

STANDARD PRICE SCHEDULE FOR BUILDING INDUSTRY

A Standard Schedule of Prices for the Building Industry has been prepared by a technical sub-committee of the Central Council for Works and Buildings and adopted by the Minister of Works and Buildings. It will be published by H.M. Stationery Office on Friday, April 3, price 1/-.

The adoption of the Schedule will obviate the use of the cost plus form of contract for specified categories of work in those cases where urgency is such that no time is available to prepare detailed bills of quantities.

The prices in the Schedule have been fixed with reference to stated rates of pay for tradesmen, labourers and navvies, and to basic prices of the principal materials, a list of which is given in an appendix. Using these constants, with allowances for the use of plant, rates have been built up which ensure uniform overhead charges and profit in each trade. In using the Schedule, adjustment will be made for any increase or decrease in the costs of labour and materials.

The new Schedule will enable anyone inviting tenders to issue completely priced bills of quantities on which contractors will be asked to quote a percentage on or off. The knowledge that they are working on prices calculated on a uniform basis will facilitate the work of contractors in determining what the percentage on or off should be.

The Schedule will be equally usable as a basis for valuation:

- (a) where no bills of quantities have been prepared before operations are started;
- (b) where work must be started before a scheme has been worked out in detail; or
- (c) where tenders are invited for work the extent of which cannot be accurately foreseen.

While the Schedule is specifically directed to the valuation of work to be carried out by the Ministry of Works and Buildings, it is equally suitable for use in connection with any building work of similar types.

Again, while the Schedule is primarily meant for war-time building, the principle on which it is based could well be applied to the class of building required for the redevelopment and the rebuilding of War damaged areas, whether commissioned by the Government or by private persons. It also acts as a basic check on estimates for the protection of both contractor and client.

The Employers' Federations have welcomed and endorsed the Schedule.