

can be deduced. Unemployment had been high for a year before the return to gold, and it remained at the same high level for the year following. Failing the dissection of unemployment into the constituent industries it is not possible with any degree

TABLE LII  
*Cost of Living for Great Britain, Australia, and the  
United States*  
(Pre-war=100.)

Month.	Rate of exchange.	GREAT BRITAIN.		AUSTRALIA.		U.S.A.
		<i>Sterling.</i> (Board of Trade.)	Gold.	<i>Sterling.</i> (Commonwealth Statistician.)	Gold.	<i>Gold.</i> (Labour Bureau.)
1924	\$ to £					
Mar.	4.29	178	157	169	148	170
June	4.32	169	150	174	154	169
Sept.	4.46	172	158	165	151	171
Dec.	4.69	181	174	166	159	173
1925						
Mar.	4.78	179	176	168	164	174
						The return to gold.
June	4.86	172	172	171	171	174
Sept.	4.85	174	174	173	173	176
Dec.	4.85	177	177	174	174	178
1926						
Mar.	4.86	172	172	174	174	177
June	4.87	168	168	179	179	175

of certainty to connect the prevailing high rate of unemployment with the restoration of the gold standard. Effective wages, however, reached their peak at the end of 1924, fell steadily till the end of 1926, and then declined rapidly in the following year, a far more significant index altogether, especially as the nominal wage rose steadily through the whole period.

The final index to be examined is the volume of foreign trade. Here the volume must necessarily be connected with the figure for population, and the value of exports per head is the most effective test available. This fell from £27 11s. 9d. per head in 1924 to £24 15s. 10d. in 1925 and to £23 14s. 3d. in 1926,<sup>1</sup> partly owing to the decline in the export price-level, another

<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth Year Book, No. 20.