

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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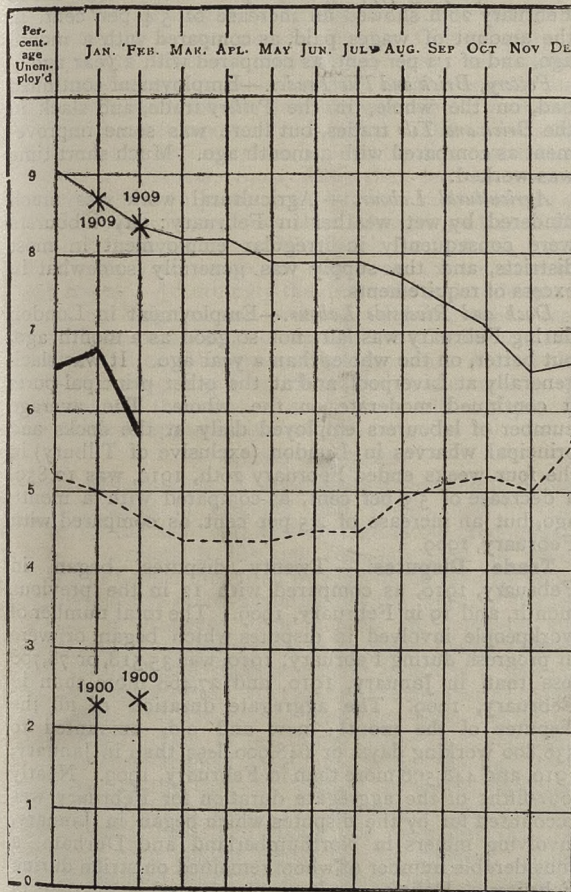
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## EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF  
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1910      ——— Thin Curve=1909.  
----- Dotted Curve=Mean of 1900-1909.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1900-1909 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For February, 1910, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 701,252 members in the following trades:—

Building...	58,210	Paper, Printing & Book-binding	59,806
Coal Mining	144,891	Woodworking and Furnishing	34,466
Engineering	170,024	Miscellaneous	18,054
Shipbuilding	57,162		
Other Metal Trades	40,971		
Textiles	117,668		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>701,252</b>

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[In addition to the 2,950 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,736 were received from employers relating to 1,138,469 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,686 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in February showed a general improvement as compared with January. There was an improvement in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and the usual seasonal increase in employment in the building and clothing industries. The cotton trade was still much affected by the high price of raw material, but otherwise all the textile trades are well employed.

As compared with a year ago, all the principal industries, except cotton, showed an improvement, which in many cases was considerable.

In the 416 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 701,252 making Returns, 40,121 (or 5.7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, 1910, compared with 6.8 per cent. at the end of January, 1910, and 8.4 per cent. at the end of February, 1909.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment during February continued good, and was better than a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended February 19th, 1910, was 5.39, as compared with 5.21 in February, 1909.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment on the whole remained fairly good, but showed a falling off as compared with a year ago, due to a decline in the Cleveland district. During the four weeks ended February 19th the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.77, as compared with 5.87 a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment during February, though still moderate, showed some improvement on a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Returns received relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 22,800 workpeople showed 305 furnaces in blast at the end of February, 1910, as compared with 301 in January, 1910, and 283 in February, 1909.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works showed some improvement on a month ago, and was much better than a year ago. The volume of employment during the week ended February 26th, 1910, at the works from which Returns were received, was 2.1 per cent. more than a month ago, and 9.1 per cent. more than a year ago.

**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment continued very good, and was much better than a year ago. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills working at the end of February was 475, as compared with 471 a month ago and 447 a year ago.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment continued to improve and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 170,024 reported 7.3 per cent.

unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 8.5 per cent. a month ago and 12.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment during February continued to improve and was much better than a year ago; shipwrights were fairly well employed at many of the principal centres. Branches of Trade Unions with 57,162 members reported 14.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 16.1 per cent. a month ago, and 22.5 per cent. a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment in the spinning branch continued bad. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton. In the weaving branch employment was also bad, with much slackness and waiting for warps. In both branches there was some improvement on a month ago, but a considerable decline on a year ago. Returns from firms employing 121,316 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 13.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment was good and better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,397 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 5.6 per cent. in the wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 14.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment was good and better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago; Returns from firms employing 46,714 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the wages paid compared with a month ago and of 11.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 51,889 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,138 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 9,058 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the amount wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 20,053 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 13.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment was fairly good; it was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,192 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 13.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the bespoke branch in London showed a seasonal improvement, and was rather better than a year ago. In the provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Hat Trade.**—Employment in the Silk hat trade continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. In the Felt hat trade it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 64,597 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 5.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment continued fair on

the whole, and was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with 3,184 members reported 4.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 5.1 per cent. a month ago, and 7.6 per cent. a year ago.

**Paper Making Trades.**—Employment in these trades continued good and was better than a year ago.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment was moderate generally, but better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions in the printing trades with a membership of 50,913 reported 5.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of February as compared with 6.3 in January and 5.8 a year ago. In the bookbinding trades the corresponding percentages were 5.9, 5.9 and 7.6.

**Building Trades.**—Employment, though still slack, was better than both a month ago and a year ago. The percentage unemployed among trade union carpenters and plumbers was 10.6 at the end of February, as compared with 13.7 in January and 13.9 a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment during February was on the whole quiet, except with coach builders and brush makers, with whom it was fairly good. It showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,466 reported 7.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 9.3 per cent. a month ago and 8.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment was bad on the whole, but showed some improvement on a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,770 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 5.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago, and of 1.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Pottery, Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment continued bad, on the whole, in the Pottery trade, and slack in the Brick and Tile trades, but there was some improvement as compared with a month ago. Much short time was worked.

**Agricultural Labour.**—Agricultural work was much hindered by wet weather in February; day labourers were consequently in irregular employment in most districts, and the supply was generally somewhat in excess of requirements.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment in London during February was fair, not so good as a month ago, but better, on the whole, than a year ago. It was slack generally at Liverpool, and at the other principal ports it continued moderate on the whole. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London (exclusive of Tilbury) in the four weeks ended February 26th, 1910, was 12,859, a decrease of 5.9 per cent. as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 2.5 per cent. as compared with February, 1909.

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty disputes began in February, 1910, as compared with 12 in the previous month, and 19 in February, 1909. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during February, 1910, was 35,518, or 78,706 less than in January, 1910, and 27,468 more than in February, 1909. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 538,800 working days, or 648,900 less than in January, 1910, and 448,500 more than in February, 1909. Nearly four-fifths of the aggregate duration for February was accounted for by the disputes which began in January, involving miners in Northumberland and Durham, a considerable number of whom remained on strike during February. Definite results were reported in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, directly involving 4,598 persons. Of these 19 disputes, 4 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 7 in favour of the employers, and 8 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes taking effect in February affected 4,170 workpeople, of whom 4,110 received increases and 60 sustained decreases. Amongst those whose wages were increased were 1,800 iron ore quarrymen and blastfurnacemen in North Lincs. The computed total effect of all the changes was an increase of nearly £100 per week.

## COST OF LIVING IN BELGIAN TOWNS.

THE fourth Report on the results of the series of investigations which the Board of Trade have for some time been engaged in making with regard to the cost of living of the urban working classes in the principal industrial countries has now appeared. The first three volumes dealt with the United Kingdom, Germany and France (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1908, pp. 36-7; July, 1908, pp. 204-5; and March, 1909, pp. 75-6). The present volume relates to Belgium.\*

For the purposes of this enquiry Investigators of the Board of Trade visited fifteen Belgian towns, containing an aggregate of 1,680,000 inhabitants; the populations range from 630,000 in Greater Brussels and 311,000 in Antwerp to 21,000 in La Louvière and 11,500 in Pâturages. These numbers do not, however, indicate the full extent of the industrial population dealt with in the Report, as the towns to which the enquiries primarily related are in most cases the centres of more or less extensive areas throughout which practically the same economic conditions prevail.

The main subjects of investigation were the customary types and rents of working-class dwellings, the kinds of food usually consumed by working-class families and the prices most generally paid, and wages and hours of labour. The large amount of original statistical material which was collected relating to these subjects is set out in detail in the separate town reports and summarised in the General Report; but much additional information is given as to Belgian industrial conditions generally. An attempt is also made in the General Report to institute such comparisons as may be possible between the results yielded by the Belgian enquiry and those arrived at for the British towns which were dealt with in the first report of the series. The information collected for the first three reports of the series related mainly to October, 1905, while that for the present volume relates to June, 1908; but from such evidence as is available it is apparent that in wages and rents the differences between prevailing levels in October, 1905, and June, 1908, were so slight as to be scarcely appreciable. Accordingly the data collected under these heads in Belgium and relating to June, 1908, may properly be regarded as comparable with those collected in the United Kingdom, Germany and France for October, 1905; as regards prices, some caution is necessary, as the prices of some commodities appear to have altered appreciably.

### (i.) Housing and Rents.

The general style of working-class housing is similar to that usual in England and Wales, and in both countries the self-contained cottage is the predominant type. Verviers is the only Belgian town in which tenement houses inhabited by four to ten families afford almost the sole accommodation for the working classes, though at Antwerp such houses are common and increasing in numbers, while at Brussels, Liège, Tournai and Charleroi the small tenement house is a more or less frequent feature. As regards the number of rooms, four-roomed or five-roomed dwellings were clearly the predominant types in the towns visited in England and Wales, three-roomed dwellings being the next most frequent; in the case of Belgium, it was found that, roughly speaking, the usual dwelling of the working-class family contained about one room less than the dwelling of a similar family in this country. Single rooms are also noted as a common form of working-class accommodation in Brussels, Liège and Verviers; in England they are typical in the central districts of London only. The average size of a room on the other hand appears to be somewhat larger in the industrial towns of Belgium than in England, but the general conveniences of the dwelling occupied by the Belgian tenant, as regards gas and water supply and sanitary arrangements, are, on the whole, distinctly fewer.

\* Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into working-class Rents, Housing and Retail Prices, together with the Rates of Wages in certain occupations in the principal industrial towns of Belgium. Cd. 5065. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 2s. 2d.

The predominant rents for dwellings of two, three, and four rooms in England and Wales, and in Belgium, respectively, are shown below:—

Number of Rooms per Dwelling.	Predominant Range of Weekly Rents in		Ratio of Mean Predominant Rent in Belgium to that in England and Wales, taken as 100.
	England and Wales (including Rates.)	Belgium.	
Two rooms ... ..	3s. to 3s. 6d.	1s. 9d. to 2s. 3d.	62
Three rooms ... ..	3s. 9d. to 4s. 6d.	2s. 2d. to 2s. 10d.	61
Four rooms ... ..	4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d.	62
	Arithmetic Mean ... ..		62

A comparison made on these lines is, however, open to objection on the ground that the several "predominant rents" stated are not founded in each case on all the towns visited, nor on the same towns. A better comparison may be made by taking the mean of the rent index numbers for the Belgian towns on the basis of rents in London = 100, and comparing the figures thus obtained with the mean of the rent index numbers similarly obtained for the towns of England and Wales. The mean of the Belgian index numbers on London is 34.5, while that of the index numbers for England and Wales is 56.2, and the ratio of these two means, viz., 61 to 100, has been taken as representing the level of rents for working-class dwellings in Belgium as compared with England and Wales. Rents paid by workpeople in this country, however, include an element of local rates which appears to be absent from those paid by working-class tenants in Belgium. It has been estimated that 18 per cent. of the gross rent paid in English industrial towns consists of local rates, and if this percentage is deducted from the English rents, in order to render the services for which the rent is paid more comparable in the two countries, the ratio of rents becomes 74:100. In making this exclusion of local taxation, it should, however, be borne in mind that the item omitted hardly occurs in the Belgian artisan's budget.

### (ii.) Retail Prices.

The following Table shows the prices in England and Wales and in Belgium, at the dates of the respective investigations, of those commodities for which comparative prices can be given:—

Commodities.	Predominant Range of Retail Prices.				Ratio of Mean Predominant Price in Belgium to that in England and Wales taken as 100.
	England & Wales (October, 1905.)		Belgium. (June, 1908.)		
Sugar ... .. per lb.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	150
Bacon ... .. "	0 2½	10 0	0 7	10 0	98
Cheese ... .. "	0 7	10 0	0 7	10 0	121
Butter ... .. "	{ 1 0 to 1 1*		1 0	1 1	98
Potatoes ... .. per 7 lb.	0 2½	0 3	0 2½	0 3	92
Flour, Wheaten ... .. "	0 8	10 0	0 5½	10 0	107
Bread, White ... .. per 4 lb.	0 4½	0 5	0 4½	0 5	95
Milk ... .. per qt.	{ 0 3 " 0 3½		0 3½		64
Beef ... .. per lb.	{ 0 5 " 0 6*		6d. to 7d.		96
Mutton ... .. "	{ 0 7½ " 0 9!		0 6½	0 7½	110
Pork ... .. "	{ 0 4 " 0 5*		0 7½	0 5	106
Coal ... .. per cwt.	0 1½	1 0	1 0½	1 2	126
Paraffin Oil ... .. per gallon	0 7	0 8	0 6½	0 7	95

The principal changes in prices in Belgium between October, 1905, and June, 1908, so far as can be ascertained, appear to be a rise of about 20 per cent. in the price of paraffin oil, of 10 to 15 per cent. in bread, flour and pork, of 4 to 6 per cent. in beef, bacon, cheese, and possibly sugar, a fall in coffee possibly as great as 20 per cent., and in potatoes of about 25 per cent. There was no material change in the price of butter, and as regards milk and mutton (the latter not a very important item), and coal, no evidence has been obtainable.

It will be seen from the Table that, with few exceptions, notably sugar, cheese, milk and coal, the prices ruling in Belgium in June, 1908, are on the whole very close to those ruling in England in October, 1905. Excluding the four commodities named, the prices of all the remaining

\* Colonial or "Foreign." † Dan'tsh. ‡ British or Home-killed.

nine lie within a range of 10 per cent. of the prices usually paid by the working classes of this country in 1905. Sugar is some 50 per cent. dearer in Belgium than in England, but milk is 36 per cent. cheaper. As regards the difference in cheese prices it should be stated that the range of prices is very wide, and that there is a large consumption of local varieties, which are cheaper than Dutch cheese. If the prices had been collected in Belgium at the earlier date, it is evident, from what has been said above, that the result would in the majority of cases have been rather more favourable to that country; the price of potatoes, which appear to have been much dearer in 1905 than in 1908 in Belgium, is, however, an important exception.

In the Report on the United Kingdom, the price levels of different towns were compared by the amount required to purchase in each town the quantities of certain articles of food and of coal in an approximate average working-man's budget. Applying the same principles, and taking 1905 prices for both England and Belgium, it was found that if the average British working man went to live in Belgium in October, 1905, and tried to live as nearly as possible in the same way as he had lived in England, purchasing the same food in the same quantities, his expenditure would be reduced approximately 1 per cent. That is to say, if the prices of commodities in England at October, 1905, had altered to the level of Belgian prices at the same period, the weekly expenditure of the average English working-class household on food and fuel would hardly have been sensibly affected, but probably slightly decreased.

(iii.) Wages and Hours of Labour.

The following Table compares the predominant range of weekly wages in certain occupations in England and Wales with the ranges in the same occupations in Belgium. The ranges in England and Wales represent in all cases standard *time-rates* for an ordinary full week exclusive of overtime; the Belgian rates for the building trades are of the same character, but for the engineering and printing trades they are usually based on actual *earnings* in a similar week. No changes in the general level of wages for the three trades dealt with in the Table were reported as having occurred in Belgium between 1905 and 1908, and the comparisons made may consequently be regarded as approximately true for the year 1905.

Occupation.	Predominant Range of Weekly Wages.				Ratio of Mean Predominant Wage in Belgium to Mean Predominant Wage in England and Wales taken as 100.
	England and Wales. (October, 1905).		Belgium. (June, 1908).		
Building Trades*—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Bricklayers ...	37 6	40 6	20 9	24 0	58
Masons ...	37 2	39 4	20 2	25 3	60
Carpenters ...	36 2	39 4	20 2	23 5	58
Joiners ...	36 2	39 4	20 2	23 5	58
Plumbers ...	35 4	39 9	20 2	23 5	58
Plasterers ...	36 6	41 8	20 7	24 6	58
Painters ...	31 6	37 6	18 9	21 7	58
Bricklayers' Labourers ...	24 4	27 0	15 0	18 0	65
Masons' Labourers ...	23 6	26 6	15 0	18 0	65
Engineering Trades:—					
Fitters ...	32 0	36 0	19 9	22 10	63
Turners ...	32 0	36 0	20 6	24 4	66
Smiths ...	32 0	36 0	20 1	24 6	66
Pattern Makers ...	34 0	38 0	19 7	24 0	61
Labourers ...	18 0	22 0	12 11	16 3	73
Printing Trades:—					
Compositors ...	28 0	33 0	19 1	22 10	69
Arithmetic Means {	All above Occupations ...				63
	The Building Trades ...				59
	The Engineering Trades ...				66

From the above it appears that for skilled men in the building trades the Belgian wages were about 58 to 60 per cent. of the English; for skilled men in the engineering trades between 61 and 66 per cent. and for compositors about 69 per cent. Building trades' labourers in Belgium earn about 65 per cent. of the wages of the corresponding class in this country, and engineers' labourers 73 per cent. Taking together the three groups of occupations, the wages in Belgium are 63 per cent. of those in England and Wales.

\* The wages stated for the building trades are for a full week in summer in both countries.

The hours of labour of the Belgian artisan are from 14 to 29 per cent. in excess of the average hours of labour usual in this country amongst corresponding classes, the average excess being 21 per cent.

*Hourly Earnings.*—Weekly wages in Belgium, for the trades considered, standing to English weekly wages for the same trades approximately as 63 to 100, while the hours of labour in the week were in the ratio of 121 to 100, the average *hourly earnings* of the Belgian artisan in the selected trades may be taken as approximately 52 per cent. of those of the corresponding English workman. That is to say, for the building, engineering and printing trades in the towns visited, the average hourly earnings of the Belgian workmen are little more than half of those of the English workmen performing the same duties.

(iv.) Summary of Conclusions.

Summarising the preceding sections, it has been found that, as regards *rents* :—

*Net rents* of working-class dwellings in Belgium (not including payments on account of local taxation) are to *gross rents* of working-class dwellings in England (including all local taxation) as ... 61 to 100

*Net rents* of working-class dwellings in Belgium are to the *net rents* of working-class dwellings in England (excluding that portion of English rents which represents local taxation) as ... 74 to 100

As regards *prices* :—

The cost of the average British working man's weekly purchases of certain standard articles of food and fuel (for an average family) at the prices ruling in Belgium in October, 1905, was to the cost of the same articles at English prices at the same date, approximately as ... 99 to 100

If the expenditure on rents be combined with that on food and fuel, we have, taking the expenditure on the latter items at four times the former as in the British comparisons :—

The expenditure of the average British working man (with an average family) on certain standard articles of food and fuel, and on rent, at the prices and rents ruling in Belgium in October, 1905, would be to his expenditure on the same items, together with local taxation, at the prices and rents ruling in England as ... 91 to 100

Or, excluding that portion of English rents which represents payments on account of local taxation, as ... 94 to 100

It appears, therefore, that an English workman living in Belgium and maintaining as far as possible his English mode of life, and his English dietary, would have found his expenditure on food, fuel, house-room and local taxation reduced by about 9 per cent., or excluding local taxation from both sides of the account, by about 6 per cent. At the same time, however, his earning capacity would be reduced in a much greater degree, for, as regards *wages and hours of labour* :—

The weekly money wages of the working classes in Belgian towns, in certain widely distributed trades selected for comparison, are to those of the same classes in England as ... 63 to 100

The average usual working hours per week of the working classes in Belgian towns, in the trades selected for comparison, are to those of the same classes in England as ... 121 to 100

Hence the hourly rates of money wages for the working classes in Belgian towns, in the trades selected for comparison, are to those of the same classes in English towns approximately as ... 52 to 100

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT DURING 1907-9.

THE Seventh Report of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act, 1896, has recently been published.\*

The Report covers a period of two years and six months, viz., from July 1st, 1907, to December 31st, 1909, and the number of cases dealt with in that period was 133. This figure shows a considerable proportionate increase over the number of cases dealt with in the years covered by previous Reports, and the number of cases occurring in 1908 and 1909 (60 and 57 respectively) was considerably greater than in any previous year since the Act came into force (1896). The total number of cases that have been dealt with under the Act from August, 1896, to December, 1909, was 365. In 234 of these cases the applications for arbitrators, umpires, or conciliators have been made jointly by the parties to the disputes; in 82 cases the applications were from the workpeople only; and in 24 cases the applications were from the employers only.

Of the 133 cases dealt with from July, 1907, to December, 1909, 38 were in the building trades; 20 in mining and quarrying; 19 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades; 18 in the boot and shoe trade; 10 in the textile trades; 7 in the transport trades; and 21 in other trades. During the whole period since the Act came into force, the numbers of cases in the various trades have been as follows: building trades, 119; metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 61; mining and quarrying, 50; boot and shoe trade, 38; transport trades, 24; textile trades, 21; printing and allied trades, 16; all other trades, 36.

Among the most important of the disputes in which action was taken by the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act from July, 1907, to December, 1909, were those which affected railway servants throughout the United Kingdom (1907), the engineering trade on the North-East Coast (1908), the shipbuilding trade on the North-East Coast (1908)—a dispute which also involved a stoppage of work in all the chief shipbuilding centres of Great Britain—and coal miners in Scotland (1909).

The agreement signed at the termination of the dispute affecting railway servants provided for the establishment of Conciliation Boards, with final reference to arbitration, for each of the railways adhering to the scheme, the function of the Boards being to deal with questions relating to rates of wages and hours of labour.

The terms of settlement of the shipbuilding dispute provided that after the resumption of work a joint conference should be held between representatives of the parties concerned with a view to the setting up of permanent machinery to deal with future questions that might arise in the shipbuilding trade. An agreement establishing machinery for conciliation was subsequently signed, with a provision that there shall be no stoppage of work by either party until the matter in dispute has been submitted to the conciliation committees established by the agreement.

Another important case in which action was taken under the Act during this period was the formation of Conciliation Boards for the employees of the Tramways Department of the London County Council.

The cases connected with the boot and shoe trade included the decision of questions relating to minimum rates of wages and to piecework prices at the majority of the chief centres of the industry (including Leicester, Northampton, Kettering, Rushden, Bristol, and Leeds). Detailed "quantities" or piecework statements were fixed in connection with this trade at Northampton, Anstey, and Cork.

Courts of Arbitration were appointed to deal with disputes affecting boot and shoe operatives at Northampton, coal miners at Dunkerton (near Bath), iron dressers at Falkirk, carters at Londonderry, furnacemen at a copper works in South Wales, iron moulders in

\* Seventh Report of Proceedings under the Conciliation Act. H.C. 5. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 8d.

Scotland, axle hammermen at a steel works in Lanarkshire, and plasterers at Glasgow.

RECENT PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Building Trades.

Differences having arisen between the Wigan and District Building Trades Employers' Association and the Operative Carpenters' and Joiners' Society, and between the same employers' association and the Operative Plumbers' Society, in connection with proposed alterations in the working rules for carpenters and joiners and for plumbers, the parties, in each case, applied to the Board of Trade to appoint an umpire to decide the questions in dispute. The Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act as umpire in both cases. Mr. Hudson's award in the plumbers' case, issued on March 14th, provides for a reduction of working hours, an increase in overtime rates, and an extension of the rules as to place of starting work.

The Board of Trade have also appointed Mr. Hudson to act as arbitrator in connection with disputes which have arisen between the master painters and operative painters at Ashton-under-Lyne, and at Swinton and Pendlebury.

Shipwrights and Joiners, Belfast.

The Belfast Joiners' and Shipwrights' Standing Demarcation Committee, having been unable to agree upon certain questions regarding the demarcation of work between joiners and shipwrights at Belfast, applied to the Board of Trade, on February 28th, to appoint an arbitrator to determine the matters in dispute. The Board of Trade, on March 2nd, appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., to act as arbitrator.

Boot and Shoe Trade.

The arbitrators to the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Glasgow having been unable to agree upon a question which had been raised as to the constitution of the workmen's side of the Board, an application was made to the Board of Trade, on February 14th, for the appointment of an umpire to determine the question. The Board of Trade, on February 16th, appointed Ald. T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act as umpire.

The Board of Trade also appointed Mr. Smith to act in response to an application made on February 17th, on behalf of the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, for the appointment of an umpire to determine a question as to the interpretation of the National Boot and Shoe Trade Agreement of January 20th, 1909 (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1909). The question had been remitted to the Manufacturers' Federation and the Union by the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Glasgow. Mr. Smith issued his award in this case on March 5th, deciding that the National Agreement does not contain provisions relating to the employment and payment of youths as defined by the present reference, *i.e.*, youths between the ages of 18 and 21 without any previous experience at the trade.

The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Kettering and Rothwell (Lasters' and Finishers' section) having been unable to agree regarding proposed alterations in the statement for lasters, applied to the Board of Trade on March 1st for the appointment of an umpire to determine the matters in dispute. The Board of Trade, on March 5th, appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act as umpire.

Quarrymen, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On November 1st, 1909, about 220 quarrymen employed at quarries in the Newcastle-on-Tyne district struck work in protest against a proposed reduction in









Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of February, 1910, the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 8d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8.19d., and the lowest 7.73d. per lb. The average price for January, 1910, was 7.90d. per lb., and for February, 1909, 5.13d. per lb. For the period from March 1st to 10th, 1910, the average price of "middling American" was 8.01d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on March 11th, 1910, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 891,190 bales, as compared with 1,473,920 bales on March 12th, 1909.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during February, 1910, averaged 14.20d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 15.18d. per lb., and the lowest 13.14d. per lb. The average price for January, 1910, was 13.20d. per lb., and for February, 1909, 7.93d. per lb. For the period from March 1st to 10th, 1910, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 15.32d. per lb.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns are given below:—

Table showing cotton descriptions (American, Brazilian, East Indian, Egyptian, Miscellaneous) with columns for Feb., Jan., Feb. 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago and Year ago.

Exports.

The Table below shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Table showing cotton exports (Cotton Yarn and Twist, Cotton Piece Goods) with columns for Feb., Jan., Feb. 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago and Year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 392 Returns—368 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was good and better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 28,397 workpeople in the week ended February 26th, showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.6 per cent. in the wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 6.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 14.9 per cent. in the wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district employment was good and better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago; many mills were reported to be working overtime. In the Leeds district employment was good and considerably better than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district employment continued good with very little short time. In Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels employment was reported as very good and better than a year ago.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings for various departments (Wool Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Table showing Districts (Huddersfield, Leeds, Dewsbury & Batley, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Table showing Total West Riding and Total Woollen with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Worsted Trade.

Employment was good, and better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,714 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.8 per cent. in the wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 6.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 11.2 per cent. in the wages paid.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings for various departments (Wool Sorting & Combing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Table showing Districts (Bradford, Keighley, Halifax, Huddersfield, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Table showing Total West Riding and Total Worsted with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

In the Bradford district employment with wool sorters and combers was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; in the other branches there was a further improvement. In the Keighley and Halifax and Huddersfield districts employment was decidedly better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish Exports of woollen and worsted yarns and piece goods for the months stated:—

Table showing Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (Sheep or Lambs) and British and Irish Manufactures Exported, with columns for Feb., Jan., Feb. 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago and Year ago.

Prices of Raw Material.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

Table showing Average Prices and Course of Prices for Lincoln Hogs, 40's Crossbred tops, and 60's Super Botany tops, with columns for Pence per lb. for Feb., Jan., and Feb. 1909.

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 114 Returns—105 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 51,889 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Belfast district employment was good in almost every branch and much better than a year ago. In Fifehire employment continued good and showed an improvement, especially in the weaving section, compared with a year ago.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings for various departments (Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Table showing Districts (Belfast, Other Places in Ireland, Fifehire, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods, for the months stated:—

Table showing Imports and Exports of Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Cordilla) and Linen Yarn and Piece Goods, with columns for Feb., Jan., Feb. 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago and Year ago.

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 39 Returns—34 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 18,138 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed, and

7.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. The most marked improvement was in the weaving branch.

Of the 18,138 workpeople covered by the returns, 15,572 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings for various departments (Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Table showing Imports and Exports of Jute and Jute Piece Goods, with columns for Feb., Jan., Feb. 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago and Year ago.

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 99 Returns—89 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,058 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings for various departments (Levers, Curtain, Plain Net, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

Table showing Districts (Nottingham City, Long Eaton and other outlying districts, etc.) with columns for Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago and Year ago.

At Nottingham employment was bad in the levers branch, but rather better than a month ago; good in the curtain branch and better than a month ago; and good in the plain net branch, but not as good as a month ago. Employment was better than a year ago. In the Long Eaton district there was an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of lace imported and exported for the months stated:—

Table showing Imports and Exports of Cotton Lace and Silk Lace, with columns for Feb., Jan., Feb. 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago and Year ago.



HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 116 Returns—107 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 20,053 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 9.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table with 7 columns: District, Workpeople (Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Scotland, and Total United Kingdom.

At Leicester employment continued good and was much better than a year ago; at Loughborough it was fairly good; at Hinckley it was good. With power-frame workers in Nottingham and Derbyshire employment was still good and considerably better than a year ago; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was fairly good, and better than a year ago. In Scotland employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Table with 6 columns: Description, Feb., 1910, Jan., 1910, Feb., 1909, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Hosiery, Woollen, Cotton, and Exports.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 60 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good; it was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,192 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 7.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table with 7 columns: District, Workpeople (Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire, Macclesfield, Congleton and District, Eastern Counties, and Total.

Employment at Macclesfield continued fair with throwsters and spinners, and bad with "outside"

hand-loom weavers; with hand-loom weavers working in factories it was good, and better than a month ago. At Leek employment was fair with throwsters and spinners, but some short time was worked. At Congleton employment was fair with throwsters and spinners, and moderate with trimming weavers. In the Bradford district employment continued fairly good. In the Eastern Counties it was also fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated.

Table with 7 columns: Description, Feb., 1910, Jan., 1910, Feb., 1909, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Raw Silk, Thrown Silk, Spun Silk Yarn, Silk Broad-Stuffs, and Exports.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 46 Returns—23 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 11 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

EMPLOYMENT during February was rather better than in January and much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 6,346 workpeople, and paying £5,346 in wages, in the week ended February 26th, 1910, showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 9.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. About one-quarter of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-third worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago; much short time being reported.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as fair at Leek, and good at Macclesfield.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers continued good, and was much better than a year ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was good. In Scotland it was fair with calico printers and good with engravers and block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester employment was fair, at Hinckley there was a further slight improvement, at Loughborough there was a decline. With dyers at Nottingham and with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell employment was fair; with bleachers at Basford it was moderate.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment was good, and better than a year ago. In Dundee it was fair with bleachfield and calico workers.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 9 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, and 7 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during February in the Silk hat trade continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 5.8, compared with 5.9 a month ago and 14.1 a year ago.

In the Felt hat trade employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 35 Returns—22 from Trade Unions and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,184 reported 4.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 5.1 per cent. a month ago and 7.6 per cent. a year ago.

Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers and Dressers.—Employment with skimmers was fair at Leeds, but bad at Birmingham and dull in London. With curriers it was quiet at Birmingham, and bad in London and at Walsall; at Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh it was fair. With dressers employment continued fair. With leather workers generally employment was fair at Manchester and Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—At Walsall employment was quiet with gig saddlers, and good with brown saddlers. With saddlers it was quiet at Glasgow.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With portmanteau and trunk makers employment was fair in London and good at Manchester. With fancy leather workers it was fair generally.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness:—

Table with 6 columns: Description, Feb., 1910, Jan., 1910, Feb., 1909, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Imports of Hides raw and pieces thereof, wet, dry, Goat skins, Sheep skins, Leather, and Exports of Saddlery and Harness.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 120 Returns—91 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during February showed a seasonal improvement, and was rather better than a year ago.

Returns from firms paying £9,014 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended February 26th showed an increase of 17.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as bad in Manchester and Glasgow, slack in Liverpool, Edinburgh and Dublin, and dull in Belfast.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; less short time was reported. Returns from firms employing 8,118 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended February 26th, showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Jewish operatives reported an improvement.

Other Centres.—At Bristol employment was fair, and better than a year ago; at Norwich it was moderate.

\* Includes hides tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned or dressed as leather.

February was 2.1, compared with 3.0 a month ago and 3.4 a year ago. Employment was good at Denton and Stockport, and fairly good in Warwickshire.

Imports and Exports.

Table with 6 columns: Description, Feb., 1910, Jan., 1910, Feb., 1909, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Imports of All kinds, Hats, Felt, Straw, Other sorts, and Total.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 536 Returns—476 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 50 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 64,597 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment showed a further improvement, and was good generally. At Northampton the Trade Union clickers and pressmen reported employment as good, and slightly better than a month ago, the lasters and finishers reported it as still slack; at Kettering employment though slack was better than a year ago; with army bootmakers in Northamptonshire it was fairly good.

At Bristol employment showed an improvement compared with a month ago though it continued worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and Leeds it was slack, and some short time was reported. In Scotland employment was fair on the whole, and better than a year ago.

Table with 7 columns: District, Workpeople (Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, and UNITED KINGDOM.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported and exported for the months stated:—

Table with 6 columns: Description, Feb., 1910, Jan., 1910, Feb., 1909, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Imports (less Re-exports) and Exports (British & Irish).

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see under "Other Leather Trades."

At Manchester and Glasgow it was fair, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in February, 1910, were valued at £248,406, as compared with £205,609 in January, 1910, and £257,658 in February, 1909; and the **Exports** for the same months at £575,443, £535,334, and £416,775 respectively.

### OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 177 Returns—172 from Employers and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT** in London in the dressmaking trades was moderate; in the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c. trades, in the shirt and collar trade generally and in the corset trade it was fairly good. In all these branches employment was better than a year ago.

**Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,656 dressmakers in the week ended February 26th, showed a decrease of 4.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was reported as moderate. Court dressmakers employing 869 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 15.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 11.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment was fair.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,416 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 26th, showed an increase of 8.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 7.6 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good.

Returns from two Women's Employment Bureaux in London showed an increase in the demand for, and a decrease in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 2,206 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 6.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 17.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good.

In Glasgow employment was moderate but better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland employing 6,869 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) and paying £4,963 in wages in the week ended February 26th, showed no change compared with a month ago in the amount of wages paid and an increase of 12.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns from corset manufacturers employing 3,075 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

### PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 460 Returns—129 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 310 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

#### PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago, when short time was reported at a number of mills in the Northern Counties.

Returns received from firms employing 21,544 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there

was practically no change in the total number of workpeople employed by them as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

	Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Feb., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machin-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,359	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	1,551	+ 1.6	+ 2.1
Southern Counties	7,463	- 0.5	- 2.4
Scotland	5,406	- 0.1	+ 1.3
Total, Machin-made Paper, &c.	20,785	+ 0.0	- 0.1
Hand-made Paper	759	+ 0.1	+ 2.3
Total	21,544	+ 0.0	+ 0.0

Trade Unions in the **machin-made paper** trade with 1,531 members had 2.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 2.1 per cent. a month ago and 3.7 per cent. a year ago. In the **hand-made paper** trade, Trade Unions with 570 members had 7.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 3.2 per cent. a month ago, and 7.8 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of paper in February, 1910, amounted to £458,557, as compared with £516,248 in January, 1910, and £424,254 in February, 1909; and the **Exports** for the same months amounted to £227,348, £228,036 and £179,099 respectively.

#### PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was moderate generally. It was better at the end of February than at the end of January, and rather better than a year ago.

**London.**—Employment with letterpress printers was dull, better than a month ago and rather better than a year ago. With lithographic printers employment remained fair, and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 5.4, as compared with 6.6 at the end of January and 6.1 at the end of February, 1909.

**Other Centres.**—Employment with letterpress printers was dull generally, better than a month ago and rather better than a year ago. It was good at Liverpool, Bolton, Birmingham, Nottingham, and Dundee, and fair at Edinburgh, Belfast, Norwich and Ipswich. At Oxford and Plymouth few of the Trade Union members were out of employment at the end of the month. At Sheffield and Hull short time was reported, and at Aberdeen employment was worse than a month ago. With lithographic printers employment was good at Birmingham, moderate at Glasgow and Nottingham, and slack at other centres. At Edinburgh it was worse than a month ago, and at Leeds and Bradford short time was worked. With lithographic artists employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1910.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Feb., 1910.	Jan., 1910.	Feb., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	21,237	5.4	6.6	6.1	- 1.2	- 0.7
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,111	5.6	6.3	6.4	- 0.7	- 0.8
Lanes. and Cheshire	6,808	6.2	6.5	5.7	- 0.3	+ 0.5
East Midland and Eastern Counties	4,616	4.1	5.1	3.7	- 1.0	+ 0.4
West Midlands	4,554	4.4	5.0	4.7	- 0.6	- 0.3
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,939	3.4	4.2	2.8	- 0.8	+ 0.6
Scotland	5,700	4.9	5.5	5.4	- 0.6	- 0.5
Ireland	2,548	9.8	9.8	11.6	...	- 1.8
United Kingdom	50,913	5.4	6.3	5.8	- 0.9	- 0.4

#### BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was quiet generally. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. In London short time was reported, and at Edinburgh employment declined towards the end of the month. Employment was fair at Birmingham, Liverpool and Glasgow, and good with women at Manchester. At Dublin it was worse than a year ago.

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1910.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Feb., 1910.	Jan., 1910.	Feb., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,476	7.0	6.8	7.6	+ 0.2	- 0.6
Other Districts	3,316	4.9	4.9	7.5	...	- 2.6
United Kingdom	6,792	5.9	5.9	7.6	...	- 1.7

### BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,336 Returns—766 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,516 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 54 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT** in February, though still slack, was better than both a month ago and a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of February was 11.3, as compared with 14.4 a month ago and 14.5 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 8.5, 11.7, and 12.0 respectively. These percentages were always exceeded in the Northern Counties, where many of the Trade Union members are engaged in shipbuilding. In Yorkshire, Lancashire, the East Midland Counties and Wales the percentages unemployed were always below the average for the Kingdom.

Returns received from trade unions of bricklayers, painters and slaters show an improvement in employment compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from plasterers and labourers show little change compared with a month ago, but an improvement compared with a year ago. Returns from masons show little change compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

For London the Trade Union Returns show that 8.9 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 13.2 a month ago and 11.8 a year ago. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 11.4, 13.9 and 15.6 respectively.

Returns received from 700 firms employing 41,095 workpeople at the end of February show that there was an increase in the total number employed of 8.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Compared with a month ago every district showed an increase, while compared with a year ago the only district showing a decrease was the Midland and Eastern Counties.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
	No. paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	No. paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
London	7,060	+ 540	+ 263	4,843	+ 418	+ 101
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	1,966	+ 148	+ 17	1,640	+ 197	+ 157
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,492	+ 401	- 98	3,347	+ 679	+ 203
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	4,550	+ 120	+ 15	2,371	+ 194	- 345
	2,968	+ 146	+ 169	1,978	+ 15	+ 4.8
England and Wales	18,016	+ 1,355	+ 366	14,179	+ 1,503	+ 569
Scotland	4,693	+ 226	- 179	1,499	+ 81	+ 156
Ireland	646	+ 36	+ 273	768	+ 44	+ 223
United Kingdom	21,355	+ 1,617	+ 460	16,446	+ 1,628	+ 948

District.	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	No. paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	No. paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
London	434	+ 27	- 49	12,337	+ 985	+ 315
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	456	+ 12	- 20	4,082	+ 387	+ 154
Lancashire and Cheshire	954	+ 25	+ 21	7,793	+ 1,103	+ 131
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	321	- 4	- 38	5,328	+ 310	- 368
	593	+ 9	- 38	5,311	+ 170	+ 879
England and Wales	2,560	+ 69	- 124	34,768	+ 2,927	+ 811
Scotland	648	+ 2	- 79	4,840	+ 309	- 102
Ireland	86	- 1	...	1,800	+ 79	+ 496
United Kingdom	3,294	+ 70	- 203	41,095	+ 3,315	+ 1,208

Employment remained slack in most of the large centres. It was moderate with bricklayers at Middlesbrough, South Shields and Byker, with carpenters at Bridlington, Harrogate and Dewsbury, with plumbers at Bradford, and with painters at Huddersfield, Wakefield, Keighley, Harrogate, Doncaster and Middlesbrough. A decline was reported by bricklayers at

Sunderland and by plumbers at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. With slaters and tilers in the Northern Counties and Yorkshire employment was fair generally.

Employment was fair with bricklayers at Widnes and Altrincham, with carpenters at Stockport, and with painters at Bury, Altrincham, Stockport and Ashton-under-Lyne. It was good with painters at Blackpool and Southport. With plumbers employment in Lancashire and Cheshire was moderate at most centres, but slack at Liverpool, Oldham, Bolton and Rochdale. At Oldham employment generally was reported as worse than a year ago.

Employment was fair with bricklayers at Derby, Ipswich, Luton, Chelmsford, Halstead, Clacton, Walsall, Woverhampton and Nuneaton. With masons at Oxford it was good. It was moderate with carpenters at Ipswich, Northampton, Smethwick and Stafford, with plumbers at Leicester and with painters at Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln and Newark. A decline in employment was reported with carpenters, plumbers and labourers at Birmingham and with plasterers at Nottingham.

Employment was fair with bricklayers at Southampton, Maidstone, Cheltenham, Hereford and Taunton, with masons at Bristol and Cardiff, with carpenters at Cheltenham, Hereford and Malvern, with plasterers at Cardiff and Newport, and with painters at Bath.

Employment declined with masons and carpenters at Glasgow and Edinburgh, and with carpenters at Aberdeen. It was fair with bricklayers at Motherwell and Paisley, with masons at Dundee, Greenock and Hawick, and with plasterers at Glasgow and Aberdeen. With plumbers employment in Scotland was moderate generally, but slack at Dundee.

Employment at Dublin and Cork was fair on the whole.

### FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 172 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 129 from Trade Unions, and 37 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT** during February was on the whole quiet, except with coachbuilders and brushmakers, with whom it was fairly good. It showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,466 reported 7.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 9.3 per cent. a month ago and 8.8 per cent. a year ago.

#### Furnishing Trades.

Employment with cabinet-makers, upholsterers and french polishers showed an improvement compared with a month ago. It was, on the whole, about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 11.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 15.1 per cent. a month ago, and 11.6 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of furniture and cabinetware in February, 1910, were valued at £26,474, as compared with £29,248 in January, 1910, and £29,810 in February, 1909; and the **Exports** for the same months were valued at £54,478, £74,893, and £44,276 respectively.

#### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment on the whole was quiet. It showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. At Hull and on the Tees employment was reported to be fair; at Leeds it was slack, and at Newcastle, Bradford and Glasgow bad. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 5.4, as compared with 6.2 a month ago, and 8.7 a year ago.

#### Imports.

Description.	Feb., 1910.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a	
	Feb., 1910.	Jan., 1910.	Feb., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	167,258	188,494	124,181	- 21,236	+ 43,077
" sawn	110,341	176,702	130,471	- 66,361	- 20,130
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 15,396	£ 14,036	£ 11,762	+ 1,360	+ 3,634

**Coopers.**

Employment on the whole continued quiet, showing little change compared with a month ago. At Hull it was reported to be good, at Liverpool and Dublin fair, at Edinburgh slack, and at Burton, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol bad.

**Coachbuilding.**

Employment generally was fairly good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 4.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.0 per cent. a month ago, and 7.1 per cent. a year ago.

**Miscellaneous.**

**Brushmakers.**—Employment was good generally, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 3.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 5.0 per cent. a month ago, and 4.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Other Trades.**—Employment with packing-case makers showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. With basket makers at Leicester employment continued bad. With skip makers at Oldham it was bad, the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

The **Imports** of brushes and brooms in February, 1910, were valued at £34,368, as compared with £27,188 in January, 1910, and £30,220 in February 1909; and the **Exports** for the same months at £16,400, £16,468, and £15,749 respectively.

**GLASS TRADES.**

(Based on 92 Returns—59 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 21 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was bad on the whole, but showed some improvement as compared with a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,770 workpeople in the week ended February 26th showed an increase of 4.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. and the amount of wages paid of 1.1 per cent.

Branches.	Workpeople.		Earnings.			
	Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.	Week ended Feb. 26th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.
Glass Bottle ...	5,014	+ 6.0	+ 0.4	5,095	+ 7.6	+ 0.1
Plate Glass ...	690	+ 0.1	...	836	+ 3.4	+ 0.1
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	1,736	+ 1.3	+ 3.5	1,887	+ 0.4	+ 5.9
Other Branches ...	330	+ 6.8	+ 0.9	389	+ 7.2	+ 1.5
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>7,770</b>	<b>+ 4.9</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>9,118</b>	<b>+ 5.4</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
North of England ...	711	+ 1.4	+ 0.9	713	+ 6.1	+ 6.9
Yorkshire ...	3,923	+ 4.4	+ 2.6	4,758	+ 5.1	+ 0.8
Lancashire ...	888	+ 2.5	+ 2.0	950	+ 2.4	+ 16.6
Worcester and Warwick ...	1,136	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	1,366	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
Scotland ...	772	+ 0.4	+ 2.2	958	+ 0.8	+ 2.0
Other parts of the United Kingdom ...	338	+ 2.7	+ 4.0	333	+ 1.8	+ 4.4
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>7,770</b>	<b>+ 4.9</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>9,118</b>	<b>+ 5.4</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire continued bad generally, with a good deal of short time; it was about the same as a year ago, but there was some improvement as compared with a month ago. Employment was again bad with glass bottle makers in the North of England; at Seaham Harbour it continued dull. There was an improvement in Lancashire, as compared with both a month ago and a year ago; employment was fair at Bristol, moderate at Portobello, and bad at Dublin. Employment with flint glass makers was good at Birmingham and fairly good at Wordsley; with flint glass cutters it was quiet at Birmingham and Wordsley; it was good with flint glass cutters at Edinburgh. It continued moderate with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne it continued bad and was worse than a month ago, a great deal of short time being worked. Employment was good and better than a month ago with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham. It was rather better than a month ago with glass blowers in London.

**Imports and Exports.**

Description.	Feb., 1910.	Jan., 1910.	Feb., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	85,834	112,660	92,530	- 25,826	- 5,696
Plate ...	20,566	24,953	26,245	- 4,387	- 5,679
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	51,401	51,369	49,749	+ 32	+ 5,152
Manufactures, other sorts	73	144	192	- 71	- 119
Bottles ...	101,866	109,447	116,059	- 7,581	- 14,203
<b>Exports:</b>					
Plate ...	17,348	14,188	12,890	+ 3,160	+ 5,068
Flint ...	6,083	6,560	4,877	- 477	+ 1,206
Manufactures, other sorts	37,400	50,588	56,026	- 18,612	- 11,314
Bottles ...	58,386	66,115	59,740	- 7,729	- 1,354

**POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.**

(Based on 23 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, on the whole, in the Pottery trade, and slack in the Brick and Tile trades, but there was some improvement as compared with a month ago. Much short time was worked.

**Pottery Trade.**—In Staffordshire employment in the earthenware trade continued bad, and while some firms were working full time the average was about four days a week. Employment was fair on the whole in Devonshire. At Bristol it continued good with earthenware potters; with stone potters it was better than a month ago. In the china trade at Worcester and Coalport it was better than a month ago, when it was reported as dull. In the earthenware trade in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district it was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. It continued dull, on the whole, in Scotland, but was better than a month ago, although there was still a good deal of short time. Employment with tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow continued dull, and was worse than a month ago, much short time being worked.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—There was again much short time in these trades, partly on account of bad weather. Employment continued slack in the Peterborough district, but was fairly good at Market Harborough. It was bad at Nottingham and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. It was fair in Shropshire and at Stourbridge, and moderate in the Hartlepool district and in Devonshire. It was slack at Bridgwater and Bristol. It was fair in the Eastern Counties and continued good in Bedfordshire. There was again much short time in North Wales.

The **Imports** of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in February, 1910, were valued at £54,134, as compared with £58,108 in January, 1910, and £53,552 in February, 1909; and the **Exports** for the same months at £190,362, £200,696, and £158,210 respectively.

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.**

(Based on 229 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was much affected by wet weather in February, work on the land being impracticable in many cases. Threshing, hedging, ditching, manure carting, &c., provided work for day labourers when the weather permitted, but men of this class lost a good deal of time on account of rain, and the supply was generally somewhat in excess of requirements.

**Northern Counties.**—Agricultural employment in Northumberland was somewhat affected by wet and stormy weather, but was fairly regular on the whole. A few day labourers found occasional employment at hedging and ditching. Bad weather caused a good deal of interruption to outdoor work in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire, and the demand for day labourers in these counties was correspondingly affected. There was only a limited demand for day labourers in Yorkshire (for such work as threshing, hedging, ditching

and manure carting), and there were generally more of this class seeking work than were wanted. Some excess in the supply of men for permanent situations was also reported in several districts, a correspondent in the Bridlington Union remarking that young men were more numerous than for some years.

**Midland Counties.**—Employment was fairly regular in Cheshire and Derbyshire, though a few day labourers lost time on account of bad weather. Threshing, hedging, &c., provided a fair amount of work for day labourers in Nottinghamshire, where the supply of and demand for this class of men were generally about equal. Wet weather greatly hindered outdoor work in Leicestershire, and there was loss of time among day labourers in consequence. Day labourers were also in irregular employment in Staffordshire, the supply of men being generally in excess of requirements. Bad weather hindered farm work somewhat considerably in Shropshire and Worcestershire, and some day labourers in these counties lost a good deal of time. Employment was also irregular in Warwickshire, where day labourers employed at threshing and other work were affected by the bad weather. The weather similarly interrupted work in Northamptonshire, where there was a fairly good demand for day labourers when the weather permitted. A limited demand for day labourers was reported from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and in several districts the supply was in excess of requirements. Men of this class were generally in irregular work in Herefordshire and Bedfordshire, on account of wet and stormy weather. A report from North Bedfordshire mentions a demand for shepherds and men for tending cattle.

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment was fairly regular in Huntingdonshire, though hindered somewhat by wet weather, in the case of day labourers. Men of this class were not in much demand in Cambridgeshire on account of bad weather. There was a fairly good demand for day labourers, on the whole, in Lincolnshire. At the Candlemas hirings in this county wages showed little change compared with a year ago. Bad weather caused a certain amount of interruption to the employment of day labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk, but threshing, hedging, ditching and manure carting generally provided a good deal of work, and but little excess in the supply of labourers was reported. There was only a moderate demand for day labourers in Essex.

**Southern and South Western Counties.**—Outdoor farm work was much hindered by rain in Kent, and the demand for day labourers is reported to have been smaller than is usual in February. Hedging, ditching, rootcleaning, &c., provided a moderate amount of work for day labourers in Surrey and Sussex, but in these counties also there was much unemployment among this class of men, on account of wet weather, which rendered work on the land impracticable in many districts. There was generally only a moderate demand for day labourers in Hampshire and Berkshire. Wet weather caused loss of time to men employed at threshing and other work in Wiltshire, and more men than usual were reported in irregular work. Day labourers were generally in little demand in Dorset; there was a surplus of men seeking permanent situations at the Dorchester hiring fair, a correspondent reporting the supply as larger than for some years. Not much irregularity of employment was reported in Somerset, where, however, rain caused a certain amount of lost time to day labourers. In Herefordshire, on account of an unusually wet month, day labourers were in small request. A correspondent in the Bromyard Union states that there was a demand for cowmen and wagoners. The weather also affected employment in Gloucestershire, and several day labourers were in irregular work. In Devon and Cornwall there was generally plenty of work for day labourers when the weather permitted, but in most districts a few days were lost through rain.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 139 Returns—116 from Employers, 7 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London during February was fair, not so good as a month ago, but better on the whole than a

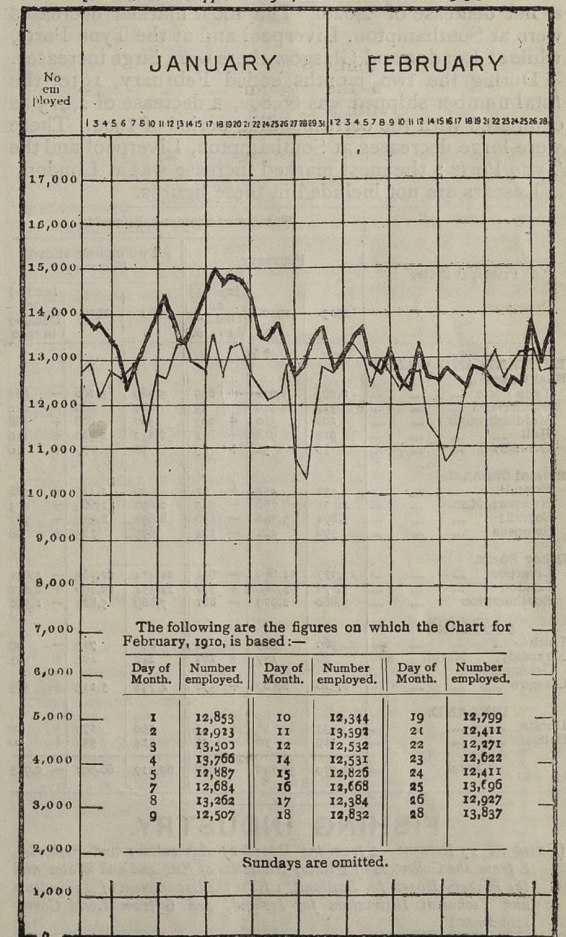
year ago. It was slack generally at Liverpool, and at the other principal ports it continued moderate on the whole.

**London.\***—Employment during February was fair, not so good as a month ago, but better on the whole than a year ago. The wool sales at the London Docks ended early in the month. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London in the four weeks ended February 26th, 1910, was 12,859, a decrease of 5.9 per cent. as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 2.5 per cent. as compared with February, 1909. The daily numbers employed during February, 1910, ranged from 12,271 on the 22nd, to 13,837 on the 28th. During February, 1909, the daily numbers ranged from 10,716 on the 16th to 13,363 on the 4th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Feb. 5th	4,333	2,753	7,086	6,185	13,271
" " " 12th	4,203	2,392	6,600	6,170	12,770
" " " 19th	3,953	2,501	6,454	6,219	12,673
" " " 26th	4,193	2,300	6,493	6,330	12,723
Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 26th, 1910	4,149	2,487	6,636	6,223	12,859
Average for Jan., 1910	4,719	2,688	7,407	6,865	13,672
Average for Feb., 1909	3,986	2,624	6,610	5,986	12,596

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of January and February, 1910. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1909, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1910, and the thin curve to 1909.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for February, 1910, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	12,853	10	12,344	19	12,799
2	12,913	11	13,392	21	12,411
3	13,502	12	12,532	22	12,271
4	13,766	14	12,531	23	12,622
5	12,887	15	12,826	24	12,411
7	12,684	16	12,668	25	13,696
8	13,262	17	12,384	26	12,927
9	12,507	18	12,832	28	13,837

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,357 in February, 1910, as compared with 1,396 in the previous month, and 1,286 in February, 1909.

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Employment at Liverpool was moderate with dock labourers, and bad with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports.—Employment with dock and quayside labourers on the Tyne and Wear was fair and rather better than a month ago; it was moderate on the whole with coal trimmers and teamers, a number having been discharged and others put on short time owing to the disputes in the coal trade.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on 27 Returns received through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade was entered and cleared), show that during February 31,742\* seamen, of whom 3,012 (or 9.5 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels.

During the two months ended February, 1910, the total number shipped was 66,802, a decrease of 2,915 as compared with the corresponding period of 1909.

Table showing Number of Seamen\* shipped in February, 1909 and 1910, for various Principal Ports including Tyne Ports, Bristol Channel, Other Ports, Scotland, and Ireland.

Table showing Predominant price per 4 lbs. on 1st Mar., 1910, for various Districts including England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 3 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics of England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in February, 1910, showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with February, 1909.

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals. † Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

Employment at the principal ports was on the whole moderate. At Grimsby employment was good with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in February, 1910 and 1909:—

Table showing Quantity and Value of Fish (other than Shell) and Shell Fish landed in February, 1910 and 1909.

The Exports of herrings, cured and salted, in February, 1910, were valued at £70,528, as compared with £81,383 in January, 1910, and £66,511 in February, 1909.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies and Master Bakers' Associations in Great Britain, and from local correspondents, showing the price of bread on March 1st, 1910.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 228 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 132 from Scotland:—

Table showing Predominant price per 4 lbs. on 1st Mar., 1910, for various Districts including England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

The mean of the prices for March, 1910, remains practically unaltered as compared with that for December, 1909. As compared with March 1st, 1909, an increase of 1/4d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

Returns showing the predominant prices of 4 lbs. of bread on March 1st, 1910, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and 30 from other sources.

Table showing Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on Mar. 1st, 1910, for various Districts including London, N. & N.W., S.E., S.W., W. & W.C., N. Counties & Yorks., Midlands, Eastern Counties, Southern Counties, S. Western Counties, Scotland, and Great Britain.

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the predominant prices remains unaltered. Compared with a year ago an increase of 2d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

In the next Table the predominant price is shown for 27 of the principal towns.

Table showing Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on Mar. 1st, 1910, and Last Change for various Places including London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Potteries, Southampton, Wolverhampton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin.

As compared with February 1st, the predominant price of bread has risen 1/4d. per 4 lbs. in the Potteries and fallen 1/4d. per 4 lbs. in Bristol, Manchester and Portsmouth. As compared with a year ago, one town (Dundee) shows a decrease of 1/4d. per 4 lbs., and in 11 towns the price is unaltered.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September, 1909-February 1910, amounted to 49,067,880 cwts., or 8,095,785 cwts. more than in the corresponding months of 1908-9.

Table showing Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) in Mill for cash, for various Months including February 1909, 1910, January, and February.

EMPLOYMENT AND OUTPUT AT COAL MINES IN 1909.

A PRELIMINARY statement has recently been issued by the Home Office relating to the output of coal and other minerals, and the number of persons employed at mines in the United Kingdom during the year 1909.

The following statement shows the output in the principal districts in the years 1908 and 1909:—

Table showing Output of Coal in 1908 and 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909, as compared with 1908, for various Districts including Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Leicestershire, Staffordshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire, Lanarkshire, Fife, and Other Districts.

The output in Durham increased by over one million tons, or 2.7 per cent., and that in Yorkshire by just under one million tons, or 2.8 per cent.

The total number of persons employed at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts (including a certain number of persons engaged in mining ironstone, fireclay, shale, &c.) was 1,013,998, an increase of 26,185, or 2.7 per cent., as compared with 1908.

The total number of persons employed in and about coal and other mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, in the principal districts in each of the years 1908 and 1909 was as follows:—

Table showing Number employed in 1908 and 1909, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909 as compared with 1908, for various Districts including Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Leicestershire, Staffordshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire, Lanarkshire, Fife, and Other Districts.

There were increases as compared with 1908 in the numbers employed in all the coalfields, except in Lanarkshire, where there was a very small decrease.













W. Gilpin, sen., & Co., Ltd., Wedges Mills, Carnock, Staffs.  
G. & J. Hall, Hereford Street Works, Sheffield.  
W. Hunt & Sons, The Brades, Ltd., Brades Steel Works, Birmingham.  
Hughes-Johnson Stampings, Ltd., Langley Green, near Birmingham.  
Joiners' Tool and Engineering Syndicate, 233, Bradford Street, Birmingham.  
Lawson & Heaton, Ltd., 315, Long Acre, Nechells, Birmingham.  
Leadbeater & Scott, Penistone Road, Sheffield.  
E. & W. Lucas, Dronfield Forge, Sheffield.  
W. Marples & Sons, Ltd., Hibernia Works, Sheffield.  
R. Mather, Shoreham Street Works, Sheffield.  
A. Mathieson & Sons, Ltd., East Campbell Street, Glasgow.  
F. G. Pearson & Co., Hope Works, Sheffield.  
George Plumpton, Albion Works, Warrington.  
J. Rabone & Sons, Hockley Abbey Works, Birmingham.  
D. Rollo & Sons, Fulton Engine Works, Liverpool.  
Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Newhall Road, Sheffield.  
Slack, Sellars & Co., Ltd., Townhead Works, Sheffield.  
E. Terry, Bolsover Street, Sheffield.  
Thewlis, Griffith & Edleston, Ltd., Warrington.  
Thos. Turner & Co., Suffolk Works, Sheffield.  
Ward & Payne, West Street, Sheffield.  
C. Whitehouse & Sons, Ltd., Cannock Edge Tool Works, Cannock.  
Whitehouse Bros., Ltd., Cannock, Staffs.  
Wynn, Timmins & Co., Ltd., Commercial Street, Birmingham.  
J. Yates & Co., Ltd., Rocky Lane, Aston Manor, Birmingham.

**ADMIRALTY: DIRECTOR OF WORKS DEPARTMENT.**  
CRANES, No. 2, Three-ton Steam Travelling, for H.M. Dockyard, Devonport—Joseph Booth & Bros., Ltd., Union Foundry and Ironworks, Rodley, Leeds.  
EXPANDED METAL for H.M. Dockyard, Hong Kong—Expanded Metal Co., per Wm. Jacks & Co., agents, 5, East India Avenue, London, E.C.  
RAILWAY MATERIALS for H.M. Dockyard, Cape of Good Hope—P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., 129, Trongate, Glasgow.  
RAILWAY MATERIALS for H.M. Dockyard, Devonport—T. Summerson & Sons, Ltd., Albert Hill Foundry, Darlington.

**WORKS SERVICES—**  
Caissons, No. 2, Floating, for New Lock, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth—Workman, Clark & Co., Ltd., Spencer Basin, Belfast.  
Erection of Superstructure of the Extension of Offices at H.M. Naval Depot, Portland—Wakeham Bros., Friary Road, Tothill, Plymouth.  
New Approach Road, Fencing, &c., at H.M. Naval Ordnance Establishment, Crombie—John Martin, 10, Bridge Street, Dunfermline.  
Squash Racquet and Fives Courts, R.N. College, Dartmouth—Richard F. Yeo & Sons, 35, Torwood Street, Torquay.  
Tanks, Oil, Steel—Whessoe Foundry Co., Ltd., Darlington.

**WAR OFFICE.**  
**BOOTS—**  
W. Lawrence, High Street, Raunds.  
Pocock Bros., 235, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.  
**BOTTLES, WATER—**  
Anglo-American Tin Stamping Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.  
Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.  
**BUCKLES, HOOKS, &c.—**  
Berkeley & Co., Ltd., 288, Windsor Street, Birmingham.  
T. Evans & Son, Summit Works, Walsall.  
H. Hipkiss & Co., Ltd., Goodman Street Works, Birmingham.  
H. Moseley & Sons, Bath Street Works, Walsall.  
Smith & Wright, Ltd., Brearley Street, Birmingham.  
**BUTTONS—**  
E. Bacon & Sons, Victoria Works, River Street, Deritend, Birmingham.  
Buttons, Ltd., Portland Street, Aston.  
C. Edkins & Sons, Ltd., Friday Bridge Works, Birmingham.  
Firman & Sons, Ltd., 108-9, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.  
J. Grove & Sons, Bloomfield Works, Halesowen.  
Smith & Wright, Ltd., Brearley Street, Birmingham.  
W. Twigg & Co., Ltd., 25, Legge Lane, Birmingham.  
**CASES, PACKING (Running Contract)—**  
J. F. Farwig & Co., Puddle Dock, 1, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
A. Lloyd & Sons, Ltd., Mill Street, Dockhead, S.E.  
Priddy & Hale, Ltd., 8, Newman Street, W.  
H. Smith & Co., 16, Arthur Street West, London Bridge, E.C.  
**CLOTHING—**Limerick Clothing Factory, Ltd., Dublin.  
**CRANES—**Flavell & Churchill, Bellat Street, East Greenwich.  
**EMBROIDERY—**  
H. Appleton & Sons, Morwell Street, Bedford Square, W.C.  
Benton & Johnson, 63, King's Cross Road, W.C.  
Brough, Nicholson & Hall, Ltd., Cross Street, Leek.  
J. Carr & Sons, Clarence Mills, Manchester.  
Dalton, Barton & Co., Ltd., 49-52, Jewin Street, E.C.  
Hobson & Sons, 1, Lexington Street, W.  
G. Kenning & Son, 1-4, Little Britain, E.C.  
S. Simpson, Avenham Road Works, Preston.  
W. Tolson, Ltd., Fazeley.

**FIREBRICKS, &c. (Running Contract)—**  
J. Dougall & Sons, Ltd., Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, N.B.  
Lucas Bros., Ltd., Dunston, near Gateshead.  
**FLUID AND COMPOSITION, BOILER (Running Contract)—**Jas. Harris, 63, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
**KNIVES AND FORKS—**  
Atkinson Bros., Ltd., Milton Works, Sheffield.

Boswell, Hatfield & Co. (1907), Ltd., Hawk Works, Mary Street, Sheffield.  
H. S. Carr & Sons, Ltd., India Works, Clough Road, Sheffield.  
S. Hardy & Co., Cornhill Works, Sheffield.  
M. Hunter & Son, Ltd., Talbot Works, Sheffield.  
T. Turner & Co., Suffolk Works, Sheffield.

**LEATHER—**  
W. Beckworth & Sons, Ltd., Viaduct Tannery, Leeds.  
R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds.  
Hepburn, Gale & Ross, Ltd., Grange Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.  
J. Tullis & Son, Ltd., 5, Lloyds Avenue, E.C.  
**MACHINE, BORING—**Kendall & Gent, Ltd., Victoria Works, Belle Vue, Manchester.  
**PAINT, OXIDE OF IRON (Running Contract)—**W. Brown, Sons & Co., Ltd., 97, Portman Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow.  
**STEEL AND IRONWORK** in connection, with Verandahs at Grand Shaft Barracks, Dover—W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Lochrin Iron Works, Coatbridge.  
**TRUCKS—**R. Y. Pickering & Co., Ltd., Railway Carriage, Wagon and Wheel Works, Wishaw, N.B.

**WORKS SERVICES—**  
Alterations and additions to Messes in "B" and "D" Lines, Bulford Camp, Salisbury Plain—Billet & Musselwhite, Castle Street, Salisbury.  
Alterations to and Refitting of Annexes, &c., Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley—Billet & Musselwhite, Castle Street, Salisbury.  
Asphalte Work (Running Contract)—Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., Poplar, E.  
Erection of Mobilization Storehouse, Grand Depot Barracks, Woolwich—Yorkshire Heenebique Contracting Co., Ltd., Viaduct Works, Leeds.  
Erection of No. 1. Half Company Barrack Block, Reading—G. S. Lewis & Bro., Castle Street, Reading.  
Erection of Nursing Staff's Qrs., Military Families' Hospital, Devonport—Jas. Crockerell, Richmond Walk, Devonport.  
Erection of Troop Stables, &c., Fulwood Barracks, Preston—R. Thompson, Dalton Square, Lancaster.  
Lighting of Fort George Barracks, (Northern and Southern Groups)—Machine Gas Syndicate, 180, Arlington Road, London, N.W.  
Regrade and Remetal Roads and Parades, Norwich—E. J. Edwards, Plumstead Road, Norwich.

**INDIA OFFICE, STORE DEPARTMENT.**  
**ASBESTOS PACKING—**Turner Bros., Rochdale.  
**BAROMETERS—**S. & A. Calderara, 10, Cross Street, Hatton Garden, E.C.  
**BOILER PLANT—**Babcock & Wilcox, Oriel House, Farringdon Street, E.C.  
**BOLTS, IRON—**C. Richards & Sons, Darlaston, Staffordshire.  
**BOLTSTAVES, BRASS—**Elliott's Metal Co., Selly Oak Works, Birmingham.  
**BOTTLES, WATER—**Eveson Bros., Wollescote, near Stourbridge.  
**BRIDGEWORK—**Patent Shaft and Axletree Co., Wednesbury.  
**BROOMS, &c.—**A. Reid & Sons, 283, Tabard Street, S.E.  
**CALICO—**L. Behrens & Sons, Portland Street, Manchester.  
**CAMBRIC—**A. A. Fletcher & Co., Church, Lancashire.  
**CANVAS—**Richards, L'd., Aberdeen.  
**CARRIAGES—**Metropolitan Amalgamated Railway Carriage Co., Saltley, Birmingham.  
**COACHSCREWS—**Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Birmingham.  
**COUPLERS—**A.B.C. Coupler, Ltd., the Couplers will be made at the Works of the Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., Birmingham.  
**DRILL, COTTON—**  
L. Behrens & Sons, Portland Street, Manchester.  
E. Spinner & Co., 11, Albert Square, Manchester.  
**ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION WORK—**A. Wiseman, Ltd., Glover Street, Birmingham.  
**ELECTRIC POWER PLANT—**British Westinghouse Electric Co., Trafford Park, Manchester.  
**ENGINES—**Vickers, Sons & Maxim, River Don Works, Sheffield.  
**ENGINE OIL—**R. Hornsby & Sons, Spittlegate Works, Grantham.  
**FISHBOLTS—**G. Cooper & Sons, Effingham Works, Sheffield.  
**IRON, PIG—**The Carron Co., Carron Iron Works, Falkirk.  
**INDIARUBBER SHEET—**W. Warne & Co., 29, Gresham Street, E.C.  
**LAMPS, &c.—**British Thomson-Houston Co., Rugby.  
**LOCOMOTIVES—**Vulcan Foundry Co., Newton-le-Willows, Lancs.  
**MACHINE, CHAIN TESTING—**W. & T. Avery, Soho Works, Birmingham.

**MOTORS—**  
Lancashire Dynamo, &c., Co., Trafford Park, Manchester.  
Laurence, Scott & Co., Gothic Works, Norwich.  
Lancashire Dynamo, &c., Co., Trafford Park, Manchester.

**PAPER—**  
A. Cowan & Sons, 24, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
Hollingworth & Co., Maidstone.  
**PUMPS, VACUUM—**Bellis & Morcom, Ledsam Street Works, Birmingham.  
**RAILS AND FISHPLATES—**Workington Iron and Steel Co., Workington.  
**ROLLS, PLATE BENDING—**J. Hetherington & Sons, Ancoats Works, Manchester.  
**SAW, &c.—**A. Ransome & Co., Stanley Works, Newark.  
**SPRINGS, BEARING—**T. Turton & Sons, Sheaf Works, Sheffield.  
**STEEL, PLATES—**  
Steel Co. of Scotland, Motherwell.  
D. Colville & Sons, Motherwell.  
**STEEL SHEETS—**Pather Iron & Steel Co., Wishaw, N.B.

**STEEL TEES—**Shelton Iron, &c., Co., Stoke-on-Trent.  
**SWITCHBOARDS—**British Thomson-Houston Co., Rugby.  
**SWITCHGEAR—**British Thomson-Houston Co., Rugby.  
**TUBES, STEEL—**  
Chesterfield Tube Co., Chesterfield.  
J. Russell & Co., Alma Tube Works, Walsall.  
**TUBING, COPPER, &c.—**Muntz's Metal Co., French Walls, near Birmingham.  
**WHEELS AND AXLES—**Glasgow Railway Engineering Co., Govan.  
**WIRE AND CABLES—**Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Silver-town, E.

**GENERAL POST OFFICE.**

**CABLE, PAPER CORE—**  
British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancashire.  
Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, Kent.  
Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Woolwich, Kent.  
**INSULATORS—**Taylor, Tunnicliff & Co., Ltd., Eastwood, Hanley.  
**TELEPHONES—**  
British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Liverpool.  
Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Woolwich, Kent.  
**TRANSMITTERS, TELEPHONE—**Western Electric Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.  
**TRICYCLES, CARRIER—**  
Enfield Cycle Co., Ltd., Redditch.  
Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Birmingham.  
**WASTE, COTTON—**W. C. Jones, Ltd., Collyhurst Waste Mills, Manchester.  
**WIRE, COPPER—**  
British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancashire.  
T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor.  
R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Bradford Iron Works, Manchester.  
Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Wellington, Salop.  
F. Smith & Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester.  
Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Liverpool Street, Birmingham.

**LAY AND JOINT LINES OF Cast Iron Pipes and Pneumatic Tubes in Newcastle-on-Tyne—**G. E. Simpson, Grantham Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
**LAY AND JOINT LINES OF Cast Iron Pipes in Sutton and Wallington—**Grounds & Newton, Page Green, South Tottenham, London, N.  
**LAY AND JOINT LINES OF Cast Iron Pipes and Earthenware Ducts in Farringdon Road, London, E.C.—**Westminster Construction Co., Ltd., 22, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.  
**BATTERY EQUIPMENT AND MAIN SWITCHBOARD with Motor Generators Installation at the new Head Post Office, Sheffield—**General Electric Co., Ltd., 71, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.  
**ELECTRIC LIFTS (2) at the new Post Office, Sheffield—**A. W. Penrose & Co., Ltd., 109, Farringdon Road, London, E.C.  
**ELECTRIC LIFTS (3) at the Western District Post Office, Wimpole Street, London, W.—**A. W. Penrose & Co., Ltd., 109, Farringdon Road, London, E.C.  
**ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND CABLING of King Edward Building, General Post Office, London, E.C.—**G. E. Taylor & Co., 8, Bush Lane, London, E.C.  
**MOTOR GENERATORS at King Edward Building, General Post Office, London, E.C.—**British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., 2, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.  
**PNEUMATIC PLANT INSTALLATION at the New Head Post Office, Grimsby—**C. & A. Musker (1901), Ltd., Tue Brook, Liverpool.  
**SUPPLY AND DRAW IN FEEDER AND PILOT CABLES between Sub-stations at General Post Office (South), General Post Office (West), and King Edward Building, London, E.C.—**Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Caxton House, London, S.W.  
**TELEPHONE TRUNK SERVICE EQUIPMENT, Installation at Post Office Trunk Exchange, Nottingham—**British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Lennox House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

**STATIONERY OFFICE.**

**PAPER OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS—**  
J. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd., King's Norton, near Birmingham.  
Brown, Stewart & Co., Ltd., Dalmarnock Paper Mills, Glasgow.  
H. Bruce & Sons, Kinleith Mill, Currie.  
E. Collins & Sons, Kelvindale Mill, Maryhill, Glasgow.  
A. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Valleyfield Mills, Penicuik.  
R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Moffat and Caldercruix Mills, Airdrie.  
Golden Valley Paper Mills, Biton, near Bristol.  
Hele Paper Co., Ltd., Hele Works, Cullompton.  
W. S. Hodgkinson & Co., Wookey Hole Mill, Wells, Somerset.  
Hyde Paper Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Broomstair Mill, Denton.  
W. Joyson & Son, St. Mary Cray, Kent.  
C. Marsden & Sons, Ltd., Tamworth, Staffs.  
Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet.  
A. M. Peebles & Son, Ltd., Kishton Mill, Rishton, near Blackburn.  
A. Pirie & Sons, Ltd., Stoneywood Mills, Bucksburn, Aberdeen.  
T. H. Saunders & Co., Ltd., Rye Mill, High Wycombe.  
Smith, Stone & Knight, Ltd., Avonside Mills, Bristol.  
R. Somerville & Co., Creech St. Michael, Taunton.  
Ulverston Paper Co., Ltd., Ulverston.  
Wall Paper Manufacturers, Ltd., Hollins Mills, Darwen.  
**PAPER: OILED FLIMSY—**Caribonum Co., Ltd., Caribonum Works, Leyton, N.E.  
**PARCHMENTS OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS—**Cooper, Dennison & Walkden, Ltd., Verney Road, S.E.  
**PRINTING, BINDING, &c.—**  
Binding 45,000 copies "Rifle and Field Exercises for H.M. Fleet, 1909"—Harrison & Sons, 45, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

Binding, &c., 6,000 "Army Book 72"; printing, binding, &c., 1,300 books, "S 252"—Drake, Driver & Leaver, Ltd., Rosebery Avenue, E.C.  
Binding, &c., 1,900 Exercise Books; printing, binding, &c., 3,000 books, "S 278"; supplying 1,000 File Covers, 13½ in. x 8½ in.—Fenner Appleton & Co., Ltd., 77, St. John Street, E.C.  
Binding, &c., 23,000 books "S. 575 F—D 195"; Printing, &c., and Binding 30,000 "Army Book 153"; 1,000 books "S. 248"; Supplying 2,000 Canvas Covers 44 in. x 28½ in.; 5,000 Correspondence Files; 1,600 Millboards 13½ in. x 8½ in.; 8,000 Millboards 14 in. x 9½ in.; 3,000 Portfolios No. O.R. 106—Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Paul Street and Finsbury Works, London, E.C.  
Printing, Binding, &c., 1,250 "Army Book 194"—H. Good & Son, Sydney Avenue, E.C.  
Printing, Binding, &c., 3,500 books "S. 71 B."; 2,500 "S. 72"; 3,000 "S. 72 A." (size 1); 1,600 "S. 72" (size 2)—McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton, Bucks.  
Printing District and Garrison Orders, &c., for the Army Headquarters at—  
Chester—G. R. Griffith, Bridge Street and Grosvenor Street, Chester.  
Colchester—R. W. Cullingford & Co., East Stockwell Street, Colchester.  
Dover—Mrs. E. Stockwell, 73, Biggin Street, Dover.  
Salisbury—F. Jay, 22, Endless Street, Salisbury.  
York—Yorkshire Printing Co., Ltd., Hull Road, York.  
Printing, &c., 75,000 Pads, Form "T. No. 103 A."—Gale & Polden, Ltd., Aldershot.  
Supplying 350 Spring Portfolios "S. 260"; 750 "S. 16" 600 "S. 317"—J. Speller & Co., 61-65, Golden Lane, E.C.  
**STORES—**2 Electric Photo Copying Machines; 1 Photo Print Developer—J. Halden & Co., Ltd., 8, Albert Square, Manchester.

**OFFICE OF WORKS.**

**BUILDERS' WORK—**  
Greenock Labour Exchange, Adaptation—Messrs. J. Baxter & Sons, 20, Catherine Street, Glasgow.  
Halifax Post Office, Alterations—Messrs. Pickles, Bros., 63, Ripon Street, Harkinson Lane, Halifax.  
Wednesbury Post Office, Enlargement—Messrs. W. B. & F. T. Archer, 198, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

**TLING—**  
Admiralty, Marble and Tile Paving—Mosaic Marble and Tile Co., Ltd., 27, Gillingham Road, Cricklewood, N.W.  
New Western District P.O. Wall Tiling—Messrs. Carter & Co., Ltd., 29, Albert Embankment, S.E.

**FITTINGS—**  
Manchester Newton Street New P.O. Fittings, 3rd. Contract—Messrs. Richard Stone & Sons, Ltd., Crown Works, Wellington, Salop.  
Sheffield New P.O. Fittings, 1st. Contract—The Educational Supply Association, Ltd., 42, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

**VENTILATION—**  
Admiralty, Block IV.—Messrs. Matthew & Yates, 84, Grays Inn Road, W.C.

**BLOWER TYPE FAN—**  
Royal Courts of Justice—The Electric & Ordnance Accessories Co., Ltd., Cheston Road, Aston, Birmingham.

**FIREPROOF BOOK-CASES—**  
Edinburgh General Register House—Milners' Safe Co., 68, Buchanan Street, Glasgow.

**PRISON COMMISSION.**  
**BACON AND PRESERVED MEAT—**J. F. Percival, Valentine Place, Blackfriars Road, S.E.  
**BEANS AND OATMEAL—**  
G. T. Cox & Sons, 9 and 10, St. Mary-at-Hill, E.C.  
R. Dickeson & Co., Strand Street, Stonehouse, Plymouth.  
J. Hindhaugh & Co., 38, Cloth Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
J. F. Percival, Valentine Place, Blackfriars Road, S.E.  
**BOOTS, UNIFORM—**W. Nichols & Son, Regent Street, Kettering.  
**BUTTER, CHEESE AND MARGARINE—**J. F. Percival, Valentine Place, Blackfriars Road, S.E.  
**CAPS, UNIFORM—**E. Milns & Co., 69-72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
**EARTHENWARE—**Mintons, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.  
**EXTENSION OF RECEPTION BUILDING at Holloway Prison—**L. Whitehead & Co., Ltd., Portland Works, Portland Place, Clapham Road, London, S.W.  
**FLOUR AND WHOLEMEAL—**  
A. & W. Evans, Soar Lane Mills, Leicester.  
J. W. French & Co., Ltd., Bow Flour Mills, Bow, E.  
E. Krog & Co., 19, Mark Lane, E.C.  
E. Mead & Co., 97 and 99, Lots Road, Chelsea, S.W.  
North Shore Mill Co., 85, Boundary Street, Liverpool.  
J. Reynolds & Co., Albert Flour Mills, Gloucester.  
Reynolds & Haselgrave, Corn Factors, Wakefield.  
H. O. Short & Son, Berwick-on-Tweed.  
W. Taylor & Co., 69, Bank Street, Maidstone.  
**FURNITURE, &c.—**A. W. Lyne & Co., 86, Upper Ground Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
**GROCERIES—**G. T. Cox & Sons, 9 and 10, St. Mary-at-Hill, E.C.  
**IRONMONGERY, CUTLERY, &c.—**Pryke & Palmer, 40 and 41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
**MEAT, FRESH—**  
W. D. Brabin, 3F, Elliot Street, Liverpool.  
Curnick & Co., 7 & 8, High Street, Marylebone, W.  
T. Dearnaly & Sons, 17, Victoria Street, Manchester.

- J. Dickeson, 5, Silver Street, Durham.  
 F. E. Fisher, 76, High Street, Watford.  
 G. S. Miller & Sons, 2, Belle Vue Road, Upper Tooting.  
 J. Perkins, 51, High Street, Leamington.  
 A. F. Robotham, 3, Sherlock Street, Birmingham.  
 Rowland & Sons, 57, Gaol Road, Stafford.  
 Eliz. Singleton, Bridge Street, Warrington.  
 C. F. Soper, 8, Meat Market, Plymouth.  
 I. Stephenson, 121, Kirkgate, Leeds.  
 E. Wakefield, 62, Stone Street, Maidstone.  
 T. J. Wright, 272, Wandsworth Road, S.W.
- MILK, FOWLS AND EGGS—**  
 B. Jupe, Church Road, Gurnard, Cowes.  
 Wilts United Dairy Co., 100, Kensal Road, W.
- OILMAN'S STORES—**J. F. Percival, Valentine Place, Blackfriars Road, S.E.
- SOAP—**J. Knight, Ltd., Royal Primrose Soap Works, London, E.
- UNIFORM (Making-up)—**E. Milns & Co., 69-72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.
- VEGETABLES—**  
 W. Dennis & Son, 26, James Street, Covent Garden, W.C.  
 A. Gardiner & Son, Vauxhall Street, Plymouth.  
 W. T. Jay, Covent Garden Market, W.C.  
 H. Morris, Borough Market, S.E.
- BOARDS, COVERS, STOCKS, ETC., FOR BRUSHMAKING—**  
 S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., Mile End, E.  
 A. W. Lyne & Co., 86, Upper Ground Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 Pryke & Palmer, 40/41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.
- BRUSHMAKING MATERIALS—**  
 J. Clark, Monarch Works, Abbey Lane, Stratford, E.  
 S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd., Mile End, E.  
 A. W. Lyne & Co., 86, Upper Ground Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 Pryke & Palmer, 40/41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
 Shaws, Ltd., 86, Miller Street, Manchester.
- CANVAS—**  
 Boase Spinning Co., Ltd., St. Andrew's Buildings, Dundee.  
 J. Jeffrey & Co., Kirkcaldy.  
 Leadbetter Bros. & Co., Dundee.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 Port Glasgow and Newark Sailcloth Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow.  
 Richards, Ltd., Broadford Works, Aberdeen.  
 W. Ritchie & Son, 6, Lime Street, London.  
 Woods, Sons & Co., 62/63, Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C.
- COTTON MATERIALS—**  
 L. Behrens & Sons, 131, Portland Street, Manchester.  
 D. Gurteen & Sons, Chanstry Mills, Haverhill.  
 J. Jeffrey & Co., Kirkcaldy.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 J. Parkyn & Co., 70, Mosley Street, Manchester.  
 W. Ritchie & Son, 6, Lime Street, London.  
 S. Sadler, Son & Co., 24, Ironmonger Lane, E.C.  
 J. R. Smith, 12, Birchin Lane, Manchester.  
 F. Taylor & Son, 17, Bloom Street, Manchester.  
 R. Ward & Co., 11, Stevenson Square, Manchester.  
 Woods, Sons, & Co., 62 and 63, Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C.
- GRINDERY—**  
 W. Barbour & Sons, Ltd., Hilden, Lisburn, Ireland.  
 H. Campbell & Co., Ltd., 41, Royal Avenue, Belfast.  
 Coker, Pearse & Co., Abington Square, Northampton.  
 J. Legard & Sons, Wakefield.  
 Lindsay, Thompson & Co., Ltd., The Linen Thread Mills, Belfast.  
 E. Penton & Sons, 1-11, Mortimer Street, W.  
 Pocock Bros., 235, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.  
 Pryke & Palmer, 40/41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
 J. Taylor and Sons, Ltd., 39, 40 and 41, Norland Road, Notting Hill, W.  
 Wilkins & Denton, Ltd., 24, London Wall, E.C.
- HABERDASHERY, TRIMMINGS, &C.—**  
 H. Appleton & Sons, Morwell Street, Bedford Square, London.  
 Bole Hall Mill Co., Tamworth.  
 Firmin & Sons, Ltd., 108/9, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.  
 H. Hipkiss & Co., Ltd., Goodman Street Works, Birmingham.  
 G. Kenning & Son, 1 to 4, Little Britain, E.C.  
 J. King & Co., Ltd., 25, Endell Street, W.C.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 The Central Agency Ltd. (W. G. & J. Strutt, Ltd.), 13, Bridge-water Square, Barbican, London.  
 A. Morrall, Ltd., Clive Works, Redditch.  
 J. North Hardy & Son, 54, Portland Place, Manchester.  
 Rylands & Sons, Ltd., 55, Wood Street, E.C.  
 Smith & Wright, Ltd., Brearley Street, Birmingham.  
 T. Whittles, Ltd., Wellington Mill, Leek.
- LEATHER—**  
 Hepburn, Gale & Ross, Ltd., Grange Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.  
 Nobes & Hunt Ltd., 75, Rockingham Street, Newington Causeway, S.E.  
 Pocock Bros., 235, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.  
 W. R. Shaw & Son, Ltd., Wild's Rents, Bermondsey, S.E.  
 J. Taylor & Sons, Ltd., 39, 40, 41, Norland Road, Notting Hill, W.  
 Wilkins & Denton, Ltd., 24, London Wall, E.C.
- LINEN MATERIALS—**  
 T. Briggs (London), Ltd., 2, Budge Row, E.C.  
 H. Hewetson & Co., 27, Watling Street, E.C.  
 Lamb & Scott, Ltd., Brechin, N.B.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 S. Saddler & Son & Co., 24, Ironmonger Lane, E.C.
- MATERIALS FOR BELTS, POUCHES AND LEGGINGS.**  
 Barton & Sons, Ltd., Beehive Works, Walsall.
- Bodill, Parker & Co., Ltd., 35, Great Hampton Row, Birmingham.  
 F. Dowler & Sons, Wainwright Street, Aston Manor, near Birmingham.  
 Hepburn, Gale & Ross Ltd., Grange Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.  
 H. Moseley & Sons, Bath Street Works, Walsall.  
 Pocock Bros., 235, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.  
 Pryke & Palmer, 40/41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
 Smith & Wright, Ltd., Brearley Street, Birmingham.  
 C. C. Walker, Ltd., Despatch Buckle Works, Walsall.
- ROPE, TWINE, &C.—**  
 T. Briggs (London), Ltd., 2, Budge Row, E.C.  
 J. T. Davis, Ltd., Coborn Road, Bow, E.  
 Dixon & Corbitt and R. S. Newall & Co., Ltd., Teams Ropeworks, Gateshead.  
 W. Good & Son, 47/8, King William Street, E.C.  
 Hollick Bros. & Abbott, 8, Miles Lane, E.C.  
 Port Glasgow and Newark Sailcloth Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow.  
 A. Tough & Sons, Clyde Ropeworks, Drumfrochan Road, Greenock.  
 Woods, Sons & Co., 62/63, Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C.  
 J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Universe Works, Birmingham, and Universe Works, Millwall, E.
- SUNDRIES—**  
 Barton & Sons, Ltd., Beehive Works, Walsall.  
 Bodill Parker & Co., Ltd., 35, Great Hampton Row, Birmingham.  
 T. Briggs (London), Ltd., 2, Budge Row, E.C.  
 J. King & Co., Ltd., 25, Endell Street, W.C.  
 Lindsay, Thompson & Co., Ltd., The Linen Thread Mills, Belfast.  
 G. MacLellan & Co., Glasgow Rubber Works, Maryhill, Glasgow.  
 Midland Rubber Co., Ryland Street, Birmingham.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 H. Moseley & Sons, Bath Street Works, Walsall.  
 Pryke & Palmer, 40/41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
 C. C. Walker, Ltd., Despatch Buckle Works, Walsall.  
 J. West, 555, Commercial Road, E.  
 J. Wheway & Son, Walsall.
- TIN PLATES.**  
 W. Buckland, Morriston, Glamorgan.  
 C. Hatton & Co., 107, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
 D. Laybourn & Co., Liverpool.
- TOOLS—**  
 Baxendale & Co., Miller Street, Manchester.  
 J. Damerel & Son, 161, Sidwell Street, Exeter.  
 H. Hipkiss & Co., Ltd., Goodman Street Works, Birmingham.  
 A. W. Lyne & Co., 86, Upper Ground Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 R. Mather & Son, Shoreham Street Works, Sheffield.  
 Pryke and Palmer, 40/41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.  
 Rowson, Drew & Clydesdale, Ltd., 225, Upper Thames Street, E.C.
- UNIFORM CLOTHS—**  
 H. Booth & Sons, Moor Head Mills, Gildersome, near Leeds.  
 Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Alverthorpe Mills, Wakefield.  
 A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Spring Valley Mills, Farsley, near Leeds.  
 J. Shaw & Sons, Ltd., Brookroyd Mills, near Halifax.  
 P. Womersley & Sons, Waterloo Mills, Pudsey, Leeds.
- WEAVING GEAR—**  
 Baxter & Thrippleton, St. Ann's Mill, Kirkstall, Leeds.  
 T. Miln, Baltic Factory, Dundee.  
 Milner & Firth, Manor Mill, Yeadon, near Leeds.
- WEAVING MATERIALS FOR COTTON, ETC.—**  
 Boyle & Sons, King's Mills, Swinegate, Leeds.  
 T. Briggs (London), Ltd., 2, Budge Row, E.C.  
 Hoare, Marr & Co., 26/27, Budge Row, E.C.  
 Hollick Bros. & Abbott, 8, Miles Lane, E.C.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 Sykes, Ash & Co., Leeds.
- WEAVING MATERIALS FOR WOOLLEN ARTICLES—**  
 Baxter & Thrippleton, St. Ann's Mill, Kirkstall, Leeds.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.
- WOOLLEN MATERIALS—**  
 Baxter & Thrippleton, St. Ann's Mill, Kirkstall, Leeds.  
 Fox Bros., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset.  
 T. & H. Harper, Apperley Bridge, Bradford.  
 C. H. Jones, 55, Newton Street, Manchester.  
 E. Milns & Co., 69/72, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars, S.E.  
 S. Sadler, Son & Co., 24, Ironmonger Lane, E.C.  
 J. Shaw & Sons, Ltd., Brookroyd Mills, near Halifax.  
 J. Smith & Co., North Dean Mills, Greetland, near Halifax.

RECEIVER FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DISTRICT.

- IRONMONGERY for 3 years, from 1st January, 1910—Pryke & Palmer, 41, Upper Thames Street, E.C.
- WHITE COTTON GLOVES—F. & J. Ellis, 6, Rutland Street, Leicester.
- DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR IRELAND.
- BUTTONS FOR UNIFORMS OF SHIP INSPECTORS—Alexander Comyns & Sons, 10, College Green, Dublin.
- UNIFORMS FOR SHIP INSPECTORS—J. Ireland & Son, Ellis's Quay, Dublin.
- WATERPROOF COATS FOR SHIP INSPECTORS—J. W. Elvery & Co., Lower Sackville Street, Dublin.