

building trades operatives, but it is permissible to expect that the benefit would be a very real one.

The non-exporting trades are not in contact with, and perhaps are not fully conscious of, the very serious position of the country at the present time.

It is, however, of interest to note that some of the non-exporting trades are moving in the direction of a reduction in wages. The natural law by which trade even under the most sheltered conditions must inevitably face an uneconomic policy renders this unavoidable.

#### **PUBLIC UTILITIES, TEXTILES, BOOT AND SHOE, ETC.**

There are other industries which directly or indirectly affect, and are in turn affected by, Engineering.

For example, *electricity, gas and water supplies* serve engineering works and also use products of those works, as well as of the Mining and Iron and Steel Industries, and therefore also of Transport.

The *Cotton Industry* of Lancashire at one time supplied the greater part of the world's needs for cotton goods so that textile machinery made by British engineering supplied the greater part of the world demand for such machinery. Those conditions no longer exist and in view of the competition of other countries, especially India and Japan, are unlikely to return unless costs of production in this country are very much reduced.

*Other Textile Industries* such as the Yorkshire Woollen Industry, show similar depression and, consequently, cannot give orders to the Engineering Industry for machinery and spare parts. Slack export trade in the textile trades means slackness in the shipping trade and, as we have shown, in that way engineering is again affected.

Again, the industries making *boots, shoes and clothes* are all depressed. Tables appended "H" show the import and export figures in the cotton and woollen textile and boot and shoe industries.

Below are set out tables showing the unemployment in *gas, water and electricity supply* industries, the *cotton, textile, and boot and shoe* industries.