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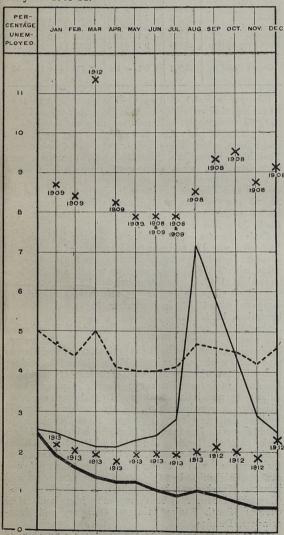
PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve = 1915. ——Thin Curve = 1914. ----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1905-14.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1905-14.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics 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.

THE LABOUR MARKET.

In December the high level of employment of recent months was fully maintained, and there was a general shortage of labour except in some branches of the clothing trades

In the coal mining industry the average weekly number of days on which the collieries were working was the highest recorded by the Department for any December, and the number of workpeople employed was slightly greater than in November. Employment continued good at iron and lead mines; shale mines were very busy. In the quarrying industry employment was generally fair, and at the North Wales slate quarries there was a slight improvement.

In the pig iron industry employment was good, and at iron and steel works very good.

Great scarcity of labour was reported in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, which continued to work at high pressure. With the exception of tinplate, which showed a decline during December, most of the other metal trades continued busy and much overtime was worked.

In the cotton trade the shortage of labour became more acute; in the woollen and hosiery trades employment continued good, and in the worsted trade fairly good. In the jute trade there was a marked shortage of male and female labour; the linen trade showed an improvement, but much short time was still reported in the Belfast district. Employment in the dyeing and bleaching trades was good, but with calico printers it was only moderate. The curtain and plain net branches of the lace trade were well employed, and there was an improvement in the levers branch.

In the boot and shoe trades employment continued very good; in the leather trades it was good on the whole, except with saddle and harness makers. The bespoke tailoring trade, and dressmaking and millinery showed a decline; in the ready-made tailoring, wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades employment was fair. In the felt hat trade it continued fairly good, and in the silk hat trade it was bad.

In the building trades there was a further seasonal decline, especially with painters. Brick works also showed a seasonal decline, but the cement trade continued well employed. Employment in the furnishing trades was fairly good, and in the woodworking trades good on the whole.

The printing trade showed an improvement, with considerable overtime; in the bookbinding and paper trades employment was good.

The glass and pottery trades continued to be well employed. The food preparation trades were extremely busy and overtime was general. Agricultural operations were hindered by stormy weather, and in consequence the shortage of labour was not so severely felt. Employment with dock labourers was good generally. supply of seamen for mercantile ships was not quite equal

to the demand.

Compared with December, 1914, when employment was already good, a general improvement was shown.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 931,482 reported 6,015 (or 0.6 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of December, 1915, compared with 0.6 per cent. at the end of November, 1915, and 2.5 per cent. at the end of December, 1914.

2 2 2 3 3 3	Membership at end of Dec., 1915, exclusive of	Unemployed at end of December, 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as com- pared with a		
Trade.	those serving with H.M. Forces.	Num- ber.	Per- cent- age.	Correction Cor	Year ago.	
Building*	79,967	1,307	1:6	+ 0.5	- 0.5	
Coal Miningt	131,960	59	0.0		- 1.4	
Iron and Steel	35,711	285	0.8	+ 0.1	- 2.2	
Engineering	248.819	848	0.3	•••	- 1.1	
Shipbuilding	70,254	295	0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.4	
Miscellaneous Metal	38,005	59	0.2	+ 0.1	- 1.2	
Textilest:-						
Cotton	81,418	1,182	1.5	- 0.1	- 3.7	
Woollen & Worsted	8,441	90	1.1	+ 0.7	- 2.6	
Other	49,875	190	0.4	•••	- 4.8	
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	57,873	693	1.2	+ 0.1	- 3:3	
Furnishing	16,673	442	2.6	+ 0.4	- 5.5	
Woodworking	28,573	231	0.8		- 1.4	
Clothing	70,575	97	0.1		- 1.0	
Leather	4,045	191	4.7	+ 1.2	+ 2.3	
Glass	799	8	1.0	- 0.1	- 0.9	
Pottery	6,218	8	0.1		- 0.9	
Tobacco	2,276	30	1.3	- 02	- 5.0	
Total	931,482	6,015	0.6		- 1.9	

^{*} This percentage is based mainly on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

† In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is usually met by short time working.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of December, 1915, was 1.1, compared with 0.9 at the end of November and 3.3 at the end of December, 1914.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those	Unemp at er December	nd of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage un- employed on a		
	serving with	Number	Per- centage	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Building	577,928	16,196	2.8	+ 0.7	- 2.7	
Construction of Works.	114,155	537	0.2		- 1.6	
Engineering and Iron- founding.	804,002	3,025	0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.4	
Shipbuilding	226 048	1,291	0.6	+ 0.2	- 1.5	
Construction of Vehicles.	174,139	1,030	0.6		- 2.3	
Sawmilling	8,566	58	0.7	+ 0.1	- 1.1	
Other Insured Work- people.	47,222	138	0.3		- 0.7	
All Insured Work-	1,952 060	22,275	1.1	+ 0.2	- 2.2	

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for	December,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
	December, 1915.		Month ago.	Year ago.	
pat which has		Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.	
Coal Mining	525,438	5.68	+ 0.04	+ 0.50	
Iron ,,	12,855	5.66	- 0.14	- 0.22	
Shale ,,	3,098	6.01	+ 0.05	+ 0.06	
		Furnaces in Blast.	No.	No.	
Pig Iron	24,734	261	- 4	- 5	
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	24,648	Mills Working. 474 Shifts Worked	- 18 Per cent.	- 4	
Iron and Steel	110,656	(One Week). 646,502	+ 0.9	Per cent. + 15.9	

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 646,904 workpeople in the week ended 18th December, 1915, showed an increase

of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 13.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Numbe	r Emple	yed.	W	d.		
Trade.	Week	Inc. ((+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	18th Dec. 1915.	Month ago.	Month Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.	
Textiles:		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Cotton	205,230	+ 0.6		217,506	+ 1.3	+ 20:5	
Woollen	24,408	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	27,836	+ 2.1	+ 7.7	
Worsted	35,493	- 0.6	- 3.0	32,979	- 0.2	+ 9.3	
Linen	38,676	+ 0.3	- 7.6	27,059	+ 4.8	+ 7.6	
Jute	14,674	+ 0.5	+ 4.2	14,920	+ 0.7	+ 31.6	
Hosiery	23,417	+ 0.1	+ 4.2	21.637	- 1.3	+ 12.8	
Lace	7,968	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	8,409	+ 0.6	+ 38.1	
Other Textiles	16,313	+ 0.0	- 4.1	14,348	+ 2.0	+ 10.6	
Bleaching, Dye- ing, etc.	25,361	- 0.9	+ 3.8	39,383	+ 1.2	+ 30.9	
Total, Textiles	391,540	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	404,077	+ 1.3	+ 18.4	
Boot and Shoe	62,174	+ 0.1	- 2.9	77,776	+ 0.2	+ 7.2	
Shirt and Collar		+ 0.1	Carried Street, Street	14,616	+ 1.2	+ 9.5	
Clothing (Ready-made).	36,137	- 1.7	- 2.0	31,495	- 0.4		
Printing and Book- binding.	25,703	- 0.3	-10.8	34,211	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	
Pottery	17,666	+ 0.2	- 2.9	18,838	- 0.8	+ 16.2	
Glass	10,701	+ 1.9	- 9.0	17,146	+ 1.8	+ 4.1	
Brick	7,380	- 2.0	-25.4	10,012	- 6.2	- 12.6	
Cement	7,543	- 1.1	-15.0	12,839	- 3.4	- 1.6	
Food Preparation	67,843	+ 0.1	+13.5	71,303	+ 0.5	+ 27.1	
Grand Total	646,904	+ 0.1	- 0.3	692,313	+ 0.7	+ 13.8	

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported as taking effect in December affected over 680,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net increase of nearly £23,500 per week. The principal changes affected coal miners, whose wages were increased in Cumberland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Midlands, Somerset, and Gloucestershire, while they were decreased in South Wales. Other important increases affected 25,000 woollen and worsted operatives in the Bradford district, 20,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, and 10,500 calico printers, etc., in Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Scotland.

Trade Disputes.—The number of disputes beginning in December was 17, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 8,817, as compared with 11,988 in the previous month and 3,065 in December, 1914. The estimated total aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was 74,800, as compared with 69,000 in November, 1915, and 49,200 in December, 1914.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Cases dealt with during the month include engineering workers, Worcester; blacksmiths, Hebburn-on-Tyne; rivetters, Sunderland; pipe shop workers, Renfrew; blacksmiths, Coatbridge; tarpaulin workers, Manchester; leather workers, London; engineers, Banbury; electric plant workers, Alloa; turret lathe workers, Dagenham; caulkers, Glasgow; gasproducermen, Glasgow; hand grenade workers, Luton; wire rope workers, Musselburgh; shipyard labourers, Londonderry; foundry labourers, Monifieth; painters, Teeside, Sheffield and Dundee; colliery workers, Coalville; gasmen, Neath; electrical workers, Birmingham and Newcastle-on-Tyne; corporation workers, Birkenhead; engineers, Clyde; carpenters and joiners, Manchester; brassworkers, Birmingham and Glasgow; labourers, Southampton; iron and steel workers, South Bank; painters, Glasgow, and irongrinders, Dundee.

Labour Exchanges.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 10th December was 36,820, as compared with 36,023 in the four previous weeks and with 32,088 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914. The average weekly number of vacancies filled for the same periods was 24,829, 26,177, and 23,822 respectively.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, PRICES AND DISPUTES IN 1915.

January, 1916.

The outstanding feature of the labour market in the year 1915 was the shortage of workpeople, which became more and more pronounced as the year advanced, and was very acute at its close, owing to the active recruiting campaign which took place in the autumn and early winter. A few industries, including some of importance, such as the building trades and some branches of the clothing trades, were relatively quiet; though even in these the staffs of workpeople were so much depleted that there was very little unemployment, and, as a rule, only a small amount of short time. In the large majority of trades, however, the great difficulty was scarcity of labour, which was met to some extent by the working of overtime.

The shortage would have been even more severely felt but for the transfer of workpeople from one industry to another, the "dilution" of skilled by semi-skilled and unskilled labour, and by the greater employment of women and girls, partly on classes of work formerly shared between males and females, and partly on work hitherto performed exclusively by men and boys. Speaking generally it may be said that the growing shortage of male labour can only be met by a very much larger influx of women into industry than has yet taken place.

From the commencement of the war until the end of 1914, there had been comparatively little change in rates of wages generally. At the beginning of 1915, however, the increasing shortage of labour, together with a rise in the cost of food and clothing, led to a demand for higher wages, and in February, 1915, a sharp upward movement began, largely in the form of war bonuses or of special advances in rates limited to the period of the war. In the main, the industries primarily affected were those directly concerned with the manufacture of munitions or with the transport of troops and supplies (e.g., engineering and shipbuilding, railway service, dock labour and carting); but the movement subsequently spread to nearly all the important industries, and by the end of the year the aggregate effect on weekly wages of all the war bonuses and increases in rates of wages which had been granted far exceeded that recorded by the Department in any previous year. Concurrently the general level of wages was raised by transfers of labour to munition and other factories specially concerned with war requirements.

At the beginning of 1915 retail prices of food were about 18 per cent. above the normal prices of July, 1914, the month before the war. On 1st January, 1916, the corresponding increase was 45 per cent. The months during which the greatest increases occurred were January, May and September. The January advance was largely due to the increases in the prices of bread and flour, that of May to the advance in meat prices, and that of September to the increases in the amount of duty on tea and sugar. In addition to the rise in food prices there was also a substantial increase in the retail prices of boots and clothing, particularly in the second half of 1915. On the other hand, the increase in the prices of fuel, light and other items of domestic expenditure was not so marked and, except in a few places, mostly in munition areas, rents remained practically unchanged.

As regards wholesale prices it is interesting to note that the index number for 1915 was below that of 1872-4, the years immediately following the Franco-Prussian War.

Labour disputes in the year showed a considerable falling off as compared with previous years, both in number and duration.

EMPLOYMENT.

The outbreak of war in August, 1914, caused great temporary dislocation of industry, which was not entirely overcome until November of that year; but by January, 1915, the percentage of unemployment had fallen to a very low level, largely owing to work directly or indirectly for the Government; and the percentage fell almost uninterruptedly throughout the year, until the lowest figure ever recorded by the Department (0.6 per cent.) occurred in November and December.

The following Table shows the mean annual percentages of unemployment in each of the years 1900-1915, and the monthly percentages for July, 1914, and for each month of the war period.

a	Mean nnus	al -	Mean annual percentage		a	Mean nnual centage.		Mean annual percen ag	A.
1900	2.5	1904	6.0	190		78	1912 .	2.4	~
1901	3.3	1905	5.0	190		7.7	3017	. 2.1	
1902	4.0	1908	3.6	191	10	4.7	1914	. 3.3	
1903	4.7	1907	3.7	191	11	3.0	1915 .	. 1.1	
	D	Monthly ercentage.			onthly			Monthly	
July, 1914		2.8	Jan , 1915		1.9	July, 1		0.3	383
Aug., "		7.1	Feb., "		1.6	A	n ··	1.0	
Sept., ,,		5.9	March,		1.3	Sept.,			
Oct., "		4.4	April "		1.2	Oct.,	11	0.8	
Nov., "		2.9	May ,		1.5	Nov.,		0.8	
Dec		2.5	Inne		1.0	Dac		0.8	

Coal Mining.—Employment in the coal mining industry was very good throughout the year, and the reduction in the number of men employed was neutralised to some extent by the collieries working more days each week, and by greater regularity of working on the part of the men remaining in the industry.

The output during the last two quarters of 1913 and during each quarter of the years 1914 and 1915 (except the December quarter of 1915, for which no figures are yet available) was as follows:—

			Tons.
Quarter	ended	30th September, 1913	 68,836,000
,,	,,	31st December, 1913	 72,653,000
,,	,,	31st March, 1914	 72,800,000
,,	,,	30th June, 1914	67,474,000
- 33	,,	30th September, 1914	 -0 700 000
,,	,,	31st December, 1914	63,040,000
,,	,,	31st March, 1915	64,369,000
,,	,,	30th June, 1915	63,457,000
,,	,,	30th September, 1915	62,117,000
,,	"		02,111,000

The following statement shows the percentage change (a) in output, (b) in number employed in each of the principal districts during the nine months ended September, 1915, as compared with the corresponding period of 1914, district by district:—

	1	n Outpu	t. In	No.	Employed.
Northumberland		-18.1			-28.1
Durham		-13.8			-21.2
Yorkshire					-12.3
Lancashire, Cheshire,					
North Wales		5.8			-13.4
Derby, Notts, and Leice					- 7.7
Staffs, Salop, Worcs. a					
Warwick		- 2.6			-10.0
South Wales and Monmout		- 7.6			-11.4
Other English districts					-7.7
East Scotland					-23.2
West Scotland		- 7.2			-12.3
Ireland		-13.8			- 2.2
		100			4 4

Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding Trades.—The pig iron and iron and steel trades and most branches of the miscellaneous metal trades were well employed; and the engineering and shipbuilding industries continued to work at high pressure, with much overtime. In the early months of the year the tinplate and steel sheet industry was depressed, though there was little or no unemployment, owing to the adoption of a system of short shifts of four or six hours; since June, however, the industry, though still hampered by a shortage of raw materials and of skilled workmen, has improved.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—The cotton, linen, lace and silk trades, which were inactive in January, improved in subsequent months; but the level of employment was at no time so high as that prevailing in the woollen and worsted, hosiery and jute trades, which were busy throughout the year, being largely engaged on Government work. The boot and shoe and wholesale clothing trades were also very active for the same

* Average for ten months, omitting the two months affected by the coal strike

reason; but the hat trade, bespoke tailoring, and the dressmaking and mantle trades varied from "fair" to "slack."

Building and Woodworking, Brick, Cement, Pottery and Glass Trades.—Employment in the building and brick trades was quiet, though the staffs were so much depleted by enlistments and by migration to other industries that there was some shortage even in these trades. In the furnishing trades employment was dull at the beginning of the year, but fairly good at the close. In the other trades mentioned employment was generally fairly good at the beginning of the year, and good at the close.

Other Trades.—In the leather trades employment was very good throughout the year, except in certain branches of the saddlery trade towards the end of the year. Employment in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades was quiet at the beginning of the year, but improved as the year advanced. The food preparation trades were busy throughout the year; and there was a decided shortage of labour in agriculture and in the mercantile marine; while dock and wharf labour was well employed.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

The total number of workpeople who were reported to the Department as having received war bonuses or increased rates of wages, in the industries for which statistics are available,† was 3,165,000, and the total amount of increase in the wages of these workpeople was over £603,000 per week, an average of about 3s. 10d. per head.

The following Table shows the total number of work-people affected, so far as reported, in 1914 and 1915 respectively, and the total amount of weekly increase or decrease, classified by groups of trades†:—

Groups of Trades.	workp whose wages ported a	ber of eople† rates of vere re- c changed n n Net amount of Inc. (+) or Dec.(-) in the weekly wags of the very wags of the changed affected, as compared with the preceding year.		
tet a alterna in breath ast	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
Coal Mining Iron and other Mining Quarrying Pig Iron Manufacture Iron and Steel Manufacture Iron and Steel Manufacture Engineering and Shipbuilding Other Metal Trades Ctothing Trades Clothing Trades Transport Trades Paper, Printing, &c., Trades Chemical, Glass, Brick and Pottery Trades Miccellaneous Trades Local Authority Services	134,000 364,000 21,000 12,000 18,000 49,000 25,000 23,000 6,000 25,500 20,000 26,500 29,000 19,000	110,000 859,000 22,000 11,000 24,000 87,000 600,000 130,000 597,000 99,000 176,000 45,000 110,000	£ + 13,600 - 26,400 - 2,200 + 1,000 - 3,100 + 14,500 + 1,150 + 1,400 + 650 + 1,900 + 1,900 + 1,900 + 1,600	£ + 13,900 + 269,200 + 6,400 + 1,300 + 7,400 + 24,900 + 108,800 + 45,800 + 41,000 + 38,100 + 4,700 + 25,800 + 11,300
TOTAL	960,000	3,165,000	+ 13,200	+ 603,10

The groups of industries in which the largest numbers obtained increases, in 1915, were mining, the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and the textile trades, which together account for nearly three-fourths of the total number of workpeople included in the Table. In all the principal coalfields war bonuses were

granted in May, the amounts being, in the case of hewers, 15½ per cent. on the wages paid at the beginning of May, 1915, in Cumberland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and the Midlands, and from 15 to 18¾ per cent. on the basis rates of 1879 or 1888 in other districts. These bonuses were followed by further increases later in the year. Iron miners in Cleveland and shale miners in Scotland also received war bonuses and advances on basis rates of wages.

In the engineering, boilermaking, and shipbuilding trades increases were obtained, mostly of 4s. per week or 1d. per hour on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates, by workpeople generally in all the important centres. In the pig iron industry and in iron and steel manufacture there were increases under sliding

• The figures given throughout are preliminary, and subject to revision.

† These statistics are exclusive of changes affecting seamen, railway servants, agricultural labourers, police, Government employees, domestic servants, assistants, and clerks.

scales, with war bonuses of varying amounts in addition in many cases. Tinplate workers in South Wales were granted war bonuses of 1s. to 3s. per week in March, for which general advances of 10 to 20 per cent. were substituted in October; and increases were also given to large numbers of workpeople in various other metal industries.

In the textile trades, war bonuses or advances in rates of wages were granted to cotton spinners in Lancashire, woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire, workpeople engaged in bleaching, printing, dyeing, and finishing, and operatives in the jute, linen, hosiery, silk and various other textile industries. No general increase was given in 1915 to cotton weavers, but a war bonus of 5 per cent. has been arranged, to take effect from January, 1916.

In other industries, general increases or bonuses were obtained by dock labourers, carters, boot and shoe operatives and workpeople in the chemical, pottery, and glass trades. There were also widespread increases in the wages of employees engaged in the printing trades, in food preparation, and in the services of Local Authorities. Among the important industries in which the proportions of workpeople affected by increases in wages were lower, were the building and furnishing trades, and slate and stone quarrying.

As regards the employments in which particulars of the amounts of the increases or bonuses, but not of the numbers of workpeople affected, are known to the Department, and which, therefore, are not included in the Table, there were also marked increases during 1915, and it is estimated that a total of over a million and a half of these employees received advances of about £275,000 per week. The wages of agricultural labourers, which increased in 1914 to a greater extent than recorded in any previous year, showed further increases in 1915; seamen were granted increases or bonuses varying from 10s. to 40s. per month; railway servants received bonuses in February, increased in October to 5s. per week for adults and 2s. 6d. per week for youths and boys; workpeople generally, employed in Admiralty and War Department establishments, had advances of 4s. per week for mechanics, skilled labourers and labourers, 2s. per week for women and 1s. per week for boys and girls; and postal servants with wages below 60s. per week were awarded bonuses of 2s. or 3s. per week in the case of males and half these amounts in the case of females.

In the previous 19 years there were three periods of rising wages (1896-1900, 1906-07 and 1910-14) and two of falling wages (1901-05 and 1908-09). The total amount of increase or decrease in weekly rates recorded during each of these periods, and in 1915, is shown in the following Table:—

					Number	Net Increase or Decrease in Weekly Rates.		
	Perio	od			of Years included.	Increase in periods of Rising Wages.	Decrease in periods of Falling Wages.	
1896—1900					5	£ 437,641	£	
1901—1905	4.	•••			5	4013012	228,909	
1906—1907					2	258,809	410,000	
1908—1909					2	200,000	128,093	
1910—1914	***			1	5	380,457	10,000	
					1			
1915					i	603,100	-	

The total amount of increase recorded in the three periods of rising wages has been very greatly in excess of the total amount of decrease shown in the two periods of falling wages, the net effect of all the changes in the 20 years 1896-1915 being an increase of over £1,300,000 on the weekly wages of the workpeople in the occupations dealt with. The greatest increases recorded in any single year, prior to 1915, were £208,588 in 1900 and £200,912 in 1907.

It should be noted that in the foregoing figures, changes affecting police and Government employees are excluded from the statistics for 1914-15, but are included in those for previous years. It should also be remarked that the figures throughout relate only to changes in *rates* of wages (including war bonuses), and take no account of increases in wages due either to over-

time and greater regularity of employment, which were a marked feature of 1915, or to the widespread transference in that year of workpeople from lower to higher paid employments, resulting from the acute shortage of labour in munition factories. On the other hand the extensive substitution of women and young persons for men has tended to lower wages per head of those employed.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

The changes in hours of labour reported as taking effect in 1915 affected 13,657 workpeople. Practically all of these obtained a reduction in hours, the net weekly effect being a decrease of 34,221 hours per week. These figures relate to changes in the hours of labour in a normal week, exclusive of overtime worked.

WHOLESALE PRICES.*

The general level of wholesale prices during 1915 was higher than in 1914 by about $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In 1914, however, there was a marked discontinuity in the movement of wholesale prices consequent on the outbreak of war, and comparing 1915 with the pre-war months of 1914 (January to July), the increase is $26\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and compared with the war period of 1914 (August to December) the increase is about $17\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Classifying the 47 articles to which the figures relate into four main groups, viz.—I. Coal and Metals, II. Textiles (raw materials), III. Food, Drink and Tobacco, IV. Miscellaneous, it is found that the index numbers for Groups I., III. and IV. showed increases of 35, 27½ and 29 per cent. respectively in 1915, as compared with 1914. In Group II. (textiles), however, there was a decrease of 7 per cent., this being due mainly to the fall in cotton (amounting to 18 per cent.) to a level considerably below that prevailing in recent years. Jute and silk also declined in price.

In the other groups (I., III. and IV.), 35 of the 41 index numbers showed an increase, crude zinc showing the most remarkable advance. Imported oats showed an increase of 64 per cent. in price and British oats 44 per cent. Other articles for which an increase exceeding 50 per cent. was recorded are pig iron, wheat, fish and wood and timber.

The six non-textile items for which the 1915 index number was lower than that for 1914 were coffee, foreign spirits, palm oil, tobacco, wine and hops, but only for the last two of these were the decreases considerable, amounting to 18 and 30 per cent. respectively.

Comparison of the index numbers for each of the four groups in 1915 with those for earlier years back to 1900, which has been adopted as the base year of the series, is given in the following table:—

1900 = 100.0

Year.	Group I. Coal and Metals.	Group II. Textiles (Raw Materials).	Group III. Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	Group IV. Miscel- laneous.†
1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 JanJuly AugDec. Year 1914	100 0 82:2 76:1 74:1 70:9 71:3 78:5 78:5 76:6 74:7 84:9 92:5 80:4 89:3 86:7 116:7	100·0 93·3 92·3 101·7 112·9 106·7 121·1 127·4 109·8 112·4 136·2 128·9 119·6 135·0 135·1 116·3 128·8 119·8	100·0 100·1 100·4 100·6 100·2 100·2 100·2 100·5 108·7 108·7 109·2 111·6 119·9 117·7 114·8 130·4 120·9 154·1	100 0 96:3 92:5 91:7 88:3 91:1 95:6 99:7 94:8 96:5 104:3 105:6 110:1 109:4 106:2 119:1 111:3 143:7

Combining the index numbers for all the articles, weighted in accordance with estimated consumption, the following figures are obtained showing the course of wholesale prices generally since 1871:—

			The second second second		CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR
Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1871 1872 1873 1874 1876 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886	135-6 145-2 151-9 146-9 140-4 137-1 140-4 131-1 125-0 129-0 126-6 127-7 125-9 114-1 107-0 101-0	1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901	98·8 101·8 103·4 103·3 106·9 101·1 99·4 93·5 90·7 88·2 90·1 93·2 92·2 100·0 96·7	1903 1904 1905 1908 1908 1908 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 JanJuly 4ugDec. Year 1914	

From the foregoing figures the increase in wholesale prices which commenced in 1906 and has continued almost without interruption to 1913 is clearly seen. In 1914, previous to the outbreak of war, there was some check to this sustained increase, but from August onwards there was a decided upward movement, which continued through 1915, resulting in that year being nearly 44 per cent. higher than for the standard year 1900.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

The following Table shows the percentage increases in retail prices, as compared with the prices of July, 1914, at the beginning of each month of 1915:—

19236	P	er ce	ent.		ow but	Per c	ent.
January	 		18	July	 		324
February	 		22	August	 		34
March	 Mar.		24	September			35
April	 10000		24	October	 	-	40
May	 		26	November	 		41
June	 		32	December	 		44

Between 1st December, 1915 and 1st January, 1916 there was an increase of less than 1 per cent., and accordingly the average percentage increase at the end of the year 1915 may be put at 45 per cent. above the prices prevailing immediately before the war, the increase during the year 1915 amounting to 23 per cent. In connection with these percentages, it must be remembered that they relate to the price of food only, and in estimating the increase in cost of living, the increase must not be applied to the total family expenditure but only to that proportion which is expended on food. The figures are based upon between 500 and 600 returns of predominant prices, relating to prices in a number of shops in every town in the kingdom with over 50,000 population, to about 200 towns with populations from 10,000 to 50,000 and to about 250 smaller places. The articles included are beef and mutton (British and imported), bacon, fish, flour, bread, tea, sugar, milk, butter, cheese, margarine, eggs and potatoes.

Some brief notes on the movement of prices of each of these articles during the past twelve months will now be given:—

The prices of *British meat* showed a steady advance in the early months of 1915. During the first four months of the year prices rose about 10 per cent., and at the beginning of May they were about 20 per cent. above those prevailing immediately before the outbreak of war. During May there was a rise of about 14 per cent.; after that a slight advance, the highest point being reached at the beginning of September, since when there has been a decline to the same level as prevailed in June. The course of prices of imported meat has been broadly similar, but the proportionate increase has been greater. Bacon and fish rose in price steadily throughout the year.

The prices of flour and bread increased sharply during January and February, and the increase continued, though less rapidly, up to a maximum in June. Prices then declined until November, but during the last two months of the year upward movements were resumed. The average price of bread at the beginning of 1915 was 63d. for 4 lb., at the maximum of the 1st June it was 81d., and on 1st January, 1916, 81d. per 4 lb.

The prices paid for tea increased steadily from January to September, the aggregate increase during this period

^{*} For the corresponding statement as to Wholesale Prices in 1914, see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1915, p. 153. The figures for 1915 are preliminary and subject to correction.

† Olls, Rubber, Hides, Wood and Bricks.

amounting to nearly 3d. per lb. As a result of the increased duty (4d. per lb. additional) imposed in September prices advanced by an average of 31d. per lb., making the total advance 9d. per lb., or about 50 per cent. above the average price in July, 1914. Since then there has been practically no change in the retail price of tea. Granulated sugar remained unchanged, usually at 31d. per lb., from January to September, but in that month was raised to 4d. per lb. in most places, as compared with 2d. just before the war.

There were few changes in the price of milk until September; at the beginning of that month the average price was 12 per cent. above that of July, 1914, and at the beginning of January, 1916, the corresponding figure was 29 per cent., this representing an increase from 31d. to 41d. per quart.

During January and February the price of butter fluctuated somewhat; from March to the beginning of July, however, it remained steady at about 15 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. From July to October it rose very substantially, to a maximum point in the middle of October. There was then a sudden break in prices, which during November and December were about onethird higher than in July, 1914.

The price of cheese advanced steadily throughout the first half of 1915; the total increase during the six months being about 20 per cent. or 2d. per lb. In the last half year there was a slight fall and then a recovery. Margarine showed but little change in price.

The variations in the prices of eggs and potatoes are largely seasonal, but with both these articles prices in 1915 were higher than in 1914, taking corresponding periods.

The average percentage by which the prices of each of the articles at the beginning of 1915 and 1916, and on 1st July, 1915, exceeded the normal prices of July, 1914, is shown in the following Table, figures for large towns and for small towns and villages being shown sepa-

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE SINCE JULY, 1914.

		RGE TOV		SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES.			
Article.	1s Jan. 1915.	1st July. 1915.	1st Jan. 1916.	1st Jan. 1915.	1st July 1915.	1st Jan. 1916	
Beef:— British—					* 70		
Ribs Thin Flank Chilled or Frozen—	+ 8 + 15	+ 39 + 51	+ 37 + 51	+ 6 + 8	+ 36 + 41	+ 34 + 39	
Ribs	+ 18 + 32	+ 49 + 70	+ 51 + 70	+ 15 + 21	+ 44 + 58	+ 43 + 57	
Mutton:— British—					70		
Legs Frozen—	+ 6 + 16	+ 28 + 49	+ 27 + 48	+ 5 + 7	+ 30 + 35	+ 28 + 34	
Legs Breast	+ 19 + 28	+ 44 + 66	+ 45 + 70	+ 14 + 21	+ 38 + 57	+ 38 + 56	
Bacon (Streaky)	+ 9 + 51 + 18	+ 20 + 78 + 46	+ 34 +119 + 46	+ 5 + 31 + 23	+ 15 + 51 + 51	+ 28 + 75 + 52	
Flour (Household) Bread	+ 18 + 18 + 14	+ 43 + 29	+ 45 + 49	+ 14 + 13	+ 38 + 26	+ 39 + 48	
Sugar (Granulated)	+ 69 + 6	+ 70 + 11	+ 97 + 30	+ 65 + 7	+ 65 + 9	+ 89 + 28	
Butter:— Fresh Salt	+ 12 + 10	+ 15 + 15	+ 32 + 30	+ 16 + 14	+ 15 + 17	+ 3 6 + 33	
Salt	+ 10 + 5	+ 34 + 5	+ 32 + 8	+ 10 + 4	+ 33 + 4	+ 32 + 6	
Eggs	+ 62 - 11	+ 27 + 4	+108 Nil	+ 65 - 22	+ 20	+102	
All Articles (weighted increase).	+ 19	+ 35/	+ 48	+ 17	+ 30	+ 42	

Taking the average for the year the level of retail prices of food in 1915 was higher than in July, 1914, the month preceding the war, by 33 per cent. in large towns and 29 per cent. in small towns and villages. The percentage rise in large towns is practically the same as that obtained from the source from which is derived the Board of Trade's series of index numbers of retail prices since 1892. This index number thus affords a comparison of retail prices in 1915 with those in earlier years. The figures are as follows, prices in 1900 being taken as the base, represented by 100:-

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1892	103.9	1900	100.0	1908	107.5
1893	99.3	1901	100 4	1909	107.6
1894 1895	94·9 92·1	1902 1903	101.0	1910 1911	109.4
1896	91.7	1904	102.4	1912	114.5
1897	95.5	1905	102.8	1913	114.8
1898 1899	99·5 95·4	1906 1907	102·0 105·0	1914 1915	116·8 148·6

The above index numbers are based on the retail prices of 23 articles of food, and it is not possible to carry them back for years before 1892. Another series of index numbers, however, based on nine articles, shows that as compared with 1900 the index numbers for 1878, 1880, 1881 and 1882 were over 140, and that in 1877, the first year for which the figures can be given, the index number was 150. For certain articles now in common use, e.g., bread, tea and sugar, the prices in many years of the last century were much higher than they were in 1915.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN 1915.

The number of disputes beginning in the year (674) was less than was the case in any of the four previous years, and the totals of the number of workpeople involved (445,936) and aggregate duration (2,969,700) were less than those for any of the five preceding years. In each case the figure for 1915 was below the average for the nine preceding years, the aggregate duration of the disputes in progress during the year being less than one-third of this average.

The following Table summarises by trades the figures for 1914 and 1915 respectively:-

		1914			1915.		
Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Work- ing Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Dis- putes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Work- ing Days of all Disputes in progress.	
Building	177	37,670	3,199,426	61 77	15,388	129,600	
Coal Mining	158 19	271,242 1,438	3,718,387 62,696	5	296,064 785	1,643,700	
Quarrying Engineering	90	18,795	878,247	97	24,930	222,500	
Shipbuilding	87	17,632	127,213	46	6,856	49,000	
Other Metal	58	14,456	298.550	44	12,478	67,900	
Textile	97	22,248	765,088	67	33,472	382,200	
Clothing	48	4,397	61,529	37	5,150	24,300	
Transport	58	13,546	93,128	78	25,111	158,900	
other Trades and Employees of Public Authorities	}207	47,105	707,073	162	25,702	281,400	
TOTAL	999	448,529	10,111.337*	674	445,936	2,969,700	

Measured by aggregate duration, all the groups of trades, with the exception of the transport group, were less affected by disputes than in the previous year, this being most marked in the building, engineering and other metal groups. The high figures for the coal mining industry are entirely due to the strikes in the South Wales coalfield, which began in July and August, following on the breakdown of negotiations for a new wages agreement. In the first of these some 200,000 miners were involved, and in the second 32,000; and the aggregate duration for the two disputes amounted to nearly 1,400,000 days, about half the respective totals for the year for all trades. About onehalf (110,000) of the total aggregate duration of disputes in the engineering trades is accounted for by the strike of nearly 9,000 engineers on the Clyde, which occurred in February and March, and arose on a demand for an advance in wages of 2d. per hour. Nearly onethird (110,000) of the aggregate duration in the textile group is due to the strike of 1,200 weavers near Burnley for the payment of standard list prices, which began on 25th August, and is still unsettled

At the end of the year only 13 disputes involving 3,300 workpeople were in progress.

EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN NOVEMBER.*

January, 1916.

THE following is the general conclusion arrived at by the German Department of Labour Statistics as to the course of employment in Germany during October:-

'Employment in most branches of industry showed a greater degree of activity in November than in the corresponding month of the preceding year, although November, 1914, was a period marked by the complete recovery from the disturbance caused by the outbreak of war. Except for the textile and building trades, the state of employment can be again described as fair on the whole, while in the case of the principal industries concerned in supplying war materials it was decidedly

"As in previous months, the trades most busily em-ployed were mining and metal smelting and the majority of the branches of metal working and engineering. The chemical trades, which were well supplied with war orders, showed no change on the whole. Compared with October there were indications of improved employment in the electrical and the woodworking trades. In the silk industry the improvement already reported became more marked."

Returns from Trade Unions .- Returns relating to unemployment were furnished by 34 trade unions, the membership covered being 861,802. Of these 21,917, or 2.5 per cent., were out of work at the end of November. This proportion was the same as at the end of October, the figure for November, 1914, being 8.2 per cent.

Unions.	Member- ship reported on at end of	Percentage of Membership reported as Unemployed at end of Month.			
	November, 1915.	Nov., 1915.	Oct., 1915.	Nov., 1914.	
All Unions making Returns	861,802	2.8	2.5	8:2†	
PRINCIPAL UNIONS: Building trade operatives Painters Metal workers (Soc. Dem.) Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch Duncker) Metal workers (Christian) Textile wrikers (Soc. Dem.) Hat makers Boot and shoe makers Transport workers. Printers (book and job) Lithographers Bookbinders Saddlers and bag makers Leather workers (Soc. Dem.) Woodworkers (Soc. Dem.) Porcelain Workers Bakers	242,683 9,779 16,131 65,150 8,089 19,298 76,724 31,400 6,887 17,628 10,712 6,691 70,799 6,245 9,402	4·4 6·3 1·0 0·7 0·9 9·2 22·6 1·3 0·2 1·9 7·4 2·6 6·6 2·3 11·9	0·9 3·4 1·0 0·9 11·4 31·8 2·7 0·5 2·2 8·4 1·7 9·0 2·4 12·7 1·1 0·7	10.1 \$ 5-3 5-2 4-8 4-9 38-7 4-3 4-8 22-6 21-9 17-2 \$ 49 17-2 \$ 19-0 27-2 35-1	
Brewery and corn mill workers Tobacco workers Factory workers, irrespective of trade (Soc. Dem.) State and municipal workers	19,495 18,644 86,380 27,100	0.6 0.6 1.0 0.3	0.6 0.9 0.2	1·8 3·7 1·1	

Among male members of trade unions the percentage unemployed at the end of November was 1.4, as compared with 1.0 at the end of the preceding month, and with 7.4 in November, 1914. Among women members the percentage was 8.7 at the end of November, 10.0 at the end of the preceding month, and 14:3 at the end of November, 1914.

Returns from Labour Exchanges.—Returns relating to the operations of labour exchanges during November show the proportion of applications for employment to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been as

				November, 1915.	October, 1915.	November, 1914.	
Males Females					89 179	89 182	140 189

From these figures it appears that the demand for men during November was about the same as in October, but was much keener than in November, 1914. In the case

† Revised figures.

of women there was a slight improvement on the position existing in October, but on the whole very little change, whether compared with the preceding month or with November, 1914.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Returns from Sickness Insurance Societies.—Returns as to the situation at 1st December, 1915, showed that among male members there was a decrease of 68,253, or 1.58 per cent., and among females an increase of 22,688, or 0.64 per cent., as compared with 1st November.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES.

UNITED KINGDOM AT 1ST JANUARY, 1916.

RETAIL prices of food on 1st January were higher than on 1st December by less than 1 per cent. Fish showed an advance of about 6 per cent.; the prices of flour, cheese and potatoes continued to rise, to the extent of about 2 per cent., and bread also increased somewhat. Meat, bacon, tea, sugar, milk and margarine showed practically no change in price, and there was a slight fall in the average prices of butter and eggs.

A special article on page 5 deals with the movement of prices during 1915, this article affording a comparison of prices at 1st January, 1916, with those of a year ago, and with those of July, 1914, the month before the war.

BERLIN IN NOVEMBER.

The following Table, showing the changes in the retail prices most commonly paid for certain important articles of food in November, as compared with the preceding month and with July, 1914, is based upon returns published in the Prussian official journal Statistische Korrespondenz:—

					Increase (+) or l November, 1915, a	
	Artic	16.		October, 1915.	July, 1914.	
Rve bread					Per cent. No change.	Per cent. + 42.9
Wheat bread					No change.	+ 27.7
Rye flour					No change.	+ 60.0
Wheat flour	•	•			No change.	+ 28.6
Butter					- 8:1	+ 17.3
SECTION SECTION SECTION SECTION	::				- 7.3	+ 44.8
	•	••			No change.	+ 20.0
ugar	-		**		No change.	+ 22 6
Coffee	••	**			No change.	+200.0
Eggs			••		No change.	+ 36.4
Milk		••				+ 59.4
Beef					No change.	
Mutton			40.00		- 0.6	
Veal					- 1.9	+ 51·5 + 72·8
Pork	4.				- 29.6	
Bacon					No change.	+203.6
Potatoes					- 20.0	No change.
Rice					+ 17.7	+300.0
Split peas					- 6.7≈	+212.5*
Haricot bean	18		THE REAL PROPERTY.	20.00	- 18.0*	+146.0*
Lentils					+ 8.9*	+186.7*
ALL ARTIC	T.ES	TO	GETI	IER -	- 6.6	+ 82.0
(WEIGHTEI			ERCENT			

Allowance being made for the relative consumption of the various articles in working class households in Berlin, the general level of retail food prices would appear to have fallen in November by 6.6 per cent., as compared with the previous month, but to have been 82 per cent. above that of July, 1914.

Thus, for the first time since September, 1914, the index number of retail food prices registers a fall between two consecutive months. This is primarily due to the operation of recent Orders of the Federal Council, under which, for such important foods as butter, lard, pork and bacon, maximum retail prices have been fixed in Berlin well below those locally current for these articles in an uncontrolled market. It follows that the drop of about 6½ per cent. in the general level of food prices based on the latest Prussian official statistics does not necessarily imply a corresponding relaxation of the strain due to short supplies: the German press, indeed, affords plenty of evidence of the difficulty of purchasing in November the usual supplies of the newly controlled articles at the officially reduced prices.

^{*} The aggregate duration in 1914 of the general dispute at Dublin (200,000) is included in the total, but not in the separate groups of trades.

^{*} Reichsarbeitsblatt (the journal of the German Department of Labour Statistics), December, 1915.

^{*} The price for November upon which this percentage is based is the average for the principal towns in Prussia, no Berlin quotations being given for that

VIENNA IN OCTOBER.

The following Table showing the percentage changes in the retail prices of various articles of food in October as compared with the previous month, with October, 1914, and with July, 1914, are based on returns published by the Austrian Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture in Warenpreisberichte:-

						Increase in Price in October, 1915, as compared with				
	1	Articles	3.		July, 1914.	Oct., 1914.	Sept., 1915.			
					164	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Beef						211.1	173.4	2.9		
Veal						106.7	92.5	No change		
Pork						167.5	172.2	8.5		
Bacon			•••			310.0	310.0	36.7		
Lard						342.1	342.1	44.8		
Milk						45.2	50.0	9.8		
Butter						100.0	100.0	28.0		
Margarine						150.0	140-4	25.0		
Flour, whea	at					81.4	32.2	No change		
Bread, rye	CO.	1				93.8	59.0	No change		
Rice						333-3	261-1	18.2		
Eggs			4110	10.00	Const.	185.7	66.7	25.0		
Potatoes			4	1500		37.5*	7.1	31.8*		
Split peas						185.7	66.7	No change		
Haricot bea			-	The state of		150.0	66.7	No change		
Onions						60.0	77.8	28.0		
Sugar						8.6	8.0	No change		
WEIGHTED	NET	PERCE	NTAGI	INOR:	EASE	117.2	111.2	10.6		

October prices, being compared with those for the preceding month, considerable advances are seen to have taken place in the case of lard, bacon, butter, margarine, rice, eggs and onions. Beef, pork and milk were also somewhat dearer than in September. The only article which fell in price was potatoes. The relative consumption of the various foodstuffs being assumed to be the same in Vienna as in Berlin, it is calculated that on the whole the cost of food was between 10 and 11 per cent. higher in October than in September.

If the figures for October be compared with those for July, 1914, every article (with the exception of potatoes) is found to have increased in cost, the rise varying from nearly 9.0 per cent. for sugar to 342 per cent. for lard. The general level of prices showed an advance of over 117 per cent.

Similarly it is found that food prices in October were on the whole about 111 per cent. higher than in the corresponding month of 1914.

ITALY IN NOVEMBER.

The percentages in the following table showing the increase or decrease in retail food prices in November, as compared with the preceding month and with November, 1914, are based on index numbers published in the issue for 1st January of the journal of the Italian Labour Department (Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro), and relate to 42 towns in Italy.

	Article.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in November, 1915, as compared with			
	0 0000				Oct., 1915	Nov., 1914.	
Wheat bread Wheat flour Macaroni, etc. Beef Bacon Olive oil Milk			::	::::::	Per cent. + 1.7 + 3.2 - 0.5 No change. + 0.8 + 1.4 + 1.6	Per cent. + 14·2 + 26·9 + 26·2 + 44·8 + 29·1 + 15·6 + 2·4	
All Articles	together				+ 1:1	+ 22.4	

Compared with the corresponding figures for July, 1914, the prices for November show on the whole an advance of 28.6 per cent.

INCREASE IN COST OF FOOD IN NEW ZEALAND, JULY, 1914, TO AUGUST, 1915.

The following figures, showing the comparative cost of an assumed weekly household consumption of food in New Zealand in August, 1915, as compared with July, 1914, have been extracted from a Return to an Order of the New Zealand House of Representatives, dated 8th September, 1915:-

					Assumed weekly family		at retail prices iling in
					consumption.	July, 1914.	August, 1915.
	GROCE	RIES				s. d.	s. d.
Bread					7 2-lb. loaves	2 21/4	2 101/2
Flour					3 lb.	0 41/2	0 63/4
Oatmeal					1 lb.	0 2	
Rice					1 lb.	0 21/4	0 21/2 0 93/
l'ea					½ lb.	0 9½	
Cocoa					1/8 lb.	0 51/4	0 51/4
Sugar					3 lb.	0 6	0 734
Jam					2 lb.	0 11	0 111/4
Raisins					½ lb.	0 234	0 3
Potatoes	••				14 lb.	0 934	1 11/4
	IRY P	RODI	JCE.				
Milk					7 pints	1 23/4 3 63/4 0 21/4	1 23/4
Butter				100.	3 lb.	1 23/4 3 63/4	4 9¼ 0 2¾ 0 11¾
Cheese					¼ lb.	0 21/4	0 23/4
Bacon					1 lb.	0 11½	0 113/4
	ME	AT.					
Beef-sir					3 lb.	1 8½	1 101/2
" ste	wing s	teak			2 lb.	0 1134	
,, con	rned ro	oll			1 lb.	0 51/4	0 6
,, sa	usages				2 lb.	0 91/4	1 034 . 0 6 0 914 1 614
Mntton-	-leg				3 lb.	1 5¼ 0 9½ 1 0%	1 61/4
"	shoul				2 lb.	0 9½	0 101/4
,,	chops				2 lb.	1 0½	1 1

January, 1916.

Assuming, therefore, that the family dietary was in all respects the same at the two periods compared, its cost would have increased in the interval from 19s. 81d. to 22s. 11½d., or by 16.5 per cent.

19 8½

22 111/

Total

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE MANU-FACTURE OF MUNITIONS IN FRANCE.

A REPORT has now been issued embodying the conclusions of the mission charged with the investigation of labour conditions in the munitions factories of France. The mission consisted of Messrs. J. T. Brownlie, Chairman of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and member of the National Advisory Committee and of the Central Munitions Labour Supply Committee; Alexander Duckham (Ministry of Munitions); D. J. Shackleton, Labour Adviser (Ministry of Munitions); and Allan M. Smith, Secretary of the Engineering Employers' Federation and member of the Central Munitions Labour Supply Committee. The preamble to the report points out that the increase in the output of munitions which has taken place in France is remarkable when it is considered that one-eighth of the country and five-eighths of the former metallurgical productivity is in the hands of the enemy.

The mission visited 23 factories, and it is stated that on the evidence thus gained it is clear that the primary means by which the enhanced output of munitions has been achieved is by increasing intensity of production, by the erection and equipment of new factories and the extension of existing munitions factories, and by the adaptation of existing factories of other kinds to the manufacture of munitions. In connexion with the increased intensity of output it is stated that "women, of whom many thousands are employed in munition factories, work with a good will which is most impressive: this spirit is also evident in the case of male workers. The men have apparently welcomed the introduction of women into the factories, and are doing everything they can to instruct and co-operate with them in increasing the output of munitions.

With regard to the erection of new factories, it is remarkable that this is due entirely to private enterprise, no factories having been subsidised by the Government or loans of any kind made. In such cases the Government has paid, on the equipment of the factory, one-third of the contract price of the contract taken, the remaining two-thirds being paid as the munitions are delivered. The report states that the mission were much impressed with the extent to which the owners of factories have been able to import machinery. Thousands of new machines have been installed, mostly from America, but in many cases also of British or Swiss make. The mission were also much impressed with the lay-out in the new shops, where, owing to the amount of free space and the

difficulty in handling products is met with.

A feature of the French system is the small producer, of whom there are about 1,800 in the Paris district alone. These producers, for reasons of administrative convenience, work under sub-contract; but the work is paid for at the price received by the main contractor, who, therefore, makes no profit. Many such small shops are manned by the various members of a family, and work goes on day and night. An instance is cited where the day shift was superintended by the father and daughters and the night shift by the mother and son. Practically all the factories run night as well as day shift. In some cases three shifts are worked. Where the two-shift system is in force the hours are from between six and seven a.m. to six or seven p.m. There is a long break, averaging one and a half hours, in the middle of the day, and this enables women to look after the meals and comfort of their children at home. On night-shift ten hours are worked, one hour being allowed for a meal, which, however, is usually taken at the machines. The shifts generally change over every fortnight, and on the change the workpeople get 24 hours off. The same hours are worked on Saturdays as on other days, but in some cases no work is done on Sundays after noon, and this allows additional time for carrying out repairs, etc.

In practically all cases women have been introduced since the beginning of the war. They have been drawn from all sorts of occupations. In most cases they work the same hours as the men, but so far they have not been employed much on night shift; this is being modi-fied, however, and in the future women will probably be largely so employed. There is no restriction as to the work which women may do. The only processes so far confined to male labour are setting up and toolmaking; with regard to the former, however, women may qualify for some part of it, and with regard to the latter, women are already grinding the edges of cutting tools for machines. A long list of occupations on which women are engaged is given in the Report, and instances of complete manufacture by women include a 75 mm. shell complete, a 120 mm. shell complete, and fuses complete.

The introduction of unskilled labour is stated to have been facilitated by the specialisation in output of each factory; thus one factory will specialise in fuses, another in 75 mm. shells, and so on, according to the varying circumstances of each. It is stated to be the general opinion that on small work the output of female labour equals, and in some cases excels, that of male labour; while in heavier work, within limits, women are of practically the same value as men.

Practically all the work, except tool-room work, setting up, and floor labouring, is done on piecework. The premium bonus system is unknown. In the case of women there is no recognised time rate other than that paid during the period of training, which is usually recognised as a guaranteed minimum rate. The same piecework rates are paid to women as to men.

The period of training for machine operations for women is on the average a week; in some cases, however, it extends to a fortnight, and in others again it is less than a day. There is no Government arrangement for instruction, this work being done separately in each factory. In many cases a man teaches a woman. who then takes his place and teaches another woman, and so on. It is stated that in a few cases men objected to this system at first, but such objections have long ago disappeared.

The Report states that the introduction of unskilled male and female labour has not in France presented the difficulties experienced in this country. Trade Union conditions as regards wages and labour have been practically suspended, and workpeople who show ability are permitted to specialise in the more skilled operations. No strikes have taken place since the beginning of the war, and there have been no applications for general advances in wages. A large proportion of the male labour employed, however, is military, many of

mechanical devices for transport, no congestion or I the men being those who have been mobilised but found unfit for active service. Time-keeping is remarkably good, the time lost owing to avoidable causes not exceeding on the average 1 per cent. It is stated that there is no evidence of fatigue due to the long hours worked either by day or night, although the temperature of the shops is usually very high; it is considered that this is largely due to the long break in the middle of the day and to the absence of overtime beyond the

The Report concludes by remarking that "it appears to the mission that the increase of production in France is due to one cause, and one only, and that is the patriotic enthusiasm which exists there."

WELFARE SUPERVISION.

THE Health of Munition Workers' Committee, whose duties are "to consider and advise on questions of industrial fatigue, hours of labour, and other matters affecting the personal health and physical efficiency of workers in munitions factories and workshops," have issued a Memorandum* on the subject of Welfare Super-

It is stated that varied and complex influences are to-day adversely affecting the efficiency of munition workers, and amongst them certain conditions, outside the ordinary undertakings of factory management, appear to be almost more important than the immediate or technical environment in which work is carried on, or the length of hours during which the workers are employed. Four of the chief influences thus affecting industrial efficiency concern questions of (a) housing, (b) transit, (c) canteen provision, and (d) the individual welfare of the employee. On these four grounds, welfare supervision is now receiving the attention of the more enlightened employers.

In the course of visits to factories the Committee have frequently found various difficulties in existence unknown to, or unappreciated by, the management. In the past these difficulties have not been so great as they are to-day, and hence no one has been given the duty of inquiring into their existence and of devising means to rectify them. Yet without such inquiries, carefully pursued, these adverse conditions cannot be brought to light; and without some person specially appointed or designated for the purpose by the management, there is no one whose duty it is to discover and apply remedies. It is obvious that neither the employer nor the workman is sufficiently disengaged to undertake such obliga-

Welfare Workers already exist at a number of factories, thirty of which sent representatives to a conference held at York in 1913, and the number has largely ncreased since. Evidence gathered from places where individuals have been appointed to supervise personally the welfare of the factory worker has fully established the value of this kind of supervision, and the Committee are satisfied that the well-being of the workers is being affected, and their output reduced, by the fact that such supervision is largely absent.

The Committee desire to record their unanimous con-

viction that a suitable system of Welfare Supervision to be administered by an officer specially appointed for the purpose) is essential in munition works where women or girls are employed, and, they must add, urgently necessary. The officer appointed should be a woman of good standing and education, of experience and sympathy, tactful and sensible in her dealings with others, and having, if not an actual experience, at least a good understanding of industrial conditions. She should live near the factory, and keep in close touch with all the women and girls employed. In "national" factories she should be appointed and paid by the Ministry of Munitions; in "controlled" establishments she should be appointed and paid by the employer, but her appointment should be reported to the Ministry of Muni-tions. Her duties would be determined by the authority appointing her, but in general the duties of Welfare Supervision should include the following: -

* Cd. 8151. Price 1d.

(1) To be in close touch with the engagement of

new labour, or, when desired, to engage the labour.

(2) To keep a register of available houses and lodgings; to inform the management when housing accommodation is inadequate; and to render assistance to workers seeking accommodation.

(3) To ascertain the means of transit used, and the length of time spent in travelling; to indicate the need of increased train, tram, or motor service, or to suggest modification of factory hours to suit existing means of transit.

(4) To advise and assist workers in regard to feeding arrangements; to investigate the need for provision of canteen facilities, or any inadequacy in the provision already made; and to supervise the management of such canteens.

(5) To investigate records of sickness and broken time arising therefrom; and in cases of sickness to visit, where desired, the homes of workers.

(6) To investigate, and advise in, cases of slow and inefficient work, or incapacity, arising from conditions of health, fatigue, or physical strain.

(7) To consider, particularly for delicate and young workers, all questions of sanitation and hygiene affecting health and physical efficiency, and to supervise the conditions of night work, Sunday work, long hours,

(8) To advise on means of recreation and educational work.

(9) To investigate complaints and assist in the maintenance of proper discipline and good order.

(10) To keep in touch with responsible organisations having for their object the promotion of the welfare of the worker.

The Committee consider that it is important that some scheme of Welfare Supervision should be adopted for women and girls, however small the number employed, and they suggest that, when it is impracticable to appoint a whole-time woman supervisor, the duties of welfare supervisor should be allotted to a woman on the factory staff specially designated for the purpose. If the employment of women be properly safeguarded and wisely supervised, all may be well; but if not, the ultimate results may be far from desirable or beneficial.

As regards men and boys, the Committee consider that a suitable system of Welfare Supervision (to be administered either by the ordinary factory staff or by an officer specially appointed for the purpose) would be of advantage in munition works where 500 adult males or 100 boys are employed. Welfare Supervision is of particular importance in the case of boys, since their employment presents many features of difficulty, to which special attention must be paid, if health and efficiency are to be safeguarded and discipline maintained. Where a number greatly in excess of 500 men or 100 boys are employed, additional welfare supervising staff may become necessary.

COAL MINING ORGANISATION COMMITTEE.

THE Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the conditions prevailing in the coal mining industry due to the war have presented their Second General Report,* in which they deal with the effect of the war on the industry during the first twelve months of its continuance, and the results achieved by the remedial measures suggested in their First Report. †

The loss of output (about 30,000,000 tons, or 11 per cent.), compared with the previous twelve months, has not been so great as was anticipated, mainly owing, the Committee believe, to the effect of the remedial measures taken to mitigate loss due to depletion of labour. For the first seven months the average rate of decrease exceeded 3,000,000 tons per month (chiefly owing to lessened demand), while for the last five months of the first year of war the rate was about 1,700,000 tons, owing almost entirely to shortage of labour. For the first

three months of the second year of war (August-October, 1915) the output was greater than in the like period of 1914 by 500,000 tons a month, but less than in 1913 by 2,400,000 tons a month. It is remarkable that the falling off has not, of late, been greater, seeing that a steady depletion of mining labour has taken place, due to enlistment in H.M. Forces, and, to some extent, to drawing away of men to the munition works. The average number of persons on the books during the first year of the war was 11.5 per cent. less than in the year before the war; the net loss at August, 1915, was about 16 per cent. These figures may be compared with the reduction in output during the same period, which amounted to about

Although, as a rule, the pits during the last few months worked more regularly than in the pre-war period, and, since the previous Report, the men have shortened their holidays and, in some cases, relinquished one of their recognised "off" days, the Committee are pleased to be able to state that absenteeism had not increased, but remained the same as during the first seven months of the war, viz., 9.8 per cent. For the like period during the pre-war months the absenteeism was at the rate of 10.5 per cent. The Committee believe that the efforts of the miners' leaders in attempting to secure more regular attendance at work have not been without result, but they again draw attention to the following facts, which are confirmatory of the position indicated in their First Report, viz:-

(1) The absenteeism, taking "face" labour (i.e., coal getters and coal putters) only, is very much higher than the average stated above.

(2) Were there no avoidable absenteeism the output

would be increased by from 13 to 14 million tons per annum.

In considering the question of absenteeism and the productive capacity per man employed, it must be borne in mind that the incoming labour, so far as it is not composed of miners' sons or men from other mines, will probably not compare favourably with that of the labour which has enlisted.

The Eight Hours Act.—At a conference held at the Home Office on 2nd September, the workmen's representatives were of opinion that the question of the suspension of the Eight Hours Act should not be considered until it was seen how far the joint efforts of owners and workmen to increase output which were to be made had been successful. The position has not altered since that

Disputes and Stoppages at Collieries.—The Committee have drawn attention in the various colliery districts to what is being done towards meeting local disputes and allaying causes of friction, and have urged the desirability of adopting measures with a similar object, namely, to reduce absenteeism and put a stop to friction in those districts in which, so far, little has been done in this direction. A form of Agreement entered into between the owners and the workmen at the mines in Lancashire is reproduced in an Appendix to the Report, and the Committee think that this Agreement might, with advantage, be considered by organisations of masters and men in the other mining districts.

General Reorganisation at the Mines.—The Committee are satisfied that a good deal has been done in concentrating the work of getting coal in the easier places in the mines and in postponing developments and renewals.

Improvement in Railway and Shipping Transport.— Transit facilities are being materially affected by lack of available locomotive power, and this state of affairs will become worse as the movements of troops and munitions increase. The Committee have therefore considered how far relief could be obtained in the direction of reducing the amount of work requiring to be overtaken by the locomotive power likely to be available to deal with the coal traffic. In this connection they have been advised that considerable advantage would be secured by some system of pooling of traders' and railway wagons in different districts. They recommend, therefore, that without delay the Railway Executive be advised to prepare a scheme of pooling suitable to the different districts, and that it be submitted to the coal-owners and others for their consideration in the national interest. The Government might consider, upon the situation thus disclosed, as to the advisability of legislation upon the

Lack of tonnage at the South Wales ports has of late operated adversely on the coal trade of that district. The scarcity of tonnage is partly due to British vessels working between foreign ports owing to (1) high freights which can be earned thereby, and (2) less risk of being requisitioned by the Admiralty. The Committee recommend that expert inquiry should take place as to whether it would be possible without prejudice to other interests to a certain extent to compel ships to trade between

home and foreign ports.

Disposal of the Coal.—The quantity of coal exported in the twelve months ended July, 1915, was about 46 million tons, a decrease of nearly 30 million tons on the previous twelve months. Bunkers for the use of vessels engaged in the foreign trade accounted for a further 15 million tons, a decrease of 6 million tons. The balance remaining for home use and the Admiralty was 189 million tons, an increase of 5 million tons. The Committee have reason to believe that the demand for coal is now on the whole no less than it was during the pre-war period.

Supply of Pit Timber.—Prices of pitwood have risen to a level likely to affect the industry materially unless some controlling influence is interposed. The Committee propose to conduct further inquiry into the question, and will report thereon at a later stage.

OFFICIAL MEDIATION IN LABOUR DISPUTES IN NORWAY: NEW LAW.*

A LAW, dated 6th August, 1915, which came into force on the 1st January, 1916, creates for the first time in Norway machinery for the settlement of labour disputes by the State. One noteworthy feature of the new measure is that it applies the principle of compulsory investigation and delay before stoppage of work takes place, in which respect it resembles the Canadian Industrial Disputes Act of 1907. Other noteworthy features are the compulsory registration of trade unions and employers' associations, and the recognition and regulation of collective agreements.

With regard to the prevention and settlement of labour disputes two methods of procedure are established Questions arising out of existing collective agreements must be brought before a specially constituted Labour Court, while those originating in other matters affecting labour are to be submitted to Conciliation Boards to be set up throughout the country.

(a) THE LABOUR COURT.

The Labour Court is to have its seat at Christiania, and is to consist of a president and four other members, all of whom are to be appointed by the Crown. The president must be qualified to act as a judge in the Supreme Court. Two of the four members are to be selected from persons nominated by associations of employers and two from persons nominated by trade unions. The persons nominated must neither be officers nor paid servants of any employers' association or trade union. Members of the Labour Court are to hold office for three years, and to have fixed salaries paid by the

Under no circumstances may a strike or lock-out be resorted to for the purpose of determining the validity, the interpretation or the continuation of a collective agreement, or with the object of enforcing demands based upon such an agreement. All controversies of this kind must be referred to the Labour Court for decision, unless the parties agree to settle their differences by private The Court cannot, however, be invoked arbitration. unless negotiations for settlement of the points at issue have previously been set on foot between the parties, or unless an attempt at such negotiations has been made by the party seeking redress. The parties may appear

before the Court either personally or by accredited representatives.

Except on questions of law, and of the jurisdiction of the Court, its decisions are final. They are, moreover, enforceable in the same way as decisions of the Supreme

(b) Conciliation Boards.

The procedure for dealing with disputes which do not arise out of collective agreements is to be controlled by a permanent Chief Conciliator, and the whole country is to be divided into conciliation areas, over each of which a District Conciliator is to be appointed. The Chief and the District Conciliators are to be nominated by the Crown, and are to hold office for a term of three years. Each District Conciliator will act as the chairman of a Conciliation Board consisting of himself and two persons to be selected by him from panels of candidates. These panels are to be nominated for each district (in numbers to be fixed subsequently) by registered associations of employers and workpeople.

When warning of a proposed stoppage of work owing to a difference arising out of some point not embodied in a collective agreement has been given by an employer or by workpeople, notice thereof must be at once sent by the party issuing such warning to the Chief Conciliator, or to the District Conciliator concerned. Such stoppage of work must not take place before the time fixed by the notice, and in no case must it take place until four working days have elapsed from the time when the Conciliator has received information that negotiations for settlement have not been entered into, or that they have been broken off, or that the notice as to stoppage of work has been extended to other establishments. Within two days after the receipt of information of a projected strike or lock-out the Conciliator may forbid the stoppage of work if he considers that, having regard to the character or magnitude of the business involved, such stoppage would be detrimental to the public interest. Immediately such prohibition has been imposed, the Conciliator must undertake proceedings with a view to settling the questions at issue. If, on the other hand, the stoppage of work has not been forbidden the Chief Conciliator or the District Conciliator may proceed to attempt to settle the differences, either on his own initiative or at the request of one of the parties. A District Conciliator may act alone, or, if both parties agree, the matter may be heard by the Local Board. If the Chief Conciliator acts as chairman of the local board he will select two assistant Conciliators from the panel of any district.

After ten days have elapsed from the prohibition of the stoppage of work, either of the parties in the dispute may demand that further negotiations shall cease, provided that the party so demanding has duly participated in the negotiations. Four days after this demand has been made negotiations shall terminate. In cases where no settlement has been arrived at, the Conciliator who has conducted the negotiations may publish a statement concerning the matter.

Proceedings both before the Labour Court and the

Conciliation Boards are free of cost to the parties.

Infractions of the provisions of the law are punishable by fines, ranging from 5 to 25,000 kronen (5s. 7d. to

LABOUR IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEA AND IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

CANADA.*

Employment in November.—Employment in Novemper showed comparatively little change from the high level of October. The conclusion of threshing in a number of Western localities left a number of men out of work, some of whom returned East, while others found employment with lumbering companies, or secured other outside work rendered possible by the fine open weather which prevailed during the greater part of the month.

^{*} Summarised from the text given in Meddelelsesblad, the organ of the Norwegian Trade Union Central Federation, December, 1915.

^{*} The Labour Gazette, published by the Canadian Department of Labour.

There was some falling off in employment for longshoremen, owing to the practical cessation towards the end of the month of lake and river navigation, but numbers of men in St. Lawrence River ports expected to find work at the winter ports. Activity in manufacturing was on the whole well maintained, particularly in some branches of the metal trades. Both coal and metal mining were active, with a demand for coal miners in Nova Scotia

Labour Disputes in November.—During November 3 new disputes were recorded, by which 281 workpeople were directly affected and approximately 3,521 working days lost. In addition 2 disputes, directly affecting 69 workpeople and resulting in a loss of 1,846 working days, were continued from October, giving a total of 5 disputes in progress during the month, in which 350 persons were involved and through which 5,367 working days were lost. During November 3 disputes were settled, one resulting in favour of the workpeople, one in favour of the employers and one in a compromise

Variations in Retail Prices and Cost of Living in November .- The total weekly expenditure of a family, based upon returns of prices of food, fuel, lighting and housing in sixty cities of Canada, in November amounted to 57s. 9d., as compared with 56s. 11d. in the previous month and 59s. 5d. in November, 1914. Thus, assuming the standard of living to have been identical for all three periods, there was an increase in the cost of that standard of 8.1 per cent. as compared with October, and a decrease of 2.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of 1914. The sum spent upon food alone at the etail prices prevailing in the respective months was 33s. 5d. in November, 32s. 7d. in October, and 33s. 2d. in November, 1914, showing for the month under review an increase of 2.6 per cent. as compared with the preceding month and of 0.8 per cent. as compared with November, 1914.

As compared with July, 1914, the average weekly expenditure on food, fuel, lighting and rents showed an advance in November, 1915, of 2.2 per cent., while that spent upon food alone decreased by 2.2 per cent.

DENMARK.*

Employment in Massachusetts at End of September, plied to the Danish Statistical Office, 4.0 per cent. of the 129,500 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 3.6 per cent. in the previous month and 10.0 per cent. in October, 1914. The average time lost through unemployment during October was five-sixths of a day per member, as compared with three-fourths of a day in September.

NORWAY.†

Employment in November .- The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of November in certain trade unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures being added for the previous month and for November, 1914:-

or AT white was	M	Iembersh	dp.	Percentage Unemployed.			
Group of Trades.	30th Nov., 1915.	31st Oct., 1915.	30th Nov., 1914.	30th Nov., 1915.	31st Oct., 1915.	30th Nov., 1914.	
Bricklayers and Masons (Christiania) Carpenters, &c Painters (Christiania) Metal Workers Boot and Shoe Makers Wood Pulp and Papermakers Printers Bookbinders (Christiania) Cablnet Makers Bakers (Christiania) Tinned goods (Stavanger)	762 1,705 419 8,777 852 724 2,059 645 622 445 565	773 1,683 465 8,497 785 715 2,050 644 600 445 575	652 1,419 414 8,342 763 670 1,970 592 530 444 485	2·6 1·2 10·7 0·5 0·5 1·9 1·2 0·3 5·6 6·7	0·4 0·2 2·4 0·5 0·8 2·8 0·9 1·2 5·2 10·3	2·5 3·2 14·3 1·8 1·2 0·1 2·4 1·0 1·7 10·4 4·5	
TOTAL	17,575	17,232	16,271	1.4	1.3	2.5	

^{*} Statistiske Efterretninger, 28th December, 1915. Danish Statistical Office. † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry, and Fisheries.

UNITED STATES. New York State.

Employment in New York State in October.*-The improvement in business which has been manifest all the summer continued throughout October. This increased activity is revealed both by returns from representative trade unions in manufacturing, building, transportation and miscellaneous trades, and by employment returns from representative manufacturers. Returns from representative factories with nearly half a million employees show that the improvement in activity in the manufacturing industries of the State gained strength in October as compared with September, especially in industries not affected by the revival in business.

MANUFACTURING.

Representative factories throughout the State paid 4 per cent. more in wages in October than in September. In each month since June the manufacturing industries of the State have shown greater activity than in the corresponding months of last year; in October 7 per cent more operatives were employed, and 16 per cent. more wages were paid than in October of 1914. The greater increase in total wages as compared with that of total number of employees is indicative both of higher rates of pay and of the resumption of full-time schedules. The number of workers employed in October, 1915, was practically the same as the average number of employees in the same factories in October, 1913.

Most marked improvement as between September and October was shown by the leather and fur working industry, the paper-making industry, the textile industry, and the clothing industry. Had not the strike of electrical apparatus makers in Schenectady reduced the total payroll in the metal-working and machinery group, every industry group in the State would have shown an increase both in the number of employees and in the amount of wages paid in October, as compared with September. In contrast with these figures it should be noted that last year every industry group except leather and fur working and textiles was less active in October than in Sep-

Equally striking is the improvement shown by a comparison of employment in October of this year with employment of one year ago. Every industry group except paper-making and the food, liquor and tobacco group employed more operatives in October of this year than in October of 1914; every industry group paid more wages than a year ago.

BUILDING

In the building trades the increase in the demand for labour is evidenced by a decreasing percentage of unemployment, which started in July and continued during the month of October. This is a contrast with conditions in 1914, when unemployment increased during August and September and virtually remained unchanged in September and October. The improvement in the building trades, which is shown by the decrease in idleness for October, 1915, as compared with September, 1915, and October, 1914, is corroborated by the estimated cost of new buildings, alterations and repairs authorised in the first and second class cities. The estimated expenditure for building work in October, 1915, was 2.7 per cent. more than in September, 1915, and 24 7 per cent. more than in October, 1914.

Massachusetts.

Employment in Massachusetts at End of September, 1915†.—For the quarter ending 30th September, 1915, returns were received from 1,052 labour organisations in Massachusetts, with an aggregate membership of 175,754, or about 75 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in the State. The proportion of such members unemployed on 30th September, owing to causes other than labour disputes or disablement-e.g., lack of work, shortage of materials, weather conditions, holidays and temporary shut-downs—was 4'4 per cent., as compared with 8.5 per cent. at the end of June and with 9.0 per cent. at the end of September, 1914.

* Bulletin of New York State Industrial Commission, December, 1915. Albany, N.Y. † Thirty-First Quarterly Report on Unemployment in Massachusetts, 20th September, 1915. Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING DECEMBER.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during December, and showed little change from the previous month. It was much better than a year ago as regards the number of days worked by the collieries, showing an average improvement of half a day per week, or nearly 10 per cent. The number of workpeople employed, however, showed a decrease of 8.2 per cent. on the number in December, 1914. As compared with November last, there was an increase of 0.4 per cent.

Of the 525,438 workpeople included in the returns, 257,150, or 48.9 per cent., were employed at pits working 12 days* during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while a further 189,961, or 36.2 per cent., were employed at pits working 11 days but less than 12 days. Thus 85 1 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at pits working 11 days or more during the fortnight. The highest average number of days worked were in Gloucester and Somerset (5.91 days), and in North Wales (5.90 days), and the lowest average was in West Scotland (5.20 days).

Districts.	No. of Work- people employed in Dec., 1915,	work	e number ed per w Collierie tnight er	eek by	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1915 On a		
	at the Collieries included in the Table.	18th Dec., 1915	27th Nov., 1915.	19th Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago	
ENGLAND AND WALES. Northumberland Durham Cumberland South Yorkshire West Yorkshire Lancashire and Cheshire Nottingham and Leicester Staffordshire Warwick, Worcester, and Salop Gloucester and Somerset North Wales South Wales and Mon	49,013 86,960 5,419 58,101 24,957 46,585 30,774 34,810 23,664 8,444 5,326 8,678 99,156	Days. 6:39 6:56 6:84 5:88 6:65 5:83 5:80 6:50 6:87 6:83	Days. 5.43 5.56 5.66 5.88 5.63 5.79 5.84 5.45 5.87 5.76 6.00 5.68	Days. 4 01 4 82 5 32 5 61 5 30 5 36 5 48 4 91 5 76 5 557 5 46 6 88 6 82	Days 0.04 + 0.18 + 0.02 + 0.04 + 0.05 + 0.07 - 0.06 - 0.10	Days. +1'38 +0'74 +0'32 +0'27 +0'35 +0'47 +0'32 +0'59 +0'11 +0'26 +0'45 +0'02 +0'04	
ENGLAND AND WALES	481,917	5.72	B-68	5 20	+ 0.04	+ 0.52	
SCOTLAND. West Scotland The Lothians Fife	20,077 2,375 20,614 43,066	5-20 5-51 5-44 5-33	5·01 5 36 5 43	5·20 5·13 4·67	+ 0.19 + 0.15 + 0.01	+ 0·38 + 0·77 + 0 40	
IRELAND	455	5.84	5.93	5.72	- 0.09	+ 0.12	
UNITED KINGDOM	525,438	5.68	5.64	5.18	+ 0.04	+ 0.50	

Employment was described as good, or very good, in every district, and showed a slight improvement in Cumberland, South Wales and Monmouth, West Scotland, and the Lothians; in the other districts there was little or no change. Scarcity of labour was reported in West Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and in Staffordshire; and a shortage of railway trucks was reported in Derbyshire and in West Scotland, though there was an improvement in the supply in the latter district.

Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in every district, except in West Scotland, where no change was shown. The improvement was most marked in Northumberland, in Durham and in Fifeshire.

Description of Coal.	No. of Work- people employed in Dec., 1915, at the	worked	e number l per wee s in Fort ended	k by the	Dec.,	(+) or (-) in 1915, n a	
	Collieries included in the Table.	18th Dec., 1915.	27th Nov., 1915.	19th Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Anthracite	5,421 28,563 34,402 54,228 197,271 205,563	Days. 5.57 5.75 5.51 5.65 5.72 5.68	Days. 5.83 5.77 5.50 5.65 5.66 5.63	Days. 5:51 5:32 4:94 5:17 5:16 5:21	Days. - 0.26 - 0.02 + 0.01 + 0.06 + 0.05	Days. + 0.06 + 0.43 + 0.57 + 0.48 + 0.56 + 0.47	

* The figures in this article and the following only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked avery day that the mines or works were open.

Compared with a month ago there was a decline at anthracite coalpits, but at the other pits there was little change. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement at anthracite coalpits and a marked improvement at all other pits.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during December amounted to 3,470,000 tons, about the same quantity as in the previous month, but over 400,000 tons less than a year ago. In December, 1913, the total exports were over $6\frac{1}{2}$ million tons.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT continued good at iron mines, and shale mines continued very busy. In tin mines there was little change; at lead mines employment was good.

Some slight improvement in the North Wales slate quarries was reported, but the depression continued. At other quarries employment was generally fair; in some cases time was lost on account of wet weather. In the china clay industry employment was fair.

MINING

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods named below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that the number of workpeople employed in December, 1915, was 12,855, practically the same number as a month ago, but 936 (or 6.8 per cent.) less than a year ago. This variation in the number employed should be borne in mind in connection with the following Table, which gives the number of days that the mines and open works were in operation: -

Districts.	Work- people	work	Number ed per we Fortnig	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1915, on a		
	employed in Dec., 1915.	18th Dec., 1915.	27th Nov., 1915.	19th Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland	5,524 4,477	Days. 5.45 5.80	Days. 5.62 5.92	Days. 5.99 5.84	Days. - 0.17 - 0.12	Days. - 0.54 - 0.04
Scotland Other Districts	696 2,158	6.00 5.80	6·00 5·97	5.65 5.75	- 0.17	+ 0.35 + 0.05
ALL DISTRICTS	12,855	5.66	5.80	5.88	- 0.14	- 0.22

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.66, compared with 5.80 a month ago and 5.88 a year ago. Compared with a year ago the decline in Cleveland (the principal district) was more than half a day per week; in Scotland there was an improvement of 0.35 of a day per week.

Shale.—According to the returns received there were 3,098 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 18th December, 1915, at mines which worked, on the average, 6.01 days per week, compared with 3,088 workpeople in November at mines working 5.96 days per week and 3,464 workpeople a year ago at mines working 5.95 days per week.

Tin.—Employment showed little change. There was a shortage of labour at the more important mines, and development work was, in consequence, curtailed.

Lead.—Employment continued good in Weardale and North Wales and at Darley Dale (Matlock).

QUARRYING

Slate.—There was a slight improvement in North Wales, but the general depression continued, and much short time was worked.

Granite. - In Leicestershire employment in the macadam branch was fair, but adversely affected by the weather. In the Aberdeen district employment continued dull and was worse than a year ago. In Corn-

* See note * in previous column.

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Limestone.—In the Weardale district employment was good, except for a little short time on account of unfavourable weather. In the Cleveland and Buxton districts it continued good.

Other Stone.—The Bakewell chert quarries continued busy, and overtime was the rule. In the Clee Hill road material (basalt) quarries employment was still good, though interrupted by unfavourable weather. At the Rowsley grindstone and building stone quarries it was fair, but worse than a year ago. The depression in Forfarshire continued.

Sett-making.—In Scotland employment was fairly good generally, though time was lost in some cases on account of wet weather. In Leicestershire it was slack and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At the Clee Hill quarries it continued quiet.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell, Lee Moor, and Shaugh districts employment was fair; in the St. Austell works it was better than a year ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT was still good, but the scarcity of labour continued, and reports from every district indicated that work at the furnaces was also hindered by the great difficulty experienced in securing delivery of sufficient supplies of raw materials—coke, iron ore, limestone, etc.-owing to transport delays, lack of wagons, etc.

Returns received show that 261 furnaces were in blast at the end of December, compared with 265 a month ago and 266 a year ago. During the month two furnaces were damped down in Lancashire and two were blown out in Staffordshire.

The following Table summarises by districts the returns received for December, and gives comparative figures for a month ago and a year ago: -

	Number of the Retu	of Furnaces in Blast	Inc. (+) or Dec. (- in Dec., 1915, on a		
District.	December, 1915.	November, 1915.	December, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES:	67	67	73		- 6 + 3 + 1 - 8
umberland &Lancs.	27	29 11	24	- 2	+ 3 + 1
and S.W. Yorks	11 27	27	10 35		- 8
eicester, Lincoln,	27	27	27		
and Northampton f	29	31	29	- 2	
Wales & Monmouth	10	10	8		+ 2
ther districts	5	5	4	••	+ 1
INGLAND & WALES -	203	207	210	- 4	- 7
COTLAND	58	58	56	•	+ 2
TOTAL -	261	265	266	- 4	- 5

The imports of iron ore in December amounted to 593,000 tons, an increase of about 93,000 tons on a month ago and of about 240,000 tons on a year ago. The total for December, 1913, was 537,000 tons.

The exports of pig iron amounted to 75,000 tons compared with 86,000 tons in November, 32,000 tons a year ago, and 74,000 tons in December, 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very good during December and showed a further slight improvement; it was much better than a year ago. Shortage of skilled and unskilled labour was reported in every

According to returns relating to 110,656 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 18th December, 1915, was 646,502, showing an increase of 5,749 (or 0.9 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 88,855 (or 15.9 per cent.) on a year ago.

	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.				Aggreg	ate fts v	number of worked.			
	Week ended 18th	D			Week ended 18th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a			8.8	
	Dec., 1915.		nth go.	Year ago.	Dec., 1915.		nth go.		ear go.	
		P	er	Per			er		Per	
DEPARTMENTS.			nt.	cent.			nt.		ent.	
Open Hearth Melting Fur-	10,695	+	1.0	+ 8.0	63,913	+	1.0	+	8.6	
naces	500		0.2	1 10.7	3,327	-	1.8	L	44.6	
Crucible Furnaces	560 1,494	+	0.5	+ 19.7	8 241	+	0.2		15.1	
Bessemer Converters	7,000	+	0.7	- 6.9	36,625	+	0.9		0.3	
Puddling Forges	31.156	_		+ 0.5	170,079	+	0.2		4.8	
Rolling Mills Forging and Pressing	5,459		0.9	+ 10.5	31,334	-	0.7		12.6	
D 11	17,989	+	0.5	+ 42.4	118,258	+	3.4		60.3	
Other Departments	15,346	-	0.5	+ 7.0	89,110	-	0.3		6.8	
Mechanics, Labourers	20,957	+	0.8	+ 19.4	125,615	+	0.9	+	219	
TOTAL	110,656	+	0.3	+ 10.4	646,502	+	0.9	+	15.9	
DISTRICTS.										
Northumberland & Durham	11,954	-	0.5	+ 3.0	69,255	+	1.0	1+	8.4	
Cleveland	9,696	+	2.1	+ 10.6	56,521	+	2.1		10.3	
Sheffield and Rotherham	28,202	-	0.3	+ 29.7	177,422	+	0.9	+		
Leeds, Bradford, &c	3,940	+	0.6	- 6·3 - 8·0	22,018 47,781	+	1.8		2.9	
Cumberland, Lancashire,	8,416	+	0.6	- 0.0	71,101	T	- 0	100	20	
and Cheshire Staffordshire	9,382	-	0:3	- 0.5	52,045	+	0.1	+	1.3	
Other Midland Counties	5,620	+		+ 12.9	31,491	+	2.9	+	19.9	
Wales and Monmouth	12,499	-	0.8	+ 5.4	68,879	-	1.0	+	4.9	
	00.500	-	0.0	1 0.0	525,412	+	1.0	1	15.6	
TOTAL, England & Wales	89,709	+	0.3	+ 9.8 + 13.2	121,090	1	0.4	1	17.4	
Scotland	20,947	+	0.3	+ 102	121,000	-				
TOTAL	110,656	+	0.2	+ 10.4	646,502	+	0.9	1+	15.9	

Employment was again reported as good or very good without exception, and overtime was stated to have been worked at Wolsingham, Sheffield, Smethwick, West Bromwich and in Scotland.

Compared with a month ago it showed some improvement in every district, with the exception of the Leeds and Bradford and Wales and Monmouth districts. The improvement was most noticeable in the founding departments; in the other departments there was not much

Compared with a year ago the number of work-people employed showed decreases in the Leeds and Bradford, Cumberland and Lancashire, and Staffordshire districts, but increases in every other district. The aggregate number of shifts worked showed an increase in every district except the Leeds and Bradford and Cumberland and Lancashire districts. This improvement was greatest in the Sheffield and Rotherham and "other Midland counties" districts, and in Scotland. As regards departments, it was most marked at foundries and crucible furnaces. With Bessemer converters there was a noticeable decline.

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during December totalled 92,000 tons, a slight decrease on a month ago, but 33,000 tons more than in December, 1914. In December, 1913, the total was 223,000 tons. Compared with a year ago there was a large increase in the quantity of blooms, billets and slabs imported from the United States.

The exports (excluding pig iron, tinplates and galvanised sheets) amounted to 128,000 tons in December, 1915, compared with nearly 176,000 tons a month ago, 122,000 tons in December, 1914, and 186,000 tons in December,

TINPLATE, AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of December, 1915, and the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 25,000 workpeople.

	Numbe	er of Work	s open.	Number of Mills in operation.					
	At end of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a				
	D ec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.			
Tinplate Steel Sheet	73 12	- 3	+ 4	387 87	- 22 + 4	+ 13 - 17			
TOTAL	85	- 3	+ 2	474	- 18	- 4			

TINPLATE.

January, 1916.

Employment declined during December. It was, however, still better than a year ago.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The demand for tinplates was good, and manufacturers were able to obtain high prices. On the other hand, however, the difficulty in obtaining raw materialssteel bars, block tin, etc .- and the delay in transport, caused many mills either to close or to run short time. The scarcity of skilled workmen-especially young men tended to become more pronounced. From the 1st January, 1916, practically all the tinplate works in South Wales became controlled establishments under the Munitions Act.

Returns received show that 387 mills were in operation at the end of December, a decrease of 22 on a month ago and an increase of 13 on a year ago.

The exports of tinned plates and sheets and of black plates for tinning showed a considerable increase on a month ago; compared with a year ago there was not much change as regards tinned plates and sheets, but an increase of nearly 5,000 tons as regards black plates. The figures are summarised in the following Table:

	Dec.,	Nov.,	Dec.,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (- in December, 1915 on a		
	1915.	1915.	1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
	Т	inned Plat	es and Tir	ned Sheets		
To United States "British East Indies "France "Netheriands "Russia "Norway "Portugal "Italy "China and Japan "Australia "Canada "Argentina "Other Countries	Tons. 51 5.002 5.658 2,580 212 4,440 2,164 951 1,512 3,839 85 11 4,116	Tons. 64 1,620 5,493 2,606 882 2,587 1,403 2,311 1,005 1,544 115 229 5,697	Tons. 153 5,053 3,147 1,257 160 4,732 963 988 3,875 2,098 1,542 5,964	Tons 13 + 3,382 + 165 - 26 - 670 + 1,863 + 781 - 1,360 + 507 + 2,295 - 30 - 218 - 1,581	Tons. - 102 - 51 + 2,511 + 1,323 + 52 - 292 + 1,221 - 37 - 2,363 + 1,741 - 247 - 1,631 - 1,838	
TOTAL	30,641	25,556	30,254	+ 5,085	+ 387	
		Black Pl	ates for Ti	inning.		
TOTAL	8,504	5,328	3,723	+ 3,176	+ 4,781	

STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

Employment in this section of the trade showed little change compared with a month ago; the scarcity of labour continued. The mills were engaged either in the working of galvanised sheet for Government purposes or in the production of black sheets, mainly of the heavy

The number of sheet mills in operation at the end of December was 87, an increase of 4 on a month ago and a decrease of 17 on a year ago.

The imports of crude zinc totalled 3,375 tons in December, 1915, compared with just over 5,000 tons a month ago, and about 10,500 tons in both December, 1914 and 1913; nevertheless, owing to increased prices, there was little change in the total value of the imports as compared with a year and with two years ago.

The exports of galvanised sheets totalled 12,500 tons in December, 1915, compared with nearly 17,000 tons a month ago, 22,000 tons a year ago, and 62,000 tons in December, 1913.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THERE was still a great demand for labour in these trades, and work proceeded at high pressure. Trade Unions with 248,819 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 0.3 per cent. a month ago, 1.4 a year ago, and 2.7 per cent. in December, 1913.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 804,002, of whom 0.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 0.3 per cent. a month ago, 1.8 per cent. a year ago, and 3.0 per cent. in December, 1913. In only two districts was the percentage unemployed in excess

Division.		Number	Uner	centage mployn is lodge	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1915, on a		
		Insured.	31st Dec., 1915.	26th Nov., 1915.	24th Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ondon Northern Counties Corth-Western Corkshire Last Midlands West Midlands Lastern and S.E. Counties ooth-Western Yales Local Land		84,402 80,724 153,763 102,589 61,308 91,446 51,827 36,190 14,686 118,887 18,180	0·9 0 2 0·4 0·3 0·2 0·3 0·3 0·2 0·5 0·2 1·4	0.9 0.1 0.3 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.2 0.3 0.2 0.2 1.4	2·4 0·8 2·4 1·5 2·0 1·5 0·8 1·4 2·1 1·3 3·7	+ 0·1 + 0·1 + 0·1 + 0·1 - 0·1 + 0·1 + 0·3	- 15 - 06 - 20 - 12 - 15 - 12 - 05 - 15 - 15 - 15
United Kingdom		804,002	0.4	0.3	1.8	+ 0.1	- 1

The only noticeable exceptions to the general state of employment as described above were as follows:-

In several places employment with patternmakers was only fair, and the same applies to ironmoulders in some cases. Makers of textile machinery and tools were not very well employed, but a large number of the workpeople normally engaged in such work have been transferred to other engineering work.

The imports of machinery during December were valued at £701,000, a decrease of £52,000 on a month ago, but £157,000 and £83,000 more than in December, 1914 and 1913 respectively. These increases were entirely due to the large quantities of machine tools im-

The exports (British and Irish) of machinery were valued at £1,474,000, compared with £1,603,000 a month ago and £1,456,000 a year ago. The total value in December, 1913, was £2,957,000.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

The shipbuilding trades continued to work at high pressure; there was a great shortage of labour, and much overtime was worked.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and of shipwrights, with 70,254 members, reported 0.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 0.3 per cent. at the end of November and 1.8 per cent. at the end of December, 1914.

The percentage unemployed among the 226,048 workpeople in the shipbuilding industry who are insured under the National Insurance Act was 0.6 at the end of December, 1915, compared with 0.4 in November, 1915, and 2.1 in December, 1914.

Division.	Number		tage of Unt Books	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1915, com- pared with a		
	Insured.	31st Dec., 1915.	26th Nov., 1915.	24th Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London Northern Counties North-Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern 43-E. Counties South-Western Wales Scotland Ireland Ireland	9,752 50,406 34,338 5,637 1,460 438 7,251 23,132 10,154 67,544 15,936	1·1 0·3 0·2 0·5 1·2 0·4 0·5 0·3 0·2 4·1	1·2 0·2 0·3 0·2 1·6 0·9 0·4 0·6 0·5 0·2 1·0	2·4 1·4 1·2 2·5 1·0 4·2 2·4 1·9 4·7	- 0·1 + 0·1 - 0·1 + 0·3 - 0·4 - 0·7 - 0·1 - 0·2 + 3·1	- 1·3 - 1·1 - 1 0 - 1 7 - 4·3 - 1 0 - 0·6 - 3·7 - 2·1 - 1·7 - 0·6
UNITED KINGDOM	226,048	0.6	0.4	2:1	+ 0.2	- 1.5

The principal variations as compared with the preceding month, or exceptions to the general state of employment as described above, were as follows:-

On the Clyde some time was lost owing to bad weather; with joiners employment was better than a month ago. In repair work at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough employment was only fair, though rather better than a month ago. With joiners on the Wear and with painters at Liverpool, it was only fair. At Belfast it was reported as bad with joiners and moderate with labourers, and as worse than a month ago. At Cardiff and Swansea a further improvement was reported.

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MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Most of these trades continued busy throughout December. Many reports mentioned a shortage of labour, and much overtime was worked. Trade Unions with 38,005 members reported 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 0.1 per cent. a month ago and 1.4 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Brassworkers continued very busy; at Birmingham, the principal centre, 80 per cent. of the trade union members worked overtime. Bedstead workers reported employment as still fair.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails &c.- Nut and bolt makers at the principal centres continued well employed. Shoe rivet and wire nail makers at Birmingham and at West Bromwich reported employment as very good.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups &c. - The cutlery trades at Sheffield continued very active, and the supply of labour was far from equal to the demand. Government orders kept a great number of works fully occupied. Grinders and file cutters (both machine and hand) stated employment to be fair. Edge tool makers were fully employed at Birmingham and Wednesbury; hoe makers the latter town reported an improvement. At Walsall employment with saddle and harness furniture and bit and stirrup makers was fair. At Redditch needle makers were busy; with fishing tackle makers employment was fairly good; with fish hook makers fair.

Tubes.—At Wednesbury employment was good and, at Birmingham, with brass and copper tube makers it was very good.

Chains, Anchors, Springs &c.—Employment with anchor, chain and block makers at Cradley was good; it was also good with anchor-smiths on the Tyne, and chain-makers on the Wear. Case hame and cart gear and motor chain makers continued well employed at Walsall. Employment was also good with axle and spring makers at Wednesbury. Makers of springs and small steel parts were very busy at West Bromwich and Redditch. Employment was good with anvil and vice makers at Dudley.

Sheet Metal Workers .- Braziers and sheet metal workers continued busy, and much overtime was worked in London and at Oldham, Wolverhampton, Manchester and Newcastle. Employment continued fair at Aberdeen, Warrington and Grimsby. At Accrington it was quiet. With ironplate workers at Birmingham, Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton and in the Lye district employment continued very good; much overtime was reported from Birmingham.

Wire.—Employment was good with wire workers at Norwich and Glasgow, and in London. With wiredrawers it was good at Halifax, Manchester and Sheffield, and fairly good at Warrington and Ambergate. At Newport and Hadley it was very good, though there was some shortage of material. The reports from Sheffield and Newport mentioned a labour shortage. With wire rope makers on the Tyne and Wear employment continued good.

Locks, Hollow-ware, &c.—With cast iron hollow-ware makers employment was fair at West Bromwich and Wolverhampton; with stampers and piercers at Wolverhampton it was very good. With tin and enamel hollow-ware makers it continued good. Galvanised hollow-ware makers in the Midlands generally were very busy, but there was difficulty in obtaining materials. With makers of builders' ironmongery at Wolverhampton employment was moderate.

Stoves, Grates &c.—Employment in England was very fair, and much better than a year ago; at Sheffield, however, a good deal of short time was worked; at Thornaby employment was moderate, and at Leeds good. At Falkirk it continued fairly good generally; in the Glasgow district it was good.

Jewellery, Plated Ware &c .- At Birmingham silversmiths, jewellers and electro-platers continued busy, and overtime was general; there was a shortage of labour. At Sheffield and in London employment was also good, and better than a year ago.

COTTON TRADE.

THE labour problem became more acute during December, and in consequence output was reduced to a greater or less extent in many districts; otherwise there was little change compared with a month ago. Compared with December, 1914, when employment was very slack, there was a marked improvement in every depart-

Returns from firms employing 205,230 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.6 per cent, in the number employed, and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 20.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

doubt to han steel	W	orkpeop	le.]	Earnings.			
_	Week ended 18th		or Dec.	Week ended 18th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.*		
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing	24,953 43,844 98,692 18,010 19,731	Per cent 1.5 - 0.0 - 0.3 - 0.2 + 11.6	Per cent 2.5 - 2.8 + 4.1 + 4.9 + 1.6	£ 24,975 46,891 99,797 23,471 22,372	Per cent. +·0.9 + 0.3 + 0.1 + 0.7 + 10.8	Per cent. + 11.9 + 15.6 + 26.7 + 16.4 + 19.3		
TOTAL	205,230	+ 0.6	+ 1.6	217,506	+ 1.3	+ 20.5		
DISTRICTS. Ashton	10,535 13,671 24,296 25,492 17,412 14,919 14,916 37,110 25,395 7,029 7,188 7,267	- 1.6 + 0.5 - 1.0 - 0.1 - 0.9 - 1.5 + 16.7 + 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.2 - 1.0 - 0.5	+ 25 + 01 - 29 + 01 - 27 - 52 - 75 + 124 + 90 - 45 + 32 - 05	11,233 13,400 29,023 25,209 18,830 14,318 14,564 39,728 31,019 5,780 7,124 7,278	+ 1·6 + 5·7 - 0·9 - 0·1 - 0·2 - 0·8 + 18·1 - 0·1 + 0·7 + 1·1 - 0·4 - 2·0	+ 17·3 + 17·2 + 14·7 + 14·8 + 9·2 + 10·5 + 9·6 + 35·9 + 43·9 + 6·9 + 14·9 + 15·0		
TOTAL	205,230	+ 0.6	+ 1.6	217,506	+ 1.3	+ 20.5		

* The compariso of wages with a year ago is affected by war bo

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment was good in all departments, and much better than a year ago. A considerable amount of machinery was stopped, however, owing to the labour shortage. This has become more serious; it is estimated that the loss of production in the above districts due to the inadequacy of the labour supply amounted approximately to 20 per cent.

In the Bolton district employment was reported as moderate with card room workers, and as fair with spinners and weavers; here, also, employment was much hampered by want of male labour, which caused stoppages in the card room. In the Manchester district employment generally was fair.

In the Blackburn district employment with weavers continued slack, but was considerably above the level of a year ago in every department: at Preston, Darwen, Harwood and Clitheroe it was reported as fair.

In the Burnley district employment was good, the total amount of wages paid in the weaving department showing an increase of about 50 per cent. compared with December, 1914.

The exports of cotton yarn amounted to nearly 15 million lb., an increase of about half a million lb. compared with a month ago, and of nearly 5 million lb. compared with a year ago. In December, 1913, the total was over 17 million lb. The exports of cotton piece goods totalled 374 million yards, an increase of 25 million yards on a month ago, and of 98 million yards on a year ago, but a decrease of 157 million yards on the quantity for December, 1913.

PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The price of American cotton in December was much higher than in any other month of 1915. The quotation for "middling American" on 31st December, 7.92d. per lb., was higher than for any day since 29th September, 1913, when the price was 7.96d. The average daily price

during December, 1915, was 7.61d., an increase of 7.8 per cent. on the average for November, 1915, and of 72.2 per cent. on the average for December, 1914, in which month the lowest average of the war period to date was

The price of "good fair Egyptian" cotton also advanced during December, and on the last day of the month was 9.95d. per lb., being higher than for any date since the beginning of December, 1913. The average for December, 1915, 9.57d., was 2.5 per cent. above that for the preceding month, and 53.4 per cent. above that for

	December,	Increase in 1915	December, on a	
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
MIDDLING AMERICAN:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	
Monthly average of Daily Quota- tions	7:61	0.55	3 19	
Highest price on any one day	7.92	0.34	3.30	
Lowest " "	7-39	0.56	3.14	
Monthly average of Dally Quota- tions	9.57	0.53	3.33	
Highest price on any one day	9.95	0.25	3:30	
Lowest " " "	9.45	0.40	3.40	

COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

The following table shows the quantities of Cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns at the undermentioned

Description of Cotton.	Dec,	Nov.,	Dec.,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)		
Description of Cotton.	1915.	1915.	1914.	Month ago,	Year ago.	
American Brazilian Brazilian Brazilian Begyptian Begyptian Miscellaneous Tota L	7,019 2,649 27,412 12,682	Bales. 227,738 10,642 3,073 21,736 14,731 277,920	Bales. 257,420 11,297 4,453 32,736 11,100 317,006	Bales 25,847 - 3,623 - 424 + 5,676 - 2,049 - 26,267	Bales 55,529 - 4,278 - 1,804 - 5,324 + 1,582 - 65,353	

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

In this trade employment continued good, especially with those engaged on blankets and flannels for Government contracts. There was, however, less pressure than a year ago, the increase shown in earnings being largely due to war bonuses. A large number of firms reported a shortage of labour, chiefly male, but women were also in demand.

Returns from firms employing 24,408 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.0 per cent, in the number employed, and of 7.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 14 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime during the month, as compared with 32 per cent. a year ago.

	, M	Vorkpeop	le.		Earnings	
	Week ended		(+) or -) on a	Week		
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.*
DEPARTMENTS. Wool Sorting	532 5,608 9,405 6,156 2,707 24,408	Per cent 0.7 + 0.7 + 0.6 + 0.3 - 0.3	Per cent 0.9 + 5.4 - 2.5 + 1.7 + 3.8 + 1.0	£ 635 6,900 9,620 7,621 3,060 27,836	Per cent. + 0.5 + 1.1 + 2.1 + 3.8 + 0.5 + 2.1	Per cent. + 7·3 + 12·6 + 2·1 + 8·7 + 13·7 + 7·7
DISTRICTS. Huddersfield District Leeds District Dewsbury & Batley District Other Parts of West Riding	3,483 2,602 3,649 2,913	+ 1·0 - 0·9 + 1·1 + 0·6	+ 02 - 0.5 + 3.0 + 3.1	4,695 3,037 4,437 3,492	+ 0·3 + 0·4 + 1·8 + 0·8	+ 7·7 + 5·5 + 4·3 + 9·6
Scotland Other Districts	12,647 5,407 6,354	+ 0.5 - 0.1 + 0.3	+ 1.5 - 5.2 + 5.8	15,661 5,468 6,707	+ 08 + 2·6 + 4·8	+ 6·7 - 1·3 + 19 0
TOTAL	24,408	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	27,836	+ 2.1	+ 7.7

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by the war bonus s granted in April, 1915.

In the Huddersfield district employment continued good, and at the end of the month it was reported that this activity was increased by further orders for Army cloth. In the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley the operatives were busy, partly on Government work, especially blankets; about 25 per cent. of the operatives in this district worked overtime during the month. In the Leeds district there was a little slackness with makers of the best class of cloth for men's wear, but at factories specialising in ladies' fabrics employment was good; about 10 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime, chiefly in the carding and spinning departments. In "Other Districts" (which include Rochdale and other flannel centres) employment was much above the level of a year ago, and practically all the mills were suffering from the scarcity of labour. It was reported, however, that new workers were being trained, and that the position has been somewhat relieved by the return of many married women to the

In Scotland employment continued fairly good, but there was less overtime than in December, 1914, 7 per cent. of the operatives being thus affected during the current month, as compared with 25 per cent. a year

WORSTED TRADE.

On the whole employment was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago. Less overtime was worked than in December, 1914, the increased earnings as compared with that period being largely due to war bonuses. In all the principal districts production was affected by the shortage of male and female operatives to a greater or less extent.

Returns from firms employing 35,493 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 9.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 6 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime during the month, as compared with 17 per cent. a year ago.

	V	Vorkpeop	ole.	1	Earnings	
	Week ended 18th		(+) or -) on a	Week ended 18th		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago*
DEPARTMENTS. Wool Sorting & Combing Spinning Weaving Other Departments Not specified	4,555 17,408 7,778 3 693 2,059	Per cent 1:3 - 0:1 - 0.9 - 1:2 - 0:9	Per cent 3.6 - 2.8 - 1.6 - 3.9 - 6.9	£ 5,888 12,475 8,112 4,568 1,936	Per cent 1·3 + 0·7 + 0·4 - 1·0 - 2·9	Per cent. + 11.7 + 9.7 + 9.8 + 8.2 + 0.6
TOTAL	35,493	- 0.6	- 3.0	32,979	- 0.2	+ 9.3
DISTRICTS. Bradford District Keighley District Halifax District Huddersfield District Other Parts of West Riding	18,888 5,795 2,682 3,532 2,354	- 0.8 + 0.1 - 0.0 - 2.2 + 0.6	- 3·1 - 4·3 - 2·6 - 6·3 + 7·0	18 008 5,099 2,151 3,619 2,098	+ 0·1 - 1·0 - 1·3 - 1·3 + 1·7	+ 11·5 + 1·4 + 7·6 + 2·5 + 26·0
TOTAL, WEST RIDING Other Districts	33,151 2,342	- 0.6 - 0.1	- 3·0 - 3·4	30,975 2,004	- 0·2 + 0·7	+ 9.1 + 11.3
TOTAL	35,493	- 0.6	- 3.0	32,979	- 0.2	+ 9.3

granted in April and September, 1915.

In the Bradford district employment continued good, and the woolcombers reported a considerable amount of overtime. In the Keighley and Halifax districts employment was not quite so good as a month ago, and less overtime was worked than in December, 1914. In the Huddersfield district most of the firms who have been engaged in making khaki have finished their orders, and no improvement in the general trade was reported.

The imports of wool (sheep's or lambs') amounted to over 38 million lb. compared with $24\frac{1}{2}$ million lb. a month ago and 72 million lb. a year ago. The quantity imported in December, 1913, was 67 million lb.

The exports of tops and of woollen and worsted yarn amounted to 4,200,000 lb., compared with 3,900,000 lb. a month ago, 875,000 lb. a year ago, and 7,100,000 lb. in December, 1913. Exports of woollen tissues amounted to $8\frac{1}{2}$ million yards in December, as compared with 10 million yards a month ago, $5\frac{1}{4}$ million yards a year ago, and nearly 9 million yards in December, 1913. Worsted tissues exported totalled $4\frac{1}{4}$ million yards in December, 1915, about the same quantity as in November, 1915, and December, 1914, but over 2 million yards less than in December, 1913.

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PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

Prices of wool at Bradford during December, 1915, were higher than during the previous month: Lincoln hoggs increased ½d. per lb., 40's crossbred tops by ¼d. per lb., and 60's super-Botany tops by 3d. per lb. Compared with a year ago the percentage increases were Lincoln hoggs, 38 per cent.; 40's crossbred tops, 32 per cent.; and 60's super-Botany tops, 45 per cent.

Contract Someone WA	Dec., 1915	Nov., 1915	Dec., 1914.
AVERAGE PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops	 Pence per lb. 185/8 253/4 43	Pence per lb. 1834 241/2 40	Pence per lb. 13½ 19½ 27½
COURSE OF PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops	. 18½, 18¾ . 25½, 26 . 42, 44	18, 18½ 23½, 25½ 38, 42	13½ 20, 19 30, 25

LINEN TRADE.

THERE was an improvement in this trade as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 38,676 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the number employed declined, but the amount of wages paid increased, by 7.6 per cent.

	w	orkpeopl	e.		Earnings.			
The second secon	Week ended 18th	Inc. (+)	or Dec.	Week ended 18th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing	5,149 9,954 12,245 5,989 5,339 38,676	Per cent. + 0.5 + 1.4 + 0.1 - 0.9 - 0.0 + 0.3	Per cent 39 - 3·8 - 11·5 - 6·8 - 9·2 - 7·6	£ 3,540 5,674 8,694 5,633 3,518 27,059	Per cent. + 7·1 + 6·1 + 3·5 + 3·1 + 6·5 + 4·8	Per cent. + 16·8 . + 11·5 + 0·3 + 10·1 + 8·8 + 7·6		
DISTRICTS. Belfast	16,812 10,176	+ 1·1 + 0·2	- 6·0 - 8·2	11,473 6,278	+ 9·3 + 3·3	+ 76 + 1.9		
TOTAL, IRELAND	26,988	+ 0.8	- 6.8	17,751	+ 7.1	+ 5.5		
Fifeshire Other places in Scotland	5,305 5,728	- 0·1 - 1·6	- 12·1 - 7·3	3,977 4,827	+ 3.1	+ 9·7 + 12·6		
TOTAL, SCOTLAND	11,033	- 0.9	- 9.7	8,804	+ 0.6	+ 11.3		
England	655	+ 3.3	- 3.1	504	+ 1.6	+ 23.5		
UNITED KINGDOM	38,676	+ 0.3	- 7.6	27 059	+ 4.8	+ 7.6		

In the Belfast district there was still a good deal of short time working, and the difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour and raw materials continued. Flax roughers and yarn spinners reported employment as good, and flax-dressers as moderate. In other parts of Ireland conditions generally were about the same as in the Belfast district.

At Brechin employment continued good. At Dunfermline the factories were still working five days per week, but the home trade in union and cotton damask goods was reported as good, and in linen damasks as fair; the export trade to America and Canada was stated to be good.

The *imports* of flax and tow, which come almost entirely from Russia, amounted to 2,419 tons, compared with 5,716 tons a month ago, 4,376 tons in December, 1914, and 7,218 tons in December, 1913.

The exports of linen yarn totalled 522,000 lb. in December, 1915, compared with 658,000 lb. a month ago, 577,000 lb. a year ago, and 1,163,000 lb. in De-

cember, 1913. Exports of linen piece goods amounted to over 9,000,000 yards in December, 1915, compared with nearly 12,500,000 yards a month ago and 12,800,000 yards a year ago. The quantity in December, 1913, was over 19,500,000 yards.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a year ago. The shortage of both male and female labour was very acute

Returns from firms employing 14,674 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the number employed increased by 4.2 per cent., and the amount of wages paid by 31.6 per cent. This large increase in wages is mainly due to war bonuses and to increases in rates of pay.

	V	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week		(+) or -) on a	Week ended 18th	Inc. (Dec. (-	+) or -) on a	
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Spinning	3,319 4,003 5,140 2,212	Per cent 0.0 + 1.0 + 0.5 + 0.4	Per cent. + 6.0 + 2.5 + 3.2 + 6.8	£ 3,254 3,668 5,244 2,754	Per cent. + 1.2 + 1.0 + 0.6 + 0.1	Per cent. + 36·4 + 33.8 + 31·7 + 23·4	
TOTAL	. 14,674	+ 05	+ 42	14 920	+ 0.7	+ 31.6	

In the Dundee district, in which are employed 87 per cent. of the total number of workpeople reported on, employment remained good, though still handicapped by the shortage of labour. Government orders were largely accountable for the activity in the trade. The mills at Arbroath, Forfar and Kirkcaldy continued busys.

The *imports* of jute in December, 1915, totalled just over 50,000 tons, about the same amount as in November, and 15,000 tons more than a year ago. The quantity in December, 1913, was 52,000 tons.

The exports of jute yarns amounted to 2,472,000 lb. in December, 1915, compared with 3,547,000 lb. a month ago, 1,819,000 lb. a year ago, and 3,053,000 lb. in December, 1913.

LACE TRADE.

THE curtain and plain net branches continued well employed during December, and there was a further improvement in the levers branch. Partly owing to the general shortage of labour, there was much less unemployment and short time than a year ago throughout the trade.

Production was adversely affected by the inadequate supply of labour, both male and female, especially in the curtain and plain net sections.

Returns from firms employing 7,968 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 38.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Workpeople.				Lannings.		
	Week ended		(+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
BRANCHES. Levers	1.817 2,400 2.881 870 7,968	Per cent. + 2·7 - 0·7 + 0·3 - 2·7 + 0·2	Per cent 1·1 + 2·2 + 6·0 - 3·5 + 2·1	£ 2,109 2,719 2,853 728 8,409	Per cent. + 2.6 - 1.7 + 1.6 - 0.5 + 0.6	Per cent. + 52·6 + 2·1 + 6·1 + 10·1 + 38·1	
DISTRICTS. Nottingham City Long Eaton and other outlying districts Other English Districts Scotland	2,814 837 2,593 1,724	- 00 + 1.3 + 0.5 - 0.3	+ 1·4 - 4·6 + 5·1 + 2·3	2,709 1,163 2,668 1,869	+ 0.4 + 0.6 + 2.2 - 1.4	+ 32.5 + 50.1 + 61.8 + 15.4	
TOTAL	7,968	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	8,409	+ 0.6	+ 38.1	

At Nottingham the curtain and plain net branches continued well employed; in the levers branch there was still much short time, but owing to the shortage of labour unemployment was less than a year ago.

At Long Eaton employment was good, and better than a month ago or a year ago; some overtime was reported, whereas in December, 1914, 70 per cent. of the operatives were on short time. In the West of England employment was fairly good, and much above the level of a year ago. In Scotland employment in the curtain branch was not quite so good as in November, but considerably better than in December, 1914.

The value of the *imports* of cotton lace during December was £51,000, a decline of £44,000 on a month ago, of £19,000 on a year ago, and less than one-quarter the value of the imports in December, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) were valued at £235,000, a decrease of £35,000 on a month ago, but an increase of £70,000 on a year ago. The value in December, 1913, was £370,000.

SILK TRADE.

In this trade employment was fairly good, and slightly better than a month ago; it was considerably better than in December, 1914.

During the month output was affected by the shortage of male and female labour; this was especially marked in the Lancashire and West Riding district, where the supply of spinners and dressers, in particular, was not equal to the demand.

Returns from firms employing 9,642 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 10.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	workpeople.				Earnings.		
in order of the	Week ended 18th	Inc. (Dec. ((+) or -) on a	Week ended 18th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago. *	
BRANCHES. Throwing	1,197 2,543 3,403 1,781 718	Per cent. + 0.4 + 0.3 - 0.8 + 1.1 - 1.5	Per cent. + 2·2 - 9·4 - 3·2 + 2·1 - 7·2	£ 628 2,386 2,728 1,512 705	Per cent. + 3·1 + 2·8 - 0·5 + 5·7	Per cent. + 19·4 + 6·9 + 13·1 + 10·3 + 11·2	
TOTAL	9,642	- 0.1	- 3.7	7,959	+ 1.5	+ 10.9	
DISTRICTS. Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire Macclesfield, Congleton and District. Eastern Counties Other Districts, including Scotland	2,571 2,295 2,554 2,222	- 0·3 - 1·3 - 0·3 + 1·8	- 9·5 + 0·7 - 2·0 - 2·9	2,492 1,929 2,034 1,504	+ 1.8 - 0.2 + 1.4 + 3.4	+ 3·7 + 91 + 16·0 + 20·3	
TOTAL	9,642	- 0.1	- 3.7	7,959	+ 1.5	+ 10.9	

At Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton employment was good in all the principal branches, except with handloom weavers at Macclesfield, with whom it was fair; it was better than a year ago.

In the Eastern Counties employment showed a further slight improvement compared with a month ago; it was reported as good at Halstead, Braintree and Norwich, and as fair at Yarmouth and Sudbury. In the West Riding employment was about the same as a month ago; the decline in numbers as compared with a year ago was chiefly in the spinning department. At Coventry artificial silk workers and ribbon makers reported employment as fairly good.

The imports of raw silk amounted to 82,000 lb. compared with 74,000 lb. a month ago, and 144,000 lb. a year ago. In December, 1913, the total was 79,000 lb. Silk yarns and manufactures imported were valued at

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is somewhat affected by war bonuses and increases in rates of wages.

£987,000, compared with £1,151,000 in November, £890,000 a year ago, and £1,206,000 in December, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) of silk yarns and manufactures were valued at £146,000, a decrease of £35,000 on a month ago, but an increase of £29,000 on a year ago. The value in December, 1913, was £181,000.

HOSIERY TRADE.

PRODUCTION was affected by the shortage of male and female labour, but employment on the whole continued good, and was better than a year ago; the increase shown in earnings as compared with December, 1914, is partly due to war bonuses.

Returns from firms employing 23,417 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.*

	M	orkpeop	le.		Earnings.		
District.	Week ended 18th	Inc. (Dec. ((+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or -) on a	
	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.*	
Lelcester Lelcester Country District. Notts and Derbyshire Scotland Other Districts TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	12,591 2,079 5,066 2,783 898 23,417	Per cent. + 0·2 + 0·5 - 0·4 - 0·1 + 1·6 + 0·1	Per cent. + 4·6 + 2·5 + 1·5 + 4·5 + 19·4 + 4·2	£ 12,261 1,791 4,415 2,462 708 21,637	Per cent 2·1 - 1·3 - 0·1 + 0·3 - 1·3	Per cent. + 13.4 + 14.7 + 14.9 + 3.2 + 20.2 + 12.8	

At Leicester employment remained good generally, but owing to the difficulty in getting sufficient labour some machines were idle and it was reported that any further depletion of male labour would seriously curtail production. At Loughborough employment continued good in most departments.

In the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire district employment with power-frame workers continued good and was much better than a year ago; in the Nottingham district about 25 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of 8 to 10 hours per week during the month. With hand-frame workers in the country districts a good deal of short time was reported, but there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago.

In Scotland employment continued good.

CARPET TRADE.

THERE was some improvement in this trade compared with a month ago, and employment on the whole was decidedly better than in December, 1914.

Several firms reported a shortage of labour, especially of male and female weavers.

Returns from firms employing 6,671 workpeople and paying £6,389 in wages in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.5 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 10.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Kidderminster district employment, although still hampered by difficulties with regard to labour and supplies, showed some improvement, and was decidedly better than a year ago, when most of the operatives were on half-time. In the West Riding some carpet firms have turned their attention to making blankets for some time past, and these were well employed, and in some cases even working overtime; there was also some little improvement in the regular carpet trade in this district. In Scotland employment continued good.

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT was good, except in the printing section, and much above the level of a year ago.

The supply of male labour was not equal to the demand, and there was also some scarcity of women workers. In several cases a serious shortage is anticipated when the groups are called up. The restricted supplies of raw materials were still the subject of general complaint.

Returns from firms employing 25,361 workpeople in

Returns from firms employing 25,361 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 30.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	V	Vorkpeor	ole.		Earnings.		
	Week) or Dec. on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec (-) on a		
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.*	
Bleaching Printing Dyeing Trimming, Finishing and other Departments Not specified	2,933 745 12,877 7,748 1,058 25,361	Per cent. + 1·0 + 1·8 - 2·7 + 1·1 + 1·0 - 0·9	Per cent 2.9 + 0.4 + 5.0 + 4.0 + 12.2 + 3.8	£ 3,594 1,137 22,767 10,194 1,691 39,383	Per cent. + 9.7 + 1.7 - 1.1 + 3.9 + 0.1 + 1.2	Per cent. + 23·7 + 37·3 + 34·5 + 24·4 + 36·3 + 30·9	
DISTRICTS: Yorkshire Lancashire Scotland Ireland Other Districts	12 277 7,867 1,943 785 2,489	- 2·9 + 1·1 + 1·4 - 0·8 + 1·4	+ 5.7 + 4.9 - 6.1 - 10.6 + 5.3	22,037 10,942 2,222 657 3,525	- 1·4 + 6·4 + 2·7 + 0·3 + 2·1	+ 34.5 + 33.0 + 13.9 - 6.7 + 24.6	
TOTAL	25 361	- 0.9	+ 38	39,383	+ 1.2	+30.9	

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Basford and Bulwell some overtime was reported, and employment was much better than a year ago. In the Dundee district bleachfield workers continued fairly well employed.

Printing.—With machine calico printers in England employment was moderate; with engravers it was on the whole bad, short time being general. In Scotland employment was fair with machine printers, and dull with

engraver

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers continued good, and was much better than in December, 1914, and 85 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime; there was a considerable shortage of labour and the machinery was not fully employed. With cotton dyers employment was also good. At Macclesfield, Leek, and Congleton silk dyers reported employment as good. Hosiery dyers at Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell continued well employed.

Trimming, Finishing &c.—At Leicester, Hinckley and Loughborough employment with hosiery trimmers, &c., continued good; at Hinckley overtime was worked, owing to the shortage of men. At Basford employment was good, but some of the operatives were waiting for material, owing to a shortage of labour on preparatory stages of hosiery trimming. At Dundee calendar workers continued well employed.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

In all the principal districts, with few exceptions, employment continued very good, and on the whole showed little change compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in the numbers employed, owing to enlistments, except in four districts, viz., Kettering, Bristol, Kingswood and Manchester. The increase in earnings compared with December, 1914, is largely due to war bonuses.

The outstanding feature was still the labour problem: output was generally affected by the scarcity of labour, while in some centres it was reported that there was

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses and increases in rates of wages.

great difficulty in keeping up production even on Government work.

Returns from firms employing 62,174 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 7.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid

	V	Vorkpeor	ole.		Earnings	
District.	Week Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year* ago.
ENGLAND & WALES. London	1,950 11,597 2,778 10,127 8,180 4,221 2,573 3,988 2,520 1,627 2,289 3,547 1,203 1,916	Per cent 0.5 + 0.6 - 0.3 - 0.4 + 0.6 + 0.6 + 0.3 + 0.3 + 0.5 + 0.4 + 0.5 + 0.4 + 0.5 + 0.8	Per cent 3-8 - 1-0 - 6-9 - 4-1 - 6-2 + 2-4 - 3-5 + 7-6-9 + 4-8 - 3-1 - 4-0	2,725 16,200 3,561 13,072 10,148 6,271 3,113 4,294 3,006 1,892 2,760 4,114 1,197 1,935	Per cent. + 0·3 + 0·1 + 0·5 - 0·6 + 0·0 - 0·3 + 4·2 - 0·2 + 3·0 + 2·2 - 0·0 - 11·3 + 1·0	Per cent. + 16·1 + 11·7 + 13·6 + 3·4 + 1·6 + 5·0 + 5·0 + 1·6 & - 0·6 + 16·5 + 5·4
ENGLAND & WALES	58,516	+ 0.0	- 2.4	73,288	+ 0.1	+ 7.6
SCOTLAND	3,108 550	+ 0.4 + 1.3	- 11·6 - 1·3	4 010 478	+ 1.4 + 2.1	- 0.6 + 10.4
UNITED KINGDOM	62,174	+ 0.1	- 2.9	77,776	+ 0.5	+ 7.2

LEATHER TRADES.

APART from the saddle and harness trades employment continued good on the whole, with overtime in places and some shortage of labour. At Leeds it is stated that factories were busy on classes of leather formerly obtained from the Continent for ladies' handbags, &c., and at Birmingham fancy leather workers were fairly well employed on Christmas orders. Some decline was reported, however, by curriers, who were slack in London and Edinburgh, while at Birmingham a considerable amount of short time was reported.

In the saddle and harness trades employment was quiet and worse than a month ago, except as regards London, where it was described as good.

Trade Unions with 4,045 members, exclusive of those serving with the colours, reported 4.7 per cent. as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.5 per cent. at the end of November and 2.4 per cent. a year ago. Most of the workpeople returned as out of employment in December were saddlers at Walsall, of whom none were so returned a year ago.

The *imports* of raw hides amounted to 55,000 cwts. in December, 1915, as compared with 80,000 cwts. in the previous month, 120,000 cwts. in December, 1914, and 106,000 cwts. in December, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) of leather in December, 1915, amounted to 14,000 cwts., about the same as in November, but an increase of 10,000 cwts. on a year ago. Exports of leather manufactures were valued at £120,000, compared with £233,000 a month ago, £124,000 a year ago, and £181,000 in December, 1913.

HAT TRADE.

Silk.—Employment continued bad in London and in the provincial centres, and short time was still general. Compared with December, 1914, there was a slight improvement.

Felt.—Employment in this branch continued fairly good; largely owing to enlistments there was less unemployment than a year ago. The percentage of trade

union members unemployed at the end of December was 0·3, compared with 0·1 a month ago and 7·0 a year ago. At Denton employment was reported as fairly good, and much better than in December, 1914, when 95 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time; in Warwickshire it was fair, with short time in some departments; at Stockport 25 per cent. of the operatives were working short time, but employment was better than a year ago, when 68 per cent. were similarly affected.

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—During December employment was very slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms paying £9,403 in wages to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 18th December, showed a decrease of 7·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago and of 9·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment showed a general seasonal slackness: it was reported as quiet, with short time, at Liverpool and Belfast, and as very slack at Glasgow; on the whole, there was little change compared with December, 1914.

READY-MADE.

In this branch employment continued fair, but there was much less pressure than a year ago, owing to the less widespread execution of Government contracts.

The supply of male cutters, women machinists, and juvenile labour, was not in all cases equal to the demand, but the general slackening of employment has somewhat relieved this aspect of the situation.

Returns from firms employing 36,137 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 7.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 19 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time during the month, while about 10 per cent. were on overtime, whereas a year ago 49 per cent. were working more than the usual hours.

	Indoor Workpeople.								
		Number			Earnings.				
District.	Week Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			Week		+) or -) on a			
	ended 18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.			
Leeds Manchester Other places in York-	9,584 3,527 4,920	Per cent 1.1 - 3.9 - 0.4	Per cent. - 3·3 - 6·6 - 3·3	£ 8,127 3,681 4,295	Per cent 0.7 - 1.3 + 3.6	Per cent. -14.6 -12.4 -5.4			
shire, Lancs. & Cheshire Bristol	2,052 3,719	- 3.1	- 3·0 - 9·6	1,453 2, 7 50	- 5·7 - 2·5	-11·3 -14·8			
Bristol) South Midland & Eastern	3,235	- 26	+ 2.5	2,491	- 1.9	-11.5			
Counties London Glasgow	4,009 1,809 3,282	+ 2.6 -12.3 + 0.1	+28 7 -21.5 - 0.0	4,640 1,625 2,433	+ 5·3 -11·4	+33·3 -17·8 - 1·1			
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	36,137	- 1.7	- 2:0	31,495	- 0.4	- 7.0			

The total amount of wages paid to outworkers by the above firms showed a decrease of 12 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 61 per cent. compared with a more ago.

At Leeds employment showed a further slight decline, and was not up to the level of a year ago. During the month about 23 per cent. of the operatives worked short time, and about 12 per cent. were on overtime, whereas a year ago about 37 per cent. worked overtime, and there was practically no short time. The Jewish operatives reported employment as quiet owing to a falling-off in the "specials" trade.

At Manchester employment was not so good as a month ago or a year ago, although still fair; there was a large diminution in the amount of overtime worked, 13 per cent. of the workers being thus concerned during the current month, as compared with 60 per cent. a year ago. At Hebden Bridge employment continued good, at Huddersfield, Liverpool and Wigan it was moderate.

At Bristol and Stroud employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago. At Walsall, Tamworth and Plymouth employment was reported as good, at Colchester it was moderate; at Norwich no overtime was worked, and there was a decline since last month owing to the completion of Government contracts

At Glasgow employment was moderate and considerably below the level of a year ago, when the majority

of the firms were busy on military work.

In London employment was fairly good, and slightly better than a month ago. Compared with December, 1914, the increase shown in the total earnings of indoor workers was counterbalanced by the decrease in the amount paid to outworkers—the net result being a decline of about 30 per cent.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

In this trade employment continued fair, and was better than in December, 1914. A shortage of women machinists and men cutters was again reported, especially in the London and Manchester districts.

	Workpeople.				Earnings.		
District.	Week		+) or -) on a	Week		+) or -) on a	
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
London Manchester Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire. S.W. Counties Rest of England and Wales Glasgow Londonderry Belfast Rest of Ireland	4,130 3,159 1,852 2,635 1,499 2,543 2,002 1,433 964	Per cent. + 1·1 - 0·9 + 0·4 - 0·6 + 0·1 - 0·3 + 1·1 - 1·0	Per cent 0.0 - 2.4 + 5.6 + 0.8 - 2.9 - 6.3 - 3.8 + 8.6 + 6.6	£ 3,442 2,593 1,263 1,737 1,103 1 696 1,225 1,027 530	Per cent 1·1 - 2·7 + 3·4 + 1·6 + 1·9 - 1·4 + 5·2 + 0·7 + 4·3	Per cent. + 11.8 - 4.0 + 12.4 + 19.5 - 0.8 + 20.9 + 28.4 + 17.8	
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	20,217	+ 0.1	- 0.4	14,616	+ 1.2	+ 9.5	

Returns from firms employing 20,217 workpeople, in the week ended 18th December, showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 9.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 10 per cent. of the operatives were on short time during the month, the majority of these being in the South-Western counties and in Londonderry.

In London employment continued fair and was much better than a year ago. In Manchester there was a slight decline compared with a month ago, and employment was not up to the level of a year ago, although still fairly good. In the South-Western Counties about 21 per cent. of the operatives were on short time during December, but employment was much better than a year ago; in the collar and cuff factories employment was reported as fair at Bideford, good at Barnstaple, and fairly good at Exeter. At Glasgow employment continued fair.

In Londonderry employment was moderate, 42 per cent. of the workers being on short time; in Belfast and the rest of Ireland employment, on the whole, was fair: in Ireland generally employment was much better than a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

In London employment with dressmakers in retail firms was moderate, and not so good as a month ago; compared with a year ago the numbers employed were fewer, but less short time was reported, 16 per cent. of the workers being thus affected during the current month as compared with 57 per cent. in December, 1914. Returns from firms, chiefly in the West End, employing

^{*} The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

1,824 dressmakers in the week ended 18th December, showed a decrease of 5.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. A scarcity of learners and apprentices was reported.

With court and private dressmakers employment was very slack; the numbers employed showed a decline of 5.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; the workers were, however, more fully employed than in December, 1914, only 23 per cent. being on short time, as compared with 73 per cent. a year ago.

With milliners in the West End employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing, and millinery trades returns from firms in London employing 5,356 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 18th December showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. There was some seasonal slackness, especially in the millinery branch, but employment on the whole was fair; about 9 per cent. of the workers were on short time, partly on account of early closing through lighting restrictions. A shortage of machinists and of juvenile labour was

At Manchester returns from firms employing 5,287 workpeople in the week ended 18th December in the costume, blouse, mantle, etc., trades showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 8 per cent. of the workers were on short time during the month, and about 9 per cent. were on overtime: employment during the month was fairly good, and a shortage of female labour was reported, especially of machinists, partly due to the fact that the women are taking up munition or other

At Glasgow employment was fair, not so good as a month ago, but better than in December, 1914. Returns from firms employing 2,228 workpeople in the mantle, costume and underclothing trades showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. There was a slight scarcity of machinists.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment continued good at all the principal centres, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms (mainly in England) employing 6,157 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 11.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. The supply of machinists was not equal to the

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES. BRICK TRADE.

THE condition of the brick-making industry was still quiet, and showed a further seasonal decline compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a great reduction in the number employed, owing principally to enlistments and the requirements of munition and other Government work. For the workpeople remaining in the industry employment, though considerably better than a year ago, showed a decline as compared with the previous month. There was again a shortage of practically all kinds of male labour, including boys, and in some cases works had to be wholly or partially closed in consequence. A considerable amount of time was lost during the month, owing largely to unfavourable weather. Returns from firms employing 7,380 workpeople in the week ended 18th December, 1915, showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.2 per cent, in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a

year ago, there was a decrease of 25.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

January, 1916.

	V	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
Districts.	Week ended		(+) or -) on a	Week		+) or -) on a	
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Northern Countles, York- shire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,836	Per cent.	Per cent 16.6	£ 4,142	Per cent. - 6.5	Per cent. - 4.6	
Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,101	- 2.4	- 30.4	2,580	- 5.1	- 16.7	
S. and S.W. Counties	1,585	- 2.6	- 31.3	2,107	- 10.5	- 22.1	
Scotland Other Districts	538 320	- 0.6 - 1.2	- 21·8 - 32·9	792 391	+ 3.7	- 2·7 - 22·0	
TOTAL	7,380	- 2.0	- 25.4	10,012	- 6.2	- 12.6	

Employment continued moderate in the Tees and Hartlepools district. In the Bradford district many works were closed, and employment continued bad. There was a slight decline in the Nottingham district. At Stourbridge employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago, when three-quarter time was being worked. In the encaustic tile trade at Tamworth employment was again good, and better than a year ago, whilst in the Shropshire glazed brick and pipe trade it continued moderate. Employment in the Birmingham district again showed little change on the previous month. In the Eastern Counties it was slack generally, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Employment in the Plymouth district was very dull, and a number of works were closed. It was slack at Bridgwater, and, except where affected by Government work, employment was slack generally in North Wales.

CEMENT TRADES

Employment continued very good for the workers remaining in the industry. The shortage of labour continued general, and much overtime was worked.

Returns from firms employing 7,543 workpeople in the week ended 18th December, 1915, showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the number employed decreased by 15.0 per cent., but the amount of wages paid declined by only 1.6 per cent.

The exports (British and Irish) of cement amounted to 23.700 tons, compared with 15,700 tons a month ago, 42,500 tons a year ago, and 48,800 tons in December,

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT on private building work was quiet in December, and showed a further seasonal decline, especially affecting painters. With masons and plasterers employment was slack. In other occupations. however, men were well employed, partly on building work in connection with the war, many men having enlisted or joined other trades. The general percentage unemployed was 2.4 compared with 5.0 a year ago, while in the case of plumbers, navvies and labourers the percentage was 1.0 or less.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 692,083 workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act at the end of December, 1915:-

Occupations.	Number Insured at end of	Percentage Unem- ploved	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	December, 1915.		Month ago.	Year ago.	
Carpenters Bricklayers Masons Plasterers Painters Plumbers Other skilled occupations Navvies Labourers All Occupations	107,951 56,780 34,398 17,389 108,872 30,162 31,028 87,861 217,642	1.5 2.1 3.2 5.6 7.9 0.7 1.0 0.5 1.0	+ 0·3 - 0·1 + 0·1 + 0·7 + 3·1 - 0·1 + 0·5	- 0·1 - 4·0 - 3·6 - 4·3 - 5·2 - 1·5 - 1·9 - 1·7 - 2·6	

The next Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in the above occupations in each division. The highest percentage for all occupations taken together was in Ireland (9.0), which also shows the greatest increase compared with a month ago and the slightest decrease compared with a year ago. Except in London (where no change was shown) there was an increase in the percentage unemployed in every district as compared with a month ago. Taking the occupations separately, a general increase in the percentage unemployed was shown by painters and carpenters, other occupations showing little general change. Compared with a year ago, there were (except in Ireland) reductions in the percentages unemployed in every district in practically every occupation. The improvement was least marked in the case of carpenters, owing to the fact that in December, 1914, this trade was busy upon the erection of huts for the troops and upon other Government work.

	Number	Per- cent- age	Inc. (Dec. (-	+) or -) on a	Number	Per- cent- age	Inc. (+) or -) on a	
Districts.	Insured.	Un- em- pl'y'd.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.	Insured.	Un- em- pl'y'd.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.	
		Carper	iters.]	Brickla	icklayers.		
London — Northern Countles North-Western Yorkshire East Midlands — West Midlands — Eastern&S. E. Count. South-Western Wales Sootland Ireland	19,540 5,003 11,226 9,093 5,171 7,514 15,695 14,020 5,153 10,321 5,215	2.0 0.5 1.5 0.9 0.9 0.9 1.2 1.1 1.2 0.6 7.6	+ 0·1 + 0·3 + 0·1 + 0·4 + 0·3 + 0·3 + 0·5 + 0·1 + 0·3 + 0·2 + 2·2	+ 0·1 - 1·1 - 1·0 - 0·6 - 0·1 - 0·3 + 0·2 - 0·3 - 0·7 + 4·6	9,957 2,889 6,219 4,980 4,080 6,699 11,287 5,890 1,670 1,658 1,451	5.5 0.2 0.8 0.5 0.6 0.4 2.5 2.2 0.8 0.1 7.0	- 0.4 - 0.7 - 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.5 + 0.6 + 0.1 - 0.7 - 1.9	- 4.9 - 3.5 - 6.9 - 4.5 - 5.0 - 2.9 - 3.0 - 1.8 - 2.1 - 3.8 - 4.8	
	- HO.	Maso	ons.			Plaste	erers.		
London	2,138 1,923 2,787 4,125 866 851 1,030 7,554 4,627 6,425 2,072	5·2 0·6 4·8 0·9 2·5 1·1 4·9 2·6 1·2 2·5 14·5	+ 0.8 - 0.2 - 1.8 - 0.3 + 0.5 - 0.2 + 0.9 + 0.3 + 0.1 - 1.1 + 4.5	- 3·3 - 4·0 - 4·1 - 2·2 - 1·9 - 6·3	4,034 731 1,754 1,322 420 904 1,574 1,973 1,454 1,978 1,245	10·3 1·6 3·5 1·9 3·8 2·8 6·6 3·9 2·1 2·0 13·7	1+ 0.5	- 4·7 - 7·4 - 4·7 - 6·0 - 4·0 - 5·5 - 3·7 - 1·7	
		Painters.			Plumbers.				
London —	32,503 3,148 11,003 7,383 3,826 7,876 16,100 12,245 3,111 7,994 3,684	6·9 5·1 17·7 9·2 7·8 3·0 6·6 4·9 3·9 4·6 27·7	+ 1.6 + 2.3 + 1.6 + 1.6 + 0.9	6 - 7·1 6 - 6·7 8 - 6·1 6 - 3·9 6 - 2·3	1,474 3,902 2,752 1,132 1,952 3,020 3,128 660 5.057	1.5 0.1 0.6 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.7 0.4 0.4 0.4	+ 0: + 0: + 0:	1 - 0·3 - 1·4 3 - 1·1 1 - 3·3 1 - 1·8 1 - 0·9 - 1·1 - 1·4 - 0·8	
	Othe	r Skill	ed Wor	kers.		Nav	vies.		
London Northern Counties North-Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern S.E. Coun South-Western Wales Scotland Ireland	3,597 2,235 1,310 1,976 t. 2,090 2,257 1,120 5,743	0.00	2 - 0. 8 - 0. 1 + 0.	3 - 0 1	6,074 9 15,471 10,409 4 4,594 5 5,851 7 8,560 8 7,452 7 8,666 5 10,120	0.00	2 + 0 3 - 0 5 - 0 5 - 0 6 - 0 9 - 0 + 0 + 0	1 - 0 1 2 - 1 1 - 1 1 - 1 1 - 2 1 1 - 2 1 1 - 2 1 1 - 0 1 1 1 - 0 1 1 1 - 0 1 1 1 - 0 1 1 1 1	
		Labo	urers.			All Oc	cupatio	ns.	
Northern Counties North-Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern&S. E. Coun South-Western Wales Scotland Ireland	29,370 17,955 8,842 16,193 t. 28,270 23,446		3 + 0 5 - 0 3 + 0 4 + 0 4 + 0 8 - 0 1 + 0	1 - 1 1 - 2 1 - 1 1 - 2 1 - 1 1 - 1	8 33,193 9 85,329 9 60,254 9 30,241 6 49,816 1 87,626 9 77,96 5 37,40 6 62,826	3 3 1 1	$\begin{array}{c} 8 \\ + 0 \\ -6 \\ + 0 \\ + $	8 - 3	

	Labourers.			All Occupations.				
London Northern Counties North- Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands West Midlands West Midlands Lount South- Western Wales Scotland Ireland	49,074 9,886 29,370 17,965 8,842 16,193 28,270 23,446 10,946 13,630 10,130	2·0 0·3 0·5 0·3 0·4 0·3 0·8 1·1 0·4 0·4 3·8	+ 0·1 - 0·1 - 0·1 + 0·1 + 0·1 - 0·1 + 0·1 - 0·1 + 0·5	- 4.6 - 0.8 - 1.9 - 1.9 - 2.9 - 1.6 - 2.1 - 1.5 - 1.3 - 3.9	139,358 33,193 85,329 60,254 30,241 49,815 87,626 77,965 37,407 62,826 28,069	3.6 0.8 3.1 1.6 0.9 2.1 1.9 0.9 1.2 9.0	+ 0·5 + 1·2 + 0·9 + 0·8 + 0·4 + 0·3 + 0·2 + 0·1 + 2·9	- 4·2 - 1·9 - 2·4 - 2·8 - 3·1 - 2·4 - 2·1 - 2·1 - 1·4 - 2·0 - 0·7

Returns from Trade Unions show that of 69,302 carpenters and joiners the percentage unemployed at the end of December was 1.8, compared with 1.2 a month ago and 1.9 a year ago. For 10,344 plumbers the corresponding percentages were 0.7, 0.9, and 2.8 respectively.

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT was good on the whole, and considerably better than a year ago; overtime continued to be worked at some centres. An improvement was reported in the Tees and Hartlepools districts. Employment was slack, however, and worse than both a month ago and a year

The percentage unemployed at the end of December among workpeople engaged in saw-milling and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, was 0.7, compared with 0.6 in the previous month, and 1.8 in December, 1914. Trade Unions, with a membership of 7,518, had 0.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of both December and November, 1915, as compared with 2.0 per cent. in December, 1914.

FURNISHING.

Employment generally continued fairly good, showg little change compared with the previous month

nd an improvement on a year ago.

Trade Unions with 16,673 members had 2.6 per cent. nemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.2 er cent. a month ago and 8.1 per cent. in December,

With cabinetmakers employment was good on the hole, especially on Government work, and overtime as again reported at a number of centres. Employnent was especially good in London and at Plymouth, here a shortage of labour was reported. Upholsterers ere again fairly well employed in most centres, nd there was a very marked improvement on a year go. Trade Unions with 1,165 members reported 0.7 er cent. unemployed at the end of December, as comared with 11 per cent. at the end of the previous nonth, and 7.8 per cent. a year ago. Employment with rench polishers was fairly good on the whole.

COACH BUILDING.

Employment was on the whole fairly good, being bout the same as a month ago and considerably better han a year ago. Overtime, largely on Government rders, was again reported at a number of centres; hort time, in part seasonal, also occurred, but f diminished amount.

Trade Unions with 11,772 members reported 1.4 per ent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 1.5 per cent. a month ago and 3.3 per cent. in December, 1914.

COOPERS.

Employment generally continued good, and showed ittle change compared with the previous month. Overime was reported at Edinburgh, and with wet coopers

Trade Unions with 4,011 members had 0.1 per cent. inemployed at the end of both December and Novemper, 1915, compared with 0.8 per cent. in December,

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brushmaking.—Employment was good in most branches of the brushmaking industry, showing little change on a month ago and an improvement on a year ago. With painting brushmakers, however, it was only fair, and was worse than in December, 1914. Much overtime was worked, especially in London and at Glasgow, mostly on Government orders.

Trade Unions with 1,342 members reported 0.4 per cent. as unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 0.1 per cent. a month ago and 1.3 per cent.

in December, 1914. Other Trades.—Employment was good generally with wheelwrights and smiths. With packing-case makers it continued good in most centres, and much overtime was reported in London and at Manchester, Bristol, Nottingham and Dundee. With skip and basket makers employment continued good. It was very good at Oldham, and much overtime was worked.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES. PRINTING TRADES.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT was good in December and better than a month ago, a considerable amount of overtime being reported. There was much scarcity of labour, especially of machinemen. The increase in the number of compositors unemployed in London at the end of the month was stated to be due to the holidays.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 48,035 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of the month was 1.3, the same as a month ago. For December, 1914, the percentage was 4.8.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions		tage Uner at end of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
. 101 (41	at end of Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1915.	Nov., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	21,340	10	0.7	5.4	+ 0.3	- 4.4
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	4,969	1.1	0.9	4-4	+ 0.5	- 3.3
Lancs and Cheshire	6,284	1.6	16	4.8		- 3.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,350	1.1	10	4.0	+ 01	- 2.9
West Midlands	2,629	0.6	1.2	3.3	- 0.6	- 2.7
S. & SW. Counties and Wales	3,747	0.9	1.2	3·3 3·2	- 0.3	- 2.3
Scotland	4,590	1.6	1.9	36	- 0.3	- 2.0
Ireland	2,126	5.5	5.8	90	- 03	- 3.5
UNITED KINGDOM	48,035	1.3	1.3	4.8		- 3.5

According to returns received from firms employing 15,420 workpeople in the week ended 18th December the number of persons employed showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. on a month ago, while the amount of wages paid increased by 0.6 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there were decreases of 11.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

		Workpeop	le.	Earnings.			
Districts.	Week ended			Week	Inc. (+) or -) on a	
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
male destatores (de	100	Per cent.	Per cent	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,919 1,268	- 0·2 + 0·6	- 6·4 -17·1	10,523 1,710	+ 1.0	+ 3.4	
Lancashire and Cheshire Midland and Eastern Counties	2,084 2,612	+ 0.1	-10·3 -17·3	3,171 3,639	+ 5.1	+ 2·5 - 9·2	
Scotland	1,858 1,679	- 0·3 - 2·2	-14·7 - 7·8	2,536 2,246	+ 2.7	- 0·3 - 7·0	
UNITED KINGDOM	15,420	- 0.3	-11:1	23,825	+ 0.6	- 1.0	

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment continued good, with a considerable amount of overtime, and a shortage of labour.

Returns from firms employing 10,283 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed a decrease in the number employed of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago; the amount of wages paid increased by 1.5 per cent. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 10.5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 4.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

tion, of h		Wo kpeople. Earnings.				•
Districts.	Week			Week	ended Dec. (-	
	Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec , 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,591 713	Per cent 1.1 + 2.6	Per cent. -106 -14.9	£ 4,532 640	Per cent. + 0.4 + 7.0	Per cent + 3.4 - 4.5
Lancashire and Cheshire Midland and Eastern Counties	1,870 1,142	+ 0.9	- 6·9 - 14·0	1,761 1,010	+ 5.6 + 3.8	+ 6.1
Scotland Other Districts	2,084 883	- 1·0 + 0·2	- 9·7 -10·7	1,744 699	- 0.6 - 2.9	+15.0
UNITED KINGDOM	10,283	- 0.3	-10.5	10,386	+ 1.5	+ 4.5

Trade Unions with a membership of 5,681 had 0.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, 1915, compared with 0.6 per cent. a month ago, and 3.6 per cent. a year ago.

AND ADDRESS	No. of Members of Unions at end of		tage Uner at end o		Increase Decrea	se (-)
	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1915.	Nov., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	0 600	0·4 1·2	0.3	4·3 2·8	+ 0.1 + 0.4	- 3.9 - 1.6
UNITED KINGDOM .	5,681	0.8	0.6	3.6	+ 0.2	- 2.8

PAPER TRADES.

Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago; a shortage of labour was frequently reported. Returns from firms employing 14,757 work-people in the week ended 18th December showed a decrease in the number employed of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

	Workpeople paid Wages in week ended	Inc. (+) or on	
2877	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDS: Northern Countles Midlands, Wales, and Ireland Southern Countles Scotland	4,457 906 4,997 3,831	Per cent. + 0·2 - 2·4 - 1·5 + 0·0	Per cent. + 0.7 + 0.2 - 2.5 - 3.8
TOTAL MACHINE-MADE PAPER, &c. Hand-made Paper	14,191 566	- 0.6 - 1.2	- 1·7 - 5·2
TOTAL	14,757	- 0.6	- 1.8

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,711 members had 0.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 0.2 per cent. in each of the previous three months; for December, 1914, the percentage unemployed was 0.8, while short time was then frequently reported.

The imports of wood pulp amounted to 86,000 tons, an increase of 19,000 tons on a month ago and of 11,000 tons on a year ago, but 23,000 tons less than the quantity imported in December, 1913. Imports of all kinds of paper amounted to 1,069,000 cwts. in December, 1915, compared with 1,117,000 cwts. in November, 1915, 888,000 cwts. in December, 1914, and 1,088,000 cwts. in December, 1913. Since 1913 the imports of paper for printing or writing from Newfoundland have increased enormously, until this is now the most important source.

The exports (British and Irish) of paper were 203,000 cwts. in December, 1915, compared with 242,000 cwts. a month ago, 214,000 cwts. a year ago, and 258,000 cwts. in December, 1913.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked.

Returns from firms employing 10,701 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 9.0 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Workpeople.				Earnings.		
	Week		(+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Fec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
		Per	Per		Per	Per	
BRANCHES.		cent.	cent.	£	cent.	cent.	
Glass Bottle	7,978	+ 2.0	- 9.3	13,422	+ 1.0	+ 3.4	
Flint Glass Ware (not	1,976	+ 1.9	- 8.1	2,716	+ 6.1	+ 8.5	
bottles)							
Other Branches	747	+ 1.5	- 8.2	1,008	+ 0.7	+ 2.1	
TOTAL	10,701	+ 1.9	- 9.0	17,146	+ 1.8	+ 4.1	
		Per	Per		Per	Per	
DISTRICTS.		cent.	cent.	£	cent.	cent.	
North of England	1,150	+ 1.9	- 27.4	1,933	+ 0.2	- 18.8	
Yorkshire	5,459	+ 2.9	- 5.8	8,949	+ 2.5	+ 7.1	
Lancashire	1,200	+ 1.4	- 0.4	1.715	+ 2.5 + 0.5	+ 6.0	
Worcestershire and	983	+ 19	- 6.7	1,434	+ 2.7	+ 10.7	
Warwickshire						20195105	
Scotland	806	+ 2.7	- 19.3	1,273	+ 0.2	+ 21	
Other parts of the United Kingdom	1,103	- 2.5	- 1.3	1,842	+ 1.8	+ 167	
TOTAL	10,701	+ 1.9	- 9:0	17,146	+ 1.8	+ 4.1	

Employment in the glass bottle trade was good generally in Yorkshire and other centres, though some unemployment of older men was caused by the breaking of "sets" through young men enlisting. At Barnsley and Sunderland, however, employment was reported as moderate. Flint glass makers and cutters in the Midlands were well employed, and pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear reported a continued scarcity of labour. With sheet and plate glass workers at St. Helens employment was reported as good.

The *imports* of glass during December were valued at £239,000, as compared with £226,000 in November, and £84,000 a year ago. The value in December, 1913,

The exports of glass were valued at £91,000, compared with £83,000 a month ago, £95,000 a year ago, and £140,000 in December, 1913.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, especially in the manufacture of the cheaper grades of china and earthenware, and showed little change compared with a month ago. A deficiency of male labour was again widely experienced, and females were being introduced to an increasing extent. Comparatively little short time was reported, whilst in some cases the usual Christmas holidays had to be curtailed. Employment with makers of tiles and sanitary ware continued quiet, and showed a decline on the previous month.

Returns from firms employing 17,666 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the numbers employed, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.9 per cent. in the numbers employed, but an increase of 16.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	W	Workpeople.			Earnings	
	Week	Inc. (+)		Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANOHES. China Manufacture Earthenware Manufacture Other Branches (Including unspecified)	3,188 11.412 3,066	Per cent. + 0·1 + 0·8 - 1·6	Per cent. + 8.0 - 1.8 - 15.5	£ 4,131 11,778 2,929	Per cent 3.4 + 0.5 - 2.4	Per cent. + 22·2 + 18·7 + 0·6
TOTAL	17,666	+ 0.5	- 2.9	18,838	- 0.8	+ 162
DISTRICTS. Potterles	13,507 4,159	+ 0.1 + 0.5	- 1·5 - 7·3	13,430 5,408	- 0·4 - 1·9	+ 20:3 + 7:0
TOTAL	17,665	+ 0.5	- 2.9	18,838	- 0.8	+ 16.2

Employment in the porcelain and china section continued good in the Potteries and other principal centres, but showed on the whole a slight decline on a month ago. In the earthenware section employment generally was good, and rather better than in the previous month.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

THESE trades continued extremely busy, and there was a further slight increase in the numbers employed owing entirely to a marked increase in the bacon and preserved meat section, all the other sections except one showing some decline. Unlike many trades at the present time, the numbers employed showed a large increase as compared with a year ago. In spite of this, overtime was universal, and there was general complaint as to the shortage of labour.

Sugar Refining.—The stoppage of import of Continental refined sugar was still chiefly responsible for the pressure in this industry. There was a considerable shortage of all classes of workpeople, especially of labourers.

Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery.—A shortage of female as well as of male labour was referred to. There was an especial shortage of sugar boilers and labourers. The industry was stated to be handicapped by the difficulty in obtaining and delivering goods and by the high prices of raw materials.

Biscuits, Cakes, &c.—The shortage of labour was reported as particularly acute in this industry, and it was handicapped also by a shortage of tin boxes, which arose from the same cause. Much of the work was on Government orders; the ordinary demand was still restricted by the increased price of the finished products consequent upon the high price of raw materials.

Jams, Marmalade, &c.—This industry was largely engaged upon Government orders. The shortage of carters, packers and labourers suitable for heavy work was particularly acute.

Bacon and Preserved Meats.—In this section the numbers employed showed a marked increase as compared with the previous month. Firms were busy on Government orders. A shortage of bottles and cases was reported.

Pickles and Sauces.—There was an especial shortage of packers. They were being replaced as far as possible by girls, but there was a shortage of this class of labour also, owing to the competition of the munition factories. The export trade was still of reduced proportions, but Government contracts more than made up for this.

Returns from firms employing 67,843 workpeople in the week ended 18th December showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 13.5 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 27.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	W	orkpeopl	e.		Earnings.			
Trade.	Week Inc. (+) or ended (-) or			Week	Inc. (+) or Dec (-) on a			
	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	18th Dec., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Sugar Refining, &c. Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery Biscuits, Cakes, &c. Jams, Marmalade, &c. Bacon and Preserved Meats Pickles, Sauces, &c.	5,410 33,607 11,875 8,389 7,758 804	Per cent. + 0.6 - 1.1 - 0.6 - 0.7 + 7.9 - 1.5	Per cent. + 4.9 + 10.1 + 19.2 + 20.4 + 23.5 - 5.1	£ 8,752 34,796 11,345 7,585 8,124 701	Per cent. + 1·2 - 0·5 - 1·6 - 0·7 + 8·7 + 2·6	Per cent. + 16.7 + 27.1 + 23.8 + 35.6 + 39.5 + 12.3		
TOTAL	67,843	+ 0.1	+ 13.5	71,303	+ 0.5	+ 27.1		

AGRICULTURE.*

WORK on the land was much hindered during December by wet and often stormy weather, and hence, though the shortage of labour continued, it was not so severely felt.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

In the northern counties little work was possible on the land, owing to the sodden state of the ground, and —except in the case of casual labour for threshing—the shortage in the supply of labour has not caused much inconvenience. In most districts of Lincolnshire and Norfolk, also, the scarcity does not appear to have been seriously felt. Many women, however, were being employed in North Cambridgeshire and in Essex and Hertfordshire the shortage of labour had increased.

In Kent, Surrey and Sussex very little work could be done during the month, owing to wet weather. The deficiency of labour in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset has been particularly felt on the dairy farms, and other work has consequently had to be neglected.

In North Wales some districts had sufficient labour for the time being, while others were very short. In the south-west of Cardiganshire the supply of labour was said to be ample for present requirements. In South Wales most of the men available were needed for tending stock.

SCOTLAND.

The situation throughout Scotland has remained practically unchanged since last month. The weather conditions have been very unfavourable for outdoor work, and although work has consequently fallen seriously into arrear, the scarcity of men caused less inconvenience than would otherwise have been the case.

* Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

January, 1916.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good on the whole, but was hindered to some extent by unfavourable weather.

East Coast.—At Hartlepool employment with fishermen was moderate and worse than a month ago; with fish curers it continued slack. It remained good with fishermen at Hull and Grimsby and with fish dock labourers at the former port; with fish dock labourers at Grimsby it was again fair; with fish curers it was good at Hull and bad at Grimsby. Employment continued slack at Brightlingsea, Harwich and Southwold.

South Coast.—At Plymouth, Brixham and towns on the Cornish coast, fishing operations were greatly hindered by stormy weather. It continued fairly good with fish packers, carters and curers.

Scotland.—With fishermen employment continued good at Aberdeen and bad at Fraserburgh, and was moderate at Peterhead and Macduff; with fish dock labourers and fish curers it was again reported as fair at Aberdeen, bad at Macduff and Fraserburgh, and practically suspended at Peterhead. Employment showed an improvement at Dundee and a decline at Montrose. It was fair at Arbroath.

FISH LANDED IN DECEMBER, 1915.

		Qua	antity.	Va	Value.		
Les plants stadions		Dec., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Dec. 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Dec., 1914.		
Fish (other than shell):		Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£		
England and Wales		319,072	- 73,367	547.570	+ 37,300		
Scotland		176,820 36 640	38,551 + 10,752	182,460 24,601	+ 12,184 + 10,693		
Shell Fish TOTAL	.:	532 ,5 32 —	- 101,166	754.631 30,043	+ 60,177 + 6,280		
TOTAL VALUE		-	-	784,674	+ 66,457		

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT in London and the other principal ports was good generally.

LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—Employment continued good and was about the same as a month ago. A certain amount of congestion occurred at the docks, due largely to the shortage of river eraft and of the means of land transport.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves was 18,873, a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent. on a month ago, but an increase of 4.0 per cent. on a year ago.

odr-galleria voj dolo: kasa	Average Da	aily Number nd at Princi	of Labou pal Whar	rers employe ves in Londo	ed in Docks
	Transit 1	In Docks			
Period.	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship- owners.	Total.	At Wharves making Returns.	Total in Docks and at Principal Wharves.
Week ended Dec. 4th ,, ,, 11th ,, ,, 18th ,, ,, 25th	7,690 7,598 7,986 7,842	3,030 3,284 2,270 3,056	10,720 11,282 10,256 10,898	8,162 8,095 8,094 7,989	18,882 19,377 18,350 18,887
Average for 4 weeks ended 25th Dec., 191	} 7,881	2,903	10,784	8,089	18,873
Average for Nov.,1915	7,486	3,275	10,761	8,124	18,885
Dcc., 1914	6,976	3,323	10,299	7,855	18,154

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day* in December, 1915, were as follows:—

Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.
1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9	18,598 19,631 19,092 18,679 18,732 19,710 20,292 19,945 19,977	11 13 14 15 16 17 18 20	17,607 18,317 18,389 17,420 18,654 18,980 18,344 19,632	21 22 23 24 28 29 30 31	18,584 19,316 19,074 17,828 16,116 17,892 18,838 18,451

Sundays and holidays are omitted,

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during December was 1,885, as compared with 2,172 a month ago, and 2,124 during December, 1914.

OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—Dock and quayside labourers continued well employed on the Tyne and at Blyth, especially on imported cargoes of ironstone, timber, wood pulp and grain. Employment continued good at Hartlepool and very good at Middlesbrough. With dock labourers it was fair at Hull and bad and worse than a month ago at Grimsby and Goole; with coalworkers it was moderate at Hull and Grimsby and bad at Goole. At Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn there was a further decline on a month ago; employment generally was slack, but a large proportion of the men had taken other work. Employment continued fair at Ipswich and slack at Harwich.

South and West Coasts.—There was an improvement at Plymouth, where employment was good; it was good also at Falmouth and Hayle, and very good at Dartmouth. It continued good at Bristol, where some shortage of labour was experienced; there was a further improvement at Gloucester. At Cardiff, Barry and Newport dock labourers continued fairly well employed; with coal trimmers employment was very good. There was a further improvement at Liverpool, where employment was good, a considerable amount of overtime being reported at the North End docks.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH PORTS.

Employment was fairly good at Leith. It was good at Dundee. There was a slight decline at Glasgow, where employment was fair; it was very good at the Ayrshire ports. Employment was good and better than a month ago at Belfast, fair at Limerick, but bad and worse than a month ago at Cork.

SEAMEN.

The supply of seamen for mercantile ships during December was not quite equal to the demand. A shortage of fully-qualified men was reported from Newcastle, Middlesbrough, South Shields, Barry, Penarth, Southampton and the London docks, except Victoria Docks, where the supply was at times in excess of the demand. At Hull also the supply was stated to be slightly in excess of the demand.

Returns received from certain selected ports show that 30,806 seamen* shipped on foreign-going vessels during December, an increase of 620 on November, but a decrease of 7,355 on December, 1914.

				Numb	er	of Sea	men* shi	pped in	
Principal Ports.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			Year ended		
		Dec., 1915.		fonth ago.		Year ago.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1915.
ENGLAND & WALES East Coast— Tyne Ports Sunderland Middlesbrough Hull Grimsby	3:	1,497 97 191 982 18	+-+	119 144 2 85 44	+-+	674 88 60 239 7	29,292 4,202 2,919 15,528 785	20,161 2,967 2,793 14,154 562	- 9,131 - 1,235 - 126 - 1,374 - 223
Bristol Channel— Bristol† Newport, Mon Cardiff‡ Swansea		742 826 3,423 132	1111	26 40 336 64	-+	460 15 1,016 66	14,629 10,215 52,927 4,238	14,874 11,087 52,070 3,490	+ 245 + 872 - 857 - 748
Other Ports— Liverpool London Southampton	::	10,368 7,210 1,711	-++	712 383 1,065	+	4,729 568 374	202,493 102,631 41,655	149,476 94,754 16,557	- 53.017 - 7,877 - 25,098
SCOTLAND: Leith Kirkcaldy, Methil, a Grangemouth	nd	284 61	-+	187 24		99 17	4,500 2,618	4,074 725	- 426 - 1,893
Glasgow	-	3,094	+	766	+	404	44,183	35,245	- 8,938
IRELAND: Dublin	::	7 163	1 1	68 33		117 142	944 2,263	801 4,744	- 143 + 2,481
TOTAL		30,806	+	620	-	7,355	536,022	428,534	-107438

* 1t will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TRADE DISPUTES,*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes beginning in December was 17, as compared with 40 in the previous month, and 17 in December, 1914. In these new disputes 2,814 workpeople were directly, and 331 indirectly, involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 8,817 workpeople involved in trade disputes in December, 1915, as compared with 11,988 in November, 1915, and 3,065 in December, 1914

New Disputes in December, 1915.—In the following Table the new disputes for December are summarised by trades affected:—

	Groups				W4	No. of Workpeople involved			
	of Trades.		No. of Disputes.	Directly.	Indirectly	Total			
Building Coal Mining Engineering Shippoulding Textile Iransport Miscellaneous			::	:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	2 2 5 1 1 1 5	118 1,025 480 35 90 160 906	90 241 — —	118 1,115 721 35 90 160 906	
TOTAL, DEC	EMBER, 1	1915			17	2,814	331	3,145	
TOTAL, NOV	EMBER,	1915		**	40	8,689	480	9,169	
TOTAL, DEC	EMBER, 1	1914			17	1,190	2	1,192	

Causes.—Of the 17 new disputes, 10 arose on demands for advances in wages, 3 on other wages questions, 2 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 2 on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 6 new disputes, directly involving 858 workpeople, and 2 old disputes, directly involving 860 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes 4 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 2 in favour of the employers, and 2 were compromised. In the case of 5 other disputes work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in December by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 48,900. In addition, 25,900 working days were lost owing to disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total aggregate duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 74,800 days, as compared with 69,000 in the previous month, and with 49,200 in December, 1914.

COMPARISON OF 1913 AND 1914.

[See Trade Disputes section of special article on Page 6.]

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN DECEMBER.

Occupations and Locality.	Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute	Duration in Working	Cause or Object.†	Result.†	
	Directly.	Indirectly.	began.	Days.	The second secon		
BUILDING:— Carpenters and Joiners—Leeds	700	-	29th Nov.	24	For advance in wages of 2d. per hour, following employers' refusal to grant war bonus of 2s. 6d. per week.	Immediate advance of 3/d. per hour granted, with promise of a further advance of 4/d. per hour on lst July, 1916.	
Engineering:— Card setting machine tenters, card dressers, &cYorkshire and Lanca- shire.	5	600	13th Dec.	••	For increase in wages of 15 per cent.	No settlement reported.	
Printing, Paper and Allied Trades:—Compositors, &c. (book and jobbing)—Dublin.	300		3rd Dec,	28	For advance in wages of 2s. 6d. per week.	Advance granted upon certain conditions.	
Paper mill workers—Bristol (near)	247		1st Dec.	•	For advance in wages.	No settlement reported.	

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—28 disputes, involving about 5,000 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the agaregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† The occupations printed in italies are those of workpeople "indirectly involved" (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes). The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES.

THE total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of December, 1915, was 19, compared with 78 in December, 1914.

The total number of persons who received employment relief during December was 74, as compared with 6,055 a year ago, a decrease of 5,981 persons. Employment was also provided for 20 persons by arrangement with employers and local authorities.

The aggregate duration of employment relief decreased from 70,276 days in December, 1914, to 1,606 days in December, 1915, and the average duration of employment was 21.7 days, compared with 11.6 a year ago.

The total amount of wages paid in December, 1915, was £190, compared with £11,111 in December, 1914; the average earnings were 51s. 4d., compared with 36s. 8d. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Applicants given Employ- ment Relief.		Duratio	regate on of Em- nt Relief.	Total Amount of Wages Paid.	
Distriction.	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1914.
London: County Outer	4	2,117 1,929	Days.	Days. 34,919 13.437	£ 7	£ 5 054 2,518
Total, London Northern Counties Lancs, and Cheshire Yorkshire Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties Wates and Monmouth	4 .: .: .: .: .: .: .:	4 046 36 447 257 397 130 107 292	62	48,356 254 5,728 1,410 3,357 1,047 1,441 4,102	7	7,572 46 575 282 689 217 261 911
ENGLAND AND WALES	19	5,712	318	65,695	55	10,553
Scotland Ireland	41 14	88 255	1,120 168	2,157 2,424	114 21	202 356
UNITED KINGDOM	74	6,055	1,606	70,276	190	11,111

NOTE.—In addition to table on page 29 of December "Labour Gazette," 12 persons at Bournemouth received employment relief for 152 days, for which £28 was paid in wages.

28

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

THE changes in wages reported to the Department as taking effect in December affected over 680,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net increase of nearly £23,500 per week. Coal mining accounted for nearly 563,000 of the workpeople affected, about 383,000 coal miners having their wages increased, while 180,000 (in South Wales) sustained a decrease. Increases were also granted to large bodies of workpeople in the textile trades, including the woollen and worsted industry, calico printing, and the linen trade, and in the iron and steel trades.

Changes in January-December, 1915.—The total number of workpeople whose rates of wages were reported to have been changed during 1915 was 3,165,000, and the net effect of all the changes reported was an increase of over £603,000 per week. An analysis of these changes, giving particulars of the increases reported during 1915 in each of the principal groups of trades, together with corresponding figures for 1914, will be found in the special article on page 4.

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES IN DECEMBER, 1915.

Trade.	Locality. Locality. Locality. Date from which change took effect.		Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
Building {	Sheffield Leeds	3 Dec. 29 Dec. 1 Dec. {	Carpenters and joiners	1,000 900 } 550 {	Increase of ½d. per hour (9¾d. to 10¼d.). Increase of ¾d. per hour (9½d. to 10¼d.). Increase of ½d. per hour, making rate 10d. for bricklayer, and 10¼d for masons.
	Cumberland	Second pay-day in Dec.	Slaters Hewers and other underground workers and surface workers	7,700	Increase of 1d. per hour (10d. to 11d.). Increase of 5 per cent. upon the standards of April, 1915.
Coal Mining	Federated Districts South Staffs. and East Worcester-	Second pay-day in Dec.	Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers	\[\begin{pmatrix} 360,000 \\ 9,000 \end{pmatrix} \]	Increase of 5 per cent. upon the standard of Dec., 191; making wages of hewers 15 per cent. above that standard excluding the war bonus granted in May, 1915, and 32-0; per cent. above standard, including war bonus.
tre di la	Bristol District	Dec.	Hewers and other underground workers, and banksmen	2,350	Increase of 7½ per cent., making wages of hewers 80 per cent., and of other underground workers 82½ per cent above the standard of 1888 on the Gloucestershire side and 85 per cent. and 87½ per cent. respectively on the Somerset side.
-	Radstock District	16 Dec.	Hewers, other underground workers, banksmen, enginemen and stokers	3,750	Increase of 7½ per cent., making wages 80 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Pig Iron Manufacture	South Staffs	6 Dec.	Blast furnacemen	1,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.
(Midlands	6 Dec. {	Iron puddlers	} 20,000 {	Increase under sliding scale of 1s. per ton,† making rate 12s. 9d., plus bonus of 6d. Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.†
Iron and Steel	South Wales	6 Dec. {	Iron puddlers Iron and steel millmen, enginemen, etc	} 2,200 {	Increase, under sliding scale, of 1s. per ton.† Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.†
	West Scotland	20 Dec.	Steel millmen	2,750 1,850 }	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
	Bradford and District	Dec.	Gas producermen and chargewheelers Woollen and worsted operatives	1,000 25,000	Increase of 2½ per cent. War bonus of 5 per cent. increased to 7½ per cent.
	Huddersfield, and the Colne and Holme Valleys	Pay-day nearest 24 Dec.	Dyers, finishers, and pressers in woollen and worsted manufactur- ing establishments	,1,800	War grant of 1s. 6d. per week to males receiving under 18s per week and to all women and girls, and of 3s. per week to males receiving 18s. or more per week.†
	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby- shire and Glasgow District	Dec.	Workpeople employed by calico printers	10,500	Increases of 3s. per week to men rated at £3 or less, and o 2s. per week to youths under 18, women and girls.†
Textile <	Oldham	First pay-day in Dec. First pay-day	Velvet weavers, winders, loom over- lookers, beamers, twisters, drawers, dressers and slashers Lace makers:—Curtain section	3,000	War bonus of 5 per cent. with revision of prices for certain extras for overlookers, estimated to result in an additiona increase of 1s. to 2s. per week. War bonus of 2s. 6d. per week.
	Nottingham -	after 11 Dec. First pay-day in Dec.	" Plain net section	} 800 {	War bonus of 1s. 3d. per man per machine on mosquito nets,† and of 5 per cent. on bobbin nets.
	North of Ireland	1 Dec.	Dressers, roughers, preparers, spinners, doffers, weavers, and other workpeople in the linen industry	12,000	Increase of 2s. per week to men over 18 and 1s. per week to youths, women and girls, with an equivalent advance in piece rates.
Boot and Shoe	United Kingdom	1st full pay-week in Dec.	Boot and shoe operatives (excluding those employed in the heel build- ing department and stock or shoe- room workers	*	Increase of 1s. per week in recognised minimum rates to men 23 years of age and over.
Transport	North-East Coast Newcastle-on-Tyne		Coal trimmers	1,500 1,300	War bonus of 12½ per cent. increased to 20 per cent. War bonus of 3s. per week increased to 5s. per week.
Fransport {	Tyne	in Dec. 20 Dec.	Dock labourers	800	War bonus of 1d. per hour for timber workers increased to 2d. per hour, and various increases in bonuses to piece workers on ores, grain, &c.
Bookbinding	Scotland	15 Dec.	Bookbinders and machine rulers	900	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week in recognised minimum time
Woodworking	Scotland	18 Dec.	Sawyers, wood-turners, wood machinists, &c.	1,000	rates. Increase of ½d. per hour or 2s. per week.

S. Wales and Mon. 1 Dec. Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers Decrease of 5 per cent. upon the standard of 1915, leaving wages 25\(\frac{5}{8} \) above that standard.

Changes in January, 1916:-Full particulars will appear in the February Gazette of the following important changes arranged to take place in January in the textile trades:-War bonus of 5 per cent. to cotton weavers in Lancashire; and increases and extension of bonuses previously granted to woollen and worsted operatives in the Huddersfield, Heavy Woollen, and Morley districts.

Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees,
To supersede war bonuses previously paid.
This increase applied to the United Kingdom generally; but as the great majority of the workpeople were already receiving more than the recognised minimum test, the number whose rates were increased is stated to be only a small proportion of the total number employed. Statistics are not available, however, as to the act numbers concerned.

PRICES OF WHEAT, FLOUR, AND BREAD.

I.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

January, 1916.

(a) Supplies.

Imports.—The quantity of wheat and wheat meal and flour imported into the United Kingdom during December, 1915, together with an increase or decrease compared with December, 1914 and 1913, is shown in the following Table:-

	Quantity imported during		or Dec. (-) red with
	December, 1915.	December, 1914.	December, 1913.
WH	EAT.		
From Russia ,, United States ,, British East Indies ,, Australia ,, Canada ,, Other Countries Total	Cwts. 81,200 6,280,800 2,300 2,613,000 13,200 8,990,500	Cwts 300 + 2,747,695 - 1,219,600 - 20,400 - 173,500 - 36,000 + 1,297,895	Cwts 805,200 +2,568,700 - 521,700 - 364,609 + 279,700 - 120,600 +1,046,291
WHEAT MEAT	L AND FLOUR	•	
From United States	398,200 254,500 13,200 665,900	- 340,378 + 7,710 - 36,600 - 369,268	- 203,874 - 112,810 - 130,600 - 447,284

During the first four months (September—December) of the current cereal year 1915-16 the imports of wheat totalled 29,141,500 cwts., compared with 36,817,930 cwts., and 32,589,852 cwts. in the corresponding period of the 1914-15 and 1913-14 seasons. The figures for wheat meal and flour were 2,980,800 cwts., 3,382,883 cwts., and 4,598,804 cwts. respectively.

Deliveries of British Wheat .- In the following Table the deliveries of wheat by farmers at the various markets of England and Wales from which returns are received by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries are shown for the first eighteen weeks of the current cereal year, together with the increase or decrease compared with a year ago and with two years ago:-

	Quantity delivered.	Inc. (+) compa	or Dec. (-) red with
Transport of the same of the same of	don vered.	1914.	1913.
1915. Thirteen weeks ended November 27th Five weeks ended January 1st, 1916	Quarters. 972,938 446,440	Quarters 120,405 + 108,838	Quarters. + 149,614 + 148,894
Total	1,419,378	- 11,567	+ 298,508

(b) Prices.

In the following Table particulars are given of the average declared values and market prices of wheat and flour during December, 1915, with the increase compared with a month ago and a year ago:

	December,	Increase con	npared with
	1915.	November, 1915.	December, 1914.
WHEAT:-	8. d.	8. q.	8. d.
Imported, average declared value			
per 480 lb Imported spot price at Liverpool	53 6	1 8	8 9
per 480 lb.:—			
No. 1 North Manitoba (new):			
Average price	60 5	4 6	70 5
No. 2 Hard Winter (old): Aver-	00 0	7 0	10 7
No. 2 Hard Winter Gulf (new):	60 5*	1 0	†
No. 2 Hard Winter Gulf (new):			
Average price	57 2	3 0	9 3
Choice white Karachi: Average			
price	61 11‡	4 4	13 0
British:—Gazette average price per 480 lb. (England & Wales)	53 6		
English white wheat per 504 lb.	00 6	0 6	11 0
(London)	58 0	0 7	
LOUR :-	00 0	0	10 1
Imported, average declared value			
per owt	15 9		3 0
Town Households, London (ex		The latest transfer of transfer of the latest	3 0
mill, less usual discount), per			
sack of 280 lb.: average price	47 3	1 11	9 0

† No quotations in December, 1914. ‡ Average of 13 quotations.

During December the prices of imported wheat rose steadily, practically the whole supply coming from the United States and Canada. At the beginning of December the "spot" price of No. 1 Northern Manitoba (new wheat) at Liverpool was about 57s. per quarter, by the middle of the month the quotation was over 59s., and by the end of the month it had reached 64s. Similarly, No. 2 Hard Winter (new Gulf wheat) rose from 54s. 6d. on 1st December to approximately 59s. 6d. on the 31st. The prices at present quoted (13th January) are 66s. 6d. for No. 1 Northern Manitoba and about 61s. for No. 2 Hard Winter. The price of British wheat remained fairly steady during the month, but the returns received in the week ended 8th January, 1916, showed an increase of 2s. per quarter over the average for December. Town households flour in London rose 2s. per 280 lb. during December, and on 10th January there was a further increase of 1s.

II.—BREAD.

Returns received from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations and 30 returns received from other sources are summarised below. In these Tables the predominant prices, i.e., the prices at which the bulk of the bread was sold, are utilised, but it will be understood that bread was also sold at both lower and higher prices.

The following Table shows the mean predominant price in different parts of the country at 1st January, as compared with a month ago and a year ago:-

	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. or					
District.	1st Jan.,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with				
	1916	1st Dec., 1915.	1st Jan., 1915.			
London:— N. & N.W. E. & N.E. S.E. S.W. W. & W.C. Northern Counties & Yorkshire Lancashire & Cheshire. Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties South Western Counties & Wales Scotland.	d 8½ 8½ 8½ 8½ 8½ 8½ 8½ 8%	d. +1/4 +1/4 +1/4 +1/4 - +1/4 - +1/4 - +1/4	d. +1¾ +1¾ +2 +2 +1¾ +1¼ +1¼ +1¾ +1½ +1½ +1½			
GREAT BRITAIN	81/4	+1/4	+11/2			

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, predominant prices were as under:-

Place	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on	Dec. (-	(+) or) as com- d with	Last Change.*		
	lst Jan., 1916.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 41b	
London	d. 8½	d. + 1/4	d. +2	Dec., '15	d. + 1/4	
Birmingham Bristol Cardiff Derby Hull Ipswich Leeds Leicester Liverpool Manchester Middlesbrough Norwich Nottingham Plymouth	8 & 8½ 7½ & 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 1 8 1 8 1		+1¾ +1¾ +1½ +1 +1½ +1½ +1¾ +1¾ +1¾ +1¾ +1¾	Nov., '15 June, '15 June, '15 June, '15 Dec., '15 Nov., '15 Dec., '15 Dec., '15 June, '15 June, '15	++-+++-	
Southampton Stoke on Tront	8½ 7½ . 8	+ ½ + ½ + ½	+2 +134 +1½ +1½ +1½	Oct., '15 Dec., '15 Nov., '15 Dec., '15	- ½ + + ½ + + ½ + + + ½	
Dundee Edinburgh	7½ & 8 8 9	- + ½	+0¾ +1½ +2 +1	Oct.,'15 Apr., '15 Dec., '15 May, '15	- ¼ + ½ + ½ + ½	
Dublin	8	=	+1 +11/4	May, '15 May, '15	+ 1/2	

* Entries in this column are exclusive of changes applying for a short time only, unless previous columns are affected by such changes.

Since 1st January there have been a number of increases in prices. The predominant prices of bread in London since 3rd January have been 81d. and 9d.

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

30

[Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.]

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in December, 1915, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 165 per 10,000. Compared with November, 1915, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 977 (or 0.3 per cent.), the rate per 10,000 showing little change. The number of indoor paupers increased by 1,502 (or 1.1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 525 (or 0.3 per cent.). Twelve districts showed no change, and seven showed decreases, the largest being in Aberdeen (3 per 10,000). In the remaining 16 districts the largest increases were in Coatbridge and Airdrie (8 per 10,000), and in the Central Metropolitan district (4 per 10,000).

Compared with December, 1914, the total number of paupers decreased by 45,523 (or 13.1 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 decreased by 26. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 23,651 (or 14:2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 21,875 (or 12.1 per cent.). Every district showed a decrease; the largest decreases were in the Central Metropolitan district (53 per 10,000) and in the East Metropolitan District (44 per 10,000) The average for the Metropolitan district was 34, and 5 other districts, all in England, showed decreases of 30 and under 40 per 10,000, while 17 districts showed decreases of 20 and under 30 per 10,000.

			Desemb		Inc. (Dec. (+) or -) in
Selected Urban Districts.	In- door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	Rate per 10,000 of Esti- mated Popula- tion.	per 10, Popula compar Month ago.	te 000 of tion as ed with
THE STATES						
ENGLAND & WALES.* Metropolis. West District Central District East District South District	10,558 13,105 3,921 11,950 20,817	1,838 6,004 1,246 4,500 12,572	12,396 19,109 5,167 16,450 33,389	153 189 355 246 178	+ 2 + 1 + 4 + 2	- 26 - 36 - 53 - 44 - 29
TOTAL, Metropolis	60,351	26,160	86,511	191		- 34
West Ham	4,473	10,070	14,543	194	+ 3	- 27
Other Districts. Newcastle District Stockton & Tees District Bolton, Oldham, &c. Wigan District Manchester District Liverpool District. Bradford District. Halifax & Huddersfield. Leeds District Barnsley District. Barnsley District. Barnsley District. Hull District Worth Staffordshire Nottingham District Wolverhampton District Bristol District Bristol District. Cardiff & Swansea TOTAL, "Other Districts" Glasgow District. Paisley & Greenock District. Paisley & Greenock District.	2,093 1,127 4,047 1,903 9,012 10,232 2,476 875 2,855 1,767 2,065 1,849 1,331 3,382 6,358 6,2723 2,223 2,223 2,223 1,341	4,045 3,268 3,391 4,526 5,930 10,647 1,628 2,475 2,992 2,981 3,394 2,568 6,401 3,643 3,843 2,568 6,401 81,605	6,138 4,395 7,438 6,429 14,942 20,879 3,569 3,668 6,288 3,856 6,273 6,692 3,899 7,777 141,032	128 177 146 185 95 95 114 126 127 217 166 127 127 142 130 164 176	-12 +2 -1	- 28 - 29 - 22 - 30 - 29 - 21 - 14 - 17 - 19 - 35 - 33 - 27 - 35 - 27 - 29 - 16 - 20 - 24
Dundee and Dunfermline Aberdeen	636 423 276	2,034 2,707 1,612	2,670 3,130 1,883	133 188 184	+ 3 + 8 + 8	- 22 - 20 - 27
TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts	6,829	31,190	38,019	189	+ 1	- 21
IRELAND.† Dublin District Belfast District Cork, Waterford and Limerick District Galway District	5,583 2,578 3,253 293	4,798 878 4,111 159	10,381 3,456 7,364 452	254 82 297 131	- 1 + 1 + 2 + 2	- 18 - 13 - 17 - 9
TOTAL for the above Irish Districts	11,707	9,946	21,653	194		- 16
TOTAL for above 35 Districts in December, 1915	142,787	158,971	301,758	165	+ 1	- 26

^{*} Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN DECEMBER.* INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

THE total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the five weeks ended 31st December, 1915, was 27,765, as compared with 21,316 during the four weeks ended 26th November, 1915, and with 55,610 during the four weeks ended 24th December, 1914. Of the total of 27,765 claims, 15,020 (or 54 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 12,745 (or 46 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the five weeks was 5,136, 5,798, 5,478, 4,576 and 6,777, the average being 5,553, as compared with 5,329 in the four preceding weeks and with 13,903 in December, 1914.

The average weekly amount of unemployment benefit paid during the five weeks ended 31st December, 1915, was £1,922, as compared with £1,471 per week in the four preceding weeks, and with £7,780 per week in December, 1914; 57 per cent. of the amount was paid direct and 43 per cent. through associations.

	Avera	age Week Claims M	aly No.	Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.			
Districts.	Dec., 1915.	Nov., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Nov., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	
London South-Eastern South-Western West Midlands East Midlands Yorkshire North-Western Northern Scotland Wales Ireland	1,571 532 451 164 177 429 929 124 326 112 738	1,889 503 484 149 173 282 817 94 381 127 430	2,875 1,266 748 869 676 1,185 3,017 727 1,162 498 880	£ 497 224 169 52 50 112 321 38 108 37 314	549 145 139 33 32 52 141 28 82 38 232	£ 1,875 817 331 431 414 656 1,574 337 589 159 597	
UNITED KINGDOM	5,553	5,329	13,903	1,922	1,471	7,780	

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

FOUR WEEKS ENDED 10TH DECEMBER, 1915. THE total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers† of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges (391 in number) on 10th December was 109,433, as compared with 116,250 on 12th November and 109,208 on 11th December, 1914.

Excluding cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, there were on the Register at some time or other during the period 342,576 workpeople (men 121,750, women 177,483,‡ boys 17,428, and girls 25,915), as compared with 352,447 in the previous four weeks, and 347,653 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914.

The number of vacancies filled was 99,317, a daily average of 4,138, as compared with 4,363 in the previous four weeks, and with 3,970 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the period: -

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On Register at beginning of period Registrations during period Individuals registered Re-registrations On Register at end of period	34,960 92,298 86,790 5,508 33,767	67,960 113,221 109,523 3,698 64,382	4,337 13,448 13,091 357 3,813	8,993 17,318 16,922 396 7,471	116,250 236,285 226,326 9,959 109,433
Vacancies notified during period Vacancies filled during period Individuals placed Applicants placed in other districts.	81,032 47,626 36,832 12,655	44,769 35,843 28,066 5,151	10,424 7,751 6,056 1,402	11,056 8,097 6,446 1,191	147,281 99,317 77,400 20,399

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified, and of vacancies filled to registrations (including those on the Registers at the beginning of the period) in the principal groups of trades:-

Proportion of Vacan-cies filled to Vacancies notified. Trades Men. Women. Men. Women. Insured Trades—
Building, Construction of
Works and Sawmilling
Tradinacting, Shipbuild Per cent. 64.7 Per cent. Per cent. Per cent. ing and Construction of Vehicles 48.5 94.7 51.2 86-1 Paper ...
Agriculture ...
Paper, Prints, &c. ...
Chemicals, Explosives, &c.
Food, Tobacco, Drink and
Lodging
Commercial ... 70·4 87·0 89·3 81·1 82·7 95·8 84.1 44.0 14·4 44·3 25·1 26·8 25'4 33·8 34·1 15·6 20·6 42·6 40·7 9·3 29·9 75·0 69·8 TOTAL 58.8 80.1 19.8 37-4

January, 1916.

The average daily number of registrations and vacancies filled for the periods stated are shown below :-

			Insured Trades. Uninsured Trade				ades.	
District Departm			4 weeks ended 10 Dec., 1915.	ended ended ended ended ended ended ended 10 Dec., 12 Nov., 11 Dec., 12 Nov., 11				4 weeks ended 11 Dec., 1914.
				1	REGISTR	ATIONS.	*	
London South-Eastern South-Western West Midlands East Midlands Vorkshire North-Western Northern Scotland Wales Ireland Men Women Boys Girls TOTAL		11111 111111111111111111111111111111111	545 224 215 224 118 198 419 114 222 158 145 2,381 136 59 6	635 228 233 229 118 193 398 132 232 220 124 2,551 115 67 9	856 347 316 255 184 358 694 290 391 307 158 4,080 32 4,2 2	2,142 590 416 546 271 605 1,028 388 786 230 261 1,465 4,581 601 716	2,360 658 522 623 304 636 1,192 405 785 260 288 4,918 668 821 8,033	1,561 367 316 427 283 442 1,033 287 525 158 208 1,972 2,461 497 677
					ANCIES	FILLE		3,007
London South-Eastern South-Western West Midlands East Midlands Yorkshire North-Western Northern Southand Wales Ireland			241 132 137 169 82 123 186 111 183 104 22	253 131 121 177 74 152 197 102 200 152 20	209 161 272 103 70 127 148 158 177 180 22	859 204 171 223 97 214 358 102 288 75 57	969 212 198 230 103 213 351 104 276 68 60	654 147 181 169 118 212 367 112 253 70 60
Men Women = Boys Girls =	::		1,240 189 53 8	1,351 166 53 9	1,572 17 36	745 1,364 270	913 1,222 309	978 799 286

INSURED TRADES.+

.. 1,490 1,579 1,627 2,648 2,784

2.343

TOTAL -

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 58,215 (men 53,452, women 3,235, boys 1,386, and girls 142). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 79,400 (men 71,819, women 5,239, boys 1,823, and girls 519). These figures exclude 3,752 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

Of the registrations among men, 60.1 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 28.8 per cent. in mechanical engineering, and 8.0 per cent. in ship-

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 10th December was 22,185, as compared with 21,185 on 12th November, and 49,237 on 11th December, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled .- The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 59,912, a daily average of 2,496, as compared with 2,141 in the previous four weeks, and 2,042 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914. The number of

* Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the exchanges during the period.
† The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II, of the National Insurance Act.

vacancies filled was 35,756, a daily average of 1,490, as compared with 1,579 in the previous four weeks and 1,627 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914.

Building and construction of works account for 43.8 per cent. of the total vacancies notified for men, and 51.1 per cent. of the total vacancies filled by men, the corresponding figures for mechanical engineering and shipbuilding respectively being 42.9 and 11.7 per cent. of the total vacancies notified, and 37.8 and 9.6 per cent. of the total vacancies filled.

Uninsured Trades.

Registrations.—The number of registrations during the period was 168,111 (men 33,338, women 106,288, boys 11,705, and girls 16,780). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 263,176 (men 49,931, women 172,244, boys 15,605, and girls 25,396). These figures exclude 6,207 cases in which persons already placed in vacancies during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

Among men 21.8 per cent. of the total registrations were in the transport, etc., trades, and 31.8 per cent. as general labourers, while of the women registered 27.3 per cent. were in domestic offices or services and 6.8 per cent. in dress. Commercial occupations accounted for 10.0 per cent. of the registrations among men, and 8.8 per cent. among women.

The number of workpeople on the Register at 10th December was 87,248 (men 14,631, women 61,916,* boys 3,469, and girls 7,232), as compared with 95,065 on 12th November, and 59,971 on 11th December, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 87,369, a daily average of 3,640, as compared with 3,863 in the preceding four weeks, and 3,306 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 63,561, a daily average of 2,648, as compared with 2,784 in the preceding four weeks, and 2,343 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914.

Of the vacancies notified for men, 23.7 per cent. were in conveyance of men, goods, etc., and 22.1 per cent. as general labourers. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 26.0 per cent. in the transport, etc., trades, and 27.0 per cent. as general labourers. Among women 41.8 per cent. of the vacancies notified and 37.3 per cent. of those filled were in domestic offices or services, while dress accounted for 5.0 per cent. of the notifications and 5.6 per cent. of the vacancies filled

Of the vacancies filled 5,879 (men 2,219, women 3,401, boys 103, and girls 156) were known to be for less than week's employment, while of the 14,393 vacancies filled by boys and girls 3,381 (boys 1,456, and girls 1,925), or 23.5 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men who obtained casual employment through the Exchanges was 420, and the number of casual jobs found for them was 2,869, a daily average of 120, compared with 126 in the preceding four weeks, and 248 in the four weeks ended 11th December, 1914. Of the jobs given during the period, 2,461 were for dock labourers, and 408 for cloth porters at Manchester. During the period there were also 3,601 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

Unsatisfied Demand for Labour.

The shortage of turners, fitters, machinists, and other workers in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, and of labourers (agricultural, chemical, and builder's), colliers, navvies and transport workers continued. There was a general demand for carpenters, and also for boys and girls as messengers and on work formerly performed by adults. Large local shortages were reported, especially at Bristol (juveniles for tobacco and chocolate manufacture), Nottingham (lace workers), Northampton (boot and shoe workers), and Falkirk (farriers). Women weavers and spinners (cotton) and domestic servants could not easily be obtained.

[†] Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able bodied.

^{*} The percentages unemployed in the Insured Trades will be found on pages 15 and 22.
† Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less assual nature.

o and 22.

† Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature i.e., dock labourers, cloth porters and cotton porters); these are dealt with in he last paragraph but one.

‡ See Note * on page 31.

^{*} A number of women on the Register, from 15 to 20 per cent., were known to be in employment, and a further 15 per cent. are reported to have never been in employment

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES-FOUR WEEKS ENDED 10th DECEMBER, 1915. A.-INSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 10th December, 1915.

							ADU	LTS.			JUVEN	ILES.	
						RE	GISTRATION	vs.	VACAN- CIES.	RE	GISTRATIO	NS.	VACAN CIES.
OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.				On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.		
Building :— Carpenters, Joiners, &c. Bricklayers Masons Painters, Decorators &c. Plumbers and Glaziers Other skilled occupations Labourers Construction of Works						2,032 1,244 727 4,088 321 762 1,663 1,034	6,422 2,780 1,417 9,880 784 1,693 6,614 4,767	1,976 1,215 755 5,711 202 842 1,537 838	3,914 985 158 1,578 364 363 3,611 4,231	7 1 3 1 7	23 1 3 7 3 1 34 5	5 1 1 9 1	27 1 1 7 10 3 42 1
Sawmilling		::	::		::	308 83 384	1,498 801 2,279	326 60 287	967 604 1,297	20 7 28	37 4 107	10 2 33	30 5 97
Mechanical Engineering: Moulders (Iron and Steel) Smiths Erectors, Fitters and Turners Metal Machinists Wiremen Other skilled occupations Labourers Making of Vehicles Cabinet Making &c.			-			387 216 1,378 521 203 713 1,457 417 268	962 536 5,390 1,925 584 1,937 5,121 927 450	396 176 1,333 604 178 603 1,341 376 242	383 216 3,577 1,147 308 874 4,739 234 51	4 5 226 47 10 18 35	23 12 535 278 39 63 192	2 3 133 57 10 14 39 22 1	29 29 29 28 15
TOTAL MALES		-	-	-		18,367	57,128 3,272	19,136 2,466	29,755 4,546	437 377	1,423 144	344 239	1,26
GRAND TOTAL					-	20,371	60,400	21,602	34,301	814	1,567	583	1,45

^{*} Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.
† These figures are mainly in respect of the Engineering and Vehicle trades.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 10th December, 1915.

The state of the s						ADU	LTS.							VENILE	40.
OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.	Or Begin	Register	at eriod.	Registrations during Period.*		On Er	Register ad of Per	r at iod.	Vacan	cies Fille Period.	d during	Vacanc	es Filled Period.	l during	
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying Miscellaneous Metal Trades	132 178	5 403	137 581	24 0 554	1,048	247 1,602	89 158	371	94 529	112 424	709	120 1,133	32 185	456	32 641
Textile:— Cotton Wool and Worsted	152 94 89	929 175 859	1,081 269 948	569 243 210	2,805 471 1,404	3,374 714 1,614	161 87 77	845 163 724	1,006 250 801	337 142 119	1,202 231 834	1,539 373 953	103 33 84	136 66 257	239 99 341
Silk, Flax, Linen, &c. Dress:— Boot and Shoe Workers Tailors Dressmakers and Milliners Seamstresses.	116 212 — — —	78 1,006 1,168 1,302 148	194 1.218 1,168 1,302 214	265 403 — — — 115	216 2,336 2,021 2,552 345	481 2,739 2,021 2,552 460	112 224 7 — 44	77 923 927 1,032 105	189 1,147 927 1,032 149	119 32 — — — 19	207 320 268 769 180	326 352 268 769 199	49 10 — — 18	85 122 126 246 50	134 132 126 246 68
On Railways On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c	180 2,646	} 1,678	4,504	{ 212 7,458	} 2,897	10,567	{ 114 2397	} 1,736	4,247	{ 558 4,093	} 949	5,600	{ 100 1,484	} 815	2,399
Agriculture Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery Wood, Furnitura, Fittings, &c. Chemicals, E. plosives, Oli, Grease, &c. Brick, Cement, Pottery and Glass	342 157 221 1,577 58	831 445 97 15,509 151	1,173 602 318 17,086 209	748 207 360 1,475 95	890 855 254 (20,380 282	1,638 1,062 614 21,855 377	320 89 197 1,443 70	350 315 98 16,466 118	670 404 295 17,909 188	273 98 148 776 43	736 530 171 3,324 116	1,009 628 319 4,100 159	65 112 185 866 56	49 497 56 391 57	114 609 241 1,257 113
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging:— Bread, Biscuit, &c., Makers Watters Others (Jam, Cocoa, Tobacco, &c.,	71 100 113	116 1,036 780	187 1,136 893	102 209 158	326 1,957 1,275	428 2,166 1,433	50 78 102	135 865 659	185 943 761	44 55 157	245 474 923	289 529 1,080	56 17 121	106 23 314	162 40 435
maoufacture) Skins, Leather, Hair, Feathers Precious Metals, Jewels, Watches,	67 142	203 67	270 209	166 161	556 127	722 288	69 128	208 50	277 178	70 43	244 120	314 163	45 75 75	141 92	186 167
Instruments and Games. Gas, Water, Electricity Supply and	57	55	112	141	139	280	42	86	1	291	65	356	17	-	17
Sanitary Service. Commercial and Clerical	2,608	6,161	8,769	3,507	9,656	13,163	2,481	6,866	9,347	1,145	2,566	3,711	714	966	1,680
Domestic:— Laundry and Washing Service Private Indoor Servants Other Indoor Servants Charwomen, Day Girls, Day	1,005	\$64 1.751 3,870 8,479	16,093	1,650	1,650 3,065 7,000 18,058	31,670	953	582 1,403 3,227 7,114	13,383	555	1,187 971 2,716 6,730	12,218	25	86 169 226 1,019	1,741
Servants Others General Labourers Shop Assistants Government and Professional All Others	3,924 265 1,320 701	124 4,042 7,354 6,270	3.924 4.307 8 674 6,971	11,180 296 2,840 1,606	7,084 8,094 11,962	11,180 7,380 10,934 13,558	3,297 235 1,034 580	4,043 7,254 5,065	3,297 4,278 8,288 5,645	4,828 42 2,729 619	1,809	4,828 906 4,538 2,389	98 157 1,577	508 263 581	606 410 2,158
TOTAL	16,593	65,956	82,549	35,170	109,949	145,119	14,631	61,916	76,547	17,871	31,297	49,168	6,484	7,909	14,393
Casual Employments	893		893	169		169	837	2	837	2,869		2,869	1 -	-	\ <u>-</u>

Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
 † Including 996 men provided for the Pioneer Battalion of the Royal Engineers, and for the Army Service Corps.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS

IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. *Deaths* include all fatal cases reported during the month whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.]

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1915, was 39, of which 34 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to arsenic poisoning, and 4 to anthrax. One death due to lead poisoning was reported. In addition, 12 cases of lead poisoning (4 of which were fatal) were reported among painters and plumbers. During the year ended December, 1915, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 443, compared with 511 during the corresponding period of 1914. The number of deaths in 1915 was 30, as compared with 36 in 1914. In addition, there were 127 cases of lead poisoning (including 37 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the year 1915, as compared with 241 cases (including 39 deaths) during the year 1914.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

		Cases.			Deaths.	
Industry.	Month	Year	ended	Month	Year	ended
	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1915.	Dec., 1914.
			Lead Po	oisoning.		i dució
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN— Smelting of Metals Brass Works Sheet Lead and Lead Piping Plumbing and Soldering Printing File Cutting Tinning of Metals White Lead Works Red Lead Works. *Pottery Glass Cutting and Polishing Vitreous Enamelling Electrical Accumulator Works Paint and Colour Works Paint and Colour Works Coach and Car Painting Shipbuilding Paint used in other Industries Other Industries	- - 1 2 1 - 4 - 3 - - 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2	47 	36 6 4 27 23 11 10 29 6 28 3 11 41 21 57 31 39 62		1 - 2 3 - - 4 - 1 - - 5 2 2 1	3 1 2 1 1 1 -6 1 -7 4 5 -3
OTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	12	381	241	1 4	37	28
		Other	Forms	of Poiso	ning.	
MERCURIAL POISONING— Barometer and Thermometer Making	_	3	4	-	-	_
Furriers' Processes Other Industries	=	3	2 4	=	_	=
TOTAL		6	10	_	-	
PHOSPHORUS POISONING	_	3	-	-	1	-
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	-	2	=	_	-	
Other Industries	1	1	2	_	_	1
TOTAL	1	3	2	-	_	1
TOTAL "OTHER FORMS OF POISONING"	1	12	12	-	1	1
			Ant	hrax.		
Wool Handling of Horsehair Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers &c.)	1 1 2	27 2 18	26 5 15	-	3 4	5 1
other industries	_	3	8	-	1	1
TOTAL ANTHRAX	4	50	54	_	8	7
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FAC- TORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	39	448	511	1	30	36
GRAND TOTAL	51	570	752	5	67	75

^{*} Of the three persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry two

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1915.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.] THE number of workpeople, exclusive of seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in December, 1915, was 347, an increase of 63 on a month ago, and of 56 on a year ago. The mean number for December during the five years 1910-1914 was 349, the maximum being 619 and the minimum 268.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during December, 1915, numbered 59, compared with 43 in November, 1915, and 44 in December, 1914.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 109, a decrease of 3 on a month ago, and an increase of 13 on a year ago. There were 6 fatal accidents at quarries compared with 7 a month ago and 11 a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshops Act in December was 173, an increase of 55 on November, 1915, and of 35 on December, 1914.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen during December, 1915, was 228, a decrease of 22 on a month ago, and of 140 on a year ago.

The Table shows the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1915, November, 1915, and December, 1914:—

Trade.		er of Work			or Dec., on a
	Dec., 1915.	Nov., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE— Brakesmen & Goods Guards Engine Drivers	9 4 3 9	5 5 4 1 3	8 1 1 2 8	+ 4 - 1 - 1 - 1 + 6	+ 1 + 3 + 2 - 2 + 1
Porters	8 4 1 18 3	7 2 1 2 13	4 3 1 4 12	+ 1 + 2 - 2 + 5 + 3	+ 4 + 1 - 4 + 6 + 3
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE MINES— Underground	96	96	80	+ 16	+ 15 + 16
Surface	109	112	96	- 3	- 3 + 13
Quarries over 20 feet deep	6	7	11	- 1	- 5
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS— Textile— Cotton	10	2	3	+ 8	+ 7
Wool and Worsted Other Textiles Non-Textile—	2	2	7 2	+ 2 - 1	- 5 - 1
Extraction of Metals Founding and Conversion of Metals	23	19	13	+ 2 + 4	+ 2 + 10
Marine and Locomotive Engineering Ship and Boat Building Gas Wood Clay, Stone, &c. Chemicals Laundries Food Drink Paper, Printing, &c. Other Non-Textile Industries	6 23 8 4 1 9 1 6 4 5 32	5 3 2 8 1 7 6 7	3 13 3 8 2 14 1 3 1 2 35	+ 5 + 18 + 5 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 2 - 2 + 13	+ 3 + 10 + 6 + 1 - 5 + 3 + 3 - 3
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	139	87	107	+ 52	+ 32
ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5. Docks, Wharves, and Quays Warehouses	18 1 15	18 2 11	11 2 18	- 1 + 4	+ 7 - 1 - 3
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	34	31	31	+ 3	+ 3
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894		4	2	- 4	- 2
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	347	284	291	+ 63	+56
SEAMEN— On Trading Vessels— Salling Steam On Fishing Vessels—	6 163	7 204	14 107	- 1 - 41	- 8 + 56
Sailing	10 49	6 33	5 242	+ 4 + 16	+ 5 -193
TOTAL, SEAMEN	228	250	368	- 22	-140
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	575	534	659	+ 1	- 84

BUILDING PLANS.

34

RETURNS received by the Department from 92 of the principal urban districts in the United Kingdom (exclusive of the County of London) giving the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed during the fourth quarter of 1915, show that there was only a slight decrease on the whole (£9,629, or 0.4 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of 1914. The population of the districts included in the returns is over 12 millions.

District and Population at Census of 1911.	Dwelling Houses.	Fac- tories and Work- shops.	Shops and other Business Pre- mises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Build- ings, Addi- tions and Altera- tions,	Total.
		For	irth Quai	rter of 19	14.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Outer London (1,700,000) Northern Counties (725,000)	109,342 18,510	39,447 76,620	9,470 12,647	28,065 21,800	40,916 10,882	227,240 140,459
Yorkshire (1,925,000) Lancashire & Cheshire (2,375,000)	125,717 157,549	122,078 83,073	18,026 71,560	71,394 21,715	61,919 41,659	399,134 375,556
Midlands (1,200,000) Other Districts in Eng-	149,157 45,190	166,641 5,206	76,513 5.500	59,405 23,900	59,271 36,520	510,987 116,316
land (1,145.000) Wales & Mon. (453,000) Scotland (1,830,000)	34,585 100,496	805 75,382	1,320 30,830	50 139,524	12,936 42,039 17,845	49,696 388,271 95,560
TOTAL	801,851	3,650 572,902	13,060 238,926	365,853	323,987	2,303,219
	925	Fo	orth Qua	rter of 19	15.	
	£	£	1 €	£	ı £	£
Outer London (1,700,000) Northern Counties	103.270 8,800	65.413 23,670	6,650 121,625	12.800 8,000	38.623 27,877	226, 7 56 189,972
(725,000) Yorkshire (1,925,000) Lancashire & Cheshire	73,925 83,610	175,237 126,990	25,152 51,298	29,210 19,020	63,063 56,936	366,587 337,854
(2,375,000) Midlands (1,200,000) Other Districts in Eng-	72,185 42,295	412,611 19,260	37,208 22,750	32,000 1,000	93,315 19,676	647,319 104,981
land (1,065,000) Wales & Mon. (430,000) Scotland (1,832,000) Ireland (825,000)	33,680 2,310 20,305	645 70,088 4,500	1,060 39,695 4,750	4,050 107,390 19,050	7,112 74,954 30,632	46,547 294,337 79,237
TOTAL	440,380	898,414	310,088	232,520	412,188	2,293,590

Compared with the corresponding period of 1914 there was a marked increase (56.8 per cent.) in the value of factories and workshops for which plans had been passed; there was also an increase in the value of shops and business premises, but a considerable decrease in the value of dwelling houses (45.1 per cent.) and churches, schools and other public buildings (36.4 per cent.). Two districts showed an increase-viz., the Northern Counties (35.3 per cent.) and the Midland Counties (26.7 per cent.). Every other district showed a decrease, which was most noticeable in Scotland (24.2 per cent.), Ireland (17.1 per cent.), and in Lancashire and Cheshire (10 per cent.).

The following Table shows for each class of building and for each district the increase or decrease in the quarter ended December, 1915, compared with the corresponding period of 1914:—

			Increase (+) or D	ecrease (-).
			Amount	i.	Per cent.
Dwelling Houses	Buildings	ions	£ - 361,171 + 326,512 + 71,162 - 133,333 + 88,201		- 45·1 + 56·8 + 29·8 - 36·4 + 27·2
TOTA	т		- 9,629		- 0.4
Yorkshire Lan-ashire and Cheshire Midlands Other Districts in England Wales and Monmouthshire	: :	::	£ + 49,51 - 32,54 - 37,70 + 136,33 - 11,33 - 3,14 - 93,93 - 16,32	3 7 2 2 5 9 4	- 0.2 + 35.3 - 8.2 - 10.0 + 26.7 - 9.7 - 6.3 - 24.2 - 17.1
TOTA	II		- 9,62	9	- 0.4

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I.—IMPORTS IN DECEMBER.

[Note.—Certain goods which, at the time of importation, were the property of H.M. Government or of the Governments of the Allies, are not included in the

THE total value of the imports (less re-exports) in December, 1915, was £63,236,493, an increase of £1,790,141 (or 2.9 per cent.) compared with December, 1914, and of £1,850,142 (or 3.0 per cent.) compared with December, 1915. The value of the net imports in December, 1915, was about the same as in November, but were considerably lower than in March April Tune and but was considerably lower than in March, April, June and July. The lowest figure for the year was £58½ million in February, and the highest, £67½ million in March.

The figures for the four principal groups into which the imports

_			A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR			
re	classified	are	shown	belo	ow	:

Groups.	Value of Imports (less	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in December, 1915, compared with		
And the first terms of the second	re-exports) in Dec., 1915.	December, 1914.	December, 1913.	
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 31,332,866 17,981,208	£ - 882,862 - 840,739	£ +6,285,482 -4,570,435	
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured Miscellaneous	13,758,569 163,850	+3,534,464 - 20,722	+ 277,184 - 142,089	
TOTAL	63,236,493	+ 1,790,141	+1,850,142	

(b). QUANTITIES.

The following Table gives the quantities of some of the principal articles imported during December, 1915, together with the increase or decrease compared with a year ago, and with two years ago :-

Principal Articles.	Quantity imported (less quantity	Inc. (+) or dec. (-) in December, 1915 compared with			
	re-exported) during December, 1915.	December, 1914.	December, 1913.		
Food, Drink and Tobacco:— Grain and Flour	19,192,147 1,673,325	+ 2,420,731 - 345,084 + 52,467	+2,909,560 - 196,846 + 28,616		
Butter and Margarine cwts. Cheese cwts, Eggs Great Hundreds (120's) Cocoa, Raw lb. Sugar cwts.	521,218	+ 52,467	+ 28,616		
	195,597	- 8,142	+ 61,757		
	895,273	- 732,263	-1,197,705		
	9,291,395	+ 6,662,086	+2,306,515		
	2,064,099	- 3 289,386	-2,301,152		
Tea	29,118,919	- 39,215,441	- 8,396,876		
	15,694,742	- 4,192,554	- 3,299,107		
	593,247	+ 228,758	+ 56,034		
Other Metallic Ores tons Iron and Steel Manufactures . tons Copper, Lead, Tin and Zinc tons Machinery tons	144,397	+ 56,060	- 6,269		
	88,692	+ 32,554	- 132,677		
	40,356	- 12,495	+ 383		
	8,035	+ 3,154	+ 361		
Textiles: Raw Cotton centals of 100 lbs. Sheep's or Lambs' Wool lb. Flax, Hemp and Jute tons	1,463,512	- 984,305	-1 668,499		
	26,197.710	- 43,301,151	+3,049,776		
	48,438	+ 5,456	- 10,301		
Silk Broadstuffs, wholly of Silk yds. "" "mixed materials yds. Miscellan ous:— Wood, hewn, sawn or split loads	5,121,174	+ 1,285,432	-1,395,508		
	2,345,763	+ 105,523	+ 461,105		
	424,098	+ 56,804	- 196,434		
	123,808	+ 32,416	- 244		
Flax or Linseed	44,339,354	- 9,119.224	+3,371.001		
	31,136	- 83,600	- 39,118		
	85,806	+ 10,859	- 21,828		
	88,160	- 54,724	- 42,951		
Leather	67,331 1,060,986	- 146,646 + 185,816	+ 7 7 - 3,149		

Compared with December, 1914, wheat imports from the United States increased by nearly 80 per cent., but there was a decrease of over 1,000,000 cwts. in the quantity received from the British East Indies. There was a marked increase in the quantity of barley and oats from the United States, but a drop of over 450,000 cwts. in the amount of rice from the British East Indies. Chilled beef from the Argentine declined considerably, but the quantity of frozen beef from the same source more than doubled. Imports of frozen mutton from Australia declined from 226,000 cwts. in December, 1914, to only 5,169 cwts. in December, 1915. Butter from Russia and New Zealand showed a large increase, but this was not sufficient to set off deficiencies in the supply from Denmark, France, and Australia. There was an increase of over 100,000 cwts. in margarine imports from the Netherlands. Very large decreases in the quantity of both Netherlands. Very large decreases in the quantity of both refined and unrefined sugar from Java accounted for most of the drop in the total sugar imports. Iron ore from Spain showed a marked increase, and imports of pyrites of iron and copper were almost double what they were in December, 1914. Raw cotton from the United States decreased from nearly 2,000,000 centals to less than 1,000,000 centals. Sheep's or lambs' wool from the Argentine dropped from 12,000,000 lb. to only 792,000 lb., and there were marked decreases in the quantity from British South Africa and Australia.

II.—IMPORTS JANUARY-DECEMBER, 1915.

During the year 1915 the total value of the imports (less reexports) was £754,959,156,* an increase of £153,798,209 and of £95,799,454 compared with 1914 and 1913 respectively. Compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £153,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 the increase of £155,798,209 and of £155,799,454 compared with 1914 and 1913 respectively. pared with 1914 the increases were greatest in grain and flour, meat and other articles of food and drink, wood and timber, raw

cotton and wool, oil seeds, nuts, &c., and metal manufactures. Compared with 1913 over £92,000,000 of the total increase occurred in the food and drink group; raw cotton and woollen yarns and manufactures showed a decrease.

III.—EXPORTS IN DECEMBER.

(a). VALUES.

The value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom during December, 1915, amounted to £33,947,519, an increase of £7,668,59I (or 29 per cent.) compared with December, 1914, but a decrease of £9,379,401 (or nearly 22 per cent.) compared with December, 1913. The value of the exports in December, 1915, was slightly lower than in July or November, but higher than in the other months of the year; the totals varied from £26,176,937 in February to £35,639,166 in

The figures for the four principal groups into which the exports are classified are shown below:—

Groups,	December, 1915.	Inc. (+) or D.c. (-) in December, 1915, compared with		
		December, 1914.	December, 1913.	
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 2,339,878 4,560,262 24,904,207 2,143,172	£ + 446,412 +1,242,193 +4,584,015 +1,395,971	- £770,020 - 1,559,794 - 7,387,978 + 338,391	
Total	33,947,519	+7,668,591	- 9,379,401	

(b). QUANTITIES.

The following Table gives the quantities of some of the principal articles exported during December, 1915, together with the increases or decrease compared with a year ago, and with two years ago :-

Principal Articles.	December,	In	Inc. (+) or (Dec. (-) in December, 1915, compared with			
-	2020		December, 1914.		December, 1913.	
Coal and Metals and Metal Manufactures :						
Coal—Steam tons	2,398,370	-	303,337	-	2,190,074	
other sorts tons	888,872	-	103,295	-	752,137	
Total of Coal—Tons	3,287,242	-	411,632	-	2,942,211	
Iron and Steel and Manufactures						
thereof:— Pig Iron tons	74,892		47 107		TEO	
Railroad Materials tons	16,878	+	43,187 7,309	+	759 32,3 03	
Plates and Sheets (except			1,000			
galvanised and tinned) tons	31,346	+	13,106	+	11,815	
Galvanised Sheets tons Tinned Plates and Tinned	12 500	-	9,840	-	49,204	
Sheets tons	30,641	+	387	_	8,199	
Tubes and Pipes and Fittings, wrought and cast tons	12,319	-	5,635	-	19 921	
Steel Bars, Angles, Rods and Shapes or Sections tons	36,038	+	15,953	+	19,670	
Other Iron and Steel Manufactures tons	39,669	-	5,842	-	33,906	
Total Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof tons	254,283	+	44,007	-	111,283	
Copper and Manufactures thereof tons	2,325	+	247	-	1,451	
Lead, Tin and Zinc and				3763		
Manufactures thereof tons	3,428	-	513	-	1,177	
Cutlery and Hardware tons Machinery tons	34,919 22,647		3,264 3,519	-	49,004	
Textiles:—	20,011		0,010		34,734	
Wool, Sheep's or Lambs' lb.			,820,500	+	821,800	
Cotton Yarn lb.	14,835,400	+ 4,	,869,400	-	2,371,700	
" Piece Goods yds	374,209,300		3,194,200	-18	56,483,000	
Woollen Tissues			140 200	-	405,400	
Worsted Tissues yds. Jute Piece Goods yds.			140,200		2,121,200 7,432,900	
Linen Piece Goods yds.	9,188,000		000 000		1,432,900	
Miscellaneous:					Coocoper	
Tobacco and Snuff lb.				+	795,947	
Boots and Shoes dozen pairs		-		-	36,609	
Chemical Manures tons		-	=0,000	-	25,454	
Painters' Colours cwts.		-		-	88,582	
Paper cwts.	203,486	180	10,153		54,945	

IV.—EXPORTS IN JANUARY-DECEMBER, 1915.

During the year 1915 the total value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom was £384,647,336,* a decrease of £46,074,021 (or 10 per cent.) compared with 1914, and of £140,597,953 (or 27 per cent.) compared with 1913. The decreases compared with 1914 were greatest under the headings of machinery and cetter manufactures. Compared with 1913, the machinery and cotton manufactures. Compared with 1913, the most noticeable decreases were under coal, metal manufactures, machinery, and cotton manufactures.

V.—EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

During December, 1915, the total value of the re-exports was £7,701,901, an increase of £1,831,355 compared with December, 1914, but a decrease of £2,026,622 compared with December, 1913. For the year 1915 the total value was £98,797,123, an increase of £3,332,957 compared with 1914, but a decrease of £10,777,914

PASSENGER MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN NOVEMBER.

In November, 1915, the total number of passengers who landed in the United Kingdom from other countries was 50,764, and the number who embarked for other countries was 45,974; these numbers compare with 58,867 and 56,362 respectively in November, 1914. In the eleven months ending November the passengers inward numbered 559,477, and the passengers outward 529,218, the inward being 780,988 and the outward 717,866 less than in the corresponding period of 1914.

The number of outward passengers to non-European countries in November was 10,557 in 1915, and 16,326 in 1914, these numbers including 8,804 and 12,185 British subjects respectively; the inward passengers from non-European countries in November numbered 12,195 in 1915, and 18,844 in 1914, of whom 11,000 and 16,762 respectively were British subjects. The numbers in the eleven months ending November were 120,315 outward (including 100,066 British), and 136,338 inward (including 119,550 British), the number of British subjects being less by 184,262 and 93,392 respectively than in the first eleven months of 1914.

The total of passengers of British nationality in November includes 6,327 passengers outward, who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom and intending to reside permanently in non-European countries; while 8,183 of the inward British passengers were recorded as having been residently made countries and intending to reside within the United and the countries and intending to reside within the United and the countries and intending to residently the United and the United States and the United Stat dent in such countries and intending to reside within the United Kingdom. The British passengers who were so recorded as changing their country of permanent residence during the eleven months ending November numbered 73,792 outward and 84,818 inward, showing a decrease of 135,105 and 9,611 respectively on the corresponding figures for 1914. The distribution of the migratory movement of British subjects during November and the eleven months ending November is shown below so far as the principal countries are concerned. the principal countries are concerned.

Migrants of British Nationality.*	November.		Eleven months ending November.	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
EMIGRANTS TO—				
British North America	1,429	650	77,664	16,052
Australia	546	584	30,778	9,246
New Zealand	363	419	7,515	2,782
British South Africa	424	739	7,543	5,430
India (including Ceylon)	903	484	6,453	4,631
Other British Colonies and Possessions	404	537	4,729	4,054
TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE	4,069	3,413	134,682	42,195
United States	3,327	2,618	67,941	28.484
Other Foreign Countries	523	296	6,274	3,113
TOTAL EMIGRANTS	7,919	6,327	208,897	73,792
MANAGE AND ADOM	Í		B4 5 5 5	
MMIGRANTS FROM— British North America	E 500	4 000	00.000	10000
Avotaclic	5,706	4,039	29,290	34,773
Now Zooland	- 554 145	174	12,944	8,055
Duitigh Couth Africa	721	1.182	2,752	1,546
India (including Content	866	313	10,659	8,347
Other British Colonies and Possessions	504	278	7,117	5,360
Other British Colonies and Lossessions			4,049	4,885
TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE	8,496	6,044	67,291	62,966
United States	1,752	1,739	18,739	15,042
Other Foreign Countries	1,177	400	8,399	6,810
TOTAL IMMIGRANTS	11,425	8,183	94,429	84,818
EXCESS OF EMIGRANTS	3,506†	1,856†	114,468	11 026†

* Exclusive of persons travelling vid Continental Ports. † Excess of Immigrants.

If the figures for the eleven months ended November, 1913, 1914 and 1915 respectively be examined, it will be found that the large decrease in emigration in 1914, compared with a year earlier, was accentuated in 1915 as a result of the European War. In the period January-November, 1913, the total number of male emigrants of 12 years of age and over of British nationality was 174,570 (of whom 89,107 went to British North America and 27,839 to Australia and New Zealand); the corresponding total for 1914 was 90,279 (of whom 32,062 went to British North America and 16,786 to Australia and New Zealand); and in America and 16,786 to Australia and New Zealand); and in 1915 the total had fallen to 30,656 (a decrease of 143,914 on 1913). and only 5,783 went to British North America and 3,524 to Australia and New Zealand. The number of statutory adult male immigrants in the period January-November, 1915, was 41,319, compared with 47,755 and 38,071 respectively in the corresponding months of 1914 and 1913. The number coming from British North America rose from 12,636 in 1913 to 16,095 in 1914, but fell to 14,336 in 1915. The net effect of the change in the direction of the migratory movement of statutory adult males was that, while in January-November, 1913, there was an excess of 136,499 emigrants over immigrants, in 1914 this excess was reduced to 42,524, and in 1915 the *immigrants* exceeded the emigrants by 10,663.

^{*} This figure is preliminary, and subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

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LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: BOYS IN COLLIERIES: STONE-THROWING.

A workman injured by accident is entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only where the accident was one arising out of, as well as in the course of, the

employment.

A boy of 14 years of age was employed by a colliery company in picking out pieces of stone or other matter from the coal as it passed on a belt to the screens. There were three of these travelling belts, and several boys were employed in this work. Although there was a notice posted up forbidding any stone-throwing, these boys often threw stones at one another, sometimes Although there was a notice posted up forbidding any stone-throwing, these boys often threw stones at one another, sometimes merely to attract attention. One day a boy, who was employed a few yards from the boy in question, threw a stone and hit him in the eye. In consequence he lost the sight of that eye, and claimed compensation under the Act. The colliery company resisted the claim, on the ground that the injury was not caused by any accident arising out of the employment, but by the wrongful act of the other boy. The county court judge found that the stone was mischievously thrown, though it was uncertain whether it was aimed at the claimant; but the circumstances of his amployment, were such as to expose him to a special risk of whether it was aimed at the claimant; but the directistances of his employment were such as to expose him to a special risk of having stones thrown at him. An award of compensation was therefore made in his favour. On appeal, the Court of Appeal reversed this decision and set aside the award, holding that there reversed this decision and set aside the award, holding that there was no evidence that this was an accident arising out of the employment. The injured boy appealed to the House of Lords, who disagreed with the Court of Appeal, and restored the decision of the county court judge. The House of Lords held that they had no jurisdiction to decide questions of fact, the county court judge being the sole judge of fact. They had to decide whether there was any evidence on which the county court judge could reasonably have come to the conclusion to which he had come, whether they themselves would have come to the same conclusion or not. Here, with the knowledge every man was supposed to possess of boy nature and habits, there was some evidence to support the decision, and therefore the finding of fact could not be questioned.—Clayton v. Hardwick Colliery Company, Ltd.—House of Lords.—8th December, 1915. -House of Lords .- 8th December, 1915.

Accident Arising Out of Employment: Walking on Road in Course of Employment: Fall on Ice.

A machine fitter was in the employment of an engineering company who were the makers of certain machines which were subject to inspection by the Inspectors of Weights and Measures. After erection or repairs these machines were inspected, and it was the man's duty to be present at such inspection as representing his employers. One day two such inspections were to be made by the same inspector at places some few miles apart, between which these was no convenient railway communication. made by the same inspector at places some few miles apart, between which there was no convenient railway communication. He therefore decided to walk between the places. There was ice on the road, and he walked in the middle as the safest course. He stepped aside out of the way of a cart which was overtaking him, and in so doing slipped on some ice and fell heavily, breaking his arm and being incapacitated for some time. He claimed compensation. The Sheriff-Substitute, however, refused to make an award in his favour, on the ground that the accident did not arise out of the employment, although it arose in the course of the employment, and that the risk the claimant ran was the ordinary risk to which everyone walking the road was exposed.

The claimant appealed.

The Court of Session held that the accident did arise out of the employment, and allowed the appeal.—White v. W. & T. Avery, Ltd.—Court of Session.—5th December, 1915.

CONTRACT OF SERVICE: WORKMAN EMPLOYED BY SUB-CONTRACTOR: WORK UNDERTAKEN BY PRINCIPAL.

In the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, the expression

In the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, the expression "workman" means any person who has entered into, or works under, a contract of service with an employer, with certain exceptions. Where a principal, for the purposes of his business, contracts with a contractor for the execution by or under the contractor of any part of work undertaken by the principal, the principal is liable to pay compensation to any workman employed in such work which he would have been liable to pay if such workman had been directly employed by him.

A firm of drug-grinders had occasion to have a barge full of sulphur unloaded, and the sulphur put into their bags and packed in their warehouse. The men in their regular employment were not suitable for this work, therefore when it had to be done they usually employed gangs of men to do it. These men were engaged by a ganger, who, however, worked himself just as the other men did, and sometimes worked under the directions of another ganger. A man engaged by one of these gangers was injured in the course of the employment in circumstances entitling him to compensation under the Act. The injured man claimed compensation from the firm of drug-grinders. There was evidence at the hearing in the county court that a member of the firm was present during the whole time the barge was being

unloaded to see that the work was properly carried out, but,

unloaded to see that the work was properly carried out, but, except for that degree of supervision, he exercised no control over the gang. The judge found that a contract of service existed between the firm and the claimant, and he made an award of compensation in his favour. The employers appealed. At the hearing of the appeal it was contended on behalf of the claimant that in any case the award was justified, for even if there were no contract of service, the firm were liable, as the claimant was employed by a sub-contractor. The Court of Appeal held that there was no evidence of any contract of service, and, further, that the firm was not liable on the principle of contractor and sub-contractor, as the work was not "work undertaken" by the firm as "principals" within the meaning of the Act. They therefore allowed the appeal. The workman appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords decided that there was evidence upon which the county court judge could find that there was a contract of service between the firm and the injured workman, and that therefore his award should stand. The appeal was therefore allowed, and the decision of the county court judge was

fore allowed, and the decision of the county court judge was restored.—Bobbey v. W. M. Crosbie & Co., Ltd.—House of Lords.—9th December, 1915.

(2) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS.

CREW A MAN SHORT: REFUSAL TO PROCEED TO SEA: WILFUL DISOBEDIENCE TO LAWFUL COMMAND.

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, provides that if any seaman lawfully engaged is guilty of wilful disobedience to any lawful command, he shall be liable to punishment on summary

on 20th April, 1915, a number of seamen signed articles as members of the crew of a steamship. At the time of signing on the crew consisted of sixteen members, but subsequently the second mate was transferred by the owners to another ship, the number of the crew being thus reduced to fifteen. The master attempted to fill the vacant place, but, not being able to find a suitable man, decided to sail for Holland without a second mate. The ship should have sailed on the morning of 2nd May, but on the 1st May nine of the seamen gave the master notice that they refused to proceed to sea one man short. The next day the master formally requested them to go to sea, but they insisted on their refusal, saying: "We are only fifteen men instead of sixteen, and there are not sufficient properly to man the lifeboats and not sufficient to keep a proper look-out." The voyage to Holland was at that time exceedingly dangerous, and a full complement was more desirable than in times of peace.

The master subsequently took proceedings against those seamen who refused to go to sea for disobedience to lawful commands. The magistrate dismissed the case, being of opinion that, in the circumstances, the men were not guilty of wilful disobedience to lawful commands, as it was unreasonable to call upon them to face the increased perils of the voyage with a crew one man short.

On appeal by the master from this decision, the High Court On 20th April, 1915, a number of seamen signed articles as mem-

short.
On appeal by the master from this decision, the High Court held that the magistrate was entitled to find, and there was evidence upon which he could find, that the command of the master to the men to proceed to sea was in the circumstances unreasonable; therefore there was no "lawful command" within the meaning of the Act, and the Court could not interfere with the decision of the magistrate. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—O'Reilly v. Drynan.—King's Bench Division.—15th December 1915

(3) NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS.

QUESTION AS TO LIABILITY OF EMPLOYER: POWERS OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS: PROCEEDINGS BEFORE COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION: JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATE.

The National Insurance Act. 1911, provides that if any ques The National Insurance Act, 1911, provides that if any question arises as to whether any employment is employment within the meaning of the Act, the same shall be determined by the Insurance Commissioners. It also provides that if any employer has failed to pay any contributions which he is liable to pay in respect of an employed contributor, he shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding £10, and may also be ordered to pay to the Commissioners the sum he has failed to pay. No person, however, is liable to a penalty if he has acted in conformity with any decision by the Commissioners. Outworkers are within the Act; but employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding £160 way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding £160 a year is not within the Act.

A firm of wholesale in the Act.

a year is not within the Act.

A firm of wholesale clothiers had in their employ one R, an outworker, who made coats. R employed workpeople of his own as well as doing work himself. The firm were proceeded against for failing to pay contributions in respect of R, and at the hearing the question was raised whether in fact R was an employed contributor within the meaning of the Act. It was suggested that he did not in fact do manual labour, and that he earned more than £160 a year. When the point was raised the magistrate decided that he had no jurisdiction to deal with the matter, as the question was one for the Commissioners alone whether R was an employed contributor within the meaning of the Act. He therefore dismissed the summons, and the Com-

missioners applied to the High Court for a mandamus to compel the magistrate to hear and determine the case. The High Court held that there was nothing in the Act to oust the jurisdiction of the magistrate, and made an order for him to proceed with and determine the case.—Rex v. Wilberforce.—King's Bench Division .- 8th December, 1915.

INSURED PERSON CLAIMING UNDER WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT: SUPPORT OF CLAIM BY APPROVED SOCIETY: MAINTEN-

It is provided by the National Insurance Act, 1911, that where an insured person appears to be entitled to any compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and unreasonably refuses or neglects to take proceedings to enforce his claim, the approved society of which such person is a member may at its own expense take proceedings in the name and on behalf of such person, and must hold any compensation recovered as trustee for the insured person.

The Common Law of England makes it illegal for any person who has no interest or concern in the matter to assist or promote legal proceedings. Such assistance is known as maintenance.

A female domestic servant was injured by accident, and was told by an agent under the National Insurance Act that she could not get insurance benefits as her card had not been properly stamped. She then saw the solicitor to the approved could not get insurance benefits as her card had not been properly stamped. She then saw the solicitor to the approved society of which she was a member, who asked her whether she wished to claim compensation. This gentleman wrote to a firm of solicitors to the effect that the case was one for proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and that the society would give the injured person financial assistance if she instructed the firm to act for her. The firm then wrote to her enclosing a form of retainer for her to sign, and telling her that the proceedings would have to be taken in her own name, and that she would be liable to them for costs, but that they understood the society would indemnify her. When the claim came before the county court it was contended on behalf of the employer that as there was no evidence that the claimant had unreasonably refused or neglected to take proceedings, the society was not entitled to interfere, and that as the claim was really brought by the society, not by the injured person, the claim should be disallowed. The judge, however, held that the proceedings were brought by the claimant, and on the facts made an award of compensation in her favour. The employer appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that though an approved society had the proceeding the state of the court of the society of the court of the court

The Court of Appeal held that though an approved society The Court of Appeal held that though an approved society has no right to take proceedings for compensation unless the injured person has unreasonably refused or neglected to enforce his claim, here there was ample evidence to support the judge in his decision that the proceedings were taken by the injured woman. It made no difference to her rights that the society had promised to indemnify her against costs, and had found money for court and counsel's fees. Even if the society could be said to be guilty of maintenance, that would be no answer to the claim for compensation. The appeal was therefore disthe claim for compensation. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—Skelton v. Baxter.—Court of Appeal.—25th November, 1915.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

I.—CASES UNDER CONCILIATION ACT, 1896, AND THE MUNITIONS OF WAR ACT, 1915.

ENGINEERING WORKERS (UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED) .-WORCESTER.

Messrs. Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester, and the Workers' Union being unable to agree in respect of an application made by the latter for certain minimum rates, advances of wages, and improved working conditions, the matter was reported to the Department. After some negotiation, it was ultimately agreed between the parties to refer the matter to

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 7th January, partially allowing certain of the claims advanced and disallowing others.

BLACKSMITHS, HEBBURN-ON-TYNE.

The Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society and Messrs. Palmer's Shipbuilding & Iron Co., Ltd., having failed to agree on an application made by the former on behalf of their blacksmith members employed by the firm in their Steel Works department for an advance of wages of 4s. per week, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., the arbitrator appointed by the Chief Industrial Commissioner, issued his award on 31st December, deciding that the men's claim had not been esablished.

RIVETTERS, SUNDERLAND.

A difficulty having arisen between Messrs. Robert Thompson & Sons, Ltd., and Messrs. Bartram & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland, on the one hand, and the Boilermakers', Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society, on the other hand, regarding the rate of wages to be paid for the rivetting of two patrol vessels, at pre-

sent under construction by these employers, and no settlement being arrived at, the matter was referred to the Chief Indus-trial Commissioner, who appointed Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., to act as arbitrator in the matter. In his award, dated 7th January, Mr. Macassey decided that the society had failed to establish their claim in respect of the

two boats in question.

MESSRS, BABCOCK & WILCOX, LTD., RENFREW (PIPE SHOP)

MESSRS. BABCOCK & WILCOX, LTD., RENFREW (PIPE SHOP).

A dispute having occurred regarding an application made by the Workers' Union for the increases of wages of 10 per cent. on existing piece prices awarded by the Committee on Production to engineers, &c., Clyde district, to be extended to certain classes of their members (semi-skilled workers) employed in the pipe shop of Messrs. Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., Renfrew, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 20th December, deciding that the employees in question should be granted an advance of wages of 64 per cent.

BLACKSMITHS, COATBRIDGE,

In September, 1915, the Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society made application to Messrs. Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Coatbridge, for an advance of wages and increased overtime rates on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, on the ground that Coatbridge should be deemed to be part of the Glasgow district. The employers refused to accede to this request, and all attempts at mutual agreement having foiled the metter was referred to evitentian.

to this request, and all attempts at mutual agreement having failed, the matter was referred to arbitration.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 3rd January, deciding that the society had not established their claim, such decision being given without prejudice to the society's contending in normal peace times that Coatbridge forms part of the Glasgow district in regard to the rate of wages and conditions of employment of their members.

TARPAULIN WORKERS, MANCHESTER.

TARPAULIN WORKERS, MANCHESTER.

A difficulty having arisen between a certain firm of tarpaulin makers at Manchester and the Workers' Union with reference to the wages and conditions of employment of members of the union in the firm's employ, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was referred to the Department. After protracted correspondence it was ultimately agreed that the points in dispute should be referred to arbitration, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., was accordingly appointed arbitrator.

In his award, dated 31st December, Mr. Macassey disallowed the claims made by the union for increased wages and a reduction of the normal working hours per week, and allowed that relating to payment by the hour when time is lost. He made no order with respect to the Union's claim for a minimum wage

no order with respect to the Union's claim for a minimum wage of 26s. per week for day work, and as regards overtime rate of payment decided that the firm should conform to the general Manchester position when fixed by the Committee on Produc-

LEATHER WORKERS, LONDON.

In June, 1915, the Fancy Leather Workers Trade Society In June, 1915, the Fancy Leather Workers Trade Society and a certain firm in London agreed upon the payment of certain piece prices (in lieu of time rates) for the rivetting of infantry equipment, the prices to hold good until the end of October, 1915. On the expiration of this period, the employers proposed to reduce the prices by 20 per cent., but the workers concerned were not willing to agree to such reduction, though they expressed their willingness to accept a reduction of 15 per cent. Negotiations having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed and

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 31st December, deciding that the prices should be reduced by 15 per cent., and no more.

ENGINEERING TRADES, BANBURY.

Engineering Trades, Banbury.

A difference having arisen between a firm of engineers and machinists at Banbury and the Workers' Union, the matter was reported to the Board of Trade, who, after some inquiry, appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to determine as arbitrator the union's application in respect of the men in the machine, fitting, and smiths' shops. At the hearing Mr. Doughty also undertook at the request of both sides to determine the wages for the firm's painters and labourers.

The arbitrator issued his award on 17th December, determining the day work and overtime rates of pay, and awarding that the parties should compile revised piecework prices on the principle that a workman of average capacity and industry of the workmen employed at the firm may earn at piece rates wages approximately 25 per cent. in addition to the day work rates fixed under the award.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC PLANT Co., LTD., ALLOA.

The British Electric Plant Co., Ltd., Alloa, being unable to come to an agreement with their employees regarding an application by the latter for an advance of wages of 25 per cent., the matter was referred to the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who appointed Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C., to act as arbitrator in the restrict the contractor.

trator in the matter.

Mr. Sandeman issued his award on 28th December, deciding that no advance should be granted.

MESSRS. THE STERLING TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC Co., LTD., DAGENHAM

A difficulty having arisen between Messrs. The Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., on the one hand, and the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers and the United Machine Workers' Association on the other, respecting the piecework rate to be paid to certain turret lathe operators, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was reported to the Chief Industrial Commissioner, and it was agreed to submit the matter to the decision

of an expert.

The points in dispute accordingly formed the subject of an investigation by Mr. B. H. Joy, who issued his report on 30th December, determining that the piece rate fixed by the firm was fair and equitable.

CAULKERS, GLASGOW

CAULKERS, GLASGOW

Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to decide an application made to Messrs. A. and J. Inglis by the Boilermakers', Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society for an advance of wages on behalf of caulkers in the firm's employ (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 464), has issued his award, increasing the hourly rate to be paid on Government work done entirely on time rate, but making no alteration in the existing hourly rate for piecework.

GASPRODUCERMEN, GLASGOW.

Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to determine a difficulty that had arisen in connexion with the rate of wages of gasproducermen employed by a steel company at Glasgow (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 464), issued his award on 18th December, assimilating the rate and any further advances due under the sliding scale to those paid at another works in the district.

HAND GRENADE WORKERS, LUTON.

Mr. W. M. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to decide matters in dispute between the Davis Gas Stove Company, Luton, and the Central Ironmoulders' Association, regarding the prices to be paid to workpeople engaged in the manufacture of hand grenades (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 464), issued his award on 22nd December, and decided that the rate at present paid by the firm is fair and reasonable, and that the association had failed to establish their claim for an increased water.

WIRE ROPE WORKERS, MUSSELBURGH.

WIRE ROPE WORKERS, MUSSELBURGH.

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to decide a claim made by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour for an advance of wages on behalf of female workers in the employ of a certain firm of wire rope manufacturers at Musselburgh (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 463), issued his award on 17th December, and decided the points in dispute, the settlement of a number of the points raised having been effected at the hearing.

SHIPYARD LABOURERS, LONDONDERRY.

SHIPYARD LABOURERS, LONDONDERRY.

Mr. Gerald Fitzgibbon, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference that had arisen between the North of Ireland Shipbuilding Company, Ltd., Londonderry, and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour (see Labour Gazette for December, p. 463). issued his award on 25th December, deciding that the wages of the employees in question (general labourers, iron shifters and stowers, stagers, fitters' helpers, cementers, platers' time helpers, boilermen and furnacemen, should be increased by one farthing per hour per week of fifty-four hours.

FOUNDRY LABOURERS, MONIFIETH.

Sheriff-Substitute A. J. Loutit Laing, the arbitrator appointed to deal with an application for an advance of wages made on behalf of a number of the labourers in the employ of Messus. J. F. Low & Co., Ltd., Monifieth (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 463), met the parties on 8th December, when an amicable settlement was arrived at providing that the workpeople should be given advances of wages of 2s, and 1s. per week according to their weekly wage.

PAINTERS TEES-SIDE.

Painters, Tees-side.

Sir Wm. J. Collins, K.C.V.O., the arbitrator appointed to deal with an application for a "war bonus" made by the operative painters in the Tees-side district (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 463), issued his award on 17th December, and decided that an increase of one half-penny per hour should be granted, such increase to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to, and dependent on, the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

PAINTERS. SHEFFIELD.

Mr. F. A. Greer, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to decide the questions in dispute between the master and operative painters at Sheffield (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 463), issued his award on 14th December, granting an increase of wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and deciding against the men's application for an alteration of working rule 4, relating to walking time &c.

PAINTERS. DUNDEE.

PAINTERS, DUNDEE.

Sheriff-Substitute A. J. Louttit Laing, the arbitrator appointed to deal with a dispute as to the rate of wages to be paid in respect of painting, &c., a certain room, containing a steam turbine, at a jute works at Dundee (see Labour Gazette for December, 1915, p. 463), has issued his award, deciding that the higher rates customarily paid for painting engine-rooms should be paid for the particular work in question.

COLLIERY WORKERS, COALVILLE.

A difficulty arose between the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers and the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Enginemen, Motormen and Firemen's Union regarding the proposed establishment by the latter of a branch of their Union at Coalville. Negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to the decision of a Court of Arbitration of three trade unionists appointed by the

A court has accordingly been appointed, consisting of Mr. Harry Gosling (chairman), Mr. W. J. Davis, J.P., and Mr. J. E. Williams, J.P.

GASMEN IN STEEL WORKS, NEATH.

Gasmen in Steel Works, Neath.

On 28th December joint application was received in the Department for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide a difficulty that had arisen between the British Steel Smelters' Mill, Iron, Tinplate and Kindred Trades Association and the South Wales Siemens Steel Association regarding the tonnage rates of wages to be paid to gasmen employed in a new melting shop at a certain steel works. His Honour Judge H. Y. Stanger, K.C., has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BIRMINGHAM.

In December application was received in the Department from the Electrical Trades Union for the appointment of an arbitrator to determine an application for an advance of wages to their members at Birmingham to 10½d, per hour, upon which matter they had been unable to come to a settlement with the local electrical contractors.

The Department entered into communication with representa-tives of the electrical contractors, and after some negotiation it was agreed to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Chief Industrial Commissioner. Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C.,

has been appointed accordingly.

CORPORATION WORKERS, BIRKENHEAD.

Corporation Workers, Birkenhead.

A difference having arisen between the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers and the Corporation of Birkenhead regarding an application made by the former for an eight-hour shift (instead of the present twelve-hour shift) and for advances of wages on behalf of certain classes of employees in the Corporation's waterworks, and negotiations between the parties, commencing in June, 1915, having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., has accordingly been appointed by the Chief Industrial Commissioner to act as arbitrator.

ENGINEERS ON SUBMARINES, CLYDE DISTRICT.

Difference having arisen between the North West Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers regarding certain allowances to be paid to engineers working on board submarines during construction and on trial trips, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was referred to the Department, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., has been appointed to act as arbitrator to determine the whole of the matters in difference in record to this subject.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, MANCHESTER

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, MANCHESTER.

A difference having arisen between the parties in connection with the application of an award issued by the Committee on Production regarding the rates of wages to be paid to carpenters and joiners employed at the works of Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Openshaw, as to the demarcation between bonā-fide constructional building work and work incidental to the business of the firm, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was brought to the notice of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who on 3rd January appointed Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., to inquire into the points in dispute.

BRASSWORKERS, BIRMINGHAM.

In November application for an advance of wages was made by the National Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics on behalf of the casters, machine moulders, coremakers and casters' helps employed by Messrs. The Phosphor Bronze Company, Ltd., Birmingham. No settlement having been arrived at, the matter was reported to the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department, and after some negotiatinons the parties agreed to the reference of the difference to arbitration.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., has been appointed to act as arbitrator in the matter.

arbitrator in the matter.

BRASSWORKERS, GLASGOW

A difficulty having arisen between a firm at Glasgow and the Associated Brassfounders, Turners, Fitters, Finishers, and Coppersmiths' Society regarding the applicability of an award of the Committee on Production respecting brassfinishers' wages to certain work being done by the firm, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was referred to the Department, who have appointed Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., to decide the matter at issue.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., and the Electrical Trades Union being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for payment of travelling, &c., allowances to certain of their members in the firm's employ, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., has been appointed to act as arbitrator to determine the matter.

LABOURERS IN CABLE WORKS, SOUTHAMPTON,

January, 1916.

A dispute having arisen between Messrs. Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton, and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union regarding an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of the male employees at the works, and negotiations between the parties proving unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, who have appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to act as rbitrator in the matter

IRON AND STEEL WORKERS, SOUTH BANK.

Negotiations between Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd., South Bank, Yorks., and the Associated Iron and Steel Workers of Great Britain, having failed to effect a settlement regarding the rate of wages to be paid to men employed by the firm in chipping shell bars, the matter was reported to the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who has appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to preside at a conference of the parties, with power to determine the matter should they be unable to agree.

PAINTERS, GLASGOW.

Negotiations between the Glasgow Master Painters' Association and the Glasgow District Committee of the Scottish Painters' Society with regard to the settlement of the wages in the house painting trade in Glasgow for the year 1916, having proved unsuccessful, joint application was made to the Department on 29th December for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the matter.

Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

IRONGRINDERS, DUNDEE.

A dispute having arisen between two firms at Dundee and the General Ironfitters' Association in respect of a claim by the latter for a war advance or bonus on behalf of irongrinders, and in respect of a complaint regarding the use of the grinders' machines by fitters during overtime hours, and no settlement being arrived at by negotiations between the parties, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration, and Sheriff Louttit Laing has been appointed arbitrator.

II.—COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION.

II.—COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION.

The Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, and whose reference was subsequently extended to deal with the avoidance of stoppages on work for Government purposes (see Labour Gazette for March, 1915, page 83, and August, 1915, page 280), have issued decisions on further cases which have been referred to them. Full particulars of these cannot be given owing to reasons of space, but the following may be noted:

Engineers, &c., Wolverhampton.—In March, 1915, an advance in wages was agreed upon. In October, 1915, a further advance was asked for. The Committee on Production found that the claim for the advance had not been established.

Engineers, Hull, and Ironfounders, Hull.—The Committee

ENGINEERS, HULL, AND IRONFOUNDERS, HULL.—The Committee decided that a claim on behalf of these operatives for an advance in wages of 5s. per week had not been established.

METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LTD.—A claim for an advance in wages and concessions made on behalf of the employees was referred to the Committee, who awarded certain processions and other expressions.

rages and other concessions. ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, BRADFORD.—A claim for a "war bonus" of 6s. per week was referred to the Committee on Froduction for settlement. The Committee found that the claim had not been established.

IRONFOUNDERS, LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT, AND CHESTER.—

Applications for advances in wages to ironfounders at Liver-pool and District and at Chester were referred to the Committee on Production, who decided that no case for advances had been

WAGON BUILDERS, LANCASHIRE.—A war bonus of 2s. per week was claimed by the men, the employers offering it, conditionally, to time workers and not to piece workers. The Committee decided that the bonus should be paid as offered by the em-

Brassworkers, Nottingham and District.—In March, 1915, on advance in wages of 3s. per week was granted. In October claim was made for a further advance in time and piece rates. The Committee decided that the claim for a further advance had not been established.

Engineering Trades, Otley.—An advance in wages of 3s. per week was granted in April, 1915. In October a claim was made for a further advance of 5s. per week, and, in the case of certain labourers, for overtime concessions. The Committee decided that an advance of 1s. per week should be granted, and

made certain concessions in overtime to the labourers.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS IN STEEL AND ENGINEERING WORKS, Sheffield.—A claim for payment of building trade wages and conditions was allowed by the Committee, only in so far as men were engaged on actual constructional work.

FOUNDRY WORKERS, CARDIFF AND BARRY DISTRICT.—A claim

foundry Workers, Cardiff and Barry District.—A claim for an advance in wages and reduction in hours was disallowed by the Committee.

Engineering Trades, Manchester.—In October claims for advances in wages were preferred by the skilled and unskilled and semi-skilled workers, the latter also asking for overtime concessions. The Committee granted an advance on the minimum rate of the unskilled men, but disallowed the other claims.

TRADE BOARDS ACT. 1909. SHIRTMAKING TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN OBLIGATORY ORDER.

In pursuance of their powers under the above Act, the Board of Trade have made an Order, dated 6th January, 1916, making obligatory, in cases in which they are applicable, the minimum rates of wages for female workers fixed by the Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain), which came into limited operation on 5th July, 1915.*

Any agreement for the payment of wages at less than the above-mentioned minimum rates, clear of all deductions (except those made in accordance with the National Insurance Acts), will henceforth be void. The penalty for paying wages after 6th January at rates less than those which have now been made obligatory by the Board of Trade is a fine not exceeding £20 for each offence. In certain circumstances, however, the Trade Board may, in the case of time-workers who are affected by infirmity or physical injury, grant permits exempting their employment from the operation of the minimum time-rates.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1915. PART II.-UNEMPLOYMENT.

APPLICATION TO THE UMPIRE.

In pursuance of Regulations made by the Board of Trade and dated 26th day of March, 1912, notice is hereby given that the Umpire (Unemployment Insurance) has received application for a decision as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following classes of persons:—

353. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of pit cage

354. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of pit cages.
354. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of shells for war purposes and described as engaged in cutting steel bars into short lengths or billets, heating billets in furnaces, piercing billets with hydraulic presses or punches, reheating and nosing shells by hydraulic machine.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS. DECEMBER, 1915.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*
Rala (Merioneth)	A. L. Davies, Tawelfan, Bala	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Bungay (Suffolk)	J. H. Busteed, Earsham Street, Bungay	Waveney House, Bungay weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Cleator (Cumberland)	A. J. Graves, Thirlmere House, Frizington	Weekdays, 10-11 a.m.
Crewkerne (Somerset)	W. W. Webber, Market Street, Crewkerne	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Millom (Cumberland)	J. M. Huey, Old Bank House, Millom	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Preston (Lancs)	J. E. Dunn, 25a, Winckley Square, Preston	11, Adelphi Street, Preston Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.

Note.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.

* Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

[All the United Kingdom Oficial Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any Bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, Londom, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Ofice (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh: or E. Ponsonby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Univin, London, W.C.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

Mines and Quarries, 1914. Part II-Labour. Persons employed, accidents, prosecutions, rescue work, employment of boys at mines, &c. Home Office. [Cd. 8135: price 5½d.]

Seventh Report of the Explosions in Mines Committee. Effects

Seventh Report of the Explosions in Mines Committee. Effects of inhaling dusts applicable for stone-dusting in coal mines. Home Office. [Cd. 8122: price 2d.]

Memorandum on Chains and other Lifting Appliances. By G. S. Taylor, H.M. Inspector of Factories. Home Office. [Stationery Office Publication: price 6d.]

Health of Munition Workers Committee. (1) Report on Sunday Labour. [Cd. 8132; price 1d.] (2) Report on Industrial Canteens. Ministry of Munitions. [Cd. 8133; price 1d.]

Clyde Munition Workers. Report by Lord Balfour of Burleigh and Mr. Lynden Macassey. [Cd. 8136: price 1d.]

Ministry of Munitions. Return of Cases heard before Munitions Tribunals from their inception up to and including Saturday, 27th November, 1915. [Cd. 8143: price 1d.]

Scheme for Allowances to Dependants of Deceased Sailors and Soldiers. [Cd. 8131: price ½d.]

Dominions Royal Commission. Memorandum and Tables relating to the Food and Raw Material Requirements of the United Kingdom. [Cd. 8123: price 1s.]

United Kingdom. [Cd. 8123: price 1s.]

^{*} See LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1915, page 86.

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

Review of the Trade of India, 1914-15. Department of atistics, India. [Calcutta: Superintendent, Government

CANADA.—Census and Statistics Monthly, October, 1915. Field crops, prices of agricultural produce, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]
—Saskatchewan. The Public Service Monthly, November,

—Saskatchewan. The Public Service Monthly, November, 1915.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—Labour Bulletin, January to March, 1915. Wages and hours, prices, industrial disputes, rents, cost of living, accidents, &c. Official Year Book, No. 8, 1915. For period 1901-1914. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird and Co.]

New South Wales.—The Industrial Gazette, August and September, 1915. Emergency legislation, dislocations in industries, employment and unemployment, labour exchange system of New South Wales, arbitration proceedings, &c. Industrial Arbitration Reports, 1915. Nos. 1 & 2. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

New Zealand.—Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Labour, 1915. Wages, strikes, conciliation and arbitration, condition of employment and trade, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

—Journal of the Department of Labour. October, 1915. Condition of trade and employment at 30th September, prices, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, accidents, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

—Cost of Living. Return dated 15th September, 1915. Index numbers for each month from July, 1914. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

Victoria.—Wages Board Determinations. Pottery Trade, dated 13th October, 1915. cancelling that of 29th January, 1914.

—Regulations under the Factories and Shops Acts, dated 19th October 1915. [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett, Government Printer.]

Queensland. Industrial Peace Act Awards. Brisbane Meat Industry Board, dated 9th September, 1915, cancelling that of 10th September, 1912.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—Bulletin de l'Office International du Travail, Nos. 7-8. 1915. [Paris: Berger-Levrault.] —International Co-operative Bulletin, November and December, 1915. International Co-operative Alliance. [London: H. J.

ber, 1915. International Co-operative Affiliance. [London: II. J. May.]

—Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics, December, 1915. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

UNITED STATES.—Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, December, 1915. Strikes and lock-outs July to October, conciliation work, immigration, Compulsory Industrial Disputes Investigation Act of Colorado, retail prices of food, and state of employment in various foreign countries, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—New York.—The Bulletin, December, 1915. Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration, &c. New York State Industrial Commission.

tion and Arbitration, &c. New York State Industrial
sion.

—Massachusetts. Labour Bulletin. No. 112, November, 1915.
Seventh annual report on Labour Organisations for the year 1914.
[Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—Maryland. Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information, 1914. Child labour, strikes, factory inspection, &c. [Baltimore: Mules Printing Co.]

—Pennsylvania. Monthly Bulletin of the Department of Labour and Industry, September and October, 1915. Bureau of employment, accidents reported, the safety movement, &c.
[Harrisburg: W. Stanley Ray, State Printer.]

—Rhode Island. Forty-sixth Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, 1914. [Howard, R.I.: Sockanosset School.]

School.]

France.—Bulletin Mensuel de l'Office de Renseignements Agricoles, June-September, 1915. Ministry of Agriculture.

[Paris: Imprimerie Nationale.]

—Annuaire Statistique de la Ville de Paris. XXXIIIe. Année1912 et Principaux Renseignements pour 1913. Wholesale and retail prices. Municipal Statistical Department, 1915. [Paris: Masson et Cie.: price 4s. 10d.]

Germany.—Reichsarbeitsblatt, November, 1915. Employment in October, unemployment in trade unions in October, labour disputes in third quarter. Order of Federal Council limiting employment in textile factories to five days per week. Imperial Department of Labour Statistics. [Berlin: Carl Heymann.* price 1d.]

price 1d.]

—Statistisches Jahrbuch für das deutsche Reich, 1915. Wholesale prices 1905-1914, workmen's insurance, trade unions and employers' associations, state of employment. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin.]

ITALY.—Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro (monthly series), August, 1915. Labour disputes (detailed reports) in second quarter, retail prices at co-operative stores in July. (Fortnightly series), 16th November, 1915. Labour disputes in second half of October. Do., 1st December, 1915. Labour disputes and retail prices of food in October. Do., 16th December, 1915. Labour disputes in second half of November. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]

—Bollettino dell Ispettorato dell'Industria e del Lavoro, July-August, 1915. Labour Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

—I Pubblici Spettacoli e le Provvidenze di Legislazione Sociale, Relazione di Ettorre Reina al Comitato Permanente del Lavoro per la discussione in merito a disposizioni legislative sul Contratto teatrale. Higher Council of Labour, Ministry of Agri-culture, Industry and Commerce. 1915. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 2s.]

Holland.—Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 30th November, 1915. Employment, labour disputes, and work of labour exchanges in October, wholesale and retail prices of food, &c. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

SWITZERLAND.—Statistik über die Naturalverpflegung pro 1912 im Gebiete des Verbandes für Naturalverpflegung in der Schweiz. Statistical Department, 1915. [Berne: Stämpfli & Cie.]

Norway.—Sociale Meddelelser, No. 5, 1915. Social legislation in 1915, employment in August, September, and October, retail prices in November. Department for Social Affairs, Commerce, Industry, and Fisheries. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.]

Sweden.—Kollektivavtal i Sverige ar 1914. Department for Social Affairs. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

—Riksförsäkringsanstalten ar 1914. Insurance Department. [Stockholm: Ivar Haeggström.]

—Sociala Meddelanden, No. 11, 1915. Employment in July, August, and September, collective agreements in 1914, labour disputes in third quarter, retail food prices in October. Department for Social Affairs. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner; price 2d.]

price 2d.]

Denmark.—Statistiske Efterretninger, 1st December, 1915.

Working-class household expenditure in October, 1915, retail prices in November. Do., 9th December, 1915. Unemployment in September. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag.]

—Social Forsorg, November, 1915. Report of Inspector of Unemployment for year ending 31st March, 1915, unemployment in August. Do., December, 1915. Unemployment in September, labour disputes in 1914, sickness benefit funds in 1914. Danish Workmen's Insurance Council and the Unemployment Inspector's Department [Hellerup: V. L. Faber.]

—Arbejdslöshedsinspektörens Indberetning til Indenrigsministeriet for Regnskabsaaret, 1914-15 (1st April, 1914, to 31st March, 1915). [Copenhagen: Harald Jansen.]

Spain.—Boletin del Instituto de Reformas Sociales, November, 1915. Labour disputes in 1913 (annual summary) and in October, 1915; cost of living October, 1914, to March, 1915; Royal Decree on organisation of associations for granting rural credit. Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suárez: price 2½d.]

Decree on organisation of associations for granting rural credit. Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suárez: price 2½d.]

Russia (Finland).—Befolkningsstatistik: Folkräkningen i Belsingfors, Abo, Viborg, Tammerfors, Nikolaistad, Bjöneborg och Uleaborg den 7th December, 1910. Eight volumes. [Helsingfors, 1914: price 10d. each volume.]—Postsparbanken: Postsparbankstyrelsens berättelse om postsparbankens tillstand och förvaltning under ar 1914. [Helsingfors, 1915.]—Sparbanks-Statistik: Sparbanksinspektörens Underdaniga Arsberättelse jemte öfversigh öfver Sparbankernas tillstand och Förvaltning, ar, 1913. [Helsingfors, 1914.]—Befolkningsstatistik: Finlands Folkmängd den 31st December, 1910. Vol. 1. Folkmängden samt Befolkningens Fordelning efter Kön, Alder, Civilstand, Sprak, Trosbekannelse Bildningsgrad och Fodelseort ätdensom den Frankvarande Befolkningens Fordelning efter Vistelseort. [Helsingfors, 1915: price 3s. 7d.]—Befolkningsstatistik: Befolkningsrörelsen i Finland aren 1911 och 1912. [Helsingfors, 1915: Price 2s. 5d.]—Försäkringsväsendet: Försäkringsinspektörens Berättelse angaende Försäkringsväsendet i Finland ar 1913. [Helsingfors, 1914]. —Arbetsstatistik: Understödskassor ar 1913. [Helsingfors.]—Arbetsstatistik: Understödskassor ar 1913. [Helsingfors.]—Arbetsstatistik: Olycksfallen i Arbetet, 1910, 1911, 1912. Three volumes. [Helsingfors, 1914 and 1915.]—Industristatistik, 1912, 1913. [Helsingfors, 1914 and 1915.]—Industristatistik, 1912, 1913. [Helsingfors, 1914 and 1915.] Statistisk Arsbok för Finland, 1914. Central Statistical Pureau. [Helsingfors, 1915; Kejserliga Senatens Tryckeri: price 3s. 7d.]

Brazil.—Boletim do Departamento Estadual do Trabalho, Einsterventer of 1915. Industrial accidents in St. Paul. January.

Brazil.—Boletim do Departamento Estadual do Trabalho, First quarter of 1915. Industrial accidents in St. Paul, January-June, 1914, prices of necessaries in first quarter of 1915. Department of Agriculture and Public Works, State of St. Paul. [St. Paul: Rothschild & Cia.]

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 5523. Rotterdam and Netherlands, 1914. British seamen at Rotterdam, labour market, labour exchanges, &c. [Cd. 7620-133: price 3½d.] No. 5528. Rome District, 1914. Emigration, vital statistics, housing, &c. [Cd. 7620-138: price 1½d.] No. 5532. Caracas, 1913-14. Industrial development, population and industries, &c. [Cd. 7620-142: price 3d.] No. 5534. Norway, 1913 (supplementary). [Cd. 7620-14: price 1½d.] No. 5531. Havre, 1914. [Cd. 7620-141: price 1½d.]

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