

CHAPTER XVII.—LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.

A.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. **General.**—The results of an investigation into wholesale prices in Melbourne from 1871 to the end of September, 1912, were given in some detail in Labour Report No. 1. Since 1912, a monthly index-number has been published. Details of monthly figures are to be found in the Labour Reports and in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics issued by this Bureau.

2. **Index-Numbers.**—The index-numbers for eight groups of commodities and for all groups together are shown in the following table, with the prices in the year 1911 as the base of each group. The index-numbers are not comparable horizontally :—

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE.

(Base of each Group : Year 1911 = 1,000.)

| Year.   | I.<br>Metals<br>and<br>Coal. | II.<br>Jute,<br>Leather,<br>Wool,<br>etc. | III.<br>Agricultural<br>Produce,<br>etc. | IV.<br>Dairy<br>Produce. | V.<br>Gro-<br>ceries. | VI.<br>Meat. | VII.<br>Building<br>Materials. | VIII.<br>Chemicals. | All<br>Groups. |
|---------|------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1861 .. | 1,438                        | 1,381                                     | 1,583                                    | 1,008                    | 1,963                 | ..           | 1,070                          | 2,030               | 1,538          |
| 1871 .. | 1,096                        | 1,257                                     | 1,236                                    | 861                      | 1,586                 | ..           | 1,044                          | 1,409               | 1,229          |
| 1881 .. | 1,178                        | 1,115                                     | 1,012                                    | 935                      | 1,421                 | ..           | 1,091                          | 1,587               | 1,121          |
| 1891 .. | 895                          | 847                                       | 1,024                                    | 995                      | 1,032                 | 888          | 780                            | 1,194               | 945            |
| 1901 .. | 1,061                        | 774                                       | 928                                      | 1,029                    | 1,048                 | 1,345        | 841                            | 917                 | 974            |
| 1911 .. | 1,000                        | 1,000                                     | 1,000                                    | 1,000                    | 1,000                 | 1,000        | 1,000                          | 1,000               | 1,000          |
| 1913 .. | 1,046                        | 1,070                                     | 1,097                                    | 1,054                    | 1,024                 | 1,252        | 1,128                          | 995                 | 1,086          |
| 1914 .. | 1,099                        | 1,032                                     | 1,207                                    | 1,137                    | 1,021                 | 1,507        | 1,051                          | 1,253               | 1,149          |
| 1915 .. | 1,284                        | 1,017                                     | 2,162                                    | 1,530                    | 1,133                 | 2,435        | 1,275                          | 1,528               | 1,604          |
| 1916 .. | 1,695                        | 1,423                                     | 1,208                                    | 1,485                    | 1,322                 | 2,515        | 1,491                          | 1,760               | 1,504          |
| 1917 .. | 2,129                        | 2,008                                     | 1,157                                    | 1,423                    | 1,343                 | 2,403        | 1,584                          | 2,171               | 1,662          |
| 1918 .. | 2,416                        | 2,360                                     | 1,444                                    | 1,454                    | 1,422                 | 2,385        | 2,686                          | 3,225               | 1,934          |
| 1919 .. | 2,425                        | 2,363                                     | 1,985                                    | 1,651                    | 1,516                 | 2,348        | 2,851                          | 2,898               | 2,055          |
| 1920 .. | 2,298                        | 2,624                                     | 2,430                                    | 2,209                    | 1,918                 | 3,279        | 3,226                          | 2,825               | 2,480          |
| 1921 .. | 2,173                        | 1,362                                     | 1,767                                    | 2,000                    | 1,976                 | 2,158        | 2,733                          | 2,303               | 1,903          |
| 1922 .. | 1,942                        | 1,681                                     | 1,628                                    | 1,648                    | 1,869                 | 1,787        | 2,005                          | 1,965               | 1,758          |
| 1923 .. | 1,826                        | 2,148                                     | 1,778                                    | 1,837                    | 1,746                 | 2,579        | 2,025                          | 1,933               | 1,944          |
| 1924 .. | 1,835                        | 2,418                                     | 1,647                                    | 1,655                    | 1,721                 | 2,223        | 1,815                          | 1,806               | 1,885          |
| 1925 .. | 1,852                        | 1,967                                     | 1,707                                    | 1,636                    | 1,723                 | 2,212        | 1,711                          | 1,790               | 1,844          |
| 1926 .. | 1,938                        | 1,582                                     | 2,001                                    | 1,784                    | 1,731                 | 1,931        | 1,605                          | 1,816               | 1,832          |
| 1927 .. | 1,962                        | 1,650                                     | 1,826                                    | 1,825                    | 1,724                 | 2,111        | 1,624                          | 1,866               | 1,817          |
| 1928 .. | 1,912                        | 1,781                                     | 1,726                                    | 1,751                    | 1,707                 | 2,015        | 1,744                          | 1,923               | 1,792          |
| 1929 .. | 1,912                        | 1,556                                     | 1,792                                    | 1,853                    | 1,690                 | 2,246        | 1,754                          | 1,942               | 1,803          |
| 1930 .. | 1,866                        | 1,127                                     | 1,184                                    | 1,627                    | 1,666                 | 2,025        | 1,875                          | 1,982               | 1,596          |
| 1931 .. | 1,826                        | 1,039                                     | 1,121                                    | 1,399                    | 1,794                 | 1,508        | 2,025                          | 2,166               | 1,428          |
| 1932 .. | 1,736                        | 1,000                                     | 1,230                                    | 1,303                    | 1,767                 | 1,348        | 2,043                          | 2,127               | 1,411          |
| 1933 .. | 1,713                        | 1,118                                     | 1,175                                    | 1,195                    | 1,714                 | 1,487        | 2,061                          | 2,106               | 1,409          |
| 1934 .. | 1,660                        | 1,261                                     | 1,288                                    | 1,274                    | 1,735                 | 1,540        | 2,015                          | 2,018               | 1,471          |
| 1935 .. | 1,602                        | 1,217                                     | 1,344                                    | 1,325                    | 1,729                 | 1,508        | 1,964                          | 1,996               | 1,460          |
| 1936 .. | 1,566                        | 1,331                                     | 1,480                                    | 1,351                    | 1,731                 | 1,684        | 1,969                          | 1,997               | 1,543          |

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns but are not directly comparable horizontally.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of eighty commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to ninety-two.\* The commodities taken into account are given in detail in each Labour Report, with the average prices for the year. The commodities included are chiefly basic foods and raw materials,

\* In the computation of the index-numbers for years prior to 1911, the aggregate expenditure on 80 commodities in 1911 is taken as base (= 1,000), while for later years the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities is taken.

so that the index is more akin to the "Economist" or "Statist" index-numbers in England than to the official index-numbers of the United States or of Canada. The prices are weighted according to the estimates of Australian consumption per head in the years 1901 to 1911. For this purpose data were incomplete, and consumption in the State of Victoria was used as the basis for a number of commodities. The prices for farm and station products have been taken from market reports, and those of other commodities from trade journals or from information supplied by representative firms.

3. **Revision of the Index.**—Changes that have taken place since 1912 have altered considerably the relative consumption of different commodities. New commodities which should be taken into account have come into use, and in a number of other respects, the index-number requires revision. It is, moreover, desirable to give index-numbers for different classes of commodities, for farm products and for manufactured goods, and again for imported commodities and for those produced in Australia. Revision on these lines is now almost completed, and results will be ready for publication in the near future.

## § 2. Retail Prices and Housing.

1. **Introduction.**—Reference must be made generally to the Labour Reports for explanations and full tables of retail price index-numbers. In Report No. 1 (1912) will be found a general description of method, which is summarized in succeeding issues. Report No. 9, Appendix I. (1919) contains an extensive memorandum on price indexes by the late Sir George H. Knibbs.

2. **Index-Numbers.**—There are several "series" of retail price index-numbers covering different ranges of commodities. They may be grouped as follows:—

(a) *Food and Groceries*, subdivided into groceries, dairy produce and meat.

Index-numbers are computed monthly for five representative towns in each State (the "30 towns"), for Canberra, and for a few other special towns. Index-numbers are computed annually in November for 200 towns, including those referred to above (see § 4, following). The same regimen of Food and Groceries is used throughout all the retail price indexes that follow.

(b) *Food and Housing*. Figures for housing are collected as at the middle of each quarter and combined with food prices to give a quarterly index of food and housing. For the 30 towns, there are two index-numbers, one taking into account the rents of houses of four and five rooms only ("B" Series) and the other rents of all houses ("A" Series)—the latter formerly used by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. The first is usually given with the period 1923–1927 as base, and the second with 1911 as base. For the 200 towns, four-roomed and five-roomed houses are separately combined with food, and the base is 1911.

(c) *All Household Expenditure*. Prices have been collected annually since 1919, and quarterly since 1925 in the "30 towns" for other household expenditure in two groups, "Clothing" and "Miscellaneous", the latter including household utensils, fuel, light, tobacco and a number of other items. These prices are combined with food prices and housing (four and five-roomed houses) to give the "All Items" ("C" Series) index of retail prices. The base is the period 1923 to 1927 (see § 3 following). From the 1st May, 1934, this index almost wholly replaced the "A" Series as regards wages regulated by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, but from 1st July, 1937, has been supplanted by the "Court" Series (based on the "C" Series) specially created by the Court for use in connexion with its wage adjustments.

For all these index-numbers full information is given in the Labour Reports. The latest available information is to be found in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics.

3. Food and Housing: Six Capital Cities.—(i) *Food and Groceries.* The index-numbers for the three groups comprising food and groceries are shown in the following table :—

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES.**

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

| City.                     | 1907. | 1911. | 1914. | 1921. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sydney .. .. .            | 523   | 553   | 646   | 1,062 | 852   | 800   | 825   | 840   | 848   |
| Melbourne .. .. .         | 517   | 523   | 610   | 1,063 | 758   | 713   | 748   | 784   | 809   |
| Brisbane .. .. .          | 530   | 509   | 603   | 1,014 | 738   | 699   | 727   | 763   | 791   |
| Adelaide .. .. .          | 532   | 570   | 679   | 1,066 | 761   | 731   | 767   | 780   | 798   |
| Perth .. .. .             | 670   | 753   | 728   | 1,116 | 804   | 757   | 807   | 821   | 853   |
| Hobart .. .. .            | 565   | 592   | 678   | 1,133 | 797   | 757   | 786   | 792   | 827   |
| Weighted Average (a) .. . | 533   | 559   | 640   | 1,064 | 796   | 751   | 783   | 806   | 825   |

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii) *Housing.* In issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 19, the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under four rooms to seven rooms and over. Since 1925, houses of four and five rooms only have been taken into account in accordance with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians at Adelaide in 1924. The following table is on this basis, but the old index is still computed for the use of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court (*see Appendix*).

**INDEX-NUMBERS.—HOUSING,(a) CAPITAL CITIES.**

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

| City.                     | 1907. | 1911. | 1914. | 1921. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sydney .. .. .            | 593   | 701   | 760   | 989   | 894   | 864   | 869   | 891   | 930   |
| Melbourne .. .. .         | 455   | 569   | 628   | 820   | 816   | 801   | 808   | 850   | 882   |
| Brisbane .. .. .          | 283   | 373   | 466   | 630   | 641   | 681   | 691   | 720   | 766   |
| Adelaide .. .. .          | 510   | 706   | 655   | 809   | 691   | 694   | 700   | 736   | 795   |
| Perth .. .. .             | 458   | 524   | 589   | 739   | 810   | 795   | 794   | 792   | 844   |
| Hobart .. .. .            | 405   | 452   | 518   | 881   | 868   | 860   | 865   | 890   | 908   |
| Weighted Average (b) .. . | 497   | 612   | 662   | 862   | 817   | 804   | 810   | 839   | 879   |

(a) 4 and 5 roomed houses. (b) For all capital cities.

(iii) *Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses) combined.* The following table shows the index-numbers for food, groceries and housing (4 and 5-roomed houses) for each capital city.

**RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING.(a)—CAPITAL CITIES. ("B" Series.)**

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

| City.                     | 1907. | 1911. | 1914. | 1921. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sydney .. .. .            | 548   | 606   | 687   | 1,036 | 867   | 822   | 840   | 858   | 878   |
| Melbourne .. .. .         | 495   | 539   | 616   | 977   | 778   | 742   | 769   | 808   | 835   |
| Brisbane .. .. .          | 442   | 500   | 554   | 877   | 704   | 690   | 713   | 747   | 781   |
| Adelaide .. .. .          | 524   | 618   | 671   | 975   | 736   | 716   | 742   | 764   | 796   |
| Perth .. .. .             | 594   | 672   | 679   | 982   | 805   | 768   | 802   | 810   | 849   |
| Hobart .. .. .            | 508   | 542   | 621   | 1,044 | 822   | 792   | 814   | 827   | 856   |
| Weighted Average (b) .. . | 520   | 578   | 648   | 992   | 803   | 768   | 792   | 818   | 841   |

(a) 4 and 5 roomed houses. (b) For all capital cities.

4. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.—The tables previously given are now converted into money units by substituting 20s. od. for the base of 1,000. The figures for the last six quarters are added to the yearly figures. The figures show the

sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such quantities of the several commodities and such housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and housing in the six capitals in the five-yearly base period 1923-1927:—

**RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD HAVE COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 DURING THE PERIOD 1923-1927, IN THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES AS A WHOLE. ("B" Series.)**

| Period.   | Sydney.      | Melbourne.   | Brisbane.    | Adelaide.    | Perth.       | Hobart.      | Weighted<br>Average of<br>6 Capital<br>Cities. |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| <b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>                          |              |              |              |              |              |              |  |
|   | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i>                                   |
| 1907 .. ..  | 10 6         | 10 4         | 10 7         | 10 8         | 13 5         | 11 4         | 10 8   |
| 1911 .. ..  | 11 1         | 10 6         | 11 5         | 11 5         | 15 1         | 11 10        | 11 2   |
| 1914 .. ..  | 12 11        | 12 2         | 12 1         | 13 7         | 14 7         | 13 7         | 12 10  |
| 1921 .. ..  | 21 3         | 21 3         | 20 3         | 21 4         | 22 4         | 22 8         | 21 3   |
| 1932 .. ..  | 17 1         | 15 2         | 14 9         | 15 3         | 16 1         | 15 11        | 15 11  |
| 1933 .. ..  | 16 0         | 14 3         | 14 0         | 14 7         | 15 2         | 15 2         | 15 0   |
| 1934 .. ..  | 16 6         | 15 0         | 14 7         | 15 4         | 16 2         | 15 9         | 15 8   |
| 1935 .. ..  | 16 10        | 15 8         | 15 3         | 15 7         | 16 5         | 15 10        | 16 1   |
| 1936 .. ..  | 17 0         | 16 2         | 15 10        | 16 0         | 17 1         | 16 0         | 16 6   |
| 1936 { March Qtr.                                   | 16 11        | 15 8         | 15 8         | 15 5         | 16 3         | 15 10        | 16 2   |
| June ..   | 16 9         | 15 11        | 15 5         | 16 0         | 17 1         | 15 11        | 16 3   |
| Sept. ..  | 16 11        | 16 11        | 15 9         | 16 3         | 17 8         | 16 11        | 16 8   |
| Dec. ..   | 17 1         | 16 7         | 16 5         | 16 1         | 17 4         | 17 5         | 16 11  |
| 1937 { March ..                                     | 17 5         | 16 4         | 16 10        | 16 3         | 17 4         | 17 3         | 16 11  |
| June ..   | 17 2         | 16 6         | 16 5         | 16 5         | 18 1         | 17 4         | 16 10  |
| <b>HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b>                     |              |              |              |              |              |              |  |
| 1907 .. ..  | 11 10        | 9 1          | 5 8          | 10 2         | 9 2          | 8 1          | 9 11   |
| 1911 .. ..  | 14 0         | 11 5         | 7 6          | 14 1         | 10 6         | 9 0          | 12 3   |
| 1914 .. ..  | 15 2         | 12 7         | 9 4          | 13 1         | 11 9         | 10 4         | 13 3   |
| 1921 .. ..  | 19 9         | 16 5         | 12 7         | 16 2         | 14 9         | 17 7         | 17 3   |
| 1932 .. ..  | 17 11        | 16 4         | 12 10        | 13 10        | 16 2         | 17 4         | 16 4   |
| 1933 .. ..  | 17 3         | 16 0         | 13 7         | 13 11        | 15 11        | 17 2         | 16 1   |
| 1934 .. ..  | 17 5         | 16 2         | 13 10        | 14 0         | 15 11        | 17 4         | 16 2   |
| 1935 .. ..  | 17 10        | 17 0         | 14 5         | 14 9         | 15 10        | 17 10        | 16 9   |
| 1936 .. ..  | 18 7         | 17 8         | 15 4         | 15 11        | 16 11        | 15 2         | 17 7   |
| 1936 { March Qtr.                                   | 18 4         | 17 7         | 14 7         | 15 1         | 16 4         | 18 1         | 17 3   |
| June ..   | 18 7         | 17 7         | 14 9         | 15 4         | 16 5         | 18 2         | 17 5   |
| Sept. ..  | 18 7         | 17 6         | 15 9         | 16 11        | 17 9         | 18 7         | 17 9   |
| Dec. ..   | 18 11        | 17 10        | 16 2         | 16 2         | 17 1         | 17 9         | 17 10  |
| 1937 { March ..                                     | 19 0         | 18 0         | 16 4         | 16 3         | 17 2         | 17 10        | 18 0   |
| June ..   | 19 2         | 18 1         | 16 5         | 16 5         | 17 2         | 17 11        | 18 2   |
| <b>FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).</b> |              |              |              |              |              |              |  |
| 1907 .. ..  | 11 0         | 9 11         | 8 10         | 10 6         | 11 11        | 10 2         | 10 5   |
| 1911 .. ..  | 12 1         | 10 9         | 10 0         | 12 4         | 13 5         | 10 10        | 11 7   |
| 1914 .. ..  | 13 9         | 12 4         | 11 1         | 13 5         | 13 7         | 12 5         | 13 0   |
| 1921 .. ..  | 20 9         | 19 6         | 17 6         | 19 0         | 19 8         | 20 11        | 19 10  |
| 1932 .. ..  | 17 4         | 15 7         | 14 1         | 14 9         | 16 1         | 16 5         | 16 1   |
| 1933 .. ..  | 16 5         | 14 10        | 13 10        | 14 4         | 15 4         | 15 10        | 15 4   |
| 1934 .. ..  | 16 10        | 15 5         | 14 3         | 14 10        | 16 1         | 16 3         | 15 10  |
| 1935 .. ..  | 17 2         | 16 2         | 14 11        | 15 3         | 16 2         | 16 7         | 16 4   |
| 1936 .. ..  | 17 7         | 16 8         | 15 7         | 15 11        | 17 0         | 17 1         | 16 11  |
| 1936 { March Qtr.                                   | 17 5         | 16 4         | 15 3         | 15 4         | 16 3         | 16 8         | 16 7   |
| June ..   | 17 5         | 16 6         | 15 2         | 15 9         | 16 10        | 16 9         | 16 8   |
| Sept. ..  | 17 6         | 16 11        | 15 9         | 16 6         | 17 8         | 17 7         | 17 1   |
| Dec. ..   | 17 11        | 17 1         | 16 3         | 16 1         | 17 2         | 17 6         | 17 3   |
| 1937 { March ..                                     | 18 0         | 16 11        | 16 7         | 16 2         | 17 3         | 17 0         | 17 3   |
| June ..   | 17 11        | 17 1         | 16 4         | 16 5         | 17 8         | 17 6         | 17 4   |

### § 3. Variations in the Cost of Food, Groceries, Housing, Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Requirements. ("C" Series.)

1. **General.**—The index-numbers in § 2 show the variations in the cost of food, groceries and housing. The expenditure on these items covers approximately 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of the ordinary household. The balance is expended on clothing, boots, fuel, light, and such miscellaneous items as renewals of furniture, furnishings, drapery, crockery, lodge dues, trade union dues, recreation, newspapers, etc. The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage in 1920 recommended in its report that a method should be adopted of ascertaining from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in its relation to the total household expenditure. The Government adopted the recommendation, and the duty of carrying out the necessary investigations was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, which adopted the methods hereunder described.

2. **Methods Adopted.**—After careful investigation it was decided to adopt for food, groceries and housing, the commodities, method and weighting used by this Bureau. The commodities and quantities adopted for food and groceries conform very closely to those given in the Indicator Lists of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of five-roomed house as its standard for determining the amount allowed for housing. The investigations made by this Bureau are not confined to a particular type of house, but the average rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms are taken. The results can be used with safety to show the variations in the type of house described by the Commission.

The investigations of this Bureau advisedly had been confined to food, groceries and housing, and it was necessary, therefore, to make investigations into the cost of clothing and miscellaneous household requirements. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and life of articles, and this has been utilized in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

With regard to Miscellaneous items, which cover a very wide field, inquiries were made as to variations in cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, etc., also in respect of other items included in the Indicator Lists for Miscellaneous items, and the aggregate cost of these items has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

3. **Period Selected as Base.**—For the new series of index-numbers, November, 1914 was adopted as base, owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years. Prior to and including the 4th Quarter ended December, 1920, the index-numbers were computed on this base, but in accordance with the decision of a conference of Statisticians to adopt a post-war period as base, the index-numbers since the Quarter ended March, 1930, have been computed to the five-yearly period—1923-1927—as base (= 1,000), and the figures for past years have been re-computed to the same base.\*

This series assumed importance owing to its adoption by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, from the 1st May, 1934, for the fixation and adjustment of wages regulated by the Court. From 1st July, 1937, the Court has adopted its own series of Index-numbers—the "Court" Series—for the purpose mentioned. These are, however, based on the "C" Series.

Similar index-numbers indicating the separate movement of the Clothing and Miscellaneous items will be found in the annual Labour Reports.

4. **Variations in Cost in the Principal Towns.**—The following table gives the combined index, generally known as the "All-Items" ("C" Series) index, for all household expenditure, for the thirty-two towns in respect of which the tabulation is made:—

\* These Indexes may be converted to the 1914 base by multiplying them by 1.4556.

## THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX.

("C" Series.)

## RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS), CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-37 = 1,000.)

| State and Town.                             | Nov-<br>ember,<br>1921. | Year<br>1929.    | Year<br>1930.    | Year<br>1931.    | Year<br>1932.    | Year<br>1933.    | Year<br>1934.    | Year<br>1935.    | Year<br>1936.    | 1937.            |                  |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|   |                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Mar.<br>Qtr.     | June<br>Qtr.     |
| <b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>                     |                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Sydney ..                                   | 1,046                   | 1,073            | 1,026            | 922              | 867              | 832              | 842              | 852              | 866              | 884              | 884              |
| Newcastle ..                                | 1,041                   | 1,028            | 991              | 888              | 840              | 819              | 834              | 856              | 853              | 840              | 840              |
| Broken Hill ..                              | 975                     | 1,018            | 973              | 882              | 834              | 806              | 819              | 819              | 848              | 878              | 892              |
| Goulburn ..                                 | 1,033                   | 1,108            | 1,039            | 922              | 877              | 843              | 852              | 860              | 861              | 857              | 862              |
| Bathurst ..                                 | 947                     | 979              | 959              | 867              | 820              | 801              | 807              | 814              | 833              | 842              | 830              |
| Weighted Average,<br>5 Towns ..             | 1,042                   | 1,067            | 1,022            | 918              | 863              | 830              | 841              | 852              | 865              | 880              | 880              |
| <b>VICTORIA—</b>                            |                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Melbourne ..                                | 1,003                   | 1,017            | 956              | 846              | 813              | 789              | 801              | 824              | 844              | 854              | 863              |
| Ballarat ..                                 | 992                     | 957              | 909              | 808              | 776              | 760              | 781              | 803              | 826              | 834              | 835              |
| Bendigo ..                                  | 1,002                   | 969              | 926              | 833              | 808              | 789              | 811              | 820              | 821              | 833              | 838              |
| Geelong ..                                  | 1,019                   | 980              | 917              | 822              | 794              | 772              | 782              | 824              | 848              | 847              | 848              |
| Warrnambool ..                              | 1,034                   | 960              | 939              | 860              | 838              | 812              | 826              | 850              | 851              | 849              | 852              |
| Weighted Average,<br>5 Towns ..             | 1,003                   | 1,011            | 951              | 843              | 811              | 787              | 801              | 824              | 843              | 853              | 861              |
| <b>QUEENSLAND—</b>                          |                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Brisbane ..                                 | 923                     | 923              | 839              | 798              | 764              | 751              | 762              | 780              | 801              | 836              | 833              |
| Toowoomba ..                                | 949                     | 916              | 855              | 816              | 788              | 778              | 785              | 785              | 802              | 842              | 842              |
| Rockhampton ..                              | 972                     | 904              | 868              | 806              | 779              | 752              | 759              | 776              | 802              | 838              | 839              |
| Townsville ..                               | ..                      | 1,026            | 966              | 914              | 878              | 850              | 851              | 852              | 866              | 881              | 882              |
| Bundaberg ..                                | ..                      | ..               | ..               | ..               | ..               | ..               | ..               | ..               | 806              | 808              | 808              |
| Weighted Average,<br>5 Towns ..             | 941 <sup>b</sup>        | 922 <sup>b</sup> | 863 <sup>b</sup> | 801 <sup>b</sup> | 768 <sup>b</sup> | 753 <sup>b</sup> | 764 <sup>b</sup> | 780 <sup>b</sup> | 803 <sup>b</sup> | 839              | 836              |
| <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>                     |                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Adelaide ..                                 | 989                     | 1,037            | 952              | 837              | 802              | 789              | 806              | 820              | 830              | 845              | 854              |
| Radnig, etc. ..                             | 998                     | 943              | 885              | 801              | 772              | 747              | 758              | 763              | 765              | 765              | 700              |
| Port Pirie ..                               | 1,025                   | 980              | 927              | 834              | 791              | 762              | 778              | 789              | 813              | 830              | 840              |
| Mount Gambier ..                            | 1,029                   | 963              | 918              | 831              | 816              | 800              | 800              | 809              | 818              | 825              | 820              |
| Peterborough ..                             | 948                     | 1,043            | 980              | 884              | 848              | 832              | 832              | 833              | 843              | 844              | 848              |
| Weighted Average,<br>5 Towns ..             | 992                     | 1,030            | 948              | 836              | 801              | 787              | 804              | 817              | 835              | 841              | 850              |
| <b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>                   |                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Perth, etc. ..                              | 1,008                   | 1,026            | 977              | 885              | 840              | 811              | 830              | 834              | 856              | 850              | 876              |
| Kalgoorlie, etc. ..                         | 1,048                   | 1,032            | 986              | 937              | 940              | 937              | 975              | 1,011            | 1,027            | 1,028            | 1,035            |
| Northam ..                                  | 1,030                   | 1,022            | 969              | 878              | 844              | 814              | 825              | 829              | 860              | 877              | 895              |
| Bunbury ..                                  | 1,045                   | 978              | 966              | 877              | 842              | 824              | 843              | 865              | 880              | 885              | 900              |
| Geraldton ..                                | 1,056                   | 1,051            | 1,029            | 951              | 904              | 851              | 866              | 886              | 933              | 969              | 973              |
| Weighted Average,<br>5 Towns ..             | 1,020                   | 1,026            | 979              | 891              | 852              | 825              | 842              | 848              | 870              | 875              | 891              |
| <b>TASMANIA—</b>                            |                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Hobart ..                                   | 1,070                   | 1,000            | 956              | 875              | 844              | 825              | 837              | 849              | 860              | 865              | 872              |
| Launceston ..                               | 1,067                   | 967              | 949              | 865              | 832              | 817              | 828              | 834              | 840              | 845              | 854              |
| Hurnie ..                                   | 1,003                   | 966              | 918              | 837              | 811              | 775              | 780              | 792              | 814              | 836              | 850              |
| Devonport ..                                | 904                     | 948              | 920              | 831              | 800              | 773              | 787              | 801              | 809              | 825              | 833              |
| Queenstown ..                               | 1,031                   | 972              | 949              | 881              | 875              | 867              | 876              | 873              | 850              | 846              | 859              |
| Weighted Average,<br>5 Towns ..             | 1,057                   | 986              | 951              | 869              | 838              | 820              | 831              | 841              | 850              | 855              | 864              |
| Weighted Average for<br>30 Towns ..         | 1,013                   | 1,026            | 971              | 870              | 829              | 803              | 816              | 831              | 848              | 862              | 867              |
| Weighted Average for<br>6 Capital Cities .. | 1,013                   | 1,033            | 975              | 873              | 830              | 804              | 817              | 832              | 850              | 864              | 868              |
| Charters Towers (Q.) ..                     | 1,025                   | 939              | 883              | 827              | 794              | 762              | 759              | 789              | 810              | 818 <sup>a</sup> | 820 <sup>a</sup> |
| Warwick (Q.) ..                             | 994                     | 931              | 882              | 815              | 777              | 757              | 761              | 769              | 779              | 837 <sup>a</sup> | 842 <sup>a</sup> |
| Port Augusta (S.A.) (a)                     | 1,035                   | 1,061            | 1,026            | 914              | 853              | 814              | 822              | 832              | 841              | 781              | 776              |

(a) Not included in above weighted averages.

(b) Includes Charters Towers and Warwick in place of Townsville and Bundaberg.

\* Figures for the country towns are only available from 1921, but the corresponding index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities for November, 1914, to November, 1920 appear on next page.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX.

(The "C" Series.)

SIX CAPITAL CITIES, 1914-1920.—RETAIL PRICE INDEX—NUMBERS SHOWING THE COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES, HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS), CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS.

(Base of each Section: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities 1923-27 = 1,000.)

| Period.                      | Sydney. | Melbourne. | Brisbane. | Adelaide. | Perth. | Hobart. | Six Capitals.<br>(a) |
|------------------------------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|----------------------|
| FOOD AND GROCERIES.          |         |            |           |           |        |         |                      |
| Nov. 1914 ..                 | 638     | 616        | 614       | 683       | 746    | 687     | 641                  |
| " 1915 ..                    | 844     | 835        | 860       | 858       | 819    | 858     | 842                  |
| " 1916 ..                    | 833     | 791        | 748       | 835       | 854    | 807     | 812                  |
| " 1917 ..                    | 877     | 798        | 825       | 805       | 828    | 949     | 836                  |
| " 1918 ..                    | 877     | 843        | 882       | 862       | 816    | 918     | 861                  |
| " 1919 ..                    | 1,073   | 975        | 1,069     | 1,012     | 987    | 1,041   | 1,026                |
| " 1920 ..                    | 1,225   | 1,220      | 1,117     | 1,225     | 1,113  | 1,293   | 1,209                |
| HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS).     |         |            |           |           |        |         |                      |
| Nov. 1914 ..                 | 758     | 608        | 463       | 611       | 586    | 525     | 649                  |
| " 1915 ..                    | 780     | 611        | 472       | 574       | 581    | 571     | 659                  |
| " 1916 ..                    | 791     | 625        | 467       | 573       | 592    | 574     | 665                  |
| " 1917 ..                    | 797     | 657        | 492       | 606       | 602    | 586     | 685                  |
| " 1918 ..                    | 832     | 699        | 526       | 656       | 619    | 614     | 722                  |
| " 1919 ..                    | 866     | 744        | 604       | 707       | 650    | 746     | 768                  |
| " 1920 ..                    | 980     | 807        | 634       | 783       | 718    | 904     | 851                  |
| FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING. |         |            |           |           |        |         |                      |
| Nov. 1914 ..                 | 680     | 613        | 560       | 658       | 689    | 630     | 644                  |
| " 1915 ..                    | 825     | 756        | 722       | 758       | 734    | 756     | 777                  |
| " 1916 ..                    | 818     | 732        | 648       | 742       | 761    | 724     | 760                  |
| " 1917 ..                    | 848     | 748        | 707       | 734       | 748    | 820     | 782                  |
| " 1918 ..                    | 861     | 792        | 756       | 789       | 746    | 810     | 812                  |
| " 1919 ..                    | 1,000   | 893        | 904       | 904       | 867    | 936     | 934                  |
| " 1920 ..                    | 1,138   | 1,074      | 945       | 1,068     | 973    | 1,155   | 1,082                |
| CLOTHING.                    |         |            |           |           |        |         |                      |
| Nov. 1914 ..                 | 755     | 780        | 657       | 756       | 698    | 825     | 754                  |
| " 1915 ..                    | 805     | 797        | 690       | 821       | 760    | 833     | 792                  |
| " 1916 ..                    | 903     | 870        | 779       | 919       | 849    | 940     | 881                  |
| " 1917 ..                    | 1,009   | 976        | 899       | 1,049     | 980    | 1,041   | 992                  |
| " 1918 ..                    | 1,102   | 1,103      | 1,025     | 1,066     | 1,135  | 1,200   | 1,097                |
| " 1919 ..                    | 1,237   | 1,213      | 1,192     | 1,303     | 1,277  | 1,344   | 1,238                |
| " 1920 ..                    | 1,323   | 1,422      | 1,274     | 1,384     | 1,359  | 1,430   | 1,365                |
| MISCELLANEOUS.               |         |            |           |           |        |         |                      |
| Nov. 1914 ..                 | 766     | 728        | 728       | 770       | 780    | 699     | 749                  |
| " 1915 ..                    | 798     | 770        | 756       | 803       | 822    | 770     | 786                  |
| " 1916 ..                    | 808     | 784        | 766       | 832       | 869    | 780     | 802                  |
| " 1917 ..                    | 889     | 879        | 836       | 883       | 926    | 865     | 882                  |
| " 1918 ..                    | 988     | 950        | 931       | 988       | 1,035  | 945     | 972                  |
| " 1919 ..                    | 1,059   | 1,016      | 968       | 1,035     | 1,120  | 1,006   | 1,036                |
| " 1920 ..                    | 1,209   | 1,181      | 1,139     | 1,200     | 1,262  | 1,124   | 1,194                |
| TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE. |         |            |           |           |        |         |                      |
| Nov. 1914 ..                 | 712     | 671        | 611       | 699       | 707    | 687     | 687                  |
| " 1915 ..                    | 816     | 768        | 721       | 780       | 755    | 776     | 782                  |
| " 1916 ..                    | 836     | 773        | 698       | 798       | 800    | 783     | 795                  |
| " 1917 ..                    | 892     | 823        | 773       | 832       | 832    | 879     | 847                  |
| " 1918 ..                    | 938     | 890        | 848       | 887       | 885    | 923     | 905                  |
| " 1919 ..                    | 1,065   | 988        | 981       | 1,018     | 1,005  | 1,042   | 1,022                |
| " 1920 ..                    | 1,193   | 1,172      | 1,054     | 1,164     | 1,111  | 1,213   | 1,166                |

(a) Weighted Average.

5. **Relative Household Expenditure.**—The following table shows for the towns covered by this Series of index-numbers the relative cost of each of the groups of household expenditure:—  
**ALL ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE. ("C" SERIES INDEX). RELATIVE COST OF EACH GROUP OF ITEMS.**

(Base: Weighted Average Cost of All Groups in each Town = 1,000.)

| State and Town.                               | 1935.               |                        |           |                |                              | 1936.               |                        |           |                |                              |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|
|   | Food and Groceries. | Housing (4 & 5 Rooms). | Clothing. | Miscellaneous. | Total Household Expenditure. | Food and Groceries. | Housing (4 & 5 Rooms). | Clothing. | Miscellaneous. | Total Household Expenditure. |
| <b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>                       |                     |                        |           |                |                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |
| Sydney .. .. .                                | 381                 | 222                    | 201       | 196            | 1,000                        | 366                 | 228                    | 202       | 194            | 1,000                        |
| Newcastle .. .. .                             | 380                 | 268                    | 278       | 188            | 1,000                        | 376                 | 273                    | 213       | 184            | 1,000                        |
| Berkeley Hill .. .. .                         | 440                 | 167                    | 108       | 200            | 1,000                        | 417                 | 169                    | 109       | 212            | 1,000                        |
| Geelong .. .. .                               | 369                 | 213                    | 217       | 182            | 1,000                        | 368                 | 220                    | 220       | 182            | 1,000                        |
| Bathurst .. .. .                              | 382                 | 202                    | 247       | 182            | 1,000                        | 370                 | 217                    | 220       | 187            | 1,000                        |
| Weighted Average .. .. .                      | 383                 | 219                    | 203       | 195            | 1,000                        | 366                 | 226                    | 201       | 191            | 1,000                        |
| <b>VICTORIA—</b>                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |
| Melbourne .. .. .                             | 368                 | 220                    | 222       | 190            | 1,000                        | 358                 | 221                    | 211       | 200            | 1,000                        |
| Bairnsdale .. .. .                            | 361                 | 177                    | 215       | 187            | 1,000                        | 370                 | 184                    | 230       | 207            | 1,000                        |
| Benzingo .. .. .                              | 382                 | 178                    | 210       | 191            | 1,000                        | 372                 | 160                    | 222       | 207            | 1,000                        |
| Geelong .. .. .                               | 371                 | 210                    | 238       | 181            | 1,000                        | 365                 | 225                    | 224       | 212            | 1,000                        |
| Warramblood .. .. .                           | 372                 | 211                    | 247       | 170            | 1,000                        | 360                 | 219                    | 228       | 193            | 1,000                        |
| Weighted Average .. .. .                      | 369                 | 216                    | 225       | 190            | 1,000                        | 358                 | 229                    | 212       | 201            | 1,000                        |
| <b>QUEENSLAND—</b>                            |                     |                        |           |                |                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |
| Brisbane .. .. .                              | 378                 | 195                    | 228       | 198            | 1,000                        | 367                 | 211                    | 218       | 204            | 1,000                        |
| Toowoomba .. .. .                             | 361                 | 203                    | 229       | 197            | 1,000                        | 354                 | 221                    | 218       | 207            | 1,000                        |
| Rockhampton .. .. .                           | 390                 | 163                    | 243       | 192            | 1,000                        | 364                 | 168                    | 234       | 204            | 1,000                        |
| Charlton Towers .. .. .                       | 416                 | 143                    | 222       | 210            | 1,000                        | 406                 | 140                    | 220       | 234            | 1,000                        |
| Warwick .. .. .                               | 380                 | 178                    | 237       | 205            | 1,000                        | 375                 | 177                    | 221       | 227            | 1,000                        |
| Weighted Average .. .. .                      | 379                 | 192                    | 231       | 198            | 1,000                        | 370                 | 207                    | 219       | 204            | 1,000                        |
| <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>                       |                     |                        |           |                |                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |
| Adelaide .. .. .                              | 368                 | 191                    | 239       | 202            | 1,000                        | 355                 | 210                    | 221       | 211            | 1,000                        |
| Kadina, etc. .. .. .                          | 435                 | 110                    | 215       | 210            | 1,000                        | 416                 | 110                    | 227       | 227            | 1,000                        |
| Port Pirie .. .. .                            | 398                 | 169                    | 231       | 199            | 1,000                        | 396                 | 172                    | 226       | 206            | 1,000                        |
| Mount Gambier .. .. .                         | 371                 | 164                    | 267       | 198            | 1,000                        | 367                 | 176                    | 216       | 211            | 1,000                        |
| Peterborough .. .. .                          | 377                 | 169                    | 256       | 198            | 1,000                        | 371                 | 199                    | 228       | 211            | 1,000                        |
| Weighted Average .. .. .                      | 371                 | 187                    | 240       | 202            | 1,000                        | 359                 | 205                    | 225       | 211            | 1,000                        |
| <b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>                     |                     |                        |           |                |                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |
| Perth, etc. .. .. .                           | 380                 | 203                    | 228       | 189            | 1,000                        | 371                 | 220                    | 215       | 194            | 1,000                        |
| Kalgoorlie, etc. .. .. .                      | 374                 | 221                    | 241       | 164            | 1,000                        | 363                 | 254                    | 211       | 172            | 1,000                        |
| Northam .. .. .                               | 398                 | 197                    | 215       | 190            | 1,000                        | 390                 | 205                    | 210       | 195            | 1,000                        |
| Hubbary .. .. .                               | 379                 | 199                    | 243       | 179            | 1,000                        | 367                 | 224                    | 225       | 184            | 1,000                        |
| Geratdona .. .. .                             | 369                 | 226                    | 218       | 187            | 1,000                        | 363                 | 210                    | 200       | 191            | 1,000                        |
| Weighted Average .. .. .                      | 380                 | 204                    | 228       | 188            | 1,000                        | 371                 | 223                    | 215       | 191            | 1,000                        |
| <b>TASMANIA—</b>                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |                     |                        |           |                |                              |
| Hobart .. .. .                                | 360                 | 223                    | 215       | 172            | 1,000                        | 357                 | 225                    | 224       | 184            | 1,000                        |
| Launceston .. .. .                            | 366                 | 199                    | 259       | 176            | 1,000                        | 358                 | 214                    | 235       | 193            | 1,000                        |
| Burnie .. .. .                                | 406                 | 187                    | 237       | 170            | 1,000                        | 388                 | 204                    | 225       | 183            | 1,000                        |
| Devonport .. .. .                             | 391                 | 193                    | 237       | 177            | 1,000                        | 384                 | 190                    | 220       | 189            | 1,000                        |
| Queenstown .. .. .                            | 400                 | 178                    | 200       | 162            | 1,000                        | 394                 | 198                    | 232       | 176            | 1,000                        |
| Weighted Average .. .. .                      | 366                 | 212                    | 250       | 172            | 1,000                        | 361                 | 225                    | 228       | 186            | 1,000                        |
| <b>TOWNSHIP AVERAGES FOR 30 TOWNS .. .. .</b> | 377                 | 212                    | 218       | 193            | 1,000                        | 361                 | 216                    | 212       | 198            | 1,000                        |
| <b>Weighted Average for 60 TOWNS .. .. .</b>  | 374                 | 214                    | 218       | 194            | 1,000                        | 363                 | 220                    | 209       | 199            | 1,000                        |
| <b>Capital Cities .. .. .</b>                 | 374                 | 214                    | 218       | 194            | 1,000                        | 363                 | 220                    | 209       | 199            | 1,000                        |
| <b>TOWNSHIP (Q) (a) .. .. .</b>               | 393                 | 196                    | 250       | 182            | 1,000                        | 382                 | 209                    | 214       | 195            | 1,000                        |
| <b>PORT AUSTRALIA (S.A.) (a) .. .. .</b>      | 114                 | 159                    | 230       | 197            | 1,000                        | 165                 | 165                    | 222       | 205            | 1,000                        |

(a) Not included in above weighted averages.



§ 4. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. **General.**—To supplement the information collected each month for the 30 towns a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, into retail price index-numbers in 70 additional towns. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number of additional towns was further increased to 170, and it is intended to institute inquiries in November of each year, thus making information available annually for 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5, pp. 26 to 33, where a description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the succeeding yearly investigations appear in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. **Detailed Results, 1934 to 1936.**—The base of the index-numbers in the table is the cost of food and housing (all houses) in the six capitals in 1911. This is to some extent arbitrary, inasmuch as the standard of housing in the base itself differs from that used in the index-numbers, but the latter are comparable throughout.

Column A shows the relative cost of food in the various towns; Column B the relative cost of food and rent of four-roomed houses; and Column C the relative cost of food and rent of five-roomed houses. The difference between Columns B and A, and C and A, represents in each case the relative rents of four-roomed and five-roomed houses for each town. In comparing rents for various towns, therefore, these differences must first be ascertained in order to make the necessary allowance for the differences due to food as between towns.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES, AND OF FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS.

(Base: Weighted Average cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of All Houses in Six Capital Cities, 1911 = 1,000.)

| State and Town.         | 1934.<br>November.       |   |   | 1935.<br>November.       |   |   | 1936.<br>November.       |   |   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|---|
|                         | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. |
|                         | A                        | B   | C   | A                        | B   | C   | A                        | B   | C   |
| <b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b> |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |
| Albury .. .. .          | 836                      | 1,280   | 1,364   | 846                      | 1,311   | 1,408   | 902                      | 1,370   | 1,485   |
| Armidale .. .. .        | 817                      | 1,169   | 1,247   | 805                      | 1,220   | 1,273   | 854                      | 1,212   | 1,304   |
| Ballina .. .. .         | 846                      | 1,175   | 1,280   | 855                      | 1,223   | 1,315   | 808                      | 1,250   | 1,374   |
| Bathurst .. .. .        | 852                      | 1,217   | 1,270   | 887                      | 1,229   | 1,310   | 882                      | 1,277   | 1,342   |
| Rega .. .. .            | 860                      | 1,217   | 1,281   | 896                      | 1,258   | 1,320   | 909                      | 1,303   | 1,435   |
| <br>                    |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |
| Berry .. .. .           | 906                      | 1,222   | 1,301   | 920                      | 1,315   | 1,407   | 919                      | 1,314   | 1,379   |
| Blackheath .. .. .      | 896                      | 1,265   | 1,295   | 929                      | 1,310   | 1,335   | 968                      | 1,353   | 1,444   |
| Bourke .. .. .          | 892                      | 1,221   | 1,352   | 920                      | 1,249   | 1,328   | 949                      | 1,343   | 1,468   |
| Bowral .. .. .          | 870                      | 1,229   | 1,337   | 893                      | 1,258   | 1,302   | 907                      | 1,275   | 1,468   |
| Broken Hill .. .. .     | 973                      | 1,313   | 1,418   | 978                      | 1,311   | 1,418   | 1,028                    | 1,352   | 1,505   |

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

| State and Town.                   | 1934.<br>November.       |   |   | 1935.<br>November.       |   |   | 1936.<br>November.       |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|---|
|                                   | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. |
| NEW SOUTH WALES <i>continued.</i> | A                        | B   | C   | A                        | B   | C   | A                        | B   | C   |
| Casino .. .. .                    | 832                      | 1,240   | 1,359   | 900                      | 1,352   | 1,471   | 948                      | 1,457   | 1,547   |
| Cessnock .. .. .                  | 834                      | 1,103   | 1,140   | 890                      | 1,171   | 1,258   | 894                      | 1,215   | 1,285   |
| Cobar .. .. .                     | 1,028                    | 1,217   | 1,278   | 1,066                    | 1,307   | 1,329   | 1,086                    | 1,358   | 1,391   |
| Cooma .. .. .                     | 881                      | 1,204   | 1,342   | 943                      | 1,292   | 1,430   | 926                      | 1,259   | 1,354   |
| Coonamble .. .. .                 | 927                      | 1,254   | 1,328   | 966                      | 1,313   | 1,401   | 1,012                    | 1,352   | 1,465   |
| Cootamundra .. .. .               | 831                      | 1,246   | 1,366   | 868                      | 1,301   | 1,419   | 895                      | 1,398   | 1,516   |
| Corrimal .. .. .                  | 861                      | 1,253   | 1,321   | 878                      | 1,270   | 1,339   | 922                      | 1,300   | 1,397   |
| Cowra .. .. .                     | 851                      | 1,313   | 1,408   | 889                      | 1,344   | 1,448   | 905                      | 1,361   | 1,532   |
| Cronulla .. .. .                  | 877                      | 1,286   | 1,418   | 905                      | 1,350   | 1,456   | 922                      | 1,382   | 1,467   |
| Deniliquin .. .. .                | 910                      | 1,256   | 1,401   | 930                      | 1,282   | 1,433   | 955                      | 1,310   | 1,485   |
| Dubbo .. .. .                     | 812                      | 1,311   | 1,372   | 887                      | 1,392   | 1,468   | 893                      | 1,353   | 1,481   |
| Forbes .. .. .                    | 866                      | 1,289   | 1,494   | 930                      | 1,375   | 1,576   | 908                      | 1,312   | 1,533   |
| Gilgandra .. .. .                 | 891                      | 1,220   | 1,253   | 919                      | 1,325   | 1,377   | 910                      | 1,357   | 1,430   |
| Glen Innes .. .. .                | 867                      | 1,162   | 1,286   | 850                      | 1,230   | 1,306   | 857                      | 1,205   | 1,407   |
| Goulburn .. .. .                  | 868                      | 1,306   | 1,345   | 891                      | 1,351   | 1,377   | 900                      | 1,353   | 1,399   |
| Grafton .. .. .                   | 823                      | 1,281   | 1,440   | 867                      | 1,392   | 1,553   | 899                      | 1,420   | 1,604   |
| Grenfell .. .. .                  | 849                      | 1,293   | 1,411   | 874                      | 1,350   | 1,471   | 882                      | 1,382   | 1,531   |
| Griffith .. .. .                  | 956                      | 1,067   | 1,584   | 984                      | 1,215   | 1,816   | 990                      | 1,705   | 1,872   |
| Gulgong .. .. .                   | 823                      | 1,160   | 1,152   | 865                      | 1,191   | 1,266   | 900                      | 1,236   | 1,310   |
| Gunnedah .. .. .                  | 816                      | 1,177   | 1,343   | 873                      | 1,234   | 1,410   | 887                      | 1,336   | 1,458   |
| Hay .. .. .                       | 945                      | 1,293   | 1,460   | 951                      | 1,334   | 1,524   | 980                      | 1,409   | 1,574   |
| Inverell .. .. .                  | 851                      | 1,306   | 1,382   | 893                      | 1,383   | 1,501   | 844                      | 1,365   | 1,513   |
| Junee .. .. .                     | 861                      | 1,371   | 1,499   | 872                      | 1,382   | 1,510   | 922                      | 1,398   | 1,572   |
| Katoomba .. .. .                  | 877                      | 1,421   | 1,525   | 913                      | 1,462   | 1,566   | 932                      | 1,478   | 1,581   |
| Kempsey .. .. .                   | 853                      | 1,238   | 1,357   | 845                      | 1,253   | 1,342   | 854                      | 1,257   | 1,378   |
| Kiama .. .. .                     | 935                      | 1,225   | 1,421   | 935                      | 1,231   | 1,461   | 952                      | 1,281   | 1,478   |
| Kurri Kurri .. .. .               | 861                      | 1,107   | 1,102   | 851                      | 1,114   | 1,180   | 884                      | 1,147   | 1,213   |
| Leeton .. .. .                    | 893                      | 1,489   | 1,620   | 933                      | 1,591   | 1,722   | 941                      | 1,590   | 1,764   |
| Lismore .. .. .                   | 823                      | 1,300   | 1,455   | 878                      | 1,411   | 1,531   | 933                      | 1,458   | 1,648   |
| Lithgow .. .. .                   | 899                      | 1,216   | 1,224   | 904                      | 1,178   | 1,218   | 852                      | 1,127   | 1,178   |
| Maitland .. .. .                  | 830                      | 1,128   | 1,193   | 877                      | 1,191   | 1,257   | 876                      | 1,223   | 1,335   |
| Moree .. .. .                     | 925                      | 1,476   | 1,579   | 933                      | 1,504   | 1,621   | 952                      | 1,546   | 1,667   |
| Moss Vale .. .. .                 | 856                      | 1,246   | 1,330   | 889                      | 1,325   | 1,418   | 894                      | 1,347   | 1,476   |
| Mudgee .. .. .                    | 814                      | 1,273   | 1,339   | 863                      | 1,356   | 1,396   | 884                      | 1,346   | 1,430   |
| Narrabri .. .. .                  | 885                      | 1,321   | 1,364   | 924                      | 1,368   | 1,409   | 942                      | 1,426   | 1,521   |
| Narrandera .. .. .                | 893                      | 1,406   | 1,499   | 909                      | 1,446   | 1,541   | 940                      | 1,535   | 1,653   |
| Newcastle .. .. .                 | 894                      | 1,284   | 1,397   | 927                      | 1,356   | 1,467   | 915                      | 1,344   | 1,469   |
| Nowra .. .. .                     | 885                      | 1,319   | 1,420   | 899                      | 1,431   | 1,545   | 947                      | 1,467   | 1,567   |
| Orange .. .. .                    | 814                      | 1,219   | 1,361   | 861                      | 1,283   | 1,403   | 856                      | 1,209   | 1,442   |
| Parkes .. .. .                    | 847                      | 1,220   | 1,350   | 888                      | 1,227   | 1,373   | 905                      | 1,307   | 1,470   |
| Penrith .. .. .                   | 829                      | 1,132   | 1,209   | 849                      | 1,204   | 1,277   | 862                      | 1,220   | 1,322   |
| Port Kembla .. .. .               | 901                      | 1,276   | 1,374   | 912                      | 1,356   | 1,412   | 956                      | 1,426   | 1,468   |
| Portland .. .. .                  | 885                      | 1,148   | 1,214   | 908                      | 1,171   | 1,237   | 903                      | 1,133   | 1,175   |
| Queanbeyan .. .. .                | 895                      | 1,205   | 1,275   | 931                      | 1,269   | 1,387   | 953                      | 1,303   | 1,406   |
| Quirindi .. .. .                  | 900                      | 1,242   | 1,351   | 910                      | 1,253   | 1,358   | 912                      | 1,259   | 1,411   |
| Richmond .. .. .                  | 884                      | 1,298   | 1,344   | 870                      | 1,298   | 1,363   | 860                      | 1,353   | 1,450   |
| Scone .. .. .                     | 852                      | 1,293   | 1,389   | 881                      | 1,302   | 1,414   | 906                      | 1,347   | 1,436   |
| Singleton .. .. .                 | 821                      | 1,174   | 1,224   | 870                      | 1,275   | 1,294   | 856                      | 1,244   | 1,321   |
| Sydney .. .. .                    | 880                      | 1,316   | 1,413   | 896                      | 1,340   | 1,444   | 909                      | 1,365   | 1,473   |
| Tamworth .. .. .                  | 826                      | 1,188   | 1,303   | 849                      | 1,296   | 1,390   | 848                      | 1,408   | 1,495   |
| Taree .. .. .                     | 827                      | 1,296   | 1,432   | 893                      | 1,397   | 1,507   | 909                      | 1,418   | 1,520   |
| Temora .. .. .                    | 845                      | 1,328   | 1,416   | 846                      | 1,394   | 1,480   | 867                      | 1,514   | 1,597   |
| Teutlerfield .. .. .              | 813                      | 1,177   | 1,237   | 875                      | 1,287   | 1,334   | 911                      | 1,328   | 1,423   |
| Tumut .. .. .                     | 853                      | 1,324   | 1,422   | 876                      | 1,348   | 1,457   | 882                      | 1,365   | 1,468   |
| Umarra .. .. .                    | 872                      | 1,267   | 1,398   | 897                      | 1,292   | 1,423   | 939                      | 1,334   | 1,531   |

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| State and Town.                               | 1934.<br>November.       |   |   | 1935.<br>November.       |   |   | 1936.<br>November.       |   |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|---|
|   | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses. |
|   | A                        | B   | C   | A                        | B   | C   | A                        | B   | C   |
| <b>NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i></b>      |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |
| Wagga Wagga .. .. .                           | 839                      | 1,342   | 1,500   | 880                      | 1,404   | 1,557   | 895                      | 1,414   | 1,570   |
| Walcha .. .. .                                | 880                      | 1,238   | 1,294   | 976                      | 1,344   | 1,423   | 890                      | 1,265   | 1,311   |
| Wellington .. .. .                            | 875                      | 1,237   | 1,283   | 861                      | 1,225   | 1,297   | 872                      | 1,234   | 1,306   |
| Weston .. .. .                                | 834                      | 1,126   | 1,179   | 861                      | 1,153   | 1,205   | 879                      | 1,171   | 1,223   |
| Windsor .. .. .                               | 830                      | 1,274   | 1,356   | 895                      | 1,372   | 1,421   | 896                      | 1,390   | 1,456   |
| Wollongong .. .. .                            | 850                      | 1,307   | 1,419   | 873                      | 1,354   | 1,480   | 898                      | 1,462   | 1,656   |
| Wyalong .. .. .                               | 858                      | 1,187   | 1,253   | 907                      | 1,236   | 1,302   | 916                      | 1,245   | 1,311   |
| Yass .. .. .                                  | 856                      | 1,250   | 1,292   | 895                      | 1,323   | 1,390   | 881                      | 1,421   | 1,507   |
| Young .. .. .                                 | 898                      | 1,310   | 1,367   | 900                      | 1,317   | 1,378   | 888                      | 1,348   | 1,447   |
| Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) .. .. . | 878                      | 1,303   | 1,401   | 898                      | 1,334   | 1,437   | 909                      | 1,359   | 1,469   |
| <b>VICTORIA—</b>                              |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |                          |   |   |
| Ararat .. .. .                                | 872                      | 1,202   | 1,333   | 901                      | 1,247   | 1,361   | 966                      | 1,302   | 1,460   |
| Bacchus Marsh .. .. .                         | 830                      | 1,175   | 1,247   | 863                      | 1,206   | 1,265   | 906                      | 1,233   | 1,325   |
| Bairnsdale .. .. .                            | 891                      | 1,161   | 1,339   | 908                      | 1,237   | 1,369   | 926                      | 1,270   | 1,416   |
| Ballarat .. .. .                              | 818                      | 1,129   | 1,264   | 861                      | 1,173   | 1,316   | 919                      | 1,264   | 1,398   |
| Beechworth .. .. .                            | 856                      | 1,152   | 1,191   | 872                      | 1,168   | 1,234   | 932                      | 1,228   | 1,300   |
| Benalla .. .. .                               | 874                      | 1,200   | 1,384   | 895                      | 1,232   | 1,431   | 927                      | 1,273   | 1,461   |
| Bendigo .. .. .                               | 836                      | 1,154   | 1,274   | 855                      | 1,202   | 1,313   | 902                      | 1,250   | 1,349   |
| Camperdown .. .. .                            | 857                      | 1,236   | 1,382   | 894                      | 1,258   | 1,418   | 908                      | 1,268   | 1,419   |
| Casterton .. .. .                             | 879                      | 1,261   | 1,340   | 890                      | 1,272   | 1,351   | 935                      | 1,330   | 1,409   |
| Castlemaine .. .. .                           | 816                      | 1,104   | 1,198   | 872                      | 1,208   | 1,289   | 890                      | 1,219   | 1,326   |
| Colac .. .. .                                 | 856                      | 1,274   | 1,371   | 861                      | 1,296   | 1,407   | 887                      | 1,345   | 1,471   |
| Creswick .. .. .                              | 831                      | 989   | 1,041   | 882                      | 1,040   | 1,093   | 904                      | 1,036   | 1,088   |
| Daylesford .. .. .                            | 831                      | 1,041   | 1,118   | 856                      | 1,067   | 1,144   | 888                      | 1,125   | 1,199   |
| Dunolly .. .. .                               | 836                      | 1,047   | 1,083   | 880                      | 1,087   | 1,117   | 936                      | 1,160   | 1,232   |
| Echuca .. .. .                                | 826                      | 1,135   | 1,283   | 868                      | 1,184   | 1,316   | 890                      | 1,217   | 1,382   |
| Euroa .. .. .                                 | 846                      | 1,142   | 1,251   | 890                      | 1,219   | 1,324   | 921                      | 1,269   | 1,394   |
| Geelong .. .. .                               | 798                      | 1,172   | 1,332   | 838                      | 1,237   | 1,430   | 877                      | 1,297   | 1,486   |
| Hamilton .. .. .                              | 847                      | 1,218   | 1,304   | 900                      | 1,272   | 1,368   | 960                      | 1,335   | 1,463   |
| Healesville .. .. .                           | 861                      | 1,124   | 1,210   | 875                      | 1,151   | 1,236   | 939                      | 1,207   | 1,334   |
| Horsham .. .. .                               | 843                      | 1,231   | 1,301   | 919                      | 1,380   | 1,446   | 975                      | 1,502   | 1,669   |
| Kerang .. .. .                                | 862                      | 1,250   | 1,298   | 915                      | 1,303   | 1,343   | 942                      | 1,324   | 1,419   |
| Koroit .. .. .                                | 838                      | 1,114   | 1,167   | 872                      | 1,135   | 1,201   | 880                      | 1,144   | 1,218   |
| Korumburra .. .. .                            | 823                      | 1,142   | 1,274   | 824                      | 1,170   | 1,318   | 879                      | 1,224   | 1,346   |
| Kyneton .. .. .                               | 797                      | 1,088   | 1,227   | 827                      | 1,131   | 1,248   | 896                      | 1,186   | 1,357   |
| Lilydale .. .. .                              | 858                      | 1,180   | 1,252   | 890                      | 1,219   | 1,284   | 931                      | 1,307   | 1,342   |
| Maffra .. .. .                                | 826                      | 1,150   | 1,247   | 869                      | 1,168   | 1,296   | 949                      | 1,278   | 1,410   |
| Maldon .. .. .                                | 871                      | 1,003   | 1,068   | 893                      | 1,054   | 1,114   | 922                      | 1,100   | 1,168   |
| Maryborough .. .. .                           | 826                      | 1,087   | 1,206   | 855                      | 1,122   | 1,230   | 935                      | 1,223   | 1,375   |
| Melbourne .. .. .                             | 798                      | 1,207   | 1,340   | 839                      | 1,268   | 1,398   | 877                      | 1,341   | 1,465   |
| Mildura .. .. .                               | 917                      | 1,483   | 1,650   | 950                      | 1,550   | 1,714   | 988                      | 1,576   | 1,739   |
| Morwell .. .. .                               | 865                      | 1,287   | 1,379   | 887                      | 1,308   | 1,400   | 904                      | 1,301   | 1,383   |
| Nhill .. .. .                                 | 898                      | 1,214   | 1,326   | 962                      | 1,291   | 1,405   | 1,007                    | 1,312   | 1,466   |
| Orbost .. .. .                                | 857                      | 1,149   | 1,305   | 916                      | 1,245   | 1,376   | 960                      | 1,261   | 1,397   |
| Portland .. .. .                              | 847                      | 1,136   | 1,209   | 908                      | 1,213   | 1,289   | 900                      | 1,210   | 1,370   |
| Port Fairy .. .. .                            | 824                      | 1,127   | 1,252   | 863                      | 1,163   | 1,258   | 908                      | 1,263   | 1,307   |
| St. Arnaud .. .. .                            | 897                      | 1,223   | 1,348   | 921                      | 1,290   | 1,398   | 980                      | 1,350   | 1,499   |
| Sale .. .. .                                  | 826                      | 1,217   | 1,302   | 871                      | 1,273   | 1,379   | 942                      | 1,331   | 1,492   |
| Seymour .. .. .                               | 893                      | 1,216   | 1,324   | 926                      | 1,249   | 1,357   | 919                      | 1,333   | 1,451   |
| Shepparton .. .. .                            | 847                      | 1,238   | 1,390   | 863                      | 1,313   | 1,432   | 910                      | 1,382   | 1,511   |
| Stawell .. .. .                               | 907                      | 1,157   | 1,270   | 959                      | 1,252   | 1,348   | 909                      | 1,310   | 1,436   |

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| State and Town.                          | 1934.<br>November.       |  |  | 1935.<br>November.       |  |  | 1936.<br>November.       |  |  |
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|  | A                        | B  | C  | A                        | B  | C  | A                        | B  | C  |
| <b>Victoria—continued.</b>               |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |
| Swan Hill .. ..                          | 877                      | 1,387  | 1,568  | 920                      | 1,446  | 1,644  | 967                      | 1,494  | 1,669  |
| Terang .. ..                             | 863                      | 1,218  | 1,368  | 921                      | 1,290  | 1,428  | 908                      | 1,295  | 1,430  |
| Traralgon .. ..                          | 828                      | 1,187  | 1,348  | 859                      | 1,216  | 1,366  | 883                      | 1,206  | 1,357  |
| Wangaratta .. ..                         | 828                      | 1,293  | 1,401  | 871                      | 1,356  | 1,432  | 926                      | 1,444  | 1,529  |
| Warracknabeal ..                         | 830                      | 1,157  | 1,258  | 871                      | 1,200  | 1,283  | 904                      | 1,262  | 1,389  |
| Warragul .. ..                           | 831                      | 1,232  | 1,397  | 826                      | 1,350  | 1,502  | 871                      | 1,381  | 1,507  |
| Warrnambool ..                           | 799                      | 1,334  | 1,501  | 864                      | 1,274  | 1,430  | 889                      | 1,318  | 1,439  |
| Wonthaggi .. ..                          | 836                      | 1,165  | 1,262  | 847                      | 1,117  | 1,219  | 942                      | 1,264  | 1,324  |
| Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) .. | 805                      | 1,203  | 1,334  | 846                      | 1,261  | 1,391  | 885                      | 1,332  | 1,458  |
| <b>QUEENSLAND—</b>                       |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |
| Ayr .. ..                                | 862                      | 1,314  | 1,446  | 869                      | 1,321  | 1,474  | 886                      | 1,328  | 1,472  |
| Barcardine .. ..                         | 928                      | 1,393  | 1,327  | 968                      | 1,352  | 1,400  | 1,010                    | 1,372  | 1,414  |
| Bowen .. ..                              | 935                      | 1,384  | 1,363  | 932                      | 1,287  | 1,370  | 950                      | 1,399  | 1,422  |
| Hrisbane .. ..                           | 765                      | 1,112  | 1,196  | 822                      | 1,175  | 1,275  | 863                      | 1,249  | 1,347  |
| Bundaberg .. ..                          | 793                      | 1,052  | 1,118  | 845                      | 1,122  | 1,188  | 920                      | 1,197  | 1,313  |
| Cairns .. ..                             | 861                      | 1,424  | 1,598  | 934                      | 1,487  | 1,605  | 993                      | 1,524  | 1,728  |
| Charleville .. ..                        | 928                      | 1,339  | 1,511  | 1,000                    | 1,438  | 1,614  | 1,042                    | 1,531  | 1,748  |
| Charters Towers ..                       | 845                      | 1,080  | 1,170  | 923                      | 1,180  | 1,255  | 936                      | 1,166  | 1,222  |
| Chillagoe .. ..                          | 961                      | 1,159  | 1,211  | 948                      | 1,145  | 1,198  | 963                      | 1,161  | 1,226  |
| Cloncurry .. ..                          | 979                      | 1,348  | 1,461  | 1,085                    | 1,479  | 1,568  | 1,081                    | 1,502  | 1,599  |
| Cooktown .. ..                           | 963                      | 1,113  | 1,166  | 1,015                    | 1,159  | 1,212  | 1,038                    | 1,209  | 1,262  |
| Cunnamulla .. ..                         | 941                      | 1,336  | 1,468  | 977                      | 1,371  | 1,503  | 988                      | 1,415  | 1,547  |
| Dalby .. ..                              | 800                      | 1,169  | 1,261  | 850                      | 1,251  | 1,346  | 916                      | 1,331  | 1,399  |
| Gayndah .. ..                            | 834                      | 1,110  | 1,215  | 896                      | 1,192  | 1,317  | 955                      | 1,232  | 1,377  |
| Gladstone .. ..                          | 812                      | 1,155  | 1,260  | 871                      | 1,227  | 1,336  | 917                      | 1,299  | 1,382  |
| Goondiwindi .. ..                        | 864                      | 1,290  | 1,399  | 936                      | 1,384  | 1,463  | 962                      | 1,357  | 1,489  |
| Gympie .. ..                             | 814                      | 1,139  | 1,268  | 903                      | 1,223  | 1,350  | 894                      | 1,216  | 1,351  |
| Hughenden .. ..                          | 938                      | 1,346  | 1,431  | 968                      | 1,375  | 1,461  | 980                      | 1,390  | 1,506  |
| Innisfail .. ..                          | 955                      | 1,491  | 1,624  | 993                      | 1,532  | 1,674  | 1,025                    | 1,560  | 1,717  |
| Ipswich .. ..                            | 785                      | 1,002  | 1,120  | 826                      | 1,041  | 1,177  | 863                      | 1,113  | 1,278  |
| Longreach .. ..                          | 970                      | 1,314  | 1,452  | 1,030                    | 1,378  | 1,527  | 1,043                    | 1,370  | 1,525  |
| Mackay .. ..                             | 850                      | 1,267  | 1,416  | 918                      | 1,379  | 1,554  | 946                      | 1,428  | 1,604  |
| Maryborough .. ..                        | 761                      | 1,090  | 1,200  | 836                      | 1,165  | 1,275  | 872                      | 1,217  | 1,322  |
| Mount Morgan ..                          | 875                      | 1,059  | 1,072  | 900                      | 1,085  | 1,068  | 939                      | 1,162  | 1,235  |
| Nambour .. ..                            | 808                      | 1,098  | 1,177  | 878                      | 1,177  | 1,261  | 889                      | 1,171  | 1,269  |
| Rockhampton .. ..                        | 805                      | 1,113  | 1,165  | 883                      | 1,198  | 1,245  | 910                      | 1,223  | 1,271  |
| Roma .. ..                               | 866                      | 1,116  | 1,208  | 924                      | 1,226  | 1,292  | 932                      | 1,247  | 1,368  |
| Stanthorpe .. ..                         | 816                      | 1,172  | 1,237  | 845                      | 1,201  | 1,247  | 860                      | 1,176  | 1,268  |
| Toowoomba .. ..                          | 732                      | 1,111  | 1,169  | 791                      | 1,166  | 1,253  | 813                      | 1,289  | 1,315  |
| Townsville .. ..                         | 860                      | 1,257  | 1,364  | 934                      | 1,333  | 1,430  | 952                      | 1,393  | 1,478  |
| Warwick .. ..                            | 759                      | 1,057  | 1,171  | 834                      | 1,134  | 1,246  | 864                      | 1,162  | 1,222  |
| Winton .. ..                             | 968                      | 1,244  | 1,395  | 981                      | 1,270  | 1,402  | 1,002                    | 1,350  | 1,502  |
| Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) .. | 787                      | 1,127  | 1,214  | 849                      | 1,201  | 1,300  | 886                      | 1,264  | 1,364  |
| <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>                  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |
| Adelaide .. ..                           | 815                      | 1,159  | 1,290  | 826                      | 1,193  | 1,313  | 847                      | 1,242  | 1,371  |
| Freeling .. ..                           | 809                      | 1,072  | 1,138  | 847                      | 1,110  | 1,176  | 867                      | 1,130  | 1,166  |
| Gawler .. ..                             | 818                      | 1,073  | 1,182  | 813                      | 1,095  | 1,181  | 858                      | 1,107  | 1,247  |
| Kadina, etc. .. ..                       | 894                      | 1,076  | 1,159  | 914                      | 1,097  | 1,184  | 938                      | 1,118  | 1,204  |
| Kapunda .. ..                            | 803                      | 981  | 1,079  | 835                      | 1,046  | 1,116  | 855                      | 1,066  | 1,138  |

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

| State and Town.                               | 1934.<br>November.       |  |  | 1935.<br>November.       |  |  | 1936.<br>November.       |  |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|
|   | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4* Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5* Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4* Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5* Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4* Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5* Roomed Houses. |
| <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—<i>continued.</i></b>      | <b>A</b>                 | <b>B</b>                                       | <b>C</b>                                       | <b>A</b>                 | <b>B</b>                                       | <b>C</b>                                       | <b>A</b>                 | <b>B</b>                                       | <b>C</b>                                       |
| Kooringa .. .. .                              | 832                      | 1,128  | 1,244  | 914                      | 1,221  | 1,348  | 926                      | 1,228  | 1,375  |
| Millicent .. .. .                             | 849                      | 1,162  | 1,244  | 847                      | 1,187  | 1,264  | 864                      | 1,207  | 1,279  |
| Mount Gambier .. .. .                         | 791                      | 1,065  | 1,204  | 845                      | 1,142  | 1,252  | 858                      | 1,155  | 1,268  |
| Murray Bridge .. .. .                         | 771                      | 1,004  | 1,123  | 803                      | 1,035  | 1,137  | 817                      | 1,076  | 1,193  |
| Peterborough .. .. .                          | 848                      | 1,212  | 1,289  | 860                      | 1,225  | 1,302  | 896                      | 1,258  | 1,359  |
| Port Augusta .. .. .                          | 910                      | 1,202  | 1,326  | 930                      | 1,234  | 1,359  | 975                      | 1,270  | 1,405  |
| Port Pirie .. .. .                            | 856                      | 1,162  | 1,275  | 854                      | 1,166  | 1,279  | 944                      | 1,265  | 1,370  |
| Quorn .. .. .                                 | 844                      | 1,160  | 1,229  | 893                      | 1,222  | 1,275  | 886                      | 1,180  | 1,314  |
| Renmark .. .. .                               | 956                      | 1,334  | 1,396  | 969                      | 1,373  | 1,447  | 968                      | 1,402  | 1,490  |
| Victor Harbour .. .. .                        | 833                      | 1,162  | 1,281  | 859                      | 1,260  | 1,346  | 884                      | 1,259  | 1,434  |
| Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. .. . | 820                      | 1,154  | 1,280  | 833                      | 1,188  | 1,305  | 856                      | 1,236  | 1,361  |
| <b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>                     |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |
| Albany .. .. .                                | 917                      | 1,238  | 1,354  | 930                      | 1,259  | 1,391  | 944                      | 1,351  | 1,444  |
| Beverley .. .. .                              | 920                      | 1,336  | 1,413  | 937                      | 1,354  | 1,431  | 967                      | 1,394  | 1,493  |
| Bridgetown .. .. .                            | 967                      | 1,278  | 1,395  | 980                      | 1,335  | 1,440  | 1,006                    | 1,414  | 1,499  |
| Broome .. .. .                                | 1,217                    | 1,677  | 1,875  | 1,203                    | 1,663  | 1,861  | 1,243                    | 1,644  | 1,793  |
| Bunbury .. .. .                               | 889                      | 1,294  | 1,399  | 890                      | 1,309  | 1,424  | 919                      | 1,386  | 1,475  |
| Carnarvon .. .. .                             | 1,062                    | 1,491  | 1,621  | 1,087                    | 1,500  | 1,646  | 1,140                    | 1,633  | 1,745  |
| Collie .. .. .                                | 908                      | 1,247  | 1,329  | 900                      | 1,285  | 1,361  | 949                      | 1,271  | 1,373  |
| Geraldton .. .. .                             | 880                      | 1,361  | 1,497  | 885                      | 1,368  | 1,526  | 1,011                    | 1,521  | 1,649  |
| Greenbushes .. .. .                           | 973                      | 1,421  | 1,190  | 996                      | 1,428  | 1,174  | 1,011                    | 1,443  | 1,182  |
| Kalgoorlie and Boulder .. .. .                | 1,047                    | 1,570  | 1,659  | 1,033                    | 1,579  | 1,702  | 1,059                    | 1,624  | 1,801  |
| Katanning .. .. .                             | 889                      | 1,193  | 1,305  | 873                      | 1,202  | 1,314  | 931                      | 1,286  | 1,386  |
| Leonora and Gwalia .. .. .                    | 1,142                    | 1,405  | 1,464  | 1,152                    | 1,481  | 1,546  | 1,200                    | 1,529  | 1,595  |
| MEEKATHARRA .. .. .                           | 1,103                    | 1,585  | 1,739  | 1,146                    | 1,606  | 1,760  | 1,204                    | 1,664  | 1,818  |
| Narrogin .. .. .                              | 919                      | 1,367  | 1,521  | 909                      | 1,403  | 1,448  | 959                      | 1,440  | 1,499  |
| Northam .. .. .                               | 890                      | 1,295  | 1,399  | 895                      | 1,301  | 1,401  | 958                      | 1,372  | 1,451  |
| Perth and Fremantle .. .. .                   | 856                      | 1,254  | 1,344  | 857                      | 1,259  | 1,353  | 909                      | 1,332  | 1,419  |
| Wagin .. .. .                                 | 860                      | 1,145  | 1,222  | 901                      | 1,191  | 1,273  | 973                      | 1,248  | 1,326  |
| York .. .. .                                  | 844                      | 1,180  | 1,233  | 905                      | 1,240  | 1,293  | 893                      | 1,235  | 1,288  |
| Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) .. .. . | 878                      | 1,281  | 1,374  | 879                      | 1,289  | 1,387  | 929                      | 1,360  | 1,453  |
| <b>TASMANIA—</b>                              |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |
| Beaconsfield .. .. .                          | 843                      | 988  | 1,054  | 861                      | 1,058  | 1,124  | 886                      | 1,083  | 1,149  |
| Burnie .. .. .                                | 864                      | 1,222  | 1,318  | 881                      | 1,252  | 1,339  | 930                      | 1,314  | 1,426  |
| Campbelltown .. .. .                          | 858                      | 1,100  | 1,154  | 905                      | 1,156  | 1,274  | 925                      | 1,136  | 1,221  |
| Deloraine .. .. .                             | 830                      | 1,159  | 1,185  | 829                      | 1,158  | 1,184  | 837                      | 1,179  | 1,232  |
| Devonport .. .. .                             | 879                      | 1,296  | 1,354  | 868                      | 1,291  | 1,355  | 919                      | 1,342  | 1,371  |
| Franklin .. .. .                              | 936                      | 1,173  | 1,232  | 943                      | 1,180  | 1,259  | 914                      | 1,177  | 1,216  |
| Hobart .. .. .                                | 856                      | 1,300  | 1,435  | 839                      | 1,288  | 1,419  | 920                      | 1,390  | 1,504  |
| Launceston .. .. .                            | 827                      | 1,219  | 1,343  | 835                      | 1,246  | 1,343  | 889                      | 1,299  | 1,412  |
| New Norfolk .. .. .                           | 866                      | 1,182  | 1,234  | 874                      | 1,242  | 1,295  | 958                      | 1,326  | 1,379  |
| Queenstown .. .. .                            | 961                      | 1,356  | 1,415  | 948                      | 1,347  | 1,415  | 969                      | 1,388  | 1,400  |
| Scottsdale .. .. .                            | 811                      | 1,047  | 1,159  | 822                      | 1,070  | 1,193  | 858                      | 1,121  | 1,265  |
| Ulverstone .. .. .                            | 858                      | 1,126  | 1,220  | 856                      | 1,163  | 1,231  | 935                      | 1,264  | 1,393  |
| Zeehan .. .. .                                | 1,017                    | 1,214  | 1,247  | 993                      | 1,190  | 1,223  | 1,033                    | 1,230  | 1,263  |
| Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. .. . | 855                      | 1,261  | 1,379  | 848                      | 1,262  | 1,373  | 913                      | 1,342  | 1,443  |
| <b>Federal Capital Territory(a)</b>           |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |
| Canberra .. .. .                              | 964                      | 1,530  | 1,638  | 980                      | 1,574  | 1,656  | 999                      | 1,582  | 1,667  |
| <b>Weighted Averages—</b>                     |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |                          |  |  |
| Australia (200 Towns) .. .. .                 | 840                      | 1,236  | 1,345  | 868                      | 1,279  | 1,390  | 896                      | 1,328  | 1,442  |
| Thirty Towns .. .. .                          | 837                      | 1,239  | 1,349  | 863                      | 1,278  | 1,391  | 892                      | 1,329  | 1,442  |
| Six Capitals .. .. .                          | 834                      | 1,241  | 1,357  | 860                      | 1,280  | 1,393  | 888                      | 1,332  | 1,445  |

(a) Not in Weighted Averages.

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B or C, the relative aggregate cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus for November, 1936, the index-number for food and groceries in Albany (column A) is 944. Subtracting this from 1,351 (column B) gives a difference of 407, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,444 (column C) gives a difference of 500, which is the relative cost of housing for houses of 5 rooms. Similarly the relative cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained for each of the towns.

## B.—WAGES.

### § 1. Operations under Wages Board and Industrial Arbitration Acts.

1. *General.*—Particulars regarding operations under the Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913, and reviews to the end of each annual period appear in the Labour Reports and in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics.

2. *Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.*—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1932 to 1936:—

#### AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED.

| State.  | 1932.                          |                   | 1933.                          |                   | 1934.                          |                   | 1935.                          |                   | 1936.                          |                   |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
|   | Awards or Determinations made. | Agreements Filed. | Awards or Determinations made. | Agreements Filed. | Awards or Determinations made. | Agreements Filed. | Awards or Determinations made. | Agreements Filed. | Awards or Determinations made. | Agreements Filed. |
| New South Wales .. .. .   | 38                             | 25                | 30                             | 24                | 55                             | 22                | 44                             | 31                | 52                             | 39                |
| Victoria .. .. .  | 103                            | ..                | 138                            | ..                | 90                             | ..                | 101                            | ..                | 141                            | ..                |
| Queensland .. .. .  | 21                             | 4                 | 55                             | 21                | 32                             | 25                | 46                             | 22                | 61                             | 37                |
| South Australia .. .. .   | 18                             | 8                 | 16                             | 7                 | 19                             | 3                 | 69                             | 9                 | 22                             | 17                |
| Western Australia .. .. .   | 5                              | 4                 | 10                             | 9                 | 12                             | 11                | 17                             | 21                | 24                             | 20                |
| Tasmania .. .. .  | 11                             | 3                 | 9                              | 3                 | 7                              | 1                 | 13                             | ..                | 22                             | ..                |
| Commonwealth Court<br>Commonwealth Public Service<br>Arbitrator .. .. . | 21                             | 9                 | 8                              | 6                 | 24                             | 4                 | 69                             | 13                | 32                             | 13                |
|   | 1                              | ..                | 1                              | ..                | ..                             | ..                | 4                              | ..                | 2                              | ..                |
| Total .. .. .   | 218                            | 53                | 267                            | 64                | 239                            | 66                | 365                            | 99                | 356                            | 132               |

3. *Boards Authorized, Awards, etc., in Force.*—(i) *Totals for Australia.* The following table gives particulars at the dates specified for all States of Boards authorized, and including operations under the Commonwealth and State Arbitration Acts, of the number of awards, determinations and industrial agreements in force:—

#### BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA.

| Dates.                      | Boards Authorized. | Boards which have made Awards or Determinations. | Awards or Determinations in Force.(a) | Industrial Agreements in Force. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 31st December, 1913 .. .. . | 505                | 387(b)   | 575(c)                                | 401                             |
| 31st December, 1920 .. .. . | 475                | 440  | 1,041                                 | 972                             |
| 31st December, 1925 .. .. . | 573                | 520  | 1,181                                 | 607                             |
| 31st December, 1930 .. .. . | 642                | 580  | 1,285                                 | 601                             |
| 31st December, 1933 .. .. . | 655                | 581  | 1,363                                 | 653                             |
| 31st December, 1934 .. .. . | 655                | 581  | 1,403                                 | 689                             |
| 31st December, 1935 .. .. . | 660                | 583  | 1,435                                 | 709                             |
| 31st December, 1936 .. .. . | 661                | 583  | 1,452                                 | 767                             |

(a) Including awards made by Arbitration Courts and the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator.  
 (b) Owing to the fact that a number of awards under the New South Wales Industrial Disputes Act (1908) were still in force, the Boards constituted for such industries under the Industrial Arbitration Act (1912) had not made any awards. (c) Excluding awards or determinations which expired in New South Wales (under the Act of 1908) on 31st December, 1913.

Considerable expansion of the principle of the fixation of a legal minimum rate of wage and of working conditions took place during the period under review. At the end of 1936, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements\* in force had increased by 877 and 366 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

(ii) *Summary for States.* The following table gives particulars for each State and the Commonwealth of the number of Boards authorized, etc., for the years specified:—

**BOARDS AUTHORIZED. AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913 AND 1936.**

| Particulars.                                       | At 31st Dec.   | Commonwealth. |                |         |      |         |      |      |      | Total. |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------|------|---------|------|------|------|--------|
|  |                | Court.        | Pub. Ser. Arb. | N.S.W.  | Vic. | Q'land. | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. |        |
| <i>Industrial and Wages—</i>                       |                |               |                |         |      |         |      |      |      |        |
| Boards authorized ..                               | { 1913 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | 216     | 135  | 75      | 56   | ..   | 23   | 505    |
|  | { 1936 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | (a) 319 | 189  | ..      | 76   | 19   | 57   | 600    |
| Boards which have made Determinations ..           | { 1913 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | 123     | 123  | 74      | 47   | ..   | 19   | 386    |
|  | { 1936 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | 279     | 167  | ..      | 65   | 17   | 55   | 583    |
| <i>Awards and Determinations—</i>                  |                |               |                |         |      |         |      |      |      |        |
| In force .. .. .                                   | { 1913 .. .. . | 17            | ..             | 265     | 127  | 73      | 54   | 18   | 21   | 575    |
|  | { 1936 .. .. . | 160           | 45             | 480     | 175  | 290     | 79   | 153  | 58   | 1,452  |
| <i>Industrial Agreements—</i>                      |                |               |                |         |      |         |      |      |      |        |
| In force .. .. .                                   | { 1913 .. .. . | 228           | ..             | 75      | ..   | 5       | 11   | 82   | ..   | 401    |
|  | { 1936 .. .. . | 156           | ..             | 170     | ..   | 223     | 34   | 174  | 10   | 767    |
| <i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>                  |                |               |                |         |      |         |      |      |      |        |
| Number in force in each State .. .. .              | { 1913 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | 13      | 17   | 15      | 16   | 9    | 13   | ..     |
|  | { 1936 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | 113     | 120  | 37      | 92   | 38   | 71   | ..     |
| <i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i>                    |                |               |                |         |      |         |      |      |      |        |
| Number in force in each State .. .. .              | { 1913 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | 132     | 129  | 68      | 62   | 57   | 61   | ..     |
|  | { 1936 .. .. . | ..            | ..             | 39      | 71   | 22      | 27   | 17   | 42   | ..     |
| <i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>     |                |               |                |         |      |         |      |      |      |        |
| Number of Determinations In force in each State .. | 1936 .. .. .   | ..            | ..             | 40      | 37   | 31      | 33   | 50   | 30   | ..     |

(a) Under Industrial Arbitration Act (1926), Conciliation Committees have been appointed, and at the end of 1936, 294 Committees were in force.

**§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.**

1 *General.*—The collection of information respecting the current rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries was first undertaken by the Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. The particulars are obtained primarily from awards, determinations and agreements under Commonwealth and State Industrial Acts, and therefore are the minimum rates prescribed. They refer generally to the capital city in each State, but in industries which are not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, agriculture, etc., the rates in the more important centres are taken. In cases where no award, determination, or agreement is in force, particulars are taken of the ruling union or predominant rate. During recent years the number of predominant rates of wage included in the tabulations has been reduced considerably, since most of the industries and occupations are now covered by awards, determinations, or industrial agreements.

The index-numbers for male adult workers are computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000), in order that comparisons might more readily be made between these index-numbers and the retail price index-numbers (food, groceries and housing—all houses) which are also computed to the year 1911 as base. In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index-numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

\* The registration of industrial agreements is not provided for under the Victorian Act, but such agreements may be registered and filed under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and are operative within the State.

An extensive tabular presentation of the minimum rates of wage for adult male and female workers in the main occupations in the capital city of each State is given each year in the Appendix to the Labour Report.

2. Weekly Rates of Wage, 1932 to 1936.—(i) *General.* The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to is taken for each industrial group. These averages are weighted in accordance with census results to give the average of all occupations for the States and for Australia.

(ii) *Adult Males—States.* The following table gives the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the dates specified :—

#### WAGE RATES OF ADULT MALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.

| Particulars.                   | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Australia.<br>(a) |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|---------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| No. of Occupations included .. | 874    | 909  | 627     | 567  | 489  | 482  | 3,948             |

#### RATES OF WAGE. (b)

|                         | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 31st December, 1932 ..  | 84 11 | 77 10 | 88 5  | 72 7  | 81 9  | 78 1  | 81 10 |
| 31st December, 1933 ..  | 81 11 | 77 0  | 88 1  | 73 5  | 81 4  | 78 0  | 80 6  |
| 31st December, 1934 ..  | 83 2  | 78 8  | 88 9  | 75 6  | 84 1  | 79 7  | 82 0  |
| 31st December, 1935 ..  | 84 2  | 79 9  | 88 5  | 77 11 | 84 2  | 81 0  | 82 10 |
| 31st March, 1936 ..     | 84 2  | 79 11 | 88 5  | 77 11 | 85 5  | 81 10 | 83 0  |
| 30th June, 1936 ..      | 84 5  | 80 5  | 88 6  | 78 0  | 85 5  | 81 11 | 83 4  |
| 30th September, 1936 .. | 84 11 | 81 2  | 88 7  | 78 9  | 86 9  | 83 1  | 83 11 |
| 31st December, 1936 ..  | 85 5  | 83 1  | 88 7  | 79 6  | 88 6  | 83 3  | 84 10 |

#### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)

|                         |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 31st December, 1932 ..  | 1,657 | 1,518 | 1,726 | 1,416 | 1,595 | 1,523 | 1,597 |
| 31st December, 1933 ..  | 1,598 | 1,502 | 1,718 | 1,433 | 1,587 | 1,522 | 1,570 |
| 31st December, 1934 ..  | 1,623 | 1,534 | 1,732 | 1,473 | 1,640 | 1,552 | 1,599 |
| 31st December, 1935 ..  | 1,642 | 1,555 | 1,725 | 1,520 | 1,642 | 1,581 | 1,617 |
| 31st March, 1936 ..     | 1,642 | 1,560 | 1,725 | 1,520 | 1,667 | 1,597 | 1,620 |
| 30th June, 1936 ..      | 1,648 | 1,568 | 1,728 | 1,522 | 1,667 | 1,598 | 1,625 |
| 30th September, 1936 .. | 1,656 | 1,584 | 1,728 | 1,536 | 1,693 | 1,622 | 1,637 |
| 31st December, 1936 ..  | 1,668 | 1,621 | 1,729 | 1,552 | 1,726 | 1,625 | 1,656 |

(a) Weighted average.

(b) Calculated to nearest rd.

Wages declined in all States during the three years 1931 to 1933, the average rates at the 31st December of the latter year being approximately 17 per cent. less than those ruling at the end of 1930. Varying increases were granted in each of the States during the next three years, and as a result the weighted average nominal rate for Australia increased by 4s. 4d. per week. At the 31st December, 1936, rates were highest in Queensland, followed in the order named by Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the quarter ended September, 1929, viz., 101s. 5d. per week.



(iii) *Adult Males—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the average weekly rates of wage and index-numbers in each industrial group, and for all groups at the dates specified.

WAGE RATES OF ADULT MALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each industrial group and for all industrial groups, based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (51s. 3d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout:—

| Industrial Group.          | Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage (to nearest 1d.), and Index-Number at— |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |                   |                  |            |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
|                            | 31st Dec., 1932.  | 31st Dec., 1933. | 31st Dec., 1934. | 31st Dec., 1935. | 31st March, 1936. | 30th June, 1936. | 30th Sept., 1936. | 31st Dec., 1936. |            |
| I. Wood, Furniture, etc.   | Wage ..   | s. d. 83/4       | s. d. 82/8       | s. d. 85/4       | s. d. 86/8        | s. d. 87/0       | s. d. 87/3        | s. d. 87/2       | s. d. 88/3 |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,627            | 1,613            | 1,664            | 1,691             | 1,697            | 1,703             | 1,700            | 1,722      |
| II. Engineering, etc.      | Wage ..   | 81/6             | 81/4             | 83/2             | 85/3              | 85/4             | 85/5              | 85/6             | 86/10      |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,589            | 1,587            | 1,623            | 1,663             | 1,665            | 1,667             | 1,668            | 1,694      |
| III. Food, Drink, etc.     | Wage ..   | 84/2             | 83/3             | 83/8             | 85/3              | 85/6             | 85/8              | 85/11            | 87/3       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,642            | 1,625            | 1,633            | 1,664             | 1,668            | 1,672             | 1,677            | 1,702      |
| IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.  | Wage ..   | 77/3             | 76/7             | 79/11            | 80/9              | 80/10            | 80/11             | 80/11            | 81/4       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,507            | 1,494            | 1,559            | 1,576             | 1,577            | 1,579             | 1,579            | 1,587      |
| V. Books, Printing, etc.   | Wage ..   | 98/3             | 97/6             | 99/6             | 100/11            | 100/11           | 100/11            | 103/1            | 104/4      |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,918            | 1,902            | 1,942            | 1,969             | 1,969            | 1,970             | 2,011            | 2,035      |
| VI. Other Manufacturing    | Wage ..   | 80/7             | 79/5             | 81/4             | 83/0              | 83/2             | 83/6              | 83/9             | 85/2       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,572            | 1,549            | 1,587            | 1,619             | 1,623            | 1,629             | 1,633            | 1,661      |
| VII. Building              | Wage ..   | 93/11            | 92/3             | 93/8             | 94/2              | 94/2             | 94/7              | 94/9             | 95/7       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,833            | 1,800            | 1,828            | 1,836             | 1,838            | 1,846             | 1,840            | 1,866      |
| VIII. Mining, etc.         | Wage ..   | 98/2             | 97/0             | 97/7             | 97/10             | 99/1             | 99/1              | 99/2             | 99/2       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,916            | 1,893            | 1,904            | 1,903             | 1,934            | 1,934             | 1,935            | 1,935      |
| IX. Railways, etc.         | Wage ..   | 80/11            | 80/4             | 82/8             | 84/9              | 84/2             | 84/8              | 84/10            | 86/0       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,579            | 1,567            | 1,613            | 1,653             | 1,642            | 1,652             | 1,655            | 1,677      |
| X. Other Land Transport    | Wage ..   | 78/3             | 76/9             | 78/9             | 80/1              | 80/3             | 80/5              | 80/9             | 81/8       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,527            | 1,497            | 1,537            | 1,562             | 1,565            | 1,569             | 1,575            | 1,593      |
| XI. Shipping, etc.(a)      | Wage ..   | 79/6             | 80/9             | 84/8             | 85/2              | 85/2             | 85/2              | 85/2             | 86/8       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,552            | 1,575            | 1,652            | 1,661             | 1,661            | 1,661             | 1,662            | 1,690      |
| XII. Agricultural, etc.(b) | Wage ..   | 74/9             | 71/11            | 73/4             | 73/4              | 73/6             | 73/8              | 75/5             | 75/9       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,458            | 1,404            | 1,431            | 1,431             | 1,433            | 1,437             | 1,471            | 1,478      |
| XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)    | Wage ..   | 76/5             | 74/10            | 75/9             | 76/8              | 77/1             | 77/7              | 78/3             | 79/1       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,492            | 1,460            | 1,478            | 1,496             | 1,504            | 1,515             | 1,527            | 1,543      |
| XIV. Miscellaneous         | Wage ..   | 78/11            | 77/5             | 78/7             | 79/6              | 79/8             | 80/0              | 80/7             | 82/2       |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,540            | 1,511            | 1,532            | 1,552             | 1,554            | 1,562             | 1,572            | 1,603      |
| All Industrial Groups (c)  | Wage ..   | 81/10            | 80/6             | 82/0             | 82/10             | 83/0             | 83/4              | 83/11            | 84/10      |
|                            | Index-No.   | 1,597            | 1,570            | 1,599            | 1,617             | 1,620            | 1,625             | 1,637            | 1,656      |

(a) Including the value of victualling and accommodation where supplied. (b) Including the value of board and lodging where supplied. (c) Weighted average.

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1936, was recorded in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 104s. 4d. per week, followed by Groups VIII. (Mining), 99s. 2d. per week; VII. (Building), 95s. 7d. per week; I. (Wood Furniture, etc.), 88s. 3d. per week; III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 87s. 3d.; II. (Engineering, etc.), 86s. 10d.; and XI. (Shipping, etc.), 86s. 8d. per week. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 75s. 9d. per week. During the year rates of wage increased in all groups, the greatest increases occurring in the following:—Books, Printing, etc., 3s. 5d. per week; Miscellaneous, 2s. 8d. per week; Agricultural, etc., 2s. 5d. per week; Domestic, etc., 2s. 5d. per week; Other Manufacturing, 2s. 2d. per week; and Food, Drink, etc., 2s. 0d. per week. The increase during the year in the weighted average rate for all groups was 2s. 0d. per week. Compared with the average rates at 31st December, 1929, the highest point recorded for that date in any year, wages at the end of the year 1936 showed a decrease of 16s. 4d. per week.

(iv) *Adult Females—States.* The following table shows the weighted average weekly rates of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified.

### WAGE RATES OF ADULT FEMALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.

| Particulars.                   | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Australia.(a) |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|---------|------|------|------|---------------|
| No. of Occupations Included .. | 85     | 87   | 37      | 47   | 24   | 28   | 308           |

#### RATES OF WAGE. (b)

|                         | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 31st December, 1932 ..  | 44 8  | 43 0  | 46 9  | 40 11 | 49 7  | 43 4  | 44 2  |
| 31st December, 1933 ..  | 43 2  | 42 9  | 46 9  | 41 0  | 48 4  | 43 1  | 43 5  |
| 31st December, 1934 ..  | 44 3  | 43 9  | 47 8  | 41 11 | 49 1  | 44 1  | 44 5  |
| 31st December, 1935 ..  | 44 11 | 44 2  | 48 0  | 42 5  | 49 1  | 44 10 | 45 0  |
| 31st March, 1936 ..     | 44 11 | 44 9  | 48 1  | 43 0  | 49 2  | 45 1  | 45 3  |
| 30th June, 1936 ..      | 45 2  | 44 9  | 48 3  | 43 0  | 49 2  | 45 1  | 45 5  |
| 30th September, 1936 .. | 45 3  | 46 5  | 48 3  | 43 0  | 50 0  | 45 0  | 46 1  |
| 31st December, 1936 ..  | 45 7  | 46 10 | 48 4  | 43 4  | 50 11 | 45 1  | 46 5  |

#### INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

|                         |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 31st December, 1932 ..  | 1,644 | 1,583 | 1,720 | 1,505 | 1,826 | 1,595 | 1,624 |
| 31st December, 1933 ..  | 1,589 | 1,573 | 1,720 | 1,510 | 1,778 | 1,587 | 1,599 |
| 31st December, 1934 ..  | 1,628 | 1,609 | 1,755 | 1,541 | 1,809 | 1,623 | 1,636 |
| 31st December, 1935 ..  | 1,654 | 1,626 | 1,767 | 1,561 | 1,809 | 1,651 | 1,655 |
| 31st March, 1936 ..     | 1,654 | 1,648 | 1,771 | 1,584 | 1,809 | 1,660 | 1,666 |
| 30th June, 1936 ..      | 1,664 | 1,648 | 1,776 | 1,584 | 1,809 | 1,660 | 1,670 |
| 30th September, 1936 .. | 1,665 | 1,710 | 1,776 | 1,584 | 1,840 | 1,656 | 1,666 |
| 31st December, 1936 ..  | 1,677 | 1,722 | 1,780 | 1,594 | 1,873 | 1,661 | 1,708 |

(a) Weighted average. (b) Calculated to nearest 1d.

Female rates followed the same downward course as male rates from 1931 to 1933. The weekly average nominal wage for Australia fell from 53s. 7d. in 1930 to 43s. 5d. in 1933, a decline of 10s. 2d., or 17 per cent. As with the rates for males increases were recorded in all States during the next three years, and the weighted average rate for Australia advanced by 3s. 0d. per week.

(v) *Adult Females—Industrial Groups.* The following table gives particulars of the weighted average weekly rates of wage payable to adult female workers in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined.

WAGE RATES OF ADULT FEMALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.

| Date.                 | Industrial Group.               |                                 |   |                               |                             |                    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
|                       | III.<br>Food,<br>Drink,<br>etc. | IV.<br>Clothing,<br>Boots, etc. | I., II., V.,<br>and VI.,<br>All Other<br>Manufacturing. | XIII.<br>Domestic,<br>etc.(a) | XIV.<br>Miscel-<br>laneous. | All Groups.<br>(b) |
| RATES OF WAGE.        |                                 |                                 |   |                               |                             |                    |
|                       | <i>s. d.</i>                    | <i>s. d.</i>                    | <i>s. d.</i>  | <i>s. d.</i>                  | <i>s. d.</i>                | <i>s. d.</i>       |
| 31st December, 1932   | 41 0                            | 42 4                            | 44 2  | 46 2                          | 47 0                        | 44 2               |
| 31st December, 1933   | 40 6                            | 41 11                           | 43 5  | 43 4                          | 45 11                       | 43 5               |
| 31st December, 1934   | 40 8                            | 43 6                            | 44 2  | 45 11                         | 47 2                        | 44 5               |
| 31st December, 1935.. | 42 1                            | 44 2                            | 44 8  | 46 3                          | 46 5                        | 45 0               |
| 31st March, 1936 ..   | 42 5                            | 44 3                            | 44 9  | 46 4                          | 47 5                        | 45 3               |
| 30th June, 1936 ..    | 42 7                            | 44 4                            | 44 10   | 46 6                          | 47 6                        | 45 5               |
| 30th September, 1936  | 42 8                            | 44 6                            | 45 1  | 46 7                          | 50 6                        | 46 1               |
| 31st December, 1936.. | 43 1                            | 44 9                            | 45 8  | 47 1                          | 50 9                        | 46 5               |

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

|                       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 31st December, 1932   | 1,508 | 1,559 | 1,625 | 1,700 | 1,730 | 1,624 |
| 31st December, 1933   | 1,491 | 1,542 | 1,599 | 1,594 | 1,691 | 1,599 |
| 31st December, 1934   | 1,497 | 1,601 | 1,626 | 1,689 | 1,737 | 1,636 |
| 31st December, 1935   | 1,549 | 1,625 | 1,645 | 1,701 | 1,708 | 1,655 |
| 31st March, 1936 ..   | 1,562 | 1,630 | 1,647 | 1,706 | 1,744 | 1,666 |
| 30th June, 1936 ..    | 1,568 | 1,632 | 1,651 | 1,711 | 1,750 | 1,670 |
| 30th September, 1936  | 1,572 | 1,637 | 1,661 | 1,714 | 1,859 | 1,696 |
| 31st December, 1936.. | 1,585 | 1,646 | 1,680 | 1,734 | 1,867 | 1,708 |

(a) Including the value of board and lodging, where supplied. (b) Weighted average.

During the year 1936 rates of wage for female employees in all industrial groups showed an increase as compared with those for the previous year, the greatest increases occurring in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), 4s. 4d. per week : Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 1s. od. per week and Group I., II., V. and VI. (all other manufacturing) 1s. od. per week. The weighted average for all groups increased by 1s. 5d. per week.

3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1932 to 1936.—(i) General. The rates of wage referred to in preceding paragraphs relate to the minimum payable for a full week's work. The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in many instances between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. In order to secure what may be for some other purposes a more adequate standard of comparison, it is desirable to reduce the comparison to a common basis, viz., the rate of wage per hour. Particulars are given in the following table classified according to States, for male and female occupations separately, at the end of the years 1932 to 1936. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average nominal weekly wage ; (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work ; and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. The weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial groups combined, and includes

the value of board and lodging where supplied in land occupations, and the value of victualling in marine occupations, whereas the number of working hours and the hourly wage relate to all industrial groups other than Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and the hours of labour in the agricultural and dairying industry are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, hence the necessary data for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

The general effect of reducing the rates of wage to a common basis (i.e., per hour) is to eliminate on comparison any apparent difference between the several States which may be due to unequal working time.

(ii) *Adult Males and Females.* Particulars of the weekly and hourly wages and hours of labour for adult males and females for the last five years are given in the table hereunder:—

### WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR OF ADULT WORKERS.

| Date.                  | Particulars.         | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Q'land. | S.A.  | W.A.  | Tas.  | Aus.  |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>MALE WORKERS.</b>   |                      |        |       |         |       |       |       |       |
| 31st Dec., 1932        | Weekly Wage (a) ..   | 84/11  | 77/10 | 88/5    | 72/7  | 81/9  | 78/1  | 81/10 |
|                        | Working Hours (b) .. | 44.19  | 46.86 | 44.99   | 46.83 | 45.51 | 46.75 | 45.49 |
|                        | Hourly Wage (b) ..   | 1/11½  | 1/8½  | 2/0½    | 1/7   | 1/10  | 1/8½  | 1/10  |
| 31st Dec., 1933        | Weekly Wage (a) ..   | 81/11  | 77/0  | 88/1    | 73/5  | 81/4  | 78/0  | 80/6  |
|                        | Working Hours (b) .. | 44.23  | 46.82 | 44.00   | 46.83 | 45.51 | 46.77 | 45.36 |
|                        | Hourly Wage (b) ..   | 1/11   | 1/8   | 2/0½    | 1/7½  | 1/10  | 1/8½  | 1/9½  |
| 31st Dec., 1934        | Weekly Wage (a) ..   | 83/2   | 78/8  | 88/9    | 75/6  | 84/1  | 79/7  | 82/0  |
|                        | Working Hours (b) .. | 44.23  | 46.82 | 44.00   | 46.83 | 45.51 | 46.77 | 45.36 |
|                        | Hourly Wage (b) ..   | 1/11½  | 1/8½  | 2/0½    | 1/7½  | 1/10½ | 1/8½  | 1/10½ |
| 31st Dec., 1935        | Weekly Wage (a) ..   | 84/2   | 79/9  | 88/5    | 77/11 | 84/2  | 81/0  | 82/10 |
|                        | Working Hours (b) .. | 44.18  | 46.74 | 43.69   | 46.63 | 45.48 | 46.75 | 45.26 |
|                        | Hourly Wage (b) ..   | 1/11½  | 1/9   | 2/1     | 1/8½  | 1/10½ | 1/9½  | 1/10½ |
| 31st Dec., 1936        | Weekly Wage (a) ..   | 85/6   | 83/1  | 88/7    | 79/6  | 88/6  | 83/3  | 84/10 |
|                        | Working Hours (b) .. | 44.08  | 46.41 | 43.69   | 46.55 | 45.30 | 46.33 | 45.09 |
|                        | Hourly Wage (b) ..   | 2/0½   | 1/10  | 2/1     | 1/9   | 2/0   | 1/9½  | 1/11½ |
| <b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b> |                      |        |       |         |       |       |       |       |
| 31st Dec., 1932        | Weekly Wage ..       | 44/8   | 43/0  | 46/9    | 40/11 | 49/7  | 43/4  | 44/2  |
|                        | Working Hours ..     | 43.93  | 45.44 | 44.56   | 46.03 | 45.57 | 46.07 | 44.88 |
|                        | Hourly Wage ..       | 1/0½   | 0/11½ | 1/0½    | 0/10½ | 1/1   | 0/11½ | 0/11½ |
| 31st Dec., 1933        | Weekly Wage ..       | 43/2   | 42/9  | 46/9    | 41/0  | 48/4  | 43/2  | 43/5  |
|                        | Working Hours ..     | 43.93  | 45.44 | 44.03   | 46.03 | 45.57 | 46.07 | 44.81 |
|                        | Hourly Wage ..       | 0/11½  | 0/11½ | 1/0½    | 0/10½ | 1/0½  | 0/11½ | 0/11½ |
| 31st Dec., 1934        | Weekly Wage ..       | 44/3   | 43/9  | 47/8    | 41/11 | 49/1  | 44/1  | 44/5  |
|                        | Working Hours ..     | 43.93  | 45.44 | 44.03   | 46.03 | 45.57 | 46.07 | 44.81 |
|                        | Hourly Wage ..       | 1/0    | 0/11½ | 1/1     | 0/11  | 1/1   | 0/11  | 1/0   |
| 31st Dec., 1935        | Weekly Wage ..       | 44/11  | 44/2  | 48/0    | 42/5  | 49/1  | 44/10 | 45/0  |
|                        | Working Hours ..     | 43.93  | 45.44 | 44.03   | 46.03 | 45.57 | 46.07 | 44.81 |
|                        | Hourly Wage ..       | 1/0½   | 0/11½ | 1/1     | 0/11  | 1/1   | 0/11½ | 1/0   |
| 31st Dec., 1936        | Weekly Wage ..       | 45/7   | 46/10 | 48/4    | 43/4  | 50/11 | 45/2  | 46/5  |
|                        | Working Hours ..     | 43.93  | 44.94 | 44.03   | 46.03 | 45.57 | 45.24 | 44.60 |
|                        | Hourly Wage ..       | 1/0½   | 1/0½  | 1/1½    | 0/11½ | 1/1½  | 1/0   | 1/0½  |

(a) Weighted average weekly rate in all industrial groups combined. (b) Weighted average working hours per week, and computed hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for occupations classified in industrial groups XI. and XII.

(iii) *Index-Numbers.* The tendency in a majority of the States during the years 1924 to 1928 was towards a slight reduction in hours of labour, particularly in Queensland and New South Wales, where a 44-hour week became operative on 1st July, 1925, and on 4th January, 1926, respectively. Further decreases were recorded in the hours of work per week for male employees during 1927 in all States excepting Queensland, where hours remained stationary. The decline in the other States was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group II. (Engineering, etc.) from 48 to 44 hours per week, as awarded by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The decline in the weekly hours in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania in 1928 was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.). During 1929 the hours of work per week for timber workers in certain States were increased by the Commonwealth Court, with the result that the weighted average hours for Australia were slightly increased. The repeal of the Acts in New South Wales and Queensland providing for a 44-hour week tended to increase the average number of hours of labour per week in those States during the year 1930, while the restoration of this measure in New South Wales during 1931 and in Queensland during 1933 was mainly responsible for the reduction in hours since 1930. A further slight reduction in Queensland was brought about by the introduction in April, 1935, of a 40-hour week for employees on Building Construction. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers given in the following table:—

WEEKLY AND HOURLY INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.—ADULT WORKERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia, 30th April, 1914\* = 1,000.)

| Date.                | Particulars.         | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Q'land. | S.A.  | W.A.  | Tas.  | Aus-tralia. |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| <b>MALE WORKERS.</b> |                      |        |       |         |       |       |       |             |
| 31st Dec., 1932      | { Weekly Wage ..     | 1,541  | 1,411 | 1,605   | 1,317 | 1,483 | 1,416 | 1,485       |
|                      | { Hourly Wage (a) .. | 1,701  | 1,451 | 1,748   | 1,355 | 1,584 | 1,464 | 1,584       |
| 31st Dec., 1933      | { Weekly Wage ..     | 1,486  | 1,396 | 1,598   | 1,332 | 1,476 | 1,415 | 1,460       |
|                      | { Hourly Wage (a) .. | 1,655  | 1,438 | 1,775   | 1,372 | 1,571 | 1,463 | 1,567       |
| 31st Dec., 1934      | { Weekly Wage ..     | 1,509  | 1,427 | 1,610   | 1,369 | 1,525 | 1,443 | 1,487       |
|                      | { Hourly Wage (a) .. | 1,676  | 1,484 | 1,782   | 1,410 | 1,624 | 1,494 | 1,594       |
| 31st Dec., 1935      | { Weekly Wage ..     | 1,528  | 1,448 | 1,605   | 1,415 | 1,528 | 1,470 | 1,504       |
|                      | { Hourly Wage (a) .. | 1,703  | 1,496 | 1,782   | 1,476 | 1,626 | 1,519 | 1,617       |
| 31st Dec., 1936      | { Weekly Wage ..     | 1,552  | 1,508 | 1,609   | 1,444 | 1,606 | 1,512 | 1,541       |
|                      | { Hourly Wage (a) .. | 1,731  | 1,567 | 1,787   | 1,500 | 1,724 | 1,552 | 1,662       |

FEMALE WORKERS.

|                 |                  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 31st Dec., 1932 | { Weekly Wage .. | 1,644 | 1,583 | 1,720 | 1,505 | 1,826 | 1,595 | 1,624 |
|                 | { Hourly Wage .. | 1,837 | 1,711 | 1,863 | 1,605 | 1,967 | 1,700 | 1,777 |
| 31st Dec., 1933 | { Weekly Wage .. | 1,589 | 1,573 | 1,720 | 1,510 | 1,778 | 1,587 | 1,599 |
|                 | { Hourly Wage .. | 1,776 | 1,700 | 1,919 | 1,611 | 1,916 | 1,691 | 1,752 |
| 31st Dec., 1934 | { Weekly Wage .. | 1,628 | 1,609 | 1,755 | 1,541 | 1,809 | 1,623 | 1,636 |
|                 | { Hourly Wage .. | 1,819 | 1,738 | 1,956 | 1,699 | 1,947 | 1,730 | 1,797 |
| 31st Dec., 1935 | { Weekly Wage .. | 1,654 | 1,626 | 1,767 | 1,561 | 1,808 | 1,650 | 1,655 |
|                 | { Hourly Wage .. | 1,848 | 1,758 | 1,971 | 1,721 | 1,947 | 1,759 | 1,818 |
| 31st Dec., 1936 | { Weekly Wage .. | 1,677 | 1,722 | 1,780 | 1,594 | 1,873 | 1,661 | 1,708 |
|                 | { Hourly Wage .. | 1,875 | 1,883 | 1,985 | 1,700 | 2,018 | 1,803 | 1,881 |

(a) See footnote to following table.

\* Approximate Weekly Rates—M = 55/1; F = 27/2. Hourly Rates—M = 1/2; F = 0/63.

4. **Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour, Adult Males.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) in a full working week for male workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1932 to 1936.

### HOURS OF LABOUR.

#### INDEX-NUMBERS OF WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR OF ADULT MALES.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average hours of labour for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (48.93) as base (= 1,000). Overtime is excluded.

| Date.           | Particulars.                                   | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Q'land. | S.A.  | W.A.  | Tas.  | Aus-<br>tralia. |
|-----------------|--|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 31st Dec., 1932 | Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) .. | 44.19  | 46.86 | 44.90   | 46.83 | 45.51 | 46.75 | 45.49           |
|                 | Index-numbers ..                               | 903    | 958   | 919     | 957   | 930   | 955   | 930             |
| 31st Dec., 1933 | Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) .. | 44.23  | 46.82 | 44.00   | 46.83 | 45.51 | 46.77 | 45.36           |
|                 | Index-numbers ..                               | 904    | 957   | 899     | 957   | 930   | 956   | 927             |
| 31st Dec., 1934 | Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) .. | 44.23  | 46.82 | 44.00   | 46.83 | 45.51 | 46.77 | 45.36           |
|                 | Index-numbers ..                               | 904    | 957   | 899     | 957   | 930   | 956   | 927             |
| 31st Dec., 1935 | Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) .. | 44.18  | 46.74 | 43.69   | 46.63 | 45.48 | 46.75 | 45.26           |
|                 | Index-numbers ..                               | 903    | 955   | 893     | 953   | 929   | 955   | 925             |
| 31st Dec., 1936 | Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) .. | 44.08  | 46.41 | 43.69   | 46.55 | 45.30 | 46.33 | 45.09           |
|                 | Index-numbers ..                               | 901    | 918   | 893     | 951   | 926   | 917   | 922             |

(a) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for occupations classified in Industrial Groups XI. and XII.

5. **Nominal and Effective Wages.**—(i) *General.* Wages are said to be nominal when they represent the actual amounts of money received in return for labour, and are described as effective or real when expressed in terms of their equivalent purchasing power, that is, their purchasing power over some definite composite unit or regimen the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between nominal and effective or real wages was discussed at some length in Labour Report No. 6, and was also referred to in Labour Report No. 11.

Since it is possible to measure purchasing power over more than one composite unit or regimen it is equally possible to convert any given nominal wage series into more than one series of effective or real wages. It has been the practice of the Bureau in the past to compute effective wage index-numbers by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series). While wage-rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" series index-numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. Now that the Commonwealth Court has abandoned the "A" series, the merit of the "C" series of retail price index-numbers for "deflating" nominal wage rates is strengthened. The "C" series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five roomed houses, clothing, and miscellaneous household requirements. In the following tables, therefore, real wages are measured in terms of their purchasing power over both the "A" series regimen and the "C" series regimen. For some purposes the one is appropriate and for some purposes the other.

(ii) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers 1901 to 1936—States.* The following table shows the course of nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State,

but in certain industries, such as mining, rates are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities. For the year 1914 and subsequent years the index-numbers in the following table are based on the average wage for the four quarters of each year:—

**NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES.**

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.)

| State.            | Number of Occupations included. |                     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                   |                                 |                     | 1901. | 1911. | 1911. | 1921. | 1929. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. |
|                   | 1901<br>to<br>1917.             | 1913<br>to<br>1935. |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| New South Wales   | 158                             | 874                 | 358   | 1,003 | 1,003 | 1,862 | 2,012 | 1,734 | 1,638 | 1,617 | 1,631 | 1,651 |
| Victoria          | 150                             | 909                 | 796   | 985   | 1,062 | 1,803 | 1,964 | 1,552 | 1,502 | 1,523 | 1,550 | 1,583 |
| Queensland        | 87                              | 627                 | 901   | 997   | 1,035 | 1,879 | 1,976 | 1,731 | 1,720 | 1,727 | 1,731 | 1,728 |
| South Australia   | 131                             | 567                 | 819   | 1,013 | 1,061 | 1,667 | 1,891 | 1,434 | 1,423 | 1,458 | 1,493 | 1,533 |
| Western Australia | 69                              | 489                 | 1,052 | 1,152 | 1,223 | 1,832 | 1,960 | 1,611 | 1,584 | 1,610 | 1,641 | 1,688 |
| Tasmania          | 51                              | 482                 | 719   | 799   | 1,027 | 1,745 | 1,840 | 1,333 | 1,519 | 1,540 | 1,571 | 1,610 |
| Australia (a)     | 652                             | 3,048               | 848   | 1,000 | 1,081 | 1,827 | 1,972 | 1,639 | 1,584 | 1,590 | 1,609 | 1,635 |

(a) Weighted average.

(iii) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers in each State, 1901-1936.* In the following tables the index-numbers for the years prior to 1914 are computed from nominal wage index-numbers based on rates current at the end of December, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and following years, however, they are computed from nominal wage index-numbers based on the average of rates current at the end of the four quarters of each year. So far as the years 1901 and 1911 are concerned, however, the index-numbers may be taken as substantially accurate, since the movement in wages during the course of any one year prior to 1914 was comparatively slight.

In obtaining the index-numbers for each State the nominal wage index-numbers for each State have been divided by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000.

**EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR ADULT MALES (FULL WORK).**

Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "A" series regimen.

(Base: Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

| State.            | 1901. | 1911. | 1914. | 1920. | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| New South Wales   | 961   | 973   | 906   | 911   | 1,050 | 1,107 | 1,160 | 1,150 | 1,138 | 1,101 | 1,095 | 1,090 |
| Victoria          | 915   | 1,037 | 961   | 875   | 1,084 | 1,158 | 1,162 | 1,126 | 1,139 | 1,114 | 1,092 | 1,075 |
| Queensland        | 1,172 | 1,090 | 1,038 | 1,036 | 1,220 | 1,317 | 1,345 | 1,376 | 1,417 | 1,377 | 1,323 | 1,261 |
| South Australia   | 948   | 957   | 929   | 853   | 1,067 | 1,166 | 1,178 | 1,133 | 1,152 | 1,143 | 1,149 | 1,143 |
| Western Australia | 1,024 | 1,023 | 1,070 | 1,012 | 1,143 | 1,229 | 1,232 | 1,212 | 1,246 | 1,221 | 1,224 | 1,221 |
| Tasmania          | 827   | 838   | 942   | 830   | 1,064 | 1,111 | 1,104 | 1,067 | 1,094 | 1,080 | 1,099 | 1,094 |
| Australia (a)     | 964   | 1,000 | 948   | 911   | 1,082 | 1,152 | 1,185 | 1,168 | 1,178 | 1,148 | 1,133 | 1,119 |

(a) Weighted average.

Since the "C" series index-numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed for the purpose of the following table that fluctuations between 1911, the base of the table, and 1914 in the "C" series would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" series.

**EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR ADULT MALES (FULL WORK).**

Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "C" series regimen.

(Base: Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

| State.            | 1901. | 1911. | 1914. | 1920. | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936. |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| New South Wales   | 925   | 850   | 1,130 | 1,164 | 1,210 | 1,206 | 1,186 | 1,157 | 1,153 | 1,150 | 1,131 | 1,131 |
| Victoria          | 954   | 806   | 1,164 | 1,221 | 1,200 | 1,150 | 1,147 | 1,146 | 1,134 | 1,134 | 1,131 | 1,131 |
| Queensland        | 1,022 | 957   | 1,290 | 1,332 | 1,336 | 1,366 | 1,382 | 1,366 | 1,338 | 1,266 | 1,266 | 1,266 |
| South Australia   | 914   | 774   | 1,090 | 1,176 | 1,137 | 1,079 | 1,086 | 1,091 | 1,097 | 1,101 | 1,101 | 1,101 |
| Western Australia | 1,043 | 888   | 1,152 | 1,200 | 1,189 | 1,158 | 1,177 | 1,177 | 1,187 | 1,180 | 1,180 | 1,180 |
| Tasmania          | 902   | 758   | 1,108 | 1,153 | 1,120 | 1,094 | 1,110 | 1,109 | 1,115 | 1,128 | 1,128 | 1,128 |
| Australia (a)     | 1,000 | 918   | 841   | 1,151 | 1,198 | 1,210 | 1,190 | 1,187 | 1,173 | 1,166 | 1,166 | 1,166 |

(a) Weighted average.

In the table above, the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the effective wage index-number for any State over any period of years.

(iv) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers in the Commonwealth, 1901-1936.* In the following table similar index-numbers are given for Australia as a whole. These are obtained by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers for Australia by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities and multiplying by 1,000.

#### NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS (FULL WORK).

(Base: Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

| Year.        | Nominal Weekly Wage Index-Numbers. | Retail Price Index-numbers.                            |                           | Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers, i.e., Relative Purchasing Power over Regimen of — |               |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---------------|
|              |                                    | " A " Series (Food, Groceries and Rent of All Houses). | " C " Series (All Items). | " A " Series.   | " C " Series. |
|              |                                    |  |                           |   |               |
| 1901 .. .. . | 848                                | 880  | ..                        | 964   | ..            |
| 1909 .. .. . | 923                                | 948  | ..                        | 974   | ..            |
| 1910 .. .. . | 955                                | 970  | ..                        | 985   | ..            |
| 1911 .. .. . | 1,000                              | 1,000  | (1,000)                   | 1,000   | (1,000)       |
| 1912 .. .. . | 1,051                              | 1,101  | ..                        | 955   | ..            |
| 1913 .. .. . | 1,076                              | 1,104  | ..                        | 975   | ..            |
| 1914 .. .. . | 1,081                              | 1,140  | 1,140                     | 948   | 948           |
| 1915 .. .. . | 1,092                              | 1,278  | 1,297                     | 854   | 842           |
| 1916 .. .. . | 1,144                              | 1,324  | 1,319                     | 864   | 857           |
| 1917 .. .. . | 1,226                              | 1,318  | 1,406                     | 930   | 872           |
| 1918 .. .. . | 1,270                              | 1,362  | 1,501                     | 932   | 846           |
| 1919 .. .. . | 1,370                              | 1,510  | 1,695                     | 907   | 808           |
| 1920 .. .. . | 1,627                              | 1,785  | 1,935                     | 911   | 841           |
| 1921 .. .. . | 1,826                              | 1,697  | 1,680                     | 1,076   | 1,087         |
| 1922 .. .. . | 1,801                              | 1,600  | 1,619                     | 1,126   | 1,112         |
| 1923 .. .. . | 1,805                              | 1,700  | 1,664                     | 1,062   | 1,085         |
| 1924 .. .. . | 1,840                              | 1,681  | 1,637                     | 1,095   | 1,124         |
| 1925 .. .. . | 1,861                              | 1,722  | 1,654                     | 1,081   | 1,125         |
| 1926 .. .. . | 1,914                              | 1,786  | 1,677                     | 1,072   | 1,141         |
| 1927 .. .. . | 1,946                              | 1,766  | 1,662                     | 1,102   | 1,171         |
| 1928 .. .. . | 1,963                              | 1,760  | 1,675                     | 1,115   | 1,172         |
| 1929 .. .. . | 1,972                              | 1,822  | 1,713                     | 1,082   | 1,151         |
| 1930 .. .. . | 1,939                              | 1,683  | 1,618                     | 1,152   | 1,198         |
| 1931 .. .. . | 1,752                              | 1,479  | 1,448                     | 1,185   | 1,210         |
| 1932 .. .. . | 1,639                              | 1,403  | 1,377                     | 1,168   | 1,100         |
| 1933 .. .. . | 1,584                              | 1,345  | 1,335                     | 1,178   | 1,187         |
| 1934 .. .. . | 1,590                              | 1,385  | 1,355                     | 1,148   | 1,173         |
| 1935 .. .. . | 1,609                              | 1,420  | 1,380                     | 1,133   | 1,166         |
| 1936 .. .. . | 1,635                              | 1,461  | 1,409                     | 1,119   | 1,160         |

NOTE.—For years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers relate to the end of the year only, but from 1914 onward these figures, in addition to those for retail prices, are averages for the whole year.



### § 3. The Basic Wage in Australia.

1. **General.**—The “basic wage” in Australia is understood to mean the lowest wage which can be paid to an unskilled labourer on the basis of “the normal needs of an average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilized community.”\* This wage is fixed by various industrial tribunals in Australia operating under Commonwealth and State Arbitration Acts, and is varied from time to time according to changes in cost of living, constitution of the family unit, etc. In addition to the “basic” wage, these tribunals also determine what is known as the “secondary” wage—“the extra payment to be made for trained skill or other exceptional qualities necessary for an employee exercising the functions required.”† The term “minimum” wage, on the other hand, is used to express the lowest rate payable in a particular industry, and is either equal to, or greater than the “basic” wage.

2. **The Commonwealth Basic Wage.**—(i) *General.* The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, and the same principle was enunciated in the New South Wales Arbitration Court in somewhat similar terms by Mr. Justice Heydon in 1905. In spite, however, of these pronouncements and the fact that wage-fixing tribunals had been in operation as early as 1896 (in the State of Victoria), it was not until the year 1907 that the first basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This declaration was made by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and is popularly known as the “Harvester Judgment” on account of its having been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay’s Sunshine Harvester Works. The rate of wage declared in this case was 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for “a family of about five,” and was generally referred to as the “Harvester” wage. The constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The “Harvester” basic rates for all other towns throughout Australia were fixed at practically the same rates until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the Retail Price index-numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses, (“A” Series), for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. These index-numbers had been taken back to 1901, with the year 1911 as base, and disclosed not only considerable percentage increases since 1907, but also large disparities in the relative purchasing power of money in the various towns. The basic rates for towns were thereafter fixed on their respective index-numbers, taking the index-number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 as being equivalent to 42s. per week, or the base of the table 1,000 as being equivalent to 48s. per week. Exceptions were made in the case of many country towns, where certain “loadings” were applied to counterbalance their lower index-numbers due to cheaper rentals.‡

In 1922 an amount known as the “Powers’ 3s.”§ was added as a general “loading” to the weekly wage for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the “Harvester” standard. In the same year the system was instituted of making regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to accord with variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the “A” Series retail price index-numbers.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the “basic” wage, or any alteration thereof including the principles on which it is computed, together with any variation or interpretation of any award involving any such alteration, shall be considered by a Court constituted by the Chief Judge and not less than two other Judges, and must be approved by a majority of the members of that Court. By a

\* Mr. Justice Higgins—*A New Province of Law and Order.*

† *Ibid.*

‡ As these indexes covered only about 60 per cent. of household expenditure, a low index due to low rentals would wrongly presume low costs in the remaining uninvestigated 40 per cent. of household expenditure and *vice versa.*

§ Awarded by Mr. Justice Powers in the Gas Workers’ case.

judgment of the High Court on the 21st April, 1933, the "basic" wage is taken to mean for the foregoing purpose, not only the "Harvester" wage but any "loadings" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer. A "loading" is defined as an addition to the "basic" wage as compensation for some peculiar condition of labour or environment, and not by way of "margin for skill." The wage payable for skilled labour is assessed on the basis of the "basic" wage, including "loadings."

The adequacy or otherwise of the "Harvester" standard has been the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. The abnormal conditions during and for some time after the war hindered such a review which was regarded as less urgent by reason of the fact that wages throughout Australia were being automatically adjusted to changes in retail prices. A Royal Commission (referred to later) was appointed in 1920 to assess a basic wage, but its recommendations were not carried out.

No change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of the depression, which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court by employers for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that afforded by the automatic adjustments to falling retail prices. An account of the proceedings which resulted in the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from the 1st February, 1931, is given in Labour Report No. 23, page 74. Reference is also made to the Court's refusal in June, 1932, and May, 1933, to remove this special reduction.

(ii) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934.* The "Harvester" standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued as the theoretical basis of the wage of the Commonwealth Court until 31st May, 1934, when it was superseded by a judgment delivered on 17th April, 1934, full particulars of which appear in preceding issues of the Year Book. The basic wage declared on this occasion (known as the "Restoration Basic Wage, 1934") was as follows for the six capital cities:—

|                   | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |                  | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sydney .. .. .    | 67        | 0         | Adelaide .. .. . | 64        | 0         |
| Melbourne .. .. . | 64        | 0         | Perth .. .. .    | 66        | 0         |
| Brisbane .. .. .  | 61        | 0         | Hobart .. .. .   | 67        | 0         |

Six Capital Cities. 65s. od.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the basis of the periodical adjustments to retail price variations was transferred from the "A" Series to the "C" Series of Index-Numbers. The latter Series covers Food and Groceries; Rent of 4-roomed and 5-roomed Houses; Clothing; Fuel; Light; Household Utensils; Household Drapery; Fares; and other Miscellaneous household requirements. The base of the table (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. per week. This gave the above rates for the capital cities, which are proportionate to their respective index-numbers. In effect, the new rate for the Six Capital Cities was the same as that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers" 3s., and without the 10 per cent. reduction. Certain towns gained and others lost in comparison with rates under the "A" Series, owing to the different relationship of towns under the "A" and the "C" Series.

(iii) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937.* In May, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined Unions for an increase in the basic wage. The Unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the "C" Series Index be increased from 81s. to 93s. which on current index-numbers would have represented an average increase of about 10s. per week. The hearing extended from 10th May, to 4th June, 1937, and the Court delivered judgment on 23rd June. The chief features of the judgment were—

(a) Various amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as "loadings" on the rates that would have been payable under the "shilling table" as determined by the 1934 judgment. The latter

was referred to in the judgment as the "needs" portion of the total resultant basic wage. The "loadings" and resultant "total basic wages" for the six capital cities were as follows :—

| City.                | "Needs" Basic Wage. | "Loading."   | Total Basic Wage. |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
|                      | <i>s. d.</i>        | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i>      |
| Sydney .. .. .       | 72 0                | 6 0          | 78 0              |
| Melbourne .. .. .    | 69 0                | 6 0          | 75 0              |
| Brisbane .. .. .     | 68 0                | 6 0          | 74 0              |
| Adelaide .. .. .     | 68 0 (a)            | 4 0          | 72 0              |
| Perth .. .. .        | 70 0 (a)            | 4 0          | 74 0              |
| Hobart .. .. .       | 70 0 (b)            | 4 0          | 74 0              |
| Six Capitals .. .. . | 70 0                | 5 0          | 75 0              |

(a) An additional 1s. was actually being paid under the "2s. minimum adjustment" provision.  
 (b) Represents 1s. gain on rate actually being paid.

The above were not to apply to railway employees, to whom the Court granted "loadings" of 5s. in New South Wales and Victoria, and 3s. in South Australia and Tasmania. Workers in the provincial towns were to receive "loadings" 6s. in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland: and 4s. in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. The Maritime workers were granted a "loading" of 21s. 6d. per month, and the Pastoral workers received increases proportionate to the increase of the flat basic rate, from 68s. to 77s. in respect of the basis of piece work rates. Station hands received an increase of 3s. per week.

The "loadings" were to come into operation by instalments as follows :—

| "Loading."   | Instalments. | Date of Operation.<br>(First pay period to begin in—) |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |   |
| 6 0          | 3 0          | July, 1937  |
|              | 3 0          | October, "  |
| 5 0          | 3 0          | July, "   |
|              | 2 0          | October, "  |
| 4 0          | 2 0          | July, "   |
|              | 2 0          | October, "  |
| 3 0          | 2 0          | July, "   |
|              | 1 0          | October, "  |

The Maritime, Pastoral and Gas Workers' increases were to become fully operative in the first pay period in July.

(b) The former proviso that no adjustment of wages should take place unless the amount of variation reached at least 2s. was rescinded in favour of minimum variations of 1s. per week.

(c) The general policy laid down in the previous judgment in regard to rates for country towns was retained, with the exception that the rates for Geelong and Warrnambool were made the same as those for Melbourne.

(d) The basis of the adjustment of wages in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index-numbers was transferred from the "C" Series to a special "Court" Series based upon the "C" Series, for an explanation of which see page 574.

(e) Female and Junior rates were left for adjustment by individual Judges when dealing with specific awards.

The main parts of the Judgment are reprinted below :

BASIS OF CLAIM.

"The Court is asked by united applications on behalf of organizations of employees covered by its awards to increase the basic wage prescribed therein by an amount which on the present adjusting index-numbers would average about 10s. and also to prescribe that the minimum wage for adult females shall be 60 per cent. of the basic wage for males. The application was made mainly on the ground that since 1934 economic recovery as reflected in increased productivity and national income and the restoration of the level of export prices had been great enough to justify more than full restoration of the basic wage operating at the time the 10 per cent. reduction was made. In the main, restoration of productivity and of national income to the 1929 level notwithstanding alterations in the economic structure was established. The Court in effect was faced with the converse position to that which led it to decide on a reduction in 1931 and it was contended that "all economic arguments then advanced in favour of a reduction should now be reversed and used in favour of an increase". The main arguments which led to the reduction were—

- Decline in national income ;
- Increasing unemployment ;
- Violent fall in export prices ;
- Sudden cessation of the expenditure by Governments of moneys borrowed from overseas ; and

The precarious position of primary industries.

The evidence as to the extent of economic recovery since the date of the Court's 10 per cent. reduction order can be summarised as follows :—

*Primary Production.*—The following table prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician shows the quantitative production of the principal primary products increased by 25 per cent. between the years 1925-26 and 1934-35 :—

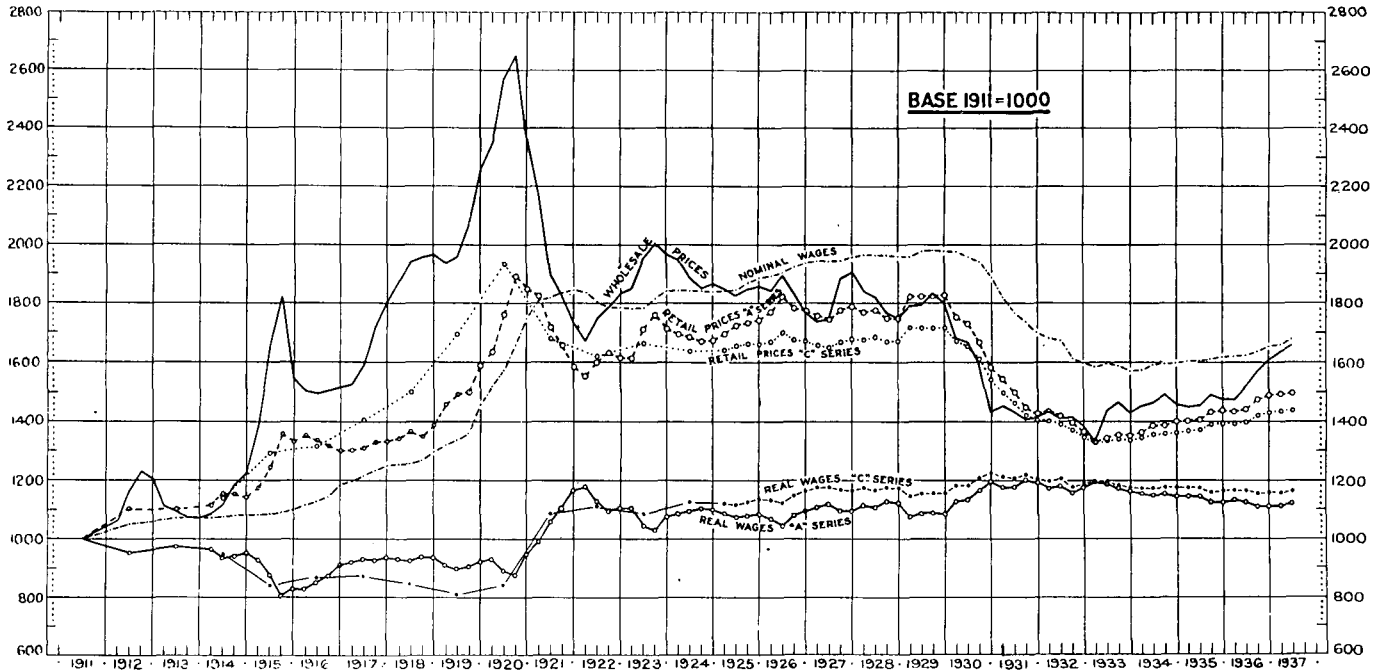
INDEX-NUMBER OF QUANTITY PRODUCTION IN AUSTRALIA.

| Industry and Group.       | 1925-26. | 1934-35. |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Agriculture—              |          |          |
| Cereals .. .. .           | 1,000    | 1,219    |
| Root crops .. .. .        | 1,000    | 995      |
| Fruit .. .. .             | 1,000    | 1,186    |
| Miscellaneous .. .. .     | 1,000    | 1,233    |
| Total Agriculture .. .. . | 1,000    | 1,206    |
| Pastoral—Wool .. .. .     | 1,000    | 1,218    |
| Dairy produce .. .. .     | 1,000    | 1,431    |
| Total .. .. .             | 1,000    | 1,255    |

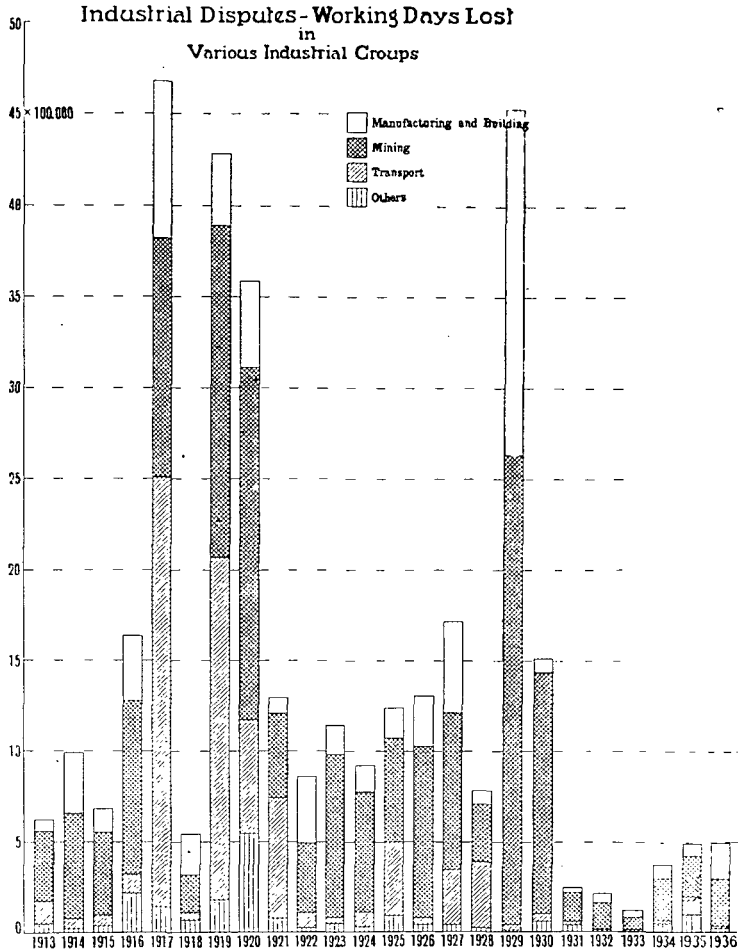
During the same period the number of persons permanently employed in rural industries increased from 432,134 to 451,177 or approximately 5 per cent. Such later figures as are available indicate that since 1935 there have been only the usual seasonal variations in quantities. Taking the export price index-number as a guide the general average of prices prevailing in 1928-29 has been restored.

The increased production of gold at higher prices is too well known to call for comment. Prices for base metals are higher than in 1929.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1937.



NOTE.—The index-numbers in the above graph are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices which are for Melbourne. They are all calculated to the common base 1911 = 1,000, the scale for which appears on the left of the graph. They are shown *quarterly* from the year 1912 in the case of the "A" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries and rent of all houses) and Wholesale Prices (Melbourne). The "C" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries, rent of 4 and 5 rooms, clothing and miscellaneous household expenditure) are shown *quarterly* from the year 1925. Nominal Wages are shown *quarterly* from 1914, and Real Wages *quarterly* from 1914 for the "A" Series, and from 1925 for the "C" Series.



**EXPLANATION.**—The scale refers to working days lost in hundred thousands. Thus, taking the year 1917, and comparing the shaded and blank sections with the scale, it will be observed that about 870,000 working days were lost in Manufacturing and Building, over 1,300,000 in Mining, over 3,300,000 in Transport, and about 150,000 in other industries.

*Manufacturing.*—Manufacturing industries since 1928-29 have been more than restored to the 1929 level.

The total value of production computed on the basis of retail prices in 1911 between 1928 and 1936 increased from £93,906,619 to £102,592,707 with less than 1,000 increase in the number of employees engaged. The value of production per employée computed on the same basis increased from £208 in 1928-29 to £228 in 1934-35. Such figures as are available disclose that this increase has been maintained since 1936.

*Public Finance.*—Public finance has vastly improved. States still have budgetary difficulties to contend with mainly owing to deficits in railway undertakings. These difficulties have been taken into account in fixing the railway rates as hereafter appear. Increases of revenues which keep pace with general increase in prosperity, provided due economy is shown and there is no undue haste in remitting emergency taxation, should before long enable Governments to pay their way.

*Private Finance.*—In the general field of commerce and finance, distributed profits and reserves, adjusted in the same way as wages according to the present purchasing power of money, have been steadily increasing since 1934, and judging by the latest balance sheets available are still on the up grade. The remarkable increase during the last twelve months in the quoted values of shares in public companies indicates that confidence in present and future stability of private enterprise has been re-established.

#### NATIONAL INCOME AND EFFECT OF CESSATION OF OVERSEAS BORROWING.

“Using such methods of calculation as are available it may reasonably be inferred that real national income per head is now as great as before the depression. Unemployment has rapidly decreased, and at the moment, with a falling trend, is little if any in excess of that of normal years. Export prices have reached the level of 1928. The Commonwealth has adapted itself mainly by increased manufacture to the absence of overseas borrowing. An able economist called as a witness by the Court—Mr. Reddaway—who, as well as his own opinion, voiced that of eminent economists of the University of Melbourne well acquainted with Australian conditions, effectively contended that ‘The effect of overseas borrowing was that men were employed in what was virtually export industry. They were producing public works of various sorts, and although these were not physically exported yet the same immediate effect was obtained by exporting corresponding government obligations. These ‘exports’ enabled Australia to obtain various commodities as imports in exchange. When the borrowing ceased this particular export industry was of course extinguished. The *immediate* effect was disastrous because the Australian economy could not be readjusted in a day. But if time were allowed for adaptation then there need be no permanent fall in employment and the effect on consumption should be quite small. Previously men had been producing public works for export and obtaining manufactures in exchange; they had now to be transferred either to other export industries, or to producing the manufactures in Australia. Once this was done there would only be a loss of consumption insofar as the new occupations were less productive; and of course any loss on this account might be more than offset by improved efficiency in other industries. This process of adjustment has now been virtually completed. The figures for overseas trade for 1936-37 will show exports somewhat higher (in Australian-currency) than in 1928-29, and imports about £30,000,000 lower. The correspondence is remarkably good considering the other factors which might have altered. Moreover a direct estimate of the replacement of imports by home production was made by Mr. J. G. Melville of the Commonwealth Bank. Though necessarily subject to a considerable margin of error, this substantially confirmed the view that the expansion has replaced imports to about the value of the pre-depression borrowing.

So far, therefore, from the absence of borrowing being a source of weakness, it adds greatly to the strength of the position. The new method of manufacturing the goods in Australia (instead of importing them in exchange for the equivalent of public works) may not yield quite such good immediate results; we see this in the fact that the new industries receive protection so that £100 will not buy as much of their products as it would of imports. But this is a comparatively small matter representing a loss of real

income of perhaps £5,000,000; it has been much more than offset by increased efficiency in production as a whole which has been secured since 1929 and hardly needs consideration as a separate factor, whilst there is a very large item to be entered on the credit side in the fact that there is no longer a risk of sudden dislocation due to a restriction of loans. This increased security does not directly add to the immediate power of industry to pay higher wages, but it enables one to take a much more confident view of the future.

#### POSITION OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

“As to primary industries, with the restored export price level the difficulties of graziers and farmers are now mainly attributable to causes which are not so seriously affected by wage level. As Mr. Reddaway further said—‘With export prices at present levels the farmers’ financial difficulties mostly arise out of the excessive prices at which they bought their land. If they had paid for it in cash they would simply have found they had made a bad investment, and would naturally have had to take the consequences in getting little return on their capital. In fact they largely borrowed the money so that when their equity margin disappeared they were immediately in difficulties. This created a grave social problem, but it is not one which should or can be rectified by adjusting wages. It calls for an adjustment on capital account, and this is in fact being effected through debt adjustment boards and revaluations. Wages only affect the current position and this is for the most part satisfactory; sale prices are about at pre-slump levels whilst money wages and the cost of living are considerably lower.’

#### EMPLOYERS’ CONTENTIONS.

“Employers’ representatives urged that the Court should not regard this return to pre-depression prosperity as likely to endure. The possibilities of another war were canvassed. Such a possible contingency cannot affect the Court’s decision. If such disaster again overtakes civilization then what industrial tribunals do or have done will be of little importance in the inevitable economic collapse which would follow. It was also urged that the restoration of export prices to pre-depression levels and the expanding of manufacturing industries with a corresponding reduction of imports may only be transitory. This may or may not be true. But the upward trend since 1935 has, on the whole, brought the Commonwealth to at least pre-depression levels with the advantage that it does not now rely on a large expenditure of overseas public borrowings.

The possibilities of the future cannot be foreseen. The Court can only be guided by existing conditions and be prepared at any time to vary its orders as those conditions materially vary, either upwards or downwards.

#### EFFECTS OF HIGHER WAGES ON INVESTMENT.

“The advocates appearing for employees urged that there should be a substantial addition to the equivalent of the 1929 wage and found support for this claim in the statement of Mr. Reddaway endorsed as it was by Professors Copland and Giblin and Dr. Wood. This statement definitely asserted that economic recovery justified restoration of the 1929 level and that economic tendencies towards a fresh boom rendered a somewhat higher level advisable. Mr. Reddaway’s argument in support of this contention was that unless wage rates were increased the expectation of increased profits will cause entrepreneurs to start superfluous new enterprises or excessively expand existing ones. Beyond a point this tendency might produce a most unhealthy boom, particularly when unemployment had been reduced to normal. It would also be accompanied by a rapid rise in the price of existing assets (already in evidence in the stock and share market). The resulting undesirable speculation would cause trouble if there is a subsequent decline. Higher wages would induce more sober estimates of the prospects whilst delay in raising wages would directly contribute to undue inflation of values. A rise in real wages would now be extremely valuable as a restraining influence, both on the price of existing capital assets and the excessive construction of new ones. A re-distribution of income in favour of wage earners, who unlike other classes spend their share of income without delay, will accelerate the demand for products and so provide solid support for legitimate expenditure on capital goods.



Applying this theory to existing circumstances, Mr. Reddaway originally urged that the equivalent of the 1929 wage should be restored with an addition of from 2s. to 3s. Subsequently he admitted that he was not in possession of information as to recent advances in real wages by way of increased marginal allowances and did not adhere to the actual addition of from 2s. to 3s. But he adhered to his opinion that the rate fixed by the Court should exceed the restoration of the 1929 standard.

Advocates for the employers presented a statement in reply to that of Mr. Reddaway evidently prepared by an expert economist who preferred to remain anonymous. The Court, although it had not an opportunity to discuss with its author the opinions expressed and was deprived of the assistance derived from cross-examination, paid close attention to this document and to Mr. Reddaway's subsequent reply. The statement did not dispute that there should be some rise in the wage level but sought to discount the facts and theories applied thereto on which Mr. Reddaway based his contentions. It is impracticable to analyse paragraph by paragraph this controversy between two economists with different approaches to the problem which the Court must solve. All that need be said is that the statement was closely considered with the mass of spoken and quoted economic material submitted in evidence. The opinions of economic experts of course are not conclusive. But those offered in these proceedings by Mr. Reddaway unchallenged as they were by any other economist willing to disclose his identity were more impressive than usual.

#### EFFECTS OF HIGHER WAGES ON CONSUMPTION.

"In effect the economist's statement in support of an increase of wages is an endorsement of the theory that one of the causes of cycles of depression is a recurring lack of balance in the application of the *money* income received by the members of the community: This money income is broadly speaking equal to the money value of all real income of the community in goods made for sale and services rendered for payment in money. For the enjoyment of prosperity in a modern industrial community the money income and the real income should be in a constant full flow of mutual interchange. The spending of all the money income, which has really been created as a result of the production and supply of previous goods and services, now creates a market for further goods and services being produced and offered. As put in the old phrase "Money would be circulating" and business and employment would be good. Subject to a reservation as to over spending on producer goods, it is immaterial whether the spending is done by the capitalist section or by the wage earner section of the community, so long as it is done in the community and done quickly. In either case the money cannot be spent without resulting employment and wages or payment for wage earners or other workers who supply goods or services. But there is this difference between the spending by the capitalist section and the spending by the wage earner section of the money of which they gain control. The wage earner section has to spend its money at once within the community and to that extent keeps alive the market for the suppliers of goods and services. So far as the capitalist section spends at once within the community the money in its control, it also keeps that market alive. But it is more likely to spend some of its money abroad and thus reduce that market. More important however is the fact that it may become infected with a lack of confidence in the outcome of investment of that part of its money not spent in consumer goods or services—"money commonly called 'savings'"—and refrain from investing the savings, with the result that the money is not spent promptly. So far as it so refrains, it kills the market for the suppliers of goods and services, wage earners lose employment and wages, and other suppliers find it useless to produce. The economic problem therefore is to arrive at a wage level, which, while not so high as to prevent the capitalist section investing all the "savings" which come into its control, is not so low as to allow money to pass to the capitalist section, which may not spend it promptly within the community, from the wage earner section which would forthwith use it within the community to buy goods and services. (Apart from economic reasons, there are of course humanitarian reasons why the wage level should be made as high as is economically possible, but for the moment, only economic reasons are being considered). If at any time it is made to appear that the

capitalist section for other reasons than an excessively high level of wages then prevailing is refraining from investing "savings" in its control, it may be quite good policy to raise the wage level! So as to transfer the spending power from it to the wage earner section. It does not appear to be suggested that this is the position at present in the Commonwealth. But it is conceivable that such a position may exist at some time in a country, while at another time in the same country entrepreneurs may be showing a tendency to invest "savings" to an excessive extent in producer goods and thus to lead up to a boom and subsequent slump. The two conditions may tend to be alternative both of them largely due to prevailing states of mind. In either case a raising of the wage level may be indicated as a remedy, but obviously no economic physician can prescribe with precision the proper amount of the dose. Mr. Reddaway and the other economists who concur with him, diagnose the present case as one of a likely boom and slump, and suggest an increase such as has already been referred to. On the other hand the economist with whose aid a statement for the employers was prepared, is sceptical as to the likelihood of a boom, and thinks that caution should be used in dealing with wages, although he does not appear to be absolutely opposed to any present increase.

#### PRE-DEPRESSION WAGE RATES.

"For some years prior to the slump in 1929 the amount of unemployment seems to have been about what is normal in industry in modern conditions. This raises a strong presumption that the wage level during those years had arrived at an average amount most suitable for then existing conditions. If present conditions are in substance similar, or, possibly, somewhat more secure because of internal industrial development, a comparison of the real wage level of those years with the present real level will be a useful guide. It is somewhat doubtful, however, whether the price index-numbers and other statistics enable a very close comparative measurement to be made.

The Court's basic wage of the years 1926 to 1929 including the "Powers 3s." and adjusted upon the "A" Series shows the following equivalents of the index-numbers for the first quarter 1937—

|                 | £ | s. | d. |                    | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------|---|----|----|--------------------|---|----|----|
| Sydney .. ..    | 3 | 17 | 6  | Perth .. ..        | 3 | 11 | 0  |
| Melbourne .. .. | 3 | 14 | 6  | Hobart .. ..       | 3 | 15 | 0  |
| Brisbane .. ..  | 3 | 12 | 6  | Launceston .. ..   | 3 | 12 | 6  |
| Adelaide .. ..  | 3 | 9  | 0  | Six Capitals .. .. | 3 | 14 | 6  |

#### INCREASES IN MARGINAL RATES.

"But in comparing the real wage level of the years 1926-1929 with the present day level there must be brought into account not only the difference in the basic wage but also increases in marginal rates made since those years.

In the Metal Trades industries award of 1935 the margins of skilled mechanics (a diminishing and comparatively small section of the total employes of the industry) were increased by 3s. per week. Early this year a further 3s. was added to this increase while 2s. was conceded to most other classes of labour in the industry. In the Textile industry in devising the first national awards of 1933\* rates were reduced in New South Wales and increased in other States the net result being an appreciable aggregate increase. In some other industries margins have been somewhat increased since 1934. But in many there has been no appreciable change. Some of the increases have been met by re-organization of methods resulting in the employment of less labour. As Mr. Reddaway pointed out, between December, 1928, and September, 1936 (the last statistical quarter available) the index of average wages for adult males in Australia as a whole fell approximately 18 per cent. Over the same period the "C" Series for the six capital cities fell by about 16 per cent. disclosing an appreciable fall in the general average of real wages notwithstanding marginal increases. Furthermore, the construction of the index-number is such that it shows too high a figure at a time by increasing margins because of lack of proper weighting of the skilled and unskilled workers. If relationships

\* 32 C.A.R., pp. 614 and 744.

between skilled and unskilled groups had been the same, weighting would have no influence. But when the groups which had received marginal increases were substantially in the minority weighting would appreciably alter the ascertaining of a general average. Up to the September quarter of 1936 it is therefore reasonable to conclude, so far as conclusions can be arrived at from statistical data, that advance in the aggregate of real wages arising from marginal increases up to the first quarter of 1936 was problematic. Increases since that period probably have increased the average of real wages. But unless such an increase is substantial it should not bear much weight in fixing a basic wage level appropriate to present economic circumstances. The increases to skilled tradesmen in the Metal Trades industry, and presumably in other industries, were a long-delayed recognition of the disparity between the wages of skilled and unskilled workmen. Then again such increases did not raise the average earnings of those on or near the base rate. A substantial increase in the basic wage may compel temporary or permanent reconsideration of the higher margins. But that is a matter for the future.

#### HIGHER BASIC WAGE DESIRABLE.

"After grave consideration the conclusion arrived at is that the present degree of prosperity in the Commonwealth and the existing circumstances of industry make desirable appreciable increases in the basic wage.

#### DIFFERENTIAL INCREASES.

"But the question whether the increase should be of the same amount throughout the States is one of very serious importance. Hitherto the Court has assessed the basic wage so as to give it a substantially equal value in commodities in all the States, subject to slight modifications where it was thought that the advantages of an equal money wage in the various places covered by the particular award should prevail. The principle of equality in commodity value was appropriate for a basic wage, the main policy of which was to secure a particular standard of living for wage earners whatever might be the conditions of the industry or district in which they were engaged. The establishment of such a standard was thought to be socially desirable. Even though some industries might find it difficult to provide the wage, it was nevertheless deemed to be better to impose upon them that wage standard, and if they could not naturally sustain it, either aid them in some other way or let them perish. The standard of living aimed at must always be limited by the productivity of the country generally and therefore inasmuch as the Court cannot differentiate between the wage earners according to their dependants, the basic wage earner with a large family must often suffer and see his family suffer lamentable deprivations. The Court has no power to remedy this evil. So far as the basic wage is imposed for the purpose of providing for fundamental needs it should be substantially uniform in real value. But where an addition is to be made to the basic wage because of prosperity which may not exist to the same degree nor at all in some States, or because of some economic purpose the desirability of which varies in different States, there is not the same reason for uniformity in the addition.

#### BASIS OF NEW BASIC WAGE.

"The wage assessed on the basis introduced in 1934 and now in force was regarded by the Court as closely approximating the equivalent of the then Harvester standard (without the "Powers 3s."). Adjusted as it now is by the "C" Series of index-numbers the present rate maintains that approximation. This "needs" basic wage will continue, but with loading additions, because of present prosperity and of stabilizing reasons. These loading additions will not be uniform but are assessed in amount according to the circumstances of the State concerned. They will not be adjustable but constant. The amount of the "needs" basic wage plus the respective loading will be the total basic wage for the purpose of the award in which they are prescribed.

After considering the comparative suitability for industry of the different States, their industrial development, advantages, and handicaps, and the material submitted, in respect of South Australia particularly, the opinion was formed that the highest loading should be made for New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and a lower loading for South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

South Australia financially is the weakest of the States and has only one highly developed manufacturing enterprise, motor body building, established in the days when a lower wage level to some extent balanced the disadvantages of distance from the eastern market.

The result of imposing a basic wage which would bring South Australian wage costs to the same level as those of other States would probably accelerate the tendency to concentrate the motor industry in one of the eastern capitals. The Court is anxious not to take any action which of itself may disturb the present distribution of industrial activity amongst States.

In the South Australian Railways it also seems likely that too high a rise in wage costs would probably result in curtailment of services which must outweigh benefits of increased nominal wages. Similar considerations apply to Tasmania and Western Australia.

The loadings in cases where the basic wage is assessed on Six Capital or other combinations of index-numbers appear later herein.

#### PROVINCIAL RATES.

“As to the basic wage in provincial districts generally speaking the existing differentiation of 3s. between their rates and those of metropolitan districts will be continued.

#### FEMALE RATES.

“The minimum rates for adult females it is thought should be increased so as to be substantially in the same proportion to the new total basic wage as they bore to the present basic wage in the respective awards.

#### “COURT” SERIES OF INDEX-NUMBERS.

“The Commonwealth Statistician has informed the Court that there is much misunderstanding concerning the position of his department in relation to the basic wage. Many people seem to think that because the index-numbers, which are used by this Court for purposes of adjustment, are compiled by the Statistician, he has some connexion with the fixation and adjustment of the wage. Inquiries are made of his department as if it had some official supervision of the wage. Quite obviously conditions which create this impression are improper. Any custom or practice which engenders this false belief concerning his department's functions should be abandoned. It is suggested that the Court should have prepared and issued its own series of retail price index-numbers to be used for adjustment of the basic wage in its awards, this Court series to be based upon and to correspond with the Statistician's “All Items” Series, but to be specially numbered in a manner much more convenient for adjustment of the basic wage than any other series. This Court's series would be issued by the Court and not by the Statistician.

The Court is also informed by the Statistician that he and the State Statisticians have decided that very soon the “All Items” index-numbers, although compiled on the same material as at present, will be calculated to a different base. This would cause a change from the numbering in the present “C” Series and necessitate a consequential alteration in nearly all the Court's awards unless obviated by the Court in some way. For this reason also, it is desirable that the Court should issue a retail price index series of its own, the numbering of which would remain the same, notwithstanding any change by the Statistician of the base to which his “All Items” index-numbers are calculated. As the Court will have to vary its awards in order to prescribe the new basic wage, it is a convenient time to introduce its own table and this will be done. The table will be prepared from the “C” Series as follows:—

At present the Court's adjustable basic wage—the “needs” basic wage as it has been termed herein—is assessed at such an amount that if the “C” Series number for a quarter were 1000 the corresponding “needs” basic wage would be 81s. The Court's

present table of wages is compiled on this basis. For the Court's own series the numbers will be obtained thus—The "C" Series number for the quarter in question will be multiplied by  $\frac{81}{1000} = .081$ , and the first three numbers on the left of the product will be the corresponding number in the Court's series. That corresponding number will itself state in whole and decimal figures the number of shillings with current purchasing power equivalent to that of 81s. when the "C" Series index-number is 1000."

3. **State Basic Wages.**—(i) *New South Wales.* The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard living wage for adult male employees was made on the 16th February, 1914, by the Court of Industrial Arbitration. The Board of Trade was established in 1918 with power to determine the living wage for adult male and female employees in the State; the Board made numerous declarations from 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1926 established the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, which exercised the powers of the Board of Trade from the 15th April, 1926.

The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife, and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent children.

Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates shown in the following table; a living wage for rural workers of £3 6s. per week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921, and a rate of £4 4s. operated from June, 1927 to December, 1929, when the power of industrial tribunals to fix a living wage for rural workers was withdrawn.

The variations in the living wages determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales are shown below:—

## BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

| Male.                  |                      | Female.                |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Date of Declaration.   | Basic Wage per Week. | Date of Declaration.   | Basic Wage per Week. |
|                        | £ s. d.              |                        | £ s. d.              |
| 16th February, 1914 .. | 2 8 0                | ..                     | ..                   |
| 17th December, 1915 .. | 2 12 6               | ..                     | ..                   |
| 18th August, 1916 ..   | 2 15 6               | ..                     | ..                   |
| 5th September, 1918 .. | 3 0 0                | 17th December, 1918 .. | 1 10 0               |
| 8th October, 1919 ..   | 3 17 0               | 23rd December, 1919 .. | 1 19 0               |
| 8th October, 1920 ..   | 4 5 0                | 23rd December, 1920 .. | 2 3 0                |
| 8th October, 1921 ..   | 4 2 0                | 22nd December, 1921 .. | 2 1 0                |
| 12th May, 1922 ..      | 3 18 0               | 9th October, 1922 ..   | 1 19 6               |
| 10th April, 1923 ..    | 3 19 0               | (a) ..                 | 2 0 0                |
| 7th September, 1923 .. | 4 2 0                | ..                     | 2 1 6                |
| 24th August, 1925 ..   | 4 4 0                | ..                     | 2 2 6                |
| 27th June, 1927 ..     | 4 5 0                | ..                     | 2 6 0                |
| 20th December, 1929 .. | 4 2 6                | ..                     | 2 4 6                |
| 26th August, 1932 ..   | 3 10 0               | ..                     | 1 18 0               |
| 11th April, 1933 ..    | 3 8 6                | ..                     | 1 17 0               |
| 20th October, 1933 ..  | 3 6 6                | ..                     | 1 16 0               |
| 26th April, 1934 ..    | 3 7 6                | ..                     | 1 16 6               |
| 18th April, 1935 ..    | 3 8 6                | ..                     | 1 17 0               |
| 24th April, 1936 ..    | 3 9 0                | ..                     | (b) 1 17 6           |
| 27th October, 1936 ..  | 3 10 0               | ..                     | 1 18 0               |
| 24th April, 1937 ..    | 3 11 6               | ..                     | 1 18 6               |

(a) Dates of declaration from 1923 on same as those for male rate.

(b) Rate declared, £1 15s. 6d., but law amended to provide a rate for females at 54 per cent. of that for males.

After the judgment of the Commonwealth Court referred to on page 564 the Government of New South Wales declared its intention to introduce legislation for the purpose of applying the Commonwealth basic wage to employees in New South Wales working under State awards, and to adopt for this purpose the index figures and the "loading" increases of the Commonwealth Court; this would consequently relieve the State tribunal of the necessity to determine a living wage.

(ii) *Victoria and Tasmania.* A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review. In the majority of cases the practice of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court of adjusting wages in accordance with variations in retail prices has been followed in the past by these bodies. In the case of Victoria, by amendments of the Factories and Shops Act No. 4275 of 1934 and No. 4461 of 1936, it is now obligatory on all Wages Boards to adopt such provisions of Commonwealth Awards which such Boards are under the Factory and Shops Acts empowered to include in their determinations. The Secretary of Labour is also empowered under this Act to make adjustments of wages according to variations in retail price index-numbers without calling the Board together.

(iii) *Queensland.* The first formal declaration by the Industrial Arbitration Court in this State of a basic wage was gazetted on 24th February, 1921. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. per week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its Awards as the basic or living wage. The basic wage is nominally intended to provide for the needs of a man, his wife and three children. The variations in the adult basic wages determined by the Industrial Arbitration Court are shown below :—

#### BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN QUEENSLAND.

| Date of Operation.               | Adult Basic Wage. |                  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                  | Male.             | Female.          |
| 1st March, 1921 .. .. .          | £ s. d.<br>4 5 0  | £ s. d.<br>2 3 0 |
| 1st March, 1922 .. .. .          | 4 0 0             | 2 1 0            |
| 23rd September, 1925 (a) .. .. . | 4 5 0             | 2 3 0            |
| 1st August, 1930 .. .. .         | 4 0 0             | 2 1 0            |
| 1st December, 1930 .. .. .       | 3 17 0            | 1 19 6           |
| 1st July, 1931 .. .. .           | 3 14 0            | 1 19 0           |
| 1st April, 1937 .. .. .          | 3 18 0            | 2 1 0            |

(a) Fixed by Basic Wage Act.

The rates shown above are applicable throughout the South-Eastern Division of the State: allowances are added for the following divisions—Northern, 10s.; North-Western, 17s. 4d.; Mackay, 5s. 6d.; and South-Western, 7s. 4d. Half of these allowances are granted to females.

(iv) *South Australia.* The Industrial Code 1920 provides that the Board of Industry shall after public inquiry declare the living wages to be paid to adult male and female employees. Prior to the passing of this Act the living wage was declared by the Industrial Court, the first award, 7s. per day, being made by Mr. Justice Gordon in the Brushmakers' Case in December, 1908.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. per week.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but it is stated that the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 definitely decided that the average employee in respect of whom the living wage is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The variations in the living wages determined by the Board of Industry are shown below :—

## BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

| Male.                  |                      | Female.                |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Date of Declaration.   | Basic Wage per Week. | Date of Declaration.   | Basic Wage per Week. |
|                        | £ s. d.              |                        | £ s. d.              |
| 15th July, 1921 ..     | 3 19 6               | 11th August, 1921 ..   | 1 15 0               |
| 11th April, 1922 ..    | 3 17 6               | ..                     | ..                   |
| 19th October, 1923 ..  | 3 18 6               | ..                     | ..                   |
| 30th April, 1924 ..    | 4 2 0                | 22nd October, 1924 ..  | 1 18 0               |
| 29th July, 1925 ..     | 4 5 6                | 17th August, 1925 ..   | 1 19 6               |
| 11th October, 1930 ..  | 3 15 0               | 22nd December, 1930 .. | 1 15 0               |
| 17th August, 1931 ..   | 3 3 0                | 4th December, 1931 ..  | 1 11 6               |
| 18th October, 1935 ..  | 3 6 0                | 24th December, 1935 .. | 1 13 0               |
| 18th December, 1936 .. | 3 9 6                | 9th April, 1937 ..     | 1 14 9               |

(v) *Western Australia.* The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1934 provides that the Court of Arbitration shall determine and declare a basic wage to operate from 1st July of each year and, wherever and whenever necessary, differential basic rates in special or defined areas of the State. In an amending Act of 1930 provision is made for quarterly adjustments when the Government Statistician reports a variation in the cost of living of 1s. or more per week compared with the previous quarter.

The first declaration of the basic wage by the Court of Arbitration since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court in 1925 was made on 11th June, 1926. The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis for its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children. The variations in the annual declarations of the Court of Arbitration are shown in the following table :—

## BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

| Date of Operation.     | Metropolitan Area. |         | South-West Land Division. |         | Other Parts of State. |         |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
|                        | Male.              | Female. | Male.                     | Female. | Male.                 | Female. |
|                        | £ s. d.            | £ s. d. | £ s. d.                   | £ s. d. | £ s. d.               | £ s. d. |
| 1st July, 1926 ..      | 4 5 0              | 2 5 11  | ..                        | ..      | 4 5 0                 | 2 5 11  |
| 1st July, 1929 ..      | 4 7 0              | 2 7 0   | ..                        | ..      | 4 7 0                 | 2 7 0   |
| 1st July, 1930 ..      | 4 6 0              | 2 6 5   | ..                        | ..      | 4 5 0                 | 2 5 11  |
| 1st July, 1931 ..      | 3 18 0             | 2 2 2   | ..                        | ..      | 3 17 0                | 2 1 8   |
| 1st July, 1932 ..      | 3 12 0             | 1 18 11 | 3 13 6                    | 1 19 8  | 3 18 0                | 2 2 2   |
| 1st July, 1933 ..      | 3 8 0              | 1 16 9  | 3 9 6                     | 1 17 6  | 3 17 6                | 2 1 10  |
| 1st July, 1934 ..      | 3 9 6              | 1 17 6  | 3 10 0                    | 1 17 10 | 3 19 6                | 2 2 11  |
| 1st July, 1935 ..      | 3 10 6             | 1 18 1  | 3 11 2                    | 1 18 5  | 4 4 4                 | 2 5 6   |
| 1st July, 1936 ..      | 3 10 6             | 1 18 1  | 3 11 9                    | 1 18 9  | 4 6 0                 | 2 6 5   |
| 1st July, 1937 ..      | 3 13 9             | 1 19 10 | 3 14 8                    | 2 0 4   | 4 7 0                 | 2 7 0   |
| 26th July, 1937 (b) .. | 3 14 11            | 2 0 5   | 3 15 10                   | 2 0 11  | 4 7 0                 | 2 7 0   |

(a) Excluding Goldfields areas, where rates were the same as those operating from 1st July, 1926

(b) Quarterly adjustment.

(vi) *Current State Basic Wage Rates.* In the following table are given the current basic wage rates declared by the various State tribunals :—

**BASIC WEEKLY WAGE RATES FIXED BY STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS.**

| State.              | Basic Wage. |            | Date of Operation. | Family Unit (for Male Rate). |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
|                     | Males.      | Females.   |                    |                              |
|                     | £ s. d.     | £ s. d.    |                    |                              |
| New South Wales..   | (a) 3 11 6  | 1 18 6     | 1.5.37             | Man, wife and child<br>(b)   |
| Victoria ..         | (b)         | (b)        | (b)                |                              |
| Queensland ..       | 3 18 0      | 2 1 0      | 1.4.37             | Man, wife and three children |
| South Australia ..  | (c) 3 9 6   | (d) 1 14 9 | ..                 | ..                           |
| Western Australia.. | (e) 3 14 11 | 2 0 5      | 26.7.37            | Man, wife and two children   |
| Tasmania ..         | (b)         | (b)        | (b)                | (b)                          |

(a) Plus child allowances. (b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to a large extent. (c) Operative from 7th January, 1937. (d) Operative from 23rd April, 1937. (e) Metropolitan Area. Basic wage for Gold-fields Areas and portions of State exclusive of the S.W. Land Division—males £4 7s.; females £2 7s.; Agricultural Areas and S.W. Land Division—males £3 15s. 10d.; females £2 0s. 11d.

4. **Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.**—The Federal basic wage referred to in par. 2 (i) *ante* was made operative in other parts of Australia on the basis of the relative retail price index-numbers applicable to the locality, but only one comprehensive attempt has been made by the Federal authorities to ascertain specifically what the actual requirements were in the various States according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household in respect of a family consisting of a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age.

The attempt referred to was made by a Royal Commission, and its report, issued in 1920, recommended the following amounts for the various capital cities :—

|   | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Sydney .. .. .                          | 5 | 17 | 1  |
| Melbourne .. .. .                       | 5 | 16 | 6  |
| Brisbane .. .. .                        | 5 | 6  | 2  |
| Adelaide .. .. .                        | 5 | 16 | 1  |
| Perth .. .. .                           | 5 | 13 | 11 |
| Hobart .. .. .                          | 5 | 16 | 11 |
| Six Capitals (Weighted Average) .. .. . | 5 | 15 | 8  |

The recommendations of this Commission were not carried out owing largely to the marked advance of the amounts suggested over ruling rates\* and the grave doubts expressed as to the ability of industry to pay such rates.

### § 4. Child Endowment in Australia.

1. **General.**—The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age has become very prominent in Australia in recent years, and is actually in operation in certain instances. The system has been in force in various forms in England and on the Continent as far back as 1795, the first instance occurring in England in that year.†

2. **New South Wales.**—The first attempt in Australia to institute the system was made in New South Wales in 1919, when a Bill was introduced into the State Parliament to provide a flat basic wage for a man and wife, and an allowance of 5s. per week for each child, the latter rate to be reduced on a sliding scale and to cease automatically when the income reached an amount of £3 per week above the basic wage. The Bill

\* The "Harvester" equivalent for Melbourne at the time (September quarter, 1920) was £4 13s. per week, but only £3 18s. to £4 2s. was being paid on the basis of an annual index-number.

† A complete survey of the systems in force in various countries is contained in Eleanor Rathbone's *Disinherited Family: A plea for the Endowment of the Family.*



was rejected, but the subject again came up in the Session of 1926-27, when Acts,\* which have been amended during subsequent years, provided for the payment of child allowances. These measures provided for (a) the declaration of a basic wage for a man and wife,† and (b) the payment of an allowance of 5s. per week in respect of each dependent child, subject to the provision that child allowances would be paid only to the extent to which the total earnings of the worker and his family fall short of the sum represented by the *basic wage plus child allowance at the rate of 5s. per week for each child under the age of fourteen years*. Thus, a worker with three dependent children receiving £5 by way of wages would not be entitled to the allowance, but would receive it in respect of a fourth child. These payments in New South Wales commenced to operate from 23rd July, 1927. The basic wage was determined for a family unit of a man, wife and one child on 20th December, 1929, and an amending Act, assented to on the 23rd December, 1929, excluded one child in each family from endowment. The fund from which child endowment payments were originally made was created by a levy on the wages bill of employers. The rate of tax to be collected by the Government from employers during the year 1930, was fixed at 1 per cent. From 1st July, 1931, the rate was fixed at 2 per cent., and from 1st January, 1932, at the rate of 5d. in the £1 on all wages above £3 per week. The levy was discontinued as from 1st January, 1934, the cost of endowment being met from the Special Income and Wages Tax, which is also used for other social services. The amount paid away in allowances in 1936 was £1,804,392.

**3. Commonwealth Public Service.** The first system of child endowment in Australia was instituted within the Commonwealth Public Service. It came into operation on 1st November, 1920, when, following on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage‡, child endowment at the rate of 5s. per week for each dependent child under fourteen years of age was paid to officers, with a limitation of salary plus allowance of £400 per annum. As the result of proceedings before the Public Service Arbitrator in 1923, these allowances were confirmed as a permanent part of the salary scheme, and the necessary fund to meet them was created by deducting the average value of the payment from the basic wage of all adult officers. In effect, therefore, the officers are themselves providing the fund from which the allowance is paid. The deduction was originally £11 per annum, but is now £12. The payment is now limited to officers receiving up to £500 per annum inclusive of the allowance. Details regarding the introduction and method of calculating the payments under this scheme have been published in previous issues of the Official Year Book and will be found also in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

**4. National Scheme.** The Commonwealth Government, in June, 1927, called a conference at Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted various estimates of cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. per week. After discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission, to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commission was not unanimous in its findings, and the opinions and recommendations of the members were embodied in two separate reports, which dealt exhaustively with the constitutional aspects, existing systems, industrial legislation, the basic wage, standard of living, regulation of wages, working conditions and cognate matters.

At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra during May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to adopt a scheme financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation, as had been recommended in the minority report. The Commonwealth Government agreed with the

\* Family Endowment Act 1927; Finance (Family Endowment Tax) Act 1927; Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Act 1927 and subsequent amendments.

† This was subsequently declared at £4 5s. per week for adult males and £2 6s. per week for adult females. A separate rate for rural employees was declared later at £4 4s. per week.

‡ The Chairman of the Commission (Mr. A. B. Piddington, K.C.), in a supplementary report had suggested that the wage recommended (£5 16s.) be split up into a flat basic wage of £4 and a Child Endowment of 12s. per week for each dependent child, the fund for the payment of this allowance to be created by a tax on employers of 10s. 9d. per employee per week.

majority of the Commission that child endowment could not be separated from the control of the basic wage—a power which the Commonwealth did not possess and which the States were not prepared to relinquish. The Government, therefore, did not propose to establish any system of child endowment. It was generally agreed that any scheme which would increase the charges upon industry would be unwise at that particular time. The matter of child endowment was accordingly left to be dealt with as the State Governments should think proper.

The findings and recommendations in the *majority* and *minority* reports are given in Labour Report, No. 19.

### § 5. Changes in Rates of Wage.

The collection of detailed information relating to changes in rates of wage was discontinued at the end of the year 1929, owing to the difficulty of securing reliable data. Officials of employers' organizations and trade unions reported that they were unable to supply definite particulars as to the number of workpeople affected by Commonwealth and State awards and determinations. In order to secure comprehensive and reliable data it would have been necessary to extend considerably the field of collection, and after serious consideration, and in view of the fact that the demand for the figures had been limited, it was decided that the additional expense and work involved were too heavy to justify the continuance of the tabulation.

### C.—EMPLOYMENT.

#### § 1. Industrial Disputes.

1. *General*.—Information with regard to the collection of particulars and the methods of tabulation of industrial disputes involving stoppage of work has appeared in previous issues of the Official Year Book, and is also given in the annual Labour Reports of this Bureau.

In *annual* tabulations particulars are included of all disputes which either *commenced* or were *current* during the year under review. As regards "number of disputes", "establishments involved", and "workpeople involved", therefore, duplication will take place in respect of those disputes which started in and were unsettled at the end of a preceding year; the number involved will, however, be indicated in a footnote, to permit of due allowance being made in any calculations made from the tables.

2. *Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1936*.—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1936, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the previous years was published in preceding issues of the Official Year Book and Labour Report:—

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1936.

| Class.           | Industrial Group.                | Num-ber. | Estab-lish-ments In-volved. | Workpeople Involved. |              |        | Working Days Lost. | Esti-mated Loss in Wages. |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|                  |                                  |          |                             | Directly.            | In-directly. | Total. |                    |                           |
| NEW SOUTH WALES. |                                  |          |                             |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| II.              | Engineering, metal works, etc.   | 12       | 15                          | 3,795                | 164          | 3,959  | 185,136            | £ 148,026                 |
| III.             | Food, drink, etc.                | 1        | 14                          | 71                   | ..           | 71     | 3,408              | 3,224                     |
| IV.              | Clothing, textiles, etc.         | 1        | 1                           | 24                   | ..           | 24     | 72                 | 45                        |
| V.               | Books, printing, etc.            | 1        | 1                           | 16                   | 4            | 20     | 340                | 282                       |
| VI.              | Other Manufacturing              | 1        | 1                           | 40                   | ..           | 40     | 120                | 100                       |
| VII.             | Building                         | 2        | 2                           | 54                   | 7            | 61     | 257                | 286                       |
|                  | (a) Coal-mining                  | 160      | 160                         | 41,580               | 1,453        | 43,033 | 198,658            | 226,618                   |
| VIII.            | (b) Other mining, quarries, etc. | 2        | 6                           | 4,045                | ..           | 4,045  | 25,608             | 25,061                    |
| XI.              | Shipping, wharf labour, etc.     | 1        | 1                           | 23                   | ..           | 23     | 23                 | 10                        |
| XII.             | Pastoral, agricultural, etc.     | 2        | 24                          | 479                  | 100          | 579    | 13,395             | 8,100                     |
| XIV.             | Miscellaneous                    | 5        | 6                           | 430                  | ..           | 430    | 5,496              | 2,617                     |
|                  | Total                            | 188      | 231                         | 59,557               | 1,728        | 52,285 | 432,513            | 114,375                   |

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1936—continued.

| Class.              | Industrial Group.                        | Num-ber. | Estab-lish-ments In-voled. | Workpeople Involved. |              |        | Working Days Lost. | Esti-mated Loss in Wages. |
|---------------------|--|----------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|                     |  |          |                            | Directly.            | In-directly. | Total. |                    |                           |
| VICTORIA.           |  |          |                            |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| II.                 | Engineering, metal works, etc...         | 4        | 7                          | 147                  | 19           | 166    | 1,328              | 1,090                     |
| VII.                | Building .. .. .                         | 1        | 10                         | 315                  | 205          | 520    | 2,080              | 1,560                     |
| VIII.               | Coal-mining .. .. .                      | 2        | 2                          | 1,024                | ..           | 1,024  | 7,889              | 6,851                     |
| XIV.                | Miscellaneous .. .. .                    | 3        | 3                          | 113                  | ..           | 113    | 954                | 398                       |
|                     | Total .. .. .                            | 10       | 22                         | 1,599                | 224          | 1,823  | 12,251             | 9,899                     |
| QUEENSLAND.         |  |          |                            |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| II.                 | Engineering, metal works, etc...         | 3        | 3                          | 254                  | 135          | 389    | 5,931              | 4,972                     |
| VIII.               | Coal-mining .. .. .                      | 6        | 6                          | 676                  | 13           | 689    | 5,270              | 5,081                     |
| XI.                 | Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . . .       | 1        | 1                          | 2                    | ..           | 2      | 14                 | 22                        |
| XIV.                | Miscellaneous .. .. .                    | 2        | 2                          | 120                  | 46           | 166    | 3,438              | 2,250                     |
|                     | Total .. .. .                            | 12       | 12                         | 1,052                | 194          | 1,246  | 14,653             | 12,325                    |
| SOUTH AUSTRALIA.    |  |          |                            |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| XIV.                | Miscellaneous .. .. .                    | 1        | 1                          | 101                  | ..           | 101    | 505                | 400                       |
| WESTERN AUSTRALIA.  |  |          |                            |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| I.                  | Wood, furniture, etc. . . . .            | 2        | 2                          | 26                   | 478          | 504    | 1,946              | 1,437                     |
| II.                 | Engineering, metal works, etc. . . .     | 1        | 1                          | 11                   | ..           | 11     | 44                 | 41                        |
| III.                | Food, drink, etc. . . . .                | 2        | 7                          | 46                   | ..           | 46     | 216                | 222                       |
| VI.                 | Other manufacturing .. .. .              | 2        | 10                         | 250                  | ..           | 250    | 1,100              | 820                       |
| VIII.               | (a) Coal-mining .. .. .                  | 1        | 2                          | 620                  | 100          | 720    | 9,360              | 8,600                     |
|                     | (b) Other mining, quarries, etc. . . . . | 10       | 11                         | 2,147                | 689          | 2,836  | 11,692             | 11,152                    |
| X.                  | Other land transport .. .. .             | 1        | 16                         | 308                  | 42           | 350    | 8,050              | 5,442                     |
|                     | Total .. .. .                            | 19       | 49                         | 3,408                | 1,309        | 4,717  | 32,408             | 27,714                    |
| TASMANIA.           |  |          |                            |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| VIII.               | (a) Coal-mining .. .. .                  | 2        | 2                          | 128                  | 6            | 134    | 2,936              | 2,617                     |
|                     | (b) Other mining, quarries, etc. . . . . | 1        | 1                          | 141                  | ..           | 141    | 282                | 195                       |
| XIV.                | Miscellaneous .. .. .                    | 1        | 1                          | 100                  | ..           | 100    | 500                | 400                       |
|                     | Total .. .. .                            | 4        | 4                          | 369                  | 6            | 375    | 3,718              | 3,212                     |
| NORTHERN TERRITORY. |  |          |                            |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| XIV.                | Miscellaneous .. .. .                    | 1        | 1                          | 32                   | 8            | 40     | 1,200              | 900                       |
| AUSTRALIA.          |  |          |                            |                      |              |        |                    |                           |
| I.                  | Wood, furniture, etc. . . . .            | 2        | 2                          | 26                   | 478          | 504    | 1,946              | 1,437                     |
| II.                 | Engineering, metal works, etc. . . .     | 20       | 26                         | 4,207                | 318          | 4,525  | 192,439            | 154,129                   |
| III.                | Food, drink, etc. . . . .                | 3        | 21                         | 117                  | ..           | 117    | 3,624              | 3,446                     |
| IV.                 | Clothing, textiles, etc. . . . .         | 1        | 1                          | 24                   | ..           | 24     | 72                 | 45                        |
| V.                  | Books, printing, etc. . . . .            | 1        | 1                          | 16                   | 4            | 20     | 340                | 282                       |
| VI.                 | Other manufacturing .. .. .              | 3        | 11                         | 290                  | ..           | 290    | 1,220              | 920                       |
| VII.                | Building .. .. .                         | 3        | 12                         | 369                  | 212          | 581    | 2,337              | 1,846                     |
| VIII.               | (a) Coal-mining .. .. .                  | 171      | 172                        | 44,028               | 1,572        | 45,600 | 224,113            | 249,767                   |
|                     | (b) Other mining, quarries etc. . . . .  | 13       | 18                         | 6,333                | 689          | 7,022  | 37,582             | 36,408                    |
| X.                  | Other land transport .. .. .             | 1        | 16                         | 308                  | 42           | 350    | 8,050              | 5,442                     |
| XI.                 | Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . . . .     | 2        | 2                          | 25                   | ..           | 25     | 37                 | 38                        |
| XII.                | Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . . . .     | 2        | 24                         | 479                  | 100          | 579    | 13,395             | 8,100                     |
| XIV.                | Miscellaneous .. .. .                    | 13       | 14                         | 896                  | 54           | 950    | 12,093             | 6,965                     |
|                     | Total .. .. .                            | 4235     | 320                        | 57,118               | 3,469        | 60,587 | 497,248            | 468,825                   |

(a) Two disputes in New South Wales (involving two establishments and 134 workers), which commenced in 1935 and were not concluded at the end of that year, are duplicated in the figures for 1936.

3. **Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1932 to 1936.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the losses in working days and wages caused by disputes which either commenced or were current during each of the years 1932 to 1936, classified according to industrial groups.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII.). For the year 1933 the proportion of disputes in the mining industry represented practically 50 per cent. of the total number recorded. In subsequent years the proportion remained high, ranging from 45 per cent. in 1917 and 1918 to as much as 81 per cent. in 1921 and 1924. During the last two years disputes in the coal-mining industry represented 67 per cent. of the total. In the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving work people engaged in coal-mining amounted to 756,791, representing 45 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period:—

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA.

| Year.                    | Manu-<br>facturing.<br>(Groups I.<br>to VI.) | Building.<br>(Group<br>VII.) | Mining (Group VIII.) |                          | Transport,<br>Land and Sea.<br>(Groups<br>IX. to XI.) | Miscel-<br>laneous.<br>(Groups<br>XII. to XIV.) | ALL<br>GROUPS. |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|---|----------------|
|                          |  |                              | Coal<br>Mining.      | Other<br>Mining,<br>etc. |   |   |                |
| NUMBER.                  |  |                              |                      |                          |   |   |                |
| 1932 ..                  | 20   | 4                            | 77                   | 8                        | 5   | 13  | 127            |
| 1933 ..                  | 16   | ..                           | 52                   | 6                        | 1   | 15  | 90             |
| 1934 ..                  | 13   | 1                            | 91                   | 9                        | 6   | 35  | 155            |
| 1935 ..                  | 21   | 4                            | 108                  | 9                        | 21  | 20  | 183            |
| 1936 ..                  | 30   | 3                            | 171                  | 13                       | 3   | 15  | (a) 235        |
| 1932-36 ..               | 100  | 12                           | 499                  | 45                       | 30  | 95  | 790            |
| WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.     |  |                              |                      |                          |   |   |                |
| 1932 ..                  | 8,236  | 120                          | 19,540               | 2,602                    | 181   | 2,238   | 32,917         |
| 1933 ..                  | 5,361  | ..                           | 17,461               | 5,415                    | 50  | 1,826   | 30,113         |
| 1934 ..                  | 7,284  | 54                           | 23,622               | 7,862                    | 3,169   | 8,867   | 50,858         |
| 1935 ..                  | 4,086  | 49                           | 31,510               | 2,795                    | 6,142   | 2,731   | 47,322         |
| 1936 ..                  | 5,480  | 581                          | 15,000               | 7,022                    | 375   | 1,520   | 60,587         |
| 1932-36 ..               | 30,417                                       | 801                          | 137,742              | 25,696                   | 9,917   | 17,191  | 221,797        |
| WORKING DAYS LOST.       |  |                              |                      |                          |   |   |                |
| 1932 ..                  | 50,692                                       | 1,561                        | 131,154              | 21,402                   | 1,038   | 6,471   | 212,318        |
| 1933 ..                  | 31,625                                       | ..                           | 48,528               | 26,985                   | 100   | 4,718   | 111,956        |
| 1934 ..                  | 73,878                                       | 108                          | 190,363              | 41,800                   | 14,002  | 50,235  | 370,386        |
| 1935 ..                  | 62,423                                       | 1,294                        | 162,633              | 61,824                   | 100,774   | 103,176   | 495,124        |
| 1936 ..                  | 199,641                                      | 2,337                        | 221,113              | 37,882                   | 8,087   | 25,488  | 497,248        |
| 1932-36 ..               | 418,259                                      | 5,300                        | 756,791              | 192,593                  | 121,001   | 160,088   | 1,687,032      |
| ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES. |  |                              |                      |                          |   |   |                |
| 1932 ..                  | £ 24,051                                     | £ 1,434                      | £ 115,407            | £ 19,691                 | £ 720   | £ 4,279   | £ 165,582      |
| 1933 ..                  | 23,407                                       | ..                           | 44,927               | 23,683                   | 90  | 2,941   | 95,048         |
| 1934 ..                  | 49,364                                       | 80                           | 186,027              | 37,806                   | 10,164  | 34,328  | 317,859        |
| 1935 ..                  | 47,979                                       | 1,143                        | 164,648              | 57,791                   | 61,249  | 58,686  | 300,606        |
| 1936 ..                  | 160,259                                      | 1,816                        | 249,767              | 39,408                   | 5,480   | 15,005  | 468,825        |
| 1932-36 ..               | 391,160                                      | 4,503                        | 760,776              | 175,469                  | 77,793  | 115,299   | 1,437,910      |

(a) See footnote to Table on page 581.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1932 to 1936.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in the years 1932 to 1936, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY.

| State or Territory.    | Year. | Number. | Establishments Involved. | Workpeople Involved. |             |        | Working Days Lost. | Estimated Loss in Wages. |
|------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                        |       |         |                          | Directly.            | Indirectly. | Total. |                    |                          |
| New South Wales ..     | 1932  | 92      | 99                       | 17,813               | 2,156       | 19,969 | 63,425             | 64,420                   |
|                        | 1933  | 54      | 143                      | 13,406               | 1,663       | 15,069 | 53,104             | 48,760                   |
|                        | 1934  | 117     | 129                      | 33,065               | 2,943       | 36,008 | 213,753            | 196,265                  |
|                        | 1935  | 134     | 162                      | 31,350               | 2,055       | 33,405 | 301,345            | 237,707                  |
|                        | 1936  | (a) 188 | 231                      | 50,557               | 1,728       | 52,285 | 432,513            | 414,375                  |
| Victoria ..            | 1932  | 12      | 37                       | 6,475                | 110         | 6,585  | 90,638             | 65,599                   |
|                        | 1933  | 12      | 28                       | 7,156                | 294         | 7,450  | 26,693             | 20,416                   |
|                        | 1934  | 19      | 84                       | 8,074                | 354         | 8,428  | 108,872            | 82,438                   |
|                        | 1935  | 20      | 30                       | 7,658                | 243         | 7,901  | 45,713             | 31,280                   |
|                        | 1936  | 10      | 22                       | 1,599                | 224         | 1,823  | 12,251             | 9,899                    |
| Queensland ..          | 1932  | 10      | 210                      | 1,061                | 1,156       | 2,217  | 21,166             | 18,541                   |
|                        | 1933  | 11      | 11                       | 2,636                | 884         | 3,520  | 13,876             | 10,077                   |
|                        | 1934  | 7       | 830                      | 2,453                | 420         | 2,873  | 29,718             | 24,200                   |
|                        | 1935  | 13      | 29                       | 1,794                | 201         | 1,995  | 73,351             | 57,060                   |
|                        | 1936  | 12      | 12                       | 1,052                | 194         | 1,246  | 14,653             | 12,325                   |
| South Australia ..     | 1932  | 2       | 3                        | 109                  | 4           | 113    | 970                | 664                      |
|                        | 1933  | 1       | 1                        | 50                   | ..          | 50     | 100                | 90                       |
|                        | 1934  | 1       | 1                        | 44                   | ..          | 44     | 11                 | 17                       |
|                        | 1935  | 3       | 5                        | 340                  | ..          | 340    | 2,463              | 1,557                    |
|                        | 1936  | 1       | 1                        | 101                  | ..          | 101    | 505                | 400                      |
| Western Australia ..   | 1932  | 8       | 16                       | 2,531                | 162         | 2,693  | 11,203             | 9,538                    |
|                        | 1933  | 10      | 10                       | 3,644                | 276         | 3,920  | 16,896             | 14,530                   |
|                        | 1934  | 10      | 16                       | 3,309                | 176         | 3,485  | 17,792             | 14,699                   |
|                        | 1935  | 11      | 20                       | 3,597                | 6           | 3,603  | 71,976             | 61,001                   |
|                        | 1936  | 19      | 49                       | 3,408                | 1,309       | 4,717  | 32,408             | 27,714                   |
| Tasmania ..            | 1932  | 2       | 4                        | 1,163                | ..          | 1,163  | 15,562             | 6,516                    |
|                        | 1933  | 1       | 1                        | 75                   | ..          | 75     | 1,200              | 1,050                    |
|                        | 1934  | ..      | ..                       | ..                   | ..          | ..     | ..                 | ..                       |
|                        | 1935  | 1       | 1                        | 70                   | 4           | 74     | 148                | 91                       |
|                        | 1936  | 4       | 4                        | 369                  | 46          | 375    | 3,718              | 3,212                    |
| Northern Territory ..  | 1932  | 1       | 3                        | 177                  | ..          | 177    | 354                | 304                      |
|                        | 1933  | 1       | 1                        | 21                   | 2           | 29     | 87                 | 125                      |
|                        | 1934  | 1       | 1                        | 18                   | 8           | 20     | 240                | 240                      |
|                        | 1935  | 1       | 1                        | 4                    | ..          | 4      | 128                | 100                      |
|                        | 1936  | 1       | 1                        | 32                   | 8           | 40     | 1,200              | 900                      |
| Fed. Cap. Territory .. | 1932  | ..      | ..                       | ..                   | ..          | ..     | ..                 | ..                       |
|                        | 1933  | ..      | ..                       | ..                   | ..          | ..     | ..                 | ..                       |
|                        | 1934  | ..      | ..                       | ..                   | ..          | ..     | ..                 | ..                       |
|                        | 1935  | ..      | ..                       | ..                   | ..          | ..     | ..                 | ..                       |
|                        | 1936  | ..      | ..                       | ..                   | ..          | ..     | ..                 | ..                       |
| Australia ..           | 1932  | 127     | 372                      | 29,329               | 3,588       | 32,917 | 212,318            | 165,582                  |
|                        | 1933  | 90      | 195                      | 26,988               | 3,125       | 30,113 | 111,956            | 95,048                   |
|                        | 1934  | 155     | 1,061                    | 46,963               | 3,895       | 50,858 | 370,386            | 317,859                  |
|                        | 1935  | 183     | 257                      | 44,813               | 2,599       | 47,322 | 495,124            | 390,596                  |
|                        | 1936  | (a) 235 | 320                      | 57,118               | 3,469       | 60,587 | 497,248            | 468,825                  |

(a) See footnote to Table on page 581.

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during the years 1932 to 1936 and previous years is given in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

5. **Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1936.**—(i) *General.* The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1936 classified according to Industrial Groups. Increases occurred in several of the principal groups during 1936 in respect of workpeople involved, and the number of working days and amount of wages lost. Of the total number of disputes no less than 73 per cent. were in connexion with the coal-mining industry, mostly in New South Wales. Wages lost in this industry in New South Wales were estimated at £226,618, or 48 per cent. of the total estimated loss of wages in Australia, viz., £468,825. Compared with earlier years there was no dispute of outstanding magnitude but particulars in the following paragraphs are given of the largest which occurred in the States mentioned.

(ii) *Interstate.*—(a) *General.*—Disputes which extend beyond the limits of a single State, while in some cases extensive, are comparatively few in number. These disputes rarely start on an interstate basis, but develop into such through the interdependence of trade union organizations. During the year 1936, no disputes of an interstate character occurred.

(b) *New South Wales.*—The dismissal of an employee was given as the cause of a dispute involving over 3,000 Ironworkers at Port Kembla in January, 1936. The Wollongong Citizens' Committee after several conferences with the employers and Union representatives effected a settlement, the terms of which were the reinstatement of the dismissed employee in another department, no victimization, and the granting of a conference to deal with the dispute. The stoppage extended over nine weeks.

A claim by the Theatrical Employees' Union for increased wages and shorter hours involved the Motion Picture Industry at Broken Hill in a dispute in January, 1936. A log of wages and hours served by the Union being rejected, the dispute was referred to the Broken Hill Industrial Council for negotiations. Conferences with the Proprietors resulted in a settlement granting increased wages and shorter hours. Work was resumed after a period of seven weeks' idleness.

A stoppage lasting eleven weeks occurred at the Wongawilli Coal Mine, Dapto, in February, 1936, the men alleging unnecessary delay in the supply of empty skips. Negotiations for a settlement were refused until work was resumed. Ultimately the employees undertook to resume work, on conditions applying immediately before the strike, pending a conference.

A log of increased wages and better conditions in the Trade, served on the Master Butchers' Association, Broken Hill, was given as the cause of a dispute in July, 1936. Extending over a period of eight weeks, it was subsequently settled by the Conciliation Commissioner in terms favourable to the employees.

Objection to the installation of an Electric Coal Cutting Machine was stated to be the cause of a stoppage at the Aberdare Central Colliery in July, 1936, the miners claiming it was unsafe, owing to the danger of explosion from trailing cables. A deputation representing the Coal Miners Federation interviewed the Minister for Mines, requesting a departmental inspection of the mine. The request was refused, but later permission to hold a public inquiry was granted under the Chairmanship of Commissioner J. P. Hindmarsh. After hearing evidence the Commissioner's report indicated the possibility of danger, and recommended that necessary precautions be taken by the management. On the understanding that these recommendations would be put into effect, the miners resumed work, after a period of twenty weeks idleness.

6. Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1936.—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes during 1936 according to certain adopted limits of duration:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1936.

| Limits of Duration.                               | Number. | Workpeople Involved. |             |        | Working Days Lost. | Estimated Loss in Wages. |
|---|---------|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|   |         | Directly.            | Indirectly. | Total. |                    |                          |
| 1 day and less .. .. .                            | 89      | 20,378               | 845         | 21,223 | 21,223             | 23,564                   |
| 2 days and more than 1 day                        | 37      | 9,175                | 403         | 9,578  | 19,150             | 20,382                   |
| 3 days and more than 2 days                       | 19      | 4,030                | 685         | 5,322  | 15,903             | 16,923                   |
| Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) .. .. . | 33      | 8,252                | 545         | 8,797  | 38,170             | 38,853                   |
| 1 week and less than 2 weeks                      | 25      | 6,774                | 173         | 6,947  | 40,511             | 48,248                   |
| 2 weeks and less than 4 weeks                     | 16      | 2,884                | 424         | 3,308  | 53,261             | 46,705                   |
| 4 weeks and less than 8 weeks                     | 10      | 1,170                | 114         | 1,284  | 37,704             | 28,671                   |
| 8 weeks and over .. .. .                          | 6       | 3,848                | 280         | 4,128  | 265,260            | 245,479                  |
| Total .. .. .                                     | 235     | 57,118               | 3,469       | 60,587 | 497,248            | 468,825                  |

(a) See footnote to Table on page 581.

7. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1936.—The following table shows the principal causes of the industrial disputes which occurred in 1913 and from 1931 to 1936:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.

| Causes of Dispute.                                     | 1913. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. | 1935. | 1936.   |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| NUMBER.  |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| 1. Wages—  |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| (a) For increase .. .. .                               | 42    | 4     | 5     | 1     | 10    | 9     | 16      |
| (b) Against decrease .. .. .                           | 4     | 17    | 11    | 4     | 3     | 5     | 1       |
| (c) Other wage questions .. .. .                       | 31    | 16    | 26    | 14    | 31    | 44    | 45      |
| 2. Hours of Labour—                                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| (a) For reduction .. .. .                              | 3     | 2     | 2     | ..    | ..    | ..    | 1       |
| (b) Other disputes re hours .. .. .                    | 7     | ..    | ..    | 7     | 6     | 2     | 4       |
| 3. Trades Unionism—                                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| (a) Against employment of non-unionists .. .. .        | 8     | 1     | 2     | 1     | 4     | 4     | 4       |
| (b) Other union questions .. .. .                      | 5     | 4     | 3     | 3     | 8     | 12    | 16      |
| 4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. .. . | 44    | 50    | 50    | 35    | 52    | 53    | 81      |
| 5. Working Conditions .. .. .                          | 51    | 22    | 11    | 9     | 25    | 40    | 43      |
| 6. Sympathetic .. .. .                                 | 5     | 5     | 2     | ..    | 3     | 1     | 5       |
| 7. Other Causes .. .. .                                | 8     | 13    | 15    | 16    | 13    | 13    | 16      |
| Total .. .. .  | 208   | 134   | 127   | 90    | 155   | 183   | (a) 235 |

## WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

|  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Wages—  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| (a) For increase .. .. .                               | 8,633  | 2,053  | 1,295  | 29     | 7,210  | 2,161  | 2,014  |
| (b) Against decrease .. .. .                           | 563    | 7,108  | 7,327  | 2,178  | 2,817  | 339    | 40     |
| (c) Other wage questions .. .. .                       | 7,160  | 3,999  | 5,417  | 4,336  | 8,335  | 11,804 | 12,930 |
| 2. Hours of Labour—                                    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| (a) For reduction .. .. .                              | 460    | 192    | 198    | ..     | ..     | ..     | 20     |
| (b) Other disputes re hours .. .. .                    | 1,819  | ..     | ..     | 2,620  | 309    | 1,601  | 488    |
| 3. Trades Unionism—                                    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| (a) Against employment of non-unionists .. .. .        | 5,370  | 9      | 17     | 89     | 383    | 581    | 1,612  |
| (b) Other union questions .. .. .                      | 1,418  | 2,240  | 501    | 705    | 2,184  | 2,532  | 4,011  |
| 4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. .. . | 11,370 | 12,023 | 12,556 | 11,803 | 15,638 | 11,497 | 22,978 |
| 5. Working Conditions .. .. .                          | 10,785 | 6,659  | 2,804  | 4,503  | 6,062  | 11,298 | 10,985 |
| 6. Sympathetic .. .. .                                 | 947    | 1,053  | 316    | ..     | 1,045  | 22     | 1,062  |
| 7. Other Causes .. .. .                                | 1,758  | 2,331  | 2,486  | 3,850  | 6,875  | 5,487  | 4,447  |
| Total .. .. .  | 50,283 | 37,667 | 32,917 | 30,113 | 50,858 | 47,322 | 60,587 |

(a) See footnote to table on page 581.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

| Causes of Dispute.                                | 1913.   | 1921.   | 1922.   | 1923.   | 1924.   | 1925.   | 1926.   |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>WORKING DAYS LOST.</b>                         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| 1. Wages—   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| (a) For increase ..                               | 100,069 | 15,425  | 5,990   | 87      | 108,277 | 72,567  | 33,439  |
| (b) Against decrease ..                           | 9,438   | 111,258 | 123,571 | 17,431  | 35,459  | 1,621   | 120     |
| (c) Other wage questions                          | 78,183  | 43,746  | 17,631  | 18,736  | 40,219  | 73,020  | 32,068  |
| 2. Hours of Labour—                               |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| (a) For reduction ..                              | 2,774   | 152     | 2,394   |         |         |         | 340     |
| (b) Other disputes re hours                       | 15,111  | ..      | ..      | 8,895   | 1,748   | 48,878  | 9,577   |
| 3. Trades Unionism—                               |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| (a) Against employment of non-unionists ..        | 91,002  | 99      | 59      | 89      | 3,263   | 2,615   | 7,509   |
| (b) Other union questions                         | 32,388  | 11,752  | 6,261   | 1,421   | 10,774  | 11,696  | 9,616   |
| 4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. | 191,723 | 38,567  | 36,054  | 31,799  | 110,166 | 144,453 | 266,310 |
| 5. Working Conditions ..                          | 73,562  | 17,106  | 14,902  | 22,865  | 26,223  | 64,612  | 119,475 |
| 6. Sympathetic ..                                 | 24,066  | 4,070   | 1,096   | ..      | 11,174  | 44      | 10,209  |
| 7. Other Causes ..                                | 5,212   | 3,816   | 3,860   | 10,633  | 23,083  | 75,618  | 8,585   |
| Total ..  | 623,528 | 245,991 | 212,318 | 111,956 | 370,386 | 495,124 | 497,248 |

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the years 1913 to 1925, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. Since 1929 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" has averaged approximately 30 per cent. of the total number for each year. The majority of the dislocations of work classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of certain employees, who, in the opinion of their fellow-workers, have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs very frequently in the coal-mining industry, and has been the principal cause of industrial disturbance in recent years. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has represented a fairly uniform proportion of the total number of disputes during the years under review, while stoppages of work concerning "Hours of Labour" increased during 1926 and 1927, but have been relatively unimportant during recent years.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The results of industrial disputes during each of the past six years are given in the following table:—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA.

| Year.  | Number.                  |                        |             |             | Workpeople Involved.     |                        |             |             | Working Days Lost.       |                        |             |             |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|        | In Favour of Workpeople. | In Favour of Employer. | Compromise. | Indefinite. | In Favour of Workpeople. | In Favour of Employer. | Compromise. | Indefinite. | In Favour of Workpeople. | In Favour of Employer. | Compromise. | Indefinite. |
| 1931.. | 27                       | 80                     | 25          | ..          | 5,917                    | 26,182                 | 5,406       | ..          | 47,191                   | 142,006                | 49,222      | ..          |
| 1932.. | 29                       | 77                     | 21          | ..          | 5,437                    | 17,518                 | 9,962       | ..          | 23,572                   | 48,893                 | 139,853     | ..          |
| 1933.. | 17                       | 58                     | 13          | 1           | 4,778                    | 20,697                 | 4,361       | 213         | 12,301                   | 84,697                 | 14,468      | 426         |
| 1934.. | 29                       | 102                    | 14          | 9           | 7,025                    | 31,220                 | 9,620       | 2,729       | 40,048                   | 179,126                | 126,081     | 19,059      |
| 1935.. | 44                       | 105                    | 17          | 15          | 9,312                    | 30,338                 | 4,359       | 3,179       | 67,933                   | 346,666                | 62,007      | 10,194      |
| 1936a  | 44                       | 165                    | 7           | 19          | 13,997                   | 40,279                 | 908         | 5,403       | 248,303                  | 179,748                | 7,027       | 62,110      |

(a) See footnote to table on page 581.



9. **Methods of Settlement.**—The following table gives a classification of the methods of settlement according to the adopted schedule :—

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.**

| Methods of Settlement.  | 1913.      | 1914.      | 1915.      | 1916.     | 1917.      | 1918.      | 1919. <sup>(a)</sup> |
|---|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| NUMBER.   |            |            |            |           |            |            |                      |
| Negotiations—   |            |            |            |           |            |            |                      |
| Direct between employers and employees or their representatives   | 119        | 88         | 87         | 64        | 84         | 130        | 171                  |
| By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act | 17         | 3          | 4          | 1         | 2          | 3          | 16                   |
| Under State Industrial Acts—  |            |            |            |           |            |            |                      |
| By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference   | 19         | 11         | 5          | 3         | 10         | 7          | 3                    |
| By reference to Board or Court  | 22         | 1          | 2          | 3         | 9          | 6          | 6                    |
| Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—  |            |            |            |           |            |            |                      |
| By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference   | 4          | 4          | 3          | 2         | 5          | 5          | 2                    |
| By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out   | 13         | 2          | 7          | 2         | 2          | 8          | 4                    |
| By closing-down establishment permanently   | 1          | 2          | 1          | 3         | 2          | 4          | ..                   |
| By other methods  | 13         | 21         | 18         | 11        | 40         | 18         | 30                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>208</b> | <b>132</b> | <b>127</b> | <b>89</b> | <b>154</b> | <b>181</b> | <b>(a) 235</b>       |

**WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.**

|   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Negotiations—   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Direct between employers and employees or their representatives   | 23,357        | 22,292        | 22,595        | 19,703        | 25,469        | 30,360        | 44,251        |
| By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act | 3,172         | 1,835         | 1,800         | 1,100         | 891           | 283           | 5,061         |
| Under State Industrial Acts—  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference   | 6,505         | 3,871         | 1,640         | 1,290         | 4,559         | 3,867         | 291           |
| By reference to Board or Court  | 12,774        | 421           | 416           | 1,390         | 1,666         | 1,445         | 1,716         |
| Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference   | 659           | 1,083         | 1,839         | 1,096         | 4,335         | 2,017         | 339           |
| By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out   | 658           | 222           | 460           | 986           | 138           | 3,670         | 141           |
| By closing-down establishment permanently   | 170           | 52            | 11            | 1,271         | 444           | 108           | ..            |
| By other methods  | 2,988         | 8,058         | 4,156         | 3,213         | 13,092        | 5,436         | 8,758         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>50,283</b> | <b>37,505</b> | <b>32,917</b> | <b>30,049</b> | <b>50,594</b> | <b>47,188</b> | <b>60,587</b> |

**WORKING DAYS LOST.**

|   |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Negotiations—   |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Direct between employers and employees or their representatives   | 94,400         | 109,601        | 87,650         | 54,774         | 182,260        | 129,903        | 234,373        |
| By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act | 26,335         | 2,625          | 79,872         | 6,600          | 20,019         | 3,211          | 202,949        |
| Under State Industrial Acts—  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference   | 187,871        | 25,257         | 7,423          | 3,510          | 58,801         | 117,762        | 3,047          |
| By reference to Board or Court  | 221,769        | 252            | 3,408          | 6,330          | 10,474         | 16,961         | 24,503         |
| Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference   | 2,105          | 30,317         | 18,596         | 15,437         | 46,814         | 24,601         | 7,152          |
| By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out   | 14,139         | 27,042         | 6,874          | 10,543         | 138            | 74,873         | 2,581          |
| By closing-down establishment permanently   | 20,400         | 5,355          | 44             | 8,627          | 4,486          | 7,546          | ..             |
| By other methods  | 56,509         | 37,970         | 8,451          | 6,071          | 41,322         | 48,943         | 22,643         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>623,528</b> | <b>238,419</b> | <b>212,318</b> | <b>111,892</b> | <b>364,314</b> | <b>486,800</b> | <b>497,248</b> |

(a) See footnote to Table on page 581.

The majority of disputes are settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled since 1913 ranging between 43 per cent. in 1925 and 75 per cent. in 1930. Of the 235 disputes settled during 1936, 174 or 74 per cent. were settled by this method. The proportion of dislocations settled by compulsory conferences or the intervention and assistance of officials under State or Commonwealth Arbitration Acts has varied considerably during the period under review, ranging from 3 per cent. in 1915 to 22 per cent. in 1913. The proportion in 1936 was 5 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause of such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

## § 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. *General.*—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting exceeds 440,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received, the percentages of unemployment derived from Trade Union returns may be regarded as of value by virtue of the indication they give of the relative intensity of unemployment from time to time, and it is believed that they can be taken as a rough index of the percentage of workers unemployed at any time. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

2. *Unemployment.*—(i) *States.* In addition to the qualifications referred to above, allowance must be made for the circumstance that the industries included in the returns from trade unions are not quite identical in the various States. The results may, however, be taken as representing fairly well labour conditions generally :—

### UNEMPLOYMENT.—1936.

| State.                    | Unions Reporting. |                | Unemployed.   |             |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
|                           | Number.           | Members.       | Number.       | Percentage. |
| New South Wales .. .. .   | 112               | 191,598        | 29,537        | 15.4        |
| Victoria .. .. .          | 81                | 118,143        | 12,653        | 10.7        |
| Queensland .. .. .        | 45                | 60,639         | 4,751         | 7.8         |
| South Australia .. .. .   | 58                | 33,926         | 3,658         | 10.8        |
| Western Australia .. .. . | 63                | 28,335         | 2,296         | 8.1         |
| Tasmania .. .. .          | 33                | 8,670          | 1,097         | 12.7        |
| <b>Australia .. .. .</b>  | <b>392</b>        | <b>441,311</b> | <b>53,992</b> | <b>12.2</b> |

(ii) *Summary for Australia.* The following table gives a summary for Australia for the last five years and quarterly for the years, 1933 to 1936. Particulars of unemployment percentages in 1937 will be found in the Appendix:—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA.

| Period.               | Unions. | Membership. | Unemployed. |             |
|-----------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                       |         |             | Number.     | Percentage. |
| 1932 Year .. ..       | 395     | 415,434     | 120,454     | 29.0        |
| 1933 " .. ..          | 394     | 415,305     | 104,035     | 25.1        |
| 1934 " .. ..          | 394     | 424,035     | 86,805      | 20.5        |
| 1935 " .. ..          | 396     | 435,938     | 71,823      | 16.5        |
| 1936 " .. ..          | 392     | 441,311     | 53,992      | 12.2        |
| 1933 March Quarter .. | 394     | 412,674     | 109,182     | 26.5        |
| June " .. ..          | 394     | 415,559     | 106,652     | 25.7        |
| September " .. ..     | 394     | 416,426     | 104,560     | 25.1        |
| December " .. ..      | 394     | 416,560     | 95,745      | 23.0        |
| 1934 March " .. ..    | 394     | 422,056     | 92,297      | 21.9        |
| June " .. ..          | 394     | 422,113     | 88,413      | 20.9        |
| September " .. ..     | 394     | 425,104     | 86,652      | 20.4        |
| December " .. ..      | 396     | 426,866     | 80,097      | 18.8        |
| 1935 March " .. ..    | 396     | 433,116     | 80,548      | 18.6        |
| June " .. ..          | 397     | 433,254     | 77,177      | 17.8        |
| September " .. ..     | 395     | 438,216     | 69,575      | 15.9        |
| December " .. ..      | 395     | 439,165     | 59,992      | 13.7        |
| 1936 March " .. ..    | 395     | 445,294     | 59,621      | 13.4        |
| June " .. ..          | 394     | 446,564     | 57,001      | 12.8        |
| September " .. ..     | 390     | 436,139     | 52,482      | 12.0        |
| December " .. ..      | 390     | 437,246     | 46,803      | 10.7        |

NOTE.—Similar figures for each of the four quarters of the years since 1912 will be found in the Labour Reports. The quarterly figures show the number of persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter, and the annual figures, the average of the four quarters; the returns do not include persons out of work through strikes or lock-outs.

The highest percentage of unemployed yet recorded (30.0) was reached in the quarter ended June, 1932.

(iii) *Percentages in States.* The following table gives the percentages in each State from 1932 to 1936:—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—PERCENTAGES.

| Period.               | N.S.W. | Victoria. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tasmania. | Australia. |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 1932 Year .. ..       | 32.5   | 26.5      | 18.8    | 31.0     | 29.5     | 26.4      | 29.0       |
| 1933 " .. ..          | 28.9   | 22.3      | 15.3    | 29.9     | 24.8     | 19.1      | 25.1       |
| 1934 " .. ..          | 24.7   | 17.4      | 11.7    | 25.6     | 17.8     | 17.9      | 20.5       |
| 1935 " .. ..          | 20.6   | 14.0      | 8.7     | 17.6     | 13.4     | 15.9      | 16.5       |
| 1936 " .. ..          | 15.4   | 10.7      | 7.8     | 10.8     | 8.1      | 12.7      | 12.2       |
| 1934 March Quarter .. | 25.8   | 18.6      | 13.7    | 28.5     | 19.5     | 17.7      | 21.9       |
| June " .. ..          | 25.0   | 18.0      | 12.7    | 25.4     | 18.3     | 17.9      | 20.9       |
| Sept. " .. ..         | 24.5   | 17.5      | 11.4    | 25.4     | 17.2     | 18.9      | 20.4       |
| Dec. " .. ..          | 23.5   | 15.3      | 9.1     | 23.0     | 16.3     | 17.0      | 18.8       |
| 1935 March " .. ..    | 23.6   | 15.0      | 9.8     | 20.7     | 15.4     | 16.7      | 18.6       |
| June " .. ..          | 22.7   | 15.0      | 8.8     | 18.9     | 13.9     | 16.4      | 17.8       |
| Sept. " .. ..         | 19.1   | 14.8      | 8.5     | 16.3     | 12.5     | 16.7      | 15.9       |
| Dec. " .. ..          | 17.0   | 11.3      | 7.7     | 14.7     | 11.8     | 13.7      | 13.7       |
| 1936 March " .. ..    | 17.2   | 10.8      | 8.5     | 12.2     | 10.3     | 11.1      | 13.4       |
| June " .. ..          | 16.2   | 10.6      | 8.5     | 11.0     | 9.2      | 12.7      | 12.8       |
| Sept. " .. ..         | 11.8   | 11.7      | 7.2     | 10.0     | 7.4      | 14.0      | 12.0       |
| Dec. " .. ..          | 13.3   | 9.7       | 7.2     | 9.0      | 5.6      | 12.9      | 10.7       |

(iv) *Industrial Groups. Australia.* The next table shows the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries or occupations in which employment is stable, such as railways, and those which are subject to exceptional fluctuations, such as wharf labour, agricultural, pastoral, etc., are not included. Other occupations—domestic, hotel employees, etc., are included in the "Other and Miscellaneous" group, as their returns are not sufficiently representative:—

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1936.

| Industrial Group.  | Number Reporting. |          | Unemployed. |             |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Unions.           | Members. | Number.     | Percentage. |
| Manufacturing:—  |                   |          |             |             |
| I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..                                  | 16                | 18,109   | 1,953       | 10.6        |
| II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.                           | 62                | 76,085   | 7,391       | 9.7         |
| III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..                           | 53                | 37,919   | 6,884       | 18.2        |
| IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..                           | 20                | 39,922   | 5,077       | 12.7        |
| V. Books, Printing, etc. ..                                  | 13                | 19,131   | 1,212       | 6.4         |
| VI. Other Manufacturing ..                                   | 65                | 44,957   | 5,124       | 11.4        |
| VII. Building .. ..  | 47                | 52,479   | 6,407       | 12.2        |
| VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..                             | 20                | 25,689   | 5,649       | 21.9        |
| X. Land Transport other than Railway and Tramway Services .. | 12                | 17,575   | 2,388       | 13.6        |
| IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..   | 84                | 109,445  | 11,907      | 10.9        |
| All Groups .. ..   | 392               | 441,311  | 53,992      | 12.2        |

3. *Seasonal Employment in Australia.*—An investigation concerning the extent of seasonal employment in Australia was made during 1929. The State Statisticians were requested to furnish brief reports regarding the industries and callings in their respective States subject to seasonal fluctuations. From the reports received from these officials, supplemented by information from other sources, particulars were compiled and published in Official Year Book, No. 22, and in Labour Report, No. 19.

4. *Direct Measures of Employment.*—(i) *General.* In order to supplement the Trade Union Unemployment percentages, the Commonwealth and the State Statisticians have for the last four years been making direct monthly collections of employment in factories and retail stores. In the case of factories, these figures give fairly reliable indexes of the course of employment fully a year before the results of the annual collections become available. In the case of retail stores, the figures yield an index of employment where none existed before. These indexes are published quarterly in mimeographed statements, and now, after their reliability has been proved over several years, they are included here for the first time.

(ii) *Index of Employment in Factories.* This index is available monthly from July, 1933. "Factories" include all industrial establishments in which four or more hands are employed, or in which power other than hand is used. The index relates to employees on the pay roll on the pay day nearest to the 15th of the month, and includes managers, overseers, clerks and all workers except working proprietors and those engaged solely in the delivery and sale of goods. The index shows that about 23 per cent. of the employee population was employed in "factories" in June, 1937.

Up to June, 1936, the index is based on the results of annual factory censuses and actual mid-monthly factory employment of all persons is published in the Production Bulletin issued by the Bureau. For the year 1936-37 the index is based on returns from selected representative factories, and is issued subject to subsequent revision. Index-numbers for later months, estimated in the same way, may be obtained from quarterly

press notices on employment issued by the Bureau. The number of these "sample" factories and their employees as a percentage of all factory employees in the year 1935-36 are shown at the foot of the table.

For the last three columns of the table the Australian index of employment has been divided by an index of employee population in order to compare the change in employment in factories with the change in the number of persons seeking employment generally. The indexes of employee population are based on the numbers of males and females aged 16 to 64 inclusive. These are found by applying vital and migration statistics to the numbers of males and females at varying ages at the Census date. The total index is obtained by taking a mean of the individual indexes weighted by the numbers of males and females in the employee group (wage and salary earners, unemployed, apprentices, and helpers) at the census of June, 1933. This gives males about three times the weight of females. Between 1928-29 and 1935-36 employee population as estimated in this way increased: males, 8.8 per cent.; females, 10.9 per cent.; total, 9.3 per cent. The increase of population of all ages over the same period was: males, 5.4 per cent.; females, 7.2 per cent.; total, 6.3 per cent. The difference is due to the fact that the average age of the Australian population is increasing.

The index of total factory employment, divided by the index of employee population, fluctuated between 100 and 105 from 1925-26 to 1928-29 (the base year); fell to 71 in 1931-32; and rose to 100 and 104 in 1935-36 and 1936-37 respectively. Thus there has been a full return to the pre-depression level of factory employment, but there is as yet no evidence of the growth of factory employment at the expense of other occupations.

There have been changes in the distribution of factory employment. Thus female factory employment began to increase in 1931-32, a year sooner than male employment, and between 1928-29 and 1935-36 it had increased by 7 per cent. more than male employment, after allowing for the growth of employee population. The returns from the "sample" factories indicate that this difference must have been very considerably reduced during 1936-37. Also, in both Queensland and Western Australia, by 1935-36 total employment had fallen behind the average Australian level by about 9 per cent. of its amount in 1928-29, while in Victoria it had gone ahead by about 8 per cent.

(iii) *Index of Employment in Retail Stores.* This index is not available even annually before July, 1933. It is based on employment in the number of establishments shown at the foot of the table. As there is no annual census of employment in retail stores, there is no means of knowing how accurately the movement of employment in these stores represents the whole field. Consequently this index is much less reliable than the index of employment in factories. The Australian index is an average of the State indexes weighted by the number of persons returned as engaged in "Commerce" in the June, 1933 census. This census industry class "Commerce" comprises both wholesale and retail dealing, and it is not possible to obtain separate figures for the latter. The numbers returned in the census as in the employee group in this class were, for Australia: males, 212,000; females, 87,000; total, 299,000. The respective percentages returned as totally unemployed in this group were: males, 18.1 per cent.; females, 10.6 per cent.: total 15.9 per cent. In addition there was a good deal of part-time work.

The 21 per cent. increase in retail employment between July, 1933, and June, 1937, after correcting for growth of employee population, may be compared with the increase of 38 per cent. in the corresponding index of factory employment over the same period. However, unemployment in the census class "Manufacturing" was 22.1 per cent. compared with 15.9 per cent. quoted above, for "Commerce". In either case the increase in employment has been roughly sufficient to absorb those returned as unemployed and working part-time at the census as well as the proportion of the normal growth of employee population ordinarily seeking employment in these classes.

(iv) *General Employment Indexes of New South Wales and Queensland.* The New South Wales Index is published by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, and fuller details may be found in the *New South Wales Year Book*. It refers to all wage and salary earners, and is based on the census record of employment at June, 1933, and receipts of wages tax and records of Government employment since that date.

The Queensland Index is published by the Queensland Bureau of Industry and fuller details may be found in the *Queensland Year Book*. It refers to adult male wage and salary earners and is based on the receipts of the unemployment insurance fund. Normal seasonal variation does not appear in the index.

Both indexes give an almost complete record of employment, and are the most accurate indexes available in Australia. In both indexes, however, relief workers present a difficult problem. It is impossible to separate entirely "normal" loan works and relief works. Thus for the purposes of these indexes "relief workers" mean "part-time relief workers" in the case of New South Wales, and "intermittent relief workers" in the case of Queensland.

### MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES.

(Base: Average for Year 1928-29 = 100.)

| Period.   | New South Wales. |      |        | Victoria. |      |       | Queensland. |     |      | South Australia. |     |      |
|---|------------------|------|--------|-----------|------|-------|-------------|-----|------|------------------|-----|------|
|   | M.               | F.   | T.     | M.        | F.   | T.    | M.          | F.  | T.   | M.               | F.  | T.   |
| Number of Employees (a) ..                          | 129.5            | 44.6 | 174.1  | 98.1      | 51.2 | 149.3 | 35.6        | 7.8 | 43.4 | 29.0             | 6.4 | 35.4 |
| 1925-26 ..  | 94               | 91   | 93     | 97        | 91   | 95    | 109         | 95  | 106  | 107              | 106 | 106  |
| 1926-27 ..  | 100              | 98   | 99     | 102       | 99   | 101   | 101         | 89  | 99   | 113              | 109 | 112  |
| 1927-28 ..  | 99               | 97   | 98     | 100       | 98   | 99    | 101         | 92  | 99   | 100              | 106 | 106  |
| 1928-29 ..  | 100              | 100  | 100    | 100       | 100  | 100   | 100         | 100 | 100  | 100              | 100 | 100  |
| 1929-30 ..  | 90               | 91   | 90     | 96        | 98   | 96    | 95          | 94  | 94   | 87               | 89  | 87   |
| 1930-31 ..  | 68               | 75   | 70     | 78        | 83   | 80    | 83          | 85  | 84   | 63               | 71  | 64   |
| 1931-32 ..  | 66               | 79   | 69     | 77        | 90   | 81    | 78          | 84  | 80   | 61               | 70  | 64   |
| 1932-33 ..  | 73               | 86   | 70     | 87        | 101  | 92    | 80          | 92  | 82   | 68               | 84  | 71   |
| 1933-34 ..  | 82               | 94   | 85     | 96        | 107  | 100   | 86          | 99  | 88   | 77               | 89  | 80   |
| 1934-35 ..  | 93               | 107  | 97     | 105       | 113  | 108   | 92          | 105 | 94   | 89               | 97  | 91   |
| 1935-36 ..  | 104              | 116  | 107    | 117       | 119  | 117   | 97          | 110 | 99   | 104              | 110 | 105  |
| 1936-37 (b) ..                                      | (c)              | (c)  | 115    | 122       | 118  | 121   | 104         | 113 | 100  | 111              | 111 | 111  |
| 1935—   |                  |      |        |           |      |       |             |     |      |                  |     |      |
| July ..   | 99               | 108  | 101    | 109       | 111  | 110   | 97          | 104 | 98   | 99               | 102 | 100  |
| August ..   | 100              | 111  | 103    | 110       | 115  | 112   | 99          | 110 | 101  | 97               | 105 | 99   |
| September ..  | 101              | 114  | 104    | 113       | 118  | 115   | 98          | 113 | 101  | 101              | 109 | 102  |
| October ..  | 103              | 117  | 106    | 116       | 120  | 117   | 101         | 114 | 104  | 103              | 109 | 104  |
| November ..   | 105              | 119  | 108    | 118       | 121  | 119   | 102         | 115 | 104  | 102              | 108 | 103  |
| December ..   | 105              | 119  | 109    | 118       | 120  | 119   | 98          | 112 | 101  | 104              | 110 | 105  |
| 1936—   |                  |      |        |           |      |       |             |     |      |                  |     |      |
| January ..  | 104              | 111  | 105    | 116       | 115  | 115   | 89          | 104 | 92   | 103              | 106 | 104  |
| February ..   | (d)104           | 118  | (d)107 | 119       | 122  | 120   | 92          | 108 | 95   | 107              | 116 | 109  |
| March ..  | (d)105           | 122  | (d)110 | 122       | 125  | 123   | 95          | 112 | 98   | 110              | 117 | 111  |
| April ..  | 106              | 120  | 100    | 120       | 120  | 120   | 95          | 109 | 97   | 110              | 114 | 111  |
| May ..  | 108              | 120  | 111    | 120       | 120  | 120   | 98          | 110 | 100  | 109              | 112 | 109  |
| June ..   | 108              | 119  | 110    | 118       | 117  | 118   | 100         | 105 | 101  | 105              | 107 | 105  |
| Number of Factories in Sample ..                    | 1,901            |      |        | 100       |      |       | 150         |     |      | 114              |     |      |
| Percentage of Employees (e) in Sample in 1935-36 .. | 36(f)            |      |        | 21        |      |       | 47          |     |      | 54               |     |      |

For Footnotes see next page.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES—*continued.*

(Base: Average for Year 1928-29 = 100.)

| Period.   | Western Australia. |     |      | Tasmania. |     |      | Australia. |       |       | Australia divided by Index of Employee Population. |       |     |
|---|--------------------|-----|------|-----------|-----|------|------------|-------|-------|--|-------|-----|
|   | M.                 | F.  | T.   | M.        | F.  | T.   | M.         | F.    | T.    | M.   | F.    | T.  |
| Number of Employees (a) ..                          | 16.0               | 3.3 | 19.8 | 7.7       | 2.3 | 10.0 | 315.9      | 116.1 | 432.0 | ..   | ..    | ..  |
| 1925-26 ..  | 104                | 86  | 100  | 101       | 84  | 97   | 99         | 92    | 97    | 106  | 98    | 103 |
| 1926-27 ..  | 95                 | 91  | 94   | 105       | 88  | 101  | 101        | 98    | 100   | 106  | 102   | 105 |
| 1927-28 ..  | 98                 | 97  | 98   | 107       | 104 | 106  | 100        | 98    | 100   | 102  | 100   | 102 |
| 1928-29 ..  | 100                | 100 | 100  | 100       | 100 | 100  | 100        | 100   | 100   | 100  | 100   | 100 |
| 1929-30 ..  | 94                 | 98  | 94   | 105       | 99  | 104  | 92         | 95    | 93    | 91   | 93    | 92  |
| 1930-31 ..  | 68                 | 76  | 69   | 85        | 83  | 84   | 73         | 79    | 75    | 71   | 76    | 72  |
| 1931-32 ..  | 61                 | 75  | 63   | 81        | 87  | 85   | 70         | 84    | 74    | 68   | 80    | 71  |
| 1932-33 ..  | 68                 | 81  | 70   | 86        | 90  | 87   | 78         | 93    | 82    | 74   | 87    | 77  |
| 1933-34 ..  | 75                 | 85  | 77   | 93        | 89  | 92   | 86         | 99    | 90    | 81   | 92    | 84  |
| 1934-35 ..  | 83                 | 92  | 85   | 101       | 97  | 100  | 96         | 108   | 100   | 89   | 99    | 92  |
| 1935-36 ..  | 98                 | 107 | 100  | 112       | 103 | 110  | 107        | 116   | 109   | 98   | 105   | 100 |
| 1936-37 (b) ..                                      | 105                | 108 | 106  | 118       | 101 | 114  | 114        | 118   | 115   | 104  | 105   | 104 |
| 1935—   |                    |     |      |           |     |      |            |       |       |  |       |     |
| July ..   | 93                 | 100 | 94   | 104       | 98  | 103  | 102        | 108   | 101   | 94   | 98    | 95  |
| August ..   | 93                 | 101 | 95   | 105       | 94  | 102  | 103        | 112   | 105   | 95   | 101   | 97  |
| September ..  | 95                 | 104 | 97   | 106       | 93  | 103  | 104        | 115   | 107   | 96   | 104   | 98  |
| October ..  | 98                 | 105 | 99   | 109       | 96  | 106  | 106        | 117   | 109   | 98   | 106   | 100 |
| November ..   | 100                | 108 | 101  | 113       | 98  | 109  | 108        | 118   | 111   | 100  | 107   | 102 |
| December ..   | 101                | 108 | 102  | 116       | 104 | 113  | 108        | 118   | 111   | 100  | 106   | 102 |
| 1936—   |                    |     |      |           |     |      |            |       |       |  |       |     |
| January ..  | 100                | 105 | 101  | 117       | 104 | 114  | 106        | 112   | 107   | 97   | 101   | 98  |
| February ..   | 102                | 105 | 102  | 119       | 122 | 120  | 108        | 119   | 111   | 99   | 107   | 101 |
| March ..  | 103                | 107 | 104  | 119       | 116 | 118  | 110        | 122   | 113   | 101  | 110   | 103 |
| April ..  | 103                | 108 | 104  | 118       | 105 | 113  | 110        | 118   | 112   | 100  | 106   | 102 |
| May ..  | 103                | 108 | 104  | 114       | 105 | 112  | 110        | 119   | 113   | 101  | 106   | 103 |
| June ..   | 102                | 107 | 103  | 113       | 103 | 111  | 110        | 116   | 111   | 100  | 104   | 101 |
| Number of Factories in Sample ..                    |                    | 92  |      |           | 49  |      |            | 2,406 |       |  | 2,406 |     |
| Percentage of Employees (c) in Sample in 1935-36 .. |                    | 33  |      |           | 60  |      |            | 53    |       |  | 53    |     |

(a) Number of employees in the base year, 1928-29 ('000), exclusive of working proprietors and those engaged solely on the delivery and sale of goods. (b) For 1936-37 indexes are based on sample returns, and will be revised. The indexes of total employment are based on total employment in sample factories. The male and female indexes are based on separate returns for males and females in 5 States (excluding New South Wales) adjusted so that the total of males and females agrees with the estimate of total employment. (c) Not available. (d) Industrial dispute involving about 3,000 men. (e) The samples vary in quality, so these percentages are intended to give only a very rough idea of the relative accuracy of the estimates. Tasmania and South Australia have proved less, and Victoria more, accurate than the relative size of the samples would suggest. (f) Percentage in enlarged sample collected for last 4 months of year only.

## MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES.

(Base: July, 1933 = 100.)

| Month.          | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Aust. | Australian Index divided by Index of Employee Population. |
|-----------------|--------|------|---------|----------|----------|------|-------|---|
| 1933—           |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| July ..         | 100    | 100  | 100     | 100      | 100      | 100  | 100   | 100   |
| August ..       | 97     | 99   | 99      | 102      | 93       | 101  | 98    | 98  |
| September ..    | 99     | 101  | 97      | 102      | 93       | 98   | 99    | 99  |
| October ..      | 99     | 103  | 97      | 99       | 93       | 109  | 100   | 100   |
| November ..     | 102    | 111  | 100     | 100      | 96       | 108  | 104   | 104   |
| December ..     | 113    | 121  | 110     | 108      | 106      | 115  | 114   | 114   |
| 1934—           |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| January ..      | 102    | 109  | 100     | 103      | 108      | 109  | 105   | 104   |
| February ..     | 104    | 108  | 99      | 102      | 99       | 105  | 104   | 103   |
| March ..        | 104    | 109  | 100     | 102      | 98       | 107  | 104   | 104   |
| April ..        | 103    | 108  | 100     | 103      | 100      | 105  | 104   | 103   |
| May ..          | 105    | 108  | 102     | 105      | 101      | 105  | 105   | 104   |
| June ..         | 105    | 109  | 103     | 104      | 100      | 105  | 106   | 104   |
| Average 1933-34 | 103    | 107  | 101     | 102      | 99       | 106  | 104   | 103   |
| 1934—           |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| July ..         | 108    | 109  | 104     | 106      | 104      | 107  | 107   | 106   |
| August ..       | 105    | 109  | 103     | 102      | 102      | 105  | 105   | 104   |
| September ..    | 107    | 110  | 103     | 103      | 100      | 106  | 107   | 105   |
| October ..      | 108    | 115  | 104     | 108      | 104      | 104  | 109   | 108   |
| November ..     | 110    | 122  | 105     | 107      | 104      | 107  | 112   | 111   |
| December ..     | 123    | 131  | 116     | 118      | 119      | 119  | 124   | 122   |
| 1935—           |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| January ..      | 109    | 117  | 106     | 108      | 109      | 110  | 111   | 109   |
| February ..     | 112    | 117  | 106     | 107      | 103      | 108  | 112   | 110   |
| March ..        | 109    | 118  | 105     | 107      | 105      | 107  | 111   | 109   |
| April ..        | 111    | 117  | 105     | 108      | 103      | 107  | 111   | 109   |
| May ..          | 112    | 121  | 106     | 109      | 106      | 107  | 113   | 111   |
| June ..         | 112    | 123  | 105     | 111      | 107      | 106  | 114   | 112   |
| Average 1934-35 | 111    | 118  | 106     | 108      | 105      | 108  | 112   | 110   |
| 1935—           |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| July ..         | 116    | 120  | 107     | 107      | 111      | 109  | 115   | 112   |
| August ..       | 113    | 120  | 108     | 109      | 105      | 108  | 113   | 111   |
| September ..    | 113    | 123  | 104     | 113      | 106      | 107  | 114   | 112   |
| October ..      | 115    | 128  | 107     | 112      | 106      | 107  | 117   | 114   |
| November ..     | 119    | 131  | 106     | 115      | 109      | 110  | 120   | 117   |
| December ..     | 133    | 145  | 106     | 128      | 123      | 120  | 133   | 130   |
| 1936—           |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| January ..      | 116    | 132  | 109     | 116      | 114      | 115  | 120   | 116   |
| February ..     | 119    | 133  | 107     | 114      | 110      | 111  | 120   | 117   |
| March ..        | 117    | 132  | 109     | 113      | 110      | 111  | 119   | 116   |
| April ..        | 118    | 129  | 108     | 114      | 109      | 113  | 119   | 115   |
| May ..          | 119    | 132  | 110     | 114      | 111      | 112  | 121   | 117   |
| June ..         | 120    | 132  | 110     | 113      | 109      | 113  | 121   | 117   |
| Average 1935-36 | 118    | 130  | 109     | 114      | 110      | 112  | 119   | 116   |



MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES—*continued.*

(Base: July, 1933 = 100.)

| Month.   | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Aust. | Australian Index divided by Index of Employee Population. |
|--|--------|------|---------|----------|----------|------|-------|---|
| 1936—  |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| July ..  | 122    | 130  | 109     | 116      | 113      | 107  | 121   | 117   |
| August ..  | 120    | 128  | 109     | 115      | 111      | 113  | 120   | 116   |
| September ..                                       | 120    | 128  | 109     | 118      | 113      | 115  | 120   | 116   |
| October ..   | 121    | 133  | 110     | 112      | 116      | 116  | 122   | 118   |
| November ..  | 123    | 139  | 111     | 115      | 116      | 119  | 125   | 121   |
| December ..  | 137    | 155  | 121     | 125      | 127      | 132  | 138   | 133   |
| 1937—  |        |      |         |          |          |      |       |   |
| January ..   | 123    | 138  | 112     | 112      | 116      | 120  | 125   | 120   |
| February ..  | 125    | 137  | 111     | 111      | 114      | 122  | 125   | 120   |
| March ..   | 123    | 135  | 111     | 111      | 114      | 118  | 123   | 118   |
| April ..   | 124    | 136  | 109     | 113      | 114      | 120  | 124   | 119   |
| May ..   | 126    | 138  | 111     | 114      | 113      | 121  | 126   | 120   |
| June (a) ..  | 126    | 141  | 110     | 114      | 113      | 121  | 126   | 121   |
| Average 1936-37                                    | 124    | 137  | 111     | 115      | 115      | 119  | 125   | 120   |
| Number of Establishments now furnishing Returns .. | 599    | 102  | 120     | 35       | 69       | 14   | 939   | ..  |

(a) Indexes for later months may be obtained from quarterly press notices on employment, issued by the Bureau.

NEW SOUTH WALES—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF ALL AVAILABLE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS.

| Period.               | Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment.            |             |   |             |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|
|                       | (a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of part time relief workers. |             | (b) Including all part-time relief workers as unemployed. |             |
|                       | Employed.   | Unemployed. | Employed.   | Unemployed. |
| 1933—June (Census) .. | 74.4  | 25.6        | 73.5  | 26.5        |
| 1933-34 .. ..         | 78.1  | 21.9        | 76.1  | 23.9        |
| 1934-35 .. ..         | 84.4  | 15.6        | 81.8  | 18.2        |
| 1935-36 .. ..         | 89.5  | 10.5        | 87.1  | 12.9        |
| 1936-37 .. ..         | 92.9  | 7.1         | 91.4  | 8.6         |
| 1936—June .. ..       | 90.4  | 9.6         | 88.2  | 11.8        |
| 1937—                 |   |             |   |             |
| January .. ..         | 92.1  | 7.9         | 90.8  | 9.2         |
| February .. ..        | 93.3  | 6.7         | 91.8  | 8.2         |
| March .. ..           | 93.2  | 6.8         | 91.9  | 8.1         |
| April .. ..           | 93.7  | 6.3         | 92.4  | 7.6         |
| May .. ..             | 94.3  | 5.7         | 93.0  | 7.0         |
| June .. ..            | 94.7  | 5.3         | 93.5  | 6.5         |
| July .. ..            | 95.0  | 5.0         | 93.8  | 6.2         |

The indexes have been adjusted to allow for an estimated increase of 1.2 per cent. per annum in the number of persons dependent on employment. At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc., or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment, is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners employed and unemployed. The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 519,000 in June, 1934; 567,000 in June, 1935; 614,000 in June, 1936; and 653,000 in June, 1937.

QUEENSLAND—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG MEN WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS.

| Period.           | (a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of "intermittent relief workers." |             | (b) Including "intermittent relief workers" as unemployed. |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|
|                   | Employed.  | Unemployed. | Employed.  | Unemployed. |
|                   | %  | %           | %  | %           |
| 1929 .. .. .      | 89.9   | 10.1        | 89.9   | 10.1        |
| 1930 .. .. .      | 86.4   | 13.6        | 85.6   | 14.4        |
| 1931 .. .. .      | 77.2   | 22.8        | 74.3   | 25.7        |
| 1932 .. .. .      | 77.8   | 22.2        | 72.9   | 27.1        |
| 1933 .. .. .      | 79.8   | 20.2        | 73.9   | 26.1        |
| 1934 .. .. .      | 84.9   | 15.1        | 80.1   | 19.9        |
| 1935 .. .. .      | 89.0   | 11.0        | 84.4   | 15.6        |
| 1936 .. .. .      | 92.3   | 7.7         | 87.4   | 12.6        |
| 3 months ended—   |  |             |  |             |
| 1936—             |  |             |  |             |
| March .. .. .     | 91.0   | 9.0         | 85.5   | 14.5        |
| June .. .. .      | 91.8   | 8.2         | 86.4   | 13.6        |
| September .. .. . | 94.7   | 5.3         | 89.9   | 10.1        |
| December .. .. .  | 91.9   | 8.1         | 88.1   | 11.9        |
| 1937—             |  |             |  |             |
| January .. .. .   | 92.7   | 7.3         | 88.8   | 11.2        |
| February .. .. .  | 91.8   | 8.2         | 87.8   | 12.2        |
| March .. .. .     | 91.4   | 8.6         | 87.8   | 12.2        |
| April .. .. .     | 93.6   | 6.4         | 90.0   | 10.0        |
| May .. .. .       | 94.0   | 6.0         | 90.3   | 9.7         |
| June .. .. .      | 94.3   | 5.7         | 90.5   | 9.5         |
| July .. .. .      | 94.5   | 5.5         | 90.7   | 9.3         |

The above table is in terms of full-time employment and unemployment. Normal seasonal variation is excluded. Allowance has been made for an estimated annual increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number of men dependent on employment. The approximate number of men in employment in 1936, excluding relief workers, was 160,310.

5. **Special Legislation for the Relief of Unemployment**—The position in regard to unemployment in Australia became so serious during 1930 that the usual methods of providing funds for relief works and sustenance were found to be inadequate. The cessation of loans, and the general depression in industry and business, due mainly to the decline in the prices of primary products, brought about an economic crisis in all States. The number of persons thrown out of work increased rapidly, with little prospect of conditions improving during the immediate future. The Commonwealth and State Governments realized that special action was necessary to provide additional funds to relieve the distress caused by continued unemployment, as the money ordinarily available was not sufficient to meet the abnormal conditions.

Special grants to the States were made by the Commonwealth Government, while special legislation relating to the relief of unemployment was enacted in practically all the States. In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, the Acts provided for special

taxation for the purpose of creating funds for relief works and sustenance for the unemployed. The funds necessary for the relief of unemployment in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were provided from Revenue.

Further references to the special legislation relating to unemployment, rates of tax and sustenance payments will be found in Labour Reports, Nos. 22 to 27.

### § 3. Apprenticeship.

In Year Book No. 16, pp. 602-3, was given particulars of legislation relating to the question of apprenticeship. Tables were included showing the periods of apprenticeship fixed in the awards of the various industrial tribunals of the States and Commonwealth, also the proportion of apprentices to journeymen and journeywomen. This information has been omitted from the present issue. Reference to legislation covering apprenticeship will be found in the Appendix to Official Year Book, No. 23.

## D.—ASSOCIATIONS.

### § 1. Labour Organizations.

1. **Registration.**—(i) *Under Trade Union Acts.* The benefits obtained by registering trade unions under the Trade Union Acts in force in the various States are not considered of much value; consequently the statistics of registered trade unions of employees do not accurately represent the position of unionism. Further, the returns for past years are so defective as to be practically valueless, inasmuch as no reliable indication is afforded of the numerical and financial position of the unions. Some of the registered unions fail to supply returns; this non-supply may lead to cancellation of the registration. Others have obtained the cancellation of their certificates of registration, the apparent reason being that they proposed to register under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act or a State Arbitration Act. In Queensland, some of the largest labour unions withdrew from registration during 1911, mainly on account of the necessity for closer restriction of their objects as set forth in their rules, consequent on legal decisions affecting trade unions. In Victoria and in South Australia very few of the existing unions are registered under the Trade Union Acts. It will be seen, therefore, that the available information under this heading is too meagre for statistical purposes.

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.* Information with regard to registrations of employers' associations and trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 171 industrial unions of employers and 156 industrial unions of employees, the membership not being available in either case; Queensland, 12 industrial unions of employers with 11,790 members, and 77 industrial unions of employees with approximately 160,344 members; South Australia, 27 organizations of employers with 18,754 members; Western Australia, 32 organizations of employers with 865 members, and 137 organizations of employees with 43,973 members. There is no provision in the South Australian Industrial Acts for the registration of organizations of employers, and in Victoria and Tasmania, where Wages Board systems of wage fixation are in operation, organizations of employers and employees are not required to register. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four years following, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. On 31st December, 1936, there were 30 registered organizations of employers and 138 registered organizations of employees, with a total estimated membership for the latter of 680,000.

2. **Particulars regarding Trade Unions.**—(i) *Types.* The trade unions in Australia are very diverse in character, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be merely a branch of a British or International union. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour

organizations:—(i) the local independent; (ii) the State; (iii) the interstate; and (iv) the Australasian or International; but a number of variations occur from each of these classes. The leading characteristics of each of these types were briefly outlined in Labour Report No. 2 (pp. 7 to 9) issued by this Bureau.

(ii) *Number and Membership.* As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912 the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1936:—

#### TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES AND MEMBERS, 1936.

| State or Territory.               | Number of<br>Separate Unions. | Number of<br>Branches. | Number of<br>Members. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| New South Wales .. .. .           | 184                           | 559                    | 315,517               |
| Victoria .. .. .                  | 147                           | 396                    | 201,616               |
| Queensland .. .. .                | 111                           | 314                    | 158,953               |
| South Australia .. .. .           | 114                           | 177                    | 59,900                |
| Western Australia .. .. .         | 132                           | 211                    | 60,762                |
| Tasmania .. .. .                  | 76                            | 71                     | 15,839                |
| Northern Territory .. .. .        | 5                             | ..                     | 992                   |
| Federal Capital Territory .. .. . | 15                            | 1                      | 1,230                 |
| <b>Total .. .. .</b>              | <b>784</b>                    | <b>1,720</b>           | <b>814,809</b>        |
| <b>Australia (a) .. .. .</b>      | <b>356 (a)</b>                | <b>2,157 (b)</b>       | <b>814,809</b>        |

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. The figures represent the number of distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations which are practically independent and self-governing.

(b) See remarks below.

In the preceding table the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of interstate and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line, allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. There are, therefore, 356 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,157 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 814,809 members.

(iii) *Classification in Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the number of unions and members thereof in Australia at the end of each of the last five years. The number of unions specified refers to the number of different unions represented in each

State ; and, while interstate or federated unions are counted once in each State in which they are represented, sub-branches within a State are not counted :—

TRADE UNIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

| Industrial Groups.                        | 1932.                  | 1933.                  | 1934.                  | 1935.                  | 1936.                  |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| NUMBER OF UNIONS.                         |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Manufacturing :—                          | (a)                    | (a)                    | (a)                    | (a)                    | (u)                    |
| I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..               | 18 (4)                 | 18 (4)                 | 17 (4)                 | 17 (4)                 | 17 (4)                 |
| II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..     | 63 (22)                | 63 (22)                | 63 (22)                | 61 (21)                | 63 (21)                |
| III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..        | 63 (34)                | 62 (34)                | 62 (32)                | 63 (32)                | 60 (33)                |
| IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..        | 24 (12)                | 24 (11)                | 24 (11)                | 24 (11)                | 24 (11)                |
| V. Books, Printing, etc. ..               | 15 (10)                | 15 (10)                | 15 (9)                 | 15 (9)                 | 14 (8)                 |
| VI. Other Manufacturing ..                | 77 (37)                | 77 (37)                | 76 (36)                | 73 (34)                | 73 (35)                |
| VII. Building ..                          | 51 (28)                | 51 (28)                | 51 (28)                | 49 (26)                | 49 (27)                |
| VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..          | 16 (13)                | 16 (13)                | 17 (14)                | 16 (13)                | 16 (13)                |
| IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..       | 51 (29)                | 51 (29)                | 51 (29)                | 52 (30)                | 50 (29)                |
| X. Other Land Transport ..                | 11 (4)                 | 11 (4)                 | 10 (4)                 | 10 (4)                 | 11 (4)                 |
| XI. Shipping, etc. ..                     | 57 (24)                | 55 (22)                | 55 (22)                | 55 (22)                | 55 (21)                |
| XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..      | 9 (4)                  | 9 (4)                  | 10 (6)                 | 10 (7)                 | 11 (7)                 |
| XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..           | 20 (16)                | 20 (16)                | 20 (15)                | 19 (14)                | 20 (15)                |
| XIV. Miscellaneous—                       |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| (i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical ..    | 31 (19)                | 30 (19)                | 30 (19)                | 32 (19)                | 32 (16)                |
| (ii) Public Service ..                    | 145 (45)               | 145 (45)               | 145 (45)               | 148 (47)               | 148 (48)               |
| (iii) Retail and Wholesale ..             | 8 (7)                  | 8 (7)                  | 8 (7)                  | 8 (8)                  | 8 (8)                  |
| (iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring .. | 14 (13)                | 13 (12)                | 13 (11)                | 16 (11)                | 16 (11)                |
| (v) Other Miscellaneous ..                | 108 (40)               | 107 (39)               | 108 (41)               | 108 (42)               | 103 (45)               |
| Total .. ..                               | 781 (361) <sup>a</sup> | 775 (356) <sup>a</sup> | 775 (355) <sup>a</sup> | 776 (354) <sup>a</sup> | 784 (356) <sup>a</sup> |

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

|   |         |         |         |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Manufacturing :—                          |         |         |         |         |         |
| I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..               | 27,054  | 27,164  | 25,886  | 27,079  | 25,365  |
| II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..     | 72,883  | 69,244  | 73,363  | 76,070  | 79,047  |
| III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..        | 61,183  | 62,103  | 65,663  | 68,292  | 72,120  |
| IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..        | 51,154  | 50,173  | 56,484  | 59,484  | 62,269  |
| V. Books, Printing, etc. ..               | 18,128  | 18,113  | 18,285  | 18,808  | 19,425  |
| VI. Other Manufacturing ..                | 40,578  | 42,577  | 43,720  | 44,388  | 46,832  |
| VII. Building ..                          | 52,582  | 52,936  | 53,140  | 51,034  | 56,727  |
| VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..          | 32,846  | 30,166  | 36,560  | 36,636  | 40,184  |
| IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..       | 91,889  | 90,521  | 91,035  | 97,443  | 94,944  |
| X. Other Land Transport ..                | 17,158  | 16,408  | 13,566  | 10,539  | 10,287  |
| XI. Shipping, etc. ..                     | 32,994  | 32,691  | 29,363  | 26,388  | 27,316  |
| XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..      | 21,237  | 20,997  | 22,599  | 23,782  | 31,869  |
| XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..           | 20,993  | 20,849  | 19,585  | 19,043  | 16,091  |
| XIV. Miscellaneous :—                     |         |         |         |         |         |
| (i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical ..    | 28,420  | 27,884  | 33,947  | 34,405  | 35,315  |
| (ii) Public Service ..                    | 80,889  | 79,809  | 77,365  | 82,776  | 83,481  |
| (iii) Retail and Wholesale ..             | 24,983  | 26,426  | 29,009  | 32,619  | 32,175  |
| (iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring .. | 30,639  | 30,261  | 32,482  | 38,926  | 39,603  |
| (v) Other Miscellaneous ..                | 35,221  | 41,076  | 40,515  | 38,118  | 41,723  |
| Total .. ..                               | 740,831 | 739,398 | 762,567 | 790,830 | 814,809 |

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

(iv) Trade Unions—Numbers of Male and Female Members and Percentages to total Employees—Australia. The Census discloses the percentage of male and female employees (i.e., persons in " receipt of wage or salary," and persons " unemployed "), 20 years of age

and over, on the total male and female population, and by applying these percentages to the estimated total male and female population at the end of each year, an estimate of the number of adult employees of each sex in the year is obtained.

The following table shows separately for males and females (a) the number of members of trade unions; (b) the estimated number of employees of each sex 20 years of age and over in all professions, trades and occupations; and (c) the percentage of the former (a) on the latter (b) at the end of each year, 1932 to 1936. The estimated number of employees includes all persons (over the age specified) in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed, and therefore embraces a large number of adults who are not eligible for membership of any trade union, such as certain persons employed in professional occupations, as well as others who, while eligible for membership so far as the nature of their trade or occupation is concerned, do not reside in a locality which is covered by any union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. Moreover the age at which persons are eligible for membership varies in different unions. The census results are classified in quinquennial age groups, and age 20 years is taken as approximating to the age of admission to membership. A line has also been added showing the estimated numbers of "junior" workers under 20 years of age:—

TRADE UNIONS—NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS AND PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL EMPLOYEES.—AUSTRALIA.

| Particulars.   | 1932.     | 1933.     | 1934.     | 1935.     | 1936.     |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>MALES.</b>  |           |           |           |           |           |
| Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over)    | 1,330,000 | 1,344,290 | 1,393,155 | 1,401,286 | 1,426,109 |
| No. of Members of Unions                                       | 630,688   | 626,266   | 641,370   | 662,447   | 685,795   |
| Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees   | 47.4      | 46.6      | 46.0      | 47.3      | 48.1      |
| Junior Workers (under 20)                                      | 246,500   | 249,010   | 253,682   | 255,160   | 265,176   |
| <b>FEMALES.</b>  |           |           |           |           |           |
| Estimated No. of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over)    | 317,250   | 321,500   | 363,255   | 366,102   | 377,334   |
| No. of Members of Unions                                       | 110,143   | 113,132   | 121,197   | 128,383   | 129,014   |
| Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees   | 34.7      | 35.2      | 33.4      | 35.1      | 34.2      |
| Junior Workers (under 20)                                      | 139,980   | 141,960   | 158,863   | 160,120   | 155,305   |
| <b>TOTAL.</b>  |           |           |           |           |           |
| Estimated Number of Adult Employees (20 years of age and over) | 1,647,250 | 1,665,790 | 1,756,410 | 1,767,388 | 1,803,443 |
| Number of Members of Unions                                    | 740,831   | 739,398   | 762,567   | 790,830   | 814,809   |
| Percentage of Members on Estimated Number of Adult Employees   | 45.0      | 44.4      | 43.4      | 44.7      | 45.2      |
| Junior Workers (under 20)                                      | 386,480   | 390,970   | 412,545   | 415,280   | 420,481   |

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1930:—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1936.

| Particulars.      | Unions Operating Ip— |           |           |           |                  | Total.  |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|---------|
|                   | 2 States.            | 3 States. | 4 States. | 5 States. | 6 States.<br>(a) |         |
| Number of Unions  | 19                   | 8         | 21        | 19        | 46               | 113     |
| Number of Members | 28,233               | 13,624    | 123,008   | 171,517   | 324,919          | 661,301 |

(a) Certain unions in this group have, in addition to branches in each of the six States, branches in the Northern Territory and the Federal Capital Territory.

It appears, therefore, that 113 out of the 356 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 113 unions was 661,301 or 81 per cent. of the membership of all unions.

3. **Central Labour Organizations.**—In each of the capital cities and in a number of industrial centres elsewhere, delegate organizations consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a per capita tax on the members of each affiliated union. In most of the towns where such central organizations exist, the majority of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system or organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State. In this State there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils, to which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other five States, however, the organization is not so close, and, while provision usually exists in the rules of the central council at the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils or for the representation of the central council on the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies.

A new Central Labour Organization, called the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the Trade Unions of Australia, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The Australasian Council is based on the Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils in each State, such bodies having the right to appoint two representatives to act on the Executive of the Council. The Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils are the branches of the Australasian Council. In addition to the representatives from the Metropolitan Councils, the Executive consists of four officers—the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

The objective of the Council is the socialization of industry, i.e., production and exchange. The methods to be adopted are:—(a) The closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australasian Trade Union Movement from the Craft to an Industrial basis by the establishment of one Union in each industry; (b) the consolidation of the Australasian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration and action; (c) the centralized control of industrial disputes; and (d) educational propaganda among unions. The Australasian Council

of Trade Unions is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the Trade Union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference at Geneva.

The table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto, in each State at the end of the year 1936:—

**CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1936.**

| Particulars.                                  | N.S.W. | Victoria. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | F.C.Ter. | Total. |
|---|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|------|----------|--------|
| Number of Councils                            | 3      | 5         | 6       | 2        | 8        | 2    | 1        | 27     |
| Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated | 91     | 167       | 84      | 54       | 213      | 59   | 11       | 679    |

The figures given in the preceding table concerning the number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated to the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines, and composed of delegates from separate unions the interests of the members of which are closely connected by reason of the occupation of their members. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the iron, steel, or brass trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

4. **Laws relating to Conditions of Labour.**—In Official Year Book No. 16, pp. 538 to 566, a conspectus was given of Labour Laws in force in Australia at the end of the year 1922, and of Acts and Regulations relating to Factories and Shops.

Information was contained in the same issue regarding employment under Mining Acts, followed by a brief reference to Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts and miscellaneous legislation relating to conditions of labour enacted by the States. A conspectus of the Tribunals for the Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Labour was also included.

## § 2. Employers' Associations.

1. **General.**—Recent investigations show that the spirit of association is no less manifest in the case of employers than in the case of workers. Associations for trade purposes merely are not included in the present chapter, which deals with those associations only whose members are united for their own protection, and for representation in cases before Arbitration Courts, Wages Boards and other wage-fixing tribunals. Associations of employers and employees are recognized under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act as well as under several State Acts, and organizations of these bodies may be registered.

The year 1922 was the first for which information was collected, and detailed particulars for that and subsequent years will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book and in the Labour Reports.



2. **Employers' Associations in each State.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1932 to 1936:—

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

| Year.                   | N.S.W.  | Victoria. | Q'land. | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Total |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|------|------|------|-------|
| NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS. |         |           |         |      |      |      |       |
| 1932 .. ..              | 148     | 158       | 85      | 60   | 68   | 30   | 549   |
| 1933 .. ..              | 140     | 153       | 80      | 58   | 62   | 28   | 521   |
| 1934 .. ..              | (a) 134 | 157       | 74      | 60   | 54   | 26   | 505   |
| 1935 .. ..              | (a) 131 | 156       | 72      | 60   | 56   | 25   | 500   |
| 1936 .. ..              | (a) 134 | 150       | 73      | 61   | 58   | 30   | 500   |

## NUMBER OF BRANCHES.

|            |     |     |     |    |     |    |       |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-------|
| 1932 .. .. | 907 | 461 | 185 | 18 | 297 | 10 | 1,878 |
| 1933 .. .. | 897 | 508 | 189 | 15 | 288 | 8  | 1,905 |
| 1934 .. .. | 810 | 520 | 135 | 15 | 301 | 8  | 1,789 |
| 1935 .. .. | 786 | 559 | 135 | 13 | 302 | 8  | 1,803 |
| 1936 .. .. | 806 | 608 | 393 | 32 | 296 | 6  | 2,141 |

## MEMBERSHIP.

|            |          |        |        |       |        |       |           |
|------------|----------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 1932 .. .. | 54,005   | 37,342 | 18,929 | 6,656 | 10,189 | 2,504 | 129,625   |
| 1933 .. .. | 56,384   | 37,929 | 18,721 | 6,452 | 10,311 | 2,391 | 132,188   |
| 1934 .. .. | a 58,387 | 38,276 | 18,943 | 6,765 | 10,464 | 2,095 | 134,930   |
| 1935 .. .. | a 59,444 | 37,705 | 18,556 | 7,536 | 10,791 | 2,087 | 136,179   |
| 1936 .. .. | a 60,135 | 50,262 | 35,764 | 8,813 | 11,193 | 2,257 | a 168,424 |

(a) Includes 1 association in Federal Capital Territory.

There has been a large increase in the number of branches since the year 1926, due to the inclusion of associations representing agricultural interests, while the increase in total membership is partly attributable to a more complete collection of statistics relating to these organizations.

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the following table refer to Australia at the end of the years 1935 and 1936:—

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

| Class.                               | Number of Associations. |            | Number of Branches. |              | Membership     |                |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                      | 1935.                   | 1936.      | 1935.               | 1936.        | 1935.          | 1936.          |
| <b>Manufacturing:—</b>               |                         |            |                     |              |                |                |
| I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..          | 20                      | 20         | 4                   | 5            | 986            | 1,195          |
| II. Engineering, etc. ..             | 13                      | 13         | 12                  | 12           | 2,430          | 2,378          |
| III. Food, Drink, etc. ..            | 106                     | 106        | 86                  | 78           | 20,225         | 20,956         |
| IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..          | 17                      | 17         | 2                   | 5            | 1,157          | 1,952          |
| V. Books, Printing, etc. ..          | 38                      | 39         | ..                  | ..           | 2,959          | 2,991          |
| VI. Other Manufacturing ..           | 45                      | 40         | 1                   | 1            | 3,461          | 3,318          |
| VII. Building .. ..                  | 28                      | 25         | 10                  | 4            | 2,111          | 2,060          |
| VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..     | 10                      | 11         | ..                  | ..           | 241            | 296            |
| X. Other Land Transport ..           | 15                      | 13         | 21                  | ..           | 2,098          | 1,835          |
| XI. Shipping, etc. ..                | 16                      | 19         | 10                  | 3            | 226            | 269            |
| XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. .. | 48                      | 50         | 1,638               | 1,978        | 81,953         | 103,280        |
| XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..      | 17                      | 17         | ..                  | 25           | 1,994          | 8,450          |
| XIV. Miscellaneous .. ..             | 127                     | 136        | 19                  | 30           | 16,338         | 19,744         |
| <b>Total .. ..</b>                   | <b>500</b>              | <b>506</b> | <b>1,803</b>        | <b>2,141</b> | <b>136,179</b> | <b>168,424</b> |

The female membership of these associations was 6,056 for 1935, and 6,115 for 1936.

The organization of employers is relatively strongest in the pastoral and agricultural industries and in the manufacture and distribution of articles of food and drink. In the former case there has been considerable growth in organization among small farmers, and in the latter, the number of small shops purveying foodstuffs of which the proprietors are members of grocers', butchers' and other similar associations accounts for the large membership.

4. **Federations of Employers' Associations.**—In addition to the associations in various industries, there are central associations in each State, to which many of these separate organizations are affiliated. Examples of this kind of association are provided in the Chamber of Manufactures, Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Federation in each State. Further, these State associations are, in some cases, organized on a federal basis, e.g., there is an Associated Chamber of Manufactures, an Associated Chamber of Commerce, or a Central Council of Employers, to which State branches are affiliated.

The affiliation of these associations is, however, of a very loose nature when compared with that of the Federated Trade Unions. Whereas in the latter case the central body has complete control of its State branches, in the case of the Employers' Associations each State body enjoys complete independence, the central body acting in a more or less advisory capacity only.

The following table gives particulars, so far as can be ascertained, of interstate or federated associations having branches in two or more States from 1932 to 1936 :—

#### INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

| Year.                   | Associations Operating in— |           |           |           |           | Total.  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|                         | 2 States.                  | 3 States. | 4 States. | 5 States. | 6 States. |         |
| NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS. |                            |           |           |           |           |         |
| 1932 .. .. .            | 5                          | 4         | 4         | 13        | 19        | 45      |
| 1933 .. .. .            | 6                          | 4         | 5         | 14        | 16        | 45      |
| 1934 .. .. .            | 4                          | 2         | 12        | 8         | 17        | 43      |
| 1935 .. .. .            | 4                          | 2         | 10        | 6         | 20        | 42      |
| 1936 .. .. .            | 5                          | 2         | 8         | 6         | 17        | 38      |
| NUMBER OF MEMBERS.      |                            |           |           |           |           |         |
| 1932 .. .. .            | 1,132                      | 323       | 842       | 59,993    | 40,872    | 103,162 |
| 1933 .. .. .            | 1,354                      | 290       | 1,118     | 66,144    | 35,299    | 104,205 |
| 1934 .. .. .            | 2,438                      | 56        | 44,745    | 22,947    | 34,026    | 104,212 |
| 1935 .. .. .            | 10,529                     | 57        | 3,311     | 63,155    | 37,723    | 114,775 |
| 1936 .. .. .            | 11,315                     | 904       | 1,013     | 22,324    | 104,896   | 140,452 |

The above table shows that associations having 83 per cent. of the total membership of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.

#### E.—COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS.

In order to show the relative movements of certain price and related data the following table of annual and quarterly index-numbers for the six capital cities combined has been compiled with a common base 1911 = 1,000.

COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

(Base(a) of each Section : Weighted Average of Six Capitals 1911 = 1,000.)

| Period.  | Food and Groceries. | Housing.    |                | Food and Housing. |                | All Items of Household Expenditure. | Wholesale Prices Melbourne. | Nominal Wages, Adult Males. | Real Wages. (b) | Percentage of Unemployment among Trade Unionists. |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
|          |                     | All Houses. | 4 and 5 Rooms. | All Houses.       | 4 and 5 Rooms. |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| Year—    |                     |             |                |                   |                | (c) 1,000                           |                             |                             |                 | %   |
| 1911     | 1,000               | 1,000       | 1,000          | 1,000             | 1,000          | 1,000                               | 1,000                       | 1,000                       | 1,000           | 4.7   |
| 1914     | 1,144               | 1,135       | 1,082          | 1,140             | 1,121          | 1,140                               | 1,149                       | 1,081                       | 948             | 3.3   |
| 1920     | 2,101               | 1,333       | 1,392          | 1,785             | 1,873          | 1,935                               | 2,480                       | 1,627                       | 911             | 6.5   |
| 1921     | 1,902               | 1,404       | 1,410          | 1,697             | 1,717          | 1,680                               | 1,903                       | 1,826                       | 1,076           | 11.2  |
| 1928     | 1,761               | 1,758       | 1,713          | 1,760             | 1,755          | 1,675                               | 1,792                       | 1,963                       | 1,115           | 10.8  |
| 1929     | 1,866               | 1,760       | 1,754          | 1,822             | 1,824          | 1,713                               | 1,803                       | 1,972                       | 1,082           | 11.1  |
| 1930     | 1,682               | 1,685       | 1,711          | 1,683             | 1,693          | 1,618                               | 1,596                       | 1,939                       | 1,152           | 19.3  |
| 1931     | 1,477               | 1,483       | 1,473          | 1,479             | 1,475          | 1,448                               | 1,428                       | 1,752                       | 1,185           | 27.4  |
| 1932     | 1,425               | 1,374       | 1,336          | 1,403             | 1,391          | 1,377                               | 1,411                       | 1,639                       | 1,168           | 29.0  |
| 1933     | 1,342               | 1,356       | 1,314          | 1,345             | 1,332          | 1,335                               | 1,409                       | 1,584                       | 1,178           | 25.1  |
| 1934     | 1,100               | 1,365       | 1,324          | 1,385             | 1,371          | 1,355                               | 1,468                       | 1,590                       | 1,148           | 20.5  |
| 1935     | 1,442               | 1,388       | 1,372          | 1,420             | 1,416          | 1,380                               | 1,460                       | 1,609                       | 1,133           | 16.4  |
| 1936     | 1,475               | 1,441       | 1,437          | 1,461             | 1,461          | 1,409                               | 1,543                       | 1,635                       | 1,110           | 12.2  |
| Quarter— |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| 1927.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,782               | 1,723       | 1,673          | 1,758             | 1,741          | 1,656                               | 1,737                       | 1,944                       | 1,106           | 5.0   |
| June     | 1,758               | 1,721       | 1,678          | 1,743             | 1,728          | 1,648                               | 1,743                       | 1,942                       | 1,114           | 6.4   |
| Sept.    | 1,794               | 1,746       | 1,690          | 1,774             | 1,755          | 1,666                               | 1,882                       | 1,944                       | 1,096           | 6.7   |
| Dec.     | 1,820               | 1,746       | 1,694          | 1,789             | 1,773          | 1,678                               | 1,904                       | 1,955                       | 1,093           | 8.9   |
| 1928.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,771               | 1,765       | 1,744          | 1,768             | 1,761          | 1,675                               | 1,840                       | 1,966                       | 1,112           | 10.7  |
| June     | 1,784               | 1,760       | 1,745          | 1,774             | 1,769          | 1,684                               | 1,820                       | 1,963                       | 1,107           | 11.2  |
| Sept.    | 1,745               | 1,752       | 1,741          | 1,748             | 1,744          | 1,670                               | 1,764                       | 1,963                       | 1,123           | 11.4  |
| Dec.     | 1,746               | 1,752       | 1,742          | 1,749             | 1,744          | 1,670                               | 1,744                       | 1,959                       | 1,120           | 9.9   |
| 1929.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,859               | 1,763       | 1,758          | 1,820             | 1,821          | 1,713                               | 1,788                       | 1,958                       | 1,076           | 9.3   |
| June     | 1,865               | 1,759       | 1,753          | 1,821             | 1,823          | 1,713                               | 1,794                       | 1,977                       | 1,086           | 10.0  |
| Sept.    | 1,867               | 1,761       | 1,754          | 1,823             | 1,824          | 1,713                               | 1,834                       | 1,979                       | 1,086           | 12.1  |
| Dec.     | 1,873               | 1,755       | 1,751          | 1,825             | 1,827          | 1,712                               | 1,799                       | 1,974                       | 1,082           | 13.1  |
| 1930.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,751               | 1,752       | 1,782          | 1,752             | 1,763          | 1,670                               | 1,680                       | 1,973                       | 1,126           | 14.6  |
| June     | 1,734               | 1,724       | 1,744          | 1,730             | 1,738          | 1,653                               | 1,667                       | 1,936                       | 1,131           | 18.3  |
| Sept.    | 1,673               | 1,662       | 1,692          | 1,668             | 1,680          | 1,607                               | 1,599                       | 1,939                       | 1,162           | 20.5  |
| Dec.     | 1,568               | 1,600       | 1,625          | 1,582             | 1,590          | 1,542                               | 1,438                       | 1,887                       | 1,193           | 23.4  |
| 1931.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,538               | 1,557       | 1,560          | 1,546             | 1,546          | 1,500                               | 1,453                       | 1,814                       | 1,173           | 25.8  |
| June     | 1,496               | 1,507       | 1,501          | 1,501             | 1,498          | 1,464                               | 1,437                       | 1,764                       | 1,175           | 27.6  |
| Sept.    | 1,435               | 1,464       | 1,447          | 1,447             | 1,439          | 1,423                               | 1,406                       | 1,735                       | 1,199           | 28.1  |
| Dec.     | 1,439               | 1,406       | 1,382          | 1,425             | 1,418          | 1,406                               | 1,418                       | 1,694                       | 1,189           | 28.0  |
| 1932.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,465               | 1,391       | 1,358          | 1,435             | 1,425          | 1,403                               | 1,434                       | 1,680                       | 1,171           | 28.3  |
| June     | 1,448               | 1,378       | 1,345          | 1,419             | 1,409          | 1,389                               | 1,410                       | 1,672                       | 1,178           | 30.0  |
| Sept.    | 1,416               | 1,367       | 1,327          | 1,395             | 1,382          | 1,370                               | 1,418                       | 1,608                       | 1,153           | 29.6  |
| Dec.     | 1,369               | 1,359       | 1,314          | 1,363             | 1,348          | 1,346                               | 1,384                       | 1,597                       | 1,172           | 28.1  |
| 1933.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,317               | 1,357       | 1,318          | 1,330             | 1,318          | 1,327                               | 1,336                       | 1,585                       | 1,192           | 26.5  |
| June     | 1,337               | 1,354       | 1,314          | 1,342             | 1,320          | 1,334                               | 1,401                       | 1,595                       | 1,189           | 25.7  |
| Sept.    | 1,359               | 1,355       | 1,311          | 1,355             | 1,341          | 1,340                               | 1,467                       | 1,587                       | 1,171           | 25.1  |
| Dec.     | 1,355               | 1,357       | 1,311          | 1,354             | 1,339          | 1,337                               | 1,432                       | 1,570                       | 1,160           | 23.0  |
| 1934.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,371               | 1,360       | 1,315          | 1,365             | 1,350          | 1,344                               | 1,456                       | 1,572                       | 1,152           | 21.9  |
| June     | 1,404               | 1,365       | 1,319          | 1,387             | 1,372          | 1,358                               | 1,463                       | 1,592                       | 1,148           | 20.9  |
| Sept.    | 1,401               | 1,367       | 1,331          | 1,387             | 1,375          | 1,357                               | 1,492                       | 1,596                       | 1,151           | 20.4  |
| Dec.     | 1,422               | 1,368       | 1,332          | 1,400             | 1,388          | 1,361                               | 1,474                       | 1,599                       | 1,142           | 18.8  |
| 1935.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,420               | 1,374       | 1,356          | 1,401             | 1,396          | 1,368                               | 1,451                       | 1,604                       | 1,145           | 18.6  |
| June     | 1,425               | 1,381       | 1,363          | 1,407             | 1,402          | 1,371                               | 1,456                       | 1,605                       | 1,141           | 17.8  |
| Sept.    | 1,461               | 1,394       | 1,379          | 1,433             | 1,430          | 1,389                               | 1,491                       | 1,609                       | 1,123           | 15.9  |
| Dec.     | 1,460               | 1,403       | 1,390          | 1,437             | 1,434          | 1,391                               | 1,479                       | 1,617                       | 1,125           | 13.7  |
| 1936.    |                     |             |                |                   |                |                                     |                             |                             |                 |   |
| March    | 1,445               | 1,419       | 1,413          | 1,434             | 1,433          | 1,391                               | 1,475                       | 1,620                       | 1,130           | 13.4  |
| June     | 1,455               | 1,430       | 1,425          | 1,445             | 1,444          | 1,397                               | 1,520                       | 1,625                       | 1,125           | 12.8  |
| Sept.    | 1,489               | 1,454       | 1,440          | 1,475             | 1,474          | 1,420                               | 1,570                       | 1,637                       | 1,110           | 12.0  |
| Dec.     | 1,510               | 1,461       | 1,461          | 1,490             | 1,491          | 1,430                               | 1,607                       | 1,656                       | 1,111           | 10.7  |

(a) The index-numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of housing, and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000. (b) Calculated by Food and Rent of All Houses ("A" Series) Index. See p. 562 for Real Wages under the "C" Series Index. (c) Taken back from true base (November, 1914) by means of the Food and Rent of All Houses ("A" Series) Index.