

## CHAPTER III.—EMPLOYMENT.

## § I. Industrial Disputes.

1. **General.**—The collection of information regarding industrial disputes (strikes and lockouts) in Australia was initiated by this Bureau at the beginning of the year 1913, and particulars relating thereto, for the first complete year, were published in Labour Report No. 5, Section XI. An examination of official reports, newspapers, and other publications showed, however, that there was insufficient material for the compilation of complete information for years prior to 1913.

Annual figures for subsequent years have been given in Labour Reports Nos. 6 to 21, while details of industrial disputes during the year 1931 are furnished in this Report.

2. **Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1931.**—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes involving stoppage of work during the year 1931 in industrial groups. A list of the 14 groups included in the classification will be found in the preface. Similar information for the years 1914 to 1930 was published in Labour Reports Nos. 6 to 21.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1931 was 134, as compared with 183 during the previous year. In New South Wales 87 disputes occurred. Of this number 69 involved workpeople engaged in the coal-mining industry. Working days lost during 1931 amounted to 245,991 for all disputes in Australia as compared with 1,511,241 working days lost during 1930. The estimated loss of wages was £227,731 in 1931 as compared with £1,592,342 for the year 1930.

## Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1931.

Class.	Industrial Group	Num-ber.	Estab-lish-ments In- volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In- directly.	Total.		
<b>New South Wales—</b>								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	68	..	68	68	£ 70
III.	Food, drink, etc. .. .. .	2	2	206	..	206	334	286
VII.	Building .. .. .	2	2	71	..	71	96	74
VIII.	(a) Coal mining .. .. .	69	69	19,229	1,348	20,577	106,368	111,378
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	421	151	572	18,304	14,640
X.	Other land transport .. ..	1	1	11	..	11	44	50
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	3	8	351	302	653	8,387	4,753
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. .. ..	1	40	93	..	93	930	698
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. .. .	7	7	552	..	552	1,506	1,119
	<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>21,002</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>22,803</b>	<b>136,037</b>	<b>133,068</b>
<b>Victoria—</b>								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. ..	1	2	50	..	50	150	144
III.	Food, drink, etc. .. .. .	4	83	1,802	460	2,262	19,032	18,807
VII.	Building .. .. .	1	1	21	7	28	70	71
VIII.	(a) Coal mining .. .. .	1	1	1,700	..	1,700	1,700	1,500
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	2	4	101	50	151	1,486	837
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	2	4	101	50	151	1,486	837
XIV.	Miscellaneous .. .. .	1	1	348	104	452	5,424	3,525
	<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>4,022</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>4,643</b>	<b>27,862</b>	<b>24,884</b>
<b>Queensland—</b>								
III.	Food, drink, etc. .. .. .	4	10	1,901	261	2,162	8,046	7,653
VIII.	(a) Coal mining .. .. .	4	4	545	8	553	8,532	6,215
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	3	3	433	43	476	8,292	7,374
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	1,616	..	1,616	9,696	7,760
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. ..	3	340	584	330	914	16,530	17,923
	<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>5,079</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>5,721</b>	<b>51,096</b>	<b>47,415</b>

## Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1931—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
I. III. XI. XIV.	South Australia—							
	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . . . .	1	1	11	6	17	442	£ 426
	Food, drink, etc. . . . .	1	1	60	..	60	60	48
	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . . . .	2	2	64	..	64	128	67
	Miscellaneous . . . . .	1	1	25	..	25	25	21
	Total . . . . .	5	5	160	6	166	655	582
V. VII. VIII. XI. XIV.	Western Australia—							
	Books, printing, binding, etc. . . . .	1	3	180	..	180	900	1,260
	Building . . . . .	1	5	60	..	60	840	756
	(a) Coal mining . . . . .	3	3	360	..	360	2,080	1,664
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. . . . .	4	5	967	..	967	9,416	7,231
	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . . . .	1	1	20	..	20	120	66
	Miscellaneous . . . . .	3	8	2,291	50	2,341	10,666	4,848
	Total . . . . .	13	26	3,978	50	3,928	24,022	15,829
VIII.	Tasmania—							
	(a) Coal mining . . . . .	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,478
XIV.	Northern Territory—							
	Miscellaneous . . . . .	2	2	245	..	245	910	675
I. II. III. V. VII. VIII. IX. X. XI. XII. XIII. XIV.	Australia—							
	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . . . .	2	3	61	6	67	592	570
	Engineering, metal works, etc. . . . .	1	1	68	..	68	68	70
	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution . . . . .	11	96	3,969	721	4,690	27,472	26,794
	Books, printing, binding, etc. . . . .	1	3	180	..	180	900	1,260
	Building . . . . .	4	9	152	7	159	1,006	904
	(a) Coal mining . . . . .	79	79	21,989	1,362	23,351	124,089	126,535
	(b) Other mining, quarries, etc. . . . .	8	9	1,821	194	2,015	30,012	29,249
	Railway and tramway services . . . . .	1	1	1,616	..	1,616	9,696	7,760
	Other land transport . . . . .	1	1	11	..	11	44	50
	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . . . .	8	15	536	352	888	10,121	5,743
	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . . . .	3	340	584	330	914	16,530	17,913
	Domestic, hotels, etc. . . . .	1	40	93	..	93	930	608
	Miscellaneous . . . . .	14	19	3,461	154	3,615	18,531	10,188
	Total—Australia* . . . . .	134	616	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731

\* The following disputes commenced in, and were uncompleted at the end of the year 1930, and in respect of "Number", "Establishments" and "Workpeople" are duplicated in the figures for 1931. viz. :—

State.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.		
			Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
New South Wales . . . . .	3	3	556	99	655
Queensland . . . . .	1	20	300	50	350
South Australia . . . . .	1	1	11	6	17
Total . . . . .	5	24	867	155	1,022

3. Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1931.—(i) General.—The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1931 classified according to Industrial Groups. The figures show large decreases compared with those of the previous year as regards number of working days and amount of wages lost. The number of disputes is the lowest recorded for any year during the period covered by the investigation. The tables

show that of the total number of disputes (134) which occurred in 1931, no less than 87 were in connexion with the mining industry, and of these, 70 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £227,731. The loss through 69 disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £111,378, or 49 per cent. of the total loss in wages for Australia.

(ii) *Details regarding Principal Disputes.*—There were no disputes of outstanding magnitude during 1931.

The losses in working days for all disputes during the year amounted to 245,991, the lowest figure recorded for any annual period during the investigation. Previous to 1931 the lowest figure was recorded in 1918 when the number of working days lost was 539,593. Brief particulars of the disputes mainly responsible for losses in working days and wages during 1931 are given below :—

*New South Wales.*—A dispute at the Coalcliffs colliery which commenced in June, 1930, was not settled until March, 1931. The dispute arose over filling rates for machine cut coal and the refusal of claims for the re-employment of men who had been given notice of dismissal. Despite negotiations between the parties the dispute remained unsettled at the end of the year 1930. A compulsory conference under the Commonwealth Act was held in February but was adjourned on the understanding that the parties would consider a proposal of the Judge to submit the matters in dispute for arbitration to the Commonwealth Conciliation Commissioner. The proposal was accepted, but at the request of the parties the Commissioner sat as a private arbitrator. As a result of the arbitration the parties agreed to a compromise on the matters in dispute and work was resumed after a stoppage of nine months.

A stoppage of work occurred in August at the State Coal Mine, Lithgow, because of the proposal of the Railway Commissioners to reduce wages under the provisions of the Salaries Reduction Act, as the Commissioners considered that production costs at the mine should be reduced. The dispute was taken up by the Premier, who succeeded in arranging a settlement on the basis that each miner would increase his daily output by one skip per day. In consideration of the increased output, the provision of the Salaries Reduction Act would not operate. The colliery was idle for about three weeks.

At the Zinc Corporation South Blocks' Mine, Broken Hill, in July, a proposal for the reduction of contract rates to a party of miners caused a stoppage of work for ten weeks. The Company agreed to provide work elsewhere for the party concerned in the dispute, but refused to pay the rate previously paid.

In October, a serious dislocation of interstate shipping arose out of a dispute concerning the dismissal of a relief fireman on S.S. *Canberra*. Vessels were held up in Sydney and Newcastle, and the trouble extended to Melbourne, Adelaide and Fremantle where other vessels were laid up. The strike lasted for approximately three weeks—a settlement being effected at a compulsory conference under the Commonwealth Arbitration and Conciliation Act presided over by the Chief Judge.

*Victoria.*—Two disputes involving employees in the meat industry occurred in this State during the year—the first occurred about the end of April owing to a refusal of slaughtermen at about 70 establishments to accept a reduction in wages as provided by a determination of the Wages Board. Early in May, the Assistant Minister for Labour proposed terms of settlement. These were not accepted by the employees, but after further negotiations the original terms were accepted, i.e., the rates under the determination were to apply, but the quarterly reduction of 2s. owing to the fall in the cost of living figures was not to operate from the 1st May, and was to be restored to those automatically reduced under the Commonwealth Arbitration Court Award.

The other dispute occurred in October, concerning a “go slow” policy as a protest against the existing rates of wages provided in an agreement. A rank and file committee took control of the dispute. At a conference, the meat exporters suggested terms of settlement, a compromise being effected, the existing agreement being extended to the end of 1932.

*Queensland.*—A serious dispute occurred in November, involving railway employees at Townsville owing to the dismissal of certain shunters who refused to handle a truck of ore from one of the mines, the ore having been declared “black”—1,600 men ceased work as a protest against the dismissals. The Government passed the Railway Strike and Public Preservation Act, dismissing all strikers. The dispute, after six days, was declared “off” by the men, re-employment was left to the discretion of the Railways Commissioner.

A dispute involving employees in the principal meat works in the State occurred in July. After stop-work meetings held on the 8th July, as a protest against a reduction in wages by the State Industrial Court affecting employees in the export section of the industry, work ceased at a number of establishments, and was not resumed for about a week. At an informal conference of employers and employees held at the invitation of the Premier a proposal for re-opening the works to treat stock on hand was made. It was agreed that the proposal should be considered at a mass meeting of the employees, who decided to resume work.

A dispute as to the tonnage rates for machine-mined coal occurred at the State Coal Mine, Collinsville, in September—the dispute did not terminate for about three weeks—the men ultimately accepting the Mines Department's rates and conditions.

*Western Australia.*—A stoppage of work occurred among employees in the Fremantle Wool stores in November, consequent on a reduction of wages under an order by the State Arbitration Court under the provisions of the Financial Emergency Act in addition to the basic wage reduction. Stop-work meetings were held, the matter eventually being left to the Disputes Committee for negotiation with the Employers' Federation. Numerous conferences called by the President of the Arbitration Court followed without success, and the Secretary and members of the union were prosecuted before

the Police Court with having taken part in a strike and were convicted and fined. The men resumed under terms suggested by the President of the Arbitration Court as follows:—

“That, pending the Arbitration Court’s decision, the employers pay the difference between the rates specified in the Industrial agreement as varied by the Court’s orders under the Financial Emergency Act and the rates now payable under the said agreement as modified by the current basic wage declaration, provided—(a) the men return to work forthwith; (b) that the union immediately lodges appeals against the said orders, and undertakes to abide by the Court’s decision thereon, without any further cessation of work; (c) the Court to proceed to hear the said appeals immediately.”

On the 24th December, the President of the State Arbitration Court cancelled the orders previously made in favour of the wool firms.

A reduction of 8s. per week in the State basic wage which the Kurrawang Woodline Company proposed to introduce in July caused a stoppage of work involving wood cutters supplying the Company. The matter was referred to the State Arbitration Court, resulting in the piece workers losing their annual holiday pay per fortnight, but not suffering any reduction in pay for day work. The hours of work were increased from 44 to 48 per week.

In September, owing to the “seniority” question, employees of the same Company refused to work, alleging victimization of old employees in the previous dispute. The Company stated that the men were dismissed as they finished cutting their block, as had been the practice. After meeting the union, the Company decided to recognize right of service, and, so far as possible, to re-engage the dismissed men.

*Tasmania.*—The only serious dispute in this State occurred in April at the Seymour Colliery, over the question of regular payment of wages and arrears. After many conferences, most of the amount due was paid, but, owing to shortage of orders, the mine closed down permanently.

4. **Industrial Disputes, 1927 to 1931.**—(i) *Australia.*—The following table shows in industrial groups the number of industrial disputes, the number of workpeople involved, the losses in working days and wages for each of the years 1927 to 1931, and the aggregate for the whole period:—

• **Industrial Disputes—Australia.**

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Bulking. (Group VII.)	Mining. (Group VIII.)		Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			Coal- Mining.	Other Mining.			
NUMBER.							
1927 ..	60	19	271	14	41	36	441
1928 ..	28	6	190	4	42	17	287
1929 ..	29	8	193	11	9	9	259
1930 ..	27	..	126	4	5	21	183
1931 ..	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1927-31 ..	159	37	859	41	107	101	1,304

## Industrial Disputes.—Australia—continued.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining. Group VIII.)		Transport, Land and Sea (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			Coal- Mining.	Other Mining.			

## WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1927 ..	11,368	9,690	130,911	1,855	42,487	4,446	200,757
1928 ..	3,304	290	72,267	237	17,992	2,332	96,422
1929 ..	25,364	732	68,751	8,015	1,286	456	104,504
1930 ..	6,034	..	49,336	851	2,610	4,391	54,222
1931 ..	5,005	159	23,351	2,015	2,515	4,622	37,667
1927-31 ..	51,075	10,871	335,616	12,973	66,890	1,6247	493,672

## WORKING DAYS LOST.

1927 ..	168,432	342,649	848,823	19,956	304,586	29,135	1,713,581
1928 ..	71,803	3,419	315,121	1,124	367,271	18,540	777,278
1929 ..	1,896,091	4,456	2,496,028	31,748	30,237	2,918	4,461,478
1930 ..	77,232	..	1,328,142	3,798	46,427	55,642	1,511,241
1931 ..	29,032	1,006	124,089	36,012	19,861	35,991	245,991
1927-31 ..	2,242,590	351,530	5,112,203	92,638	768,382	142,226	8,709,569

## ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927 ..	138,418	293,792	995,891	13,689	210,214	24,692	1,676,696
1928 ..	61,160	3,225	377,586	1,069	317,337	14,982	775,359
1929 ..	1,680,629	5,060	2,810,623	36,468	33,971	2,554	4,569,395
1930 ..	73,126	..	1,398,706	5,111	48,304	67,995	1,592,342
1931 ..	28,694	901	126,535	29,249	13,553	28,799	227,731
1927-31 ..	1,982,027	302,978	5,709,341	85,586	623,379	138,122	8,841,433

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.). During the year 1931 these disputes represented 59 per cent. of the total for the year, as compared with 69 per cent. in 1930.

During the past five years, working days lost through dislocations of work, involving workpeople engaged in coal-mining numbered 5,112,203 representing 59 per cent. of the total loss of working days for the period. The majority of these disputes involved employees in the coal-mining districts of New South Wales. In making any comparison as to the number and magnitude of disputes in this particular class, it should be noted that the number of workers engaged in the coal-mining industry is very much larger in New South Wales than in any of the other States. A serious dispute, involving timber workers in the States of New South Wales and Victoria, was responsible for the higher figures relating to working days and wages lost in the Manufacturing Group during the year 1929.

(ii) *States*.—The number of industrial disputes in each State during the years 1927 to 1931, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages are given hereunder.

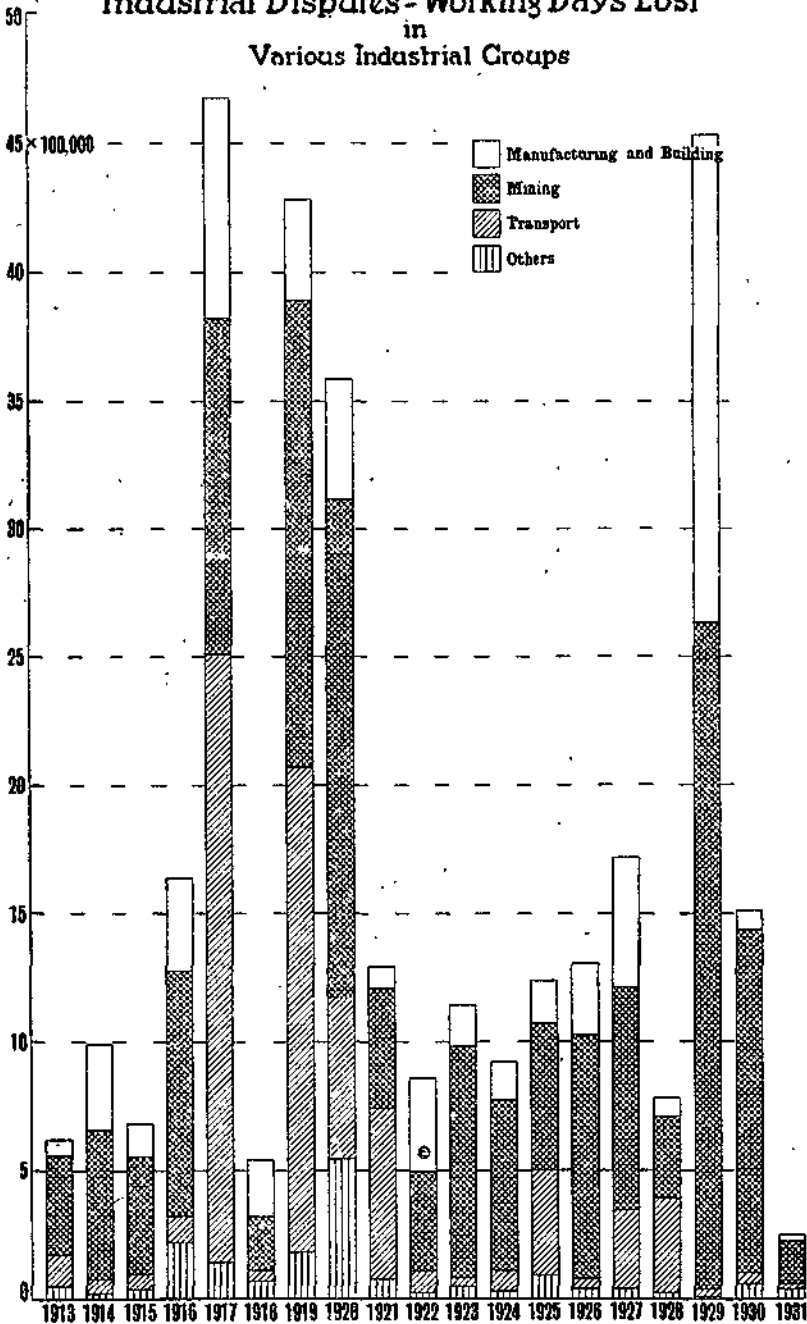
**Industrial Disputes—States.**

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
New South Wales	1927	339	470	108,116	40,425	148,541	1,133,963	£ 1,230,060
	1928	230	313	70,303	10,119	80,422	480,394	521,768
	1929	231	513	75,197	4,152	79,349	3,146,038	3,421,412
	1930	156	384	46,418	2,151	48,569	1,443,366	1,516,296
	1931	87	131	21,002	1,801	22,803	136,937	133,068
Victoria	1927	24	36	8,937	284	9,221	54,367	44,470
	1928	21	51	4,309	1,567	5,876	110,659	96,454
	1929	11	320	8,893	12,719	21,612	1,296,676	1,130,565
	1930	5	5	385	23	408	7,744	7,228
	1931	10	92	4,022	621	4,643	27,862	24,884
Queensland	1927	30	376	29,594	640	30,234	428,135	325,884
	1928	12	329	2,958	670	3,628	70,764	62,008
	1929	4	23	1,691	8	1,699	3,443	3,379
	1930	10	31	1,561	70	1,631	9,881	11,059
	1931	15	358	5,079	642	5,721	51,096	47,415
South Australia	1927	19	24	6,517	1,359	7,876	51,284	40,266
	1928	8	40	2,257	1,211	3,468	54,815	45,999
	1929	2	21	432	40	472	9,040	7,910
	1930	7	246	2,870	6	2,876	22,778	22,987
	1931	5	5	160	6	166	655	582
Western Australia	1927	20	25	3,345	47	3,392	23,819	19,944
	1928	11	62	2,106	421	2,527	54,896	43,472
	1929	4	8	827	50	877	2,672	2,771
	1930	2	26	468	..	468	27,072	3,378
	1931	13	26	3,878	50	3,928	24,022	15,829
Tasmania	1927	6	6	354	421	775	14,950	9,182
	1928	4	8	371	84	455	5,595	5,508
	1929	6	40	333	142	475	3,409	3,068
	1930	3	3	270	..	270	400	394
	1931	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,278
Northern Territory	1927	2	2	338	..	338	5,163	4,753
	1928	1	1	45	..	45	135	150
	1929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	2	2	245	..	245	910	675
Fed. Cap. Territory	1927	1	5	380	..	380	1,900	2,137
	1928	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1929	1	1	20	..	20	200	200
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	1927	441	944	157,581	43,176	200,757	1,713,581	1,676,696
	1928	287	804	62,349	14,073	76,422	777,278	775,359
	1929	259	926	87,493	17,111	104,604	4,461,478	4,569,305
	1930	183	695	51,972	2,250	54,222	1,511,241	1,592,342
	1931	(a) 134	616	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731

(a) See footnote page 89.

**5. Duration of Disputes.**—(i) *General*.—The duration of each industrial dispute involving a loss of work, i.e., the period which expires between the cessation and resumption of work, is for statistical purposes computed in working days, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, except in those cases where the establishment involved carries on a continuous process (e.g., Metal Smelting and Cement Manufacture). The following limitations of time have been adopted:—(a) One day or less; (b) two days and more than one day; (c) three days and more than two days; (d) over three days and under six days (the latter considered as constituting one week); (e) one week and under two weeks; (f) two weeks and under four weeks; (g) four weeks and under eight weeks; and (h) eight weeks and over.

### Industrial Disputes - Working Days Lost in Various Industrial Groups



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 2,300,000 in Transport, and about 150,000 in other industries.



(ii) *Australia—1927 to 1931.*—Particulars of industrial disputes, according to limits of duration, for Australia for the years 1927 to 1931 are given in the table appended :—

**Duration of Industrial Disputes—Australia.**

Limits of Duration.	Year.	Number.	Workpeople Involved			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
			Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less	1927	162	48,827	5,826	54,653	54,613	£ 64,895
	1928	119	41,892	3,511	45,403	44,781	52,576
	1929	127	41,299	828	42,127	47,869	55,514
	1930	81	21,031	335	21,366	20,907	22,975
	1931	45	12,776	1,234	14,010	13,810	14,791
2 days and more than 1 day	1927	54	14,820	1,060	15,880	30,153	33,859
	1928	29	11,038	458	11,496	22,992	27,056
	1929	31	7,942	528	8,470	15,697	16,631
	1930	27	5,315	298	5,613	11,055	12,422
	1931	16	3,940	192	4,042	8,054	7,303
3 days and more than 2 days	1927	42	12,718	2,236	14,954	41,993	44,822
	1928	22	4,412	28	4,440	13,225	15,365
	1929	21	5,217	300	5,517	16,327	18,865
	1930	14	2,454	18	2,472	7,398	7,760
	1931	13	4,122	7	4,129	12,373	7,295
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days)	1927	41	10,370	1,175	11,545	52,708	57,751
	1928	18	2,490	235	2,725	11,372	12,756
	1929	31	7,721	799	8,520	34,049	38,949
	1930	15	3,233	105	3,338	14,193	16,774
	1931	18	4,615	233	4,848	22,786	22,173
1 week and less than 2 weeks	1927	60	54,722	3,676	58,398	444,500	380,956
	1928	33	4,891	657	5,548	50,642	52,982
	1929	23	5,540	201	5,741	47,784	51,893
	1930	20	2,897	492	3,389	25,018	25,245
	1931	19	4,552	683	5,235	40,782	37,469
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	1927	49	6,162	17,209	23,371	305,469	304,653
	1928	33	6,659	1,777	8,436	132,366	150,634
	1929	11	1,506	239	1,745	27,752	28,454
	1930	12	2,895	419	3,314	47,444	53,860
	1931	11	2,997	599	3,596	48,940	42,522
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	1927	25	9,018	11,870	20,888	658,908	664,597
	1928	19	9,300	3,427	12,727	322,445	290,830
	1929	5	154	37	191	5,262	5,812
	1930	6	2,668	360	3,028	73,514	70,453
	1931	8	907	233	1,140	38,323	34,840
8 weeks and over	1927	8	944	124	1,068	125,327	125,163
	1928	14	1,667	3,980	5,647	179,455	173,160
	1929	10	18,114	14,179	32,293	4,266,738	4,353,187
	1930	8	11,479	223	11,702	1,311,712	1,382,853
	1931	4	632	125	757	60,923	61,278
Total	1927	441	157,581	43,176	200,757	1,713,581	1,676,696
	1928	287	82,349	14,073	96,422	777,278	775,359
	1929	259	87,493	17,111	104,604	4,461,478	4,569,395
	1930	183	51,972	2,250	54,222	1,511,241	1,594,342
	1931	134	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731

**6. Causes of Industrial Disputes.**—(i) *General.*—The reasons alleged by employers and employees for a stoppage of work do not in every instance agree in detail. In such instances additional information is sought to verify or support the contention of either side. On occasions, the alleged reason is of a twofold character, and, where this is the case, the claim which is fully or

partially satisfied and results in a resumption of work is taken to be the principal cause of the dispute. For the purpose of classification these causes (or objects) of industrial disputes are grouped under seven main headings, viz. :—(1) Wages; (2) hours of labour; (3) trade unionism; (4) employment of particular classes or persons; (5) working conditions; (6) sympathy; and (7) other causes.\* The first five groups are subdivided to meet the varying phases of the causes of disputes under each of the main headings.

(ii) *Causes in Australia, 1913 to 1931.*—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes classified according to causes for Australia for the years specified.

## Causes of Industrial Disputes.—Australia.

Cause of Disputes.	1913.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
NUMBER.								
1. Wages—								
(a) For increase ..	42	33	23	24	8	8		4
(b) Against decrease ..	4	5	5	4	3	6	9	17
(c) Other wage questions ..	31	99	67	66	39	45	44	16
2. Hours of Labour—								
(a) For reduction ..	3	4	13	14	2	6	4	2
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	7	6	2	4	2	2		
3. Trade Unionism—								
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	8	8	5	12	6	3		1
(b) Other union questions ..	5	27	22	24	11	12	20	4
4. Employment of particular classes or persons ..	44	118	108	152	105	87	48	50
5. Working conditions ..	31	106	46	72	48	31	27	22
6. Sympathetic ..	3	16	8	5	9	6	11	5
7. Other causes ..	8	77	61	64	54	53	20	13
Total ..	208	499	360	441	287	259	183	134

## WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1. Wages—								
(a) For increase ..	8,633	23,443	17,046	7,316	4,775	1,414		2,053
(b) Against decrease ..	563	1,123	1,275	300	1,317	10,532	12,824	7,108
(c) Other wage questions ..	7,160	31,387	18,883	20,297	17,057	8,742	12,686	3,999
2. Hours of Labour—								
(a) For reduction ..	460	462	9,730	7,813	61	21,646	4,334	192
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	1,819	2,668	290	288	1,005	2,067		
3. Trade Unionism—								
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,370	1,592	125	4,432	193	103		9
(b) Other union questions ..	1,418	10,937	3,790	25,848	2,311	4,357	4,160	2,240
4. Employment of particular classes or persons ..	11,370	36,075	25,165	55,174	35,379	22,933	7,751	12,023
5. Working conditions ..	10,785	35,034	12,889	29,766	14,169	4,672	4,276	6,659
6. Sympathetic ..	947	5,328	3,499	1,484	6,123	11,004	4,010	1,053
7. Other causes ..	1,758	28,677	20,342	48,039	16,032	16,544	4,181	2,331
Total ..	50,283	176,746	113,034	200,747	96,422	104,604	54,222	37,667

\* The heading, "Other causes" has been adopted to meet various sets of circumstances which mainly arise in connexion with stoppages which are not concerted movements, and include among others the following :—(a) During the course of a meeting of miners, the wheelers return their horses to the stables and leave the colliery; (b) disputes (not necessarily connected with industrial matters which the employer can control) arise between wheelers and clippers, or any two sets of workers, and sufficient workmen are not available to work the mine to its full capacity

## Causes of Industrial Disputes.—Australia—continued.

Causes of Disputes.	1913.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
WORKING DAYS LOST.								
1. Wages—								
(a) For increase ..	100,069	209,356	580,183	150,691	6,548	7,433	..	15,425
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	24,352	2,573	2,578	3,824	2,332,157	1,227,808	111,258
(c) Other wage questions	78,183	154,169	82,898	83,831	80,755	47,261	113,102	43,746
2. Hours of Labour—								
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	12,816	280,152	305,782	725	1,887,196	63,583	152
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	15,111	16,173	290	4,487	2,667	3,183	..	..
3. Trade Unionism—								
(a) Against employment of non-unionists	91,002	14,784	1,623	82,156	1,137	424	..	99
(b) Other union questions	32,388	105,195	15,607	204,802	8,900	49,924	50,225	11,752
4. Employment of particular classes or persons ..	191,723	214,738	114,917	310,425	423,555	78,492	24,683	38,567
5. Working conditions ..	73,562	150,323	123,390	303,788	98,852	8,545	8,551	17,106
6. Sympathetic ..	24,066	41,046	38,381	3,573	106,358	23,482	17,648	4,070
7. Other causes ..	5,212	185,616	70,247	261,468	42,957	23,381	5,641	3,816
Total ..	623,528	1,128,570	1,310,261	1,713,581	777,278	4,461,478	5,511,241	245,991

The main causes of industrial disputes are "wage" questions, "working conditions," and "employment of particular classes or persons."

The number of disputes concerning "wages" in 1931 was 37, representing 28 per cent. of the total disputes. Under the heading "Employment of particular classes or persons" are stoppages of work for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of fellow workpeople who were considered to have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs frequently in the coal-mining industry. Disputes over "Employment" questions in 1931 numbered 50, or 37 per cent. of the total, and over "Working Conditions" 22, or 16 per cent. Disputes classified under these three headings numbered 109, or 81 per cent. of the total dislocations during the year.

7. Results of Industrial Disputes.—(i) General.—The terms or conditions under which a resumption of work is agreed upon are taken as the basis of the result of the dispute. They come within one or other of the following four classes, viz. :—

- (a) In favour of workpeople; (b) In favour of employer; (c) Compromise; (d) Indefinite.

Disputes are considered to result :—(a) In favour of workpeople, when the employees succeed in enforcing compliance with all their demands, or are substantially successful in attaining their principal object, or in resisting a demand made by their employers; (b) In favour of employer, when the demands of the employees are not conceded, or when the employer or employers are substantially successful in enforcing a demand; (c) Compromise, when the employees are successful in enforcing compliance with a part of their demands or in resisting substantially full compliance with the demands of their employer or employers; (d) Indefinite, when, for example, employees

stop work owing to some misconception regarding the terms of an award, determination, or agreement, and work is resumed as usual on the matters in dispute being explained; or in cases where a dispute arises in connexion with certain work which is, however, abandoned, even though the employees return to the same establishment to be employed on other work. The results of "Sympathetic" disputes, in which a body of workers cease work with the object of assisting another body of workers in obtaining compliance with some demand, are generally "Indefinite" except when the stoppage is entered upon partially to enforce a demand in which these workers might ultimately benefit.

(ii) *Results in each State, 1931.*—The following table shows the industrial disputes during 1931, classified according to results.

**Industrial Disputes—States, Results, 1931(a).**

State or Territory.	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.
New South Wales	16	55	16	..	3,795	15,594	3,414	..	21,987	78,428	35,622	..
Victoria	1	..	2	..	92	3,301	1,250	..	552	17,560	9,750	..
Queensland	3	..	3	..	593	4,741	285	..	2,877	38,879	2,508	..
South Australia	..	..	1	..	..	149	17	..	..	273	442	..
Western Australia	4	..	2	..	1,151	2,397	326	..	15,576	6,926	680	..
Tasmania	1	..	1	..	41	..	120	..	5,289	..	120	..
N. Territory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
F.C. Territory	2	..	..	..	345	..	..	..	910	..	..	..
Total, Aust. a b	27	80	25	..	5,917	26,182	5,406	..	47,191	142,006	49,222	..

(a) The following are the particulars of disputes which were incomplete at the 31st December, 1931, which should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding tables:—

State.	Number.	Estabs. Involved.	Workpeople.	Working Days Lost.	Wages
Queensland	1	1	102	6,732	£ 5,960
Western Australia	1	6	60	840	756
Total	2	7	162	7,572	6,725

(b) See note to table on page 89.

(iii) *Australia, 1931.*—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the total number of working days lost, in disputes in Australia during the year 1931, classified according to cause and result of dispute.

## Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, Australia, 1931.

Classified according to Causes and Results.	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.
Wages—												
(a) For increase	1	2	1	..	376	477	1,200	..	376	5,449	9,600	..
(b) Against decrease	5	10	..	..	1,622	5,324	..	..	25,118	78,568	..	..
(c) Other Wage questions	2	10	4	..	91	3,295	613	..	7,039	11,065	25,642	..
Hours of Labour—												
(a) For reduction	..	1	1	..	..	28	164	..	..	70	82	..
(b) Other disputes re hours	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trade Unionism—												
(a) Against employment of non-unionists	1	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	99	..	..	..
(b) Other union questions	2	2	..	..	534	1,706	..	..	1,336	10,416	..	..
Employment of particular Classes or Persons	14	23	23	..	3,140	6,499	2,384	..	11,613	18,114	8,840	..
Working conditions	..	18	4	..	..	5,932	727	..	..	13,366	3,740	..
Sympathetic	..	4	1	..	..	803	250	..	..	2,820	1,250	..
Other Causes	2	10	1	..	145	2,118	68	..	1,610	2,138	68	..
Total a b	27	80	25	..	5,917	26,182	5,406	..	47,191	142,006	49,222	..

(a) See note to table on page 89.

(b) See note (a) to table on page 99.

(iv) *Australia, 1927 to 1931.*—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the number of working days lost in disputes in Australia during the five years 1927–1931, classified according to results :—

## Industrial Disputes—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.
1927..	88	307	35	5	28,005	152,429	18,571	995	207,009	1,198,163	294,102	10,285
1928..	39	228	14	1	7,362	85,306	2,814	178	55,757	674,076	16,309	178
1929..	70	135	44	5	11,200	69,859	7,150	15,304	38,943	4,315,760	43,174	26,302
1930..	36	117	24	1	4,133	45,204	3,343	520	13,497	1,358,044	25,177	13,000
1931 (a)	27	80	25	..	5,917	26,182	5,406	..	47,191	142,006	49,222	..

(a) See note on page 89.

(b) See note to first table on page 99.

The figures for the year 1929 in the table above and in the following table include the number of workpeople involved and the working days lost in 1929 in the dispute on the Northern Coalfield of New South Wales which commenced in March, 1929, and terminated in June, 1930.

Disputes resulting in favour of workpeople exceeded those resulting in favour of employers in the earlier years, but latterly the position has been reversed. The percentage in favour of employers in 1931 was 61. Many of the disputes in the coal-mining industry are of short duration, and the records show that the workpeople resumed work on antecedent conditions without apparently gaining any concessions. These disputes have been classified as terminating in favour of the employer. A number of disputes in each year resulted in a compromise, while in certain cases the heading "Indefinite" had to be adopted.

8. **Methods of Settlement.**—(i) *General.*—Methods of settlement have been classified under the following six headings:—

- (i) By negotiation.
- (ii) Under State Industrial Act.
- (iii) Under Commonwealth Arbitration Act.
- (iv) By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out.
- (v) By closing down establishments permanently.
- (vi) By other methods.

Each of the first five methods indicates some definite action. The sixth, "Other Methods," is more or less indefinite, and is connected with "Other Causes" and mainly relates to resumptions of work at collieries at the next shift, the cause of the stoppages not being in all cases made known officially to the management.

(ii) *Australia, 1913 and 1925 to 1931 (a)*—Information for Australia for the years specified is given hereunder:—

**Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes—Australia.**

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.(b).
<b>NUMBER OF DISPUTES.</b>								
<b>Negotiation—</b>								
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	209	166	229	138	130	134	88
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	17	24	16	18	8	8	5	3
<b>Under State Industrial Act—</b>								
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference	19	12	8	13	10	3	6	11
By reference to Board or Court	22	2	10	19	8	1	2	1
<b>Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—</b>								
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference	4	13	13	19	6	6		4
<b>By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out</b>	13	4	8	5	10	7	9	2
<b>By Closing down Establishment permanently</b>	1	1		10	3	3	1	2
<b>By other methods</b>	13	226	135	122	99	96	23	21
<b>Total</b>	208	491	356	435	282	254	178	(b) 132

(a) See note page 89.

(b) See note page 99.

## Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes—Australia—continued.

Methods of Settlement.	1913	1925.	1926	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931
<b>WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.</b>								
<b>Negotiation—</b>								
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives ..	23,357	75,961	44,995	94,070	37,708	32,393	40,804	22,292
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act ..	3,172	12,767	17,072	5,839	1,242	19,161	196	1,885
<b>Under State Industrial Act—</b>								
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference ..	6,505	1,781	936	3,763	2,009	487	3,476	3,871
By reference to Board or Court ..	12,774	208	684	4,314	2,975	56	184	42
<b>Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—</b>								
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference ..	659	3,251	4,332	33,517	1,497	511	..	1,083
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out ..	658	160	245	533	11,047	5,411	2,940	222
By Closing down Establishment permanently ..	170	28	..	1,104	266	144	40	52
By other methods ..	2,988	81,158	44,325	56,860	38,916	45,350	5,560	8,058
Total ..	50,283	175,314	112,589	200,000	95,660	103,513	53,200	37,505
<b>WORKING DAYS LOST.</b>								
<b>Negotiation—</b>								
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives ..	94,400	470,110	417,158	700,068	273,254	2,417,171	1,289,487	109,601
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act ..	26,335	320,046	549,427	100,148	36,937	1,279,258	2,893	2,645
<b>Under State Industrial Act—</b>								
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference ..	187,871	17,650	11,281	80,815	38,878	5,261	56,648	25,257
By reference to Board or Court ..	221,769	4,338	8,744	60,236	29,533	56	1,272	252
<b>Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—</b>								
By intervention, assistance or compulsory conference ..	2,105	67,272	134,841	305,303	3,962	1,882	..	30,317
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out ..	14,139	1,163	2,865	9,706	266,369	610,686	34,612	27,042
By Closing down Establishment permanently ..	20,400	1,932	..	30,289	750	9,861	80	5,355
By other methods ..	36,509	180,665	118,580	422,094	96,637	100,004	24,726	37,970
Total ..	623,528	1,063,176	1,242,896	1,709,559	746,320	4,424,179	1,409,718	238,419

In each of the years included above, with the exception of the year 1925, direct negotiation between employers and employees settled the majority of the disputes. During the year 1913, 57 per cent. of the total number of dislocations were settled in this manner, and the percentages in subsequent years varied between 53 in 1923, and 71 in 1915, the proportion in 1931 amounting to 67 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large numbers of disputes classified as settled "By other methods," a large number of stoppages of work occur each year, principally at the collieries, without any cause being brought officially under the notice of the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed on the following morning without negotiation.

9. **Interstate Disputes.**—Disputes which extend beyond the limits of a single State, while necessarily 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 and the submission to the principle that the objectives of one section of unionists must not be prejudiced by another section.

During the year 1931, one dispute of an interstate character occurred, involving seamen and others on vessels engaged in the interstate shipping trade. The dispute arose over the dismissal of a relief fireman, and vessels were held up in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and other ports, the dislocation lasting for about three weeks. A settlement was effected at a Compulsory Conference held under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Particulars of interstate disputes during past years have been published in Labour Report, No. 20, and in previous issues.

## § 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. **General.**—The collection by this Bureau of information relating to unemployment was initiated in 1912, when special inquiries were forwarded to officials of trade unions throughout Australia for particulars for that year, and for information relating to previous years, as far back as 1891.

Since that year information concerning the extent of unemployment of trade unionists has been collected at quarterly periods, and the results of the investigations have been published in the Official Year Book, Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics, and the Labour Reports. The Bureau is greatly indebted to the responsible officials of the various unions for the kindly readiness with which they supplied available data.

The particulars in the following tables are based on information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions, and the number of members of unions regularly reporting has now reached over 430,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions whose members are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, shearers, etc.). Very few unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are in close touch with the members and with the state of trade in their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and employers apply to the union officials when labour is required. Provision is also made in the rules for members out of work to pay reduced subscriptions. It may, therefore, be claimed that percentage results based on trade union information fairly show the general trend of unemployment.

Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been recorded by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

2. **Unemployment.**—(i) *States, 1931.*—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. The figures in the following tables do not include persons out of work through strikes and lock-outs :—

#### Unemployment—States, 1931.

State	Unions Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales .. .. .	113	186,789	57,472	30.8
Victoria .. .. .	81	122,726	31,674	25.8
Queensland .. .. .	46	52,416	8,453	16.2
South Australia .. .. .	58	32,108	10,432	32.5
Western Australia .. .. .	63	26,537	7,249	27.3
Tasmania .. .. .	36	9,428	2,586	27.4
Australia .. .. .	397	430,004	117,866	27.4

(ii) *Australia, 1891 to 1932 (3rd Quarter).*—The following table gives particulars for Australia for the years 1891 to 1932 (3rd Quarter) in respect of :—

- (a) The number of unions for which returns as to unemployment are available, (b) The number of members of such unions, (c) The number of members unemployed, and (d) The percentage of members unemployed on total number of members.

#### Unemployment.—Australia.

PARTICULARS.	Unions.	Number of Members.	UNEMPLOYED.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1891 end of year .. .. .	25	6,445	599	9.3
1896 " " .. .. .	25	4,227	457	10.8
1901 " " .. .. .	39	8,710	574	6.6
1907 " " .. .. .	51	13,179	757	5.7
1908 " " .. .. .	68	18,685	1,117	6.0
1909 " " .. .. .	84	21,122	1,223	5.8
1910 " " .. .. .	109	32,995	1,857	5.6
1911 " " .. .. .	160	67,961	3,171	4.7
1912 " " .. .. .	404	224,023	12,441	5.6
1913 (average for year) ..	462	246,068	16,054	6.5
1914 " " .. .. .	459	268,938	22,344	8.3
1915 " " .. .. .	470	276,215	25,663	9.3
1916 " " .. .. .	473	290,075	16,783	5.8
1917 " " .. .. .	450	286,811	20,334	7.1
1918 " " .. .. .	478	299,793	17,536	5.8
1919 " " .. .. .	464	310,145	20,507	6.6
1920 " " .. .. .	447	341,967	22,105	6.5
1921 " " .. .. .	449	361,744	40,549	11.2
1922 " " .. .. .	445	380,998	35,238	9.3
1923 " " .. .. .	436	376,557	26,672	7.1
1924 " " .. .. .	413	397,613	35,507	8.9
1925 " " .. .. .	380	391,380	34,620	8.8

## Unemployment.—Australia—continued.

PARTICULARS.	Unions.	Number of Members.	UNEMPLOYED.	
			Number	Percentage.
1926 (average for year) ..	374	415,397	29,326	7.1
1927 " " ..	375	445,985	31,032	7.0
1928 " " ..	375	423,422	45,669	10.8
1929 " " ..	382	424,093	47,359	11.1
1930 " " ..	395	438,874	84,767	19.3
1931 " " ..	397	430,004	117,866	27.4
1929 1st Quarter ..	375	420,756	39,159	9.3
2nd " ..	376	409,593	40,996	10.0
3rd " ..	388	433,388	52,480	12.1
4th " ..	390	432,727	56,801	13.1
1930 1st " ..	392	432,464	63,144	14.6
2nd " ..	394	435,239	80,595	18.5
3rd " ..	396	439,971	99,379	20.5
4th " ..	399	447,822	104,951	23.4
1931 1st " ..	397	440,234	113,614	25.8
2nd " ..	397	429,687	118,424	27.6
3rd " ..	396	426,603	120,694	28.3
4th " ..	396	423,493	118,732	28.0
1932 1st " ..	395	425,094	120,366	28.3
2nd " ..	396	413,742	124,068	30.0
3rd " ..	395	412,997	122,340	29.6

3. Unemployment by Industries.—(i) *Australia, 1931.*—The following table shows the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries in which employment is stable—such as railways or occupations in which employment is subject to exceptional fluctuations—such as wharf labour, agricultural, pastoral, etc., are insufficiently represented in the returns, owing to the impossibility of securing the necessary information from the trade unions. Particulars are not, therefore, shown separately for these groups, such returns as are available being included in the last group, "Other and Miscellaneous."

## Unemployment in Industrial Groups—Australia, 1931.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
Manufacturing—				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	17	19,461	6,477	33.3
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63	76,018	22,853	30.1
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	51	36,143	7,165	19.9
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	23	35,645	9,224	25.9
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	13	19,383	2,758	14.3
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	66	40,235	17,515	43.5
VII. Building ..	47	53,126	17,588	33.1
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	21	27,477	9,087	33.1
X. Land Transport other than Railway and Tramway services	12	17,843	4,302	24.2
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., Other and Miscellaneous ..	84	104,673	20,897	20.0
All Groups ..	397	430,004	117,866	27.4

(ii) *Australia, 1912, and Quarterly, 1930 to 1932.*—The following table gives for various industrial groups the percentages of members of trade unions returned as unemployed during fourth quarter of 1930 to the third quarter of 1932. The percentage of unemployed at the end of 1912 is also inserted for purposes of comparison.

**Unemployment.—Australia, Percentages by Industries.**

Industrial Group	1912. End of Year.	1930.		1931.				1932.		
		4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	
<b>Manufacturing—</b>										
I. Wood, Furniture etc. . . . .	3.7	29.4	31.1	33.3	34.0	34.8	36.6	39.6	39.4	
II. Engineering, Metal Works . . . .	7.4	25.2	27.7	30.2	31.2	31.2	31.1	33.9	32.9	
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . . .	7.3	16.8	17.4	20.7	20.5	20.4	17.1	19.4	20.7	
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . . .	6.3	22.5	25.9	26.7	27.4	23.7	22.8	22.6	21.3	
V. Books, Printing, etc. . . . .	2.8	10.1	12.6	14.4	15.0	15.0	15.4	16.8	16.7	
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	6.9	38.7	42.3	44.3	45.0	42.5	42.5	43.0	41.3	
VII. Building . . . . .	5.5	27.9	30.4	32.6	33.5	36.0	37.0	42.1	41.6	
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . . . .	5.6	28.8	32.4	32.7	33.7	33.5	33.5	34.2	35.6	
X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	1.1	18.5	21.9	24.0	25.5	25.2	27.1	29.6	29.9	
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., Other and Miscellaneous . . . . .	5.4	17.7	19.3	19.9	20.5	20.2	21.4	22.0	22.0	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> . . . . .	5.6	23.4	25.8	27.6	28.3	28.0	28.3	30.0	29.6	

4. **Unemployment.—States.**—The results of the quarterly investigations as to unemployment in the years 1913 to 1919 were published in Labour Reports Nos. I to II, and in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The following table shows for each State the percentage of members of trade unions returned as unemployed quarterly during the years 1920 to 1932 (3rd Quarter):—

**Unemployment.—States, Percentages Quarterly.**

Period	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1920 3rd Quarter . . . . .	5.2	5.3	13.4	5.9	3.2	3.1	6.2
1921 3rd " . . . . .	12.3	10.2	13.5	6.5	9.2	15.7	11.4
1922 3rd " . . . . .	11.9	7.4	8.6	6.6	11.1	6.7	9.6
1923 3rd " . . . . .	9.3	6.4	6.6	4.6	5.8	3.9	7.4
1924 3rd " . . . . .	13.5	7.8	5.3	5.4	6.1	4.2	9.5
1925 3rd " . . . . .	7.8	9.9	5.4	5.1	6.9	9.3	7.9
1926 3rd " . . . . .	7.4	7.3	8.3	6.6	9.2	15.0	7.6
1927 3rd " . . . . .	5.3	8.1	5.5	8.9	7.1	11.2	6.7
1928 1st " . . . . .	11.8	10.6	7.7	13.1	5.2	13.3	10.7
2nd " . . . . .	10.9	12.2	7.1	16.1	9.5	10.7	11.2
3rd " . . . . .	11.9	11.2	6.8	17.6	8.8	8.2	11.4
4th " . . . . .	10.6	9.6	6.4	13.3	9.2	10.0	9.9
1929 1st " . . . . .	9.7	8.6	7.1	13.2	8.5	8.7	9.3
2nd " . . . . .	10.0	9.4	7.6	14.1	9.8	14.6	10.0
3rd " . . . . .	12.4	13.0	6.2	17.8	9.6	15.0	12.1
4th " . . . . .	13.8	13.5	7.4	17.8	11.8	15.1	13.1
1930 1st " . . . . .	16.3	14.1	8.4	18.6	15.1	7.5	14.6
2nd " . . . . .	21.0	17.6	10.1	21.4	18.7	18.9	18.5
3rd " . . . . .	23.3	19.4	11.6	24.7	18.4	23.4	20.5
4th " . . . . .	26.3	21.9	12.5	28.5	24.6	26.5	23.4
1931 1st " . . . . .	29.2	24.4	14.1	30.6	26.1	26.6	25.8
2nd " . . . . .	30.7	26.5	16.1	32.4	27.1	27.3	27.6
3rd " . . . . .	31.6	26.8	16.9	33.3	27.9	27.3	28.3
4th " . . . . .	31.5	25.6	17.5	33.7	28.1	28.4	28.0
1932 1st " . . . . .	31.8	26.0	18.2	33.1	28.6	27.3	28.3
2nd " . . . . .	33.2	27.7	19.9	35.2	30.3	27.4	30.0
3rd " . . . . .	33.0	27.0	19.3	35.4	30.1	26.9	29.6

5. **Causes of Unemployment.**—In earlier issues of the Labour Report tables were published showing the percentage of members of unions unemployed through—(a) lack of work; (b) sickness and accident; and (c) other causes. The returns from trade unions for past years show that while the percentage unemployed through lack of work has varied considerably according to the state of trade during the period, the percentages of members unemployed through sickness and accident, and through other causes, have remained uniform at 0.7 per cent. and 0.2 per cent., respectively.

6. **Seasonal Employment in Australia.**—An investigation concerning the extent of seasonal employment in Australia was made during 1928. The State Statisticians were invited to furnish brief reports regarding the industries and callings in their respective States subject to seasonal fluctuations, and from the reports received, supplemented by information from other sources, particulars were published in Labour Report, No. 19. The result of inquiries concerning the organization of public works in connexion with unemployment was also published in Report, No. 19.

7. **Special Legislation for Relief of Unemployment.**—(i) *General.*—The position in regard to unemployment in Australia became so serious in 1930 that the usual methods of providing funds for relief work and sustenance were found to be inadequate. The number of unemployed increased rapidly, and the Governments realized that special action was needed to provide additional funds to relieve the distress.

The steps taken by the Governments to provide money for the relief of unemployment, and the legislation enacted during 1930 for that purpose were briefly reviewed in the Annual Labour Report, 1930, No. 21.

Unfortunately, the provision made proved inadequate to meet the situation as the number of employed increased during 1931. The Acts in operation were amended, and higher rates of special taxation were imposed. In the following statement the Acts which came into force during 1931 and 1932 are briefly reviewed.

(ii) **COMMONWEALTH.**—(a) *General.*—The Loan (Unemployment Relief Works) Act, No. 9 of 1932, authorizes the raising of money to the amount of £1,800,000 for assisting the States in the relief of unemployment. The amounts allotted to the States were as follows:—Victoria, £475,000; Queensland, £310,000; South Australia, £195,000; Western Australia, £145,000; Tasmania, £75,000.

(b) *New South Wales.*—Relief of unemployment in New South Wales. Under the Act referred to above the Commonwealth may expend an amount not exceeding £600,000 on works approved by the Employment Council.

(c) *Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Employment.*—An Advisory Committee, composed of five members was appointed by the Commonwealth Government in September, 1932.

The preparation of the agenda for Premiers' Conferences and the following up of decisions and undertakings is one of the functions of the Committee. The operations of the committee do not interfere with or hamper State activities, but render all possible assistance to the States. At the first

meeting of the committee, held on 28th September, 1932, the Minister in charge of Development, stated that the Premiers' Conference decided that a special loan programme of £7,000,000 should be carried out as part of a three-year plan to provide £15,000,000 for reproductive works.

(iii) *New South Wales*.—Legislation during 1931 was as follows:—Unemployment Relief Tax Act, No. 25 of 1931, and Prevention and Relief of Unemployment (Amendment) Act, No. 26 of 1931.

The rates of tax are as follows:—(a) One shilling in the £ of the net assessable income derived by any person or company during the income year ending 30th June, 1931; and (b) one shilling in the £ of the income derived from employment by every person other than a company during the income year commencing on 1st July, 1931. Under the original Act the wage of any employee who was paid less than thirty shillings per week was exempt from the tax, whereas under the amending Act the exemption wage is any wage less than two pounds per week.

Resident taxpayers whose total income from all sources did not exceed £100 per annum were exempt from tax.

(iv) *Victoria*.—Legislation during 1931 was as follows:—The Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Acts, Nos. 3,958, 3,966, 3,973 and 3,982 provided for the relief of unemployment by means of Stamp Duties.

The Unemployment Relief Amendment Act, No. 4,000 of 1931 provided for new schedules of rates on taxable incomes. This Act also provides for advances—free of interest to municipalities out of the Unemployment Fund and for the expenditure from and repayment of such advances.

(v) *Queensland*.—Legislation during 1931, was as follows:—The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts Amendment Act, No. 12 of 1931 approved the continuance of the operation of the Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts of 1930 and increased the rates of such tax.

(vi) *South Australia*.—The Unemployment Relief Council Act, No. 1,965 of 1930, established a Council to devise and execute proposals for the relief of unemployment. The necessary funds were voted by Parliament from the general revenue.

The Collections for Unemployment Act, No. 1,966 of 1930, provided for the control of persons soliciting money or goods for the relief of unemployment.

(vii) *Western Australia*.—Special legislation relating to unemployment was not enacted during 1930 and 1931. The money required for sustenance payments and relief works was provided by the Government, municipal authorities and other bodies.

(viii) *Tasmania*.—Legislation in 1931 is summarized hereunder. The Public Works (Unemployment Relief) Execution Act, No. 5 of 1931, provided for the raising of a sum of £25,000 for the relief of unemployment.

The Unemployment Relief Act, No. 6 of 1931, amended the *Unemployment Relief Act 1930*, and provided for the appropriation of £20,000 for the purposes of the Principal Act.

The Unemployed (Assistance to Primary Producers) Relief Act, No. 21 of 1931, provided for assistance to holders of agricultural land, which, in the opinion of the Board of Management, was not sufficiently developed or improved to provide adequate support for such persons during the full year.

The Unemployed (Assistance to Municipalities) Relief Act, No. 46 of 1931, provided for advances by way of loan to municipalities for the purpose of providing work for unemployed persons.

8. **Unemployment Special Taxation.**—(i) *General.*—The following legislation was enacted for the purpose of providing funds for the relief of unemployment :—

(ii) *New South Wales.*—Unemployment Relief (Tax) Act, No. 25 of 1930 ; Unemployment Relief (Tax) Amendment Act, No. 52 of 1930 ; Unemployment Relief (Tax) Act, No. 25 of 1931 ; and Prevention and Relief of Unemployment (Income from Employment) Act, No. 22 of 1932.

(iii) *Victoria.*—The Unemployment Relief Act, No. 3,866 of 1930 ; The Stamps (Unemployment) Relief Tax Act, No. 3,868 of 1930 ; The Unemployment Relief Amendment Act, No. 3,948 of 1930 ; The Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Acts, Nos. 3,966 of 1931, 3,973 of 1931, 3,982 of 1931 and The Unemployment Relief Amendment Act, No. 4,000 of 1931.

(iv) *Queensland.*—The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Act, No. 1 of 1930 and The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts, Amendment Act, No. 12 of 1931.

(v) *South Australia.*—No provision was made in this State for special taxation legislation.

(vi) *Western Australia.*—No provision for special taxation legislation.

(vii) *Tasmania.*—The Income Tax Act, No. 3 of 1932.

9. **Unemployment Relief—Sustenance Rates.**—(i) *New South Wales.*—The food relief for unemployed persons is administered by the Department of Labour and Industry in the metropolitan area and in some of the larger towns. In other districts relief orders are issued by the police. The value of orders for goods varies with prices and are higher in value in the country districts.

The following table shows the approximate value of food relief orders, as at August, 1932, for the various family units in the metropolitan area :—

Family Unit.	Limit of Income per fortnight.	Value of Food Relief per week.	Family Unit.	Limit of Income per fortnight.	Value of Food Relief per week.
	s.	s. d.		s.	s. d.
Single man or woman	20	5 8½	Married couple, 6 children	80	} 26 7½
Married couple ..	40	8 8	Married couple, 7 children	90	
Married couple, 1 child	40	14 0	Married couple, 8 children	100	} 36 0
Married couple, 2 or 3 children ..	50	18 11½	Married couple, 9 children	110	
Married couple, 4 or 5 children ..	60	22 5			

(ii) *Victoria.*—Sustenance payments are distributed by relief committees approved by the Charities Board of Victoria, with the assistance of the Police Force.

The maximum income and allowance under the system introduced in July, 1932, are as follows:—

Family Unit.	Sustenance not granted if Family Income exceeds, per week.	Maximum Weekly Sustenance.	Family Unit	Sustenance not granted if Family Income exceeds, per week.	Maximum Weekly Sustenance
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Single man or woman	10 0	6 0	Man, wife and 5 children	35 0	21 6
Man and wife	20 0	9 0	Man, wife and 6 children	37 6	24 0
Man, wife and 1 child	25 0	11 6	Man, wife and 7 children	40 0	26 6
Man, wife and 2 children	27 6	14 0	Man, wife and 8 or more children	42 6	29 0
Man, wife and 3 children	30 0	16 6			
Man, wife and 4 children	32 6	19 0			

(iii) *Queensland*.—The Intermittent Relief Scheme provides work through Local Authorities and Government Departments for all persons eligible to draw food relief. The classification of the family units and amounts allotted thereto are shown in the following table.

**Weekly Ration Scale, Family Units, Number of Work Days and Total Amount of Pay as from 15th August, 1932.**

Weekly Ration Scale, if not on Relief Work	Family Unit	Work Days.	Total Amount of Pay when Work Provided.
<i>s. d.</i>			<i>s. d.</i>
10 0	One person	1	13 6
14 6	Man and wife	1½	20 3
18 0	Man, wife and 1 child	2	27 0
21 6	Man, wife and 2 children	2	27 0
25 0	Man, wife and 3 children	2½	33 9
28 6	Man, wife and 4 children	3	40 6
32 0	Man, wife and 5 children	3	40 6
35 6	Man, wife and 6 children	3½	47 3
39 0	Man, wife and 7 children	4	54 0
42 6 (maxi.)	Man, wife and 8 children	4	54 0

(iv) *South Australia*.—The food relief for the unemployed is controlled by the Unemployment Relief Council.

The approximate value of food relief orders for the various family units is given in the following table:—

	Per Week
	<i>s. d.</i>
Single person	5 3
Man and wife	10 6
Man, wife and one child	13 1
Man, wife and two children	15 8
Man, wife and three children	18 3
Man, wife and four children	20 10

The above rates are based on weekly average granted for each child is 2s. 7d. per week. The approximate amount

(v) *Western Australia*.—Relief is granted to unemployed married men at the rate of 7s. per member of the family per week with a maximum amount of 49s. per week. Children over fourteen years of age are not eligible. Single men are allowed two meal tickets per day; if homeless, they are allowed free board and lodging at Blackboy Hill Camp, with an allowance of 1s. per week for which they perform camp duties.

(vi) *Tasmania*.—Value of rations issued to unemployed destitute persons at Hobart and Launceston is as follows :—

	Per Week
	s. d.
Married couples .. .. .	12 9
Married couples with one child over four years .. .. .	17 6
Married couples with two or three children over four years	23 2
Married couples with four or five children over four years	27 10
Married couples with six or seven children over four years	32 9

In addition 1 pint of milk per day is issued where there is a child under four years of age.

(vii) *Federal Capital Territory*.—The original scheme of the issue of rations was, by Ministerial direction, changed to a scheme of issue of work docketts, and the payment of the equivalent cash to that previously received in food value. The original ration scale, and the earnings under the scheme now in operation are shown below :—

Family Unit.	Original Ration	Earnings' under
	Scale.	present scheme.
	s. d.	s. d.
Single person .. .. .	7 10½	8 0
Man and wife .. .. .	12 2	12 4
Man, wife and one child .. .. .	18 6½	18 11
Man, wife and 2 or 3 children .. .. .	24 3½	24 8
Man, wife and 4 or 5 children .. .. .	29 4½	29 4
Man, wife and 6 children .. .. .	30 4½	30 10
Man, wife and 7 children .. .. .	33 10	33 10
Man, wife and 8 children .. .. .	35 1½	35 10

10. **Unemployment Relief Funds.**—(i) *Commonwealth*.—The Commonwealth Government made available the sum of £1,000,000, appropriated by Act No. 55 of 1930, for the relief of unemployment in the States. Other references appear in section 7 (ii) *ante*.

(ii) *New South Wales*.—The receipts and expenditure in connexion with the Unemployment Fund in this State during the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 were as follows :—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1930-31 .. .. .	4,377,835	4,357,085
1931-32 .. .. .	6,042,256	6,105,452

(iii) *Victoria*.—The following statement shows the receipts and expenditure from the Unemployment Relief Fund during the year 1930-31 and 1931-32 :—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1930-31 .. .. .	1,238,504	1,343,281
1931-32 .. .. .	1,545,715	1,653,552



Advances from Public Account were £104,777 and £107,837 during the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 respectively.

(iv) *Queensland*.—The receipts from the Unemployment Relief Tax during the period 28th April, 1930, to 30th June, 1931, were £702,640, the expenditure for the same period being £700,112. For the year ending 30th June, 1931, the receipts were £1,089,645 and the total expenditure £1,200,674.

(v) *South Australia*.—There is no special unemployment taxation in this State. The moneys required for the relief of unemployment are provided from general taxation receipts. The total expenditure on Unemployment Relief (including Children's Welfare and Public Relief) during 1930-31 was £877,047, and £1,024,553 during 1931-32.

(vi) *Western Australia*.—Special unemployment taxation is not in force in this State. Amounts required for relief are voted by the Government from general revenue. During 1930-31 sustenance payments amounted to £436,146 and relief works £149,455, and during 1931-32 expenditure on sustenance was £643,996 and on relief works £1,202,547.

(vi) *Tasmania*.—There is no specified tax for the relief of unemployment in this State. An estimate of the amounts expended on relief work and sustenance for the unemployed is given below.

	Year, 1930-31		Year, 1931-32		Total
	£		£		£
From Loans ..	35,300	..	40,000	..	75,300
From Revenue ..	51,800	..	70,000	..	121,800

### § 3. State Free Employment Bureaux.

1. **General**.—As there is considerable diversity in the scope of the several State Employment Bureaux, as well as in the methods adopted for registration of applicants for employment, information in regard to these Bureaux obtained from reports received from the officers in charge in the respective States was published in Labour Report, No. 19. Particulars were given of the methods adopted in the several State offices concerning system of registration of applicants for employment, selection of applicants for vacant positions, systems in force for granting sustenance and food relief, and other information concerning the functions of the Bureaux. In Labour Report No. 20, particulars relating to the organization of the State Free Labour Bureaux in the several States were given.

The work in connexion with the State Employment Bureaux increased to an exceptional extent during 1930 owing to the abnormal amount of unemployment. All States were affected, and applications for registration for work and sustenance were received in increasing numbers during each succeeding quarter of the year. The peak number of applications was received during the first quarter of 1931. Skilled and semi-skilled workers, who in the past had not availed themselves of the services of the Bureaux, registered for relief work, as they found that there was little prospect of

securing work in their usual occupations. Special legislation during 1930 for the relief of unemployment provided that registration at the Bureaux was essential before relief work or sustenance could be obtained, and this was mainly responsible for the increased registrations for employment, but prior to the enactment of such legislation in June and later months the work of the Bureaux was increasing through applications for registration.

2. **Applications and Positions Filled.**—The following table shows the number of applications for employment and from employers received at the State Free Labour Bureaux in the various States during the years 1927 to 1931. The numbers of positions to which workpeople were sent are also shown. The figures relating to applications for employment received during the year do not necessarily represent the number of individuals applying for employment, since the same persons may apply more than once during the twelve months :—

**State Free Employment Bureaux.—Summary, Australia.**

Year.	Applications for Employment received.	Applications from Employers received. (a)	Positions filled.
1927 .. .. .	218,543	70,367	76,235
1928 .. .. .	287,834	79,197	78,274
1929 .. .. .	310,752	72,721	71,806
1930 .. .. .	668,506	143,219	154,923
1931 .. .. .	838,481	104,353	129,451

(a) Exclusive of Tasmania.

3. **Details for each State.**—The following table shows the number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in each State during the year 1931 :—

**State Free Employment Bureaux.—Summary, States, 1931.**

State.	Applications for Employment received.	Applications from Employers received.	Positions filled.
New South Wales .. .. .	269,852	71,587	87,110
Victoria .. .. .	118,094	7,267	7,080
Queensland .. .. .	127,719	16,427	16,427
South Australia .. .. .	277,749	4,364	4,364
Western Australia .. .. .	32,520	4,708	4,655
Tasmania . . . . .	12,547	(a)	9,815
Total .. .. .	838,481	104,353(b)	129,451

(a) Particulars not available. (b) Exclusive of Tasmania.

4. **Details in Industrial Groups.**—The next table gives details for the years 1930 and 1931 in industrial groups :—

**State Free Employment Bureaux.—Summary, Industrial Groups, Australia.**

Industrial Group.	1930.			1931.		
	Applications for Employment received.	Applications from Employers received. (a)	Positions filled.	Applications for Employment received.	Applications from Employers received. (a)	Positions filled.
I. Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber Workers, etc. . .	6,098	520	504	9,185	372	327
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	21,475	394	461	27,348	584	757
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	8,588	1,827	1,851	8,109	1,367	1,385
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . .	4,325	787	797	6,452	1,104	1,106
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	1,066	54	53	1,428	56	58
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	4,230	389	381	7,200	367	358
VII. Building . . .	49,236	4,770	5,086	52,585	3,760	4,456
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	2,449	530	536	3,339	907	1,170
IX. Rail and Tram Services . . .	105,577	5,346	5,299	202,122	4,012	4,005
X. Other Land Transport . . .	9,164	3,373	3,384	8,154	3,163	2,948
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . .	250	167	150	299	27	44
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, etc. . .	25,540	9,426	9,833	24,331	7,386	8,207
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	17,487	8,362	7,063	22,978	5,290	4,783
XIV. General Labour and Miscellaneous . . .	413,021	107,274	119,325	464,950	76,058	99,847
<b>Total</b> . . .	<b>668,506</b>	<b>143,219</b>	<b>154,923</b>	<b>838,481</b>	<b>104,353</b>	<b>129,451</b>

(a) Exclusive of Tasmania.

As pointed out previously, the work of the Bureaux in the various States is not on uniform lines. For example, in States in which Government Departments obtain workers from the Labour Bureaux, the numbers of workers are larger in comparison than in the same groups in other States. It should be noted also that special provisions for female workers are not made in all States.

The majority of the workers sent to employment by State Employment Bureaux during 1931 were unskilled men, the number of general labourers and miscellaneous workers (Group XIV.) being 99,847, or 77 per cent., of the total number provided with work. Domestic workers (Group XIII.), and pastoral and agricultural labourers (Group XII.), were sent to employment in comparatively large numbers during the year. The number of skilled workers for whom positions were found was not large. As a general rule skilled workers do not register at the Bureaux until they have exhausted the usual avenues for obtaining employment in their regular trade. The great bulk of the workers who apply are unskilled, although skilled workers when they find that there is no employment in their own trade register

for unskilled work. Compared with the previous year there was a noticeable increase in 1931 in the number of registrations for employment from workpeople in the manufacturing and building groups.

5. **Quarterly Applications for Employment.**—The following table shows the number of applications for employment registered in each State during each of the quarters specified. A marked increase in the number of registrations occurred during 1930 and 1931. During the four quarters of 1929 the number of applications for employment remained fairly constant, but in the succeeding quarters the depressed state of trade and industry was shown by the increasing numbers of workpeople registering at the Bureaux for employment and sustenance. The number of registrations increased during each quarter of 1930 and reached its peak during the first quarter of 1931.

State Free Employment Bureaux—Registrations for Employment—States.

Period	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	All States
1929							
1st Quarter	18,668	8,668	25,630	16,541	3,381	554	73,442
2nd "	18,918	11,187	21,494	17,733	3,610	968	73,910
3rd "	17,901	10,731	27,200	19,801	7,131	929	83,693
4th "	17,137	3,955	28,233	20,574	4,006	802	79,707
1930							
1st Quarter	27,715	10,180.	29,120	22,009	5,203	1,111	95,398
2nd "	51,769	31,085	29,697	29,191	7,926	1,785	151,363
3rd "	82,575	32,506	28,310	43,389	14,364	5,178	206,322
4th "	88,069	34,085.	35,665	48,832	5,229	3,543	215,423
1931							
1st Quarter	84,242	36,344	40,957	62,269	6,008	3,727	233,547
2nd "	70,344	34,589	32,037	69,144	5,068	4,927	214,109
3rd "	60,367	26,140	23,981	72,397	16,937	2,591	202,233
4th "	54,899	21,021	30,744	74,029	4,597	3,392	188,592
1932							
1st Quarter	59,723	23,458	38,638	69,349	6,154	3,995	201,217
2nd "	36,135	22,693	33,654	72,066	8,774	3,691	177,013

#### § 4. Industrial Accidents.

I. **Source of Information.**—The following tables have been compiled from monthly and quarterly returns received at the Bureau from the Chief Inspectors of Factories, the Chief Inspectors of Machinery, and from Boiler, Lift, and Scaffolding Inspectors in the several States. In the Annual Reports issued by the State Departments special sections are published relating to accidents in industrial undertakings. Reference to these Reports will afford detailed information. The thanks of the Bureau are extended to the officials of the various State Departments, including the officials of the Mining Departments, for the summarized returns shown hereunder.

2. **Number of Accidents reported.**—The following table shows the number of accidents reported in each State during the years 1927 to 1931 :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Numbers, 1927 to 1931.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.	
No. of Fatal Accidents	1927 ..	66	26	6	11	34	6	149
	1928 ..	55	9	16	8	6	3	97
	1929 ..	65	20	15	10	11	16	137
	1930 ..	51	10	15	1	20	7	104
	1931 ..	41	14	5	6	18	8	92
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days	1927 ..	(a) 2,771	759	325	359	663	89	4,966
	1928 ..	3,903	706	273	303	354	66	5,605
	1929 ..	6,061	645	325	264	340	56	7,701
	1930 ..	5,586	531	230	210	349	79	6,994
	1931 ..	4,307	393	278	182	430	54	5,649

(a) Vide remarks below.

Compared with the previous year, the number of fatal accidents reported in 1931 showed a decrease. Fatalities were less numerous in all States with the exception of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The number of non-fatal accidents increased in Queensland and Western Australia, but decreased in the other States, the total for Australia being 5,649 in 1931, compared with 6,994 in 1930, a decrease of 19 per cent.

The large increase in the number of accidents recorded in New South Wales during the last four years, was due to an amendment of the Act which provided that all accidents which prevented workers from returning to work within seven days must be reported. The figures for this State are, therefore, not exactly comparable with those for other States. It is also mentioned that the definition of a non-fatal accident is not on uniform lines in all States.

3. **Accidents in Industrial Groups.**—The next table gives the number of accidents in industrial groups for Australia during 1931.

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in Industrial Groups, Australia, 1931.**

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitating for over 14 days. (b)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	5	321
II. Engineering, etc. ..	6	1,101
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	5	737
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	..	292
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	2	193
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	7	1,369
VII. Building and Scaffolding	8	12
VIII. Mining ..	56	(a) 1,433
IX. Lifts ..	1	7
X. Miscellaneous ..	2	184
Total ...	92	5,649

(a) Includes non-fatal accidents reported by Chief Inspectors of Factories as having occurred in ore-dressing, smelting and metallurgical works as follows :—502 in New South Wales, 1 in Victoria, 1 in Western Australia, and 4 in Tasmania.

(b) Vide remarks above.

The largest number of accidents both fatal and non-fatal occurred in the mining and allied industries, the percentages being 61 for fatal and 25 for non-fatal on the respective totals recorded for all industrial accidents. Eight fatal accidents occurred in connexion with building and scaffolding, and one death was due to a lift accident. Twenty-five fatal and 4,013 non-fatal accidents were reported in the manufacturing industries, 1,101 of which occurred in the engineering and metal-working group.

4. **Mining Accidents.**—(i) *Sources of Information.*—Information regarding mining accidents is obtained from the Departments of Mines in the respective States, with the exception of those accidents which occur in smelting and metallurgical works which are registered as factories and are under the jurisdiction of the Chief Inspectors of Factories.

(ii) *Classification.*—The following tables give particulars of mining accidents reported to the Mines Departments and to Inspectors of Factories concerning accidents in ore-dressing, smelting and metallurgical works, in each State during the year 1931.

**Mining Accidents.—Classification according to Causes, 1931.(c)**

**A.—Fatal Accidents.**

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
<b>METALLIFEROUS MINES.</b>							
1. <b>Below Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
" " Falls of Ground ..	5	..	2	..	2	..	9
" " Falling down shafts, etc. ..	..	1	..	..	3	1	5
Other Accidents ..	..	..	2	..	8	..	10
2. <b>Above Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other Accidents ..	1	..	..	..	2	3	6
3. <b>Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, Smelting and other Metallurgical Works, etc.</b> ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
4. <b>Quarries, Brick and Clay Pits, etc.</b> ..	1	6	..	2	..	..	9
<b>COAL MINES.</b>							
1. <b>Below Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth ..	5	..	..	..	1	..	6
Other Accidents ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
2. <b>Above Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Other Accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b> ..	15	8	4	4	17	8	56

(c) The figures relating to mining accidents do not in all cases correspond with those published by the States Mines Departments, the discrepancies being partly due to the fact that accidents occurring in certain metallurgical works and quarries are not included in the figures issued by the Mines Departments, and partly to the lack of uniformity regarding the definition of a non-fatal accident.

Mining Accidents.—Classification according to Causes, 1931—*continued.*

## B.—Non-fatal Accidents Incapacitating for over 14 days.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total (b)
<b>METALLIFEROUS MINES.</b>							
1. <b>Below Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Explosives	2		3		16		21
"    "    Falls of Ground	10	1	0		19	2	32
"    "    Falling down shafts, etc.	1		1		11		13
Other Accidents	6		47		164	18	235
2. <b>Above Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	2			2	1		5
Other Accidents	16		22	6	53	4	101
3. <b>Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, Smelt- ing and other Metallurgical Works, etc.</b>	505	1	29	133	26	13	707
4. <b>Quarries, Brick and Clay Pits, etc.</b>	4	2		8	14		28
<b>COAL MINES.</b>							
1. <b>Below Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.)		2					2
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.)	7	2	2				11
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth	23	2	25		21	1	72
Other Accidents	24	8	54		78	1	165
2. <b>Above Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion		1	1		2		4
Other Accidents	5		9		17		31
Total	605	19	199	149	422	39	1,433

(a) Complete reports not available. (b) Inclusive of 508 accidents reported by Chief Inspectors of Factories as having occurred in ore-dressing, smelting and metallurgical works.

The number of fatal mining accidents occurring below ground in Australia during the year was 36 as compared with 9 above ground. Fatal accidents in ore-dressing, smelting and metallurgical works during 1931 numbered 2, as against 33 in metalliferous mines, 12 in coal mines and 9 in quarries and brick and clay pits. The total number of non-fatal accidents reported by Mining Departments and Inspectors of Factories in connexion with batteries, ore-dressing, smelting, etc., was 707. The number of non-fatal mining accidents below ground was 557 and above ground 141. Twenty-eight non-fatal accidents occurred in quarries and brick and clay pits.