

Cabinet which presumably must have investigated the charges of inefficiency made against the industry. The report has not been published and it is clear from answers to questions in Parliament that it will not be published. Why not, is another question to which no answer is available.

But a deputation of employers and workpeople was sent to examine conditions in the iron and steel industries of France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany and Czecho-Slovakia, and their report has been published.

It may be noted that as regards the efficiency of the British Industry, that is to say, its capacity to compete with the Continent if other things were equal, the Delegation made the following statement:—

“ The general impression of the Delegation, as the result of these visits, was that as regards efficiency and management, and the modernity and equipment of certain units of plant, they were equal to, and in some cases superior to, the iron and steel plants which had been seen on the Continent.”

It has often been alleged that we are not so well equipped as our foreign competitors. The report is informing on this subject and from it we are entitled to deduce that in the matter of equipment generally we are at least comparable. This deduction is fortified by the evidence of others who with knowledge of the subject have examined the position both in this country and abroad.

The earnings of those engaged in the industry in this country are definitely higher than the earnings in Continental countries so that the British industry is handicapped to this extent.

The figures which follow show the difference:—

**TOTAL NORMAL WEEKLY EARNINGS IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY ABROAD.**

	NORMAL WEEKLY EARNINGS.			
	Skilled Men.	Semi-Skilled Men.	Unskilled Men.	All Classes.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
France ... ..	51/6	40/3	32/2	37/-
Belgium ... ..	53/9	38/10	30/10	35/5
Luxemburg ... ..	49/2	38/10	32/-	36/7
Germany ... ..	68/6	52/10	47/-	50/11
Czecho-Slovakia ... ..	58/5	32/11	23/2	30/5