

shall lie on that person to prove that he has not paid wages at less than the minimum rate.

Any agreement for the payment of wages in contravention of the provisions of the Acts shall be void.

4. An employer shall, in cases where persons are employed on piece-work and a general minimum time-rate but no general minimum piece-rate has been fixed, be deemed to pay wages at less than the minimum rate :—

(a) In cases where a special minimum piece-rate has been fixed under the provisions of this Act for persons employed by that employer, if the rate of wages is less than that special minimum piece-rate ; and

(b) In cases where a special minimum piece-rate has not been so fixed, unless he shows that the piece-rate of wages paid would yield, in the circumstances of the case, to an ordinary worker at least the same amount of money as the basis-rate.

For the purpose of this section the expression "basis-rate" means the general minimum time-rate or, where a rate (*i.e.*, a "piece-work basis time-rate") has been fixed by the Trade Board for the purpose of being substituted for the general minimum time-rate as the basis-rate, the rate so fixed.

5. (1) Where a worker in any trade being a person to whom a minimum rate of wages fixed by a Trade Board applies, is an apprentice or learner, it shall not be lawful for his employer to receive directly or indirectly from him, or on his behalf or on his account, any payment by way of premium ;

Provided that nothing in the foregoing provisions shall apply to any such payment duly made in pursuance of any instrument of apprenticeship, not later than four weeks after the commencement of the employment.

(2) If any employer acts in contravention of this provision, he shall be liable on summary conviction in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, and the court may by the conviction, in addition to imposing a fine adjudge him to repay to the worker or other person by whom the payment was made the sum improperly received by way of premium.

6. For the purpose of calculating the amount of the wages payable in the case of a worker employed on any work for which a minimum rate of wages has been fixed under the principal Act, the worker shall be deemed to have been employed during all the time during which he was present on the premises of the employer, unless the employer proves that he was so present without the employer's consent, express or implied, or that he was so present for some purpose unconnected with his work and other than that of waiting for work to be given to him to perform, and in the case of a worker employed on piece-work shall be deemed during any time during which he was so present and was not doing piece-work to have been employed at the general minimum time-rate applicable to workers of the class to which he belongs :—

Provided that—

(a) where a worker resides on the premises of the employer he shall not be deemed to be employed during any time during which he is present on the premises by reason

only of the fact that he is so resident ; and

(b) a worker while present during normal meal times in a room or place in which no work is being done shall be deemed to be present for a purpose unconnected with his work.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

BUTTON-MAKING TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES FIXED FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS OTHER THAN HOME-WORKERS. EFFECTIVE AS FROM 7TH JULY 1920.*

In accordance with Regulations made under Section 18 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, by the Minister of Labour and dated 31st October 1918, the Trade Board established in Great Britain under the Trade Boards Act, 1918, for the Button-Making Trade as specified in the Trade Boards (Button-Making) Order, 1919, having given due notice on 26th March 1920 of Proposal to Fix General Minimum Time-Rates, Piece-work Basis Time-Rates, and Overtime Rates for Male and Female Workers other than home-workers) hereby give notice, as required by Section 3 (5) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, that they have fixed General Minimum Time-Rates, Piece-work Basis Time-Rates, and Overtime Rates for Male and Female Workers, and have declared the normal number of hours of work in the trade for the purposes of the application of the Overtime Rates, and that the Minimum Rates of Wages as fixed are as shown in the Schedule set out below, which is incorporated herewith.

And the Trade Board further give notice that they have received notification from the Minister of Labour that he has made an Order dated 1st July 1920, under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, confirming the Minimum Rates of Wages as fixed by the Trade Board, and specifying 7th July 1920,* as the date from which such Minimum Rates of Wages shall become effective.

SCHEDULE.

PART I.

GENERAL MINIMUM TIME-RATES.

A.—Male Workers.

SECTION I.—For Male Workers employed in Stamping, Burnishing, Spinning, Dipping, Staining, Sawing, Turning, or Cutting (other than Cutting on Wet Lathes) :—

- Workers of 21 years of age and over (a) who have had not less than two years' experience in one or more of the aforesaid operations, 1s. 6d. per hour ; (b) who have had not less than one but less than two years' experience in one or more of the aforesaid operations, 1s. 5d. per hour ;

* Should this date not correspond with the beginning of the period for which wages are paid by an employer who pays wages at intervals not exceeding seven days, the rates shall become effective as from the beginning of the next full pay period, but in any case not later than 13th July 1920.