

the working agreements of union labor organizations. These data are collected by the Department of Labor and Industry of Pennsylvania in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The work was inaugurated in Pennsylvania in 1919, and the data has been gathered in each succeeding year. Originally this information was gathered in sixteen Pennsylvania cities but that number has since been increased to twenty-four. Union wage data is now compiled for the following cities: Allentown, Altoona, Chester, DuBois, Easton, Erie, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Johnstown, Lancaster, Meadville, New Castle, Oil City, Philadelphia, Pottsville, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Sharon, Warren, Washington, Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport, and York. Rates for approximately seventy crafts are represented in this compilation. The information, as nearly as possible, is confined to scales of wages paid to union workmen but in some cases, especially in the absence of union organizations in the locality, prevailing non-union rates are determined and published. Even this one wage compilation alone represents the expenditure of a large amount of time and money. Numerous personal interviews are necessary in order to obtain the required information. Experience has demonstrated that the only satisfactory method of securing accurate wage figures is through personal calls made on the local representatives of the various unions. This is the Federal practice, and it has been followed in Pennsylvania. The Bureau of Industrial Relations is constantly in touch with Union officials in the various cities and for that reason the agents of that bureau have been assigned the work of collecting the union wage data during the last few years.

These union wage scales are published in special bulletins of the Department of Labor and Industry and of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rates for the years 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924, are published in one special bulletin of the Department of Labor and Industry printed in 1924. Rates for subsequent years are published in separate bulletins.

The Union wage rates as published by the Department are of considerable interest and value to employers in this and other states. The rates as published in our bulletins are used by contractors in figuring labor costs on construction jobs in the various cities. A state-wide knowledge of wage rates is also of value to the Department in adjusting wage disputes.

BUILDING PERMITS

Building activities in a number of Pennsylvania cities and boroughs constitute another field of statistical inquiry. Collection through monthly reports from building inspection offices of the number and estimated value of permits granted in the cities and boroughs of the State was begun in January, 1923. For a few years this information was published in the Department bulletin, but it was found that the information is of maximum value when it can be brought to the attention of interested persons soon after permits have been granted. With a view toward making this possible, widespread publicity is now given to building permit reports by means of press notices that are released within a few days after complete reports have been received at the Department. There is considerable demand for this class of information and copies of reports are furnished to a number of financial insti-