverpool. Particulars of these and of other changes reported in June will be given in the July issue of the GAZETTE.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 38, as compared with 16 in the previous month and 19 in May, 1926. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 11,000. In addition, about 5,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 15 disputes which began before May and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 53, involving about 16,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of approximately 73,000 working days.

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

Table with columns: Groups of Industries, Number of Disputes in progress in Month (Started before, Started in, Total), Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.

Causes.—Of the 38 disputes beginning in May, 11, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 12, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 7, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 8, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 22 new disputes, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, and 5 old disputes, directly involving 200 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 15, directly involving 4,500 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 8, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of two disputes, directly involving 400 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1926 AND 1927.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first five months of 1927, as compared with the corresponding period of 1926:—

Table comparing statistics for January to May, 1926 and January to May, 1927, with columns for Groups of Industries, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved, Aggregate Duration in Working Days, and Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MAY, 1927.

Table with columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute Began/Ended, Cause or Object, and Result.

\* 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.

† The General Strike, involving 1,580,000 workpeople, and the general coal-mining stoppage, involving 1,050,000 workpeople, began in May, 1926.

‡ 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 amount of such duplication is, however, very slight, except in the mining and quarrying group in 1926, when about 44,000 workpeople were involved in more than one dispute, and in the case of industries involved in the General Strike in May, 1926.

§ 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.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases\* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during May, 1927, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 43. Three deaths\* were reported during the month, two due to lead poisoning and one due to epitheliomatous ulceration.

Table showing (a) Cases of Lead Poisoning, (b) Cases of Other Forms of Poisoning, (c) Cases of Anthrax, and (d) Cases of Epitheliomatous Ulceration, categorized by industry and substance.

TOTAL OF ABOVE ... 22

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported during May, 1927, as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 197, as compared with 200 in the previous month and with 94† in May, 1926. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in May numbered 28, as compared with 43 in the previous month and with 29 a year ago.

Table showing Fatal Industrial Accidents categorized by Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, and Factories and Workshops.

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

† The person affected in the pottery industry was a male. ‡ Affected by the general coal-mining dispute. The figure previously published for May, 1926, has been revised.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons\* relieved on one day† in May, 1927, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 777,045, or 3.8 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 34.0 per cent. less than in May, 1926. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 434, 452, and 660‡ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table showing Poor Law Relief in Great Britain, categorized by Selected Urban Areas and Metropolitan Areas, with columns for Indoor, Outdoor, Total relief, and Rate per 10,000 population.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during May, 1927, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing Assisted Passages under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922, with columns for Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted, Total Assisted Passages Granted, and Total Departures.

The figures given include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only.

† The figures for England and Wales relate to 28th May, and those for Scotland to 15th May. ‡ The rates previously published for May, 1926, have been revised. § Revised figures.



RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with 7 columns: Country, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, July 1926, Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Includes rows for United Kingdom, Foreign Countries (Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States), and British Dominions (Australia, Canada, India, Irish Free State, New Zealand, South Africa).

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 with 7 columns: Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, July 1926, Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Includes rows for United Kingdom, Foreign Countries (Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United States), and British Dominions (Australia, Canada, India, Irish Free State, New Zealand, South Africa).

\* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and light are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. || A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: Amsterdam, 1911-1913; France, Poland, Australia and South Africa, average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913. \*\* Figure for 3rd Quarter.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 216-217 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details in the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

FRANCE.\*

Unemployment in May.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the exchanges on 28th May, 1927, was 47,827 (30,181 men and 17,646 women). At the end of April the corresponding total was 68,030. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 7,189 (4,042 for men and 3,147 for women), as compared with 7,289 at the end of April. During the last week of May the Exchanges succeeded in placing 23,289 persons in situations, including 8,513 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 49 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in April.—According to the Reichsarbeitsblatt a further improvement in the labour market was reported in April. In comparison with March progress was somewhat slower, but there were indications of steady improvement. As in the preceding month, the improvement was due mainly to the effect of seasonal influences, but there were also signs of a generally increasing activity. The seasonal improvement in 1927, at least as regards handicrafts, appeared to be much more pronounced than in 1926. Statistical returns numbering 4,039 from representative establishments in various industries, covering the period from 15th March to 15th April, show an increase from 1,590,000 to 1,630,000, or 2 per cent. in the aggregate number of workpeople employed. The establishments with good or fair employment increased on 15th April as compared with 15th March, while the proportion of workpeople in establishments reporting bad employment fell from 23 per cent., on 15th March to 19 per cent on 15th April. The improvement was particularly noticeable in the machine construction, textile and clothing, and metal industries, and better employment was also reported in the building and building materials industries.

The membership of health insurance societies increased from 14,152,297 on 1st April to 14,708,521 on 1st May or by 3.9 per cent., as against an advance of 5.9 per cent. between 1st March and 1st April.

Returns relating to 3,666,995 organised workers were received from 39 national trade unions. Of these 326,786, or 8.9 per cent., were totally unemployed on 30th April, as compared with 11.5 per cent. on 26th March, and 18.6 per cent. at the end of April, 1926. In addition 136,338, or 3.7 per cent., were working short time, as against 4.4 per cent. on 26th March and 19.1 per cent. at the end of April, 1926.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal unions represented in the above totals:—

Table with 4 columns: Unions (S.D., H.D., C.), Membership reported on at end of April, 1927, Percentage Unemployed at end of Month (April 1927, Mar. 1927, April 1926).

Figures showing the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th May, 1927, on which date the total was 972,260 (including 226,023 entitled to assistance from special relief funds). On 15th April the corresponding total was 1,217,552 (including 234,104 from special funds).

On 30th April the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 1,640,626 persons on the "live register," as against

\* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 3rd June, 1927, Paris. † Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th May and 1st June, 1927, Berlin. ‡ "Members" of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; hence paying members are assumed to be in employment.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN ARREAR—EMPLOYER CONVICTED BEFORE JUSTICES FOR FAILING TO PAY CONTRIBUTIONS—CIVIL JURISDICTION OF JUSTICES INVOKED, AND ORDER MADE FOR PAYMENT OF ONE YEAR'S ARREARS—RIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY TO TAKE CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST EMPLOYER FOR RECOVERY OF PREVIOUS ARREARS.

This was an appeal by the Crown from a decision of Mr. Justice Rowlatt, given on the 1st April last, in proceedings taken by way of an Information of the Attorney General, in the High Court of Justice, to recover from an employer, Mr. Ernest James Paine, of Wisbech, £5 Os. 2d., the balance of arrears of unemployment insurance contributions alleged to be due from him in respect of his employment of two persons, credit having been given to him for arrears in respect of the same persons, which he had previously been ordered to pay by the Justices in circumstances appearing below.

The case, which is of some importance because it bears very largely upon the recovery of arrears of contributions from an employer who has, over a protracted period, failed in his duty to affix the requisite stamps to an employed person's unemployment insurance book, was decided upon the construction of sub-sections (3) and (6) of Section 22 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

Subsection 2 of Section 22 of the Act provides, inter alia, for the imposition of a fine upon a person convicted upon a charge of failing or neglecting to pay any contributions which he is liable to pay under the Act.

Subsections (3) and (6) of Section 22 are as follows:—

Subsection 3.—Where an employer has been convicted under the foregoing provisions of this section of the offence of failing or neglecting to pay any contribution under this Act, he shall be liable to pay to the Unemployment Fund a sum equal to the amount which he has so failed or neglected to pay; and on such a conviction, if notice of the intention to do so has been served with the summons or warrant, evidence may be given of the failure or neglect on the part of the employer to pay other contributions in respect of the same person during the year preceding the date when the information was so laid, and on proof of such failure or neglect the employer shall be liable to pay to the Unemployment Fund a sum equal to the total of all the contributions which he is so proved to have failed or neglected to pay.

Any sum paid by an employer under the foregoing provision shall be treated as a payment in satisfaction of the unpaid contributions, and the employed person's portion of those contributions shall not be recoverable by the employer from the employed person.

Subsection 6.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the Minister from recovering any sums due to the Unemployment Fund by means of civil proceedings, and all such sums shall be recoverable as debts due to the Crown, and without prejudice to any other remedy may be recovered by the Minister summarily as a civil debt.

On the 22nd April, 1926, the employer was convicted by the Wisbech Justices on charges of failing to pay contributions in respect of two employees for a specified week, and was fined £2 10s. on each summons, and ordered to pay the two contributions, failure to pay which constituted the offences in respect of which he was summoned.

As notices of intention to give evidence of failure to pay other contributions during the year preceding the date when the information was laid had been duly given, and evidence adduced in support of the claim, the Justices ordered the employer to pay, and he did pay, the sum of £5 3s. 1d., being a sum equal to the amount of the contributions unpaid for twelve months preceding the laying of the informations.

The contributions which the employer had failed to pay were, however, more extensive, dating back to the 14th April, 1924. Accordingly proceedings were taken against the employer in the High Court of Justice, claiming from him arrears of contributions other than those with which the Justices had already dealt.

At the hearing of the suit before Mr. Justice Rowlatt, it was contended on behalf of the employer that subsection 3 was clearly intended to afford complete satisfaction of the employer's liability to pay arrears of contributions; that the statute was a penal statute in this respect, and must be strictly construed; and that the Court should incline against a construction imposing a liability to repeated proceedings.

For the Crown it was urged that the words in subsection 3, "the unpaid contributions," referred to the contributions, evidence as to the non-payment of which could be offered before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction; and that the Crown's remedy in respect of other unpaid contributions was not exhausted by invoking the civil jurisdiction of the Justices.

Mr. Justice Rowlatt gave judgment for the employer, holding the view that, if such civil jurisdiction was invoked, then that was the only civil remedy available, and that the Minister of Labour must be content with the fact that he was in such a case limited to twelve months' arrears.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the Attorney General from this decision.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in April.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th May, 1927, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 181,175 at the end of April, as compared with 208,346 at the end of the preceding month. In Vienna alone there were 86,337 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of April, as against 90,723 at the end of March. The total number of applicants for work registered at the employment exchanges at the end of April was 207,878, including 101,083 in Vienna.

BELGIUM.\*

Unemployment in April.—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 143 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 608,250, show that 10,609 (1.7 per cent.) of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month. In the preceding month the percentage was 1.8, and in April, 1926, 1.2. In addition, 21,306 (3.5 per cent. of the total) members were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment in April numbered 347,672, or 2.38 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 2.36 and in April, 1926 1.61.

HOLLAND.†

Unemployment in February.—The Journal of the Dutch Statistical Office contains preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 289,777 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 26th February, 1927, 25,201 (8.7 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 8,826 (2.0 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 29th January) the percentages were respectively 11.5 and 2.9.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in April.—On 30th April, 1927, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 11,220 (or 8.5 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1920) as compared with 13,568 at the end of March (10.3 per thousand) and 11,320 at the end of April, 1926. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 3,692, 3,810, and 2,858 respectively.

Unemployment among insured workers, 31st March.—Returns from 134 subsidised unemployment funds show that out of an aggregate of 226,882 members, 6,312, or 2.8 per cent., were totally unemployed, and 6,833, or 3.0 per cent., partially so, at the end of March, 1927. On 31st December, 1926, the corresponding percentages were 5.6 and 4.6 respectively. (Owing to an increase in the number of funds making returns for 31st March, 1927, the figures for the two dates are not strictly comparable.)

UNITED STATES.§

Employment in April.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in April, based on returns from 10,537 establishments in 54 industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 3,071,884 persons employed in April as against 3,091,873 in March. The aggregate wages paid for April show a decrease of 1.1 per cent. as compared with March, and the average earnings per head a decrease of 0.3 per cent.

Index Number of Employment, April.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for April, 1927, is 90.6, as compared with 91.4 in March and 92.8 in April, 1926.

CANADA.

Employment in May.||—For 1st May, 1927, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,948 firms, with an aggregate of 830,850 upon their pay rolls. On 1st April the same firms reported 794,146 employed and the total for May thus shows an increase of 36,704 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st May, 1927, is 100.6, as compared with 96.2 at the beginning of the preceding month and 94.3 on 1st May, 1926.

Trade Union Unemployment in April.¶—On 30th April, 6.0 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 5.7 at the end of March and 7.3 per cent. at the end of April, 1926.

\* Revue du Travail, 31st May, 1927. Brussels.

† Maandschrift van het Central Bureau voor de Statistiek, 30th April, 1927. The Hague.

‡ Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen, May, 1927. Berne.

§ Employment in Selected Industries April, 1927. Washington.

¶ The May Employment Situation, 1927. Ottawa.

¶ Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour Ottawa.

The Master of the Rolls, in delivering the leading judgment, referred to the relevant sections of the Act, and went on to say that the construction put upon subsections (2), (3) and (6) of Section 22, by Mr. Justice Rowlatt, appeared to him (The Master of the Rolls) to overlook the terms of the latter portion of subsection (6), which said, "all such sums shall be recovered as debts due to the Crown; and, without prejudice to any other remedy, may be recovered by the Minister, summarily, as a civil debt." His Lordship continued as follows:—

"Those words appear plainly to indicate that it is not a mere alternative that is offered to the Minister, either to proceed under subsections 2 and 3 or not at all; but it is to say that the right of the Minister is cumulative, and even although he may have proceeded and recovered some contributions under subsection 3 he is still left in possession of his other rights under the Act, and in respect of all such sums as are recoverable and due he may still recover those as debts due to the Crown, and that he may do without prejudice to any other remedies which he may also have. Under those circumstances I am unable to accept the view that Mr. Justice Rowlatt has presented."

The other members of the Court concurred, Lord Justice Scrutton expressing surprise that there should be any doubts as to the construction to be put upon the section. He would have thought, on the plain words of the section, there was no difficulty in recovering the contributions claimed, and no reason whatever, that he could see, why a gentleman who had been breaking the law should be left off from the contributions that he owed.—*Attorney General v. Paine. Court of Appeal, 24th May, 1927.*

#### Trade Boards Acts, 1909 to 1918.

APPLICATION OF THE ACTS TO A "SPECIFIED TRADE"—MEANING OF THE WORD "TRADE"—FAILURE OF EMPLOYERS ENGAGED IN BUSINESS OF FISHING TO PAY TO THEIR WORKERS, MENDING DRIFT NETS USED IN SUCH FISHING, THE MINIMUM RATE OF WAGES FIXED BY THE DRIFT NETS MENDING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

This was a case stated by the Justices for the Borough of Lowestoft upon the application of the appellant, an officer appointed under the provisions of the Trade Boards Act, 1909.

The respondents carry on the business of fishing, and own and employ their own boats for that purpose. The vessels bring their catch into the harbour of Lowestoft, where it is sold.

At material times the respondents employed upon premises at Lowestoft some thirty women for the purpose of mending drift nets, the property of the respondents, and used by them in their business as fishermen. The respondents' business did not include the manufacture of nets, or the repair of nets other than those owned and used by them.

On the 11th July, 1919, the Minister of Labour made a Special Order under Section 1 of the Act of 1918, applying the Acts to the trade specified in the schedule of the Order (the rope, twine and net trade); and upon the 27th July, 1925, made a Special Order varying the above-mentioned Special Order by inserting in the detailed description of the trade, the following paragraph:—

4 (a) The mending, refitting and re-conditioning of drift, seine or similar nets, including all processes, whether similar to the foregoing or not, incidental thereto.

On the 28th July, 1925, the Minister made Regulations providing for the constitution of the Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain) for the following branch of work in the rope, twine and net trade:—

The mending of the net mesh of drift, seine or similar nets . . . .

This last-mentioned Trade Board fixed, and the Minister of Labour duly confirmed, general minimum time rates and overtime rates for female workers in the trade, to become effective from the 28th June, 1926.

The respondents failed to pay to the female workers who were repairing their nets wages at not less than such minimum rates. Accordingly, the appellant (the officer appointed under the Trade Boards Acts) preferred an information against the respondents, charging them with the under-payment of one of such workers contrary to the provisions of the Acts.

On the part of the appellant it was contended before the Justices that the respondents carried on the trade of mending drift nets, in which trade the said worker was employed, and that such employment was subject to the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts. On the part of the respondents it was contended that they carried on no trade; that before the Minister of Labour can make any order applying the Acts, there must be a trade to which the Acts can be applied; that if the business of fishing and owning fishing boats constituted a trade, then the mending of the nets used by the respondents was no part of that trade; and generally, that the Trade Boards Acts did not apply to the mending of drift nets by workers employed in the circumstances in which the worker was employed.

The Justices dismissed the information, the majority being of the opinion that, as the respondents only repaired their own nets, they were not carrying on a trade to which the Acts had been applied.

Section 6, subsection (1), of the Act of 1909 provides, *inter alia*, as follows:—Where any minimum rate of wages fixed by a Trade Board has become effective, an employer shall, in cases to which the minimum rate is applicable, pay wages to the person employed at not less than the minimum rate. . . . By Section 9 of the Act, it is further provided that any shopkeeper, dealer or trader, who by way of trade makes any arrangement, expressed or implied, with any worker in pursuance of which the worker performs any work for which a minimum rate of wages has been fixed under the Act,

shall be deemed for the purposes of the Act to be the employer of the worker. . . .

Section 1, subsection (2), of the Act of 1918, provides as follows:—The Minister of Labour may make a Special Order applying the principal Act to any specified trade, to which it does not at the time apply, if he is of opinion that no adequate machinery exists for the effective regulation of wages throughout the trade. . . .

The Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment, stated the facts, and observed that the real question which emerged in the argument before the Justices, and had been elaborated before the Court, might be stated in the following way: "Does the Act apply only to persons of one of the 'specified' trades employed by an employer whose trade is that trade, or does it apply also to persons of one of the 'specified' trades by whomsoever he is commercially employed?"

His Lordship went on to say that it was necessary to look at the true meaning of the Trade Boards Acts and the Orders and Regulations made under them, in order to ascertain the meaning of the word "trade" in relation to the present case. His Lordship referred to certain words and phrases to be found in the Acts and Regulations indicating the meaning to be attached to the word "trade," and said that the meaning which, as it seemed to him, was to be collected from these, and from the whole scheme and purpose of the Act, was reinforced by the particular language of Section 9 of the Act of 1909 (quoted above). That section showed that, even where the out-worker or the worker who provided some of the requisite materials or tools was concerned, the Act was looking to the nature of the work performed, and if he (the worker) was doing the kind of work to which the minimum rate of wages had been applied, it mattered not that the "shopkeeper, dealer or trader" would not describe his business, or at any rate, would not describe the whole of his business, by words applicable to that particular branch of industry. There must be a commercial employment, and if there was commercial employment, then it did not matter that the particular work which was done by the worker was not exhaustive of the whole business or industry of the employer.

His Lordship continued: "Applying that interpretation to the facts of this case, I think that, although the business of these respondents was truly to be described as the business of fishing and owning fishing boats, nevertheless they were employing, not casually but regularly, not privately but for commercial purposes, a considerable number of women engaged in the work or industry of mending nets. That being so, it seems to me to be immaterial that mending nets was not the whole of the business of the respondents."

"In these circumstances I think that the Justices came to a wrong conclusion, and that the minimum rate applies."

The other members of the Court concurred, and the case was remitted to the Justices with a direction to convict.—*Slinner v. Jack Breach, Ltd. High Court of Justice, Divisional Court, 3rd May, 1927.*

#### Other Recent Decisions of Interest.

##### Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1926.

Communications in writing made by an employer to and at the request of a Court of Referees (acting under the provisions of Section 11 of the principal Act), relating to a person formerly employed by him who is an applicant for benefit, are made upon a privileged occasion. Having regard to the duties of the Court of Referees, such privilege is "qualified." An action for libel brought by such a person against his former employer in respect of these communications will not succeed, unless the plaintiff is able to prove malice on the part of the defendant.—*Collins v. H. Whiteway & Co., Ltd. High Court, 20th May, 1927.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-26.

### DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions\* are final and conclusive.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

#### Case No. 1381/27. (26/4/27). Section 8 (1) and Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended) of Principal Act—Trade Dispute—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

PROVISO (a)—PIPEMOULDERS SUSPENDED THROUGH SHORTAGE OF WORK—SUBSEQUENT STOPPAGE OF WORK DUE TO TRADE DISPUTE OCCURRED AT EMPLOYERS' PREMISES—APPLICANTS REFUSED OFFER OF RE-ENGAGEMENT DURING STOPPAGE, ALLEGING VACANCIES DUE TO TRADE DISPUTE—CONDITIONS IN DISPUTE DID NOT CONCERN APPLICANTS—NOT UNABLE TO OBTAIN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT.

The applicants, two pipemoulders, were suspended from their employment on the 31st December, 1926, through shortage of work.

\* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1925, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1925 (H.M. Stationery Office: price 7s. 6d. net). Decisions given subsequent to December, 1925, are printed in pamphlet form and may be obtained as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All inquiries and applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

and made claims for unemployment benefit; but as it appeared that later they became involved in a trade dispute which culminated in a stoppage of work at their employers' premises, their claims for benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

Subsequent to the date of the applicants' suspension, a dispute arose in the shop where they had been employed, regarding the hour of commencing work; and the men ceased work on the 3rd January. On the 5th January the applicants, who were not affected by the proposed change of conditions, were offered re-engagement, but refused on the ground that the situations offered were vacant in consequence of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

Recommended by the Court of Referees, the insured contributors' representative dissenting, that the claims should be disallowed under Section 8 (1).

The applicants' association appealed to the Umpire against the disallowance, contending that, since they were suspended prior to the date of the dispute, their unemployment was not due to the dispute.

Further evidence was obtained from the employers, which is embodied in the decision.

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

"In my opinion, the applicants fail to show that on 5th January they were unable to obtain suitable employment, and their claims to benefit should be disallowed accordingly."

"They were suspended on 31st December, but were sent for to resume work on 5th January, as their employers had work in hand for them to deal with. They declined to start work, alleging that they were offered employment in situations vacant in consequence of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute."

"Certain other employees at the same foundry had stopped work on 3rd January by reason of a dispute as to the hours of starting work. But the applicants were not asked to fill the situations vacant in consequence of this dispute, but were asked to return to their own work, which was not connected with that done by the men in dispute."

"I can see no justification for their refusing the employment offered them, and I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees, except that I think the applicants should be disallowed for failing to satisfy the statutory condition rather than under Section 8 (1)."

#### Case No. 1476/1927. (6/5/1927). Section 8 (1) of Principal Act and Section 4 (1) of 1924 (No. 2) Act—Trade Dispute.

VEHICLE BUILDERS CEASED WORK BECAUSE EMPLOYER REDUCED WAGES BELOW STANDARD RATE AND REQUIRED THEM TO LEAVE UNION—ONLY VEHICLE BUILDING FIRM IN DISTRICT—EMPLOYER NOT IN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS AND INSISTED ON MAKING INDIVIDUAL BARGAINS WITH HIS EMPLOYEES—A TRADE DISPUTE.

The applicants, who were respectively two cartwrights, an apprentice cartwright, and a coach painter employed by a vehicle building firm, lost their employment on or about the 3rd March, 1927, and their claims for payment in lieu of unemployment benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

It appeared that one of the cartwrights had been in receipt of the standard rate of wages until the 3rd March, when the employer declared his intention of reducing the rate of wages for cartwrights to 2d. per hour below the standard rate; and of requiring all his employees to resign from their trade union. The applicant refused to accept the new conditions and withdrew his labour. His union maintained that acceptance would have involved him in a breach of the working conditions agreed between employers and employees in the vehicle building trade; and would have necessitated the sacrifice of benevolent and superannuation benefits provided by his union. Also his avenues of employment would have been restricted.

The other employees gave similar evidence of proposals made to them individually.

The employer reported that he did not belong to an association of employers, and intended to arrange conditions of employment with the men individually, and not with their union.

A representative of the applicants' union admitted that the employer's firm was regarded as a non-union shop, since the employer was not a contracting party to the national agreement. He agreed that there were no other cartwrights or vehicle builders employed in the applicants' district.

The nearest firms belonging to the employers' federation were situated in a town 50 miles distant.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants lost their employment through a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute. They took the view that the employer was situated in a district which was independent, so far as trade conditions were concerned, and, since he was not federated to an employers' association, was entitled to make his own working conditions and fix his own rates of remuneration. The Court were satisfied that the employer had not committed a breach of agreement between employer and employee as defined by Section 4 (1) of the 1924 (No. 2) Act.

The applicants' association appealed against the disallowance to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed persons had made claims for unemployment benefit, the claims would have been disallowed."

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The applicants were in the employment of an employer who was not a member of any association of employers, but the applicants were members of a union of vehicle workers. The employer had been paying the trade union rate to one of the applicants, and this rate he proposed to reduce. He was not paying, and declined to pay, the trade union rate to the other applicants, and he insisted on bargaining with each man individually; whilst the applicants insisted that all the men should be paid at the appropriate rates agreed upon between their union and an employers' association."

"In consequence of this dispute the applicants left their employment, and their leaving resulted in a stoppage of work. The question is whether they lost employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute."

"The substance of the dispute was whether the employer should make individual bargains with his employees or should employ them only in accordance with the terms as to wages agreed to between the employers' association and the union. This in my opinion was a dispute which was 'connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment' of the applicants. (See Decision 214/26)."

#### Case No. 1516/27. (10/5/27). Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as Amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

EMPLOYMENT LOST AFTER SERVING ONLY THREE OF FIVE YEARS AS SHIPWRIGHT APPRENTICE—TWENTY MONTHS LATER, WHEN 22 YEARS OF AGE, REFUSED EMPLOYMENT AS IMPROVER WITH FORMER EMPLOYER AT RATE OF WAGES LOWER THAN THAT OF JOURNEYMEN—REGARDED BY UNION AS JOURNEYMAN ON REACHING 21 YEARS OF AGE—LONG PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT—EVIDENCE OF INABILITY TO OBTAIN BETTER PAID WORK THAN THAT OFFERED—NOT UNABLE TO OBTAIN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT.

The applicant, who reached the age of 21 on the 19th November, 1925, had served three years and two months of his apprenticeship as a shipwright when, on the 5th May, 1925, he became unemployed. After a lapse of 20 months, his former employers found themselves in a position to re-employ him, and on the 17th January, 1927, offered him work as an improver at a wage of 23s. 4d. per week to the end of the period corresponding to the fourth year of his apprenticeship, and of 30s. per week in the last year. The applicant, although willing to do so, was not permitted by his trade union to accept the offer, and his claim for unemployment benefit was accordingly disallowed for six weeks from the 17th January on the ground that he was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

The applicant's union stated that upon reaching the age of 21 the applicant became a full member of the union, and maintained that he was then entitled to the standard rate of wages for journeymen shipwrights, irrespective of the fact that he had not served the full period of apprenticeship. They did not recognise the grade of "improver," and the rate of wages offered was lower than the rate paid to journeymen.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant had not refused suitable employment.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. He took the view that, although the rate of wages offered was lower than the normal adult rate, it did not appear to be lower than that the applicant might reasonably have expected to obtain, having regard to all the circumstances.

It was subsequently ascertained that shipwright apprentices in the applicant's district usually commenced at 16 years of age and were paid an average of 10s. 4d. in the first year and an average of 20s. 10d. in the last year of their apprenticeship.

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

"The applicant (owing to circumstances for which he is in no way to blame), although he is 21 years of age, has only served three years and two months instead of five years as an apprentice shipwright, and cannot claim to be qualified as a journeyman. After having been unemployed for 20 months he was offered employment as an apprentice or improver at a rate of wages less than the journeyman's rate, and I can see no reason for thinking that he is capable of earning a higher rate. His long period of unemployment shows that he has no reasonable chance of obtaining better paid work, and in my opinion he fails to show that he was unable to obtain suitable employment."

#### Case No. 1530/27. (11/5/27). Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as Amended)—Genuinely Seeking Work.

MINER NOT REINSTATED ON TERMINATION OF NATIONAL MINING DISPUTE—ALLEGED ALL VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO UNION, WHO SELECTED MEN TO FILL THEM—REFUSED WORK AT ANOTHER PIT, ALLEGING SEAMS TOO LOW.

The applicant, a miner, had lost his employment on the 1st May, 1926, owing to the national mining dispute. As he was not reinstated upon a general resumption of work following a settlement of the dispute in November, he made a claim for unemployment benefit on the 29th November. Subsequently in an interview on the 19th January, 1927, he admitted that he had not applied for work at his former place of employment since December, 1926; and although he had applied at one colliery, under the control of the same employers, on the 13th January, he had not applied elsewhere during the period he had been claiming benefit. His claim for benefit was accordingly disallowed for six weeks as from the 13th January on the ground that he was not genuinely seeking work.

\* See Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 1/1927).

The applicant's association explained that they had an arrangement with the applicant's former employers providing that, when vacancies occurred at the collieries, the association should be asked to select and notify members accordingly. The applicant produced evidence that he had made several applications for loading or labouring work subsequent to the date of disallowance.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were influenced in their decision by the statement of the association regarding the arrangements existing between themselves and the employers.

Subsequent information furnished by the employers indicated that the arrangement referred to by the association was one which related only to the particular pit where the applicant was formerly employed, and not to any of the employers' other pits. It was not likely that any more men would be required at the pit in question for some time, and the arrangement was a measure to obviate regular application by the men. On the 29th January employment at another pit owned by the employers had been offered to all men who had not been absorbed, and the applicant was one of those who refused the offer.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In all the circumstances he was of the opinion that the disallowance should stand. He referred the case to the Umpire, and there was a hearing on the 10th April.

It was ascertained that if the applicant had gone at once to take the work offered on the 29th January, he could have secured it; but he and others refused, at first, owing to the thinness of the seam. Later the places were taken by men from another mine.

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

"The applicant seems to have been looking for work in some directions, but on 29th January or thereabouts there were vacancies at a colliery which he declined to apply for on the ground that he was accustomed to work on a 3 foot 6 inch seam and could not work on a 2 foot seam.

"It may be that he would have found the work unsuitable, but as he had no prospect of other work he should have tried it. He is only 35 years of age and could, I should think, have learned to adapt himself to the altered conditions."

**Case No. 1553/1927. (13/5/1927). Section 8 (2) and Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended) of Principal Act—Employment left Voluntarily—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.**

**PROVISO (b)—CASEMENT MAKERS, AFTER ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT AT STANDARD RATE OF WAGES, FOUND COLLEAGUES WERE RECEIVING HIGHER RATE—HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED FOR EMPLOYER AT HIGHER RATE.**

The claims for payment in lieu of unemployment benefit made by the applicants, two casement makers, on the 22nd February, 1927, were disallowed for six weeks as from the 21st February, on the ground that on that date they left their employment voluntarily without just cause.

It appeared that for a period of ten months the applicants had been employed at a wage of 3s. 3d. per hour, and owing to slackness of work had been suspended on the 14th January. Subsequently they were offered re-engagement at a wage of 3s. 2d. per hour, which they accepted, resuming work on the 14th February. The wage offered was the district standard rate; but the applicants found that their fellow employees on the same class of work were being paid at the rate of 3s. 3d. per hour, and they accordingly left the employment on the 21st February. They did not consult their trade union before leaving.

The employers reported that the offer of re-engagement was conditional upon the acceptance of the district standard time rate of wages, or alternatively, piecework prices. All casement makers had the same piecework prices.

Recommended by the Court of Referees (by a majority) that the claims should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants should have consulted their trade union before leaving, and that, had they done so, it was possible that the cause of their dissatisfaction might have been removed. The Insured Contributors' representative took the view that the applicants were justified in leaving, as the conditions were less favourable than those which they had habitually obtained.

The applicants' union appealed against the disallowance to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

**Decision.**—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed persons had made claims for unemployment benefit, the claims would have been disallowed.

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The applicants' grievance appears to be that other men were being paid at a higher rate, but I see no reason for thinking that the rate paid was unduly low or lower than that which the applicants had habitually received in their usual occupation in the district."

### 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 in—

(a) grading and packing tomatoes; bunching chrysanthemums; and occasionally picking tomatoes and trimming plants;

(b) the cultivation of tomato plants and chrysanthemums; grading, weighing, and packing tomatoes; and packing chrysanthemums;

(c) grading and packing tomatoes, trimming tomato plants, and bunching chrysanthemums;

(d) trimming, grading, and bunching flowers;

(e) trimming, grading, bunching, packing, and occasionally cutting flowers;

(f) organising and superintending work in the packing sheds and occasionally assisting in the actual packing, the produce dealt with consisting of cucumbers, tomatoes, grapes, plants, ferns, and palms;

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, Ministry of Labour, 3, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

### INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

#### Recent Proceedings.

#### (A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

**INSPECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF STAMPING, BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE.—Inland Revenue Stamping Dept. Supts. Association v. Board of Inland Revenue. Difference.**—Decision 1244 of Court.—New salary scales—Point of scale for transfer—Claim for special advances. **Decision.**—All officers who received no immediate increase on assimilation to new scales granted a special advance of salary as from date of operation of Award 1244, equivalent to one-half of an annual increment. Issued 2nd May, 1927. (1293.)

**FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN OF LABORATORY—ARMAMENT SUPPLY DEPT. ADMIRALTY.—Staff Side v. Official Side of Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council. Difference.**—Salary Scales—Claim for increase. **Decision.**—Annual scales of pay to be increased to:—

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Assistant Foremen of Laboratory | ... £140—7½—180 |
| Foremen                         | ... £220—10—320 |

The scales are basic and are subject to the current Civil Service cost-of-living bonus. At stations abroad, house and colonial allowances will continue to be paid as heretofore. Operative from 1st May, 1927. Issued on 13th May, 1927. (1297.)

**STOREKEEPERS, CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—Civil Service Clerical Association v. Corporation of Trinity House. Difference.**—Salary Scales—Claim for revision. **Decision.**—Basic scales of pay awarded as follows:—

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chief Storekeeper           | ... £140—7½—£180 per annum. |
| Assistant Clerk Storekeeper | £135—5—£155 "               |
| Storekeeper                 | ... £110—5—£130 "           |

The rates are basic and are subject to Civil Service cost-of-living bonus. The scale of Chief Storekeeper includes allowance of £15, and all houses and allowances to be provided and paid as heretofore. Issued 17th May, 1927. (1298.)

**BUILDING TRADES—GLASGOW AND THE W. OF SCOTLAND.—The Natl. Fedn. of Building Trade Operatives v. the Scottish Building Contrs. Assn. Difference.**—Interpretation of the National Agreement. **Decision.**—That the present rates of pay of labourers in the building industry should not be disturbed. Issued 17th May, 1927. (1299.)

**STEAM VESSEL SERVICE (MASTERS, OFFICERS AND ENGINEERS)—CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—Workers' Union v. Corporation of Trinity House. Difference.**—Interpretation of Award 1284—Uniform allowance—Incremental date—Increments on promotion. **Decision.**—For the continuance of the payment of uniform allowance as provided by Decision 1284, but no change in method of computing. Incremental date—provisions of Decision 1284 have been rightly applied by Trinity House. Rules and practices of Civil Service to be operative as regards increments on promotion. Issued 24th May, 1927. (1300.)

#### (B.)—CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS, AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

**COKE TRADE: CUMBERLAND.—Workpeople's Side v. Employers' Side of the Board of Conciliation for the Cumberland Coke Trade. Difference.**—Application for an advance of 1s. per shift on the basis of rates of all workers employed at the Coke and Bye-product plants in the district. Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C., appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to act as Arbitrator to determine the matter. **Award.**—Claim not established. Dated 11th May, 1927.

**STEEL TRADE: LLANELLY.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. The Llanelly Steel Company, Ltd., Llanelly. Difference.**—Six claims on behalf of the Boiler Firemen employed at the works of the Company. Mr. B. A. Cohen, K.C., appointed under Section 2 (2) (b) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as Arbitrator to determine the matter. At the hearing two of the claims were abandoned. **Award.**—Other claims refused. Dated 19th May, 1927.

#### (C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

**BAKING TRADE: Ayrshire.—Scottish Union of Bakers and Confectioners v. Ayrshire Master Bakers' Association and the Ayrshire Co-operative Wages Board. Difference.**—As to the terms of the wages and conditions agreement for 1927-28. **Settlement.**—Present agreement extended for a further year subject to certain modifications as regards starting times. Agreed 7th May, 1927.

**DYEING TRADE: LANCASHIRE.—National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. Messrs. Byrom Dyeing Co., Bacup. Difference.**—Threatened strike of women winders owing to alleged breach of wages agreement. **Settlement.**—Agreement reached and strike notices withdrawn. Settled 31st May, 1927.

### TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

#### Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

##### I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

###### Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order P (15), dated 30th May, 1927, confirming the variation of minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers for periods dependent upon the cost-of-living index figure, and specifying the 6th June, 1927, as the date from which such minimum rates of wages should become effective.

###### Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.B. (38), dated the 22nd April, 1927, confirming the variation of certain general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers in the Brush and Broom Trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 16th May, 1927, as the effective date.

###### Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.S. (18), dated the 20th May, 1927, confirming the variation of certain general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers in the Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 30th May, 1927, as the effective date.

##### II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

###### Sack and Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal S.B. (8), dated 24th May, 1927, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male workers. Objection period expires 27th July, 1927.

###### Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.T.R.B. (N. 24), dated the 4th May, 1927, to vary minimum rates for certain classes of male and female workers and to cancel minimum rates for male apprentices. Objection period expires 18th May, 1927.

### SAFETY IN FACTORIES: PROPOSED ORDER.

The Home Secretary, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 29 (3) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, issued on the 16th May a draft Order requiring the institution of special safety arrangements in the following classes of factories:—(i) blast furnaces for the smelting of iron ore; (ii) iron and steel rolling mills, including tube works; (iii) engineering works in which more than 500 persons are employed, as follows: forges, engine-building, making of transmission machinery, constructional engineering, hydraulic engineering, electrical engineering (making of dynamos and motors, and cable making), making of agricultural and industrial machinery, making of railway, tramway and motor vehicle plant, ordnance works; (iv) iron foundries in which more than 50 persons are employed; (v) shipbuilding works.

The draft Order requires the employment by the occupier of a competent safety supervisor, responsible directly to the occupier (or, in the case of a company, the managing director), and charged with the various duties in regard to safety set out in the draft. The Order is, however, so framed that every occupier would have the opportunity of substituting, with the approval of the Chief Inspector of Factories, a special safety scheme adapted to the particular circumstances of his works. He would also be able to claim exemption altogether from the Order if he could satisfy the Chief Inspector that other not less effective measures for the prevention of accidents had been adopted.

In a circular addressed to the Employers' Associations concerned that accompanies the draft Order, it is stated that the Home Secretary recognises that safety organisations of this kind are likely to be most effective when they are established on a voluntary basis, and with the full support of the employers and operatives engaged in the industry, and he would therefore much prefer that employers should establish these arrangements for themselves without being put under any statutory obligation. If he were assured that the employers in any of the industries concerned were ready to adopt effective safety schemes on the lines indicated in the Order (or on such other lines as may be approved) and that effective steps would be taken without delay to institute such arrangements, he would be quite willing, so far as that industry was concerned, to postpone the issue of the Order in order to give the employers the opportunity of dealing with the matter on a voluntary basis.

### WELFARE OF WORKERS.

#### Proposed Order for Herring Curing, etc., Factories and Workshops in England and Wales (excluding Norfolk and Suffolk).

The Home Secretary has issued a Notice, dated 10th June, 1927, that, in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by Section 7 of the Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, of making Orders for securing the welfare of the workers employed in factories or workshops, he proposes to make an Order to apply to all factories and workshops in England and Wales (excluding Norfolk and Suffolk) in which the processes of gutting, salting, and packing of herrings are carried on. The proposed Order follows, with certain modifications, the lines of the Order applying to Scotland.\*

Copies of the draft Order and of the notice may be obtained on application to the Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, and any objection to the proposed Order must be sent to the Secretary of State within 30 days after the date of the notice.

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

**ALIENS.—Aliens Restriction Acts, 1914 and 1919, Aliens Order, 1920. (i) Statistics in regard to alien passengers who entered and left the United Kingdom in 1926. Home Office. (Cmd. 2865; price 4d.) (ii) A return of alien passengers, excluding trans-migrants, landed, embarked, and refused leave to land, in the United Kingdom, during the three months ending March 31, 1927. (Cmd. 2864; price 1d.)**

**CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—Third Census of Production, 1924. Preliminary Reports, No. 11. Silk and artificial silk trades, elastic webbing trade, pens, pencils and artists' materials trades, ink, gum and sealing wax trades. No. 12. Type-founding, electro-typing, engraving, process block making and die-sinking trades, billiard table and sports requisites trades, games and toys trades, engine and boiler packing and asbestos trades. No. 13. Brewing and malting trades, aerated waters, cider, vinegar, British wine and cognate trades, wholesale bottling trade. No. 14. Railway companies, blacksmithing trade, small arms trade, and bacon curing and sausage trades. Board of Trade. (S.O. publications; price 6d. each.)**

**CO-OPERATION.—International Labour Directory, Part VI. Co-operative organisations. International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1927; price 2s.)**

**FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—(a) Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1925. Part 3. Industrial and provident societies. Part 4. Trade unions and branches. Statistical summaries showing the operations of friendly societies in the years 1916-1925, and of orders and branches in the years 1910, 1916-1918, 1920, 1922 and 1924. (S.O. publications; price 12s. 6d., 3s., and 6d., respectively.)**

**JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—Reports of Advisory Committees for Juvenile Employment for 1926. (i) Blackpool. (ii) Bootle. (iii) Southampton. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 9d., 9d., and 6d., respectively.)**

**LABOUR STATISTICS.—International Statistical Year-book, 1926. League of Nations, Economic and Financial Section. (Geneva, 1927; price 7s. 6d.)**

**Includes population by occupational groups, unemployment, prices and cost of living.**

**MIGRATION.—Migration Movements, 1920-1924. Studies and Reports, Series O (Migration), No. 2. International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1926; price 2s.)**

**NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND.—Account showing the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt at 31st December, 1926, and 31st March, 1927. (H.C. 59; price 1d.)**

**POOR LAW RELIEF.—Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of poor law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in March, 1927, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief. Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (See page 211.)**

**SEA FISHERIES.—Sea Fisheries, Statistical Tables, 1926. Fishery Board for Scotland. (S.O. publication; price 7s.)**

**Contains a table of persons employed in Scotland in 1926.**

\* See the June, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, page 235. An Order for Norfolk and Suffolk was made in 1920.

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

## LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1927.

## ADMIRALTY.

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

Holton Heath: Erection of Residence: W. E. Jones & Son, Westbourne, Bournemouth. Bricks: The Stroncrete Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bournemouth.—Pembroke: Limestone Rubble: T. W. Colley & Sons, Pembroke.—Portland: Portland Cement: The British Standard Cement Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Portsmouth: Steam Hopper Barge: Fleming & Ferguson, Ltd., Paisley.—H.M. Naval Establishment Abroad: Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Steelwork: Brownlie & Murray, Ltd., Glasgow.

## (Contract and Purchase Department.)

Biscuits, Cakes: Spillers Milling and Associated Industries, Ltd., London, E.C.—Blankets: Wormalds & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury.—Boots, Half: R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; John Horrell & Son, Ltd., Raunds; Owen Smith, Raunds; Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Ltd., Raunds.—Cable, Electric: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Edison Swan Cables, Ltd., Lydbrook; The General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown.—Castings, M.C.I.: Thos. L. Hale, Ltd., Tipton; Clegg & Howgate, Keighley; J. & F. Howard, Ltd., Bedford; H. W. Lindop, Walsall.—Castings, Steel: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—Clothing, Oilskin: E. Macbean & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Cocks, etc., Gunmetal: Barber, Wilson & Co., Ltd., London, N.; H. Bisseker, Ltd., Birmingham; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; Sperry & Co., Birmingham; Young & Co., Glasgow.—Crane, Seaplane Hoisting: Sir William Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Cupboards, Hot, Electric: Benham & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—Diethylphenylurea: L. B. Holliday & Co., Ltd., Huddersfield; British Dyestuffs Corp., Ltd., Manchester.—Felt, Hair: G. Butterworth & Son, Leeds; Mitchells, Manchester.—Felt, Hair: G. Butterworth & Son, Leeds; Mitchells, Manchester.—Felt, Hair: G. Butterworth & Son, Leeds; Mitchells, Manchester.—Files and Rasps: Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Thos. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield; Sheffield Steel Products, Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield.—Flour: W. Vernon & Sons, London, E.; Spillers & Bakers, Cardiff.—Gear, Capstan: Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—Gearing, Spare Main: Power Plant Co., Ltd., West Drayton.—Hydroplanes: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—Installation of E.H.T. Cables: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.—Jerseys, Blue Worsted: I. & R. Morley, Leicester.—Lamp Fittings, Aluminium Alloy: The General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Wm. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Engineering and Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; James Beresford & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—Lathes, Turret: H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Lathes: Dean, Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley.—Locomotive, Steam: Avonside Engine Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Machine, Surfacing, Boring, etc.: H. W. Kearns & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Methylated Spirit, Diluted: Methylating Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Motor Reducer Set: Laurence, Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—Oil, Mineral Lighting: The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—Paint, Red Lead: Blacklock & Macarthur, Ltd., Glasgow.—Pins, Steel: L. H. Robinson & Co., Ltd., London, W.—Plant, Bakery, Electric: Carron Co., Falkirk.—Pumps, Motor-driven: J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Racks, Steel: Estler Bros., London, E.—Ropes, Sweeping, Steel Wire: British Ropes, Ltd., London, W.—Sailcloth, Canvas: Francis Webster & Sons, Arbroath.—Staves and Heads for Barrels and Casks: W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—Suet: British American Products, Ltd., Birkenhead.—Switch and Sockets: The General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley.—"Tallene" for launching purposes: Ferguson, Shaw & Sons, Glasgow.—Tarpaulins: The N.F. Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, N.; J. Chambers & Co., Liverpool.—Ties, Black Silk: Toms, Steer & Toms, Ltd., London, E.C.—Towels: Isherwood Bros. of Radcliffe, Ltd., Radcliffe; Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton; Barlow & Jones, Ltd., Bolton.—Tubes, Glass: Butterworth Bros., Ltd., Manchester.—Turn-tables, Wagon: Cowans, Sheldon & Co., Ltd., Carlisle.—Valves, W/T: Mullard Radio Valve Co., London, S.W.—Wire Netting: C. M. Metherell, Plymouth; Procter Bros. (Wire-works), Ltd., Leeds.

## WAR OFFICE.

Acetone: Barter Trading Corporation, Ltd., Spondon, Derby.—Acids: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—Asbestos Sheeting: Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Baths, Slipper: Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—Blankets, Saddle: Wormald & Walker, Ltd., Dewsbury.—Boots, Ankle: Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds; S. Walker, Walgrave, Northants.; Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Ltd., Raunds.—Boxes, Soldiers', Wood: Vickers, Ltd., Dartford.—Brass, Bar: The King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Bronze Stampings: Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, & Co., Ltd., Elswick, Newcastle.—Canvas: The Boaze Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Dundee.—Canvas, W.P. Hood Material:

Holdsworth & Gibbs, Ltd., Swinton.—Cloth, D.M., W.P., 56-in.: J. Hainsworth & Sons, Leeds; G. H. Hirst & Co., Ltd., Batley, Leeds; Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Alverthorpe; J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddenden Foot, Yorks.—Cooking Apparatus: Adams & Son, London, S.W.; Richmond Gas Stove & Meter Co., Ltd., Warrington.—Cooking Ranges: Dobbie, Forbes & Co., Ltd., Larbert, Stirlingshire.—Copper Ingot: W. West & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Cotton Waste: W. C. Jones, Ltd., Manchester; A. Smart & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—Cranes, Overhead Travelling Electric: Royce, Ltd., Manchester.—Cylinders: Scott, Sons, & Tucker, Ltd., London, S.E.; J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Drill, Khaki: Moss Bros. (Hebden Bridge), Ltd., Hebden Bridge.—Duck, Linen: A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy.—Fencing, Strained Wire: Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—Flannel, Shirting: Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale.—R. R. Buck & Sons, Ltd., Carlisle.—Flannelette: Schofield, Preston & Co., Ltd., Nelson.—Furnace: G. P. Wincott, Ltd., Sheffield.—Glycerine Mixture: Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Grangemouth.—Harness, Saddlery, etc.: D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall; Wilmot Bennett, Walsall; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, London, S.E.—Holloware (Kettles, Saucepans, etc.): Beech, Hill & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—Iron, Old, Cast: T. W. Ward, London, E.—Iron, Pig: Barrow Haematite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—Lathe, 18-in.: Buck & Hickman, Ltd., Halifax.—Metal Rod: King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Metal Sheets, Asbestos Protected: Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, Near Birkenhead.—Motor Cars: A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—Motor Spares: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Ovens, Field, Repair of: Baker-Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—Pins, Tent, Wood: F. W. Page, Near Henley-on-Thames; D. Vanderstegen, Near Reading.—Pipes, Drive, etc.: Stewart & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—Repairs to W.D. Vessel: Earles Shipbuilding & Engg. Co., Ltd., Hull.—Serge, S.D.: T. Womersley & Sons, Pudsey; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Som.; J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfrith; J. Harper & Sons, Calverley, Leeds; R. Gaunt & Sons, Farsley, Leeds; J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddenden Foot, Yorks.; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, Leeds; T. & H. Harper, Ltd., Apperley Bridge; H. Booth & Sons, Leeds.—Serge, White, Lining: J. Berry & Sons, Ltd., Ashburton.—Shirts, Flannel: McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh & Co., London, E.C.; George Francis & Kerr, Llanidloes.—Sleepers: Wm. Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Slotting Machines: J. Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Milnrow, Near Rochdale.—Socks, Worsted: Hill & Co., Wigan; A. Kemp, Leicester.—Steel, Bars: Steel, Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—Surgical Dressings: R. Bailey & Sons, Ltd., Stockport; Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield; A. Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.; T. J. Smith & Nephews, Ltd., Hull.—Surgical Instruments: S. Maw, Son & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—Tables, Soldiers' Tops: Vickers, Ltd., Dartford.—Timber, Yellow Deal: King & Seaborough, London, E.—Travelling Kitchen Bodies: Platt Bros. & Co., Ltd., Oldham.—Twine, Packing: Jameson & Co., Ltd., Hull.—Vehicles, Six-wheeled: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—Vehicles, half-tracked, Burford-Kegresse Chassis: H. G. Burford & Co., London, W.—Vehicles, half-tracked, Crossley-Kegresse Spares: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—Vehicles, Multi-wheel: Armstrong, Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—Vests, Woollen: I. & R. Morley, Leicester; J. Haines & Co., Leicester.—X-Ray Sets: Solus Electrical Co., London, W.C.—Works Services: Building Works and Services: Edinburgh, etc., Artificers' Work: Scottish General Haulage Co., Edinburgh. Colchester, Artificers' Work: A. E. Flory & Co., Colchester. Norwich, Nelson Barracks, Periodical Services: Messrs. Arundel (Painters), Ltd., Bradford. Lydden Spout, Musketry Camp, Reconstruction: Messrs. G. Lewis & Sons (Dover), Ltd., Dover. Catterick Camp, Provision of Woven Wire Fencing and Gates: Messrs. G. Dougill & Sons, Darlington. Catterick Camp, Foundations for Turbines and Circulating Mains: Messrs. G. Dougill & Sons, Darlington. Blackdown and Deepcut, Periodical Services: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley, Yorks. North Aldershot, Periodical Services: A. A. McDermott, Bradford. Bovington, Sliding Doors to Garage: John Lysaght, Ltd., Bristol. Woolwich, Artillery College Dining Rooms, Install Apparatus and Steam Boilers, etc.: Dilworth & Carr, London, W.C. Woolwich, Cambridge Barracks, Convert Laundry into Bath House: J. B. Edwards & Co., London, W. Lincoln Depot Barracks, Periodical Services: S. Lupton & Sons, Bradford, Yorks.

## AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: C. A. Vandervell & Co., London, W.—Aircraft: De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—Aircraft, Conversion of: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—Aircraft, Design for metal wings for: Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—Aircraft, Experimental Wings for: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Aircraft, Modifications to: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Aircraft, Reconditioning of: Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—Aircraft, Repairs to: A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—Aircraft, Spares: Fairey Aviation Co., Hayes, Middlesex; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, I. of W.; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Woolston, Southampton; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge; Westland

Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—Aircsrews and Cases: Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds.—Aluminium Spinnings: Aluminium Plant and Vessel Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Amplifier: Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.—Anchorages for Observer's Fighting Harness: A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—Arms, Swivelling, Mark II.: Monarch Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Balloons, Kite: C. G. Spencer & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—Bombs, Cleaning, Repairing and Filling of: Nobel Industries, Ltd., Denaby.—Brushes, Varnish: J. T. Millwood & Sons, London, S.E.—Buildings and Works Services: Battery Charging Panels, (Various Stations): Harland Engineering Co., Ltd., Manchester. Heating and Hot Water Supply (Croydon): Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Birmingham. Meteorological Station (Cardington): Wright Anderson & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne. Motor Generator Sets (Various Stations): General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Stand-by Generating Sets (Kenley and Suttons Farm): Aster Engineering Co. (1913), Ltd., Wembley. Underground Cables (Upper Heyford): Malcolm & Allen, Ltd., London, W.C. W/T Transmitting Station (Mitham): Pearce Bros., Bromley.—Canvas, Khaki, proofed: Holdsworth & Gibbs, Ltd., Manchester.—Canvas, packing, hessian: Jute Industries, Ltd., Dundee.—Delco Ignition Spares: Delco Remy & Hyatt, Ltd., London, S.W.—Disinfectant Fluid: Hull Chemical Works, Co., Hull.—Engines, Aircraft: D. Napier & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—Engines, Aircraft, Air Brake for testing: Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—Engines, Aircraft, Spares and Tools for: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Engines, Aircraft, Stands and Adapting Rings for: Monarch Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Engines, Aircraft, Supercharger Blowers: British Brown Boveri, Ltd., London, S.W.—Extinguishers, Fire, Refills for: General Fire Appliance Co., London, E.C.—Fabric, linen, solid aeroplane: Woods, Sons & Co., London, E.C.—Ford Spares: W. J. Reynolds, London, E.—Lenses: Taylor, Taylor & Hobson, Ltd., Leicester.—Leyland Spares: Leyland Motors Ltd., Leyland.—Morris Vehicles: Morris Commercial Cars Ltd., Soho, Birmingham.—Mortley Clutches and Spares: G. E. Mortley Sprague & Co., Ltd., Tunbridge Wells.—Plywood: Aeronautical and Panel Plywood Co., Ltd., London, E.; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight.—Raidators, Aircraft: Serek Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—Receivers: H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.—Receivers, Telephone and Headbands, Metal: Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., London, W.C.—Soda, Caustic: United Alkali Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Steel Wire: John Shaw, Ltd., Sheffield.—Streamline Wires and Tie Rods: Bruntons, Musselburgh, N.B.; A. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—Terne Plate: Baldwins, Ltd., Stourport.—Thermometers, Radiator: S. Smith & Sons (M.A.), Ltd., London, N.W.—Transmitting and Receiving Sets: Marconi W/T Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Tubing, Brass and Copper: Earle Bourne & Co., Birmingham.—Varnish Remover: Cellon (Richmond), Ltd., Richmond, Surrey.—Wheels, Aircraft: Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.—White Metal: Hoyt Metal Co. of Great Britain, Ltd., London, S.W.

## POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; International Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N. or N.W.—Apparatus, Testing, Protective and Miscellaneous: Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—Bags, Leather: J. Lyons & Sons, London, E.C.—Balances, Spring: Geo. Salter & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—Battery Stores: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—Belts, Safety: Wm. Jenkinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Blocks, Terminal: Thos. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Boxes, Battery: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Boxes, Packing: Thames Board Mills, Ltd., Purfleet, Essex.—Cable, Various: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henleys Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—Casing and Cover: Wm. Duncan Tucker & Sons, Ltd., London, N.—Castings, Joint Box: United Steel Cos., Ltd. (T. Butlin & Co. Branch), Wellingborough.—Clothing, Leather: G. Gianfield & Son, Ltd., London, E.—Cord: The Forth and Clyde Ropery Co., Kirkcaldy.—Cords for Telephones: London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.—Cycles, Motor: B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Redditch and Birmingham.—Ironwork: Bullers, Ltd., Tipton.—Kiosks, Concrete: Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—Lugs, Lead: T. F. Snow, London, S.E.—Mouthpieces: North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Mudguards: Cranford Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Paper: Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., Charham, near Canterbury.—Plugs, Cable, Distribution: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Pipe, Mild Steel: John Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Halesowen or Rutherglen.—Rags: S. J. Green & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—Reflectors: Fairlylites, Ltd. (Lamps (Birmingham), Ltd.), Birmingham.—Sleeves, Lead: Geo. Fairmile & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—Soldier: The Du Bois Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Geo. W. Neale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Tyne Solder Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Tarpaulins: Woods, Sons & Co., London, E.—Thread: Henry Campbell & Co., Ltd., Mossley, Belfast.—Tools, Instrument: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—Twine: H. P. King & Son, Dundee.—Vans: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham; W. H. Perry, Ltd., London, N.—Vans, Bodies for: W. H. Perry, Ltd., London, N.—Vans, Chassis for: Morris Motors (1926), Ltd., Cowley, Oxon.—Wire: W. T. Henleys Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.

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Correction to issue of May, 1927, page 205. Government Contracts (Post Office).—Telephone Exchange Equipment:

"Harrods, Ltd. (Head Office), S.W. 1" and "Harrods, Ltd. (Estate Office), S.W. 1." For "Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W." read "Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E."

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