

# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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

### EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed, on the whole, a slight decline as compared with June. The decline occurred mainly in certain of the industries with a high rate of unemployment, viz., pottery, coal mining, steel manufacture, and the shipping service; while the same tendency was felt in the boot and shoe, motor vehicle, and cotton and linen textile industries. A seasonal decline also occurred in the clothing and building industries. In general and marine engineering, tinplate manufacture, shipbuilding, and the dock, canal, and river service, however, there was some improvement, and this occurred also in several of the industries with a comparatively low rate of unemployment, including the manufacture of food and of paper, inland transport, and the distributive and gas, water, and electricity industries.

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 the 25th July, 1927, was 9·3, as compared with 8·9 at 20th June, 1927, and 14·4 at 26th July, 1926.

The percentage wholly unemployed rose from 6·5 at 20th June to 6·6 at 25th July, while the percentage temporarily stopped from the service of their employers rose from 2·4 to 2·7.

The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th July, 1927, was approximately 1,055,000, of whom 838,000 were men and 153,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 27th June, 1927, it was 1,032,000, of whom 836,000 were men and 144,000 were women; and at 26th July, 1926, it was 1,664,000, of whom 1,226,000 were men and 344,000 were women. The figures for July, 1926, 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 July resulted in a reduction of £79,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 558,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £2,000 in those of 92,000 workpeople.

There were reductions in the wages of coal miners in the Lancashire, North and South Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Bristol, and North Wales areas, the amount of reduction, compared with the total rates previously in force, varying from under 1½ per cent. in South Staffordshire and Warwickshire to 10 per cent. or over in Lancashire, Cannock Chase, and South Derbyshire. Under cost-of-living sliding scales there was a reduction of 2s. per week in the wages of various classes of railway traffic workers,

and one of 1d. per hour in the case of men employed by electricity supply undertakings. Other classes of workpeople whose wages were reduced in July included iron miners and blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Cumberland, bobbin and shuttle makers in England and Wales, chain makers, oil millers, felt hat makers, coal tipplers at various ports, waterworks employees in London and various provincial districts, and the employees of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire.

The principal classes of workpeople whose wages were increased were those employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc. industries in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland, who received small increases under cost-of-living sliding scales.

During the seven completed months of 1927 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics are compiled have resulted in net increases of £7,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 62,500 workpeople and in net reductions of £308,000 in those of 1,698,000 workpeople. Of the latter amount the mining and quarrying industries account for £224,500. In the corresponding period of 1926 there were net increases of £12,900 in the weekly full-time wages of 106,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £84,000 in those of 925,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 2nd August 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 64 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. a month ago and 70 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 56, 59 and 61 respectively.

The fall in the index number at 2nd August, as compared with a month earlier, was mainly due to heavy reductions in the prices of potatoes.

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 July was 22. In addition, 13 disputes which began before July were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in July (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 25,000; and the aggregate duration of all disputes during July was about 104,000 working days. The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first seven months of 1927 was about 787,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 79,000.

## TRADE DISPUTES AND TRADE UNIONS ACT.

The Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill\* received the Royal Assent on the 29th July.

Section 1 declares a strike illegal if it

(i) has any object other than or in addition to the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry in which the strikers are engaged; and

(ii) is a strike designed or calculated to coerce the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community.

An illegal lock-out is defined in exactly similar terms; and it is declared illegal to commence, or continue, or to apply any sums in furtherance or in support of, any such illegal strike or lock-out.

A trade dispute is not to be deemed to be within a trade or industry unless it is a dispute between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, in that trade or industry which is connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of the employment, or with the conditions of labour, of persons in that trade or industry. Without prejudice to the generality of the expression "trade or industry," workmen are to be deemed to be within the same trade or industry if their wages or conditions of employment are determined in accordance with the conclusions of the same Joint Industrial Council, Conciliation Board, or other similar body, or in accordance with agreements made with the same employer or group of employers.

Penalties are provided against any person who declares or instigates an illegal strike or lock-out, or incites others to take part in or otherwise acts in furtherance of such a strike or lock-out; but it is provided that no person shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this section or at common law by reason only of his having ceased work or refused to continue to work or to accept employment. The provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, and of the second proviso to Section 2 (i) of the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, are not to apply to any act done in contemplation or furtherance of an illegal strike or lock-out; but no person is to be deemed to have committed an offence under any regulations made under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, by reason only of his having ceased work or having refused to continue to work or to accept employment.

Section 2 provides that no person refusing to take part, or to continue to take part, in an illegal strike or lock-out shall be subject to expulsion from any trade union or society, or to any fine or penalty, or to deprivation of any right or benefit to which he or his legal personal representatives would otherwise be entitled, or liable to be placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under any disability or at any disadvantage as compared with other members of the union or society. This section is made retrospective as respects any strike or lock-out since the 1st May, 1926, which is declared illegal by the Act.

Section 3 declares it to be unlawful for one or more persons (whether acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a trade union or of an individual employer or firm, and notwithstanding that they may be acting in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute) to attend at or near a house or place where a person resides or works or carries on business or happens to be, for the purpose of obtaining or communicating information or of persuading or inducing any person to work or to abstain from working, if they so attend in such numbers or otherwise in such manner as to be calculated to intimidate any person in that house or place, or to obstruct the approach thereto or egress therefrom or to lead to a breach of the peace. "To intimidate" is defined as meaning to cause in the mind of a person a reasonable apprehension of injury to him or to any member of his family or to any of his dependants or of violence or damage to any person or property; and the expression "injury" includes injury to a person in respect of his business, occupation, employment, or other source of income, and includes any actionable wrong. It is also declared unlawful for one or more persons, for the purpose of inducing any person to work or to abstain from working, to watch or beset a house or place where a person resides or the approach to such a house or place.

Section 4 provides that it shall not be lawful to require any member of a trade union to make any contribution to the political fund of a trade union unless he has given notice, in a prescribed form, of his willingness to contribute thereto. Contributions to the political fund must be made separately from any contributions to the other funds of the union.

Section 5 prohibits established civil servants from being members, delegates, or representatives of any organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of its members, unless the organisation is an organisation of which the membership is confined to persons employed by or under the Crown and is an organisation which complies with such provisions as may be contained in the regulations for securing that it is in all respects independent of, and not affiliated to, any such organisation as aforesaid the membership of which is not confined to persons employed by or under the Crown or any federation comprising such organisations, that its objects do not include political objects, and that it is not associated directly or indirectly with any political party or organisation.

Section 6 makes it unlawful for any local or other public authority to make it a condition of the employment or continuance in employ-

\* A notice of this Bill, in the form in which it was first introduced in the House of Commons on the 4th April, appeared in the April issue of this GAZETTE (page 133); but, in view of the number and importance of the changes that have been made in the Bill during its passage through Parliament, it has been thought better to summarise the Act afresh, in its final form, without attempting to distinguish the original proposals of the Bill from subsequent amendments.

ment of any person that he shall or shall not be a member of a trade union, or to impose any condition upon persons employed by the authority whereby employees who are or are not members of a trade union are liable to be placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under any disability or disadvantage as compared with other employees. It is also made unlawful to make membership or non-membership of a trade union a condition of any contract with a local or other public authority. Another subsection of this section provides penalties against any person employed by a local or other public authority who wilfully breaks a contract of service with that authority, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the probable consequence of his so doing, either alone or in combination with others, will be to cause injury or danger or grave inconvenience to the community.

Section 7 empowers the Attorney-General (in Scotland, the Lord Advocate) to apply for an injunction to restrain any application of the funds of a trade union in contravention of the Act.

Section 8 defines a "strike," for the purposes of this Act, as meaning the cessation of work by a body of persons employed in any trade or industry acting in combination, or a concerted refusal, or a refusal under a common understanding, of any number of persons who are, or have been, so employed, to continue to work or to accept employment. "Lock-out" is defined as meaning the closing of a place of employment or the suspension of work, or the refusal by an employer to continue to employ any number of persons employed by him in consequence of a dispute, done with a view to compelling those persons, or to aid another employer in compelling persons employed by him, to accept terms or conditions of or affecting employment. A strike or lock-out is not to be deemed to be calculated to coerce the Government unless such coercion ought reasonably to be expected as a consequence thereof.

## THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY: RESTRICTIONS ON RECRUITMENT FROM OUTSIDE THE INDUSTRY.

On the 20th July last the Mining Association of Great Britain, in virtue of Section 18 of the Mining Industry Act, 1926, signed an undertaking in the following terms:—

The Mining Association of Great Britain on behalf of its constituent Associations and of all the members of such Associations (hereinafter referred to as "constituent members") undertakes as follows:—

1. Save as hereinafter provided, no constituent member will after the first day of August, 1927, engage any person over the age of 18 years, otherwise than as a student, for employment in any one of the occupations specified in the First Schedule attached hereto unless that person was during the period of seven days ending on the 30th April, 1926, or when last before that date in regular employment, employed in one or other of such occupations. Provided that the foregoing restriction on engagement shall not apply to the employment of any disabled ex-service man in receipt of a disability pension.

2. The restriction on engagement set out in paragraph 1 shall not apply in any case where the constituent member has notified particulars of the vacancy to the nearest Employment Exchange and 14 days have elapsed after such notification has been received without submission by the Exchange of a person suitable for filling the vacancy and qualified in accordance with paragraph 1, or the Exchange has given notice to the constituent member before the expiration of the 14 days that no such person can be submitted.

3. (i) Where any constituent member engages for employment in one of the occupations specified in the First Schedule any person who was not employed in any of those occupations during the period of seven days ending on the 30th April, 1926, or when last before that date in regular employment, he will send forthwith to the nearest Employment Exchange the particulars set out in the Second Schedule.

(ii) Each constituent member will also send to the nearest Employment Exchange immediately after the end of each calendar month the particulars set out in the Third Schedule showing (a) the number of persons engaged by him during the month for employment in one of the occupations specified in the First Schedule who were not employed in any of those occupations during the period of seven days ending the 30th April, 1926, or when last before that date in regular employment, (b) the number of such persons (whether or not first engaged by him during the month) in his employment during any part of the last seven days of the month, and (c) the number of persons engaged during the month, for employment in any of those occupations, who were employed in any of those occupations during the period of seven days ending the 30th April, 1926, or when last before that date in regular employment.

4. Any question whether employment is employment as set out in paragraph 1 shall be determined by the Minister of Labour after giving the parties an opportunity of expressing their views, and his decision will be accepted by the constituent member.

5. This undertaking shall continue until 31st December, 1929.

Dated 20th July, 1927.

Signed on behalf of the Mining Association.

W. A. LEE,

Secretary.

To the Minister of Labour,  
Montagu House,  
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

### FIRST SCHEDULE.

#### SPECIFIED OCCUPATIONS.

Shot-firers, coal-getters and their helpers (machine and hand) including hewers, pikemen, coalcutter-men, conveyor-men, fillers, drawers and all other coalface workers.

Stonemen, roadmen, packers, ridders, datallers, stowers, shiftmen, wastemen and wallers.

Timbermen, timber-drawers, rippers, bottom-cutters, brushers, repairers, airwaymen, byemen and underground labourers.

Hauliers, putters (pony and hand), trammers, riders, rope-changers, master-hauliers, corporals, rolleywaymen, incline attendants, shacklers and spragmen.

Onsetters, hitchers, bottomers and general assistants thereto. Rope-splacers, pipemen, oilers, greasers, sheafmen, roller-men and palley-men.

Locomotive-men, enginemen (including winding, haulage, pumping, fans, air-compressor and screens), boiler-men, stokers, ashmen.

Banksmen, pushers-on, tippers, screenmen, waggon-trimmers, beltmen, pickers and wagon lowerers.

Lamproom attendants (including cleaners, lockers and lamplighters).

Tram repairers, pick-sharpeners, pit-heap men, coal-washerymen.

### SECOND SCHEDULE.

[Form M.R.2. Not printed.]

### THIRD SCHEDULE.

[Form M.R.3. Not printed.]

The undertaking does not in terms cover all collieries in the country, but it is anticipated that it will in fact apply to all pits employing a substantial number of workpeople.

Section 18 of the Mining Industry Act, 1926, in virtue of which the undertaking was negotiated, follows a recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry (1925).\* The Commission recommended that the mineowners and the miners should confer together with a view to considering, in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour, practical steps for securing the transfer of unemployed miners from one district to another and for giving such miners the first chance of obtaining colliery employment either in their own district or elsewhere. The Section empowers the Minister of Labour, after consultation with the interests concerned, to make regulations to ensure that, in the recruiting of adult labour for the coal mining industry, preference should be given to men who were in regular employment in the industry prior to the stoppage. It appeared to the Minister that the object might be attained, at any rate for the time being, by his acceptance of the undertaking printed above, and no regulation under Section 18 has yet been made. Prior to signature by the Mining Association the undertaking was submitted to the Miners' Federation and other interests concerned.

As will be seen, the broad effect of the undertaking is that in all except a few occupations in coal mining it is no longer open to collieries to engage for employment (otherwise than as students) persons over 18 years of age (not being disabled ex-service men in receipt of a disability pension), unless certain conditions are fulfilled. Either (i) the men engaged must have been employed in one of the specified occupations during the period of seven days ending on 30th April, 1926, or their last regular employment before that date must have been in one of those occupations, or, alternatively, (ii) particulars of the vacancy must have been notified to the nearest Employment Exchange, and the latter must have been unable to submit for engagement within the ensuing fourteen days suitably qualified persons, or must have previously notified its inability to make a suitable submission. Machinery for the transfer of miners from one district to another, as recommended by the Commission, is thus provided by the interposition of the Employment Exchange, which has power, under the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909, to advance railway fares in suitable cases to workers placed in employment at a distance from their homes through the agency of the Exchange.

Some idea of the probable effect of the undertaking on employment in the industry may be formed from an estimate which the Royal Commission made of the number of men recruited from outside the industry. On the basis of the experience of 1924 it was estimated that something like 25,000 men entered coal mining from other industries in the course of a single year. (Report, Cap. XV.) The year 1924 was abnormal; but it is not unreasonable to assume that, under present conditions, the potential "intake" of adults each year may still be considerable. As the undertaking, like Section 18 of the Mining Industry Act, is to remain in force until the end of 1929, the restrictions which are now placed on the recruitment of new entrants should eventually result in the re-absorption into the industry of a substantial number of unemployed miners.

It will be seen that the procedure established by the undertaking is likely to make an appreciable contribution to the surplus labour problem of the industry. Some parallel to this problem may possibly be found in the experience of the Scottish shale oil industry, to which reference was made in the July issue of the GAZETTE. Attention was there drawn to the comparative rapidity with which a considerable proportion of those thrown idle by the partial closing down of that industry found other employment during a period of general depression. The problem in the coal industry is obviously on a larger scale, and the rate of absorption of unemployed miners must depend upon general trade developments and an improvement in the coal industry. By placing, as it were, a temporary ring-

\* See Chapter XV of the Report of the Royal Commission: Cmd. 2600, H.M. Stationery Office. A summary of the Report appeared in the March, 1926, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 80-81.

fence round the latter, the undertaking should enable men who have been regularly employed in the industry to secure the first chance of any opportunities for further employment that occur.

## HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE FLOUR MILLING INDUSTRY.

An agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry on 4th July, 1927, provides for the stabilisation of the current rates of wages till 31st May, 1928, and, in addition, embodies novel arrangements in regard to hours of labour of shift workers, under which, in certain circumstances, the weekly hours may be so distributed as to enable work to be suspended between 6 a.m. on Wednesday and 10 a.m. on Thursday, and between 6 a.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Monday.

The clause in the agreement relating to working hours is as follows:—

44 hours worked on an average of three weeks, including meal times (meals to be taken on the job), shall constitute a week on which the wages are based—

(a) In mills running day and night, on a three-shift 8-hour system.

(b) In mills not running continuously day and night, but normally in excess of 60 hours per week, and not exceeding 96 hours per week, on a two-shift system.

(c) In mills running day and night, and normally in excess of 60 hours per week, but not exceeding 96 hours per week, on the following method:—

Day Shift.	Hrs.	Night Shift.	Hrs.
10 a.m. Mon. to 8 p.m. Mon. ...	10	8 p.m. Mon. to 6 a.m. Tues. ...	10
6 a.m. Tues. to 6 p.m. Tues. ...	12	6 a.m. Tues. to 6 a.m. Wed. ...	12
Mill stopped from 6 a.m. Wed.			
10 a.m. Thurs. to 8 p.m. Thurs. ...	10	8 p.m. Thurs. to 6 a.m. Fri. ...	10
6 a.m. Fri. to 6 p.m. Fri. ...	12	6 a.m. Fri. to 6 a.m. Sat. ...	12
44 hrs.		44 hrs.	

Mill stopped from 6 a.m. Saturday.

If extra hours are required beyond the 44 hours set out above, they can be got by starting earlier on Monday and/or Thursday mornings. Mills must not be worked on Wednesday or Saturday after 6 a.m. on this method.

Under this system, involving longer shifts than eight hours, one or two breaks for meals of not less in the aggregate than 40 minutes during the shift shall be provided, the method to be arranged by agreement at each mill, such time to be paid for as part of the shift.

(d) In mills running day and night, but normally in excess of 60 hours per week, and not exceeding 96 hours per week, on the following method:—

First Shift.	Hrs.	Second Shift.	Hrs.
2 p.m. Mon. to 10 p.m. Mon. ...	8	10 p.m. Mon. to 6 a.m. Tues. ...	8
6 a.m. Tues. to 2 p.m. Tues. ...	8	2 p.m. Tues. to 10 p.m. Tues. ...	8
Mill stopped.			
6 a.m. Wed. to 2 p.m. Wed. ...	8	2 p.m. Wed. to 10 p.m. Wed. ...	8
Mill stopped.			
6 a.m. Thurs. to 2 p.m. Thurs. ...	8	2 p.m. Thurs. to 10 p.m. Thurs. ...	8
10 p.m. Thurs. to 6 a.m. Fri. ...	8	6 a.m. Fri. to 2 p.m. Fri. ...	8
40 hrs.		40 hrs.	
Mill stopped.			

The balance of the working week can be worked on Saturday prior to 2 p.m.

The agreement also includes the following provisions:—

In the case of discharges due to the adoption of the two-shift system the employer shall pay due regard to the length of service of the men to be retained.

No shift man shall work more than 48 hours per week, calculated on an average of three weeks.

In the case of mills which run day and night on the three-shift system the normal working hours of each shift worker shall be 132 hours spread over three weeks, i.e., an average of 44 hours per week. Shift men will work in three shifts of 8 hours each between 6 a.m. Monday and 6 a.m. Saturday, and one shift from 6 a.m. Saturday until noon, i.e., a total of 126 hours; the remaining 6 hours to be worked on Saturday or Monday, but there shall be a gap of at least 8 hours between the termination of the six hours so worked and the commencement of the operative's next shift.

The agreement also contains a clause regarding the arrangements to be made in cases of stoppages, either due to unforeseen circumstances or to slackness.

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR (TRANSFER OF POWERS) ORDER, 1927.

An Order in Council, dated the 25th July, 1927, has been issued, transferring from the Board of Education to the Ministry of Labour the power of approving arrangements made by Local Education Authorities for giving boys and girls assistance with respect to choice of employment.

The text of the Order will be found on page 321 of this issue.

## OLD AGE PENSIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The following information with regard to old age pensions in Great Britain was given by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in answer to a question in the House of Commons on the 27th July. The figures relate in all cases to the year ended 31st March, 1927:—

The total number of pensions payable under the Old Age Pensions Act on the last Friday in March, 1927, was 1,031,575 (men, 361,140; women, 670,435). To this must be added 166,132 pensioners under the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act of 1925, making a total of 1,197,707. Of these, 1,175,259 (including all those under the Act of 1925) were payable at the full 10s. rate, and 22,448 at other rates, from 8s. to 1s. a week. The total amount paid in pensions during the year, including those payable under the 1925 Act, was approximately £29,983,000.

The number of applications for pensions during the year was: contributory, 234,898; non-contributory, 163,377. No separate figures are available as regards applications rejected, but the combined figures for claims rejected and pensions revoked during the year were 46,235, of which 10,329 were on account of age, 14,316 on account of poor relief, 19,338 on account of means, and 2,252 for other reasons.

The number of non-contributory pensioners of whose death information reached the pensions officers was 117,443. The number of deaths of contributory pensioners can only be given, so far as regards England and Wales, for the last quarter of the financial year, i.e., the quarter ended 31st March, 1927; in that period it was 2,689. In Scotland the number of deaths of contributory pensioners notified during the whole year ended 31st March, 1927, was 742.

## RETAIL PRICES OF CLOTHING, 1914-27.

The statistics which are published each month in this GAZETTE as to changes in the cost of living of working-class families include particulars relating to the retail prices of clothing.

At the end of each month forms of inquiry are posted from the Ministry of Labour to a large number of representative outfitters, drapers and boot retailers in the principal towns. The retail prices quoted by each retailer at the previous inquiry are entered on the forms before despatch, and the retailer is asked to quote the current retail prices for the same articles and qualities as before, or for the most nearly corresponding articles and qualities.

The descriptions of goods which are taken into account in the compilation of the statistics are those most generally purchased by the working classes. They comprise suits and overcoats, articles of underclothing and hosiery, cotton and woollen materials, and boots. The collection of information as to the prices of materials for clothing, instead of some of the articles of clothing themselves, is made partly because comparative prices of materials could be obtained over a long period with a greater measure of accuracy, and partly because many families buy materials and either make them up at home or put them out to be made up by dressmakers, etc.

In order to arrive at the general percentage increase in prices the percentage change is computed separately for each quotation supplied by each retailer, and these percentages are then combined, by simple arithmetic averaging,\* into six groups, for each of which the average percentage increase at 2nd August, 1927, over July, 1914, was approximately as under:—

Group.	Percentage Increase.
(1) Men's Suits and Overcoats ... ..	80
(2) Woollen Material for Women's Outer Garments ... ..	150
(3) Woollen Underclothing and Hosiery ... ..	140
(4) Cotton Material for Women's Outer Garments ... ..	180
(5) Cotton Underclothing Material and Hosiery ... ..	120
(6) Boots ... ..	100

The final percentage, representing the general increase in the retail prices of clothing, is then computed by averaging the figures for these six groups, those for groups (2) and (4) being first modified on account of the cost of making-up materials (which enquiries have shown to be nearly one-and-a-half times as much as in 1914) and the relatively greater importance of group (1) and the smaller importance of group (4) being recognised by giving a "weight" of 1½ to group (1) and ½ to group (4), compared with 1 to each of the other four groups. The result of this final averaging shows that the average increase in the retail prices of working-class clothing at 2nd August, 1927, over July, 1914, was approximately 110 to 115 per cent. The corresponding figure for a year ago was about 120 per cent., the decline in the percentage since that time being due largely to reductions in the prices of cotton materials.

The percentages given in this article are, of course, necessarily in the nature of approximations, since, 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 the variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes in recent years, it is not possible to make exact calculations of the average percentage increases in prices of clothing. Subject however, to this general qualification, the results of the investigations may be taken to be broadly representative of the general course of prices of the cheaper grades of clothing.

Although the method of calculation is that of combining the

\* In arriving at the average increase in group (1), allowance is made for the greater relative importance of ready-made as compared with bespoke clothing and of suits as compared with overcoats.

percentage changes in the prices quoted by retailers from month to month and not that of averaging the prices quoted (the range of prices being so wide that the utilisation of average prices in this connection would be unsuitable for the purpose), it may be of interest to give an indication of the general ranges of prices on which the percentages are based. Accordingly, the following Table has been prepared to show the general range of the price quotations used for the purpose of the index number. The quotations for materials are "per yard," for footwear "per pair," and for other articles "each." It should be observed that while the figures given include the majority of the quotations, other quotations were also important in particular cases.

Article.	Predominant Ranges of Retail Prices of Grades Purchased by Working-Class Families.	
	July, 1914.	2nd Aug., 1927.
<b>Men's Suits and Overcoats:</b>		
Ready-made Suits ... ..	21s.—30s.	35s.—55s.
Bespoke Suits ... ..	21s.—30s.	35s.—55s.
Overcoats ... ..	30s.—42s.	50s.—80s.
Overcoats ... ..	30s.—35s.	50s.—80s.
<b>Woollen Material for Women's Outer Garments:</b>		
Costume Cloth ... ..	1s. 6d.—3s.	3s. 11d.—6s. 11d.
Tweed ... ..	1s.—2s.	1s. 11d.—3s. 11d.
Serge ... ..	1s.—2s.	1s. 11d.—3s. 11d.
Frieze ... ..	1s. 6d.—3s.	2s. 11d.—5s. 11d.
Cashmere ... ..	1s. 6d.—2s.	3s. 6d.—4s. 11d.
<b>Woollen Underclothing and Hosiery:</b>		
Men's Vests and Pants ... ..	2s. 6d.—2s. 11d.	4s. 11d.—7s. 6d.
Men's Merino Socks ... ..	6½d.—1s.	1s.—1s. 11d.
Women's Vests ... ..	1s.—1s. 6½d.	1s. 11d.—3s. 6d.
Women's Woollen Stockings ... ..	9½d.—1s. 0½d.	1s. 6d.—2s. 6d.
Flannel ... ..	8½d.—1s. 0½d.	1s. 6d.—2s. 6d.
<b>Cotton Material for Women's Outer Garments:</b>		
Print ... ..	3½d.—4½d.	10½d.—1s. 3d.
Zephyr ... ..	3½d.—4½d.	8½d.—1s. 0½d.
Sateen ... ..	3½d.—4½d.	10½d.—1s. 3d.
Drill ... ..	4½d.—6½d.	1s.—1s. 6½d.
Galatea ... ..	4½d.—6½d.	1s.—1s. 6½d.
<b>Cotton Underclothing Material and Hosiery:</b>		
Men's Cotton Socks ... ..	4½d.—7½d.	9½d.—1s. 3d.
Women's Cotton Stockings ... ..	4½d.—1s. 0½d.	8½d.—1s. 6½d.
Calico, White ... ..	2½d.—4½d.	6½d.—10½d.
Longcloth ... ..	3½d.—4½d.	6½d.—10½d.
Shirting ... ..	3½d.—4½d.	8½d.—1s. 0½d.
Flannelette ... ..	3½d.—4½d.	6½d.—10½d.
<b>Boots:</b>		
Men's Heavy ... ..	5s. 11d.—8s. 11d.	12s. 6d.—16s. 11d.
Men's Light ... ..	6s. 11d.—10s. 6d.	12s. 6d.—16s. 11d.
Women's ... ..	4s. 11d.—8s. 11d.	10s. 6d.—14s. 11d.
Boys' ... ..	3s. 11d.—5s. 11d.	7s. 11d.—10s. 6d.
Girls' ... ..	3s. 6d.—5s. 11d.	7s. 6d.—10s. 6d.

## EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

### KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

THE King's Roll National Council held its seventeenth meeting at the House of Commons on 14th July, 1927. In the unavoidable absence on State business of Field-Marshal Earl Haig, the Chair was taken by Major-General Sir John Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.P. for Fareham.

It was reported that there are approximately 27,500 employers on the King's Roll, including Government Departments, 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 the enrolled firms is approximately 380,000. The latest figures (23rd May, 1927) indicate that 17,785 disabled ex-Service men are registered at Employment Exchanges as in search of employment. (Figures received since the date of the meeting indicate that the number of these men on 20th June, 1927, was 16,949).

Only 37 Local Authorities, and only 30 Royal Warrant Holders, of any appreciable size, are not on the Roll.

The Council are at present in negotiation with large Public Utility Companies, Hotels, and other organisations, and employers who might reasonably be expected to help the disabled ex-Service man by joining the King's Roll.

Five hundred and eighty-one Municipal bodies follow the Government lead by restricting, where possible, their contracts to enrolled firms.

Special mention was made of the King's Roll Clerks' Association, an undertaking under the aegis of the Westminster King's Roll Committee. This Association employs severely disabled ex-Service men on copying, duplicating, envelope addressing, and general repetition clerical work.

There are 11 organisations employing severely disabled ex-Service men in receipt of Government Grant. One of these, the Lord Roberts Workshops, has eight establishments in different parts of the country.

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 26th July, 1927, the number of men in training was 188, and the number awaiting training, 75. Since August, 1919, 100,229 men have terminated training.

## CENSUS OF SEAMEN, 1926.

THE results of a census of seamen\* employed on the 31st March, 1926, have been published in the issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* for 14th July, 1927. The data on which the published figures are based do not show the total number of seamen who follow the sea-service, but only those actually employed on the specified day on sea-trading vessels (i.e., sea-going vessels other than yachts and fishing vessels) registered under Part I of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. Seamen employed on fishing vessels registered under Parts I and IV of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, are excluded.

The date on which the corresponding quinquennial census was taken in 1921 occurred in a period of acute depression in shipping, accentuated by a coal dispute; and the quinquennial census was suspended during the war. The 1911 census figures have therefore been given, to provide a satisfactory basis of comparability with the figures for 1926.†

The total number of seamen employed on trading vessels, which was recorded as 208,214 at the 1911 census, dropped to 151,911 at the 1921 census, but rose again to 196,558 in 1926. British (other than lascars) accounted for 65.8 per cent. of the total number of seamen on trading vessels on 31st March, 1926, against 63.2 per cent. in 1921 and 65.6 per cent. in 1911. In 1926 about 8 per cent. were foreigners (other than lascars), compared with 13.8 per cent. in 1911. The proportion of lascars rose from 20.6 per cent. in 1911 to 26.2 per cent. in 1926. Owing to an administrative change some 3,300 seamen of doubtful nationality who, in accordance with previous practice, would have been enumerated as British, have on this occasion been classified as foreigners. Allowing for this transfer, it will be seen that, over the period of 15 years, there was a small increase in the proportion of British seamen employed, a great decrease in foreign seamen, and an increase of over 25 per cent. in lascars.

The numbers of seamen returned as employed on sailing trading vessels were 12,414 in 1911, 2,233 in 1921 and 1,634 in 1926.

The following Table shows the relatively diminished personnel of the navigating department and the increased relative importance of the catering staff in steam and motor shipping in 1926 as compared with 1911:—

Department.	Employed per 100,000 net tons of Steam and Motor Shipping.	
	On 3rd April, 1911.	On 31st March, 1926.
Deck ... ..	815	713
Engine-room ... ..	828	767
Stewards ... ..	446	505
Other ... ..	43	99
<b>All Departments ... ..</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>2,084</b>

The decrease in the average number of persons employed in the engine-room and stokehold may be attributed partly to the increasing use of oil-fuel by steamships and partly to the increased employment of motor vessels. Other causes for the change in distribution are the change from tramps to liners, and the increase in the average size of ships. The increase in the "Other" group is principally due to the inclusion of wireless operators, but partly also to the increase in musicians and other specialists engaged to provide social and other amenities on the luxury type of passenger vessel.

The age distribution of British and foreign seamen (other than lascars, whose ages are not recorded) employed on 31st March, 1926, is shown in the following Table:—

Ages.	Home (including Coasting) Trade.‡		Foreign Trade.†	
	British.	Foreigners.	British.	Foreigners.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Under 18 years ... ..	2.2	5.1	5.1	0.6
18 to 24 " ... ..	15.9	5.1	25.7	16.2
25 to 34 " ... ..	27.6	32.1	31.2	40.3
35 to 49 " ... ..	36.1	47.0	29.3	35.5
50 years and over ... ..	18.2	15.8	8.7	7.4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It will be seen that a much larger proportion of British than of foreign seamen was under 25. The proportion under 25 was noticeably above the average among the deck staff and in the stewards' department; while in the engine-room a large proportion (over 70 per cent. among the British seamen) was between the ages of 25 and 50.

A comparison with the 1911 census shows for British seamen (other than lascars) a reduction from 30,761 in 1911 to 21,214 in 1926 in the home trade, but an increase from 105,819 to 108,075 in the foreign trade. For foreign seamen there was a reduction from 1,718 to 513 in the home trade and from 27,011 to 15,190 in the foreign trade. Comparing the age distribution of British seamen employed in all trading vessels in 1911 and 1926, seamen under 25 years of age accounted for 27.5 per cent. of the total number in 1911, and for 28.7 per cent. in 1926; seamen of 25 to 34 years for 34.4 per cent. and 30.6 per cent., respectively; and seamen of 35 years and over for 38.1 per cent. and 40.7 per cent., respectively.

\* The term "seamen" includes all persons who appear as members of the crew upon the agreements or "lists" rendered under Sections 118, 119 or 253 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

† The figures for 1926 throughout this article do not include vessels registered at ports in the Irish Free State; particulars for such vessels are included in the figures for earlier years, but in neither of the years 1911 or 1921 did the total net tonnage of such vessels exceed 80,000 tons.

‡ "Home" trade is trade within the limits of the British Islands and the Continent of Europe between the River Elbe and Brest; "foreign" trade is trade beyond these limits.

## GERMANY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

AN Act,\* dated 16th July, 1927, which is to come into force on 1st October next, provides for a number of important alterations in the existing German Employment Exchange system and also for the introduction of a regular system of obligatory insurance against unemployment financed by the contributions of employers and workers. The system of relieving unemployment previously in force was a compromise between relief and insurance: both employers and workers were compulsorily required to contribute to the funds, but the workers were not unconditionally entitled to benefit.† In future, no State contribution will be payable, except in the case of emergency relief granted under the scheme described below. A summary of the more important provisions of the new Act is given below:—

### 1. ORGANISATION.

The central administrative unit of the new system is to be the Federal Employment Exchange and Unemployment Insurance Board, which is to be created from the existing Federal Employment Department and which, like the latter body, will be attached to the Federal Ministry of Labour. Its principal functions will be the administration of the employment exchange service and of the unemployment insurance scheme created under the present Act. It will also be responsible for the general control of vocational guidance work, of the placing of apprentices and learners, and for any other duties assigned to it by the Federal Minister of Labour. The Board will be under the control of a President, assisted by an Executive Committee and a governing body each consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers, workers, and local authorities. Its local organisation will consist of the existing State Employment Offices and local Employment Offices. The latter will be constituted from the communal Employment Exchanges set up under the Employment Exchange Act of 1922.‡ Whereas, however, under the scheme at present in force, the local exchanges are maintained by the communal authorities, subject to general supervision by the Federal and State labour departments, they will, in future, be under the direct control of, and financed by, the Federal Board. The State and local Employment Offices will also be administered by representative committees, similar in composition to those described above, with an official appointed by the Federal Board or by a subordinate authority as chairman.

Disputed claims for benefit, etc., will be dealt with by Appeals Committees and Appeals Boards to be set up in the local and State Offices respectively (on which employers and workers are to be represented); while a Court of Referees is to be established at the headquarters of the Federal Board, on which one employer and one workers' representative will have a seat, in addition to certain official members possessing special qualifications.

### 2. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

(a) *Scope.*—All manual workers are compulsorily insurable under the Act, as well as non-manual workers whose annual income does not exceed 6,000 Reichsmarks. The following categories of persons are, however, exempt:—

1. Workers engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishing, who own or rent a plot of land sufficient for the maintenance of themselves and their family, and who are employed by others for less than half the year.
2. Agricultural and forestry workers employed under contracts of at least a year's duration or providing for at least six months' notice on termination, or who reside in the household of their employer.
3. Share fishermen.
4. Apprentices serving under indentures of at least two years' duration (this class becomes insurable six months prior to the expiration of the indentures).
5. Seamen on sea-going vessels whose annual earnings (exclusive of family allowances) exceed 6,000 Reichsmarks.

Non-manual workers who, by reason of their salary having been increased above the limit of 6,000 Reichsmarks, cease to be compulsorily insurable may, at their option, elect to continue as contributors under the scheme under regulations to be issued by the Federal Board.

Employers may be allowed to contract out of the provisions of the Act, subject to submission of proof that they have, at least one year before the date upon which the Act comes into force, established an unemployment insurance scheme for their employees, by which the latter are legally entitled to conditions of benefit more favourable than those provided under the Act. Employers who are allowed to exercise this right of contracting out are required to contribute towards the cost of the public employment offices.

(b) *Contributions.*—Contributions are normally to be collected along with the Sickness Insurance contributions, the worker's share being similarly deducted from wages by the employer, who is required to pay the full amount to the appropriate Sickness Insurance Fund. The latter will remit the proportion representing the Unemployment Insurance contribution to the competent State Employment Office. The amount of contribution (including both the employer's and worker's share) may in no case exceed 3 per cent. of the basic wage of the insured person, as prescribed in the regulations applicable to members of compulsory Sickness Insurance Funds. The contribution is divided into a State and a Federal quota, the former being fixed at a percentage estimated to cover the requirements of the State Employment Office concerned, while

\* Special supplement to *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, 20th July, 1927. Berlin.

† See this GAZETTE for March, 1924, page 82.

‡ See this GAZETTE for September, 1922, page 365.

the Federal quota is to be pooled and allocated to the assistance of the State areas which are seriously affected by unemployment. A Federal Reserve Fund is also to be created sufficient for the payment of benefit to 600,000 unemployed workers for a period of three months. Until the resources of this Fund are sufficient to satisfy this requirement, the contribution will be maintained at the maximum of 3 per cent. throughout the Reich. Should, at any time, the revenue from contributions together with advances from the Reserve Fund prove inadequate to meet current requirements, the Federal Minister of Labour is to arrange for the provision of the necessary funds by way of loan from general Federal funds.

(c) *Benefits.*—The Act entails a radical change in the present system of payment of unemployment relief. Insured persons are no longer required to furnish proof of need when applying for unemployment benefit, as was the case under the Unemployment Relief Order of 1924, and the rate of benefit payable will, in future, bear a definite proportion to the wage of the insured person; while the former system of regional differentiation (under which the rate of benefit depended upon the district of residence) is to be abolished. Insured persons are grouped under eleven wage classes, Class I including persons in receipt of weekly wages not exceeding 10 Reichsmarks, while Class XI comprises those whose weekly earnings exceed 60 Reichsmarks. A "basic rate" has been fixed for each of these classes, ranging from 8 to 63 Reichsmarks. The benefit consists of:—(a) the substantive benefit which accrues to the unemployed person himself; and (b) the family allowance paid in respect of his dependants, if any. The former is paid as a fixed percentage (varying from 75 per cent. in the case of Class I to 35 per cent. for Classes VIII to XI) of this basic rate. The family allowance amounts to 5 per cent. of the basic rate and is payable in respect of each dependant maintained by the insured person, subject to an over-riding maximum aggregate benefit (inclusive of family allowance) varying from 80 per cent. in the case of Classes I and II, to 60 per cent. for Classes VIII to XI. Benefit is payable to insured persons who are capable of and willing to work and who are unemployed through no fault of their own, provided they have fulfilled the statutory condition of having paid 26 weeks' contributions during the previous twelve months in respect of employment in an insurable occupation. Unemployed persons may be disqualified from receiving benefit for a period of four weeks if they refuse work without valid reasons, unless (1) the work offered is not paid at rates prescribed by collective agreement or at the local rate customary in the occupation in question, (2) the work offered is unsuitable having regard to the training, previous occupation, or physical condition of the worker, (3) if the vacancy is due to a strike or lockout, (4) if the work is objectionable from the point of view of health or morality, or (5) if acceptance would make provision for the worker's dependants impossible. After benefit has been drawn for nine weeks or during periods of customary (e.g., seasonal) unemployment in a trade, unemployed persons may not decline work on the ground that it is unsuitable by reason of their previous training or vocation, unless acceptance would entail serious detriment to their future livelihood. The payment of benefit to persons under 21, and to those who have been unemployed for a long period, may be made conditional upon the performance of compulsory work. Benefit may be withheld for a period of four weeks in the case of refusal to undergo free courses of instruction intended to assist unemployed persons in obtaining work.

Benefit will normally be payable for a maximum period of 26 weeks (in special circumstances, 39 weeks), a waiting period of seven days, as from the date on which the insured person notifies that he is unemployed, being prescribed. Casual employment, the earnings from which do not amount to more than 20 per cent. of the weekly benefit payable, is not regarded as a disqualification for the payment of benefit.

(d) *Emergency Benefit.*—During prolonged periods when the labour market is particularly unfavourable, the Federal Minister of Labour may grant emergency benefit (*Krisenunterstützung*) to persons who have exhausted their claim to ordinary benefit or who have been unable to comply with the conditions prescribed under the Act. The payment of emergency benefit may be restricted to certain districts or trades. The cost of this form of benefit will be borne as to four-fifths by Federal funds and as to the remaining one-fifth by the commune (local authority).

(e) *Short-Time Benefit.*—The Executive Committee of the Federal Commission may, with the approval of the Federal Minister of Labour, issue regulations whereby insurable persons who, owing to industrial depression, are unable to work the normal number of hours in any calendar week and whose earnings are thereby reduced, may be granted short-time benefit from the funds of the Federal Board. Such benefit may not exceed the normal benefit payable in case of total unemployment, and short-time benefit, plus wages, may not exceed five-sixths of full wages. Similar regulations have been in force under the Short-Time Relief Order of 20th February, 1926,\* as amended and extended in validity by subsequent Orders, the last of which (issued on 24th March last) prescribed that these short-time relief regulations should remain in force until the present Act becomes operative.

### 3. SPECIAL MEASURES FOR PREVENTING UNEMPLOYMENT.

The provisions of this section of the Act are mostly already incorporated in existing legislation,† and are of the kind generally known as "productive unemployment relief." It is provided that special importance must be attached to measures for preventing and ending unemployment by creating work. The costs of such

\* See this GAZETTE for March, 1926, page 86.

† See this GAZETTE for December, 1926, page 441, and March, 1927, page 97.

measures are to be borne mainly from the contributions of employers and workers for the purposes of unemployment insurance.

The minor measures include: payment of railway fares to workers who have found work in another district, assistance in expenses of household removal (in cases of hardship, family allowances may be continued to the dependants of a worker who has found work in another district); loans for the purchase of necessary tools, (repayment may be waived wholly or partly in especially hard cases); supplementing the wages of workers who can only attain full wages after a period of training in new work.

With regard to measures on a larger scale, the Committees of the State Employment Offices may also grant loans or subsidies to undertakings which are likely to reduce unemployment especially by creating work for the unemployed, to the extent that unemployment funds will be relieved by these undertakings. Only such measures are to receive support as will be of productive value in the near future to the national economic life, and especially such as are likely to increase the stocks of home foodstuffs, raw materials, plant, etc.

For measures of the kind specified in the preceding paragraph, which are likely to be of particular value for trade and industry and the labour market, the Federal Minister of Labour may sanction loans from general Federal funds. In special cases, such loans may also be sanctioned for measures for which unemployment insurance funds could not be used. When loans from Federal funds are granted, the State benefited by them must undertake to grant a loan of equal amount.

If public relief works are supported from Unemployment Insurance funds, the Committee of the State Employment Office may fix a maximum rate of wages for workers employed on such works.

### 4. GENERAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.

The Federal Board is empowered to make any investigation, which it or the Federal Minister of Labour deems necessary, into the state of the labour market, the administration of the unemployment insurance scheme, strikes and lockouts, or into the membership of employers' and workers' associations, and is required to issue periodical reports on these matters.

The Act repeals earlier legislation and regulations dealing with employment exchanges, Unemployment Insurance relief, emergency relief, etc., and provides that the existing Federal Employment Department, State Employment Offices, and local Employment Exchanges shall be incorporated into the administrative machinery referred to above, at a date to be decided upon by the competent authorities. Pending such incorporation, the respective offices may administer the Act under a provisional administrative committee of the Federal Board, the staff at present employed being taken over, subject to certain conditions. Unemployed persons in receipt of relief under the present Order may draw benefit when the new Act comes into force in certain circumstances, subject to existing regulations, where these are more favourable to the recipient.

The Act renders members of the various committees liable to monetary fines for neglect of duty. Penalties may also be imposed by various committees for specific breaches of the Act, e.g. the Appeals Committee of a local Employment Office may impose, on persons in receipt of benefit, penalties not exceeding 25 times the amount of benefit paid for breaches of the regulations relating to "placing" or unemployment insurance.

## MINIMUM WAGE-FIXING MACHINERY IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

THE International Labour Office have issued a Report on Minimum Wage-fixing Machinery.\*

The Report covers much wider ground than the Trade Boards system in this country, and its analogues in other countries. In particular, it covers the industrial conciliation and arbitration machinery of Australia and New Zealand, which has the twofold object of protecting the workers against unduly low wages and of promoting industrial peace.

The first minimum wage law (understanding the term in the wide sense defined above) passed in modern times was the New Zealand Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1894, followed in 1896 by a similar Act in Victoria. By the year 1910 laws applying the minimum wage principle were in force in all the States of Australia and New Zealand. The first British Trade Boards Act was passed in 1909, Massachusetts adopted the minimum wage principle in 1912, and eight other States of the American Union followed in 1913. Apart from temporary measures passed during the War, a minimum wage Act was passed in France in 1915, and the principle was adopted in 1917 by the Canadian province of Alberta. A great extension of the system took place in the years 1918-1926: the list of Trade Board trades was greatly extended in Great Britain and Ireland after the Act of 1918; six other Canadian provinces followed the example of Alberta; and minimum wage legislation of various kinds (sometimes merely in the form of compulsory arbitration) was introduced in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Roumania, South Africa and Uruguay. The principle is also embodied in the Mexican federal constitution. On the other hand, in 1923 and 1925 the United States Supreme Court declared certain minimum wage laws to be unconstitutional. These decisions have rendered uncertain the position of minimum wage legislation in the United States.

The scope of the laws in force in the different countries varies greatly, as do also the methods of their application. The legislation

\* International Labour Office: *Studies and Reports, Series D (Wages and Hours of Work), No. 17.* Geneva; price 2s. 6d.

## COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CITIES ABROAD.

The series of computations of comparative "real wages" in London and in certain cities abroad, compiled by the International Labour Office from returns supplied (as a general rule) by official statistical departments in the various cities, is carried down to 1st April, 1927, in the July, 1927, issue of the *International Labour Review*, published by that Office. Corresponding index numbers for 1st January, 1927, were reproduced in the issue of this GAZETTE for May last (p. 175). For particulars of the origin, method of compilation, significance and limitations of these index numbers, reference should be made to the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1924. These figures have for their object a comparison of working-class real wages, so far as these can be gauged by the purchasing power (in terms of food) of the wage paid for an hour's work at the normal time rate (i.e., apart from extra payment for overtime) to male adult workers in certain typical occupations which are common to large cities. In the index numbers shown in the following Table, which is taken from the *International Labour Review*, an attempt has been made to measure the purchasing power of wages in each city, not only by the working-class standard of food consumption of the country in which the city is situated, but also by corresponding standards appropriate to the various groups of countries, and, finally (columns 7 and 8), by an international standard of working-class food consumption.

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages (or Comparative Purchasing Power of Money-Wages) in London and certain Cities Abroad at 1st April, 1927.

Average for all Occupations covered by the Inquiry. (London = 100.)\*

City.	Index Numbers based on Quantities of each Kind of Food Consumed in Working-class Households in							
	Belgium and France.	Central European Countries.	Great Britain.	Southern European Countries.	Scandinavian Countries.	Oversea Countries (Canada, U.S.A., etc.).	General Average Index Nos. (based on food only).	General Average Index Nos. (with allowance for rent).
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
London ...	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Amsterdam ...	94	86	79	87	95	88	88	88
Berlin ...	64	70	61	64	76	69	67	62
Brussels ...	47	41	42	43	48	44	44	47
Copenhagen ...	106	120	104	103	132	116	113	113
Dublin ...	109	106	106	104	109	109	107	116
Lodz ...	36	42	35	38	46	41	40	...
Madrid ...	58	52	49	55	54	58	54	...
Milan ...	49	46	43	50	51	50	48	48
Ottawa ...	152	150	154	147	163	177	156	154
Paris ...	59	55	51	56	62	55	56	...
Philadelphia ...	182	171	179	179	205	183	183	183
Prague ...	50	46	45	49	50	50	48	52
Riga ...	49	53	46	47	53	52	50	53
Rome† ...	45	43	39	45	46	45	43	45
Stockholm‡ ...	91	81	89	76	108	100	89	87
Tallinn ...	43	50	41	42	53	48	46	47
Vienna ...	37	43	38	33	50	44	41	46
Warsaw§ ...	36	40	33	37	44	40	38	39

If comparisons are made between these figures and corresponding index numbers for earlier dates previously published, it should be noted that the difference between the index numbers for any city at different dates may indicate a change in the levels of real wages either in that city or in London, or in both cities. In other words, the difference in the figures compared may be due to changes in money wages and food prices in either or both cities, and not necessarily to changes in one of them alone.

## EXTENSION OF WORKING HOURS IN SWISS FACTORIES.

UNDER an Order dated 26th March, 1927, a further extension of the normal working hours up to 52 a week has been authorised by the Swiss Federal Department of Public Economy in the following industries:—(1) sawmilling, carpentry and allied trades; (2) the manufacture of tiles, bricks and artificial (cement) stone; and (3) the impregnation of wood with blue vitriol. In the first two cases the permit is valid until 15th October next, and in the last until the end of September.

A similar extension of working hours, valid until 30th June, 1928, has also been authorised by a further Order, dated 23rd June, 1927, in certain branches of the embroidery industry, in the artificial silk, linen and cotton industries, and in the bleaching, dyeing and plaiting of straw to be used for hat-making.

\* Although London is taken arbitrarily as base (= 100), the ratios would be the same whichever city were chosen as base.

† The figures for Rome are relatively low. This may be accounted for in part by the differences in the items of food consumption in the Southern European countries from those ordinarily consumed in most of the other countries included in the table.

‡ The figures are based on wages in the building, furniture-making, and printing industries only. For other cities the metal industry is also included.

§ Based on a weighted average wage. For other cities an unweighted average has been used.

|| See the GAZETTE for July, 1926, page 249.

of some countries, e.g., New Zealand and Australia, provides for the fixing of minimum rates in almost all trades. Other laws apply only to certain occupations, while yet others provide for the fixing of minimum rates of wages for certain specified categories of workers, generally women or homeworkers. Thus the Canadian and United States laws are generally limited to female workers or to females and male juveniles. In Norway, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, and the Argentine Republic, laws applying to homeworkers are in operation. In France, the minimum wage law applies only to female homeworkers.\*

The types of machinery usually adopted in one form or another for the systematic regulation of minimum wages are (i) Trade Boards, and (ii) "general" boards. Trade Boards normally consist of representatives of the employers and of the workers in equal numbers, with one or more disinterested (independent) members; each Trade Board is strictly confined to a single trade, and the delimitation of the scope of a Trade Board is often a matter of considerable difficulty. On the other hand, the essential feature of the "general" board system is that minimum rates in a number of industries are fixed by the same body, as a rule advised by bodies representative of the trades concerned. It is claimed that this system provides greater possibilities of avoiding unnecessary differences between minimum rates of wages in the various trades than the Trade Board system. The "general" board system has been adopted in the United States, in Canada, and in South Africa. It has also been adopted in some of the Australian States; in those States, indeed, all three systems—Trade Boards, "general" boards, and compulsory arbitration—are sometimes found simultaneously, combined in some cases with provision for the fixing of an over-riding basic wage, applicable to all trades.

The Report reviews the most important features of the minimum wage legislation in force in various countries. It is divided into two parts, the first of which deals on general lines with the objects for which minimum wage laws are passed, the most important types of machinery for the regular fixing of minimum wages, the various bases or principles which may be adopted when fixing minimum rates, the problem of defining the limits of each trade, and the methods adopted for ensuring enforcement. Part II of the Report gives separately for each country a survey of the legislation in force and its application.

## FUNCTIONS OF THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF CORPORATIONS.

A DECREE of 8th May, 1927,† defines the functions of the Italian Ministry of Corporations established by Royal Decree of 2nd July, 1926 (see this GAZETTE for October, 1926, page 366), and regulates the activities of its various branches. The chief clauses of the new Decree attribute the following functions to the Ministry of Corporations:—

- (1) To supervise the exercise of the representative powers granted to legally recognised trade associations by the Act of 3rd April, 1926.†
- (2) To co-ordinate the activities of the trade associations with those of certain national institutions (the National Institutions for the Utilisation of Spare Time, for Maternity and Infant Welfare, and of Young Fascists).
- (3) To superintend such courses as may be set up for the training of members of the executives of trade associations.
- (4) To direct scientific and popular propaganda relating to the guiding principles of corporative organisation.
- (5) To control, supervise, and co-ordinate the various fields of activity of the trade associations and the institutions connected with them, and to encourage and assist efforts directed towards the co-ordination and better organisation of production, without prejudice to the functions of the Ministry of National Economy.
- (6) To co-ordinate the data relating to production and labour collected by other Public Departments, by the Central Statistical Institute, and by the trade associations, for the purpose defined in the thirteenth paragraph of the Charter of Labour.§
- (7) To supervise the conclusion of collective labour agreements and to provide for their publication, and to communicate to the Ministry of Justice all the information necessary for the exercise of the functions appertaining to the Ministry in connection with the labour magistracy.
- (8) To promote and direct the consultative, regulative and executive activities of the Corporations within their sphere of competence; to intervene in attempts at conciliation in collective disputes; to encourage or instigate legal measures for carrying out and developing the "Charter of Labour" and legislation on collective labour relations.
- (9) To promulgate the decisions and ratify the acts of the Corporations, to supervise their execution, and to co-ordinate the activities of individual, central and local corporative organisations in relation to one another and to the National Council of Corporations.
- (10) To supervise the services established by the Corporations and to administer the special fund at the disposal of the Ministry.||

\* Male homeworkers paid at rates lower than the minimum fixed for similar work for female workers may institute proceedings to ensure the application of the same minimum also to them.

† *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, 21st June, 1927. Rome.

‡ Powers for the legal regulation of collective labour relations. (See this GAZETTE for June, 1926, page 207.)

§ To serve as the criterion for the mutual adjustment of the interests of the various categories and classes among themselves and of those interests with the higher interests of production." (See this GAZETTE for June, 1927, page 213.)

|| A fund made up of a levy of 10 per cent. on the contributions of employers and workers to their respective associations, which is paid into the account of the Ministry of Corporations at the Treasury in Rome, and is to be used to meet, *inter alia*, the expenses of the members of the National and other Councils and Committees set up under the corporative system.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 2nd AUGUST.\*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	64%
Food only	...	...	56%

FOOD.

At 2nd August\* the average level of the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 56 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 59 per cent. at 1st July, and 61 per cent. a year ago. The decline since 1st July was mainly due to heavy falls in the prices of potatoes.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st July, and 2nd August, 1927 :-

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 2nd August, 1927, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st July, 1927.	2nd August, 1927.	July, 1914.	1st July, 1927.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 4	1 4	+ 0 6	...
Thin Flank	0 6	0 9	0 9	+ 0 2	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7	0 9	0 9	+ 0 2	...
Thin Flank	0 4	0 5	0 5	+ 0 0	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10	1 6	1 6	+ 0 7	...
Breast	0 6	0 9	0 9	+ 0 3	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6	0 11	0 11	+ 0 4	...
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	+ 0 0	...
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11	1 5	1 4	+ 0 5	- 0 0
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10	1 5	1 5	+ 0 7	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5	0 9	0 9	+ 0 4	...
Tea ...	1 6	2 4	2 4	+ 0 10	...
Sugar (granulated)	0 2	0 3	0 3	+ 0 1	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3	0 5	0 5	+ 0 2	...
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2	1 9	1 9	+ 0 7	...
Salt	1 2	1 8	1 8	+ 0 6	...
Cheese...	0 8	1 0	1 0	+ 0 4	...
Margarine	0 7	0 7	0 7	+ 0 0	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1	0 1	0 1	+ 0 0	...
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4	1 0	0 9	+ 0 4	- 0 3

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 2nd Aug., 1927, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st July, 1927.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	71	66	68	68
Thin Flank	37	39	38	38
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	37	33	35	35
Thin Flank	4	10	7	8
Mutton, British—				
Legs	72	74	73	73
Breast	50	50	50	51
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	68	60	64	65
Breast	17	20	18	19
Bacon (streaky)†	51	49	50	51
Fish	122	94	108	111
Flour ...	65	70	67	67
Bread ...	70	68	69	69
Tea ...	51	59	55	55
Sugar (granulated)	86	76	81	82
Milk ...	55	64	60	59
Butter—				
Fresh	45	50	47	48
Salt	42	42	42	43
Cheese...	46	49	48	47
Margarine	10	5	8	7
Eggs (fresh) ...	47	42	45	34
Potatoes ...	101	80	91	154
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	57	55	56	59

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

\* As 1st August was a Bank Holiday the statistics relate to 2nd August.  
 † 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.

rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 2nd August, 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 2nd August, 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, the average prices of coal and gas were approximately the same as a month earlier, viz., 70 per cent. and 60 per cent. respectively above the level of July, 1914. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 2nd August, as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 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 2nd August, is, approximately, 64 per cent.† over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. at 1st July, 1927, and 70 per cent. at 31st July, 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
Apr. ...	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	57
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	66
Aug. ...	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	64
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 increase 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.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed, on the whole, a slight decline as compared with June. The decline occurred mainly in certain of the industries with a high rate of unemployment, viz., pottery, coal mining, steel manufacture, and the shipping service; while the same tendency was felt in the boot and shoe, motor vehicle, and cotton and linen textile industries. A seasonal decline also occurred in the clothing and building industries. In general and marine engineering, tinplate manufacture, shipbuilding, and the dock, canal, and river service, however, there was some improvement; and this occurred also in several of the industries with a comparatively low rate of unemployment, including the manufacture of food and of paper, inland transport, and the distributive and gas, water, and electricity industries.

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 25th July, 1927 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 9.3, as compared with 8.9 at 20th June, 1927, and 14.4 at 26th July, 1926. For males alone the percentage at 25th July was 10.5, as compared with 10.2 at 20th June, 1927; for females the corresponding figures were 5.9 and 5.4. The percentage wholly unemployed rose from 6.5 at 20th June to 6.6 at 25th July. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th July, 1927, was approximately 1,055,000, of whom 838,000 were men and 153,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 27th June, 1927 it was 1,032,000, of whom 836,000 were men and 144,000 were women; and at 26th July, 1926, it was 1,664,000, of whom 1,226,000 were men and 344,000 were women. The figures for July, 1926, were, of course, affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

The following Table shows, month by month since July, 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.				Total.	Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.
	Males.	Females.	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.		
1926.						
July ...	15.1	12.7	8.9	5.5	14.4*	1,664,000*
August ...	14.9	11.6	9.0	5.0	14.0*	1,606,000*
September ...	14.7	11.0	9.0	4.7	13.7*	1,582,000*
October ...	14.8	10.3	9.3	4.3	13.6*	1,610,000*
November ...	14.8	10.0	9.4	4.1	13.5*	1,545,000*
December ...	13.1	8.4	9.1	2.8	11.9*	1,357,000*
1927.						
January ...	13.3	8.5	9.5	2.6	12.1*	1,375,000
February ...	12.2	7.5	8.8	2.1	10.9	1,208,000
March ...	11.2	6.2	7.9	2.0	9.9	1,115,000
April ...	10.8	5.7	7.2	2.2	9.4	1,076,000
May ...	10.0	5.3	6.7	2.1	8.8	1,015,000
June ...	10.2	5.4	6.5	2.4	8.9	1,032,000
July ...	10.5	5.9	6.6	2.7	9.3	1,055,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry employment continued slack on the whole. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd July, 1927, was 995,127, a decrease of 1.7 per cent. as compared with June; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 23rd July, 1927, was 4.43, as compared with 4.68 in June.

In the iron mining industry there was a decrease in the number of workpeople employed in the mines from which returns were received. In shale mining in West Lothian there was a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with June, 1927, but an increase of 1.5 per cent. compared with July, 1926.

Employment at limestone quarries was very good in the Clitheroe district, good in the Buxton district, and fair in the Weardale district. At slate quarries in North Wales it was again good; at whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it continued bad, and at chalk quarries very slack. At tin mines employment remained good, and at china clay quarries fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig-iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed little change as compared with the previous month. Of the 442 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of July, 1927, was 174, compared with 176 in June, 1927, and with 11 in July, 1926.

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.

\* The figures relate to 20th December, 1926.

In the iron and steel trades employment continued slack, on the whole, and short time working was reported in many districts. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades employment continued bad. The number of mills in operation at the end of July, 1927, was 471, compared with 467 in June, 1927, and with 208 in July, 1926.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment continued slack, on the whole, a further improvement in marine and general engineering being counter-balanced by a seasonal decline in the motor and cycle section. In electrical engineering employment continued fairly good; at some of the textile machinery works much short time was still in operation; at railway engineering shops full time working was fairly general; in marine engineering employment, though continuing to improve, was still bad. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment, though still very bad on the whole, also continued to improve. In the other metal trades employment remained moderate, on the whole. It was fairly good in the nut and bolt, and lock and latch trades; fair in the hollow-ware, sheet metal, tube and file trades; moderate in the brasswork, stove and grate, cutlery, and needle and fishing tackle trades; and slack in the metallic bedstead, key, wire, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated ware trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment showed a further decline in the American spinning section, and firms belonging to the Cotton Yarn Association continued to work reduced hours. In the Egyptian spinning section practically full time working continued; in the weaving department employment continued quiet, and a large number of looms were standing idle.

In the wool textile trade short time continued to be prevalent, and there was little change, on the whole, as compared with June.

In the hosiery trades employment continued fairly good; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it was also fairly good; in the lace trade it showed a further improvement; in the linen trade there was a decline and employment was moderate; in the jute trade it continued fair. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment was still slack, with short-time working general.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke and in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed a further seasonal decline, but was fairly good on the whole; some short time was worked in several districts. In the dressmaking and millinery trades employment remained good on the whole; in the London blouse and light underclothing trade it was reported as fair; in the corset and shirt and collar trade it was fairly good generally, with a little short time working reported from a few centres. In the felt-hat trade employment continued good.

In the boot and shoe industry employment showed a marked decline. In practically every district short-time working became more general, and in most districts there was an increase in the number of workpeople wholly unemployed.

Leather Trades.—Employment was fair on the whole in the tanning and currying sections, and with saddlery and harness makers; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section it continued moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment in the building trades remained generally good with skilled operatives, and fair with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, it was very good at most centres with bricklayers and plasterers; generally good with masons, slaters, carpenters and joiners; and fairly good with painters. With tradesmen's labourers it was generally fair, and with plumbers it continued moderate. With brickmakers employment continued good.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with mill-sawyers was fairly good on the whole; with coachbuilders it declined but was still fair; with coopers it improved slightly but was still slack; with packing-case makers it continued bad.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper trade employment was moderate on the whole; with letterpress printers it was also moderate; in the lithographic printing trade it showed a further slight improvement, and was fairly good on the whole. In the bookbinding trades employment continued moderate.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire showed a further slight decline; in certain sections, however, it continued fairly good. In the glass trades employment was slack on the whole, and showed a decline in the glass bottle-making section.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour at the end of July was generally sufficient for the demand, though occasional shortages of temporary workers were reported. In the fishing industry employment showed a further seasonal improvement.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment showed an improvement, but was still slack on the whole; with seamen it continued moderate to fair on the whole.

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 25th July, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,105,400	6.0	3.5	5.2	...	- 1.7
South-Eastern ...	840,200	4.1	3.6	4.0	+ 0.1	- 0.9
South-Western ...	810,900	6.3	4.0	5.8	- 0.4	- 1.8
Midlands ...	1,777,400	8.7	7.3	8.3	...	- 6.5
North-Eastern ...	2,020,500	15.2	7.3	13.6	+ 1.2	- 6.3
North-Western ...	2,145,700	11.3	7.8	10.2	+ 0.6	- 7.9
Scotland ...	1,323,100	11.4	5.7	9.8	+ 0.1	- 8.3
Wales ...	626,800	20.7	5.0	19.2	+ 1.1	- 1.5
Northern Ireland	266,000	15.1	6.6	11.8	+ 0.3	- 12.7
Special Schemes	125,000	1.7	0.4	1.3	...	- 0.5
TOTAL ...	12,041,000	10.5	5.9	9.3	+ 0.4	- 5.1

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 JULY, 1927.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Number.	Percentage of numbers insured at July, 1926.
South-Eastern:						
(a) London ...	2,241	5,041	3,274	4,865	15,421	0.73
(b) Rest of South-Eastern ...	1,459	2,789	1,385	2,178	7,811	0.93
South-Western ...	1,393	2,356	1,365	1,717	6,811	0.84
Midlands ...	1,188	4,152	1,121	3,309	9,770	0.55
North-Eastern ...	1,368	4,920	1,461	3,295	11,044	0.55
North-Western ...	1,423	4,052	1,927	3,870	11,272	0.53
Scotland ...	1,130	3,014	1,186	2,885	8,215	0.62
Wales ...	639	1,788	808	614	3,849	0.61
GREAT BRITAIN ...	10,841	28,092	12,527	22,733	74,193	0.64

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 July, 1927.	July 1927.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	995,127	4.43	- 0.25	...	...
Iron .....	7,012	5.37	- 0.06	...	...
Shale .....	2,687	5.78	- 0.02	+ 0.05	...
Pig Iron ...	...	Furnaces in Blast. 174	Number.	Number.	...
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	Mills working. 471	+ 4	+ 263	...
Iron and Steel ...	59,364	Shifts Worked (one week). 322,581	Per cent.	Per cent.	...
			+ 0.1	+ 132.1	...

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.
Textiles:—				
Cotton ...	76,978	- 2.7	142,679	- 2.7
Woolen ...	64,193	- 0.6	139,377	+ 0.4
Worsted ...	87,827	- 0.8	169,282	- 0.7
Carpet ...	7,580	+ 0.1	14,072	+ 1.6
Boot and Shoe ...	48,266	- 2.5	107,045	- 7.3
Pottery ...	11,032	- 0.5	20,622	+ 0.9
Brick ...	9,455	- 0.8	26,158	- 1.5

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

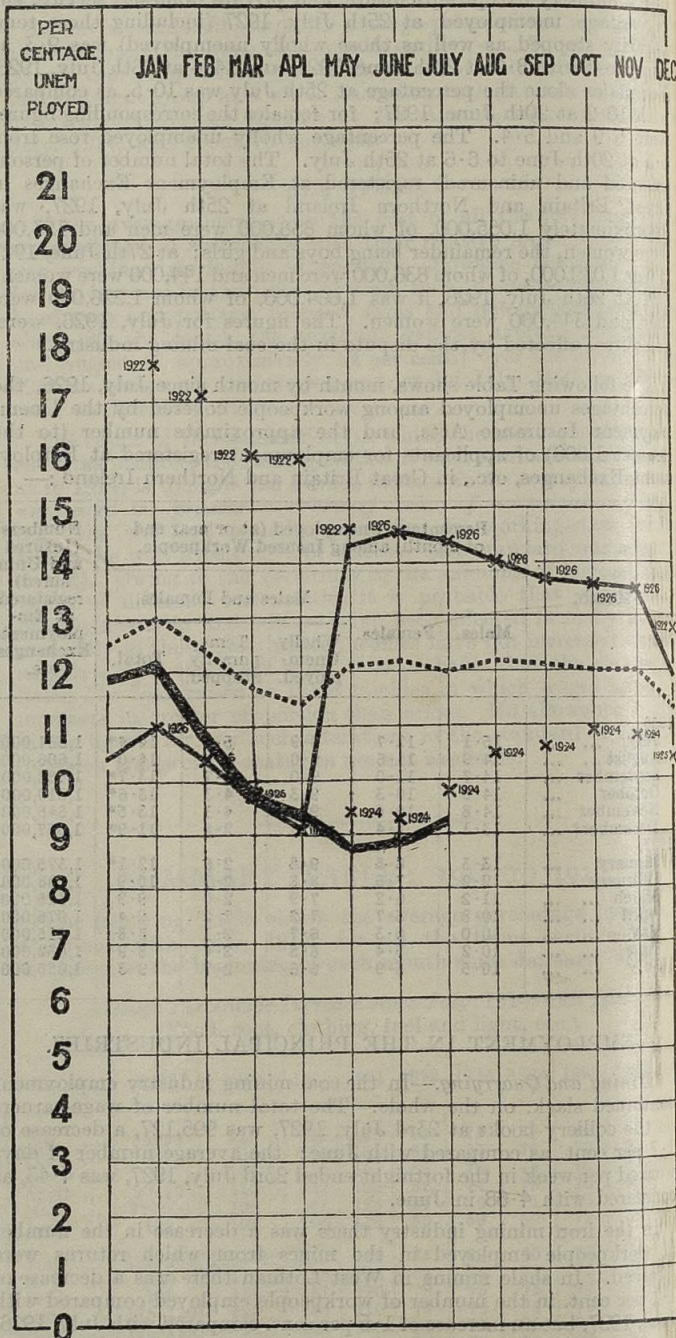
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

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.

x 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 general 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 by March. The figures for the first two months of 1927 were still affected by the results of the coal-mining dispute in some industries and also by a comparatively high rate of unemployment in coal mining itself. The influence of the latter factor had considerably increased by the end of July.

For the whole period of seven months, the percentages for 1927 were well below the mean percentages of the previous five years, and from May to July they were below the mean for the four years 1922 to 1925.

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 July continued slack on the whole; much time was lost on account of holidays, particularly in Scotland.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.0 at 25th July, 1927, as compared with 19.0 at 20th June. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd July, 1927, showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent., as compared with 25th June, 1927, and the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 23rd July, 1927, was 4.43, a decrease of 0.25 of a day, as compared with the fortnight ended 25th June, 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 23rd July, 1927, as shown by the 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 July, 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.*	
	23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.	Fortnight ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.
		Per cent.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND AND WALES:				
Northumberland ...	48,077	- 3.8	4.69	- 0.01
Durham ...	126,787	- 4.4	4.63	+ 0.12
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	11,874	+ 0.1	4.99	+ 0.10
South Yorkshire ...	120,173	0.2	4.60	- 0.06
West Yorkshire ...	61,913	- 1.2	4.10	+ 0.08
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	89,128	- 1.0	3.93	- 0.16
Derbyshire ...	59,896	+ 0.5	4.39	+ 0.12
Nottingham and Leicester ...	67,263	- 0.1	4.43	+ 0.02
Warwick ...	19,027	+ 0.0	5.47	+ 0.12
North Staffordshire ...	32,898	- 0.3	4.57	+ 0.05
South Staff., Worcs. and Salop ...	33,444	+ 0.3	5.07	+ 0.59
Gloucester and Somerset ...	11,741	- 0.3	4.62	+ 0.41
Kent ...	2,394	+ 7.5	5.69	+ 0.09
North Wales ...	14,519	- 7.9	5.32	+ 0.13
South Wales and Mon. ...	191,304	- 2.8	4.76	- 0.50
England and Wales ...	890,438	- 1.8	4.57	- 0.06
SCOTLAND:				
Mid and East Lothians ...	13,367	+ 0.6	4.20	- 0.92
Fife and Clackmannan ...	22,769	- 1.4	2.81	- 1.99
Rest of Scotland ...	68,553	- 0.6	3.22	- 1.83
Scotland ...	104,689	- 0.7	3.26	- 1.75
GREAT BRITAIN ...	995,127	- 1.7	4.43	- 0.25

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 23rd July, 1927, was 1.37 days per week of which 1.04 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties and 0.28 to holidays. The figures for the fortnight ended 25th June, 1927, were 1.12 days per week, of which 1.05 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 23rd July, 1927, was reported to the Mines Department as 18,939,400 tons, as compared with 18,297,400 tons in the four weeks ended 25th June, 1927, which was affected by the Whitsun Holidays.

The export of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,883,500 tons in July, as compared with 5,954,100 tons in June, 1927.

The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 25th July, and the increases or decreases in the percentages, as compared with 20th June, 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 got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.  
† Including Cannock Chase.

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 25th July, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentages as compared with			
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporary stoppages.	Total.	A month before.		Two years before.	
ENGLAND AND WALES:							
Northumberland ...	18.4	5.9	24.3	+ 2.6	+ 2.0	+ 4.6	+ 1.1
Durham ...	21.0	14.9	35.9	+ 3.8	+ 10.2	+ 14.0	+ 12.4
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	3.6	21.5	25.1	+ 0.1	- 2.4	- 2.3	+ 2.7
Yorkshire ...	4.0	6.1	10.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	+ 1.1	+ 1.5
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	5.9	15.4	21.3	- 0.2	- 1.4	- 1.6	+ 11.3
Derbyshire ...	2.9	17.1	20.0	- 0.2	- 1.0	- 1.2	+ 13.5
Notts. and Leicester ...	2.3	7.1	9.4	+ 0.2	- 4.8	- 4.6	+ 2.0
Warwick ...	2.4	0.1	2.5	- 0.2	- 1.8	- 2.0	...
Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	5.3	4.7	10.0	- 0.3	- 6.5	- 6.8	- 3.8
Glos. and Somerset ...	7.9	6.6	14.5	- 0.9	- 7.7	- 8.6	+ 5.0
Kent ...	2.7	...	2.7	- 1.0	...	- 1.0	- 0.8
Wales and Monmouth ...	15.0	13.1	28.1	+ 2.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.9	+ 13.2
England and Wales ...	10.5	11.0	21.5	+ 1.3	+ 0.9	+ 2.2	+ 7.6
SCOTLAND ...	12.9	4.7	17.6	- 0.5	+ 1.0	+ 0.5	- 4.0
GREAT BRITAIN ...	10.8	10.2	21.0	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	+ 2.0	+ 6.1

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

THERE was a further small decrease in the total number of workpeople employed in the mines from which returns were received, compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.5 at 25th July, 1927, as compared with 8.1 at 20th June, 1927, and 66.7 at 26th July, 1926.

The following Table summarizes the information received from those employers who furnished returns for June and July, 1927. In July, 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 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.	Fortnight ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.
		Per cent.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,861	- 8.5	4.74	- 0.22
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,701	- 1.1	5.90	+ 0.02
Other Districts ...	1,450	+ 6.8	5.59	...
ALL DISTRICTS ...	7,012	- 2.8	5.37	- 0.06

SHALE MINING.

According to the returns received, 2,687 workpeople were employed in the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 23rd July, 1927, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with the previous month, but an increase of 1.5 per cent. compared with July, 1926. The average number of days\* worked per week by the mines from which returns were received was 5.78 in July, 1927, compared with 5.80 in June, 1927, and 5.73 in July, 1926.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed little change on the whole as compared with June. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.6 on 25th July, 1927, compared with 12.7 on 20th June, 1927, and with 66.2 on 26th July, 1926.

\* See footnote \* in previous column.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 174 furnaces were in operation at the end of July, compared with 176 at the end of June. Returns received from 79 firms employing 19,456 workpeople at the end of July showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. compared with June.

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
		July, 1927.	June, 1927.	July, 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
Durham and Cleveland	99	41	42	4	- 1	+ 37
Cumberland and W. Lancs	44	13	13	...	...	+ 13
Parts of Lancs and Works (including Sheffield)	33	14	13	...	+ 1	+ 14
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants	64	31	32	1	- 1	+ 30
Lincolnshire	24	15	15	...	...	+ 15
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	55	15	16*	1	- 1	+ 14
South Wales	28	9	9	1	...	+ 8
England and Wales	347	138	140*	7	- 2	+ 131
Scotland	95	36	36	...	...	+ 36
Total	442	174	176*	7	- 2	+ 167

The production of pig iron in July amounted to 645,800 tons, as compared with 651,300 tons in June, 1927, and 17,900 tons in July, 1926.

**IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.**

EMPLOYMENT in July continued slack on the whole. Short-time working was reported in many districts. In Scotland most works were closed in the week ended 23rd July on account of holidays and in many cases the holiday period was extended. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.2 on 25th July, 1927, as compared with 16.8 on 20th June, 1927, and 53.1 on 26th July, 1926. According to returns received from firms employing 59,364 workpeople in the week ended 23rd July, 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) increased by 0.1 per cent. as compared with June, and by 132.1 per cent. as compared with a year before. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.4 in July, 1927, the same as in June, 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.†		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Month before.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Month before.	Per cent.	Per cent.
OpenHearth Melting Furnaces	6,375	- 1.2	+ 882.3	37,003	+ 2.4	+ 976.0		
Puddling Forges	1,908	- 3.2	+ 4670.0	8,165	+ 2.8	+ 3982.5		
Rolling Mills	21,933	- 0.1	+ 152.4	112,115	+ 0.4	+ 170.8		
Forging and Pressing	3,199	- 2.0	+ 93.4	16,675	- 2.8	+ 96.7		
Founding	7,621	- 0.0	+ 25.2	43,681	+ 0.6	+ 35.3		
Other Departments	6,995	- 3.1	+ 69.7	39,846	+ 3.3	+ 68.5		
Labourers	11,333	+ 0.2	+ 114.9	65,096	+ 0.4	+ 124.4		
TOTAL	59,364	- 0.7	+ 123.9	322,581	+ 0.1	+ 132.1		

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 682,900 tons in July, 1927, as compared with 747,300 tons in June, 1927, and 32,100 tons in July, 1926.

\* Revised figure.  
† 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.  
‡ Most of the works in Scotland were closed on account of holidays in the week ended 23rd July, 1927.

**TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.**

EMPLOYMENT during July continued bad. At the end of July 471 tinplate and steel-sheet mills were in operation at the works for which information is available, compared with 467 in the previous month and with 208 in July, 1926. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 24.0 on 25th July, 1927, as compared with 25.5 on 20th June, 1927, and with 55.6 on 26th July, 1926. Employment in July of last year was seriously affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

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 July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate	62	- 1	+ 33	339	- 3	+ 192
Steel Sheet	13	...	+ 9	132	+ 7	+ 71
TOTAL	75	- 1	+ 42	471	+ 4	+ 263

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in July, 1927, amounted to 103,017 tons, or 3,595 tons more than in June, 1927, and 29,650 tons more than in July, 1925.

**ENGINEERING.**

EMPLOYMENT during July remained slack on the whole, a further improvement in marine and general engineering being counter-balanced by a seasonal decline in the motor and cycle section. In electrical engineering employment continued fairly good, but showed a slight decline. At railway engineering works full time was still fairly general, and some overtime was again reported. At some of the textile machinery works much short time was still in operation. In marine engineering employment, though continuing to improve, was still bad. Conditions were much better than in the corresponding period of last year, when employment was adversely affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th July, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th July, 1927.							Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and other Works, Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
London	4,385	395	53	84	1,363	6,280	- 363	- 3,089		
South-Eastern	1,663	197	175	44	905	2,984	+ 127	- 1,927		
South-Western	1,567	129	441	30	4,465	3,632	+ 108	- 239		
Midlands	5,825	1,160	34	404	11,242	18,665	+ 5,010	- 10,228		
North-Eastern	16,896	508	3,628	682	794	22,506	- 2,032	- 21,985		
North-Western	14,703	1,167	114	102	1,749	17,835	- 488	- 16,342		
Scotland	8,007	166	1,879	633	544	11,229	- 117	- 13,933		
Wales	913	13	10	86	136	1,158	+ 16	- 2,542		
Northern Ireland	1,062	55	1,182	12	141	2,452	- 557	- 1,692		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	55,021	3,790	7,514	2,077	18,339	86,741	+ 1,704	- 71,977		

Divisions.	Percentage Unemployed at 25th July, 1927.									
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and other Works, Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
London	5.2	3.5	8.3	2.9	3.8	4.7	- 0.2	- 2.2		
South-Eastern	3.9	2.3	5.2	6.9	3.4	3.7	+ 0.2	- 0.3		
South-Western	4.4	4.1	6.9	3.9	6.2	5.2	+ 0.1	- 0.4		
Midlands	13.6	6.4	16.7	8.9	7.0	13.0	- 1.2	- 12.7		
North-Eastern	10.5	6.3	8.8	4.1	9.1	9.8	- 0.3	- 9.1		
North-Western	9.5	5.6	10.6	11.2	5.5	9.3	- 0.1	- 11.5		
Scotland	13.3	3.5	4.8	7.1	15.5	15.5	+ 0.2	- 25.1		
Wales	14.5	23.9	21.5	30.0	8.0	16.5	- 3.8	- 11.4		
Northern Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	8.9	4.9	12.9	7.6	8.2	8.7	+ 0.2	- 7.1		
July, 1927	9.4	4.7	14.7	7.6	5.7	8.5	...	...		
July, 1926	17.5	8.5	28.7	22.8	9.6	15.8	...	...		

On the North-East Coast employment, though still bad in marine and general engineering, continued to improve in both sections. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire conditions remained slack, but continued to improve slightly. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment on the whole was still bad, but showed an improvement. The textile machinery section remained depressed, and a decline was shown in the motor section; but conditions in railway engineering were good, and a little improvement was reported in heavy engineering at some centres.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry district there was a seasonal decline on motor and cycle work, especially at Coventry, where holidays were extended in many cases; employment continued moderate in general engineering and fairly good in electrical engineering. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district

employment continued fair. In London and the South-Eastern Counties it continued fairly good on the whole, and good in the electrical and motor sections. In the South-Western Counties employment continued fairly good.

In Wales employment was again bad, and showed a slight decline. In Scotland a slight further improvement was shown in both general and marine engineering. In Northern Ireland conditions were still very bad, but a further decided improvement was experienced.

**SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING**

EMPLOYMENT during July, though still very bad on the whole, continued to improve, the percentage unemployed at the end of the month being the lowest reached for some years.

The greatest improvement shown at 25th July in comparison with a month before was on the North-East Coast, in Wales, and in Northern Ireland; there was a slight decline on the Thames, and a slight improvement in the remaining districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th July, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with 20th June, 1927, and with 26th July, 1926:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 25th July, 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 25th July, 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London	2,083	+ 187	- 1	18.3	+ 1.6	...
South-Eastern	666	- 174	4	7.5	- 1.9	...
South-Western	2,774	- 211	564	11.6	- 0.9	- 2.4
Midlands	25	- 5	19	8.7	- 1.6	- 6.3
North-Eastern	16,174	- 1,841	- 20,915	25.7	- 2.9	- 33.2
North-Western	8,598	- 47	- 1,651	26.6	- 0.2	- 5.2
Scotland	11,318	- 20	- 16,593	19.1	...	- 28.0
Wales	3,292	- 457	- 2,008	31.2	- 4.3	- 19.0
Northern Ireland	3,203	- 602	- 3,158	22.0	- 4.1	- 21.6
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	48,134	- 3,170	- 44,913	21.5	- 1.4	- 20.0

**COTTON INDUSTRY.**

EMPLOYMENT showed a further decline in the American spinning section, in which firms belonging to the Cotton Yarn Association continued to work reduced hours. Some firms not belonging to the Association, however, were working full time. It is computed that the output in this section, taken as a whole, did not equal more than 65 per cent. of the normal production. The decline in this section was partly due to the holidays in the weaving districts, which reduced the demand for yarn. Since the close of the month the American section of the General Committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation have recommended firms spinning American cotton to close their mills for an extra week before September 10th, in addition to the annual holidays.

In the Egyptian spinning section practically full-time working continued. In the weaving department employment continued quiet, and a large number of looms were standing idle. Extended stoppages were common at the local trade holidays in the weaving districts. Some makers of voiles, poplins and other fine cloths, however, were well employed; and there was some revival in the demand from China.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.2 on 25th July, 1927, as compared with 7.0 on 20th June, 1927, and with 28.1 on 26th July, 1926.

Employment with spinners in the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts showed a decline, and was slack; it was affected by the reduction in demand consequent on the holidays in the weaving districts, and also (at Oldham and at the neighbouring town of Middleton) by severe floods, which threw many workpeople out of work for a week or ten days in the middle of the month. Some firms, however, particularly at Royton (in the Oldham district) worked full time during the month. In the weaving department at Oldham there was also a decline, and employment was bad; short time was very prevalent, and in some cases where full time was worked weavers were tending a reduced number of looms. A decline was reported at Bury and at Rochdale; and at Heywood the local trade holidays were extended at some mills.

Employment with spinners was good at Bolton and very good at Leigh; with cardroom workers employment showed an improvement, and was good. In the weaving department there was some improvement, particularly with weavers of fancy goods; employment with weavers and winders at the end of the month was described as fair. At Preston there was an improvement; mill stoppages were fewer, and there was less under-employment among those operatives who were at work. Employment was fairly good in mills engaged in light, fancy goods; those engaged on sheetings, grey shirtings

and heavier goods generally were slack. There was a slight revival in the demand from China. Employment at Chorley was good with spinners, and showed an improvement with weavers. Employment at Blackburn showed a decline; the local trade holidays were extended by many firms, and a large number of mills, including some of the largest in the district, were closed at the end of the month. At Accrington there was an improvement; fewer winders were unemployed. At Darwen there was a decline; several mills closed for extended holiday periods; under-employment was very prevalent, many weavers tending only half their usual number of looms, and the preparation departments were working very irregularly. Employment at Burnley showed little change, and remained poor; though some weavers who had been minding two or three looms for a considerable time were minding three or four in July. There was an improvement at Colne; at Nelson, on the other hand, there was a decline; many weavers were tending two or three looms instead of four.

Employment in Yorkshire showed a slight improvement, and was described as fair. Employment continued good at Hebden Bridge, where full time was almost universal; at Sowerby Bridge employment was irregular.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Preparing	10,323	- 5.1	+ 0.1	16,979	- 7.1	+ 13.1
Spinning	20,258	- 4.5	+ 5.0	35,416	- 5.6	+ 19.0
Weaving	31,238	- 1.3	+ 11.0	56,426	+ 0.2	+ 18.8
Other	7,467	- 1.4	+ 4.4	18,079	- 1.5	+ 8.8
Not Specified	7,692	- 1.4	- 7.0	15,779	- 2.5	+ 16.7
TOTAL	76,978	- 2.7	+ 5.2	142,679	- 2.7	+ 16.6

Returns from firms employing nearly 75,000 workpeople in the week ended 23rd July showed that about 13½ per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, with a loss of nearly 14½ 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 25th July, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 25th July, 1927.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room	435	1,405	1,840	968	6,104	7,072	8,912
Spinning	1,936	1,334	3,270	7,087	5,144	12,231	15,501
Beaming, Winding and Warping	362	838	1,200	849	5,976	6,825	8,025
Weaving	776	1,185	1,961	1,146	3,725	4,871	6,832
Other Processes	273	66	339	214	94	308	647
Total	3,782	4,828	8,610	10,264	21,043	31,307	39,917

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 20th June, 1927:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room	+ 58	+ 69	+ 126	+ 370	+ 2,495	+ 2,865	+ 2,991
Spinning	+ 99	+ 201	+ 300	+ 2,709	+ 1,307	+ 4,016	+ 4,316
Beaming, Winding and Warping	- 69	- 30	- 99	+ 73	+ 1,082	+ 1,155	+ 1,056
Weaving	- 74	- 75	- 149	+ 230	+ 1,268	+ 1,498	+ 1,349
Other Processes	- 40	- 10	- 50	+ 43	- 75	- 32	- 82
Total	- 26	+ 154	+ 128	+ 3,425	+ 6,077	+ 9,502	+ 9,630

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 49,950,200 lbs. in July, 1927, compared with 97,968,200 lbs. in June, 1927, and with 95,625,600 lbs. in July, 1926.

The exports of cotton yarn were 13,986,600 lbs. in July, 1927, compared with 17,177,300 lbs. in June, 1927, and with 12,363,500 lbs. in July, 1926.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 336,166,500 square yards, as compared with 330,098,800 square yards in the previous month, and with 359,610,800 square yards in July, 1926.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

THERE was little general change in employment in July. The provision of full time work prior to the local holidays accounted for an improvement in employment in certain districts towards the end of the month. Compared with a year ago, when employment was much affected by the dispute in the coal mining industry, there was a decided improvement. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.3 on 25th July, 1927, as compared with 9.4 on 20th June, 1927, and with 23.3 on 26th July, 1926. Returns received from firms employing 159,600 workpeople showed a reduction of 0.6 per cent. in the total number employed, and of 0.1 per cent. in the total amount of wages paid in the week ended 23rd July, 1927, as compared with the week ended 25th June, 1927.

The worsted section of the industry showed a further slight tendency to decline. In the wool-sorting department employment remained moderate, but was better than a year earlier. In the wool-combing department, however, there was a slight improvement, and employment was fair in the merino section, although still bad in the cross-bred section. About 36 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received, for the sorting and combing and preparing sections, worked short time in the week ended 23rd July, with a loss of about 13 hours each on the average; on the other hand, about 4 per cent. worked about 8 hours each, in overtime. In worsted drawing and spinning there was a decrease in the number of operatives temporarily stopped, but little change in the number wholly unemployed; about 26 per cent. of the spinners lost about 11 hours each, on an average, in short time working during the week ended 23rd July, while 5 per cent. were working overtime to the extent, on an average, of 5 hours each. In the worsted weaving section there was a decline, on the whole, as compared with June, but there was some variation as between different districts. The returns received from employers for the week ended 23rd July showed that about 23 per cent. of the worsted weavers worked short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 12½ hours each.

The returns received from employers in the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, showed that, in the week ended 23rd July, 26 per cent. of their workpeople were on short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 11½ hours each; while slightly over 4 per cent. were working overtime, to the average extent of about 6 hours each.

In the woollen section of the industry there was little change on the whole as compared with June. In the spinning section about 21 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 23rd July, with a loss, on the average, of about 9 hours each; the corresponding figures for the weaving section were 23 per cent. and about 9½ hours. On the other hand, 16 per cent. of the spinners were on overtime, to the extent of about 9 hours each 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, nearly 21 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, 9½ hours each in short-time working; while 11 per cent. worked an average of about 8 hours each in overtime.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley District employment with woollen workers was about the same as a month earlier. In the Heavy Woollen district, however, there was a further improvement, and employment was better than a year ago. The improvement previously reported in the Morley area was maintained, on the whole, during July; at Leeds there was a little improvement; in the Yeadon and Guiseley district employment declined with some firms and improved with others. At Stockport employment continued fair. Blanket manufacturers at Dewsbury reported a further improvement, and full time was worked at Hebden Bridge; while at Witney the operatives continued to be well employed. At Rochdale employment with flannel workers was not satisfactory; at Saddleworth it continued fair, and was rather better than a year ago.

In Scotland there was a seasonal decline in the wool-spinning trade of Alloa, but elsewhere employment continued good. Tweed manufacturers in the south of Scotland were busy on winter orders, and at some factories overtime was worked.

In the carpet trade employment continued fairly good. At Kidderminster employment was fairly good, with most operatives on full time. In the West Riding employment continued fair on the whole. In Scotland employment was good on the whole. Taking the carpet trade as a whole, the employers' returns for the week ended 23rd July showed 19 per cent. of the operatives working short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 7 hours each; while about 4 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 5 hours each on an average.

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

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
<b>WORSTED SECTION :</b>						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	11,114	+ 0.4	101.0	27,242	+ 1.5	96.1
Spinning ...	42,530	- 0.2	98.5	67,118	+ 0.1	99.0
Weaving ...	21,122	- 2.5	96.7	42,483	- 4.2	95.0
Other Depts. ...	10,938	- 1.1	99.2	27,740	- 1.1	98.9
Not specified ...	2,063	+ 2.0	102.1	4,659	+ 11.9	112.8
<b>Total—Worsted</b>	<b>87,827</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>169,282</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>97.7</b>
<b>WOOLLEN SECTION :</b>						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	1,078	+ 0.4	100.4	2,633	- 1.5	108.2
Spinning ...	14,750	- 0.7	99.8	33,761	+ 1.0	115.7
Weaving ...	27,263	- 0.7	106.4	52,082	+ 0.1	115.0
Other Depts. ...	18,981	- 0.4	100.3	46,109	+ 0.5	111.0
Not specified ...	2,121	+ 0.3	101.0	4,792	- 1.0	105.0
<b>Total—Woollen</b>	<b>64,193</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>139,377</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>113.2</b>
<b>CARPET SECTION ...</b>	<b>7,580</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>14,072</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>88.0</b>
<b>Total—Wool Textile Industry</b>	<b>159,600</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>322,731</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>103.2</b>
<b>Districts* :</b>						
<b>WORSTED SECTION :</b>						
Bradford ...	38,852	- 0.6	98.0	77,453	+ 0.1	93.0
Huddersfield ...	10,223	- 0.9	104.0	22,239	- 2.4	106.4
Halifax ...	9,845	+ 0.3	93.5	17,371	+ 2.6	93.8
Leeds ...	8,973	- 2.2	97.4	16,111	- 4.6	95.5
Keighley ...	9,374	- 1.2	101.7	18,113	+ 0.1	117.4
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,419	- 1.2	98.2	5,688	+ 2.2	106.7
<b>Total, West Riding</b>	<b>80,686</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>156,975</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>97.7</b>
West of England and Midlands ...	4,821	- 0.8	97.2	8,575	- 5.3	90.8
Lancs ...	330	+ 0.9	114.8	597	+ 5.5	104.3
Scotland ...	1,990	+ 0.3	99.9	3,135	- 2.3	129.7
<b>Total—Worsted</b>	<b>87,827</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>169,282</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>97.7</b>
<b>WOOLLEN SECTION :</b>						
Huddersfield ...	12,225	- 1.6	97.5	28,206	- 0.5	98.7
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	12,938	- 0.0	106.7	30,726	+ 5.0	134.4
Leeds ...	9,842	- 0.7	106.8	22,659	- 1.3	125.0
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,850	- 2.2	93.8	6,038	+ 0.4	91.1
Bradford ...	1,422	...	107.9	3,271	- 0.7	107.7
<b>Total, West Riding</b>	<b>39,277</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>90,990</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>114.2</b>
Lancs ...	6,191	+ 0.7	103.2	13,295	+ 1.4	114.7
West of England and Midlands ...	3,915	- 2.3	105.1	7,086	- 1.9	116.5
Scotland ...	14,567	+ 0.1	102.2	27,738	- 2.0	109.2
Wales ...	243	+ 4.7	160.6	358	+ 4.1	174.0
<b>Total—Woollen</b>	<b>64,193</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>139,377</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>113.2</b>
<b>CARPET SECTION ...</b>	<b>7,580</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>14,072</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>88.0</b>
<b>Total—Wool Textile Industry</b>	<b>159,600</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>322,731</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>103.2</b>

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed, in the week ended 23rd July, 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 25th June, 1927:—

Departments :	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spin-ning.	Weav-ing.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
<b>WORSTED SECTION :</b>					
Bradford ...	- 0.1	- 0.0	- 1.8	- 2.7	- 0.6
Huddersfield ...	+ 1.2	+ 1.3	- 3.7	+ 0.4	- 0.9
Halifax ...	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	...	+ 0.3
Leeds ...	+ 5.7	- 0.9	- 5.3	- 1.2	- 2.2
Keighley ...	+ 1.4	- 1.7	- 1.2	- 0.3	- 1.2
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	+ 6.4	- 7.2	- 1.2
<b>Total, West Riding</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>- 2.5</b>	<b>- 1.4</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 4.2	- 0.8	- 2.8	- 0.6	- 0.8
Lancashire ...	...	+ 1.4	...	- 3.2	+ 0.9
Scotland ...	+ 3.7	- 1.0	...	+ 1.8	+ 0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>- 2.5</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>

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

Department.	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spin-ning.	Weav-ing.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
<b>WOOLLEN SECTION :</b>					
Huddersfield ...	+ 7.0	+ 0.6	- 3.2	- 1.5	- 1.6
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 3.4	- 0.3	- 0.8	+ 0.4	- 0.0
Leeds ...	- 2.4	- 1.9	+ 0.2	- 0.8	- 0.7
Halifax and Calder Vale	- 14.7	- 1.9	- 2.0	- 2.3	- 2.2
Bradford ...	...	+ 2.2	- 0.2	...	...
<b>Total, West Riding</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>
Lancashire ...	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
West of England and Midlands ...	- 5.3	- 5.8	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 2.3
Scotland ...	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Wales ...	+ 6.3	+ 8.2	+ 9.0	- 2.6	+ 4.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>- 0.6</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 25th July, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 25th July, 1927.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ...	113	3	116	165	1	166
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	194	84	278	347	191	538
Wool Combing ...	111	61	172	321	268	589
Wool Carding ...	244	48	292	419	119	538
Woolen Spinning ...	160	33	193	279	113	392
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	225	596	821	139	1,428	1,567
Wool Winding and Warping ...	47	13	60	126	69	195
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	45	83	128	106	576	682
Woolen Weaving ...	70	93	163	185	1,389	1,574
Worsted Weaving ...	119	325	444	155	2,837	2,992
Other Processes ...	407	40	447	482	174	656
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>2,724</b>	<b>7,165</b>	<b>9,889</b>

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 20th June, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 25th July, 1927.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ...	- 2	+ 1	- 1	- 28	...	- 28
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	- 13	- 11	- 24	+ 8	+ 11	+ 19
Wool Combing ...	- 18	- 12	- 30	- 157	- 181	- 338
Wool Carding ...	- 28	+ 5	- 23	- 2	+ 41	+ 39
Woolen Spinning ...	+ 11	- 5	+ 6	+ 52	+ 4	+ 54
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	- 13	+ 73	+ 60	- 122	- 396	- 518
Wool Winding and Warping ...	- 18	- 5	- 23	- 5	+ 12	+ 7
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	- 23	- 10	- 33	+ 76	- 20	+ 56
Woolen Weaving ...	+ 7	+ 4	+ 11	+ 25	+ 753	+ 789
Worsted Weaving ...	+ 9	+ 2	+ 11	+ 103	+ 4	+ 110
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 90</b>	<b>+ 37</b>	<b>- 53</b>	<b>- 47</b>	<b>+ 277</b>	<b>+ 230</b>

The imports, less re-exports of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 20,655,700 lbs. in July, 1927, compared with 27,331,800 lbs. in June, 1927, and 22,551,200 lbs. in July, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,375,700 lbs. compared with 4,636,900 lbs. in June, 1927, and with 3,561,800 lbs. in July, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 15,977,700 square yards, compared with 13,559,300 square yards in June, 1927, and 17,993,400 square yards in July, 1926.

The exports of blankets were 100,035 pairs, 71,282 pairs and 79,554 pairs in July, 1927, June, 1927, and July, 1926.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

THE slight decline in employment which became noticeable in June became more definite and widespread during July. In practically every district short time working became more general, and in most districts there was an increase in the numbers wholly unemployed.

There were considerable variations in the state of employment as between different districts and different firms; on the whole, the larger factories were the better employed. The dull and wet weather affected the demand for light shoes.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.3 on 25th July, 1927, as compared with 6.5 on 20th June, 1927, and with 14.2 on 26th July, 1926.

Employment in London, though fair in some districts, was seriously depressed in others, and on the whole was only moderate, and not so

good as a month earlier. At Leicester there was a further marked decline, and employment was very quiet and generally worse even than in July, 1926, when employment was affected by the shortage of fuel consequent on the coal dispute; in the week ended 23rd July, 1927, about 55 per cent. of the operatives in respect of whom returns were received were working short time, losing on an average over 12 hours each. At Northampton there was an increase in the numbers of operatives working short time or suspended; employment was poor, and only slightly better than in July of last year. There was a decline in the Higham and Rushden area, where many factories were on short time; employment, however, was still described as fair. Employment remained fairly satisfactory at Raunds, and at Irthlingborough it was fair on the whole, though with an increase of short time; but at Wollaston the majority of operatives were on short time. At Wellingborough employment was less brisk than in June, and more short time was worked. At Kettering employment remained fair, showing little change as compared with the previous month.

There was a sharp decline at Stafford during July, and nearly all of the factories worked a good deal of short time. At Norwich, also, employment became much more depressed, demand being affected by the inclement weather; many operatives were discharged during the month, and towards the end of the month over 50 per cent. of those who were at work were losing on an average about 12 hours a week in short time working. At Street employment was fair, but not so good as in June. In the Bristol and Kingswood district there was a little seasonal improvement, and employment was fair with the larger firms, particularly in the heavy-boot trade; there was comparatively little short time working. At Leeds employment declined, and was moderate or poor, particularly with the smaller firms. At Bury employment remained fairly good; at Bacup and Rawtenstall it was disorganised by a dispute during the latter part of the month, but before the dispute began it was good.

In Scotland employment was quiet or moderate, on the whole, except at Maybole, where full time was generally worked; employment was, however, a little better than in June.

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

Department.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Per cent.	Week ended 23rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Per cent.
	England and Wales:—					
London ...	1,963	- 3.1	+ 2.4	4,113	- 6.0	- 2.2
Leicester ...	7,972	- 6.2	- 1.2	18,830	- 11.6	+ 6.4
Leicester Country District ...	2,014	- 1.9	+ 9.2	4,209	- 10.1	+ 9.6
Northampton ...						



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

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	+ 1	+ 6	+ 7	+ 71	+ 19	+ 90	+ 97
Rough Stuff Department ...	+ 90	+ 8	+ 98	+ 116	— 1	+ 115	+ 213
Closing Department ...	+ 262	+ 2	+ 264	+ 666	— 1	+ 665	+ 939
Making Department ...	+ 2	+ 549	+ 551	+ 27	+ 930	+ 957	+ 1,508
Finishing Department ...	+ 353	+ 6	+ 359	+ 502	— 11	+ 491	+ 850
Slipper Making ...	+ 320	+ 174	+ 494	+ 453	+ 236	+ 739	+ 1,233
Clog Making ...	— 36	— 14	— 50	+ 39	+ 56	+ 95	+ 45
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	— 50	+ 2	— 48	+ 2	+ 2	+ 4	— 44
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>+ 940</b>	<b>+ 732</b>	<b>+ 1,672</b>	<b>+ 1,875</b>	<b>+ 1,281</b>	<b>+ 3,156</b>	<b>+ 4,828</b>

The exports of boots and shoes in July, 1927, amounted to 106,848 dozen pairs, or 15,318 dozen pairs more than in June, 1927, but 20,396 dozen pairs less than in July, 1926.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed little variation, on the whole, as compared with the previous month; it remained generally good with skilled operatives, a little overtime being worked in some districts, and fair with unskilled workers. Employment was generally better than in July, 1926, when it was adversely affected by a shortage of materials arising out of the stoppage in the coal-mining industry.

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

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 25th July, 1927, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with July, 1926:—

Occupations.	Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 25th July, 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
Carpenters ...	126,460	4,068	111	3.2	...	— 1.4
Bricklayers ...	72,150	1,245	71	1.7	+ 0.4	— 1.7
Masons ...	25,240	1,116	63	4.4	+ 0.4	— 0.6
Slaters ...	5,710	229	7	4.0	— 0.1	— 1.4
Plasterers ...	19,720	336	10	1.7	— 0.4	— 0.2
Painters ...	112,930	9,347	132	8.3	+ 2.4	— 1.9
Plumbers ...	31,860	2,293	40	7.2	— 0.4	— 1.2
Labourers to above ...	245,860	23,455	486	9.5	+ 0.6	— 2.0
All other occupations ...	161,110	18,128	487	11.3	+ 0.3	— 2.7
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>801,040</b>	<b>60,217</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>— 1.9</b>

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 138 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,792,000, show that in July, 1927, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,024,500, as compared with £6,000,500 in June, 1927, and £5,805,400 in July, 1926. Of the total for July, 1927, dwelling houses accounted for £2,627,400; factories and workshops for £420,500; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £684,100; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,292,500.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during July continued good generally, but some time was lost on account of bad weather. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.1 at 25th July, 1927, as compared with 5.2 at 20th June, 1927 and 22.1 at 26th July, 1926. The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review:—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Per cent. on a Year before.	Week ended 25rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Per cent. on a Year before.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,074	— 0.3	+ 22.8	£ 5,462	— 1.0	+ 33.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,561	— 1.1	+ 21.7	16,132	— 1.0	+ 27.1
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,648	— 0.5	+ 43.8	4,031	— 5.0	+ 42.7
Scotland ...	172	...	+ 50.9	483	+ 7.1	+ 98.8
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>9,455</b>	<b>— 0.8</b>	<b>+ 25.7</b>	<b>26,158</b>	<b>— 1.5</b>	<b>+ 31.5</b>

Returns from employers relative to short time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that of 9,455 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 550, or 5.8 per cent., were working on an average about 9 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th July, 1927. This was mainly due to failure of electric power in one centre.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further slight decline, and there was much short-time working. In the best china ware and in the sanitary ware sections, however, employment was fairly good. At Worcester and Derby employment was also fairly good; in the stoneware section in Scotland it was reported to be moderate.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.2 at 25th July, 1927, as compared with 13.6 at 20th June, 1927, and 57.3 at 26th July, 1926.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Per cent. on a Year before.	Week ended 25rd July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Per cent. on a Year before.
China Manufacture ...	1,237	+ 0.2	+ 50.5	2,514	+ 9.1	+ 97.6
Earthenware Manufacture ...	7,879	— 0.6	+ 84.6	14,602	+ 0.8	+ 118.6
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,916	— 0.3	+ 46.1	3,506	— 3.9	+ 48.9
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>11,032</b>	<b>— 0.5</b>	<b>+ 72.4</b>	<b>20,622</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 100.1</b>

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,032 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4,623, or 46 per cent., were working on an average about 12 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th July, 1927.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade was moderate on the whole during July. An improvement on the previous month was reported in a few districts.

With letterpress printers employment continued moderate on the whole. It was again reported as bad at Birmingham, but there was, nevertheless, some improvement on the previous month, and an improvement was also reported at Glasgow and at Cardiff. Employment generally continued good with electrotypers and stereotypers. In the lithographic printing trade employment on the whole was fairly good, and showed a further slight improvement; the principal exception was at Leicester, where employment was reported to be bad. Employment was generally fair with lithographic artists.

Employment continued moderate in the bookbinding trade. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 4.3 at 25th July, compared with 4.6 at 20th June, and 5.7 at 26th July, 1926. In the paper and paper-board industry the percentage was 5.3 at 25th July, compared with 6.3 at 20th June, and 8.2 at 26th July, 1926. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery trades, the percentage was 3.8 at 25th July, compared with 4.3 at 20th June, and 5.7 at 26th July, 1926.

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

Trade Unions.	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		July, 1927.	June, 1927.	July, 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing: London ...	40,275	5.3	5.1	3.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.9
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	17,480	3.8	4.1	5.0	— 0.3	— 1.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	11,014	2.9	2.6	3.5	+ 0.3	— 0.6
Scotland ...	6,980	4.4	5.6	5.2	— 1.2	— 0.8
Other Districts ...	11,105	3.6	3.5	4.4	+ 0.1	— 0.8
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>86,854</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>
Lithographic Printing	10,779	2.8	3.1	3.1	— 0.3	— 0.3
Bookbinding ...	2,529	3.8	4.1	5.3	— 0.3	— 1.5

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT improved during July, but was still slack on the whole.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 21.1 per cent. were unemployed at 25th July, 1927, as compared with 24.2 per cent. at 20th June, 1927, and with 32.4 per cent. at 26th July, 1926.

London.—Employment improved a little, and was reported to be fair. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	In Docks.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
2nd July, 1927 ...	4,265	2,448	6,713	7,409	14,122
9th " ...	4,820	2,424	7,244	7,376	14,621
16th " ...	4,546	2,512	7,058	7,383	14,441
23rd " ...	4,833	2,139	6,972	7,300	14,272
30th " ...	4,243	1,860	6,103	7,484	13,587
Average for 5 weeks ended 30th July, 1927 ...	4,541	2,256	6,797	7,511	14,308
Average for June, 1927 ...	4,022	2,324	6,346	7,668	14,014
Average for July, 1926 ...	4,831	1,845	6,676	7,343	14,019

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during July was 719, compared with 753 in June, and with 854 in July, 1926.

East Coast.—Employment on the North-East Coast continued moderate with coal trimmers. It was fair with other dock workers on the Tyne and at Blyth, and showed a further small improvement. On the Wear there was little change. At Middlesbrough employment was fairly good, but had fallen off as compared with June. At Hull and Grimsby imports of grain and fruit provided increased employment, but coal workers were slack at the former port. Employment improved at Ipswich, and was fair there and at most of the other East Anglian ports.

Liverpool.—Employment improved a little, but was still slack on the whole. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 29th July was 14,519, compared with 14,689 in June, and with 14,168 in July, 1926. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £38,826 in the four weeks ended 29th July, compared with £37,369 in June, and with £36,064 in July, 1926.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment was slack with coal trimmers at the South Wales ports; on general cargoes it was fair or moderate. There was a distinct improvement at Bristol, and the improvement recorded last month at Gloucester and Sharpness was maintained. Work remained slack at Plymouth and other South-Western ports, and there was a decline at Southampton with the cessation of the potato and fruit imports.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Dundee an improvement in the first three weeks was followed by a decline, and employment was only moderate at the end of the month. It continued fair at Leith and at Glasgow. At Belfast there was a further improvement, and employment was good.

SEAMEN.

DURING July employment continued moderate to fair on the whole, with a tendency to decline towards the close of the month.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 25th July, 1927, was 15.8, compared with 14.8 at 20th June, 1927, and 21.4 at 26th July, 1926.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate during the first half of July, but improved subsequently, and was reported as fair at the end of the month. It was generally moderate to fair on the Tyne. On the Wear it was moderate up to the middle of the month and

then became dull. It was quiet on the Tees, but advanced to fair in the last week of the month; a temporary shortage of able seamen and cooks was experienced at Hartlepool. The demand was generally moderate at Hull. At Southampton it was fairly good for the greater part of the period. At Bristol there was a fairly good demand until the last week of the month, when a falling off occurred; at Avonmouth the demand remained good on the whole. At Newport the demand was generally fair during July; at Cardiff it was good in the first half of the month, and then declined. It was fair to good at Swansea, and occasional shortages of deck hands were experienced. On the Mersey it was fairly good up to the middle of the month, and then became somewhat quieter; at Manchester it was fair. The demand on the Clyde and at Leith was fair in the first half of the month, and then declined somewhat. At Belfast it was very dull.

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 July:—

Principal Ports.	July, 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Seven Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	July, 1927.	July, 1926.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool ...	13,201	— 1,119	+ 203	85,966	79,478
Manchester ...	5,530	— 92	— 605	5,550	5,655
London ...	10,381	+ 144	— 909	63,091	61,518
Southampton ...	11,199	— 355	— 982	68,015	70,625
Tyne Ports ...	2,577	+ 196	+ 1,258	17,501	10,706
Sunderland ...	438	— 93	+ 373	2,671	1,382
Middlesbrough ...	446	+ 46	+ 218	2,562	2,334
Hull ...	1,987	+ 853	— 56	9,241	8,333
Bristol ...	1,018	+ 253	— 217	7,477	7,312
Newport, Mon. ...	872	+ 177	+ 707	5,464	4,756
Cardiff ...	2,857	+ 346	+ 1,903	19,784	12,785
Swansea ...	852	+ 87	+ 172	5,748	5,333
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ...	472	+ 100	+ 133	2,688	2,367
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	741	+ 278	+ 424	2,799	2,248
Glasgow ...	3,516	— 696	+ 112	20,446	20,101
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ...	174	— 76	— 85	1,473	1,019
<b>TOTAL for above Ports</b>	<b>51,485</b>	<b>— 457</b>	<b>+ 2,649</b>	<b>320,456</b>	<b>296,962</b>

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 25th July, 1927, differed from the figures for 20th June, 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.

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 25th July, 1927, as compared with 20th June, 1927.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	— 5,938	— 11	— 5,949
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	— 376	— 3,488	— 3,864
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	— 3,202	+ 32	— 3,170
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	— 2,871	— 55	— 2,926
Distributive Trades ...	— 1,896	+ 159	— 1,737
Marine Engineering, etc. ...	— 1,093	+ 2	— 1,091
Shipping Service ...	+ 1,280	— 69	+ 1,211
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	— 33	+ 1,285	+ 1,252
Other Metal Industries ...	+ 811	+ 811	+ 1,622
Pottery, Earthenware, &c. ...	+ 491	+ 1,366	+ 1,857
Linen ...	+ 578	+ 1,284	+ 1,862
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ...	+ 2,660	+ 33	+ 2,693
Tanning ...	+ 1,675	+ 2,400	+ 4,075
Building ...	+ 4,759	— 4	+ 4,755
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ...	+ 5,313	+ 261	+ 5,574
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades ...	+ 4,976	+ 3,518	+ 8,494
Cotton ...	+ 4,135	+ 9,011	+ 13,146
Coal Mining ...	+ 24,998	— 112	+ 24,886
<b>Net variation for above industries</b>	<b>+ 36,307</b>	<b>+ 16,423</b>	<b>+ 52,730</b>
<b>Total Net Variation for all insured industries</b>	<b>+ 27,330</b>	<b>+ 17,247</b>	<b>+ 44,577</b>

\* 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.  
 ¶ This group, which includes miscellaneous industries, corresponds with that under the same heading in the Tables on pages 302-5.

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 25th July, 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 305 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 25TH JULY, 1927.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing ... ..	2,503	130	2,633	73	66	139	2,576	196	2,772	2,568	196	2,764
Mining :-												
Coal Mining ... ..	132,062	461	132,523	125,016	727	125,743	257,078	1,188	258,266	257,015	1,188	258,203
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying ... ..	943	1	944	509	...	509	1,452	1	1,453	1,440	1	1,441
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ... ..	327	3	330	28	...	28	355	3	358	355	3	358
Stone Quarrying and Mining ... ..	2,120	5	2,125	353	...	353	2,473	10	2,483	2,296	10	2,306
Slate Quarrying and Mining ... ..	91	...	91	...	...	...	91	...	91	...	...	91
Other Mining and Quarrying ... ..	1,115	67	1,182	243	48	291	1,358	115	1,473	1,309	115	1,424
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging ... ..	497	9	506	34	...	34	531	9	540	520	9	529
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :-												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,234	10	1,244	359	1	360	1,593	11	1,604	1,593	10	1,603
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture ... ..	1,648	58	1,706	310	15	325	1,958	73	2,031	1,948	73	2,021
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works ... ..	843	23	866	320	5	325	1,163	28	1,191	1,129	28	1,157
Brick, Tile, etc., Making ... ..	3,228	405	3,633	487	147	634	3,715	552	4,267	3,586	552	4,138
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ... ..	1,631	1,790	3,421	3,128	5,381	8,509	4,759	7,171	11,930	4,753	7,171	11,924
Glass Trades :-												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture ... ..	1,801	230	2,031	385	40	425	2,186	270	2,456	2,180	270	2,450
Glass Bottle Making ... ..	2,030	104	2,134	1,025	56	1,081	3,055	160	3,215	3,053	160	3,213
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc. :-												
Chemicals Manufacture ... ..	4,542	678	5,220	586	116	702	5,128	794	5,922	5,023	789	5,812
Explosives Manufacture ... ..	796	290	1,086	121	72	193	917	362	1,279	916	362	1,278
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture ... ..	547	126	673	23	13	36	570	139	709	570	139	709
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture ... ..	3,299	703	4,002	1,288	162	1,450	4,587	865	5,452	4,566	835	5,401
Metal Manufacture:-												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	2,509	3	2,512	555	8	563	3,064	11	3,075	3,061	11	3,072
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ... ..	15,864	158	16,022	19,224	98	19,322	35,088	256	35,344	35,073	256	35,329
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. ... ..	2,843	155	2,998	847	24	871	3,690	179	3,869	3,653	179	3,832
Manufacture of Tin Plates ... ..	2,016	270	2,286	4,888	459	5,347	6,904	729	7,633	6,294	729	7,023
Iron and Steel Tube Making ... ..	1,860	102	1,962	1,372	17	1,389	3,232	119	3,351	3,231	119	3,350
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture ... ..	1,614	241	1,855	2,088	124	2,212	3,702	365	4,067	3,697	365	4,062
Engineering, etc. :-												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ... ..	40,774	1,162	41,936	12,689	396	13,085	53,463	1,559	55,021	52,404	1,555	53,959
Electrical Engineering ... ..	2,772	540	3,312	351	127	478	3,123	667	3,790	3,068	667	3,735
Marine Engineering, etc. ... ..	7,258	28	7,286	223	5	228	7,481	33	7,514	6,299	33	6,332
Constructional Engineering ... ..	1,833	24	1,857	206	14	220	2,039	38	2,077	2,027	38	2,065
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ... ..	14,331	1,122	15,453	2,632	254	2,886	16,963	1,376	18,339	16,824	1,374	18,198
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc. ... ..	1,315	141	1,456	202	43	245	1,517	184	1,701	1,473	184	1,657
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building ... ..	2,022	22	2,044	743	...	743	2,765	22	2,787	2,749	22	2,771

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	46,840	114	46,954	1,151	29	1,180	47,991	143	48,134	44,793	138	44,931
Metal Trades :-												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ... ..	5,724	452	6,176	1,766	183	1,949	7,490	635	8,125	7,400	635	8,035
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	1,034	27	1,061	53	1	54	1,087	28	1,115	1,036	27	1,063
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ... ..	3,302	1,675	4,977	488	380	868	3,790	2,055	5,845	3,778	2,055	5,833
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,515	1,586	4,101	1,379	337	1,716	3,894	1,923	5,817	3,885	1,923	5,808
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ... ..	1,062	686	1,748	541	176	717	1,603	862	2,465	1,602	862	2,464
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ... ..	1,547	787	2,334	391	135	526	1,938	922	2,860	1,936	922	2,858
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	297	19	316	52	11	63	349	30	379	347	30	377
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ... ..	1,606	982	2,588	480	456	936	2,086	1,438	3,524	2,048	1,435	3,483
Other Metal Industries ... ..	7,540	4,176	11,716	2,614	2,006	4,620	10,154	6,182	16,336	10,043	6,178	16,221
Textile Trades :-												
Cotton ... ..	6,746	9,023	15,769	12,431	25,342	37,773	19,177	34,365	53,542	19,167	34,365	53,532
Woolen and Worsted ... ..	3,716	4,123	7,839	4,913	10,925	15,838	8,629	15,048	23,677	8,680	15,015	23,695
Silk ... ..	662	733	1,395	479	1,755	2,234	1,141	2,488	3,629	1,135	2,488	3,623
Linon ... ..	2,315	2,333	4,648	1,270	2,995	4,265	3,585	5,328	8,913	656	1,867	2,523
Jute ... ..	1,060	1,520	2,580	153	1,013	1,166	1,213	2,533	3,746	1,212	2,532	3,744
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc. Making ... ..	461	774	1,235	118	495	613	579	1,269	1,848	494	1,109	1,603
Hooley ... ..	426	2,022	2,448	510	3,345	3,855	936	5,367	6,303	923	5,340	6,263
Lace ... ..	310	246	556	407	321	728	717	567	1,284	717	566	1,283
Carpet Manufacture ... ..	332	303	635	315	820	1,135	647	1,123	1,770	644	1,123	1,767
Other Textile Industries ... ..	718	1,555	2,273	274	1,000	1,274	992	2,555	3,547	929	2,276	3,205
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ... ..	3,417	859	4,276	7,265	1,866	9,131	10,682	2,725	13,407	10,241	2,388	12,629
Leather and Leather Goods :-												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	1,891	405	2,296	503	183	686	2,394	588	2,982	2,390	588	2,978
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ... ..	904	543	1,447	244	186	430	1,148	729	1,877	1,119	729	1,848
Clothing Trades :-												
Tailoring ... ..	4,273	2,844	7,117	354	2,669	3,023	4,627	5,513	10,140	4,440	5,426	9,866
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ... ..	547	2,814	3,361	17	889	906	564	3,703	4,267	553	3,642	4,195
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ... ..	422	985	1,407	30	264	294	452	1,249	1,701	451	1,246	1,697
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ... ..	288	1,502	1,790	15	969	984	303	2,471	2,774	248	1,462	1,710
Other Dress Industries ... ..	453	403	856	68	618	686	521	1,021	1,542	519	1,021	1,540
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	6,131	2,076	8,207	5,936	3,849	9,785	12,067	5,925	17,992	11,896	5,909	17,805
Food, Drink and Tobacco :-												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	5,708	1,897	7,605	270	207	477	5,978	2,104	8,082	5,448	2,022	7,470
Bread, Biscuit, etc., Making ... ..	1,395	142	1,537	207	28	235	1,602	170	1,772	1,527	164	1,691
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ... ..	1,216	2,168	3,384	172	1,382	1,554	1,388	3,550	4,938	1,379	3,546	4,925
Other Food Industries ... ..	3,252	3,414	6,666	332	570	902	3,584	3,984	7,568	3,518	3,892	7,410
Drink Industries ... ..	4,445	1,182	5,627	175	148	323	4,620	1,330	5,950	4,313	1,315	5

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH JULY, 1927 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 20TH JUNE, 1927, 26TH JULY, 1926, 27TH JULY, 1925, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH JULY 1927.

\* The figures for July, 1926, were exclusive of persons in the coal mining industry who were disqualified for unemployment benefit by reason of the dispute.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1926 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH JULY, 1927 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 20TH JUNE, 1927, 26TH JULY, 1926, 27TH JULY, 1925, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY TOTAL PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH JULY 1927.

\* The figures for July, 1926, were exclusive of persons in the coal mining industry who were disqualified for unemployment benefit by reason of the dispute.

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.\*

At 25th July, 1927, the number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,026,502; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,054,544.

Comparative figures for men, boys, women and girls, separately, for 27th June, and 25th July, are given below:—

Table showing comparative figures for men, boys, women and girls, separately, for 27th June, and 25th July, 1927, categorized by Great Britain and 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 four weeks ended 25th July, 1927. Of the 91,942 vacancies filled, 47,517 were for men, 25,178 for women, and 18,247 for juveniles:—

Table showing particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the four weeks ended 25th July, 1927.

\* 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 include, in addition to those wholly unemployed, 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. During the four weeks ended 20th June, 1927, the average number of such placings was 3,578 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters, during the four weeks ended 25th July, 1927, was 750 per week.

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 25th July, 1927. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area :—

Area.	Number of Persons on Registers at 25th July, 1927.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 27th June, 1927.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
<b>London Division</b> ...	75,589	17,576	7,531	100,696	+ 367
<b>South-Eastern Division</b> ...	22,512	5,161	2,742	30,415	+ 36
Brighton ...	1,205	176	130	1,512	+ 248
Chatham ...	1,651	200	475	2,326	+ 254
Ipswich ...	1,321	244	145	1,710	+ 1,143
Norwich ...	2,706	1,070	209	3,985	+ 1,114
Rest of South-Eastern	15,628	3,471	1,783	20,882	+ 4,137
<b>South-Western Division</b> ...	36,061	5,267	3,658	44,986	+ 1,765
Bristol ...	9,064	1,488	911	11,463	+ 167
Plymouth ...	3,736	324	414	4,474	+ 351
Portsmouth ...	3,168	367	293	3,828	+ 64
Reading ...	851	70	100	1,021	+ 67
Southampton ...	3,483	291	511	4,285	+ 88
Swindon ...	696	58	151	915	+ 2,073
Rest of South-Western	15,063	2,669	1,268	19,000	+ 2,067
<b>Midlands Division</b> ...	98,516	29,827	7,609	135,952	+ 2,486
Birmingham ...	16,870	6,168	1,786	24,824	+ 2,641
Coventry ...	4,929	679	164	5,772	+ 60
Derby ...	2,112	570	113	2,795	+ 237
Leicester ...	1,288	444	409	2,141	+ 157
Liverpool ...	3,953	2,614	130	6,697	+ 45
Nottingham ...	1,156	375	79	1,620	+ 153
Northampton ...	4,593	1,226	578	6,397	+ 45
Sheffield ...	2,008	762	123	2,893	+ 541
Smethwick ...	8,652	5,764	916	15,332	+ 82
Stoke-on-Trent ...	3,744	615	167	4,526	+ 82
Walsall ...	1,919	378	121	2,418	+ 82
West Bromwich ...	3,176	655	269	4,100	+ 82
Wolverhampton ...	44,106	9,577	2,754	56,437	+ 6,085
Rest of Midlands	224,990	24,799	15,960	265,670	+ 5,836
<b>North-Eastern Division</b> ...	1,905	330	133	2,368	+ 72
Barnsley ...	5,697	3,743	531	9,971	+ 345
Bradford ...	2,195	122	118	2,435	+ 615
Darlington ...	1,313	545	234	2,092	+ 222
Dewsbury ...	944	142	208	1,294	+ 1,994
Doncaster ...	11,033	502	716	12,251	+ 415
Gateshead ...	6,732	105	182	7,019	+ 810
Hull ...	2,018	1,005	27	3,050	+ 75
Huddersfield ...	3,973	115	406	4,494	+ 861
Leeds ...	1,468	1,458	206	3,132	+ 469
Lincoln ...	9,284	612	939	10,835	+ 529
Middlesbrough ...	9,064	2,869	461	12,394	+ 641
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	1,288	227	111	1,626	+ 82
Rotherham ...	6,211	168	260	6,639	+ 155
Sheffield ...	13,597	968	1,015	15,580	+ 1,099
South Shields ...	2,541	378	269	3,188	+ 56
Stokeon-Tees ...	18,401	2,871	2,261	23,533	+ 315
Sunderland ...	10,802	192	702	11,696	+ 3,483
Wakefield ...	4,433	148	277	4,858	+ 645
York ...	10,742	643	684	12,069	+ 766
Rest of North-Eastern	1,175	207	385	1,767	+ 15
York	1,191	138	230	1,559	+ 1,015
Rest of North-Eastern	102,983	7,232	5,605	115,820	+ 4,135
<b>North-Western Division</b> ...	149,463	46,708	12,856	209,027	+ 14,526
Accrington ...	1,129	607	70	1,876	+ 377
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,468	1,934	182	4,584	+ 1,704
Barrow ...	2,283	108	125	2,516	+ 22
Birkenhead ...	4,682	281	354	5,317	+ 697
Blackburn ...	2,637	2,272	264	5,173	+ 1,478
Blackpool ...	545	71	37	653	+ 40
Bolton ...	3,272	1,532	248	5,052	+ 709
Bury ...	1,355	1,113	107	2,575	+ 442
Chorley ...	1,209	1,313	164	2,686	+ 722
Liverpool ...	1,334	251	32	1,617	+ 423
Manchester ...	35,969	4,137	3,767	43,873	+ 392
Oldham ...	14,784	4,927	1,047	20,758	+ 232
Preston ...	721	484	56	1,261	+ 559
Rochdale ...	2,281	5,188	569	15,044	+ 4,425
St. Helens ...	2,003	776	114	2,893	+ 1,072
Stockport ...	2,551	1,747	160	4,458	+ 57
Warrington ...	4,274	199	274	4,747	+ 780
Wigan ...	6,885	1,757	687	9,329	+ 439
Rest of North-Western	1,443	1,141	140	2,724	+ 483
Wigan	2,023	192	285	2,500	+ 1,644
Warrington	6,970	1,492	394	8,856	+ 1,644
Wigan	41,569	15,186	3,800	60,555	+ 7,111
<b>Scotland Division</b> ...	96,958	16,107	7,373	120,438	+ 2,772
Aberdeen ...	3,105	511	88	3,704	+ 273
Clydebank ...	1,049	155	155	1,359	+ 33
Dunfermline ...	2,972	2,297	308	5,577	+ 134
Dunfermline ...	7,932	1,423	586	9,941	+ 958
Glasgow ...	35,239	4,783	2,682	42,704	+ 585
Greenock ...	3,428	716	271	4,415	+ 68
Motherwell ...	2,985	109	203	3,297	+ 824
Paisley ...	1,853	584	23	2,715	+ 382
Rest of Scotland	38,595	5,529	2,802	46,726	+ 3,349
<b>Wales Division</b> ...	111,942	2,824	4,952	119,718	+ 787
Cardiff ...	6,016	554	536	7,106	+ 97
Llanelli ...	4,052	180	202	4,434	+ 663
Newport ...	2,285	207	207	2,699	+ 794
Swansea ...	4,805	331	532	5,668	+ 58
Rest of Wales	94,784	1,552	3,475	99,811	+ 3,165
<b>Northern Ireland</b> ...	21,614	5,179	849	27,642	+ 178
Belfast ...	15,483	2,879	653	19,015	+ 198
Londonderry ...	1,240	327	17	1,584	+ 82
Lurgan ...	215	292	13	520	+ 56
Lisburn ...	264	127	7	398	+ 34
Newry ...	439	183	9	631	+ 25
Rest of Northern Ireland	3,973	1,371	140	5,484	+ 461
<b>Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b> ...	837,645	153,369	63,530	1,054,544	+ 22,467

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 302 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 25th July, 1927, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained :—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	1,466	4	133	2	1,605
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	710,443	15,317	126,819	7,934	860,513
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	83,622	641	6,286	274	90,823
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	13,326	1,214	1,554	1,231	17,325
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	8,640	15,890	13,531	20,180	58,241
6. Two months' file ...	71,116	3,556	34,470	3,310	112,432
<b>Persons on Register (lines 2-5)</b> ...	<b>816,031</b>	<b>33,062</b>	<b>148,190</b>	<b>29,619</b>	<b>1,026,902</b>
<b>Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6)</b> ...	<b>879,973</b>	<b>20,712</b>	<b>169,262</b>	<b>12,751</b>	<b>1,082,698</b>

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 14th June to 11th July, 1927 :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	214,574	24,805	239,379
Applications admitted by Committees during period ...	26,512	1,825	28,337
(a) For 12 weeks ...	150,675	14,077	164,752
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...			
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period :—			
<b>General Conditions :</b>			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	1,149	702	1,851
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	1,780	246	2,026
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	12,732	1,224	13,956
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	7,568	1,916	9,484
<b>Special Conditions :</b>			
Single persons residing with relatives	4,265	1,457	5,722
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...		1,537	1,537
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	265		265
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	8,562	1,487	10,049
Aliens ...	6		6
<b>Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...</b>	<b>36,327</b>	<b>8,569</b>	<b>44,896</b>
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	1,060	334	1,394

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the five weeks ended 30th July, 1927, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table :—

	Five weeks ended 30th July, 1927.	Four weeks ended 25th June, 1927.	Five weeks ended 31st July, 1926.
<b>Contributions (Receipts) :—</b>			
By Employers ...	1,800,000	1,210,000	1,370,000
Employed Persons ...	1,580,000	1,070,000	1,195,000
Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry)	20,000	20,000	25,000
Exchequer ...	1,340,000	880,000	1,020,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>4,740,000</b>	<b>3,180,000</b>	<b>3,610,000</b>
<b>Payments :—</b>			
Benefit ...	3,090,000	2,440,000	5,730,000
Other Payments*	1,060,000	380,000	650,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>4,150,000</b>	<b>2,820,000</b>	<b>6,380,000</b>
<b>Treasury Advances Outstanding ...</b>	<b>22,930,000</b>	<b>23,560,000</b>	<b>12,570,000</b>

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in July in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 22, as compared with 16 in the previous month and 10 in July, 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 18,000. In addition, about 7,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 13 disputes which began before July and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 35, involving about 25,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of approximately 104,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	4	9	13	14,000	69,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	2	5	7	5,000	21,000
Other Industries ...	7	8	15	6,000	14,000
<b>Total July, 1927 ...</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Total June, 1927 ...</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>79,000</b>
<b>Total July, 1926 ...</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,027,000†</b>	<b>23,018,000†</b>

Causes.—Of the 22 disputes beginning in July, 7, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 6, directly involving 2,700 workpeople, on other wages questions; 5, directly involving 5,800 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 4, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, on other questions.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING JULY, 1927.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.‡	Result.§
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING :—</b>						
Coal miners, etc.—Durham (near)	2,044	496	1927. 21 May	1927. ...	Refusal to work one shift of 7½ hours on Saturdays.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Maesteg, Glam.		5,500	5 July	6 July¶	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Workpeople in question joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
<b>METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES :—</b>						
Iron moulders, etc. (range, stove, etc. manufacture)—Birmingham.		500	13 July	23 July	Against the breach by one employee of a Trade Union rule limiting piece-work earnings.	Trade Union concerned agreed that there should be no restriction of individual output

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 July in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £79,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 558,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £2,000 in those of 92,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increases, Decreases), Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (£ Increases, £ Decreases).

There were reductions in the wages of coal miners in Lancashire, North and South Staffordshire, the Cannock Chase district, South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, the Bristol district, and North Wales, the reductions, compared with the rates previously in operation, varying in amount from under 1½ per cent. to over in Lancashire, Cannock Chase and South Derbyshire.

The principal changes in the textile group affected workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., industries in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, all of whom received small increases under the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales.

In the transport group the principal body of workpeople affected by the reductions were railway traffic workers, a considerable number of whom (including most of the lower-rated men) sustained a reduction of 2s. per week under a cost-of-living sliding scale.

There was a reduction of ¼d. per hour in the wages of waterworks employees in London and various districts in the North of England. Workpeople employed by electricity supply undertakings sustained a reduction of 1d. per hour in most districts in Great Britain, outside the North-East Coast and East Midlands of England.

The principal change in the public administration group affected employees of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, whose

wages were reduced by amounts varying from 1s. to 1s. 10d. per week.

In the other industrial groups workpeople affected by the reductions accounted for in the above Table included blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, Cumberland, and Scotland, bobbin and shuttle makers in England and Wales, chain makers, felt hat makers, seed crushers and oil millers, men employed by public works contractors in London, and warehouse workers at Manchester.

Of the total reduction of £79,500 per week, £46,000 took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry (coal mining) or on selling prices, and £32,000 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £10,000 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople.

Of the total increase of £1,950 per week, nearly £1,150 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, while most of the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-JULY, 1927.

Table with 5 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net (Increases, Decreases), Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£ Increases, £ Decreases).

In the corresponding seven months of 1926, there were net increases of £12,900 in the weekly wages of 106,000 workpeople and net reductions of £84,000 in those of 925,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The principal changes in July affected the employees of certain local authorities in London, whose hours were increased from 44 to 47. During the seven completed months of 1927 there has been an average increase of 3.3 hours per week in the normal working time of 9,500 workpeople, and a reduction of 1.3 hours per week in that of 600 workpeople.

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

Main table for page 308 with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes Mining and Quarrying section.

\* 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.

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of about 62,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ The above reduction is based on the proceeds of the industry, and is the first change to take effect in this district under the revised arrangement for determining wages by the proceeds following the stoppage of work in 1926.

§ The subsistence allowances are further limited in amount to the extent that the gross daily wages, inclusive of allowances, must not exceed 7s. 9d. for workers over 21 years of age, 7s. for those 18 and under 21, and 5s. for those 16 and under 18.

|| The minimum rates previously in force were 8s. 6d. per day for underground workers and 8s. per day for surface workers.

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

Main table for page 309 with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes Mining and Quarrying, Iron Mining, Quarrying, Iron and Steel Industries, Pig Iron Manufacture, Ship-repairing, Electrical Cable Manufacture, Bobbin and Shuttle Manufacture.

\* 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.

† The above change in wages is based on the proceeds of the industry, and is the first change to take effect in this district under the revised arrangement made for determining wages by the proceeds, following the stoppage of work in 1926.

‡ The above decrease applied to the majority of workpeople in the coalfield, excluding one colliery which makes independent agreements. A subsistence allowance is payable as previously to married men in receipt of a total wage less than 6s. 9d. per day to make wages up to that sum, subject to the allowance not exceeding 6d. per day for underground workers and 1s. per day for surface workers.

§ At one colliery, under an independent agreement, the decrease took effect from 15th July and left wages at 28 per cent. above basis rates, subject to a minimum daily wage of 6s. 9d. or 7s. for underground men and 6s. or 6s. 5d. for surfacemen.

|| Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

‡ This percentage is arrived at by adding to the selling-price sliding-scale percentage a subsistence allowance calculated on varying proportions of the difference between the sliding-scale percentage and the average cost-of-living figure for the period covered by the price ascertainment.

\*\* A flat-rate increase of 5d. to 1d. per shift, varying according to base rate, is paid in addition to the percentage quoted.

†† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

‡‡ The change took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st August—in most cases this was 31st July.

§§ These increases were granted as the result of an agreement between the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association Limited, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and the Associated Blacksmiths, Forge and Smithy Workers' Society.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Engineering, Shipbuilding and other metal industries, Textile industries, Clothing industries, and Building.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers' and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyers, Ltd., the Leeds and District Worsteds and Finishers' Association, Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, the Yorkshire Dyers' Federation, the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers' Association, The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers, and Sizers (certain firms). Except in a few cases in the Bradford area, the change did not apply to workpeople employed in the home dyeing and finishing departments of woolen and worsted manufacturers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 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, Woodworking and furniture industries, Building and allied industries, and Gas, water and electricity supply undertakings.

\* Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Hull, Keighley, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York. † Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield and Pontefract. ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements. § The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing Industry.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Waterworks Undertakings, Electricity Supply Undertakings, Port Harbour and River Authorities, Railway Service, Canal Service, Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour, and Road Transport.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the District Joint Industrial Council and include:—Grade D, Southampton (town area); Grade C, Reading (pays higher rates); Grade A, Southampton (country area). ‡ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the District Joint Industrial Council and include:—Grade A.—Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (pumping staff); Faversham Water Co.; Grade B.—Ashford (Kent); Grade C.—Eastbourne Waterworks Co. (distributing staff), Folkestone Waterworks Co., Brighton Corporation, Chatham and District Water Co. A reduction of 2s. per week was due under the cost-of-living sliding scale, but it was agreed by the Joint Industrial Council to limit the reduction to 1s. per week. § The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry in the following areas:—London, Yorkshire Area, North Western Area, West Midlands, East Coast, Home Counties, South Coast, West of England, South Wales and Northamptonshire, and Scotland. The change did not apply in the North-East Coast Area, East Midlands or Devon and Cornwall. ¶ The change did not generally apply to electrical fitters and wiremen in the London, West of England and East Coast Areas. \*\* In most cases the decrease amounted to 2s. per week and was applied to the majority of lower-rated men (porters, lampmen, carriage cleaners, undermen, labourers, etc.), other than new entrants to the permanent service on and from 1st February, 1926. No decrease took place in the case of engine drivers and firemen, guards, shunters, cloakroom attendants, ticket and excess luggage collectors, station and yard foremen, carriage and wagon examiners, hydraulic engineers and chargemen, cleaners in loco, sheds and fire-brigade men. In the case of signalmen and traffic regulators (other than new entrants to the permanent service on and from 1st February, 1926) the decrease of 2s. per week was confined to those who were in receipt of a sliding-scale bonus of 2s. or more immediately prior to 1st July, 1926. †† In cases where the residuary bonus was less than the amounts stated, the remaining part was withdrawn. ††† Including Aston, Bilston, Birmingham, Kidderminster, Netherton, Oldbury, Old Hill, Smethwick, Tamworth, Tipton, Walsall, West Bromwich, and Wolverhampton. §§ The decrease applied to the principal coal-exporting centres, including those on the North-East Coast, the East Coast, the East of Scotland, and in the Bristol Channel. At certain North-East Coast ports an extra 5 per cent. is paid in addition to the 95 per cent. quoted above, and higher percentages are also paid at certain docks at Bristol Channel ports. At Hull and Immingham and at certain docks at Grimsby, the minimum weekly wage is in abeyance. ¶¶ Including Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Leith, Dundee, Paisley, Barrhead, Greenock, Dumbarton, Coatbridge, Airdrie, Hamilton, Falkirk, Alloa, and Stirling. ¶¶¶ Including Dundee, Forfar, Arbroath, Brechin and Montrose. A reduction of 2s. per week was due under the cost-of-living sliding scale, but it was agreed to limit the reduction to 1s. per week.

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Public Administration Services (Cumberland, Hull, Certain Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, Hampshire, Local Government Services (mainly Non-Trading), Wholesale Warehousing) and Miscellaneous Industries (Manchester).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JULY, 1927.

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for Local Government Services (Battersea, Bermondsey).

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † The authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council, and include the following, which are shown in their respective zones; the authorities in italics pay general yard labourers the same rate as a builder's labourer:—Zone A: Birkenhead, Bolton, Burnley, Liverpool (Engineer's Dept.), Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Abram, Failsworth, Little Hulton, Stratford, Swinton and Pendlebury, Wilmslow, Hawarden R.D.C. (engineers only). Zone B: Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bacup, Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Bury, Colne, Crewe, Darwen, Dukinfield, Eccles, Haslingden, Hyde, Leigh, Middleton, Nelson, Preston, Rawtenstall, St. Helens, Southport, Stalybridge, Wallasey, Warrington, Widnes, Altrincham, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Atherton, Audenshaw, Barrowford, Brierfield, Chadderton, Crompton, Droylsden, Farnworth, Heysham, Horwich, Kirkham, Northwich, Ormskirk, Oswaldtwistle, Padfield, Springhead, Standish-with-Langtree, Turton, Urmston, Westhoughton, Whitefield. Zone D: Billinge, Nantwich, Trarsten, Uverston, Withnell, R.D.C.s of Burnley, Leigh, West Lancashire. Zone E Lancashire County Council, Fylde R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the authorities differ slightly from those quoted above. ‡ The authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council, and include: Grade A1: Bourne-mouth, Oxford (made decrease of 3ths); Grade B1, Basingstoke, Farnborough, Slough; Grade C1: Hampshire County Council (see also separate entry above); Grade C2: Windsor R.D.C. The rates paid by some of the authorities differ slightly from the rates quoted above. § The authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council, and include: Grade V: Croxdon, Barnes. Grade IIIa: Brighton, Dartford R.D.C. (partly). Grade II: R.D.C.s of Bromley, Dartford. The rates paid by some of the authorities differ slightly from the rates quoted above. The rates for Grades IV, III and I remain unchanged at 52s. 6d., 46s. 8d., 38s. 11d. respectively for unskilled men, and at 64s., 58s. 8d., 51s. 11d. respectively for skilled men. ¶ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ¶¶ The authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council, and include: Grade B: Bidford, Exeter, Ilfracombe, Weymouth, Grade D: Launceston. Grade E: Seaton. ¶¶¶ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainment of selling prices of pig iron and manufactured iron and steel :-

Table with columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit, Average selling price per ton, Previous Audit, A year ago.

The variations in prices indicated in the above Table resulted, as regards the March-April ascertainment for Cumberland, in increases in May of from 1 1/4d. to 3d. per shift for Cumberland iron ore miners...

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during July, 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...

Table with columns: Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted in July, 1927, Total Assisted Passages Granted, Departures in July, 1927, Total Departures.

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

\* Stated to the nearest farthing. † Revised figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during July, 1927, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 50.

Table with columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX, (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION, (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported during July, 1927, as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 213, as compared with 170 in the previous month and with 89 in July, 1926.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, MINES, QUARRIES OVER 20 feet deep, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.

\* The persons affected in the pottery industry were females. † In addition to the cases reported under the Act, one case of anthrax among dock labourers was reported.

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 July, 1927, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 760,376, or 1.2 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 34.9 per cent. less than in July, 1926.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Number of persons\* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in July, 1927, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in July, 1927, was 621,125, a decrease of 1.6 per cent. as compared with June, and a decrease of 37.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in July numbered 123,705, or 0.7 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 0.5 per cent. less than in July, 1926.

Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 636,671, or 1.3 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 39.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

Of the thirty-one areas, twenty-three showed small decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in July, as compared with the previous month, while eight areas showed increases, the most noteworthy being Wigan (42 per 10,000).

\* 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 30th July, and those for Scotland to 15th July. ‡ The figures previously published for July, 1926, have been revised.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the period 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 columns: Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914, Latest figures available, Rise, Date.

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 columns: Country, Items on which Computation is based, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914, Latest figures available, Rise, Date.

\* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, Australia, Greece, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; United States (all items), 1913. † 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. ††† 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. 293-294 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of 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 July.*—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 30th July, 1927, was 29,203 (18,241 men and 10,962 women). At the end of June the corresponding total was 33,720. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 6,768 (4,230 for men and 2,538 for women), as compared with 7,927 at the end of June. During the last week of July the Exchanges succeeded in placing 22,925 persons in situations, including 7,192 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 160 foreign immigrants.

## GERMANY.†

*Employment in June.*—The Reichsarbeitsblatt states that the labour market continued to improve during June, but at a somewhat slower rate than in May. In individual industries, and particularly in certain handicraft trades, experience shows that the "peak" period is usually over in June: this year, also, in spite of the continued improvement in employment in a number of industries, there was a noticeable slowing down of activity in individual handicrafts during the month under review.

Statistical returns to the number of 3,898 from representative establishments in various industries, covering the period from 15th May to 15th June, show an increase from 1,610,000 to 1,640,000, or 2 per cent., in the aggregate number of workpeople employed. Of the latter total 17 per cent. were engaged in establishments reporting bad employment (as against 18 per cent. in May), while 30 per cent. were engaged in establishments reporting good employment (as against 28 per cent. in May). The improvement was more marked in the engineering, building and building materials, textile and clothing industries, but the food and metal industries also shared in it.

The membership† of health insurance societies increased from 14,558,430 on 1st June to 14,688,851 on 1st July, or by 0.9 per cent., as against an advance of 3.0 per cent. between 1st May and 1st June.

At the end of June (1st July) the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 1,192,599 persons on the "live register," as against 1,362,418 at the end of May. The number of vacant situations at the end of June was 70,299, as compared with 59,987 at the end of May.

Figures showing the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th July, 1927, on which date the total was 674,345 (including 181,259 entitled to assistance from special funds). On 15th June the corresponding total was 806,298 (including 208,426 from special funds).

Returns relating to 3,798,645 organised workers were received from 39 national trade unions. Of these 239,597, or 6.3 per cent., were totally unemployed on 25th June, as compared with 7.0 per cent. on 28th May, and 18.1 per cent. at the end of June, 1926. In addition 101,378, or 2.7 per cent., were working short time, as against 2.9 per cent. on 28th May, and 17.2 per cent. at the end of June, 1926.

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

UNIONS	Membership reported on at end of June, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		June, 1927.	May, 1927.	June, 1926.
All Unions making Returns ...	3,798,645	6.3	7.0	18.1
Mining (S.D.) ...	175,400	1.4	1.7	...
Metal (S.D.) ...	707,300	7.9	9.1	21.5
(H.D.) ...	75,200	9.1	9.2	11.9
Textile (S.D.) ...	291,800	3.6	4.1	19.4
(C.) ...	76,600	0.8	1.2	16.2
Clothing (S.D.) ...	67,600	9.7	5.6	30.1
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	71,900	9.0	8.3	30.4
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	51,900	11.6	12.3	15.7
Food and drink (S.D.) ...	70,400	3.7	2.8	5.9
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	61,300	8.6	11.0	22.7
Woodworking (S.D.) ...	273,300	11.0	12.6	28.5
Printing (S.D.) ...	76,900	2.6	3.0	8.3
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	52,800	6.8	7.1	16.9
Building (S.D.) ...	351,800	5.3	7.1	21.4
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	93,400	5.1	7.4	21.9
Transport (S.D.) ...	298,100	6.9	7.2	8.7
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	395,700	6.3	7.1	15.2
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	45,200	6.4	6.6	13.6
Factory and transport (S.D.) ...	54,500	3.2	4.8	12.3
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	170,800	1.4	1.3	1.7

\* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 5th August, 1927. Paris.

† Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th July and 1st August, 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.

## AUSTRIA.

*Unemployment in June.*—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th July, 1927, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 145,136 at the end of June, as compared with 158,332 at the end of the preceding month. In Vienna alone there were 77,754 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of June, as against 80,965 at the end of May. The total number of applicants for work registered at the employment exchanges at the end of June was 168,997, including 90,990 in Vienna.

## BELGIUM.\*

*Unemployment in June.*—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 143 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 605,690, show that 8,250 (1.4 per cent.) of these were totally unemployed on the last working day of the month (2nd July). In the preceding month the percentage was 1.5, and in June, 1926, 0.9. In addition, 23,093 members were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment in June numbered 278,983, or 1.92 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 2.25 and in June, 1926, 1.38.

## HOLLAND.†

*Unemployment in June.*—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 277,220 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 25th June, 1927, 14,019 (5.1 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 3,970 (1.4 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 23rd May) the percentages were respectively 5.1 and 1.3.

## DENMARK.‡

*Unemployment in July.*—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 274,736 workpeople, 17.3 per cent. were unemployed on 29th July, as against 18.5 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 16.8 per cent. at the end of July, 1926.

## NORWAY.

*Unemployment in May.*—According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 14,408 members of trade unions making returns, 21.6 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of May, 1927. The corresponding figure for the end of April was 22.4 per cent., and that for May, 1926, 23.8 per cent.

## SWEDEN.§

*Unemployment in June.*—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 30th June, 1927, was 9.5, as compared with 10.0 on 31st May, and 9.5 on 30th June, 1926.

## SWITZERLAND.||

*Unemployment in June.*—On 30th June, 1927, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 7,735, (5.9 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920), as compared with 9,547 (7.3 per thousand) at the end of May, and 10,272 (7.8 per thousand) at the end of June, 1926. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 3,068, 3,640 and 2,188 respectively.

## UNITED STATES.¶

*Employment in June.*—Figures relating to the volume of employment in June, based on returns from 10,546 establishments in 54 of the principal manufacturing industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 3,006,203 persons employed in June, a decrease of 0.7 per cent. as compared with the number employed in May. The aggregate wages paid for June show a decrease of 2.4 per cent. as compared with May, and the average earnings per head a decrease of 1.8 per cent.

*Index Number of Employment, June.*—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for June, 1927, is 89.1, as compared with 89.7 in May, and 91.3 in June, 1926.

## CANADA.

*Employment in July.\*\**—For 1st July, 1927, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 6,137 firms, with an aggregate of 896,956 upon their pay rolls. On 1st June, the same firms reported 875,090 employed and the total for July thus shows an increase of 21,866 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st July, 1927, is 108.4, as compared with 105.9 at the beginning of the preceding month and 103.7 on 1st July, 1926.

*Trade Union Employment in June.††*—On 30th June, 1927, 3.2 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 5.2 at the end of May and 4.1 per cent. in June, 1926.

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

† Maandochrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 30th July, 1927. The Hague.

‡ Statistiske Efterretninger, 12th August, 1927. Copenhagen.

§ Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.

|| Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen, July, 1927. Bern.

¶ Employment in Selected Manufacturing Industries, June, 1927. Washington.

†† The July Employment Situation, 1927. Ottawa.

††† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

## Coal Mines Act.

## ELECTION OF CHECKWEIGHMAN—RESTRICTION OF NOMINATION—IRREGULAR BALLOT.

In this case the plaintiff, J. H. Williamson, applied for an injunction restraining the defendant, T. Brown, from acting as checkweighman, on the ground that he had not been properly elected.

For the plaintiff it was said that a resolution was passed restricting the nomination of persons for the post of checkweighman to those employed at the colliery itself. This resolution was passed at a meeting at which about 50 men out of the 1,000 employed at the colliery in question were present. A certain man (Mr. Abbott) was nominated who was not employed at that colliery; but his name was not allowed to go forward and was excluded from the ballot. Counsel contended that the effect of this was to defeat the object of the statute and the common law, which was that the persons who elected should be entitled to nominate anyone whom they thought fit.

For the defendant it was submitted that the purpose of altering the law was not to give the employees the right to elect anyone whom they thought fit, but to prevent the management of the pit from interfering with the election.

Mr. Justice Russell, giving judgment, said that in his view the objection of the plaintiff to the appointment of the defendant was reasonable. As the law stood, the men were perfectly entitled to submit for ballot the name of any person, whether employed at the colliery or not. The ballot had been so conducted that the electors had not had an opportunity of voting for Mr. Abbott, the person whom those supporting the plaintiff wished to nominate, and it was accordingly irregular. The injunction asked for was granted, and His Lordship suggested that there should be a fresh election.—Williamson v. Brown. Chancery Division, 14th June, 1927.

## Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

## ORDINARY NECESSARIES OF LIFE—SAVINGS.

A family named Evans had an average weekly income made up of £4 4s. 9d. from the father, £3 17s. 9d. from one brother, and £1 13s. 1d. from another brother (the deceased). The brother who contributed £1 13s. 1d. was killed in an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. The respondents were the father and mother of this man, and they claimed compensation as his dependents.

The County Court Judge had previously held that the parents could not in law be dependent upon the earnings of the deceased for the ordinary necessities of life suitable for persons in their class and position, merely by reason of the fact that the father had been able to accumulate some savings out of the family fund; he had, in fact, saved some £500 in this way.

The Court of Appeal set aside this award and remitted the case to the County Court Judge for re-hearing.

This was an appeal from the decision of the Court of Appeal.

Viscount Dunedin, in the course of his judgment, said that the term "necessaries of life" was a common, well-understood expression indicating food, clothing, and shelter, and the necessary concomitants thereto. To extend it to include such things as savings or insurance was, in his opinion, to do utter violence to the expression.

The appeal was allowed.—Welsh Navigation Steam Coal Company, Limited, v. Evans and Another. House of Lords, 12th July, 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. 1921/27. (5/7/27). Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act—Genuinely Seeking Work.

\* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1926, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1926 (H.M. Stationery Office; price 7s. 6d. net). Decisions given subsequent to 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.

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER UNEMPLOYED AT TERMINATION OF SEASON—DID NOT SEEK WORK FOR SUMMER MONTHS BUT CONTINUED EFFORTS TO SECURING WORK FOR NEXT FOOTBALL SEASON.

The applicant, a professional footballer, became unemployed on the termination of the football season, and made a claim for unemployment benefit on the 9th May, 1927, which was disallowed on the ground that he was not genuinely seeking work.

The applicant, who had played football for six seasons, and was registered at the Employment Exchange as a footballer, stated that he had written to several clubs for employment as a footballer, and had inserted an advertisement in an athletic newspaper. He had made no applications for other kinds of work, but was prepared to accept light work during the off season.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court, having regard to the fact that professional footballers were usually engaged during May and June for the following autumn and winter seasons, and that the man had made application in the usual way for the work for which he was registered, were of the opinion that he was genuinely seeking work.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation, since the applicant was not seeking work for the summer months, but was directing his efforts exclusively to securing work during the following football season. He referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"The applicant may have been genuinely seeking work for the next autumn and winter months, but he shows no evidence of seeking work for the summer months. To satisfy the condition 'genuinely seeking work' it is not sufficient that a person is seeking only for work to commence in some months' time."

## Case No. 1940/27. (6/7/27). Section 7 (1) (ii) of Principal Act—Not Unemployed.

TWO SIX-LOOM WEAVERS HAD WORK SUFFICIENT FOR ONLY TWO LOOMS EACH—ARRANGED TO WORK FOUR LOOMS ON ALTERNATE DAYS—UNEMPLOYED ON DAYS WHEN THEY DID NO WORK.

Two applicants, normally six-loom weavers, were, owing to trade depression, provided, as from the 2nd May, 1927, with work sufficient for only two looms each. They arranged to work on alternate days, so that each man worked four looms on three days a week. It appeared that the men could have continued to work their own looms for the whole week, and their claims for unemployment benefit were accordingly disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (ii) of the principal Act.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be allowed. The Court considered that the men would have been justified in leaving their employment when the number of their looms was reduced to two; and that the arrangement to work alternate days should not disqualify them for benefit in respect of the days they were not working.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. He took the view that since work was available for each man on every day of the week, they could not claim to be unemployed on any day of the week. He referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"I do not agree with the Court of Referees that the applicants would have been justified in leaving their employment if they had only two looms running, but I agree with their view that they were in fact unemployed on the days in question."

"The arrangement made between the applicants and their fellow-workmen is really only one for systematic short time. If an employer, to suit his workpeople, instead of employing all his employees for half of every day, employs half on alternate days and the other half on the other days, it has never been suggested that these employees are employed throughout the week or are not unable to obtain suitable employment on the play days. The arrangement in this case is in substance the same."

## Case No. 2011/27 (Corrected). (18/7/27). Section 8 (2) of Principal Act—Misconduct.

SEVERAL MINERS SUSPENDED BECAUSE BAD TUB SENT OUT AND NONE ADMITTED OFFENCE—NOT JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE.

Several applicants, who were miners, were engaged in filling tubs, when on the 5th May, 1927, a bad tub was sent out by their stall. None of the men would admit the offence, and all were suspended. They made claims for unemployment benefit, which were disallowed under the provisions of Section 8 (2) of the principal Act, on the ground that they had lost employment through unsatisfactory conduct.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be disallowed for six weeks. The Court took the view that the applicants were jointly responsible for the bad tubs.

The Insurance Officer considered that a shorter period of disallowance would be appropriate, since the men were reinstated in less than one week. He referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"I cannot accept the doctrine of joint responsibility as applying to a case of this kind."

"One of five or six men was guilty of misconduct, and as the employer did not know which of them was responsible he discharged them all. I cannot see how they were all guilty of misconduct."

**Case No. 2050/27. (19/7/27). Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.**

CANTEEN WORKER REFUSED DOMESTIC SERVICE—DISALLOWED SOME WEEKS EARLIER FOR SIMILAR REFUSAL—QUESTION OF IMPOSING A SECOND DISALLOWANCE.

The applicant, who was last employed as a factory canteen worker, had been unemployed for some months when on the 15th June, 1927, she was offered apparently suitable employment as a seasonal domestic servant at a seaside resort. The wages would have been 12s. 6d. per week and she would have been required to live in. She refused the offer, as she was unwilling to undertake domestic service. Her claim for unemployment benefit was accordingly disallowed, on the ground that she was not unable to obtain suitable employment. Her claim for benefit had previously been disallowed in May in similar circumstances.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed. The Court found difficulty in the case, as they thought that the disallowance might be considered "a second punishment for substantially the same thing," in view of the previous disallowance for refusing similar employment.

The applicant, granted leave by the Court, appealed against the disallowance to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

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

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. It is not a question of a 'second punishment for substantially the same thing.' There is no question of punishment."

"The applicant was not unable to obtain suitable employment in May and was also not unable to obtain suitable employment in June. She failed on both dates to fulfil one of the statutory conditions for the receipt of benefit."

**Case No. 2076/27. (22/7/27). Section 7 (1) (ii) of Principal Act—Not Unemployed.**

MINER DID NOT WORK ON GOOD FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND EASTER MONDAY—USUALLY WORKED FIVE SHIFTS AND DID NO WORK ON SATURDAYS—QUESTION WHETHER SATURDAY COULD BE COUNTED AS A DAY OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR BENEFIT PURPOSES OR FOR PRESERVING CONTINUITY OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

The applicant, a miner, who usually worked five shifts a week, failed to work on Good Friday, Saturday, and Easter Monday, the 15th, 16th, and 18th April, 1927, respectively. Friday and Monday were days of customary holiday, and the question arose whether Saturday, upon which day he normally did no work, could, in the circumstances, be regarded as a day of unemployment for benefit purposes, or as preserving continuity of unemployment.

Recommended by the majority of the Court of Referees that unemployment benefit should be allowed in respect of the 16th April. The employers' representative dissented, on the ground that the applicant had worked all the shifts possible during the week ended 16th April, and that the Saturday was a day upon which he would not work in any case.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the majority's report, and referred the case to the Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed in respect of Saturday, 16th April."

"I agree with the employers' representative on the Court of Referees that the applicant was not unemployed on Saturday, 16th April. It was for him a day of rest; it fell in his five-shift week, in which he would not in any event have worked on the Saturday."

"But a further question arises as to whether this day is to be counted as a 'day' within the meaning of Section 5 of the Act of 1923, which enacts that 'any three days of unemployment, whether consecutive or not, within a period of six consecutive days, shall be treated as a continuous period of unemployment.'"

"In Decision 1574 (1911), a case on the continuity rule contained in Section 107 of the Act of 1911, it was held that days of holiday are 'not to be treated as days of ordinary unemployment' but are 'to be regarded in the same way as Sundays, which do not interrupt the continuity of either employment or unemployment as the case may be.'"

"Sundays, by common consent, were even before the passing of Section 5 of the Act of 1923 for most purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Acts treated as non-existent, that is to say, as days on which a person is not entitled to benefit and on which he was neither employed nor unemployed so as to affect the continuity rule."

"In Decisions 678, 2038 and 2149, on the construction of Section 7 (2) (b) of the Act of 1920 (as amended by Section 3 (3) of the Act of 1921 (No. 2)), a somewhat different rule was applied. In those cases it was held that holidays on which the applicants did not work ought to be counted as days of unemployment for the purpose of continuity though not for the purpose of benefit. That is to say,

a holiday was not to be excluded altogether like a Sunday, but was to be included in a period of unemployment; so that a week consisting of one Sunday, five days of suspension from work, and one Saturday, which was a customary holiday, was held to constitute 'a period of unemployment of not less than a week,' the Sunday and Saturday being included for this purpose in the week. (See also Decisions 2038/20 and 2149/20 applying and extending this principle.)"

"I understand that the practice which has been adopted and consistently followed for several years is a compromise between these two principles. Sundays are excluded altogether, both as days of benefit and in computing periods of employment and unemployment. They are treated as non-existent. And it is now expressly provided by a regulation made pursuant to Section 5 of the Act of 1923 that Sundays are to be excluded in the computation of 'six consecutive days.' But an applicant who is not at work on a holiday is treated as being on that day unemployed for the purpose of the continuity rule, though not for the purpose of benefit (see Code of General Instructions J. 25 and 26, where the practice is explained in more detail)."

"This rule of practice may be somewhat illogical, but it is convenient and avoids hardship and has long been followed; and as the present continuity rule was enacted on the assumption that it would continue to be followed, I accept it as good law."

"The only question, then, is whether this Saturday should be treated as a holiday or in some other way, for the men affected by this decision. I am of opinion that it is for them a holiday, and should count as a day of unemployment for the purposes of continuity though not for the purposes of benefit."

"The result will be that, for the purposes of the continuity rule, the applicant and the other men for whom the week in question was a five-shift week are entitled to be regarded as having been unemployed on April 15th, 16th and 18th, but not on Sunday, April 17th."

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

**Recent Proceedings.**

**(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.**

NIGHT WATCHMEN, H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.—Misc. Trades Joint Council for Govt. Depts., Trade Union Side v. Official Side. *Difference.*—Claim for advance in wages. *Decision.*—Scale of pay awarded 28s. p.w. rising annually by 1s. p.w. to a maximum of 30s. p.w. Issued 4th July, 1927. (1310.)

ARMOURY LABOURERS, TOWER OF LONDON, H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.—Misc. Trades Joint Council for Govt. Depts., Trade Union Side v. Official Side. *Difference.*—Claim for advance in wages. *Decision.*—Starting rate of pay awarded, 28s. p.w., rising to 29s. after one year's service and 30s. after two years' service for one-third of total number of labourers employed. Issued 4th July, 1927. (1311.)

RAILWAY SHOPMEN, FOREMAN, CRANE AND MACHINE SHOP.—N.U.R. v. L. & N.E. Rly. *Difference.*—Claim for status, pay and emoluments of supervisor predecessor, falling to be decided under para. 43 of Decision No. 728. *Decision.*—Decision No. 728 is not applicable. Issued 5th July, 1927. (1312.)

SASINES OFFICE, EDINBURGH, SPECIAL CLERKS.—Assn. of Sasine Office Clerks (Special Class) v. Keeper of the General Register of Sasines. *Difference.*—Salary Scales, Claim for increased maximum. *Decision.*—Maximum of scale increased to £220 by two annual increments of £10 each. To be operative from 1st July, 1927. Issued 7th July, 1927. (1313.)

CLERICAL, EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLASSES OF CIVIL SERVICE.—Nat. Whitley Council for the Civil Service, Staff Side v. Official Side. *Difference.*—Claim for reduction in amount of Provincial Differentiation. *Decision.*—Case not made out. Issued 19th July, 1927. (1314.)

OFFICERS (UNATTACHED), CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.—Customs and Excise Fed. v. Comms. of Customs and Excise. *Difference.*—Disturbance Allowance—Claim for revision and increase; Travelling Allowances—Claim for payment. *Decision.*—The Court suggested certain rates for the consideration of the parties with a view to an agreement; failing agreement, matter to be referred again to Court. Issued 19th July, 1927. (1315.)

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD.—Met. Dist. Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry, Trade Union Side v. Metropolitan Water Board. *Difference.*—Application of Dec. No. 1306. *Decision.*—Basic rates of each individual, as well as those at minimum and maximum, to be increased by 1s. 6d. p.w. Issued 20th July, 1927. (1316.)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, CLERKS IN CHARGE EMPLOYED IN D.R.E. OFFICES.—Civil Service Clerical Assn. v. Ministry of Transport. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for Increase. *Decision.*—Allowance of £25 basic to be given to the seven officers concerned, provided that the basic salary, plus allowance, does not exceed £400. Issued 22nd July, 1927. (1317.)

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY.—Dist. J.I.C. (No. 11), S. Coast Area, Trade Union Side v. Employers' Side. *Difference.*—Outworkers' Allowances, Claim for Increase. *Decision.*—Clause 3 of the Conditions of Service and Working Conditions Schedule to be amended. Issued 25th July, 1927. (1319.)

VISITING INSPECTORS OF TIMBER, ADMIRALTY.—Inst. of Prof. Civil Servants v. Admiralty. *Difference.*—Salary Scale—Claim for Increase—Assimilation. *Decision.*—No alteration in present salary scale but an award of an allowance of £30 a year basic. Issued 28th July, 1927. (1320.)

STOREHOLDERS AND FOREMEN, A.O.S.—War Office Admin. Whitley Council, Staff Side v. Official Side. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for Increase. *Decision.*—Following weekly scales to be operative as from 1st July, 1927. Storeholders, Grade A (London) 52s.—80s.; (Provinces) 47s.—75s. Storeholders, Grade B (London) 48s.—63s.; (Provinces) 43s.—58s. Foremen (London) 35s.—45s.; (Provinces) 32s.—42s. A foreman placed in independent charge of small stores groups to be paid a Charge Allowance of 6s. p.w. basic. Issued 28th July, 1927. (1321.)

TEMPORARY MEN AND WOMEN CLERKS, CIVIL SERVICE.—Temporary Staffs Joint Committee (Civil Service) v. H.M. Treasury. *Difference.*—Salary Scales—Claim for additional increments. *Decision.*—Temporary men clerks, Grade I, three additional increments. Temporary women clerks, Grades IV and III, two additional increments; Grade II, one additional increment. Award to be operative from 1st July, 1927. Issued 29th July, 1927. (1327.)

TEMPORARY COPYING TYPISTS AND SHORTHAND TYPISTS, CIVIL SERVICE.—Assn. of Women Clerks and Secretaries v. H.M. Treasury. *Difference.*—Scales of Pay—Claim for Increase. Provincial Differentiation. *Decision.*—Salary Scales to be amended as follows, with adjustments for provincial and intermediate centres, and a 44-hour week.

	London 42-hour week.			
	Copying Typists.		Shorthand Typists.	
	Gr. II.	Gr. I.	Gr. II.	Gr. I.
At 18 years ... ..	s. 36	s. 42	s. 44	s. 50
" 19 " ... ..	38	44	46	52
" 20 " ... ..	40	46	48	54
" 21 " and over ... ..	42	48	50	56
	44	50	52	58
	46	52	54	60
Then by annual increments to ...	48	54	56	62
	50	56	58	64

Award to be operative from 1st July, 1927. Issued 29th July, 1927. (1328.)

ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS—RAILWAY COMPANIES—LONDON.—N.U.R. and E.T.U. v. Railways Staff Conference. *Difference.*—Whether Railway Companies are entitled to place off duty on Christmas Day and/or Good Friday, without payment, shift workers employed in Railway Electricity Generating Stations and Sub-Stations and dealt with under Award No. 2773, 8th November, 1918, of Committee on Production. *Decision.*—Not so entitled. Issued 29th July, 1927. (1329, 1330.)

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

IRON AND STEEL TRADE: S. WALES.—Messrs. Richard Thomas & Co., Ltd., v. Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. *Difference.*—As to the tonnage rate and minimum datal rate for the 3 Bar Mill engine drivers employed at the South Wales Steel 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. *Award.*—Rates fixed. Dated 12th July, 1927.

IRON AND STEEL TRADE: SWANSEA.—British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., Landore, Swansea v. Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. *Difference.*—Claim by the firm for the enlargement of a reduction in wages agreed upon between the parties in September, 1926, and counter claim by the Confederation for the abolition of that reduction. *Board of Arbitration* consisting of Mr. B. A. Cohen, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. Tom Phillips (Employers' Representative) and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's Representative) appointed under Section 2 (2) (c) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919 to determine the matter. *Award.*—Agreement of September, 1926 abolished and reduction referred to enlarged by 5 per cent. Dated 12th July, 1927.

PRINTING: LONDON.—Newspaper Proprietors' Association v. Printing Machine Managers' Trade Society. *Difference.*—As to whether the finding of a Joint Committee of the 28th October, 1925 constitutes an agreement only so far as one newspaper is concerned or can be interpreted as applying to London Newspaper Offices working under similar conditions as obtained thereat. 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. *Award.*—The finding constitutes an agreement only so far as the particular newspaper is concerned, and cannot be interpreted as applying to London Newspaper Offices working under similar conditions as obtained thereat. Dated 15th July, 1927.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE: NORTHAMPTON.—The two sides of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot Manufacturing Industry of Northampton Town. *Difference.*—As to the shop price per dozen pairs to be paid to the Operator working the Welt butting and Skiving machine at the factory of Messrs. Crockett and Jones. Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E. appointed under Section 2 (1) of the Conciliation Act, 1896 to act as Umpire to determine the matter. *Award.*—Rate fixed conforming with that accepted as the shop price for the same operation in other factories in Northampton Town. Dated 19th July, 1927.

PRINTING: LONDON.—Newspaper Proprietors' Association v. National Union of Printing and Paper Workers. *Difference.*—As to the interpretation of Clause I of an Agreement between the parties dated 6th May, 1921. 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. *Award* deciding against the interpretation by the Union issued on the 29th July, 1927.

**TRADE BOARDS ACTS.**

**Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.**

**I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.**

**Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).**

Order M.D. (12), dated 22nd July, 1927, confirming general minimum time rates and overtime rates as fixed and as varied for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying the 1st August, 1927, as the date from which such minimum rates should become effective.

**Milk Distributive Trade Board (Scotland).**

Order M.D.S. (14), dated 28th July, 1927, confirming general minimum time rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying the 1st August, 1927, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

**Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Scotland).**

Order R.B.S. (2), dated 5th August, 1927, confirming general minimum piece rates and confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piece-work basis time rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 15th August, 1927, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

**Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).**

Order N.I.H.H.G. (33), dated 18th July, 1927, confirming certain minimum rates of wages as fixed for male and female workers in the Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 5th August, 1927, as the date from which these rates become effective.

**General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade Board (Northern Ireland).**

Order N.I.W.R. (8), dated 26th July, 1927, confirming certain minimum rates of wages as fixed and as varied for male and female workers in the General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 8th August, 1927, as the date from which these rates become effective.

**Laundry Trade Board (Northern Ireland).**

Order N.I.L. (6), dated 29th July, 1927, confirming certain minimum rates of wages as varied for female workers in the Laundry Trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 15th August, 1927, as the date from which these rates become effective.

**II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.**

**Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).**

Proposal R.B. (E.L. 2), dated 8th July, 1927, to fix and to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Lancashire (Eastern part) and Westmorland.

Objection period expires 8th September, 1927.

Proposal R.B. (W.L. 3), dated 12th July, 1927, to fix general minimum piece rates and to vary overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers in the Municipal Borough of Macclesfield, in the County of Cheshire.

Objection period expires 12th September, 1927.

Proposal R.B. (S.E. 3), dated 12th July, 1927, to fix and to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Municipal Boroughs of Godalming and Guildford, in the County of Surrey.

**III.—CHANGES IN MINIMUM RATES OF  
WAGES DUE TO AN ALTERATION IN THE  
COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FIGURE.**

Higher wage rates have become operative as from the 1st August, 1927, in the under-mentioned trades. The minimum rates of wages now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 66, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below:—

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain), D (32) and D (36), col. 3; D (33), col. 2; and D (34) and D (36), col. 4.  
 Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain), M (39), (40) and (41), col. 2.  
 Chain Trade Board (Great Britain), C (17), C (21) and C (25), col. 9.

#### IV.—NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE A SPECIAL ORDER TO BE CITED AS THE TRADE BOARDS (MILK DISTRIBUTIVE) ORDER, 1927.

##### TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

##### Notice of Intention given under the above-mentioned Acts to make a Special Order to be cited as the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1927.

The Minister of Labour hereby gives notice that, with a view to altering the description of the Milk Distributive Trade contained in the Appendix to the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1920, as varied by the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1926, he intends, pursuant to the powers conferred on him by Section 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, to make a Special Order varying the above Orders in the manner shown in the Draft Special Order contained in the Appendix hereto.

Further copies of the Draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

Objections to the Draft Special Order must be sent so as to reach the Minister of Labour at the above address within 49 days from the 2nd day of August, 1927, that is to say, on or before the 20th day of September, 1927. Every objection must be in writing, and must state—

- (a) the specific grounds of objection; and
- (b) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour this 30th day of July, 1927.

T. W. PHILLIPS,  
 Deputy Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

##### DRAFT SPECIAL ORDER.

##### TRADE BOARDS.

##### THE TRADE BOARDS (MILK DISTRIBUTIVE) ORDER, 1927.

Special Order dated 1927, made by the Minister of Labour under Section 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918 (8 & 9 Geo. 5, c. 32), varying the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Orders, 1920 and 1926.

Whereas the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as the Minister), by a Special Order called the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1920, dated the 9th day of January, 1920, applied the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to the trade specified in the Appendix to the said Special Order:

And whereas the description of the trade in the said Appendix was altered by the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1926:

And whereas it is provided by subsection 1 of Section 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, that every Special Order may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Special Order:

And whereas the Minister is of opinion that it is desirable to vary the said Special Orders by altering the description of the trade therein specified:

Now, therefore, the Minister, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, and of any other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes a Special Order varying the said Special Orders:—

- (1) The description of the trade set out in the Appendix to this Order shall be substituted for that set out in the Appendix to the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1920, as altered by the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1926.
- (2) This Order may be cited as the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1927.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour this day of 1927.

Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

##### APPENDIX.

##### Draft Definition of the Milk Distributive Trade.

1. Subject as hereinafter provided, the Milk Distributive Trade shall consist of the following operations:—

- (i) the wholesale and retail sale of milk;
- (ii) the sale of other goods by workers mainly employed in the sale specified in paragraph 1 (i) hereof;
- (iii) all work incidental to the sale specified in paragraph 1 (i) hereof.

2. Work incidental to the sale specified in paragraph 1 (i) hereof shall include, *inter alia*—

- (a) collecting, delivering, despatching;
- (b) pasteurising, sterilising, homogenising, humanising, cooling, separating and all work performed in connection with any other processes in the preparation of milk;
- (c) blending, testing and sampling of milk;
- (d) cleaning of utensils, receptacles, vehicles, premises, plant, machinery;
- (e) stoking, attending to boiler, plant or machinery, fire lighting, portering of coal or other fuel;
- (f) horse-keeping and harness cleaning;
- (g) portering, lift or hoist-operating, time-keeping, storing, stock-keeping, warehousing;
- (h) boxing, parcelling, labelling, weighing, measuring, checking, bottling, packing and unpacking;
- (i) clerical work or canvassing carried on in conjunction with the work specified in paragraph 1 hereof.

3. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, the Milk Distributive Trade shall not include any of the following operations:—

- (a) the wholesale sale of milk (and operations incidental thereto) from an establishment at which milk products are manufactured and from which unseparated milk is not ordinarily sold as such;
- (b) the wholesale sale of milk direct from the farm where the milk was produced, and all operations incidental thereto;
- (c) the following operations when performed at a farm where the only milk dealt with is that produced on the farm:—cooling, bottling, cleaning of the dairy premises, and of utensils and receptacles used thereon;
- (d) work done by a worker for an employer who employs that worker mainly in agriculture or in operations specified in paragraph 3 (b) or (c) when performed in the circumstances described therein;
- (e) the sale of milk in restaurants, shops or similar premises by waiters or shop assistants who are not mainly engaged upon such sale;
- (f) the transport of goods by common carriers;
- (g) carting and operations incidental thereto where the business carried on consists exclusively of such operations;
- (h) work done by or on behalf of the Post Office.

4. For the purpose of this Schedule the expression "milk" means milk other than dried or condensed milk.

##### (DRAFT) EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO ACCOMPANY THE ABOVE ORDER.

1. It has been represented to the Minister of Labour that it might prove of assistance to employers and workers, and others concerned in the application of the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, if, in suitable cases, when he makes an Order applying the Acts to a trade for the first time, or when he makes an Order varying the existing description of a trade contained in an Order made under the said Acts, some information were given by an Explanatory Memorandum as to his understanding of the scope of the Order.

2. An authoritative interpretation of the Trade Boards Acts and/or of Orders made thereunder can be given only by the Courts of Law. Subject to this limitation, and on the understanding that any views which he may express provisionally as to the inclusion within or exclusion from the scope of the Acts and/or Orders of any trade, process, operation, article, or of any class of worker are given on the information at the time in his possession and are subject to revision in the light of further information, the Minister makes the following observations for the guidance of all concerned in the application of the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1927.

3. The Milk Distributive Order of 1927 amends the Milk Distributive Orders of 1920 and 1926.

4. *General.*—The Amending Order makes no substantial change in the kind of establishment included within the scope of the milk distributive trade, but the Order lays down a definition of that trade which is clearer than the definition contained in the Order of 1920. Experience has shown that the trade impinges on other trades or branches of trades which, though they were not intended to be covered by the original Order, were nevertheless not excluded with sufficient precision. In particular the words used in the first paragraph of the Order of 1920 have given rise to difficulties of interpretation.

5. *Inclusions.*—The first paragraph of the Amending Order brings in without qualification all the wholesale and retail sale of milk, together with the sale of other goods by workers mainly employed upon the sale of milk (Section 1 (i) and (ii)). It also includes all work incidental to the sale of milk (Section 1 (iii)).

6. *Incidental Operations.*—Paragraph 2 enumerates the principal types of work which are incidental to the sales mentioned in paragraph 1, and has the same general effect as the similar paragraph in the original Order.

7. *Exclusions.*—Paragraph 3 of the Amending Order indicates certain classes of work which are to be excluded. The more important exclusions affect milk product factories (Section 3 (a)), farmers (Section 3 (b) to (d)), and shops and restaurants (Section 3 (e)).

8. *Milk Product Factories.*—The wholesale sale of milk is excluded from the Order when carried on from establishments, such as creameries or cheese factories, in which milk is ordinarily used as

#### PROPOSED WELFARE ORDER FOR BISCUIT MANUFACTURE.

THE Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 15th July, 1927, that, in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by Section 7 of the Police, Factories, &c. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, he proposes to make an Order for the welfare of persons employed in factories and workshops in the processes of icing, creaming and filling biscuits and wafers, and mixing the necessary ingredients.

The provisions of the proposed Order are the result of discussion with the National Association of Biscuit Manufacturers. As in the case of the Welfare Order for bakeries,\* the main requirement of the Order is the provision and maintenance of suitable washing facilities. The Order requires a constant supply of warm water laid on, and a sufficient supply of soap and clean towels. A weekly inspection of hands and arms by a responsible person is also required, for the purpose of detecting early signs of dermatitis. Other requirements of the Order are the provision and maintenance of suitable cloakroom accommodation, arrangements for first-aid treatment of injuries in all cases on the lines laid down for factories in Section 29 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and the provision of an adequate supply of drinking water.

Copies of the draft Order may be obtained on application to the Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—*Report on the prices and supplies of agricultural produce and requirements in England and Wales, 1926-7.* Vol. LXI, Part II. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.) Includes a section on agricultural wages.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.—*Statistical summary showing the operations of building societies, 1917-1926.* Registry of Friendly Societies. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—*Third Census of Production, 1924. Preliminary Reports, No. 18. Brick and fireclay trades; china and earthenware trades; coopering trade; wooden crates, boxes, cases and trunk trades. No. 19. Butter, cheese, condensed milk and margarine trades; saddlery, harness, travelling bags and leather goods trades; umbrella and walking stick trades; artificial flower and ornamental feather trades. No. 20. Felmongery trade; leather trades; tool and implement trades; cutlery trade.* Board of Trade. (S.O. publications; price 6d. each.)

CENSUS OF SEAMEN.—*Census of Seamen, 31st March, 1926.* Supplement to Board of Trade Journal. Vol. CXIX. No. 1597. July 14th, 1927. (See page 289.)

COMMERCIAL INSTRUCTION.—*Report of H.M. Inspectors on the provision in England of instruction in commodities for persons employed in commerce.* Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—*Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1926.* Home Office. (Cmd. 2903; price 2s. 6d.)

FISHING INDUSTRY.—*Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland for the year 1926.* (Cmd. 2892; price 2s.) Contains a chapter on persons employed.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*The London Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment. Third Annual Report, 1926-1927.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

MINIMUM WAGE.—*Minimum wage-fixing machinery. An international study of legislation and practice.* Studies and Reports, Series D (Wages and hours of work), No. 17. International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1927; price 2s. 6d.) (See pages 290-1.)

MINING.—*Safety in Mines Research Board, fifth Annual Report, 1926, including a Report of matters dealt with by the Health Advisory Committee.* (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—*Return showing the number of persons in receipt of poor law relief in England and Wales on the night of the 1st day of January, 1927.* Ministry of Health. (H.C. 78; price 1s. 3d.)

REGISTERED PROVIDENT SOCIETIES.—*General summary, 1924 and 1925.* Registry of Friendly Societies. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

SUPERANNUATION FUNDS.—*Report of the Departmental Committee on the effect of the rule of law against perpetuities in its application to certain superannuation funds and funds with analogous purposes.* Treasury. (Cmd. 2918; price 4d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1926: Decisions given by the Umpire on claims to benefit during the month of June, 1927.* U.I. 440, Pamphlet No. 6, 1927. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—*Employers' Liability Insurance. Certificate of the auditors of the Accident Offices Association showing the effect in respect of the year 1926 of the undertaking . . . limiting the charges to employers in respect of employers' liability insurance.* Home Office. (Cmd. 2914; price 2d.)

\* See the issues of this GAZETTE for August, 1926, page 315, and March, 1927, page 123.

a material of manufacture and is not ordinarily sold as milk. The intention is to exclude the occasional wholesale sale of milk by creameries, etc., but to include such sale when carried out as a regular part of the business, e.g., during the whole or the greater part of the year.

9. *Farmers.*—The wholesale sale of milk direct from the farm where it is produced is excluded altogether (Section 3 (b)). The retail sale of milk by farmers is affected by Section 3 (c) and (d). By Section 3 (d) work of any kind in connection with the retail sale of milk is excluded when it is done by a worker who is employed by the same employer mainly (i.e., for more than half of his working time) in agricultural work. Section 3 (c) removes from the scope of the Order the common dairy operations of cooling and bottling milk, and cleaning premises and utensils, when performed on a farm at which only milk produced on that farm is handled, and in these circumstances time spent upon such operations is reckoned for the purpose of Section 3 (d) as time spent in agricultural work. For the purpose of Section 3 (d) work on the wholesale sale of milk direct from the farm where the milk was produced is also reckoned as agricultural work. Thus work upon the retail sale of milk from farms is included—

- (a) when it is the sole or main occupation of a worker;
- (b) when it is done by a worker who is not mainly employed by the same employer in "agriculture."

10. *Shops and Restaurants.*—Shop assistants, waiters, etc. are excluded by the Amending Order if they are mainly engaged, in shops, restaurants, or the like, in selling articles other than milk. But a person employed in the delivery of milk on a milk round (i.e., outside the shop) is included for such work even though employed for a larger number of hours in the day as a shop assistant or waiter. Further, a shop assistant who is employed mainly in the sale of milk is, by virtue of Section 1 (ii) of the Order, included for all the time he acts as a shop assistant.

11. *Clerical Work.*—The inclusion of clerical work and canvassing carried on in connection with the sale of milk is in the same terms as in the original Order, that is to say, that it is included when carried on incidental to and in conjunction with the sale of milk, wholesale or retail (paragraph 2 (j)).

12. *Transport.*—The transport of goods by common carriers, such as Messrs. Carter Paterson, or by railways is not regarded as part of the Milk Distributive Trade.

13. *Meaning of "Milk."*—Milk is defined as milk other than dried or condensed milk.

#### MINISTRY OF LABOUR (TRANSFER OF POWERS) ORDER, 1927.

AN Order in Council, dated the 25th July, 1927, has been issued, the text of which is as follows:—

Whereas by the New Ministries and Secretaries Act, 1916, provision is made, amongst other things, for the transfer to the Minister of Labour of such powers and duties of any Government Department relating to labour or industry, whether conferred by statute or otherwise, as His Majesty may, by Order in Council, transfer to him:

And whereas it is further provided by the said Act that, where any powers and duties are transferred by virtue of the said Act, the transfer is to take effect as from a date to be fixed by Order of His Majesty in Council, and that different dates may be fixed for different powers and duties:

Now, therefore, His Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1. From and after the 18th September, 1927, there shall be transferred to the Minister of Labour the powers and duties of the Board of Education hereinafter specified, that is to say:—

- (a) the power of approving arrangements made under Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921, by local education authorities for giving to boys and girls under the age of 18 years assistance with respect to the choice of suitable employment; and
- (b) the power of approving schemes made by local education authorities under Section 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923, regulating the exercise of their powers and duties under the said Section 107 of the Education Act, 1921, as extended by the said Section 6 of the first-mentioned Act.

2. From and after the 31st March, 1928, there shall be transferred to the Minister of Labour the powers and duties of the Board of Education under Section 118 of the Education Act, 1921, so far as they relate to grants to local education authorities in respect of the exercise of their powers and duties under the said Section 107 of that Act as extended as aforesaid.

3. This Order may be cited as the Ministry of Labour (Transfer of Powers) Order, 1927.

M. P. A. HANKEY.

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

## LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, JULY, 1927.

## ADMIRALTY.

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

**Chatham:** Reinforcing Bars: H. J. Skelton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Devonport:** Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., Tothill Street, S.W.—**Portland:** Steelwork: The Horsley Bridge and Engineering Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. **Timber:** Webb, Major & Co., Ltd., Weymouth.—**H.M. Naval Establishment Abroad:** **C.I. Water Tank:** Mather & Platt, Ltd., London, S.W.

## (Contract and Purchase Department.)

**Anchors, Mooring:** F. H. Lloyd & Co., Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Boats, Motor, Repairs, etc., to:** Rogers & Co. (Shipbuilders), Ltd., Plymouth; Whites Southampton Yachtbuilders Co., Ltd., Southampton.—**Boiler, Cylindrical:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead.—**Boxes, Ammunition:** Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cable, Chain, and Gear:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; N. Hingley & Sons, Ltd., Dudley; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Cable, H.T.:** Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Carpets, Rugs and Mats:** Chlidema Carpet Co., Ltd., Kidderminster; J. Templeton & Co., Glasgow; Tomkinson & Adam, Kidderminster.—**Cases, Suit, Canvas:** Thos. Thomasson & Co., Worcester.—**Coils, Evaporator:** John Kirkcaldy, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Crane, Overhead:** Marshall, Fleming & Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Cylinders, Tin:** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Rippingilles Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Scott, Son & Tucker, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Davits:** British Mannesmann Tube Co., London, E.C.; Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Drums, Light Steel:** The Steel Barrel Co., Ltd., Uxbridge.—**Dynamotor, Reversible Water Brake:** Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester.—**Flour:** W. Vernon & Sons, London, E.; Buchanan's Flour Mills, Liverpool; J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.; Spillers & Bakers, Cardiff.—**Fuseboards, Portable:** Bertram, Thomas, Manchester.—**Gear for Wind Screens:** Brown Bros. & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Jam, Black Currant:** Crosse & Blackwell (Mfg. Co.) Ltd., London, W.; C. Southwell & Co., Ltd., London, W.; Barnes & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Jam, Gooseberry:** C. Southwell & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Jam, Raspberry and Red Currant:** Crosse & Blackwell (Mfg. Co.) Ltd., London, W.—**Jam, Strawberry:** Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Histon.—**Lamps, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Lemington-on-Tyne, Chesterfield; Metro-Vick Supplies, Ltd., Brimsdown, Lemington-on-Tyne, Chesterfield; Siemens & English Electric Lamp Co., Ltd., Preston, Lemington-on-Tyne, Chesterfield or Mx.; British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby and Chesterfield; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—**Machine, Angle Tee and Bar Cropping:** James Bennie & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Machine, Bevel Gear Planing:** Smith & Coventry, Ltd., Salford.—**Machine, Vertical Testing:** W. & T. Avery, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Machines, Radial Drilling:** Wm. Asquith (1920), Ltd., Halifax; Kitchen & Wade, Ltd., Halifax.—**Margarine:** P. Keevil & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Materials, Insulating:** Ioco Rubber & Waterproofing Co., Ltd., Glasgow; E. MacBean & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Butterfield & Renton, Bishop Monckton.—**Meggers, Bridge:** Evershed & Vignoles, Ltd., London, W.—**Paint, Black:** Lewis, Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Polish, Metal:** Reckitt & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Polish, Wax:** Fortune & Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Pumps, Bertrams, Ltd., Edinburgh.**—**Saw, Horizontal Log Band:** A. Ransome & Co., Ltd., Newark-on-Trent.—**Telephone Exchange, Automatic:** Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Telescopes, Prism:** W. Ottway & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Terminals, Through, Bulkhead:** Pinnacle Switchgear, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Tiles, White:** Campbell Tile Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—**Travellers, Overhead:** Wharton Crane & Hoist Co., Ltd., Stockport.—**Tubing, Canvas Hose:** Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Valves, Kingston, and Telemotor Panels:** Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; McTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Vehicle, Morris six-wheeled:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.

## WAR OFFICE.

**Barrels:** Oldham Bros., Burton-on-Trent.—**Batteries, Secondary, Portable:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Bodies for Six-wheeled Chassis:** Vickers, Ltd., Crayford.—**Brass, Sheet:** P. H. Muntz & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Cable, Electric:** Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Canisters:** Barringer, Wallis & Manners, Ltd., Mansfield.—**Caps, Bearskin (Repair of):** L. Silberston, London, E.—**Caps, Fur:** B. Sterling & Co., London, W.; Leathercutters, Ltd., London, W.; Hobson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cases, Wood:** R. J. Latten, Ltd., Lowestoft; Langlands & McAinsh, Ltd., Dundee.—**Casks, Vat:** G. Bissell & Son, Ltd., Netherton.—**Chassis, Six-wheeled:** Vulcan Motors & Eng. Co., Ltd., Southport.—**Cloth, Blue:** A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley, Leeds.—**Collars, Breast:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Copper, Ingot:** The British American Metals Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The British Metal Corp., Ltd., London, E.C.; H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Brandeis, Goldschmidt & Co., London, E.C.—**Disinfectors:** Thresh Disinfectant Co., Keighley.—**Dowels, Tan:** D. & R. Duke, Brechin.—**Drain-cleaning Apparatus:** E. A. Ward & Co., Birmingham.—**Forms (Soldiers'), Ironwork:** David Willetts, Ltd., Walsall.—**Iron, Pig:** Barrow Hamatite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Jerkens, Leather:** G. Glasefield &

Son, Ltd., London, E.—**Lathes, Capstan:** H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lead, Pig:** H. J. Enthoven & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Lead Sheeting and Piping:** Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Lockers, Steel:** Waddell & Wilson, London, E.—**Lorries, Medium, Six-wheeled:** Karrier Motors, Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Magnesium Powder:** British Maxium, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Mattresses and Covers:** Hampton & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; The Bede Furnishing Co., Ltd., London, E.; E. H. Price, Hadleigh; S. B. Sadler & Sons, Burnham-on-Crouch.—**Mattresses, Single Soldiers':** R. Alcock & Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Motor Cars, 18-H.P.:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Motor Vans:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Motor Cycles and Combinations:** Triumph Motor Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Rugs, Axminster:** Coates & Co., Ltd., Perth.—**Safes, Office:** J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Sandbags:** Low & Bonar, Ltd., Dundee; Malcolm, Ogilvie & Co., Ltd., Dundee.—**Sanitary Appliances:** Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Silk Cloth:** E. Wilman & Sons, Ltd., Hadfield; E. H. Sellers & Sons, Ltd., Thongsbridge.—**Slates, Roofing:** Sessions & Sons, Ltd., Machynlleth, N. Wales; J. Williams & Co., Bangor; Roberts, Adlard & Co., Bangor.—**Steel, Round:** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel, Tool:** Kayser, Ellison & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Stove Piping:** F. W. Potter & Co., London, E.C.—**Tables (Soldiers'), Tops:** H. Newsum, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gainsborough.—**Tools, Screw-cutting:** T. Chatwin, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Vehicles, six-wheeled, Spares:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wireless Telegraph Sets:** Johnson & Phillips, London, S.E.; Radio Instruments, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Zinc:** British Metal Corp., Ltd., London, E.C.; H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Works Services: Building Works and Services:** Woolwich, Erection of Dining Establishment: J. B. Edwards & Co., London, W. Woolwich, Felt Work: F. McNeill & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Smallshot, Heating of Storehouses: Edward Deane & Beal, Ltd., London, E.C. South Aldershot, Stanhope and Wellington Lines, Periodical Services; Longmoor, Periodical Services; Bordon, Periodical Services: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Shorncliffe, Periodical Services: C. J. Else & Co., Matlock. Lydd, Periodical Services: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Warley, Repairs to Drainage System: W. & C. French, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. Catterick Camp, Erection of Drill Shed for S.T.C.: G. R. Wade & Son, Richmond, Yorks. Lichfield, Whittington Barracks, Improve Drainage: W. Willetts & Son, Ltd., Kingswinford, Staffs. Halifax, Depot Barracks, Repairs to Roof: T. Carr & Son, Halifax. Exeter, Topsham Barracks, Warrant Officer's Quarter: Woodman & Son, Exeter. Taunton Barracks, Painting and Colouring: C. J. Else & Co., Ltd., Matlock. Dicot, R.A.O. Depot, Construction of Road: Boshers (Cholsey), Ltd., Cholsey, Berks. Little Malvern, Worcester, R.E. Services at Training Camp: Vaughan & Sons, Hereford. Wool, Bovington Camp, Provision and Erection of Pumping Equipment: Holden & Brooke, Ltd., West Gorton, Manchester. Hounslow, Hutting: A. A. McDermott, Bradford. Woolwich, Royal Military Academy, Improvements and Redecorations: R. Mansell, Croydon.

## AIR MINISTRY.

**Accumulators:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, nr. Manchester; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Fuller Accumulator Co., Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—**Aircraft:** Geo. Parnall & Co., Bristol; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft, Conversion of:** Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey.—**Aircraft, Erection and Test of:** H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Float Undercarriage for:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft, Modifications to:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft, Modification of:** Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Filton, Bristol; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Spares:** Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft Ltd., Coventry; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Geo. Parnall & Co., Bristol; Short Bros., Ltd., Rochester, Kent; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil, Somerset.—**Aircraft, Stainless Steel Floats for:** Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry.—**Aircraft, Stores Dropping Apparatus:** Calthrop's Aerial Patents, Ltd., London, W.—**Aircraft, Supply and Fitting of Brakes to:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircscrew Blades and Hubs:** Metal Propellers, Ltd., Croydon.—**Batteries, Inert:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Bombs, Filling, etc. of:** Vickers, Ltd., Dartford, Kent.—**Buildings and Works Services:** Cables, Underground (Biester): Malcolm & Allen, Ltd., London, W.C. Generating Set: Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., London, E.C. Heating Installations (Worthydown): Brightside Foundry & Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Petrol Installation: Simmons & Hawker, London, W.C. Quarters & External Services (Old Sarum): H. J. Goodall & Son, Basingstoke. Reconditioning Buildings (Worthydown): H. J. Goodall & Son, Basingstoke. Re-roofing Sheds (Duxford): Nissens Buildings, Ltd., Hoddesdon. Wiring (I.E.): Read & Partners, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Calcium Carbide:** Acetylene Corporation of Great Britain, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Carburettors and Spares:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Cases, Packing, Engine:** Crosby & Co., Ltd., Farnham.

—**Cement, Portland:** Gillingham Portland Cement Co., Ltd., Gillingham.—**Cloth for Uniforms, Bandsmen:** A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley, nr. Leeds.—**Collapsible Coil and Fittings for Stranded Aircraft:** D. M. Davies, Slough.—**Cotton Old Rags:** E. Austin & Sons (London), Ltd., London, E.—**Delco Ignition Spares:** Delco Remy & Hyatt, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Aircraft:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Connecting Rods for:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Rebuilding of:** E.L.S. Engines, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Research running on:** Ricardo & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Supercharger for:** Powerplus, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Engines, Aircraft, Test on:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Film, Camera:** Ilford, Ltd., Ilford.—**Morris Vehicles:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Motor Rollers:** Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Radiators, Aircraft:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Revolution Indicators, Repair of:** North & Sons, Ltd., Watford.—**Rolls Royce M.T. Spares:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Steel Wire:** J. Shaw, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Syntonsers:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Transmitters and Spares:** Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Wavemeters:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.

## H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

**Cardboards:** Thomas & Green, Ltd., Woburn Green, Bucks.—**Cloth, Ferro-Gallic:** S. C. & P. Harding, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cloth, Tracing:** The Winterbottom Book-Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Envelopes:** J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., London and Hemel Hempstead; McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton, Bucks.—**Ink, Duplicating:** Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey, Herts.—**Paper (of various descriptions):** Alders Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Tamworth, Staffs; J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik; A. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Penicuik; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Caldercruix; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton, nr. Bristol; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford; William Nash, Ltd., St. Paul's Cray, Kent; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet; R. Sommerville & Co., Ltd., Taunton; E. Towgood & Sons, Ltd., Sawston, Cambs; Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Chorley, Lancs.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:** Bookwork Printing Group 9 (1927): South Essex Recorders, Ltd., Ilford. Supply of Strawboard, Millboard and Wood Boxes: A. E. Walker, Ltd., London, E.C. Supply of Despatch Cases, Pouches, Wallets and Bags: T. J. Weeks & Sons, Ltd., London, E. 25,000 Manual of Seamanship, Vol. 1, 1926 (Admiralty): Adams & Harrison, Ltd., London, E.C. 10,500 Posters (Empire Marketing Board): J. Causton & Sons, London, S.W. 200,000 Books, Form Med. 40 (Revised): C. Tinling & Co., Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.

## POST OFFICE.

**Cable—Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing:** Brighton-Hastings (Brighton-Eastbourne Section): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Northampton-Stony Stratford: W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C. **Conduits, Laying:** London-Camberley-Bracknell (Sections I, II, and III): W. & C. French, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. Doncaster: W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Grappenhall, Warrington. Metropolitan Exchange Transfer (Area No. 4): Piccadilly, W.: Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Hornsey, etc.; Willeddon, etc.; Carlton Vale (London, N.W.): O. C. Summers, London, N. Cleeve Hill (Gloucestershire) and Worcester-Powick: Martin & Element, Ltd., Smethwick, Staffs. Junc. Porthcawl-Porthcawl: Barnes, Chaplin & Co., Ltd., Cardiff. Armagh; Rock Ferry (Old Chester Road and Highfield Road) and Heswall (Slack Road); Ballymena: Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Birmingham Area: E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Egham and Bracknell: H. Collingridge, London, W.C. Chard (Somerset); Mansfield: J. F. Hodge, Rednal, nr. Birmingham. Edinburgh (Central), Western Portion: W. Dobson (Edinburgh, Ltd.), Edinburgh. Whitechurch (Hants); Millbrook (Plymouth); Laindon (Essex): Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Glasgow (Pollockshaws Road): A. Duncan, Glasgow. Colchester: May, Gurney & Co., Ltd., Trowse, Norwich. Walton, Liverpool and Anfield: J. W. Thornley & Sons, Farnworth, nr. Bolton. Shepherdswell (Kent): G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. Stoke-on-Trent (Blythe Bridge and Duke Street, Fenton): Wyatt Bros., Whitechurch, Salop. Worlebury (Weston-super-Mare); Wolverhampton-Heath Town: Moore & Rowley, Northfield, Birmingham. Manchester (Hulme) and Chorlton (Clarendon Road): W. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Brixton Hill, S.W.: H. Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Electric Lifts and Gates:** Metropolitan Telephone Exchange (E.C. 2): W. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** Berkhamstead: Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C. Maids Vale: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: English Electric Co., Ltd., Kingsway, W.C., for Charging Machines. Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Victoria Street, S.W., for Batteries. Cambuslang (Glasgow): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Cowley (Oxford Multi-Exchange Area); Headington (do.); Summertown (do.): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractor: W. Jones & Co., Snydenham, S.E., for Ringing Machines. Chigwell (Essex); St. Albans; Bristol (Relief): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Salisbury; Sale (Cheshire): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. British Electrical Federation (W.C. 2): Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C.

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