

THE BOARD OF TRADE
**Board of Trade
 LABOUR GAZETTE.**

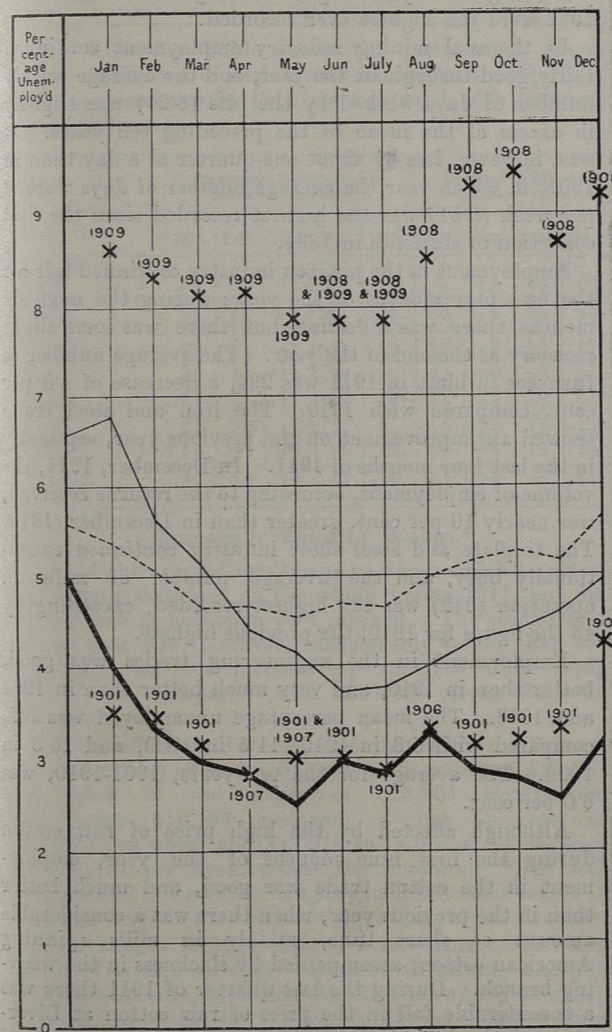
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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
 TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1911. — Thin Curve = 1910.
 - - - - - Dotted Curve = Mean of 1901-1910.
 x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1901-1910.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

Employment.—Employment in December was good on the whole, and showed little change as compared with November. At the close of the month organised short time began in the cotton spinning industry, as a result of a lock-out of cotton weavers. In engineering and some other industries employment was affected by the usual holiday suspensions.

There was a slight improvement in the pig iron and iron and steel trades, and in the more important textile trades. Employment in the boot and shoe and glass trades was also better, but on the other hand there was a seasonal decline in the brick, woodworking, building, printing and bookbinding trades.

As compared with a year ago, there was an improvement in most of the principal industries, especially in the iron and steel, engineering, shipbuilding, boot and shoe, and glass trades. There was some decline at blast-furnaces and in the printing trades.

In the 394 trade unions with a net membership of 788,986 making returns 24,074 (or 3.1 per cent.) were returned as unemployed at the end of December, 1911, compared with 2.6 per cent. at the end of November, 1911, and 5.0 per cent. at the end of December, 1910.

Returns from firms employing 447,047 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages taking effect in December affected 11,000 workpeople, all of whom received increases, the total amount of the increases being nearly £1,000 per week. The most important changes affected 800 harness furniture makers at Walsall and Birmingham, 1,650 printing trade operatives and 800 coal carters at Liverpool, 1,550 trimmers on the North-East Coast, and 1,500 railway carters at Glasgow.

Trade Disputes.—The most important disputes in progress during the month were those involving about 150,000 operatives in the weaving branch of the cotton industry in Lancashire, 4,000 dyers, finishers, &c., in the Vale of Leven, 4,000 dock workers at Swansea, 1,700 carters and dock workers at Dundee, 1,000 coal miners at Wakefield, and 500 engineers, &c., at Wexford. The number of disputes beginning in December was 41, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress during the month was 180,201, or 143,125 more than in November, 1911, and 108,587 more than in December, 1910. The number of working days lost by these workpeople was 701,100, or 291,600 more than in the previous month, and 477,900 less than in the corresponding month of last year.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Cases dealt with under the Conciliation Act include those affecting carters and dockers at Dundee, men employed on sailing barges on the Thames and Medway, taxicab drivers in

London, dyers, &c., in the Vale of Leven, crane drivers, slingers, &c., at Scunthorpe, weavers at Congleton, tramwaymen at Leeds, locomotive workers at Horwich, shoe and slipper makers at Rossendale, painters at Harrogate, coal workers in London, sheet metal workers and copper-smiths at Southampton, short sea traders, London, and boot and shoe operatives, Great Britain.

EMPLOYMENT RETURNS FOR DECEMBER.

(This Summary is based on 3,026 Returns from Employers, relating to 1,299,162 workpeople, and 3,060 from Trade Unions, relating to 788,986 members.)

I.—TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Dec., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Building	63,315	4.9	+ 1.5	- 5.7
Coal Mining*	154,139	0.8	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Engineering	186,173	3.2	+ 0.4	- 2.6
Shipbuilding	65,177	4.0	...	- 8.2
Other Metal	49,635	3.8	+ 0.9	- 0.5
Textiles*	111,208	2.4 †	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Paper, Printing and Bookbinding.	63,287	5.8	+ 2.1	+ 0.8
Furnishing and Wood-working.	38,857	4.3	+ 1.2	- 2.5
Miscellaneous... ..	57,195	2.5	...	- 2.7
Total... ..	788,986	3.1	+ 0.5	- 1.9

* In addition to the ordinary short time which occurs in all trades, it should be noted that in the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is more generally met by a reduction in the time worked per week by a large number of workpeople than by the discharge of a smaller number.

† Members of Unions in the Cotton Trade who are locked-out have been excluded from the figures.

II.—EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Dec., 1911.	December 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
			Days.	Days.
Coal Mining	683,537	5.54	+ 0.04	+ 0.03
Iron "	17,215	5.77	- 0.11	+ 0.02
Shale "	3,394	5.69	+ 0.07	+ 0.13
			No.	No.
Pig Iron	21,800	297	+ 4	- 8
Tinplate & Steel Sheet	28,250	565	- 9	+ 52
Iron and Steel	97,919	554,000	+ 1.2	+ 11.2
			Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton	122,941	123,577	+ 2.6	+ 7.5
Woolen	28,675	27,671	+ 1.2	+ 4.8
Worsted	45,456	34,651	+ 1.0	+ 1.5
Linen	48,586	29,942	+ 4.6	+ 1.1
Jute	16,038	11,874	- 0.3	- 0.4
Hosiery	19,054	15,252	- 1.2	+ 7.6
Lace	6,392	6,229	+ 0.4	+ 2.5
Other Textiles	16,335	13,038	+ 1.5	+ 6.6
Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing & Finishing	29,512	35,835	+ 2.8	+ 4.3
Boot and Shoe	66,268	67,103	+ 3.7	+ 9.9
Shirt and Collar	6,299	4,113	- 0.1	+ 3.4
Pottery	20,657	20,317	+ 0.3	+ 9.8
Glass	8,687	11,624	+ 6.6	+ 17.9
Brick	12,147	12,815	- 3.8	+ 1.3
Total	447,047	414,041	+ 2.2	+ 6.2

Note.—For further details see Articles on pp. 11 to 24.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, PRICES, AND DISPUTES IN 1911.

THE good employment which was very general in 1911 was discounted, to some extent, by industrial unrest. The rise in the cost of many articles of food, which has been going on for some years, was for a time accentuated by the summer drought. At the same time the upward movement in wages has not yet become very marked.

Employment.

Employment in 1911 was good in most of the principal industries, in spite of many important disputes in the transport trades.

The shipbuilding industry which was adversely affected by the boilermakers' dispute in the latter portion of 1910 showed a marked recovery early in 1911, and employment was very good throughout the year. The mean percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in this industry during 1911 was 4.3, compared with 13.2 in the previous year, and 22.1 in 1909, a year not seriously affected by industrial disturbance. The percentage unemployed for 1911 was the lowest recorded since 1901, when it amounted to 3.7. The gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction at the end of December, 1911, was 1,519,052, or 388,000 tons gross in excess of the figure for December, 1910. According to Lloyd's Register the figures at the end of 1911 were the highest ever recorded.

In the coal mining industry employment continued fairly good throughout the year, and the average weekly number of days worked by the pits (5.25) was slightly in excess of the mean of the preceding ten years. It was, however, less by about one-quarter of a day than in 1907, in which year the average number of days worked per week (5.51) was the highest recorded since the first collection of statistics in 1894.

Employment in the pig iron industry continued fair for the first four months of the year; during the next six months there was a decline, but there was some slight recovery at the end of the year. The average number of furnaces in blast in 1911 was 294, a decrease of 4.5 per cent. compared with 1910. The iron and steel trade showed an improvement on the previous year, especially in the last four months of 1911. In December, 1911, the volume of employment, according to the returns received, was nearly 10 per cent. greater than in December, 1910. The tinplate and steel sheet industry continued exceptionally busy, and the average number of mills in operation (542) was the highest recorded, exceeding by 43 the figure for 1910, the previous highest.

Employment in the engineering trades was good, better than in 1910, and very much better than in 1909 and 1908. The mean percentage unemployed was 3.2, compared with 5.8 in 1910, 11.6 in 1909, and 10.3 in 1908. The average for the ten years, 1901-1910, was 6.0 per cent.

Although affected by the high price of raw cotton during the first nine months of the year, employment in the cotton trade was good, and much better than in the previous year, when there was a considerable amount of short time, mainly in mills spinning American cotton, accompanied by slackness in the weaving branch. During the last quarter of 1911 there was a considerable fall in the price of raw cotton at Liverpool, and during December the average price of middling American was 5.02d. per lb., as compared with 8.04d. per lb. during January, 1911. In the last week of 1911, however, a dispute occurred, involving about 150,000 workpeople in the weaving branch, which still remains unsettled. One of the immediate effects of this dispute was a serious reduction of the working time in the spinning mills.

In the woollen and worsted, carpet, hosiery, bleaching

and dyeing trades employment was good generally throughout the year. In the linen trade it declined, and was only moderate; during November and December short time, to the extent of about 8 hours per week, was fairly general in preparing and spinning departments of mills in the North of Ireland. In the jute trade employment showed some decline compared with a year ago, but improved in the last quarter of the year; in the lace trade it was moderate. Employment in the silk trade continued fairly good throughout the year.

In the boot and shoe trade, and in other clothing trades, employment was fair on the whole. In the printing and bookbinding trades there was little change compared with the previous year; the pottery trades continued busy throughout the year. Employment in the furnishing and woodworking and glass trades was fairly good, and better than in 1910. In the building trades employment was moderate on the whole, and the percentage of trade union carpenters and plumbers unemployed was the lowest recorded since 1903.

Returns relating to about 800,000 members of trade unions show that the mean of the percentages of members returned as unemployed at the end of each month of 1911 was 3.0, as compared with 4.7 in 1910, 7.7 in 1909, and 7.8 in 1908. The fluctuations in the percentages of unemployed in the period 1900-1911 are as follows:—

1900	2.5	1906	3.6
1901	3.3	1907	3.7
1902	4.0	1908	7.8
1903	4.7	1909	7.7
1904	6.0	1910	4.7
1905	5.0	1911	3.0

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed at the end of each month in the years 1907-1911, with the decreases in 1911, as compared with the four previous years:—

	Percentage unemployed at end of each month in					Decrease in 1911 as compared with			
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
January	3.9	5.8	8.7	6.8	3.9	—	1.9	4.8	2.9
February	3.5	6.0	8.4	5.7	3.3	0.2	2.7	5.1	2.4
March	3.2	6.4	8.2	5.2	3.0	0.2	3.4	5.0	2.2
April	2.8	7.1	8.2	4.4	2.8	—	4.3	5.4	1.6
May	3.0	7.4	7.9	4.2	2.5	0.5	4.9	5.4	1.7
June	3.1	7.9	7.9	3.7	3.0	0.1	4.9	4.9	0.7
July	3.2	7.9	7.9	3.8	2.9	0.3	6.0	5.0	0.9
August	3.6	8.5	7.7	4.0	3.3	0.3	5.2	4.4	0.7
September	4.1	9.3	7.4	4.3	2.9	1.2	6.4	4.5	1.4
October	4.2	9.5	7.1	4.4	2.8	1.4	6.7	4.3	1.6
November	4.5	8.7	6.5	4.6	2.6	1.9	6.1	3.9	2.0
December	5.6	9.1	6.6	5.0	3.1	2.5	6.0	3.5	1.9
Mean	3.7	7.8	7.7	4.7	3.0	0.7	4.8	4.7	1.7

Changes in Rates of Wages.*

The slight upward movement in wages which began in 1910 was maintained on the whole during 1911, but did not become at any time very marked. The second half of the year was, however, considerably better than the first half, the net increase up to 30th June being £4,647, as compared with £21,280 from July to December.

The net effect of all the changes reported to the Department as taking effect in 1911 was an increase of £25,927 per week in the wages of 825,204 workpeople. Of these, 416,191 received a net increase of £37,664 per week, and 399,216 sustained a net decrease of £11,737 per week, whilst the remaining 9,797 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year.

The changes in 1911 showed a net increase in every group of trades with the exception of mining and pig iron manufacture, in which cases the downward tendency in the prices of coal and pig iron continued to affect wages adversely. The largest increases occurred in the engineering and shipbuilding and transport trades, but as in

* The changes taken into account are changes in rates of wages only, and not changes in earnings, due to fluctuations in the total amount of employment available or to altered conditions of work. The figures are exclusive of changes in the rates of wages of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police, and Government employees. It is probable that a certain number of changes, especially in the less well organised trades, are not reported to the Department.

previous years the coal mining industry accounted for the largest proportion of workpeople whose wages were changed.

The number of workpeople affected by changes reported to the Department and the net results on their weekly wages are classified by trades in the following Table:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople whose rate of wages were changed in		Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Weekly Wages of those affected as compared with the preceding year.	
	1910.	1911.*	1910.	1911*.
Building	4,970	14,622	+ 377	+ 1,378
Coal Mining	383,586	390,286	+ 5,488	- 9,655
Iron, &c., Mining	10,512	10,309	+ 414	- 392
Quarrying	5,806	6,914	+ 289	+ 199
Pig Iron Manufacture	16,285	15,962	+ 514	- 506
Iron and Steel Manufacture	27,581	40,532	+ 1,350	+ 1,411
Engineering and Shipbuilding	51,314	195,497	+ 2,646	+ 15,513
Other Metal Trades	2,163	4,590	+ 222	+ 556
Textile Trades	29,220	16,856	+ 1,843	+ 940
Clothing Trades	3,538	3,043	+ 200	+ 231
Printing, &c., Trades	2,979	5,798	+ 275	+ 593
Glass, &c., Trades	1,066	12,280	+ 53	+ 1,179
Transport Trades	3,879	77,057	+ 341	+ 12,270
Other Trades	1,936	16,063	+ 232	+ 1,312
Employees of Local Authorities	1,401	15,415	+ 86	+ 898
Total	546,526	825,204	+ 14,335	+ 25,927

In the following Table the number of workpeople and the net amount of the change are shown for each of the years 1896-1911. It will be seen that two five-year periods (1896-1900 and 1901-1905) of rising and falling wages respectively were followed by three two-year periods, 1906-7 and 1910-11 of rising wages and 1908-9 of falling wages. Over the whole period, the aggregate of the net increases exceeds that of the net decreases by £368,124 per week.

Year.	No. of Workpeople reported as affected by Changes in Rates of Wages.	Computed Amount of change in Weekly Wages as compared with each preceding year.	
		Net Increase per week.	Net Decrease per week.
1896	598,865	26,152	£
1897	582,333	30,494	—
1898	1,010,067	80,572	—
1899	1,165,478	89,816	—
1900	1,110,031	206,772	—
1901	907,199	—	77,902
1902	883,191	—	72,865
1903	892,922	—	38,557
1904	799,969	—	39,278
1905	663,777	—	4,087
1906	1,085,601	56,728	—
1907	1,244,739	200,820	—
1908	909,538	—	61,583
1909	1,151,762	—	69,120
1910	546,526	14,335	—
1911*	825,204	25,927	—
Net increase in the Sixteen Years (1896-1911)*	†	368,124	—

Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in weekly hours of labour taking effect in 1911 affected 105,537 workpeople. Of these, 4,337 had their hours increased by 13,905 per week and 101,200 had reductions amounting to 574,140 hours per week.

Wholesale Prices.

The high level of wholesale prices, which has been a feature of recent years, continued during 1911, and the Board of Trade Index Number, based chiefly on import and export average values, showed an increase in that year of 0.6 per cent., as compared with the previous year, and of 5.1 per cent. as compared with 1909. The index number for 1911 (109.3) was the highest recorded since 1884.

As compared with 1910 there was a decline of 5.3 per cent. in the index number for the group of raw materials for textiles, of 2.5 per cent. for coal and metals, and of 1.8 per cent. for meat, fish and dairy produce. On the other hand the index number for the group of cereals

* The figures for 1911 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† Exclusive of seamen and railway servants.

‡ It will be understood that although the same workpeople are counted only once in each year many of them appear in several years, and therefore no total can be made for the sixteen years (1896-1911).

rose from 105.7 to 114.5, or 8.3 per cent., while there was an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the index number for the group containing sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, spirits and tobacco, and of 1.2 per cent. in that for all the other articles included in the general index number.

The Table below gives the index numbers indicating the general rise or fall in wholesale prices during the period 1871—1911, each year of the period being compared with 1900, which is taken as the base year:—

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1871	136.0	1885	107.7	1899	92.3
1872	145.8	1886	101.6	1900	100.0
1873	152.7	1887	99.6	1901	96.9
1874	148.1	1888	102.7	1902	96.5
1875	141.4	1889	104.0	1903	96.9
1876	138.0	1890	104.0	1904	98.3
1877	141.6	1891	107.4	1905	97.6
1878	132.6	1892	101.8	1906	100.4
1879	126.6	1893	100.0	1907	105.7
1880	129.6	1894	94.2	1908	102.8
1881	127.3	1895	91.0	1909	104.0
1882	128.4	1896	88.2	1910	108.8
1883	126.8	1897	90.1	1911*	109.3
1884	114.7	1898	93.2		

Compared with 1910 there was an increase more or less considerable in the prices of 27 of the 45 articles included in the Index Number, a decline in the price of 15 articles, and in 3 cases (raw silk, bricks and hides) there was no change. The greatest proportionate increases were in the prices of hops (45.1 per cent.), coffee (28.9 per cent.), raw jute (26.6 per cent.), block tin (23.1 per cent.), potatoes (22.5 per cent.), British barley (18.6 per cent.), flax (14.7 per cent.) and foreign barley (14.0 per cent.). The increase in the price of milk averaged only 6.8 per cent. for the year, but the actual rise in the price did not take place until the autumn. The large rise in the price of hops occurred in the last three months of 1911, when the prices recorded were more than double those at the beginning of the year. The index number for this article in 1911 (161.4) was the highest recorded since 1883. As regards British and foreign barley, the principal increases occurred in the last six months of 1911, during which a steady rise in price was shown. Although the average price of potatoes showed a considerable increase in 1911 over the previous year, there was a substantial fall in the last two months of the year when prices were only 6 per cent. above those at the end of 1910.

The principal articles showing a decline in price were caoutchouc (32.1 per cent.), rum (29.5 per cent.), paraffin (15.8 per cent.), bacon (14.3 per cent.), and raw cotton (11.3 per cent.). The decline in the price of cotton did not commence until July; there was some recovery towards the end of August, and it was not until the middle of September that the price began steadily to decline, with the result that for the month of December, 1911, "middling American" was sold at prices nearly 40 per cent. lower than those obtained in December, 1910.

The average level of wholesale prices of food and drink (including tobacco) in 1911 showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. compared with 1910. As compared with 1900, however, the general level of prices of these articles showed an increase of 11.7 per cent.

Retail Prices of Food.

The retail prices of food in 1911 showed, on the whole, a decline of 0.5 per cent. compared with the prices obtaining in 1910. As compared with 1900, however, there was an advance of rather more than 9 per cent. For the first nine months of the year the general level of retail prices was below that for the corresponding period of 1909 and also that of 1908. In the last quarter of the year, however, prices advanced considerably (partly owing to the long drought in the summer), and in December were 3 per cent. above the prices ruling in December, 1910. The following Table shows, for the years 1895—1911, the index numbers constructed on the weighted retail prices of 23 of the principal articles of food in London:—

* The figures for 1911 are preliminary, and subject to revision.

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1895	93.2	1904	101.3
1896	92.0	1905	103.7
1897	96.2	1906	105.2
1898	100.8	1907	105.8
1899	96.4	1908	108.4
1900	100.0	1909	103.2
1901	101.9	1910	109.9
1902	101.6	1911	105.3
1903	103.2		

Compared with 1910 the principal articles showing an increase in price in 1911 were potatoes (23.6 per cent.), currants (19.8 per cent.), raisins (15.7 per cent.), tapioca (10.3 per cent.), and rice (7.0 per cent.). Towards the end of the year, however, there was a fall in the prices of potatoes and currants. The principal articles showing a decline in price were bread (9.1 per cent.), bacon (7.3 per cent.), and oatmeal (3.7 per cent.).

According to the particulars obtained monthly as to the price of bread in London and 26 of the principal towns of the United Kingdom, there was in 1911 an average fall of 5 per cent. in these towns in the price as compared with 1910. At the end of December, 1911, the price was lower than in December, 1910, at 5 of the towns and higher at 2; in the remaining 20 towns there was no change. Returns received from Co-operative Societies each quarter show that the average price during 1911 was 4 per cent. lower than during 1910.

Trade Disputes.

The number of disputes causing a stoppage of work recorded as commencing in 1911 was 864, involving directly and indirectly 931,050 workpeople. In addition 27 disputes, which began in previous years, extended into 1911. The aggregate duration of all the disputes in progress during 1911 amounted to 10½ million working days. The number of stoppages in 1911 was greatly in excess of the average of the ten previous years, while the number of workpeople involved was the highest recorded in the statistics of the Department. The high figure for numbers involved in 1911 is due mainly to a series of great disputes in the transport trades involving (1) about 110,000 seamen, dock labourers, &c., at the principal ports of the United Kingdom in June and July, (2) 77,000 carters, dock labourers, &c., in London in August, (3) 48,000 dock labourers and other transport workers at Liverpool in August, and (4) about 140,000 workers on the principal railways of the United Kingdom in August. The numbers involved in 1911 were further increased by the dispute in the cotton trade, involving about 150,000 workpeople, which began on December 28th, and is still in progress. The number of workpeople in the transport and textile trades involved in disputes in 1911 amounted to more than two-thirds of the number involved in all the disputes of the year. The majority of the great disputes of the year were, however, of comparatively short duration, with the result that, although the number of days lost by disputes in 1911 exceeded the high figure recorded in the previous year, it was lower than in other years of great industrial disturbance such as 1893, 1897, 1898, and 1908.

The following Table summarises by trades the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in working days for the years 1910 and 1911 respectively:—

TRADES.	1910.			1911.*		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	17	880	35,475	27	2,764	73,400
Coal Mining	211	295,041	5,476,260	166	140,733	4,072,400
Other Mining and Quarrying	13	1,532	47,900	9	1,586	36,300
Engineering and Ship-building	72	45,968	2,950,415	189	76,699	1,155,000
Other Metal Trades	25	9,468	196,742	59	13,810	118,200
Textile	90	132,276	917,558	130	212,066	1,417,200
Clothing	40	4,462	58,866	43	9,861	97,400
Transport	19	20,321	70,833	90	431,188	2,698,400
Other Trades	44	5,217	140,782	151	42,333	578,800
Total	531	515,165	9,894,831	864	931,050	10,247,100

* The figures for 1911 are preliminary, and subject to revision.

Owing to the great disputes in the transport trades already referred to this group was responsible for the highest number of workpeople involved in disputes in 1911, while the aggregate duration was the highest recorded for these trades in the statistics of the Department. In the textile trades disputes were more frequent than in other recent years, and the number of workpeople involved in 1911 was also the highest recorded for this group. The aggregate duration of disputes in the textile trades exceeded that recorded in each of the previous two years, although the effect of the dispute in the cotton trade had not been fully felt by the end of the year. The coal mining industry accounted for the highest aggregate duration, more than half of which was due to a dispute, involving over 12,000 miners in the South Wales coalfield, which began in September, 1910, and continued until the middle of August, 1911. The number of disputes in this industry in 1911 was considerably lower than in the previous year, while the number of workpeople involved was less than half that recorded in 1910. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades the number of disputes was more than double those occurring in 1910, and the number involved was the highest recorded for these branches of industry; owing, however, to the absence of any general dispute, such as occurred in 1910, the aggregate duration of disputes in these trades in 1911 was less than half that of the previous year. The number of disputes in the clothing trades showed little change from the previous year, but the numbers involved and the aggregate duration were greatly in excess of those recorded for 1910. Although the figures for the building trades showed an increase over 1910 in all respects they were low, and quite insignificant when compared with the number of workpeople employed in the industry.

A comparison of 1911 with the ten previous years is made in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	Total No. of Work-people involved in Disputes beginning in each year.	Aggregate Duration in working days of all Disputes in progress in each year.
1901	642	179,546	4,142,287
1902	442	256,507	3,479,255
1903	387	116,901	2,333,868
1904	355	87,208	1,494,220
1905	358	93,503	2,470,189
1906	486	217,773	3,028,816
1907	601	147,498	2,162,151
1908	399	296,507	10,834,189
1909	436	300,819	2,773,986
1910	531	515,165	9,894,831
Average for 10 years	464	221,059	4,260,859
1911*	864	931,050	10,247,100

The number of workpeople involved in disputes in 1911 amounts to about 9 per cent. of the total industrial population of the United Kingdom, excluding agricultural labourers, and the amount of time lost by disputes in 1911 would be about one working day per head of the same industrial population.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS.

Carters and Dockers, Dundee.

On December 18th, a general strike of carters and dockers at Dundee was commenced in support of the men's demand for increased wages. The strike spread rapidly, and the shortage of coal and material soon resulted in the closing down of a considerable number of factories. In connection with the strike there were some disturbances, and the services of extra police and of some troops were requisitioned.

On December 19th the Lord Provost of Dundee had offered his services with a view to bringing about a settlement. He at once entered into negotiation with representatives of the parties, and these negotiations were continued over several days. Meanwhile the number of workpeople thrown idle by the closing down of factories was increasing and riots had occurred, and on December

* The figures for 1911 are preliminary and subject to revision.

22nd the Lord Provost, who had been keeping in touch with Sir George Askwith, asked him to come to Dundee.

Sir George Askwith, with Mr. I. H. Mitchell, arrived in Dundee on the morning of December 23rd, and immediately proceeded to confer with the parties. After a prolonged conference, in which the Lord Provost assisted, extending to the morning of December 24th, the following agreements were arrived at, subject to the approval of the associations concerned:—

CARTERS' AGREEMENT.

AGREEMENT made this 25th day of December, 1911, between the Dundee Carting Contractors' Association and the North of Scotland Horse and Motormen's Association.

WAGES.

- (1) New men to commence at 22s. per week.
 - (2) All men at present receiving less than 22s. per week to be raised to 22s. per week.
 - (3) After six months' service on 22s. per week such men to receive 23s. per week.
 - (4) All men now receiving 22s. per week to be raised to 23s. per week.
 - (5) Double lorrymen to receive 25s. per week.
- It is understood that no reduction is to be made in the rate of 23s. per week payable by Corporation contractors. No claim for advance or reduction to be made for twelve months, and if any claim be thereafter made fourteen days' notice to be given on either side.
- Subject to the approval of the Associations.
- (Signed) JOHN B. MUIR, Chairman, Dundee Carting Contractors' Association.
- (Signed) GEO. P. SIMPSON, Secretary, Dundee Carting Contractors' Association.
- (Signed) P. GILLESPIE, General Secretary, N. of S.H. and M.A.
- (Signed) D. MILNE, Chairman, N. of S.H. and M.A. (Countersigned) G. R. ASKWITH, Chief Industrial Commissioner.

DOCKERS' AGREEMENT, 24TH DECEMBER, 1911.

It is hereby agreed, in furtherance and continuation of regulations as to the loading and discharging of vessels at the Port of Dundee, mutually adopted at a meeting of Shipowners, Ship Brokers, Stevedores and Dock Labourers, on June 5th, 1900, which regulations are hereby confirmed and renewed, except in so far as hereby modified, viz:—

WEEKLY BOATS.

Wages to be 7½d. per hour for day-work; 11d. per hour overtime.

A minimum of 3s. to be paid men called on for night-work. This not to apply where work continues after early morning call.

JUTE BOATS.

Wages to be 9d. per hour for day-work all the year round, and 1s. 1½d. per hour for overtime all the year round.

Subject to the approval of the above associations.

(Signed) JOS. HOUGHTON, General Secretary, Scottish Union of Dock Labourers.

(Signed) JAMES CHALMERS, Branch Secretary, Scottish Union of Dock Labourers.

(Signed) JOHN WALKER, President, Scottish Union of Dock Labourers.

(Signed) THOMAS MCQUADE.

(Signed) ROB. T. LEITCH, on behalf of the Shipowners of Dundee.

(Countersigned) G. R. ASKWITH, Chief Industrial Commissioner.

At the same time the Caledonian and North British Railway Companies and their carting contractors decided to amend their order of December 18th, so that single lorrymen will be paid 21s. per week on appointment, instead of 20s. The following is the order referred to:—

The railway companies and their carting contractors intimate that on and after this date the wages of their carters will be advanced by 1s. per week.

Single lorrymen will be paid 20s. per week on appointment, and after six months' service a further increase of 1s. per week will be given.

Carters in receipt of 20s. and over will rise until the maximum wage of 23s. per week is reached.

Double lorrymen will receive an advance of 1s. per week, rising to 25s. per week.

On and after 1st January, 1912, the station gates will be closed at 5.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and at 2.30 p.m. on Saturdays.

The agreements having been ratified by the parties, work was resumed.

Sailing Barges Thames, Medway, &c.

The agreement, dated August 11th, 1911, between the Sailing Barge Owners of the Thames, the Medway, Sittingbourne and Faversham, and their employees (*see*

LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1911, p. 283) provided that a schedule of freight rates for sailing barges should be prepared. Negotiations between the representatives of the parties during September failed to result in agreement upon the schedule of rates, and it was arranged that Sir George Askwith should preside at a joint conference to consider the matter. Subsequent to the conference, which was held in the latter part of September, a sub-committee, under Sir George Askwith's chairmanship, was appointed to proceed with the compilation of the list, and several discussions took place. It was found, however, that agreement could not be reached, and Sir George Askwith proposed that he should undertake the compilation of a list, in consultation with the various interests concerned, it being understood that the list, when completed, should be submitted to the parties. This proposal was accepted, and a list of rates covering all the principal classes of cargoes carried between various places by sailing barges on the Thames and Medway was prepared and submitted to the representatives of the bargeowners and merchants and others concerned, and to the representatives of the men, and, after further discussion, the list was approved. The completed list contains nearly 600 items, the commodities for which rates are given including cement, lime, bricks, clay, coal, coke, corn and grains, ballast, timber, wood-pulp, manure, flints, oil, and a number of other miscellaneous items. Rates are quoted for freights between various places on the reaches and tributaries of the Thames, Medway and Lea, and on the canals adjoining. At the request of the parties a clause was inserted in the list with reference to the liability of the Master Bargeowners and Master Lightermen under the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Employers' Liability Acts in respect of skippers, mates, or other members of the crew.

Taxi-cab Drivers, London.

Towards the end of October a strike, involving some 10,000 taxi-cab drivers and other workpeople, occurred in London in connection with the question of the payment of "extras" by the drivers to the motor-cab proprietors. On November 10th work was resumed, a temporary settlement having been arrived at, and negotiations took place between the London Motor-Cab Proprietors' Association (Limited) and the London Cab Drivers' Trade Union with a view to a final settlement of the question. No settlement having been effected, the parties agreed to refer the matter to the Board of Trade.

A conference of the parties was accordingly held at the Board of Trade Offices on December 15th, under the chairmanship of Sir George Askwith, and the following agreement was arrived at:—

That there be referred the question what are the fair and proper conditions of service and payment under which the taxi-cab drivers should work, on the assumption that the existing fares remain unaltered; without prejudice to either party being entitled to show what improvements might be expected if a change in fares, either by increase or decrease, were made.

That the Board of Trade appoint a Court of Arbitration of three members to decide the question.

That the Board of Trade may accept the adhesion of other Associations other than those mentioned to this agreement.

A Court of Arbitration has been appointed, consisting of the Right Hon. Viscount St. Aldwyn (chairman), Mr. L. A. Martin (from the employers' panel), and Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P. (from the labour panel), and the Court held its first meeting on January 9th.

Dyers, &c., Vale of Leven.

On December 11th a number of workpeople in the employment of the United Turkey Red Company, Ltd., Vale of Leven, struck work in support of their demand for an advance in wages and other alterations in working conditions, and in the course of a few days the directors decided to close the works. Meanwhile, an application had been made to the Board of Trade on behalf of the workpeople for the assistance of the Board to bring about a settlement of the dispute, and, after some negotiations, on December 19th Mr. I. H. Mitchell, of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department, met representatives of the parties in Glasgow. As a result

it was agreed that work should be resumed on December 25th, the New Year's holidays to be curtailed, if possible, and that Sir George Askwith would convene a conference, to be held not later than January 5th, for the purpose of arriving at a settlement of the dispute, it being understood that any points not settled at this conference should be referred to an arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon or appointed by the Board of Trade.

Sir George Askwith was unable to preside at the conference of representatives of the parties held on January 5th, and Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., was appointed as chairman. The conference was resumed on the following day, and a settlement was arrived at with regard to the men. With regard to the position of the women workers, however, no agreement was arrived at, and it was arranged that the points in dispute should be made the subject of a future conference, to be held under Sir George Askwith's chairmanship.

Crane Drivers, Slingers, etc., Scunthorpe.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to deal with differences which had arisen between a firm of iron and steel manufacturers at Scunthorpe and the drivers, slingers, and helpers employed on certain steam travelling cranes (see LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1911, p. 445), issued his award on January 5th. The company claimed a reduction in the tonnage rates of payment owing to improved cranes and to the improved character of the work done by the cranes. Mr. Hudson awarded a reduction less than that asked for by the company.

Weavers, Congleton.

An Agreement arrived at on November 2nd, 1911, between a firm at Congleton and their workpeople (see LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1911, p. 404), provided that if a satisfactory settlement were not arrived at within four weeks from the resumption of work any question then at issue should be at once submitted to arbitration. No agreement having been arrived at with regard to a claim by the workpeople for "the abolition of the 5 per cent. now deducted from wages earned, and the addition of 10 per cent. on wages, making a full total increase of 15 per cent.," joint application was made by the parties to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator.

The Chief Industrial Commissioner has appointed Mr. Alderman T. Smith to act in that capacity.

Tramwaymen, Leeds.

Differences having arisen between the Leeds Corporation Tramways Committee and the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers as to the observance of certain clauses of the Agreement dated August 4th, 1911, arrived at in connection with the recent strike (see LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1911, p. 284), meetings took place between representatives of the parties, but no settlement was effected. The matter was then brought to the attention of Sir George Askwith, the chairman of the conference at which the agreement was arrived at, and he arranged to meet representatives of the parties on December 8th. Having considered the documentary and other evidence submitted, on December 15th he forwarded to the parties his opinion upon the points raised.

Locomotive Workers, Horwich.

His Honour Judge Austin, the arbitrator appointed to deal with a dispute between the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co. and their workpeople employed at the Locomotive Works at Horwich (see LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1911, p. 444) issued his award on December 29th. At the hearing the company contended that the arbitrator had no jurisdiction to hear or determine any question as to the alteration of piecework prices. Judge Austin decided, however, that he had such jurisdiction. It was agreed at the hearing that the award should cover certain stores labourers, and issuers of material, employed by the company in the stores at Horwich.

The arbitrator decided that the wages of all workmen of 21 years of age and over, and whose present rating was under 20s. per week, be increased to the daywork rate of 20s. per week, while those at 20s., 21s., 22s., 23s.,

and 24s. a week were to be increased by 1s. per week. As regards piecework rates, which are from time to time fixed by agreement between the company and the workmen, the arbitrator decided not to make any order. The award is not to apply to or affect the wages or conditions of employment of the labourers of 60 years of age and upwards, for whom work is found by the company at small wages.

Shoe and Slipper Makers, Rossendale.

The agreement arrived at in connection with the lock-out of the slipper makers in the Rossendale Valley in April last (see LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1911, p. 164) provided for the immediate compilation of piece-work statements. Conferences accordingly took place between the parties in connection with the preparation of the statement for the clicking department, and in June, and again in September, Mr. Alderman T. Smith was appointed to act as umpire to decide matters on which the parties were unable to agree. The completed statement, signed by Mr. Smith, was issued on 4th January.

Painters, Harrogate.

The operative painters of Harrogate having given notice to the master painters for the termination, on December 31st, 1911, of the existing working rules, on December 21st application was made by the secretary of the Employers' Association to the Board of Trade, in accordance with the rules, for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the matter. It appeared that difficulties had arisen with regard to the reference of the matter to arbitration, and on January 1st Mr. D. C. Cummings, of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department, visited the parties at Harrogate. As a result of his interviews both parties agreed to refer to the decision of an arbitrator, to be appointed by the Board of Trade, the application of the operatives that Rule 1 of the existing code of working rules be deleted, and there be inserted in its place the clause, "That the standard rate of wages be 8½d. per hour." Mr. Alderman T. Smith has been appointed to act as arbitrator.

Coal Workers, London.

In connection with the agreement dated August 10th, 1911, as to the rates and conditions of employment for bunkering steamers in the Port of London (see LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1911, p. 282), differences arose between the Steamship Owners' Coal Association and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union as to the interpretation of Clause 5. The clause was as follows:—

"All men hired for work and cannot get a start up till dinner-time, 12 o'clock, to receive a baulkage of 2s. 6d. per man; and if ordered after dinner-time and cannot get a start till 5 p.m., to receive 2s. 6d. per man baulkage; and if ordered after 5 p.m. and cannot get a start till 10 p.m., to receive 2s. 6d. per man independent of their night-work."

It was contended by the employers that if the stoppage were caused by "wind and weather" they were entitled to exemption from the clause, and by the men that when ordered and unable to get a start, they were entitled to the baulkage irrespective of the cause of the stoppage.

The parties agreed to refer the matter to Sir George Askwith, the chairman of the conference at which the agreement was arrived at. Having heard the parties, Sir George gave his opinion on December 20th that "wind and weather" would have been mentioned in the clause, and probably a means of deciding whether the excuse of "wind and weather" was valid laid down in the clause, if it had been intended that baulkage should not be paid under those circumstances, and no custom on the subject was shown to exist. This decision does not affect the present system of non-payment for holding over work during times of rain, or allow any claims of payment for such time.

Sheet Metal Workers and Coppersmiths, Southampton.

Mr. Alderman T. Smith, the arbitrator appointed to deal with questions of demarcation of work between sheet metal workers and coppersmiths at Southampton (see LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1911, p. 445), presided over conferences of the parties on December 13th, 14th, and 15th. At these conferences an agree-

ment was arrived at on the points in dispute, and Mr. Smith awarded that the agreement should come into operation on January 1st, 1912.

Short Sea Traders, London.

On January 5th complaint was made to the Board of Trade alleging the failure of workmen employed at some wharves to observe the conditions of Judge Austin's award of September 28th (see LABOUR GAZETTE, October, 1911, p. 363) with regard to short sea traders. On January 6th representatives of certain firms affected met Mr. Anderson, secretary of the Amalgamated Stevedores' Labour Protection League (of which union the men were members) at the Board of Trade Offices, under the chairmanship of Mr. Cummings, of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department. At this meeting an agreement was arrived at, the representatives of the employers undertaking to endeavour to obtain the consent of the London Direct Short Sea Traders' Association to meet the National Transport Workers' Federation in order to discuss the breaches and differences existing with regard to Judge Austin's award, it being understood that if no agreement were arrived at the matter should be referred to the Board of Trade. At the same time Mr. Anderson undertook to endeavour to get the men to continue working under existing conditions, provided that the meeting took place by January 13th.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Great Britain.

Differences having arisen between the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives with regard to the interpretation of the Agreement between them of January 26th, 1909, in relation to the graduated scale of wages for youths as far as indentured apprentices are concerned, the Board of Trade concurred in the proposal that Mr. Alderman T. Smith should act as umpire in the matter, in accordance with a joint application of the parties, dated December 14th, 1911.

EMPLOYMENT OF OUTWORKERS: GERMAN "SWEAT-SHOP" LAW.*

IMPERIAL sanction was given on December 20th, 1911, to a law framed for the purpose of restricting certain evils incidental to the system of production under which work is given out to be done by persons who perform it, or procure its performance, either in their own homes or on other premises over which the giver-out of the work, as a rule, exercises no control.

In the terms of the new law all industrial work done under such conditions is "*Hausarbeit*" (literally, "housework"), and those who contract to do such work are "*Hausarbeiter*," a term which may, perhaps, most suitably be rendered as "Outworkers."

The workplaces to which the law applies are defined as those (a) in which anyone employs only members of his or her own family in industrial work, or (b) in which one or more persons perform industrial work without being in the service of an employer who himself directs that work on the premises. The Act does not, however, apply to workshops where the work consists exclusively in making goods for the personal use of customers and their families (e.g., to bespoke tailoring, bootmaking, &c.).

In rooms where work is given out to be done by outworkers or accepted from them there must be displayed or posted up a list of the prices to be paid for each class of work, except new kinds for which no pattern exists. More detailed rules for particular localities may be issued by the Federal Council if necessary, and the same Authority may also grant exemptions for particular trades or branches on the application of those concerned.

Persons giving work to outworkers are required to supply each such worker free of charge with a wages book or slip showing the nature of each piece of work done and the wage or price for each, except where a new variety of work is being undertaken.

Here also exemptions may be granted by the Federal Council in favour of certain trades or branches, or for certain groups of workplaces or outworkers.

* Text published in *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, December 30th, 1911.

The Act gives extensive powers to the Local Police Authorities. Thus, at the request of the factory inspectors the Police Authority may give instructions to individual employers in regard to measures to be taken in order to avoid undue loss of time on the part of outworkers in obtaining and returning their work. Where danger to life, health or morals exists in certain branches of trade the Police may, at the request of the factory inspectors, require that workrooms, machinery and tools be so maintained as to ensure the utmost possible protection to outworkers against dangers to life and health. This applies in particular to the provision of sufficient light, air-space and ventilation, and to the removal of dust, vapours, gases, and waste. The Police are empowered to require the observance of special precautions in workrooms where lads under 18 and women are employed as outworkers, and that work involving danger to life and health be carried out only in rooms specially set apart for such work. They are further empowered to raise the age limit for the employment of children, or absolutely to forbid the employment of children where the adoption of such measures is deemed necessary in the interests of health or morality.

Where there is danger to public health—particularly in the case of trades engaged in the preparation or packing of food, drink or tobacco—the Police may issue orders involving alterations in machinery or tools in workplaces or storerooms, and may forbid certain rooms where these articles are worked up or manufactured from being used for other purposes.

Employers giving out work to be done off their premises must keep a list of outworkers employed and the address at which the work is performed, the said list to be held available for inspection by the Police or the factory inspectors. Where it is necessary for a certificate to be obtained to the effect that the rooms in which the work is done fulfil certain requirements, the employer is bound to see that work is only given out for execution in rooms for which such certificates have, in fact, been issued. This liability also applies to "middlemen" who accept work from an employer and give it out to be done by outworkers.

The new law gives the Federal Council of the Empire authority to establish Trade Boards (*Fachauschüsse*) for certain branches of industry and certain localities in which outworkers are employed. The duties of these Boards consist in making reports to the State and local authorities on the industrial and economic conditions prevalent in their respective trades and districts; in discussing schemes for improving such conditions; in co-operating in the administration of such schemes; in collecting information at the request of the State or local authorities as to the earnings of outworkers; and in encouraging the drawing-up of wages agreements or wages lists.

Trade Boards are not permitted to take action in connection with the conditions in individual establishments.

The Boards are to consist of an equal number of representatives of the employers and outworkers concerned, together with a chairman and two vice-chairmen. The chairman must be neither an employer nor an outworker, and both he and the vice-chairmen must possess technical knowledge of the trade. If women are largely employed as outworkers they must be proportionately represented among the outworkers on the Board. The number of members will be decided by the Authorities of the province, by whom also the chairman and (in consultation with the employers and workpeople) half the members are to be appointed; the remaining half will be elected by a majority vote of these nominated members.

More detailed instructions as to the establishment and meetings of the Trade Boards will be issued by the Federal Council. The cost of the Boards will be borne by the Authorities of the State in which they are situated.

The sections of the law relating to the posting of prices to be paid for work and as to the provision of wages books for outworkers come into force at a date to be fixed by the Federal Council; the other provisions take effect from April 1st, 1912.

WAGES IN THE BOOK-PRINTING TRADE IN GERMANY.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated 15th December, the British Vice-Consul at Leipzig reports that the Chairman of the German Book-Printers' Association has issued the following announcement:—

"As the five-yearly period of operation of the schedule of working conditions of the German Book-Printing Trade again expires on January 1st, 1912, the new schedule, which has been revised by masters and men, comes into operation on that date for a further period of five years. With the introduction of this new schedule an increase in wages of from 10 to 15 per cent.—to be determined according to local conditions—comes into force. This increase has been accorded to the men to offset the increased cost of living. The masters are not in a position to bear this increased burden themselves, and consequently find themselves compelled proportionately to raise the prices of printing from January 1st."

Since 1896 the conditions of work in the German book-printing trade have been regulated by an agreement concluded between the national organisations of employers and workpeople respectively, this agreement being renewed periodically. These conditions are embodied in a "Tariff" or schedule, which fixes (*inter alia*) a uniform minimum scale as the national basis of payment for compositors, machine minders, correctors of the press, stereotypers and electrotypers employed in book-printing in all parts of Germany, and provides a scale of percentage additions to that minimum, whereby it is intended to adjust the wages to local variations in the cost of living. For the purpose of estimating changes in the cost of living, information as to food prices, house rents, local taxation, &c., is collected periodically by the *Tarifamt* (National Joint Board for supervising the observance of the Agreement), that information being in large measure supplied by the statistical offices of the various towns.

The minimum weekly wages accepted as a national basis for journeymen (compositors, machine minders, correctors, stereo and electrotypers), before and after the new agreement are as follows:—

Age of Journeyman.	Old Schedule operative from 1st January, 1907.		New Schedule operative from 1st January, 1912.		Increase in Weekly Base Rate.
	s.	d.	s.	d.	
21 years and under	22	7	24	7	2 0
Over 21 years up to 24	23	7	25	7	2 0
Over 24 years	24	7	27	1	2 6

The following Table shows the minimum rate of weekly wages payable to journeymen compositors, &c., over 24 years of age under the old and the new scales respectively in each of the 15 largest cities of the German Empire (excluding Hamburg), these being obtained by increasing the national base rate by the percentage assigned to the town as an index to its relative cost of living.

Town.	January 1st, 1907.		January 1st, 1912.		Percentage Increase.
	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Berlin	30	9	33	10	10.0
Munich	28	11	32	5	12.1
Leipzig	29	6	32	5	10.0
Dresden	28	11	31	9	10.0
Cologne*	27	8	31	9	14.8
Breslau	28	3	31	1	10.0
Frankfort-on-Main	28	11	32	5	12.1
Düsseldorf	27	8	31	9	14.8
Nuremberg	28	3	31	1	10.0
Hanover	28	3	31	1	10.0
Essen	28	3	31	9	12.4
Chemnitz	27	8	30	5	10.0
Stuttgart	28	11	31	9	10.0
Magdeburg*	27	1	30	5	12.3

In Hamburg the rate from January 1st, 1912, is 33s. 10d.; no figure is available for the previous date. From January 1st, 1912, there also enters into operation a reduction of the standard working week from 53½ to 53 hours, exclusive of intervals for meals, &c.

* In this case there was an intermediate rise in 1909.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 84, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, &c.†

Canada.

ALL emigrants to Canada must fulfil the requirements of the Canadian Government as to possession of sufficient travelling money, guarantee of employment, &c. It is too early in the season for emigrants other than female servants to start now, and those who go should be prepared to keep themselves till April if necessary. There is at present a surplus of unskilled labourers in many parts. There is a demand at Toronto for female machinists in the clothing industry. Some 350 garment workers at Montreal are on strike.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Passages.—Free, assisted, or nominated passages are granted by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia. The free passages to Queensland for female servants and contract labourers have been stopped.

New South Wales.—In Sydney and suburbs, the building, iron, furniture, boot and clothing trades and factory workers have been well employed; and stone masons, bricklayers, brickmakers, carpenters, sawyers, tailors, tailoresses, bookbinders, able-bodied labourers and female servants are in great demand. It is reported that immigrants have difficulty in finding housing accommodation in Sydney. The strike of iron workers at Lithgow continues. In country districts employment is generally plentiful.

In *Victoria* employment continues to be very good; and assisted passages are now being granted to mechanics and female operatives in addition to other persons. There is a large demand for farmers, farm labourers, generally useful men, bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, boilermakers, blacksmiths, moulders, engine fitters, plumbers, turners, and furniture makers. There is also a large demand for female operatives, such as workers on women's clothing (including dressmakers, white workers, &c.), workers on men's and juvenile clothing, shirt, collar, and pyjama makers, hosiery and underwear makers (machinists), and boot trade employees (machinists), and for female servants. There is only a poor demand for gold or coal miners.

South Australia.—Work of nearly all kinds is plentiful, and there is a good demand for bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, first-class painters, plumbers, tin-smiths, boilermakers, ironworkers, coppersmiths, female servants, and, in country districts, for farm labourers and unskilled labourers.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for labour generally, both in towns and country, especially in the building and kindred industries.

Western Australia.—There is a demand for farmers with capital, farm labourers, handymen and female servants.

Tasmania.—The only demand is for female servants and for farm labourers in the season.

New Zealand.

There is a good demand for farmers, dairy-farm hands, farm labourers, and female servants, and to these classes reduced passages are being offered. The demand for mechanics is not so general, but skilled men, such as plumbers, bricklayers, painters, plasterers, and building trade labourers are wanted in many places; skilled labourers in Otago are fully employed, but there is much industrial unrest. Women workers are much wanted in the woollen mills, confectionery and fruit-preserving works, laundries, dressmaking, tailoring, &c.

Union of South Africa.

A limited number of reduced or assisted passages are now being granted to the wives, families, and female relatives of British subjects who are permanently established in the Union. All applications must be addressed to the Secretary for the Interior, Pretoria; the High Commissioner in London cannot entertain applications. Employment in the building and other trades in Johannesburg continues fairly active; but the supply of men is quite sufficient, and in the case of carpenters and

boilermakers is excessive; miners are always in demand. In *The Cape* there is a marked increase in the amount of employment at Cape Town available for artisans and labourers, and there is a demand for a few masons in the stone-dressing industry, a few cabinet-makers and upholsterers, a few body-coat hands and other tailors, a few joiners, a few sheet-metal workers, and for girls in the jam-making, book-binding, box-making, confectionery, and tobacco industries. Otherwise there is no general demand for more labour in the Union, except that of female servants; women should apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 115, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 1-2 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908, and pp. xxv.—xxvi. of Cd. 5415 of 1911.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in November.—In the building trades the improvement of October was not maintained, an increase taking place in the number of persons out of work. Employment continued satisfactory in the metal trades, except for tin-box makers, who experienced more unemployment than in October. In the textile trades there was some improvement, but in the Nord department slackness continued general, short time being more usual than total unemployment. In the printing trades the decline previously reported came to an end, and employment was good. In the skin and leather trades unemployment continued to increase, but the situation was still less favourable than in the two preceding years. Although it improved as compared with October, employment was not plentiful among vineyard workers in the South of France, operations being retarded by the bad weather. There was a change in employment in the case of woodmen, the numbers out of work continuing high. Gardeners in the Paris district also reported no change in employment.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in November were received by the French Labour Department from 887 trade unions with an aggregate membership of 236,488. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais department 7.6 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed in November, as compared with 7.5 per cent. in the previous month, and 6.9 per cent. in November, 1910.†

Coal Mining in November.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground was 6.00 in November, as compared with 5.94 in the previous month, and 5.99 in November, 1910. Taking surface and underground workers together, 98.5 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 1.45 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 92.40 and 7.59, and in November, 1910, 97.94 and 1.98.

Labour Disputes in November.—Sixty-eight strikes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, as compared with 86 in the previous month, and 74† in November, 1910. In 62 of the new disputes 6,676 workpeople took part, as compared with 6,334 who took part in 71 disputes in the previous month, and 5,615 in 65 disputes in November, 1910. The groups of trades in which the greatest number of disputes occurred were the building (19), textile (14), transport (7), metal (6), and woodworking (6). Of 65 new and old disputes reported to have terminated, 12 ended wholly in favour of the workpeople, and 30 wholly in favour of the employers, while 23 were compromised.

* *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).

† These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 1-2. See also Note above.

‡ Revised figure.

† Handbooks (with maps) on the different British Dominions Oversea may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each, post free.

Superannuation of French Railway Servants: Amending Law.—In the law of July 21st, 1909, on the superannuation of French railway servants (see LABOUR GAZETTE, October, 1909, pp. 332-3), it was provided that the law should come into force on January 1st, 1911, and that, although the years of service required for eligibility should include those prior to that date, the period of service to be taken into account in calculating the amount of pensions was to be taken as from that date. A new law, dated December 28th, 1911, establishes the basis for calculating the pensions of persons affected in respect to the years of service preceding January 1st, 1911. These pensions must amount, in the case of persons not affiliated to a railway pension fund on January 1st, 1911, to not less than one-eightieth of their average wage or salary for each of the years of service except the first. As regards persons affiliated to a railway pension fund at that date two cases are treated separately. Persons whose average annual wage exceeds £60 have the portion of their pension from their fund in respect to the years of affiliation preceding January 1st, 1911, brought up to a sum representing one-sixtieth of their average annual wage for each year of affiliation and one-eighth for each year of service prior to affiliation except the first, unless it already equals or exceeds such sum. Persons whose average annual wage is £60 or less (1) get an amount representing one-eightieth of their average annual wage for each year of service prior to affiliation except the first, and (2) have the portion of their pension from their fund in respect to the years of affiliation preceding January 1st, 1911, brought up to a sum representing one-sixtieth of their average annual wage for each year of affiliation, unless it already equals or exceeds such sum.

HOLLAND.

Employment in November.—Returns relating to unemployment among their members in November were received by the Dutch Central Statistical Office from 529 trade union and municipal employment funds with a total membership of 48,506, of whom 46,964 were entitled to benefit. The percentage of the latter out of work in November was 2·8, as compared with 2·1 in October.† This percentage is obtained by taking for each of the four (or five) weeks in the month under consideration the number of persons unemployed on one or more days of the week. The proportion of the average of these four (or five) numbers to the number of members entitled to benefit gives the percentage.

The average number of days lost in the week per member unemployed on one or more days of the week was 5·6 in November, as compared with 5·7 in October.

The following Table shows the above figures, together with corresponding particulars for certain of the larger trade groups:—

Group of Trades.	Average Number of Members entitled to Benefit in Trade Unions and Employment Funds making Returns in Nov., 1911.	Percentage unemployed.†		Average Days lost per Week.	
		Nov., 1911.	Oct., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Oct., 1911.
All Unions and Municipal Unemployment Funds making returns	46,964	2·8	2·1	5·6	5·7
PRINCIPAL TRADES:—					
Diamond Workers (Amsterdam) ..	9,833	4·3	3·4	6·0	6·0
Printing Trades (Typographers) ..	5,028	0·8	1·2	5·8	5·9
Building Trades ..	9,276	7·0	4·0	5·3	5·3
Bricklayers and Masons ..	1,006	2·2	0·8	4·6	4·6
Painters ..	1,826	21·6	11·1	5·7	5·6
Carpenters ..	4,365	3·0	2·4	4·9	4·8
Mining (Metal and Coal) and Peat-getting ..	2,140	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0
Metal, Engineering and Ship-building ..	4,687	0·8	0·7	5·7	5·8
Textile Trades ..	1,159	0·1	0·8	6·0	5·3
Tobacco Workers and Cigar Makers	5,375	1·3	1·3	6·5	5·7

* Journal Officiel de la République Française, December 29th, 1911, and Report on the Bill to the Chamber, *ibid.* December, 27th, 1911.
 † Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).
 ‡ These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 1-2. See also Note above.
 § Relates only to persons employed throughout the whole week.

BELGIUM.*

Employment in November.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 1·5 per cent. of the 55,494 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of November, as compared with 1·5 per cent. in the previous month and 2·0 per cent. in November, 1910.†

GERMANY.

Employment in November.—According to the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) the level of employment reported in the previous month was maintained during November in the majority of trades, while in several cases there was a further improvement. In some industries which had completed their orders for Christmas a decline set in. In coal-mining in the Ruhr district the improvement of the previous month was maintained, while in most of the collieries of both Upper and Lower Silesia and in the lignite mines of Central Germany employment was satisfactory. Coal-mining and certain other industries suffered from the scarcity of wagons though not to the same extent as in October. Employment continued good in the chemical and electrical trades and the potash mining industry, while in general the production of pig-iron was satisfactory. The building trades continued fairly well employed in spite of the lateness of the season. In cotton spinning and cloth weaving there was a slight improvement in employment, but in general the position was still rather unsatisfactory. It continued bad in the cigar-making industry.

Returns relating to unemployment were furnished to the German Labour Department by 51 trade unions with an aggregate membership of 2,016,449. Omitting branches which failed to make returns the membership covered was 1,853,832, of whom 31,286, or 1·7 per cent., were stated to be unemployed at the end of November, 1911. Further particulars for each of the principal unions for which statistics are available are given in the following Table:—

UNION.	Membership reported on at end of Nov., 1911.	Percentage of Membership returned as unemployed at end of month.†		
		Nov., 1911.	Oct., 1911.	Nov., 1910.
All Unions making Returns..	1,853,832	1·7	1·5	1·6
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Miners ..	36,869	0·3	0·2	0·1
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.) ..	510,625	1·3	1·3	1·4
Engineers and Metal Workers .. (Hirsch-Duncker)	32,748	1·2	0·7	1·0
Metal Workers (Christian) ..	43,030	0·6	0·4	0·9
Textile Workers (Soc. Dem.) ..	128,240	0·6	0·7	1
Textile Workers (Christian) ..	36,317	0·9	0·9	0·8
Boot and Shoe Makers ..	44,921	1·8	1·8	1·2
Transport Workers ..	150,572	1·5	1·1	1·0
Printers ..	62,675	2·8	4·8	3·2
Bookbinders ..	30,057	2·0	2·5	2·0
Woodworkers ..	179,685	2·5	2·1	3·5
Brewery and Mill Workers ..	41,699	2·3	1·9	1·9
Factory Workers (trades not specified)	171,969	1·5	1·0	1·0
State and Municipal Workers ..	44,729	0·6	0·5	0·6

The percentage of unemployed among those unions which made returns at all three periods was 1·8 at the end of November, 1911, as compared with 1·6 in the previous month and 1·6 at the end of November, 1910.†

UNITED STATES.

Massachusetts.

Employment at End of September, 1911.—The percentage of members of trade unions reported to the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics as being unemployed owing to causes other than labour disputes or disability, e.g., lack of work, shortage of materials, weather conditions, and temporary shut-downs, at the end of September, 1911, together with corresponding percentages for the end of June, 1911, and September, 1910, are shown in the following Table:—

	Sept. 30th, 1911.	June 30th, 1911.	Sept. 30th, 1910.
Membership included in returns ..	133,540	135,202	118,781
Percentage reported unemployed owing to causes other than disputes or disability †	4·1	4·9	4·2

* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
 † These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 1-2. See also Note above.
 ‡ No report.
 § *Labour Bulletin* (Journal of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics).

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES DURING DECEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 500 Returns—442 from Employers, 45 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good during December, and was about the same as a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,308 pits employing 683,537 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the fortnight ended December 23rd was 5·54, compared with 5·50 days a month ago and 5·51 days a year ago.

Of the 683,537 workpeople covered by the Returns, 622,248 (or 91·0 per cent.) were employed at pits working 10 or more days during the fortnight ended December 23rd, 1911, while 519,563 (or 76·0 per cent. of the total) were employed at pits working 11 days or more.

The highest averages were in North Wales (5·88 days), South Wales (5·76 days), and South Yorkshire (5·74 days). The lowest average (5·04 days) was in the Gloucestershire and Somerset district.

The following Table shows the average number of days worked during the fortnight ended December 23rd, 1911, together with figures for similar periods in November, 1911, and December, 1910. Collieries at which there were disputes, causing stoppage of work, are excluded from the figures:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1911, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in December, 1911, as compared with a	
		Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Nov. 25th, 1911.	Dec. 17th, 1910.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days	Days	Days	Days	Days
Northumberland ..	49,635	5·45	5·40	5·32	+0·05	+0·13
Durham ..	125,923	5·50	5·43	5·32	+0·07	+0·18
Cumberland ..	7,717	5·57	5·43	5·63	+0·14	-0·11
South Yorkshire ..	78,283	5·74	5·81	5·71	-0·07	+0·03
West Yorkshire ..	25,287	5·59	5·57	5·58	+0·02	+0·01
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	59,689	5·50	5·55	5·38	-0·05	+0·12
Derbyshire ..	45,703	5·46	5·44	5·57	+0·02	-0·11
Nottingham and Leicester	38,567	5·08	5·25	5·14	-0·17	-0·06
Staffordshire ..	30,046	5·31	5·49	5·64	-0·18	-0·33
Warwick, Worcester and Salop	9,509	5·45	5·44	5·63	+0·01	-0·18
Gloucester and Somerset ..	6,914	5·04	5·06	5·64	-0·02	-0·60
North Wales ..	11,365	5·88	5·89	5·67	-0·01	+0·21
South Wales and Mon. ..	137,970	5·76	5·50	5·89	+0·26	-0·13
ENGLAND AND WALES	627,113	5·55	5·52	5·54	+0·03	+0·01
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ..	23,322	5·40	5·26	5·31	+0·14	+0·09
The Lothians ..	4,253	5·52	5·41	5·50	+0·11	+0·12
Wife ..	28,245	5·53	5·40	5·14	+0·13	+0·39
SCOTLAND	55,825	5·48	5·34	5·24	+0·14	+0·24
IRELAND						
United Kingdom ..	683,537	5·54	5·50	5·51	+0·04	+0·03

In Northumberland and Durham employment continued good generally, and was better than a year ago. In Cumberland it was fair, better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. In South and West Yorkshire employment was good, and about the same as a year ago. In Lancashire and Cheshire there was but little change as compared with a month ago; employment was fair in the Bolton district and good in the Burnley and Oldham districts. In Derbyshire it was good generally. In Nottingham and Leicester employment, though still fair, showed some decline on a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In North Staffordshire and in the Pelsall district employment continued good; in the Cannock Chase coalfield it was fairly good generally, but not so good as a year ago. In Warwickshire and Shropshire there was but little change as compared with a month ago, but a decline on a year ago. In the Forest of Dean employment was fair. In

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

the Bristol coalfield it was good, though it had not fully recovered from the adverse effects of recent disputes. In South Wales and Monmouth employment was good, and better than a month ago; it was not quite so good as a year ago. In North Wales employment was very good. In Scotland employment was good, and there was an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago; in Fifeshire the improvement on a year ago was considerable.

The following Table shows the number employed and the average number of days worked per week, distributed according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1911, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
		Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Nov. 25th, 1911.	Dec. 17th, 1910.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite ..	6,630	5·85	5·79	5·60	+0·06	+0·25
Coking ..	37,067	5·57	5·37	5·37	+0·20	+0·20
Gas ..	46,541	5·47	5·55	5·25	-0·08	+0·22
House ..	86,911	5·33	5·29	5·38	+0·04	-0·05
Steam ..	266,862	5·62	5·53	5·62	+0·09	-0·09
Mixed ..	239,526	5·54	5·55	5·52	-0·01	+0·02
All Descriptions ..	683,537	5·54	5·50	5·51	+0·04	+0·03

Compared with a month ago there was an improvement at pits producing coking coal, but otherwise there was not much change. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement at anthracite, coking and gas coal pits; at steam coal pits there was no change.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in December, 1911, amounted to 6,040,779 tons, or 247,548 tons more than in November, 1911, and 657,238 tons more than in December, 1910.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 72 Returns—58 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron mines. It showed some slight decline on a month ago, but was about the same as a year ago. It continued fairly good in shale mines, and was better than a year ago.

Employment was fair and rather better than a month ago in tin mines, and continued fair in lead mines. It was fair on the whole in and about quarries, though somewhat hindered by bad weather.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the fortnight ended December 23rd the weekly average number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5·77, as compared with 5·88 a month ago and 5·75 a year ago.

Districts.	Workpeople employed in Dec., 1911.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
		Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Nov. 25th, 1911.	Dec. 17th, 1910.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland ..	5,684	5·85	5·81	5·70	-0·06	+0·15
Cumberland and Lancashire	7,674	5·75	5·87	6·00	-0·12	-0·25
Scotland ..	1,165	5·81	5·82	5·81	-0·01	-0·19
Other Districts ..	2,692	5·62	5·81	5·43	-0·19	+0·19
All Districts ..	17,215	5·77	5·88	5·75	-0·11	+0·02

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 93·0 per cent. were employed at mines working 11 or more days during the fortnight ended December 23rd, as compared with 94·8 per cent. a month ago, and 83·7 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—According to the Returns received, there were 3,394 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended December 23rd, who worked on an average 5·69 days per week, as compared with 3,440 workpeople in November, who worked 5·62 days, and 3,188 workpeople in December, 1910, who worked 5·56 days.

Tin Mining.—Employment in Cornwall was generally fair, and rather better than in November. It was about the same as a year ago.

Lead Mining.—Employment was fair in North Wales, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. It was good at Darley Dale (Matlock). In Wear-dale employment was moderate, and short time was worked; it showed a decline as compared with a year ago.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued fair generally in North Wales, and was better than a year ago. It continued good at Delabole (Cornwall), and was about the same as a year ago.

Granite.—Employment was bad in the Aberdeen district, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Leicestershire it continued fair, and showed little change compared with a year ago. It was fair at Plymouth and Princetown, but generally bad in Cornwall, and not so good as a year ago.

Limestone.—Employment continued moderate in the Weardale district, and short time was worked, chiefly on account of bad weather. Short time was also worked in the Buxton district, where employment was quiet. In North Wales it was fairly good, about the same as a month ago and better than a year ago.

Other Stone.—Chert quarrymen continued well employed in the Buxton district, and some overtime was worked. In road-material (basalt) quarries in the Clee Hill district employment continued fair, but was hindered by bad weather. The weather also interrupted work in the freestone quarries in the Newcastle and Gateshead district, where, otherwise, employment was fair. In whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale employment continued good. Employment was moderate in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. It continued fairly good in sandstone quarries in North Wales; in Forfarshire it was bad, and worse than a year ago, a good deal of short time being worked. Employment was good at Barnsley, and better than a year ago; it was moderate at Rotherham, and about the same as a year ago.

Settmaking, &c.—With settmakers in Scotland employment was fair generally, and about the same as a year ago; it was, however, dull at Aberdeen. It was good in the Penmaenmawr district, fair in the Clee Hill district, moderate and worse than a month ago in Leicestershire, and quiet at Rowley Regis (Staffs.). With monumental granite cutters in the Aberdeen district employment was dull and worse than a month ago, much short time being worked. Employment was moderate and rather worse than a month ago with stone-masons employed about granite quarries in Cornwall.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell (Cornwall) and Lee Moor (Devon) districts, and was about the same as a year ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 117 Returns—110 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December, though still moderate, was better than a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of December, 1911, was 297, as compared with 293 in November, 1911, and 305 in December, 1910. Six furnaces were relit during the month (3 in Monmouthshire, 2 in Lancashire, and 1 in Leicestershire), while 1 in Leicestershire was damped down and 1 in Lancashire was blown out.

The number of workpeople employed at the end of December, 1911, at the works covered by the returns was 21,800; an increase of 1.6 per cent., compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.4 per cent., compared with a year ago.

District	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
	December, 1911.	November, 1911.	December, 1910.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	78	78	81	..	- 3
Cumberland & Lancs.	26	26	25	..	- 2
S. and S.W. Yorks ..	10	10	12	..	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	33	33	35	..	- 2
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	28	28	27	..	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	34	34	34	..	..
S. Wales & Monmouth	11	8	10	+ 3	+ 1
Other districts ..	6	6	6	..	..
England & Wales ..	228	223	233	+ 3	- 7
Scotland	71	70	72	+ 1	- 1
Total	297	293	305	+ 4	- 8

The Imports of iron ore in December, 1911, amounted to 496,433 tons, or 60,932 tons more than in November, 1911, and 108,515 tons less than in December, 1910.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in December, 1911, amounted to 133,879 tons, or 30,217 tons more than in November, 1911, and 47,494 tons more than in December, 1910.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 202 Returns—188 from Employers, received partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 2 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the iron and steel industry again showed a slight improvement, and was much better than a year ago. According to returns covering 97,919 workpeople, the volume of employment (i.e. number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. on a month ago, and of 11.2 per cent. on a year ago. The total number of shifts worked during the week ended December 23rd, 1911, was about 554,000, an increase of 55,600 on a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Average Number of Shifts worked per man.			
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
IRON :								
Puddling Forges ..	9,335	- 27	+ 331	5.35	+ 0.06	+ 0.45		
Rolling Mills	3,584	- 25	+ 76	5.21	+ 0.04	+ 0.37		
Forging	431	+ 8	+ 14	5.03	..	+ 0.03		
Founding	1,933	+ 306	+ 340	5.94	- 0.06	+ 0.22		
Other Departments ..	670	+ 13	+ 17	5.63	- 0.17	- 0.24		
Mechanics, Labourers ..	1,795	+ 16	+ 19	5.58	- 0.08	+ 0.12		
Total, Iron ..	17,808	+ 291	+ 797	5.41	+ 0.03	+ 0.34		
STEEL :								
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,121	+ 117	+ 558	5.89	- 0.01	+ 0.06		
Crucible Furnaces ..	534	+ 1	+ 6	5.83	+ 0.28	+ 0.49		
Bessemer Converters ..	1,783	+ 31	+ 149	5.08	- 0.15	+ 0.06		
Rolling Mills	16,284	+ 145	+ 1,537	5.57	..	+ 0.20		
Forging and Pressing ..	3,358	+ 40	+ 248	5.63	..	+ 0.04		
Founding	9,039	+ 151	+ 1,145	5.84	- 0.01	- 0.02		
Other Departments ..	7,492	+ 48	+ 305	5.83	- 0.03	- 0.01		
Mechanics, Labourers ..	8,785	+ 169	+ 778	5.95	- 0.01	- 0.03		
Total, Steel ..	56,426	+ 604	+ 5,026	5.75	- 0.01	+ 0.06		
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):								
Rolling Mills	11,899	+ 165	+ 1,073	5.39	+ 0.02	+ 0.24		
Forging and Pressing ..	644	+ 3	+ 69	5.69	- 0.17	+ 0.06		
Founding	796	+ 1	+ 95	5.91	..	+ 0.06		
Other Departments ..	4,117	+ 15	+ 385	5.89	+ 0.03	+ 0.11		
Mechanics, Labourers ..	6,227	+ 85	+ 203	5.79	+ 0.01	..		
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ..	23,685	+ 269	+ 1,825	5.61	+ 0.01	+ 0.14		
Grand Total ..	97,919	+ 1,164	+ 7,648	5.65	..	+ 0.13		
Districts.								
Northumberland & Durham	11,649	+ 131	+ 1,392	5.69	- 0.01	+ 0.19		
Cleveland	9,111	+ 269	+ 433	5.63	- 0.01	+ 0.02		
Sheffield and Rotherham	19,517	+ 205	+ 2,392	5.73	- 0.01	+ 0.04		
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,811	+ 33	+ 199	5.60	+ 0.01	+ 0.20		
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	9,544	+ 53	+ 2,285	5.60	+ 0.03	+ 0.46		
Staffordshire	4,938	+ 44	+ 190	5.61	+ 0.06	+ 0.11		
Other Midland Counties ..	5,362	+ 84	+ 210	5.59	- 0.02	+ 0.09		
Wales and Monmouth ..	10,606	+ 96	+ 257	5.65	- 0.01	+ 0.03		
Total, England and Wales ..	79,898	+ 927	+ 7,363	5.66	+ 0.01	+ 0.13		
Scotland	18,021	+ 237	+ 285	5.63	- 0.03	+ 0.18		
Total	97,919	+ 1,164	+ 7,648	5.65	..	+ 0.13		

Compared with a month ago, employment showed an improvement in every district; the improvement was most marked in the Cleveland district and in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and chiefly affected iron foundries and crucible furnaces. The total number of workpeople employed increased by 1,164 (1.2 per cent.), while there was no change in the average number of shifts worked.

Compared with a year ago, employment showed a considerable improvement in all districts, especially Lancashire and Cheshire, Northumberland and Durham and Sheffield and Rotherham. In the departments the improvement was also general, and was most marked at iron and steel foundries and rolling mills and at puddling forges. The total number of workpeople increased by 7,648 (8.5 per cent.), and the average number of shifts worked increased by 0.13 of a shift.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during December, 1911, amounted to 160,387 tons, or 773 tons less than in November, 1911, and 9,188 tons more than in December, 1910.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron and tinned plates and black plates) during December, 1911, amounted to 237,953 tons, or 31,896 tons less than in November, 1911, and 11,332 tons less than in December, 1910.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during December continued very good. There was a slight decline compared with a month ago, but employment was much better than a year ago.

At the works covered by the returns, 498 tinplate mills were working at the end of December, 1911, compared with 505 a month ago and 449 at the end of December, 1910. The number of steel sheet mills working at the end of December, 1911, was 67, compared with 69 a month ago and 64 a year ago.

The works to which these particulars relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 28,250 workpeople.

The following table shows the number of works open and the number of mills in operation at the end of December, 1911, together with the increase or decrease compared with a month ago and a year ago.

	Number of Works open.				Number of Mills in operation.			
	At end of Dec., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)		At end of Dec., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)			
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Tinplate Works	79	- 2	+ 2	498	- 7	+ 49		
Steel Sheet Works	9	- 1	- 1	67	- 2	+ 3		
Total ..	88	- 3	+ 1	565	- 9	+ 52		

Exports.

	Dec., 1911.		Nov., 1911.		Dec., 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.								
To United States ..	364	321	2,659	+ 43	- 2,295			
" British East Indies ..	4,795	5,226	5,536	- 430	- 840			
" Germany	3,592	3,631	2,956	- 89	+ 636			
" France	2,767	4,083	1,728	- 1,316	+ 921			
" Netherlands	3,964	3,403	3,084	+ 561	+ 880			
" China and Japan ..	2,081	4,190	2,987	- 2,109	- 806			
" Australia	2,000	4,193	3,171	- 2,193	- 1,171			
" Canada	768	1,618	853	- 850	- 85			
" Other Countries ..	13,469	20,773	14,908	- 7,304	- 1,439			
Total	33,801	47,488	38,040	- 13,687	- 4,239			
Black Plates.								
Total	4,334	6,259	4,216	- 1,925	+ 118			

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,081 Returns—4 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1,049 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December continued good, but was affected by the usual holiday suspensions. It was much better than a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 186,173 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of December was 3.2, as compared with 2.8 a month ago, and 5.8 at the end of December, 1910. As compared with a month ago there was a slight increase in the percentage unemployed in every district except London, which showed a slight decline. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease in every district, except the South Coast and Belfast and Dublin, the most noticeable being on the North-East Coast.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Dec., 1911.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
		Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ..	15,261	3.7	3.2	15.7	+ 0.5	- 12.0
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,671	2.6	2.5	5.5	+ 0.1	- 2.9
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,222	6.3	5.2	8.6	+ 1.1	- 2.3
West Riding Towns ..	12,573	4.4	3.2	6.8	+ 1.2	- 2.4
Hull and Lincolnshire District	4,583	3.0	2.8	4.7	+ 0.2	- 1.7
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	8,111	2.7	1.5	2.9	+ 1.2	- 3.0
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,776	3.1	3.0	.61	+ 0.1	- 0.2
London and neighbouring District	11,953	2.1	2.7	2.6	- 0.6	- 0.5
South Coast	4,814	2.6	2.1	1.4	+ 0.5	+ 1.2
South Wales and Bristol District	6,752	2.7	2.6	3.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Glasgow and District ..	17,482	3.9	2.7	5.5	+ 1.2	- 1.6
East of Scotland	3,702	8.1	7.4	8.8	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Belfast and Dublin ..	4,146	4.9	4.6	3.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
Other Districts	5,572	2.4	1.3	4.1	+ 1.1	- 1.7
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	186,173	3.2	2.8	5.8	+ 0.4	- 2.6

On the North-East Coast employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago, when it was considerably affected by the dispute in the shipbuilding trade. Overtime and night shifts were again reported on the Tyne, and overtime was general on the Wear.

Employment in Lancashire was fairly good on the whole, and better than a year ago; with textile machinery makers, however, it continued slack, and short time was general. Employment at Crewe continued slack, with short time general.

Employment in the West Riding of Yorkshire continued good generally. Considerable overtime was reported at Leeds. In Hull and Lincolnshire employment was fair generally.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment was good on the whole, but showed some decline on the previous month. In the motor trade it was good, and overtime was reported at Wolverhampton; in the cycle trade it was quiet. At Derby and Leicester it continued good, some overtime being reported at the former town; at Nottingham it was moderate. In the Eastern Counties employment was fairly good.

Employment continued good in the London district, and was better than both a month ago and a year ago. On the South Coast it was fairly good; in the Royal Dockyards it was good. It continued good at Swindon, with overtime. Employment at Bristol and in South Wales continued fairly good.

Employment in the Glasgow district continued good generally with ironmoulders; the improvement shown a month ago with brassmoulders was continued. Employment continued good at Edinburgh and Falkirk; at Aberdeen it was fair, at Dundee moderate. In both the Glasgow district and the East of Scotland a considerable number of ironmoulders continued unemployed.

Employment at Belfast continued good generally; at Dublin it was good, and better than a month ago.

The Imports of machinery in December, 1911, amounted to £453,718, or £19,309 less than in November, 1911, and £57,362 more than in December, 1910.

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Grey	15,775	17,771	15,053	- 1,966	+ 722
Bleached and Dyed ..	2,856	2,956	2,590	- 139	+ 266
Total	18,631	20,726	17,643	- 2,135	+ 988
Cotton—					
Thread for Sewing ..	1,877	1,914	1,952	- 37	- 75
Cotton Piece Goods—	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Grey or Unbleached ..	161,356	150,537	183,207	- 23,181	+ 21,851
Bleached	149,285	162,685	139,914	- 13,400	+ 9,371
Printed	96,133	106,387	108,206	- 10,854	- 10,073
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ..	110,429	120,472	118,634	- 10,043	- 8,205
Total	517,203	580,681	547,961	- 63,478	- 30,758

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES

(Based on 373 Returns—343 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen Trade.

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

Returns from firms employing 28,675 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd 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 an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool Sorting	741	+ 1.3	734	+ 0.9
Spinning	5,859	- 0.7	5,597	- 0.2
Weaving	12,162	+ 0.1	11,112	+ 1.4
Other Departments ..	8,087	+ 0.9	8,413	+ 1.0
Not specified	1,826	+ 0.2	1,815	+ 0.6
Total	28,675	+ 0.1	27,671	+ 1.2

Districts.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Huddersfield District ..	4,138	+ 1.6	4,800	+ 5.0
Leeds District	3,067	- 0.3	2,910	+ 2.5
Dewsbury & Batley District	4,752	- 1.2	4,991	+ 0.2
Other Parts of West Riding	2,440	+ 0.5	2,467	+ 0.9
Total, West Riding ..	14,397	+ 0.1	15,168	+ 2.2
Scotland	7,942	+ 0.4	7,505	- 0.3
Other Districts	6,336	- 0.4	4,998	+ 0.4
Total	28,675	+ 0.1	27,671	+ 1.2

In the Huddersfield district employment was good, and showed an improvement in the spinning and weaving branches compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the Leeds district it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district there was a decline in weaving compared with a month ago, but employment was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Worsted Trade.

Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 45,456 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd showed no change in the number employed, and an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Bradford district employment in woolcombing was better than a month ago, but showed a slight decline compared with a year ago; the spinning branch showed an improvement, and the weaving branch little change, compared with a year ago. In the Keighley district employment on the whole showed a slight

decline compared with a month ago and a year ago, but there was an improvement in spinning compared with a year ago. In the Halifax district employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Huddersfield area there was still some slackness, but employment showed an improvement compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool Sorting & Combing ..	5,330	+ 0.5	5,537	+ 3.9
Spinning	24,496	+ 0.2	14,397	+ 0.9
Weaving	9,488	- 0.5	8,645	+ 0.7
Other Departments	4,503	- 0.2	4,747	+ 1.7
Not specified	1,633	- 0.9	1,325	+ 2.0
Total	45,456	+ 0.0	34,651	+ 1.0

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.

Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS).					
Imports .. 1,000 lbs.	74,528	49,131	67,379	+ 25,397	+ 7,149
British Exports ..	3,203	3,124	3,351	+ 79	- 148
Re-Exports of Imported Wool .. 1,000 lbs.	29,995	11,021	37,062	+ 18,974	- 7,067

British and Irish Manufactures Exported.					
Woolen .. 1,000 lbs.	473	479	387	- 6	+ 86
Worsted	4,498	5,029	5,250	- 531	- 792
Alpaca and Mohair ..	1,043	1,329	1,402	- 286	- 359
Total, Yarn ..	6,014	6,837	7,039	- 823	- 1,065

Piece Goods:					
Woolen .. 1,000 yds.	7,964	6,865	8,816	+ 1,099	- 852
Worsted	6,638	5,885	6,640	+ 763	- 2,302
Total Piece Goods ..	14,602	12,750	17,456	+ 1,862	- 2,854

Prices of Raw Wool.

The prices of raw wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the months specified.

	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	9 3/4	9 3/4	10
40's Crossbred tops ..	13 1/2	13	13 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ..	26	26	27 1/2
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	9 3/4	9 3/4	10
40's Crossbred tops ..	13 1/2	12 3/4, 13 1/2	14, 13
60's Super Botany tops ..	26	26	28, 26 1/2

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 114 Returns—104 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement compared with a month ago, and was about the same as a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 48,586 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Belfast, short time, generally about eight hours per week, was worked in the preparing and spinning departments; there was, however, an improvement in employment compared with a month ago, and but little change compared with a year ago. In other parts of Ireland, though several mills worked short time, employment was better than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland

employment was good generally, and showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing	6,443	- 1.5	3,627	+ 1.8
Spinning	12,322	+ 0.1	6,035	- 2.4
Weaving	16,813	+ 0.7	11,299	+ 8.7
Other	7,108	+ 0.1	5,532	+ 0.7
Not specified	5,900	+ 0.6	3,449	+ 6.7
Total	48,586	+ 0.2	29,942	+ 4.6

Districts.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Belfast	17,560	+ 0.2	10,956	+ 4.9
Other Places in Ireland ..	15,546	+ 0.7	9,224	+ 8.7
Total, Ireland ..	33,096	+ 0.4	20,180	+ 6.6

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.

Imports and Exports.					
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) tons	7,404	4,062	10,501	+ 3,352	- 3,097
Exports:					
Linen Yarn .. 100 lbs.	13,466	13,310	16,384	+ 156	- 2,918
Linen Piece Goods .. 100 yds.	186,940	152,871	217,299	+ 34,069	- 30,359

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 35 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 16,038 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 16,038 workpeople reported on, 14,045 (or 87.6 per cent.) were employed in Dundee and district, where employment was fairly good generally, except during the recent disputes of carters and dockers, which caused the stoppage of many works for periods varying from two to six days. In the Forfar district employment continued good.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing	3,472	- 1.7	2,418	- 0.5
Spinning	4,410	- 0.5	2,363	+ 0.5
Weaving	5,618	+ 0.2	4,202	+ 0.5
Other	1,665	+ 0.4	1,746	+ 0.7
Not specified	873	- 1.0	645	- 3.3
Total	16,038	- 0.5	11,874	- 0.3

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute tons	67,530	55,760	56,653	+ 11,770	+ 10,877
Exports:					
Jute Yarn .. 100 lbs.	52,998	49,069	54,531	+ 3,939	- 1,533
Jute Piece Goods 100 yds	128,638	122,685	137,278	+ 5,953	- 8,640

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 77 Returns—68 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate. It was better than a year ago in the levers branch, but showed a decline in the other branches.

Returns from firms employing 6,392 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed and 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 2.9 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Levers	1,462	+ 2.8	1,975	+ 2.2
Curtain	2,612	+ 0.1	2,534	- 4.1
Plain Net	1,519	- 0.3	1,169	+ 6.8
Others	414	- 0.7	313	- 3.9
Depts. Not specified ..	394	+ 1.8	238	- 11.2
Total	6,392	+ 0.7	6,229	+ 0.4

Districts.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Nottingham City	1,465	+ 1.0	1,392	- 3.5
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,217	+ 1.5	1,508	- 1.7
Other English districts ..	1,969	+ 0.5	1,600	+ 7.6
Scotland	1,841	- 0.1	1,729	- 0.6
Total	6,392	+ 0.7	6,229	+ 0.4

At Nottingham employment in the levers branch was bad, but better than a year ago; in the curtain section it continued good, and in the plain net branch fair. In the Long Eaton district employment was fair, not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. In the West of England employment was better than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland employment in the curtain section continued fairly good, but showed a decline compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Cotton Lace	236,098	200,186	250,656	+ 35,912	- 14,558
Silk Lace	13,782	7,148	23,018	+ 6,634	- 9,236
Exports:					
Cotton Lace	365,481	336,965	350,982	+ 28,516	- 15,501
Silk Lace	4,814	5,596	11,666	- 782	- 6,842

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 106 Returns—96 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 19,054 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 0.8 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 an increase of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Leicester	8,634	- 1.5	7,151	- 3.1
Leicester Country District ..	2,675	+ 0.1	2,224	+ 1.3
Notts and Derbyshire	4,634	- 0.1	3,628	+ 1.8
Scotland	2,404	- 1.3	1,780	- 2.9
Other Districts	707	+ 0.9	469	+ 1.1
Total, United Kingdom	19,054	- 0.8	15,252	- 1.2

At Leicester employment showed a decline compared with a month ago, and short time was reported by the Trade Union hosiery workers; but it was, on the whole, better than a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough employment was fair. With power frame-workers in Nottingham and Derbyshire employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago; with hand frame-workers in the country districts it was fair. In Scotland employment continued good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:	£	£	£	£	£
Hosiery, Woollen ..	39,216	41,206	40,390	- 1,990	- 1,174
" Cotton ..	150,849	174,773	137,477	- 23,824	+ 13,372
Exports:	£	£	£	£	£
Hosiery, Woollen ..	125,795	123,656	128,889	+ 2,139	+ 3,094
" Cotton ..	46,160	48,191	45,569	- 2,031	+ 591

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 60 Returns—52 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good during December; it showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,160 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed an increase of 0.3 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 an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing	815	+ 1.7	+ 1.4	358	- 1.4	+ 1.7
Spinning	2,367	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	1,827	- 1.0	+ 1.4
Weaving	3,466	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	2,399	+ 0.5	+ 3.4
Other	689	+ 2.2	+ 4.6	589	+ 5.9	+ 22.5
Not specified ..	823	+ 0.4	+ 13.4	601	+ 3.4	+ 11.7
Total	8,160	+ 0.3	+ 2.2	5,774	+ 0.7	+ 5.1
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire ..	2,958	+ 1.0	+ 4.0	2,369	+ 0.3	+ 4.8
Macclesfield, Congleton and District ..	786	+ 0.4	+ 11.8	668	+ 0.5	+ 20.1
Eastern Counties	2,655	..	+ 2.5	1,642	+ 3.0	+ 6.3
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek ..	1,761	- 0.5	- 4.9	1,065	- 1.4	- 3.2
Total	8,160	+ 0.3	+ 2.2	5,774	+ 0.7	+ 5.1

At Macclesfield and Congleton employment with throwsters and spinners was fair; at Leek it was moderate, and some short time was worked. Employment with weavers was bad at Macclesfield, and moderate with trimming weavers at Congleton.

In the Bradford district employment continued fairly good. In the Eastern Counties it was better than a month ago and a year ago. At Dublin it continued fair with weavers.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk lbs	70,813	154,043	54,262	- 83,230	+ 16,551
Thrown Silk lbs	46,061	49,506	29,360	- 3,445	+ 16,701
Spun Silk Yarn .. lbs	56,854	48,858	44,552	+ 7,996	+ 12,302
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	5,739,219	6,164,622	5,268,231	- 425,403	+ 470,988
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk lbs	5,994	7,829	5,076	- 1,835	+ 918
Spun Silk Yarn .. lbs	102,857	98,879	109,558	+ 3,978	- 6,701
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	378,189	420,992	505,232	- 42,803	- 127,043

CARPET TRADE.

(Based on 34 Returns—25 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December was about the same as a month ago, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,175 workpeople and paying £7,264 in wages in the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.5 per cent. in the numbers employed, and of 7.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Kidderminster district, though overtime was worked at some mills, employment was only fair on the whole, and not so good as a month ago. In the Halifax district it was good. In the Bradford district there was some decline on a month ago. In Scotland employment continued fairly good generally, and was better than a year ago.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

(Based on 370 Returns—352 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 10 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 29,512 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trades:—	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Bleaching	3,113	- 0.8	- 0.7	3,148	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Printing	947	+ 0.7	+ 2.5	1,178	+ 2.8	+ 6.5
Dyeing	15,369	- 0.2	+ 2.1	20,633	+ 2.8	+ 3.4
Trimming, Finishing, and Other Departments ..	9,479	- 0.3	+ 1.6	10,178	+ 3.9	+ 6.5
Not specified	604	+ 1.3	+ 4.9	698	+ 3.4	+ 14.1
Total	29,512	- 0.2	+ 1.7	35,835	+ 2.8	+ 4.3
Districts:—						
Yorkshire	13,620	- 0.3	+ 2.0	18,426	+ 4.3	+ 2.1
Lancashire	9,504	+ 0.5	+ 2.1	11,236	+ 1.3	+ 7.4
Scotland	3,461	- 0.9	- 2.1	3,079	+ 0.7	+ 0.5
Ireland	574	..	- 0.3	440	- 0.5	+ 0.5
Other Districts	2,333	- 1.4	+ 4.5	2,654	+ 1.9	+ 12.5
Total	29,512	- 0.2	+ 1.7	35,835	+ 2.8	+ 4.3

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire continued good and was better than a year ago. At Basford and Bulwell it was quiet. In Dundee it continued fair.

Printing.—Employment with machine calico printers was fairly good, but not quite so good as a year ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was quiet. In Scotland employment continued fair.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in Yorkshire was moderate, but better than a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago: about a third of the trade union dyers worked short time and about one-fifth worked overtime. With cotton dyers in Lancashire and Yorkshire employment continued good and was better than a year ago. With silk dyers employment was fair at Macclesfield, good at Congleton, and moderate at Leek. With lace dyers at Nottingham it was good, and better than a year ago.

Trimming, Finishing, &c.—At Leicester employment with hosiery trimmers was fairly good, at Hinckley and Loughborough it was good; at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate. With calenderers it was good at Glasgow, but showed a slight decline compared with a year ago; it was fair at Dundee and about the same as a year ago.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 11 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during December in the silk hat trade continued quiet, but was slightly better than a year ago.

In the felt hat trade employment was good and much better than a year ago. The percentage of trade union members unemployed at the end of December was 2.4 compared with 2.3 a month ago and 8.1 a year ago. At Denton, Stockport and in Warwickshire employment was reported as good.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds .. dozens	58,936	58,285	43,883	+ 651	+ 15,053
Felt	56,722	31,038	50,695	+ 25,684	+ 6,027
Straw	45,485	43,719	46,446	+ 1,766	- 961
Other sorts	14,125	17,363	11,616	- 3,238	+ 2,509
Total	116,332	92,120	108,757	+ 24,212	+ 7,575

LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 36 Returns—23 from Trade Unions and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with 3,055 members reported 5.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4.6 per cent. a month ago, and 5.8 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, &c.—Employment with skinner continued good at Leeds, and was the same as a year ago; in London it was fair and better than both a month ago and a year ago. With curriers employment continued bad in London, and was the same as a year ago; was moderate at Birmingham, slightly worse than a month ago, and slightly better than a year ago; was good at Walsall and better than a month ago and a year ago; continued fair at Glasgow and was better than a year ago; was bad at Edinburgh and worse than a month ago. With leather workers employment was quiet at Leeds, and rather worse than a month ago; it continued fair at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—In London employment continued good with makers of riding saddles, and quiet in other branches. At Walsall it continued fair with gig saddlers and good with new brown saddlers, and was better than a year ago. At Dublin it continued fair with saddlers.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—Employment with portmanteau makers continued fair in London and Manchester, and was better than a year ago; with fancy and morocco leather finishers in London it was quiet and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry .. cwt.	40,855	37,246	36,403	+ 3,609	+ 4,452
Do, wet cwt.	65,301	53,251	49,999	+ 12,050	+ 15,302
Total Hides, dry and wet cwt.	106,156	90,497	86,402	+ 15,659	+ 19,754
Goat skins, undressed, No. Sheep skins .. (value) £	1,009,563	717,497	934,810	+ 292,066	+ 74,753
Leather* cwt.	181,664	204,422	230,609	- 22,758	- 48,945
Leather* cwt.	110,648	125,071	98,274	- 14,423	+ 12,374
Exports:					
Leather cwt.	17,336	18,224	18,041	- 888	- 705
Gloves doz. prs.	13,182	21,724	13,487	- 8,542	- 305
Machinery Belting .. cwt.	2,903	3,727	3,006	- 824	- 103
Saddlery and Harness £ (value)	49,899	58,118	41,710	- 8,219	+ 8,189
Other Sorts .. (value) £	56,971	63,388	49,056	- 6,417	+ 7,915

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

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 507 Returns—447 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 50 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 66,268 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed little change in the number employed, and an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 9.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	3,035	+ 1.0	+ 3.0	3,467	+ 5.2	+ 21.2
Leicester	12,630	- 0.6	+ 0.9	14,415	+ 6.6	+ 12.2
Leicester Country District ..	2,989	- 0.3	- 1.0	2,999	+ 4.1	+ 3.2
Northampton	12,087	- 0.3	+ 5.1	12,110	+ 3.6	+ 9.4
Northampton Country District ..	8,594	+ 1.6	+ 3.0	8,694	+ 5.9	+ 12.1
Kettering	3,865	+ 0.4	+ 3.6	3,860	+ 2.0	+ 7.7
Stafford & District	2,652	+ 1.1	+ 1.5	2,583	+ 4.2	+ 4.4
Norwich & District	3,492	+ 0.3	+ 12.2	3,142	+ 2.8	+ 16.0
Bristol & District	1,438	+ 0.1	..	1,186	- 3.0	+ 7.4
Kingswood	1,768	+ 1.3	+ 2.7	1,789	+ 1.9	+ 10.2
Leeds & District	2,400	- 2.8	- 0.1	2,280	- 0.8	+ 3.9
Manchester & District	3,194	- 0.9	+ 2.5	3,038	+ 0.8	+ 10.3
Birmingham & District ..	758	+ 1.1	+ 2.7	600	- 5.2	+ 6.8
Other parts of England and Wales ..	3,458	- 0.2	+ 3.2	3,221	+ 7.0	+ 7.0
ENGLAND & WALES ..	62,351	+ 0.0	+ 3.4	63,384	+ 4.0	+ 10.3
SCOTLAND	3,514	+ 0.1	+ 2.5	3,451	+ 0.2	+ 5.3
IRELAND	403	+ 0.2	- 9.2	268	+ 2.3	- 13.5
UNITED KINGDOM ..	66,268	+ 0.1	+ 3.2	67,103	+ 3.7	+ 9.9

At Leicester, Northampton, and Kettering employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. With army bootmakers in Northamptonshire there was an improvement compared with a month ago. At Norwich employment was good, and much better than a year ago. At Bristol employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade it was good at Kingswood and fairly good at Leeds; at both these centres it was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued fair, and showed an improvement compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less re-exports):					
Leather .. doz. pairs	14,704	15,183	11,666	- 479	+ 3,038
.. value £	51,517	56,898	40,719	- 5,581	+ 10,598
Caoutchouc .. doz. pairs	3,071	2,863	9,985	+ 208	- 6,914
.. value £	4,873	5,577	11,104	- 804	- 6,131
Other materials .. doz. pairs	11,985	13,187	9,934	- 1,202	+ 2,051
.. value £	8,664	11,990	8,456	- 3,326	+ 208
Exports (British & Irish):					
Leather .. doz. pairs	98,356	111,552	101,560	- 13,196	- 3,204
.. value £	285,543	321,577	277,670	- 36,034	+ 7,873
Caoutchouc .. doz. pairs	14,753	12,126	14,828	+ 2,627	- 75
.. value £	16,935	13,369	17,385	+ 3,626	- 390
Other materials .. doz. pairs	7,540	10,223	8,250	- 2,683	- 720
.. value £	5,341	8,308	4,929	- 2,967	+ 412

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 107 Returns—80 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during December showed the usual seasonal decline, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms paying

Employment was fair at Sunderland, Rotherham and Normanton. It was fair, except with plasterers, on the Tees. At Hull it was bad. With carpenters and joiners it was fair at Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield. With bricklayers it was good at York. With slaters and tilers in the Northern counties and Yorkshire it was good generally.

Employment was fair with carpenters and painters at Manchester and Stockport, with bricklayers at Bolton and Rochdale, and with carpenters at Liverpool, Oldham, Preston, Burnley, Bury and Wigan. It was bad with carpenters at Blackburn and with plumbers at Preston. At Barrow it was fair generally.

Employment was fair, except with painters, at Stoke-on-Trent, Derby, and Ipswich. It was fair with bricklayers at Lincoln, Shrewsbury and Worcester, with masons and carpenters at Birmingham, with masons at Nottingham, and with carpenters at Coventry. It was bad with carpenters at Nottingham, Leicester, Burton and Worcester.

Employment was generally fair at Chatham, Portsmouth, Southampton, Cheltenham and Swansea. At Bristol it was fair with carpenters and plasterers, and at Cardiff with carpenters and painters.

Employment was fair with bricklayers and carpenters at Glasgow and Edinburgh. At Belfast it was good, except with bricklayers and plasterers. At Dublin it was fair with plasterers and slaters.

POTTERY TRADES.

(Based on 90 Returns—82 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.) EMPLOYMENT during December continued good generally, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 20,657 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Total	20,657	- 0.2	+ 4.7	20,317	+ 0.3	+ 9.8

In the Potteries employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment was fairly good on the whole. In the West of England it continued fair. With clay tobacco-pipe makers at Glasgow employment was the same as a month ago, short time still being worked.

The Imports of chinaware and earthenware in December, 1911, were valued at £81,771, as compared with £89,884 in November, 1911, and £89,831 in December, 1910; the Exports for the same months were valued at £249,581, £293,169, and £246,447 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 87 Returns—55 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 22 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.) EMPLOYMENT was good on the whole, and better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,687 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd, 1911, showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year

ago, there was an increase of 9.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 17.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. The increases over a year ago were especially marked in the glass bottle branch.

Branches	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Total	8,687	+ 1.3	+ 9.7	11,624	+ 6.6	+ 17.9

With glass bottle makers in Yorkshire employment continued good generally, and was much better than a year ago. At Mexborough, however, it was still moderate, but improving. In the North of England, in Lancashire, in Scotland, and at Bristol employment continued good. At Dublin it was bad, with some short time. Employment at Birmingham, Wordsley and Stourbridge continued good with flint-glass makers; it was also good with flint-glass cutters, with whom overtime was general. It continued good with plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham. Employment at St. Helens was good with sheet and plate glass workers, and fair with sheet-glass flatteners. With pressed-glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was moderate, short time still being worked. With glass-blowers in London employment continued very good.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1911.		Nov., 1911.		Dec., 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	Month ago.	
							Year ago.	Year ago.
Imports:								
Window and German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	121,825	104,293	110,300				+ 17,532	+ 11,525
Plate	24,534	25,853	27,410	- 1,319	- 2,876			
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	81,456	84,757	75,279	- 3,301	+ 6,177			
Manufactures, other sorts	1,244	894	101	+ 350	+ 1,143			
Bottles	155,110	143,771	149,334	+ 11,339	+ 5,776			
Exports:								
Plate	15,546	18,708	18,643	- 3,162	- 3,097			
Flint	7,522	8,317	6,085	+ 789	+ 1,443			
Manufactures, other sorts	62,727	58,798	43,146	+ 3,929	+ 19,581			
Bottles	70,539	98,985	65,845	- 28,446	+ 4,694			

BRICK TRADE.

(Based on 152 Returns—141 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December was quiet on the whole, except in Scotland. It was rather worse, generally, than a month ago, but slightly better than a year ago.

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Total	12,147	- 1.0	+ 0.3	12,815	- 3.8	+ 1.3

Returns from firms employing 12,147 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Northern Counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire district employment was moderate on the whole, and about the same as a month ago; it was, however, reported as good at Barnsley and Rotherham. Employment was slack and worse than a month ago in the Midlands, much short time being worked in the Nottingham and Peterborough districts. It was generally moderate in the Eastern Counties and in the Southern and South-Western Counties. In North Wales it was quiet. In Scotland employment continued good, and better than a year ago.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 217 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.) Labourers outside the regular farm staff lost a good deal of time during December on account of wet weather. The demand for such men was also affected by the forward state of farm work and by seasonal slackness, and the supply was consequently in excess of requirements in many districts. Some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported in several parts of the Southern and South-Western Counties.

Northern Counties.—Rain caused some loss of time to extra labourers in most districts. There was a limited demand for such men for threshing, turnip pulling, manure carting, hedging, draining, &c. The supply of men was reported as more than equal to the demand in a number of Rural Districts, including those of Longtown (Cumberland), West Ward (Westmorland), and Bridlington, Great Ouseburn, Howden, Pickering, Pocklington, and Selby (Yorkshire).

Midland Counties.—Extra men were chiefly required for such work as threshing, carting manure, storing roots, and hedging. The demand, however, was generally only moderate, partly on account of the forward state of farm work. In nearly all the counties in this group a surplus of extra men was reported in one or more Rural Districts, the counties in which this appeared to be most general being Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and Oxfordshire. Loss of time on account of rain was reported in most districts, particularly in the case of threshers.

Eastern Counties.—The partial failure of the root crops was again accountable for a reduced demand for extra labourers, particularly in Norfolk and Suffolk, where a surplus of men was reported in a number of districts; some surplus was also reported in the Chesterton (Cambridgeshire), Bourne and Spilsby (Lincolnshire), and Braintree (Essex) Rural Districts. Any considerable loss of time through rain was not general, though reported in some districts, particularly in Suffolk and Essex.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Outdoor work was considerably affected by rain in all these counties during December, and extra men were generally in irregular employment in consequence. A certain amount of work was provided for such men at threshing, carting manure, hedging and ditching, draining, and on the root crops, but the demand, apart from the effect of wet weather, was generally only moderate. A surplus of men was reported in several districts in Surrey, Hampshire, and Wiltshire, and also in the Faversham and Hollingbourne (Kent), Chailey (Sussex), and Wareham and Purbeck (Dorset) Rural Districts. Men for hedging and ditching were wanted in the Hereford Rural District, and there was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in the Rural Districts of Godstone (Surrey), Chailey and Petworth (Sussex), Highworth and Swindon (Wiltshire), Dursley, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Thornbury (Gloucestershire), and West Penwith (Cornwall).

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 134 Returns—115 from Employers, 8 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in London and the other principal ports, and was, on the whole, better than a year ago.

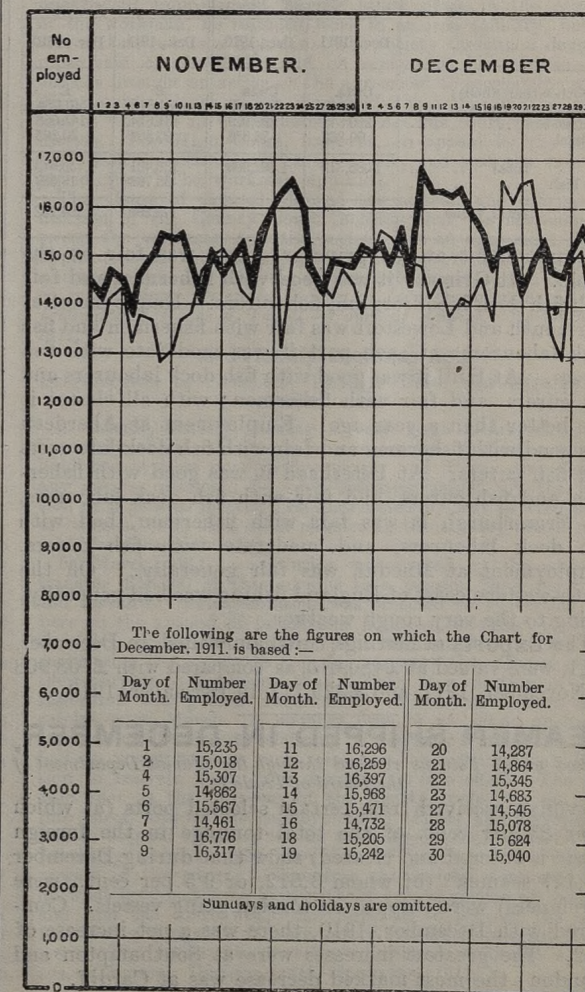
London.*—Employment was fairly good, and better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended December 30th, 1911, was 15,273, an increase of 1.5 per cent., compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with December, 1910.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.*			
	In Docks.			Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.	
Week ended Dec. 2nd	5,482	2,190	7,672	14,885
" " " 9th	5,776	2,331	8,107	15,548
" " " 16th	5,714	2,768	8,482	15,854
" " " 23rd	5,421	2,037	7,458	14,938
" " " 30th	5,334	2,754	8,088	15,072
Average for 5 weeks ended Dec. 30th, 1911	5,561	2,391	7,952	15,273
Average for Nov., 1911	5,368	2,423	7,790	15,047
" " Dec., 1910	5,027	3,010	8,037	14,739

During December, 1911, the maximum number employed was on the 8th (16,776), and the minimum number on the 20th (14,287). During December, 1910, the maximum number occurred on the 19th (16,554), and the minimum number on the 28th (12,933).

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 104 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of November and December, 1911. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1910, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1911 and the thin curve to 1910.]



* Exclusive of Tilbury.

The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,942 during December, 1911, as compared with 1,086 during the previous month, and 1,701 during December, 1910.

Liverpool.—Employment continued good generally with dock labourers and quay and railway carters; some overtime was reported.

Other Ports.—Employment with dock and quayside labourers on the Tyne and Wear was, on the whole, fairly good, though somewhat affected at Newcastle by the carters' dispute; trimmers and teamers were well employed on both rivers. Employment generally continued fair at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough; at Middlesbrough, however, the crane-men's dispute caused some slackness towards the end of the month. Employment was quiet at Hull, and good at Grimsby and Goole. A decline on a month ago took place at Yarmouth and Lowestoft; at Parkeston employment was fair.

Employment with dock labourers at Plymouth was moderate, and rather better than a month ago; it was good at Bristol. Employment at Newport was interrupted by a dispute; it was good at Swansea.

Employment was fair at Glasgow. An improvement on the previous month was reported at Leith; at Grange-mouth and Dundee employment was good. It continued moderate at Belfast and bad at Londonderry.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishing Statistics of England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture, Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in December, 1911, showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with December, 1910.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in December, 1911 and 1910:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.
Fish (other than Shell):			£	£
England and Wales..	Cwts. 764,705	Cwts. 728,253	584,315	561,754
Scotland	260,345	289,909	131,514	143,658
Ireland	60,262	76,836	20,352	30,263
Total	1,085,312	1,092,998	736,181	735,675
Shell Fish	—	—	35,788	19,087
Total Value	—	—	772,269	754,762

Employment at the principal ports was fair on the whole. At Grimsby it was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. Employment at Yarmouth and Lowestoft was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers; at each port it was moderate with fish curers. At Hull it was good with fish dock labourers and fish curers and fair with fishermen; with all classes it was better than a year ago. Employment at Aberdeen was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Peterhead it was good with fishermen and fish curers and fair with fish dock labourers. At Fraserburgh it was fair with fishermen, bad with fish dock labourers, and moderate with fish curers. Employment at Macduff was fair generally. Off the south-western coast of England fishing was bad generally, owing to the very rough weather.

The Exports of herrings, cured and salted, in December, 1911, were valued at £480,015, as compared with £708,908 in November, 1911, and £325,711 in December, 1910.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which over 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during December 37,147 seamen* (of whom 3,512, or 9.5 per cent., were foreigners) were shipped on foreign-going vessels. Compared with December, 1910, there was a net increase of 582. The greatest increases were at Southampton and London; the most marked decrease was at Cardiff.

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

During the year ended December, 1911, the total number of seamen shipped was 524,203, an increase of 27,853 on the number for 1910. There were large increases at Liverpool, London, Glasgow, the Tyne ports, and Southampton. At Cardiff and Middlesbrough there were decreases.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	December,			Year ended December,		
	1910.	1911.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1911.	1910.	1911.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1911.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,273	2,491	+ 218	28,944	32,846	+ 3,902
Sunderland	304	439	+ 135	4,633	4,556	- 77
Middlesbrough	403	383	- 20	5,245	4,673	- 572
Hull	1,126	1,117	- 9	14,833	15,309	+ 476
Grimsby	18	10	- 8	1,304	1,376	+ 72
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol†	1,025	855	- 170	12,937	14,470	+ 1,533
Newport, Mon.	956	684	- 271	10,875	10,845	- 30
Cardiff	4,107	3,222	- 885	51,319	44,721	- 6,598
Swansea	473	432	- 41	5,377	5,220	- 157
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	13,112	13,391	+ 279	180,337	192,059	+ 11,722
London	6,104	6,648	+ 544	83,029	91,096	+ 8,067
Southampton	3,412	4,084	+ 672	45,191	48,407	+ 3,216
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	282	263	- 19	4,025	4,416	+ 391
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	223	250	+ 27	2,904	2,916	+ 12
Glasgow	2,526	2,551	+ 25	43,318	48,286	+ 4,968
IRELAND.						
Dublin	106	133	+ 27	688	861	+ 173
Belfast	116	194	+ 78	1,491	2,146	+ 655
Total	36,565	37,147	+ 582	496,350	524,203	+27,853

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases affecting labour reported in December. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: DISOBEDIENCE TO RULES MADE FOR SAFETY OF WORKERS: MISCONDUCT.

A workman injured by accident in the course of his employment is not entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, nor are his dependants in case the accident terminated fatally, unless the accident was also one arising out of the employment.

A boy of seventeen employed at a colliery was going with three other boys to the end of a level in the pit where they had to work. To reach this place involved a considerable walk, but parallel to the footway there ran an endless rope carrying tubs to the lower part of the mine. The workmen were strictly forbidden ever to ride in these tubs, but the boys constantly did ride in them when they could evade the notice of any of the officials. As a train of tubs was about to start when these four boys were starting for their place of work, they all got into a tub. After they had proceeded about half a mile the head of the boy in question came in collision with the roof, and he was killed. It appeared that he had only been working in the pit for a few weeks, but he knew well that he was forbidden to ride in the tubs. A dependant successfully claimed compensation in the County Court; but on appeal the Court of Appeal held that there was no evidence that the accident arose out of the employment, and that therefore no compensation was payable. Against this decision the dependant appealed.

The House of Lords held that the question whether or not an accident arose out of the employment is quite a different one from the question whether or not there had been misconduct. Misconduct is no bar to compensation where the accident causes death. Where a workman does disobediently or imprudently something different in kind from anything he was employed to do, something which he is actually forbidden to do, and by so doing is injured, the accident does not arise out of the employment. In this case, therefore, there was no evidence that the accident did in fact arise out of the employment, and the Court of Appeal were right. The appeal was therefore dismissed. *Barnes v. Nunnery Colliery Company, Limited.*—House of Lords. 11th December, 1911.

ACCIDENT BY NEGLIGENCE OF STRANGER: REMEDY AGAINST EMPLOYER AND STRANGER: OPTION OF WORKMAN.

Where a workman is injured by an accident in circumstances giving him a right to damages against some person other than the employer as well as a right to compensation from his employer, the workman may take proceedings against both parties, but is not entitled to recover both damages and compensation.

A watchman employed by contractors to watch works being carried on in a street was knocked down and injured by a

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

motor-car belonging to persons other than his employers. After the accident he was paid compensation for about four months by his employers under an arrangement with them by which he reserved his claim against the owners of the motor-car, and agreed to repay the compensation received to his employers if he obtained damages against the owners of the car. He brought an action for damages against those persons, but the Sheriff-Substitute held that he was not entitled to recover, as he had received compensation, and that the reservation had no effect. The action was therefore dismissed. The workman appealed.

The Court of Session reversed the decision of the lower court, holding that the arrangement made between the workman and the employers was a reasonable and proper one, and was no bar to his action for damages. *Wright v. Lindsay and others.*—Court of Session. 1st December, 1911.

AWARD OF COMPENSATION BY COMMITTEE: JURISDICTION OF JUDGE TO REVIEW: ACT OF 1897.

By the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, it was provided that if any committee, representative of an employer and his workmen, exists with power to settle matters under the Act, such matter should be settled by the arbitration of such committee, unless either party gave notice in writing objecting to such settlement. It was also provided that any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request of either the employer or the workman. There are similar provisions in the 1907 Act, which came into operation on 1st July, 1907.

A workman lost his arm by an accident in circumstances entitling him to compensation on the 22nd March, 1907, his weekly wages at the time being 24s. In April, 1907, a memorandum of agreement was recorded in the County Court under which he was to receive 12s. a week compensation. A committee representative of employers and workmen existed for the purpose of settling matters under the Act. By awards of this committee recorded in 1910 the workman was required to accept light work provided by the employers at his former wages, and the weekly payments were reduced to one penny. In November, however, he left work on the ground that he was not able to do it, and in February, 1911, he applied to the County Court for a review of the weekly payments of a penny. The employers then gave him notice that there would be a meeting of the committee, but before the date of that meeting he gave the employers notice that he objected to his application being settled by that committee. The application for review then came before the County Court judge; but he refused to hear it, on the ground that he had no jurisdiction, as the committee alone could review an award made by them. The workman then applied to the High Court for a *mandamus* to compel the County Court judge to hear his application. The High Court held that the application to the County Court was not in the nature of an appeal to the judge from the committee, but was a reconsideration of the matter under fresh circumstances, and therefore the judge had jurisdiction to hear it, and was obliged to hear it. *Rev v. Templer.*—King's Bench Division. 17th December, 1911.

(2) Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

MANAGEMENT OF MINE: INSPECTION: COMPETENCE OF INSPECTOR: LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS.

By the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, it is provided that in every coal mine a competent person or persons appointed for the purpose by the owner, agent or manager of the mine, shall before the commencement of each shift inspect every part of the mine which the workmen are to enter, and ascertain the condition of the mine so far as the presence of gas is concerned. A report must then be made as to whether noxious or inflammable gases were found.

By an outbreak of carbon monoxide gas (or white damp) a miner was killed in the pit where he was working. An action was brought by his widow claiming alternatively damages at common law and under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880. It was proved that the owners of the mine were unaware of any special danger from gas, and had appointed to inspect the mine two persons with the ordinary qualifications and experience required of such persons, but who had no special knowledge of gases or their dangers. For some days before the accident there were indications which would have put a skilled person on his guard against an outbreak of gas. The Sheriff-Substitute decided in favour of the plaintiff at common law, and awarded her damages. The Court of Session, on appeal, reversed this decision, on the ground that the employers were guilty of no negligence in appointing the persons they did as inspectors. They held, however, that the plaintiff was entitled to damages under the Employers' Liability Act, which would be a much smaller sum than that awarded at common law. The plaintiff appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords held that it was the duty of the employers under the Act to appoint competent persons to examine the mine, and that this duty could not be fulfilled by appointing persons with no special knowledge of gases. Therefore, the owners had not fulfilled their statutory duty, could not set up the doctrine of common employment, and were therefore liable at common law. The judgment of the Sheriff-Substitute was accordingly restored, and the appeal allowed. *Black v. Fife Coal Company.*—House of Lords. 19th December, 1911.

(3) Merchant Shipping Acts.

DESERTION: EXPENSES OF OBTAINING SUBSTITUTE: DAMAGES FOR DETENTION OF SHIP: REIMBURSEMENT.

By the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, it is provided that if a seaman deserts his ship he is liable to forfeit all or any part of the wages he has then earned, and to satisfy the excess of wages paid to any substitute engaged in his place at a higher rate than

that agreed to be paid to him. By the Act of 1906, if a seaman belonging to a British ship is left behind out of the British Isles the master must account in the United Kingdom to a superintendent of the Board of Trade for the seaman's wages and effects, but is entitled to be reimbursed for any expenses caused by the absence of the seaman when his absence is caused by desertion, which expenses are in the opinion of the superintendent properly chargeable. There is an appeal from the decision of the superintendent to a court of summary jurisdiction.

Certain seamen having deserted their ship, the master produced to a superintendent of the Board of Trade an account of their wages, etc., showing a claim against the seamen of £25 as damages for a day's detention of the ship owing to the desertion. This claim the superintendent disallowed, and the master appealed against this decision to the magistrates. The magistrates decided that the master was entitled to £16 of the sum claimed. The Board of Trade appealed.

The High Court held that the master could only claim the expenses of obtaining a substitute for a man who had deserted, and that damages for detention generally could not be deducted from wages. The appeal was therefore allowed. *Rev v. Wilson.*—King's Bench Division. 14th December, 1911.

(4) Trade Union Acts.

AGREEMENT FOR APPLICATION OF FUNDS TO PROVIDE BENEFIT: CONDITIONAL PAYMENT OF BENEFIT: ACTION BY TRADE UNION TO RECOVER AMOUNT FROM MEMBER: JURISDICTION OF COURTS.

By the Trade Union Act, 1871, it is provided that nothing in that Act shall enable any court to entertain any legal proceedings instituted with the object of directly enforcing (1) any agreement between members of a trade union concerning the conditions on which members shall be employed; (2) any agreement for the payment of any subscription or penalty to the union; (3) any agreement for the application of the funds of the union to provide benefits to members.

By the rules of a trade union of ironfounders in certain circumstances a sum of money was payable to any member who became totally incapacitated for life from following his employment; provided that any member who received such sum and who subsequently returned to his employment should repay the amount to the society.

A member of this trade union met with an accident which apparently incapacitated him for life from following his employment as a moulder in a foundry. He was accordingly paid the sum of £100 by the union, and signed an agreement that in case he should at any time afterwards resume work as an iron founder he would repay that sum to the society, and that in case of non-payment certain officials of the society might sue for and recover the sum in an action on the agreement. An unexpected improvement having taken place in the condition of the workman, he resumed work in an iron foundry, but as a core-maker, not as a moulder. The society thereupon demanded repayment of the £100, and on repayment being refused the officials brought an action on the agreement to recover the money. The County Court judge dismissed the action on the ground that it was one in which under the Act the court had no jurisdiction. The High Court, however, on appeal by the society, held that the action was maintainable, and that the court had jurisdiction. The workman appealed.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, and affirmed the decision of the County Court, holding that the agreement between the workman and the society was an agreement for the application of the funds of the union to provide benefit for a member within the meaning of the Act, therefore the court had no jurisdiction. *Friendly Society of Iron Founders of England, Ireland and Wales v. Ingall.*—Court of Appeal. 1st December, 1911.

(5) Friendly Societies Acts.

DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS: PENSION FUND FOR OFFICERS AND SERVANTS.

A friendly society, having a very large membership, were bound by their rules to have a valuation of their assets and liabilities at least once in five years; and it was provided that any surplus disclosed by such valuation might, by the resolution of a general meeting, be distributed by way of free policies or bonuses, or in such other manner as the actuary might certify could be done with safety.

In March, 1911, a resolution was passed by the society to transfer £50,000 of this surplus to a pension fund for officers and servants. This resolution was objected to by certain members on the ground of insufficient notice of intention to propose it. The society accordingly made an alteration in the rules authorising the society to transfer not more than 20 per cent. of their surplus to a pension fund. Then at a meeting in July a resolution was passed unanimously to the same effect as the resolution in March. A member brought an action against the trustees of the society claiming a declaration that the society had no power to pass such resolution, and claiming an injunction to restrain them from carrying it into effect. The judge held that as the purposes of the society could not be carried into effect without the employment of officers and servants who had to be paid salaries, and as good service could be secured by providing pensions, the provision of pensions was within the powers of the society. Therefore the society were entitled to do what they had done even without any alteration of the rules; and that the court would not interfere to prevent the society from doing things which were purely matters of internal management. The action was therefore dismissed. *Kirsopp v. High-ton.*—Chancery Division. 8th December, 1911.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lbs. of bread on January 1st, 1912, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Table, in which the highest predominant rates and the lowest predominant rates are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

District.	Jan. 1st, 1912.			Dec. 1st, 1911.			Jan. 2nd, 1911.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ..	5½	4½	5.2	5½	4½	5.2	5½	4½	5.3
E. & N.E. ..	5½	5	5.3	5½	5	5.3	5½	5	5.2
S.E. ..	5½	5	5.1	5½	5	5.1	5½	5	5.1
S.W. ..	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.5
W. & W.C. ..	6	5½	5.6	6	5½	5.6	6	5½	5.7
N. Counties & Yorks. Lancs. & Cheshire..	6½	5	5.6	6½	5½	5.7	6	5	5.5
Midlands ..	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.4
Eastern Counties ..	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.4	6	5	5.4
Southern Counties ..	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5.6	6	5	5.6	6	5	5.7
Scotland ..	7	5½	6.2	7	5½	6.2	7	5½	6.2
Great Britain ..	7	4½	5.6	7	4½	5.6	7	4½	5.6

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the predominant prices remains unaltered; it was also the same as on January 2nd, 1911.

Of the various prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns the predominant price (*i.e.*, the price at which the greatest quantity was sold) was as under:—

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on Jan. 1st, 1912.*	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lb.
London ..	d.	d.	d.	Aug. '11	+ ½
Birmingham ..	5½ & 6	..	..	Sept. '11	+ ½
Bolton ..	5½	..	..	Nov. '11	+ ½
Bristol ..	5 & 5½	..	..	April '11	- ½
Cardiff ..	5½	..	..	June '10	- ½
Derby ..	5	..	..	Dec. '10	- ½
Hull ..	5	..	..	June '10	- ½
Ipswich ..	5½	..	..	June '10	- ½
Leeds ..	5½	..	..	May '10	- ½
Leicester ..	5	..	..	May '10	- ½
Liverpool ..	5½	..	..	Sept. '11	+ ½
Manchester ..	5½	..	..	Oct. '11	+ ½
Middlesbrough ..	5 & 5½	..	..	March '11	- ½
Norwich ..	5	..	..	Nov. '09	- ½
Nottingham ..	5½	..	..	June '10	- ½
Oldham ..	4½	..	..	April '11	- ½
Exmouth ..	6	..	..	June '10	- ½
Portsmouth ..	6	..	..	Oct. '10	+ ½
Potters ..	5	..	..	Aug. '11	+ ½
Southampton ..	5 & 5½	..	..	Sept. '11	+ ½
Wolverhampton ..	5	..	..	June '10	- ½
Aberdeen ..	5½	..	..	Sept. '11	+ ½
Dundee ..	5½	..	..	Aug. '11	+ ½
Edinburgh ..	6½	..	..	Aug. '11	+ ½
Glasgow ..	6	..	..	Oct. '11	+ ½
Belfast ..	6	..	..	1st Jan. '12	+ ½
Dublin ..	6	..	..	May '10	- ½

As compared with a month ago, the price of bread has risen ½d. per 4 lbs. at Belfast. As compared with January 2nd, 1911, the price is lower in four of the towns and higher in two. In the remaining 21 towns no change is shown.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	British Wheat		Imports (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households ex Mill for Cash).
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1910.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
December ..	7 1	7 10	10 10½	10 9½	10 9½
1911.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
November ..	7 8½	8 4	10 7½	10 4½	10 4½
December ..	7 8	8 2½	10 7½	10 6½	10 6½

The imports of wheat during September-December, 1911, amounted to 33,988,549 cwts., or 2,674,389 cwts.

* Where two prices are quoted, about equal quantities were sold at each price.

less than in the corresponding months of 1910. The exports of wheatmeal and flour during September-December, 1911, amounted to 3,947,929 cwts., or 4,741 cwts. less than during September-December, 1910.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Factory Acts: Particulars of Work and Wages: India-Rubber Pouches, &c.—It is provided by the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, that in every textile factory the occupier must cause to be published, in the manner prescribed, particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work to be done, and also particulars of the work to which that rate is to be applied, for the purpose of enabling every worker who is paid by the piece to compute the amount of wages payable to him. On being satisfied by the report of an inspector that these provisions are applicable to any class of non-textile factories or to any class of workshops, the Home Secretary has power by Special Order to apply such provisions to any such class, subject to such modifications as are, in his opinion, necessary to adapt them to the circumstances of the case. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order,* dated December 23rd, 1911, to come into force February 1st, 1912, applying the provisions to factories and workshops or parts thereof in which is carried on the manufacture of *toy balloons, pouches, or footballs from india-rubber*. The Order contains full details as to the mode in which the particulars are to be brought to the knowledge of the workers, and provides for the safeguarding of trade secrets, and for penalties for infringing the requirements of the Order.

Laundries.—In pursuance of the same power, the Home Secretary has made an Order†, dated December 23rd, 1911, to come into force on February 1st, 1912, applying the above-mentioned provisions to factories and workshops which are *laundries*. This also specifies the mode in which the particulars are to be published to the workers, and provides penalties for not complying with the Order and for betraying trade secrets.

The Making of Files.—The Home Secretary has also made an Order‡, dated December 23rd, 1911, to come into force February 1st, 1912, applying the above-mentioned provisions to factories and workshops, or parts thereof, in which the *making of files* is carried on, and to outworkers employed in that class of work, and to the occupiers or contractors by whom such outworkers are employed. The particulars are to be given to the workers in the manner prescribed in detail in the Order, which also defines "outworker" as used therein, and makes the usual provisions for enforcement and for safeguarding trade secrets.

Cotton Cloth Factories: Health and Safety.—A Committee was appointed by the Home Secretary on November 27th, 1907, to inquire into the question of humidity and ventilation in cotton cloth factories. This Committee made a Second Report, dated January, 1911, making certain recommendations. By the Factory and Workshop (Cotton Cloth Factories) Act, 1911, the Home Secretary is given power to make regulations for the purpose of giving effect to such of the recommendations as he may deem necessary for the protection of health in cotton cloth factories. In pursuance of this power he has made Regulations§, dated December 21st, 1911, which are to come into force on April 1st, 1912. These Regulations are to be substituted for the existing provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as to temperature and humidity, the table of humidity, and the employment of thermometers in cotton cloth factories. They make elaborate provisions concerning humidification and the protection of health in such factories. The penalties for non-compliance are as provided by the Act of 1901 with regard to the repealed provisions.

Appointment of Certifying Factory Surgeons during December, 1911.

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

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.¶
Cullingworth ..	J. M. Crocker, Albion House, Bingley.	(1) Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.; (2) Surgery, Dewhirst Street, Wilsden, Friday, 12 noon-12.30 p.m.
Exmouth ..	E. L. Sturdee, Betworth, Cyprus Road.	Tuesday, 2-3 p.m.
Ramsgate ..	J. Dundas, Health Office, Albion House.	Health Office, Albion House, Ramsgate, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Sidmouth ..	W. H. Peile, Bickwell Valley ..	Holmdale, High Street, Sidmouth, Tuesday, 10-11 a.m.
Tottenham ..	J. A. P. Barnes, 802, High Road	(1) Wednesday, 12 noon-1 p.m.; (2) 10 High Road, Wood Green, N., Thursday, 12 noon-1 p.m.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1911, No. 1293. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d. † Statutory Rules and Orders, 1911, No. 1294. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d. ‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1911, No. 1292. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d. § Statutory Rules and Orders, 1911, No. 1293. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d. ¶ *i.e.*, of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

BUILDING PLANS.

Returns have been received by the Department from 98 of the principal urban districts (exclusive of the county of London) of the United Kingdom showing the estimated cost of the buildings for which they passed plans during the last quarter of 1910 and 1911 respectively. The population of the districts covered by the returns amount to over 12½ millions.

The particulars classified by districts and description of buildings are summarised in the following Table:—

District and Population at Census of 1911.*	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, Additions, and Alterations.	Total.
Outer London (1,650,000)	£ 396,107	£ 23,760	£ 42,860	£ 82,755	£ 43,938	£ 589,420
Northern Counties (725,000)	61,484	5,066	1,490	31,835	30,386	130,261
Yorkshire (1,925,000)	187,935	70,656	64,861	67,120	58,841	449,413
Lancashire & Cheshire (2,370,000)	226,408	86,013	56,203	119,010	81,811	569,445
Midlands (2,050,000)	234,528	113,741	28,690	63,725	65,064	505,748
Other Districts in England (1,140,000)	192,750	6,475	38,620	26,860	44,978	309,683
Wales & Mon. (430,000)	124,830	300	5,800	42,750	12,334	186,014
Scotland (1,830,000)	95,202	55,750	3,268	36,800	65,313	256,333
Ireland (825,000)	20,100	5,000	12,680	4,500	19,960	62,240
Total ..	1,539,344	368,761	254,472	478,385	422,625	3,058,557

District and Population at Census of 1911.*	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, Additions, and Alterations.	Total.
Outer London (1,650,000)	£ 241,877	£ 31,873	£ 30,048	£ 153,894	£ 60,972	£ 518,664
Northern Counties (725,000)	42,259	41,345	13,280	2,150	15,143	114,187
Yorkshire (1,925,000)	188,660	106,003	36,685	34,881	50,853	417,082
Lancashire & Cheshire (2,370,000)	263,130	135,949	60,557	158,816	61,987	680,439
Midlands (2,050,000)	183,497	231,994	61,317	118,043	72,348	667,199
Other Districts in England (1,140,000)	219,900	12,300	34,076	61,807	49,237	377,320
Wales & Mon. (430,000)	57,190	1,670	31,970	31,150	13,672	135,662
Scotland (1,830,000)	74,271	35,007	72,930	116,101	66,860	365,169
Ireland (825,000)	40,595	8,665	18,673	38,070	16,083	122,086
Total ..	1,311,379	604,806	399,546	714,912	407,155	3,297,798

As compared with a year ago there was, during the December quarter, a total increase of £339,241 (or 11.1 per cent.) which was confined to factories and workshops, shops and other business premises and public buildings. The following Table shows for each class of building the increase or decrease in the quarter ended December 31st, 1911, as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1910:—

Class of Building.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-).	
	Amount.	Per cent.
Dwelling Houses ..	£ - 227,965	- 14.8
Factories and Workshops ..	+ 238,045	+ 64.9
Shops and other Business Premises ..	+ 105,074	+ 41.3
Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings ..	+ 239,557	+ 50.4
Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations ..	- 15,470	- 3.7
Total ..	+ 339,241	+ 11.1

The increase or decrease in the December quarter, 1911, as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1910, is shown for each district in the following Table:—

District.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	
	Amount.	Per Cent.
Outer London ..	£ - 70,756	- 12.0
Northern Counties ..	- 16,074	- 12.3
Yorkshire ..	- 32,531	- 7.2
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	+ 110,994	+ 19.5
Midlands ..	+ 161,451	+ 31.9
Other Districts in England ..	+ 67,637	+ 21.8
Wales and Monmouthshire ..	- 50,362	- 27.1
Scotland ..	+ 108,836	+ 42.5
Ireland ..	+ 58,846	+ 96.2
Total ..	+ 339,241	+ 11.1

* In a few cases the population for 1911 is not available, and that for 1901 has been used.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for December, 1911, and for the year ended December, 1911.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE. NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

	Dec., 1911.		Year ended Dec., 1911.	
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 1910.	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 1909.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	Thou- sand £ 25,161	+ 1,837	Thou- sand £ 264,334	+ 6,653
II.—Raw Materials & Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	25,481	+ 6,402	248,163	- 13,013
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	14,124	+ 473	165,579	+ 8,733
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcels Post)	236	- 15	2,483	- 71
Total value of Imports	65,002	- 4,107	680,559	+ 2,302

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE.—The value of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as "free on board" values.

	Dec., 1911.		Year ended Dec., 1911.	
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 1910.	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 1909.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	Thou- sand £ 2,614	+ 408	Thou- sand £ 29,032	+ 2,961
II.—Raw Materials & Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	4,917	+ 399	53,729	+ 401
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	29,887	+ 75	362,387	+ 19,518
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcels Post)	1,154	+ 266	9,134	+ 1,017
Total value of Exports of British Produce	38,572	+ 1,148	454,282	+ 23,897

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £3,680,000 during December, 1911, a decrease of £1,197,000 on December, 1910, and of £955,000 on December, 1909. During the year 1911 they amounted to £102,721,000, a decrease of £1,040,000 on 1910, and an increase of £11,376,000 on 1909.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

(Based on information published weekly in the "Times.")

The goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended December 30th, 1911, amounted to £4,523,176, an increase of £166,038 (or 3.8 per cent.) on the total for the corresponding period of 1910.

During the year ended December 30th, 1911, the receipts amounted to £58,879,217, an increase of £1,523,824 (or 2.7 per cent.) on the total for 1910.

	4 weeks ended December 30th, 1911.		52 weeks ended December 30th, 1911.	
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1910.	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1910.
English Lines:—	£	£	£	£
L. & N. W., Midland, N. London, and N. Staffs ..	1,380,791	+ 21,869	18,632,583	+ 493,716
Gt. Northern, Gt. Central, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury ..	730,732	+ 30,334	9,582,511	+ 320,330
Lancs. and Yorks. and N. Eastern ..	901,202	+ 57,349</		

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1911, was 77, consisting of 63 cases of lead poisoning, 2 of arsenic poisoning, and 12 of anthrax; 4 deaths due to lead poisoning and 2 to anthrax were also reported. In addition, 21 cases of lead poisoning (7 of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the twelve months ended December, 1911, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 755, as compared with 574 in 1910. The number of deaths was 49 in 1911, as compared with 48 in 1910. In addition, there were 263 cases of lead poisoning (including 48 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during 1911, as compared with 232 cases (including 35 deaths) during 1910.

[Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.]

Analysis by Industries.

INDUSTRY.	CASES.		DEATHS.			
	Dec. 1911.	Year ended Dec.,		Dec. 1911.	Year ended Dec.,	
		1911.	1910.		1911.	1910.
Lead Poisoning.						
Among Operatives engaged in—						
Smelting of Metals	2	48	34	—	3	5
Brass Works	1	9	7	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ..	1	12	4	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	3	37	25	—	2	4
Printing	—	32	33	—	2	1
File Cutting	—	18	9	1	—	—
Turning of Metals	2	13	17	—	—	—
White Lead Works	5	41	34	—	2	1
Red Lead Works	2	13	10	—	1	—
China and Earthenware*	6	92	78	—	6	11
Litho-Transfer Works	—	1	1	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ..	1	5	—	—	—	—
Vitreous Enamelling	1	19	17	—	1	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ..	4	24	31	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	21	17	—	—	—
Coach and Car Painting	10	104	70	—	5	6
Shipbuilding	5	36	21	—	6	2
Paint used in other Industries ..	9	56	51	1	1	3
Other Industries	9	88	47	—	4	3
Total in Factories & Workshops	63	669	506	4	37	38
House Painting & Plumbing ..	21	263	232	7	48	35
Other Forms of Poisoning.						
Mercurial Poisoning—						
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	2	2	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	—	3	4	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	7	4	—	—	1
Total..	—	12	10	—	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	1	7	5	—	—	—
Other Industries	1	3	2	—	1	—
Total..	2	10	7	—	1	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	2	22	17	—	1	1
Anthrax.						
Wool	6	35	28	2	10	3
Handling of Horsehair	2	8	6	—	1	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ..	4	20	14	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	1	3	—	—	2
Total Anthrax	12	64	51	2	11	9
Total reported under Factory and Workshop Act	77	755	574	6	49	48
Grand Total	98	1,018	806	13	97	83

* Of the 6 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry 5 were females

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1911, was 269, a decrease of 37 on a month ago, and of 350 on a year ago. The mean number for December during the five years 1906—1910 was 331, the maximum year being 1910, with 619 deaths, and the minimum year 1908, with 246 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in December, 1911, was 112, compared with 113 a month ago and 473 a year ago, when the explosion at the Atherton pits of the Hulton Colliery Company, Ltd., occurred. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshops Act during December, 1911, was 106, compared with 150 a month ago and 110 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the railway service were 49, 42, and 34 respectively. The total number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during December, 1911, was 175, an increase of 71 on a month ago and of 47 on a year ago.

During the year 1911 the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 2,960, compared with 3,344 in 1910. The total number of seamen reported as killed during 1911 was 1,254, compared with 1,102 during 1910.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1911, on a	
	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen & Goods Guards	3	5	1	- 2	+ 2
Engine Drivers	3	3	3	—	—
Firemen	3	2	1	+ 1	+ 2
Guards (Passenger)	7	7	6	—	+ 2
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	—	—	—	—	—
Porters	5	3	2	+ 2	+ 3
Shunters	5	2	3	+ 3	+ 2
Miscellaneous	20	18	17	+ 2	+ 3
Contractors' Servants	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Total, Railway Service	49	42	34	+ 7	—
Mines—					
Underground	90	98	452	- 8	- 362
Surface	10	9	14	+ 1	- 4
Total, Mines	100	107	466	- 7	- 366
Quarries over 20 feet deep ..	12	6	7	+ 6	+ 5
Factories and Workshops—					
Textile—					
Cotton	5	7	8	- 2	- 3
Wool and Worsted	—	2	3	- 2	- 3
Other Textiles	1	1	2	—	- 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	13	13	7	—	+ 6
Founding and Conversion of Metals	—	—	—	—	—
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	5	4	3	+ 1	+ 2
Ship and Boat Building	16	17	11	- 1	+ 5
Wood	2	2	2	—	- 5
Chemicals	5	42	10	- 37	- 5
Laundries	—	—	—	—	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	33	39	36	- 6	- 3
Total, Factories and Workshops.	81	130	84	- 49	- 3
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5.	20	17	19	+ 3	+ 1
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	4	2	3	+ 2	+ 1
Warehouses	—	—	—	—	- 3
Buildings to which Act applies ..	1	1	4	—	—
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5.	25	20	26	+ 5	- 1
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	2	1	2	+ 1	—
Total, excluding Seamen	269	306	619	- 37	- 350
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	33	16	32	+ 17	+ 1
Steam	128	78	87	+ 50	+ 41
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	3	1	4	+ 2	- 1
Steam	11	9	5	+ 2	+ 6
Total, Seamen	175	104	128	+ 71	+ 47
Total, including Seamen	444	410	747	+ 34	- 303

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN DECEMBER.

The total number who received employment relief was 2,724, of whom 973 were in London and "Outer London," 1,009 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 402 in Scotland, and 340 in Ireland. The average duration of employment relief was 12.1 days per person employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 32s. 0d. per head, or about 2s. 8d. per day.

The net total number of applicants remaining on the registers at the end of December (after deduction where practicable of persons disqualified, those who had found work, etc.) was 28,241*, of whom 15,018 were in London and "Outer London," 10,234 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 835 in Scotland, and 2,154 in Ireland.

During the month registration was resumed at Aberdeen, Cardiff, Drogheda, Grimsby, Hastings, Hornsey, Tottenham, Willesden, and Wood Green.

The total number of Distress Committees in operation at the end of December, 1911, was 78, as compared with 69 at the end of November, 1911, and 97 at the end of December, 1910. Of the Distress Committees in operation at the end of December, 1911, 39 were in London and "Outer London," 31 in other places in England and Wales, 6 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland.

The following table summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in December, 1911, together with the corresponding figures for November, 1911, and December, 1910. It should be noted that the figures do not necessarily relate to the same committees in the three periods.

Districts.	No. of Applicants given Employment-relief.			Aggregate Duration of Employment-relief.		
	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.
London:—						
County	592	497	1,692	9,949	8,489	25,644
Outer	381	153	1,739	3,620	2,137	13,894
Total, London	973	655	3,431	13,569	10,626	39,538
Northern Counties	32	—	204	280	—	845
Lancs. and Cheshire	58	17	88	420	311	1,343
Yorkshire	158	88	553	710	624	3,508
Midlands	74	32	352	214	p'cewrk	2,368
Eastern Counties	120	—	248	1,347	—	3,123
Southern Counties	567	190	566	5,923	1,550	4,613
Wales and Monmouth	—	—	492	—	—	2,031
England and Wales	1,982	982	5,934	22,463	13,111	57,369
Scotland	402	313	1,116	6,994	5,919	18,337
Ireland	340	68	715	3,060	p'cewrk	8,366
United Kingdom	2,724	1,363	7,765	32,517	19,030	84,672
Districts.	Total Amount of Wages Paid.			Net No. of Applicants Remaining on the Registers at end of		
	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.
London:—						
County	£ 1,387	£ 1,010	£ 4,324	11,401	9,970	17,121
Outer	618	281	2,511	3,617	2,585	6,967
Total, London	2,005	1,291	6,835	15,018	12,555	24,088
Northern Counties	55	—	140	341	344	1,095
Lancs. and Cheshire	49	19	209	525	424	2,682
Yorkshire	130	113	682	2,282	2,163	4,364
Midlands	64	27	381	1,302	1,230	2,236
Eastern Counties	135	—	275	1,083	786	1,517
Southern Counties	676	301	738	3,677	2,332	4,832
Wales and Monmouth	—	—	549	1,024	564	1,212
England and Wales	3,114	1,751	9,809	25,252	20,388	42,086
Scotland	745	628	1,811	835	642	2,864
Ireland	504	26	748	2,154	1,753	2,804
United Kingdom	4,363	2,405	12,368	28,241	22,783	47,694

In addition to the employment relief shown in the above Table, there were certain cases in which men were given employment by arrangement with Local Authorities or with contractors, or were engaged on piecework.

According to the particulars furnished by the various Distress Committees, of the 28,241 applicants remaining on the registers at the end of December, 1911, 13,042 were labourers, porters, etc.; 8,528 were connected with the

* In some cases it has been necessary to take the actual number on the registers as the Distress Committees were unable to furnish the particulars necessary for deducting persons disqualified, &c.

building trades; 1,775 were carters, etc.; 839 were clerks, shop assistants, etc.; the occupations of the remainder were not specified.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER, 1911.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)

The number of paupers relieved on one day in December, 1911, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 207 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with November, 1911, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 7,077 (or 2.0 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 4. The number of outdoor paupers relieved increased by 3,820 (or 2.2 per cent.), and the number of indoor paupers by 3,257 (or 1.8 per cent.). There were increases in 33 districts; the remaining 2 showed no change. The most marked increases were in the Central London district and the Dublin district (8 per 10,000 each), and in the North Staffordshire and the Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (7 per 10,000 each).

Compared with December, 1910, the rate per 10,000 decreased by 30. The number of outdoor paupers decreased by 9,296 (or 4.9 per cent.) and the number of indoor paupers by 41,660 (or 18.3 per cent.), a total decrease of 50,956 (12.2 per cent.). There were decreases in all districts. Those most marked were in the Stockton-on-Tees district (173 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (56 per 10,000), Wolverhampton (51 per 10,000). In 21 of the remaining districts the decrease ranged from 20 per 10,000 in the Edinburgh and Leith districts to 48 in the Central London and Bristol districts.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of December, 1911.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population on a	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	12,359	2,403	14,762	185	+ 5	- 18
North District	16,782	8,537	25,319	247	+ 5	- 28
Central District	6,581	1,423	8,004	458	+ 8	- 48
East District	15,283	5,025	20,308	297	+ 5	- 45
South District	26,950	14,				

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—The most important dispute beginning in December was that involving about 150,000 cotton operatives in Lancashire; in all 41 new disputes began during the month, as compared with 60 in November and 16 in December, 1910. In these new disputes 171,533 workpeople were directly, and 1,237 indirectly involved, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 181,201 workpeople involved in trade disputes in December, 1911, as compared with 37,076 in the previous month and 71,614 in December, 1910.

New Disputes in December, 1911.—In the following Table the new disputes for December are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	2	42	—	42
Coal Mining .. .	4	3,025	1,000	4,025
Engineering .. .	6	1,308	93	1,401
Shipbuilding .. .	3	472	43	515
Other Metal .. .	3	168	15	183
Textile .. .	8	154,909	86	154,995
Transport .. .	10	10,837	—	10,837
Other Trades .. .	5	672	—	672
Total, December, 1911 .. .	41	171,533	1,237	172,770
Total, November, 1911 .. .	60	6,109	2,942	10,051
Total, December, 1910 .. .	16	5,101	264	5,365

Causes.—The majority of the new disputes arose on

Principal Disputes which began in December.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.†
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Coal Mining—Miners .. .	Rhondda ..	1,725	—	1911. 28 Dec.	2	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Engineering—Engineers and machinists .. .	Manchester ..	639	—	9 Dec.	—	For the removal of certain officials	No settlement reported.
Fitters, turners, machinemen, &c., and other workpeople.	Wolverhampton	265	93	5 Dec.	2	For an immediate advance in wages of 1s. per week, and a further 1s. per week in February next.	Demands granted.
Shipbuilding—Fitters, turners, machinemen, and labourers.	Greenock ..	380	37	28 Dec.	—	Demand that certain work being carried out by sheet-iron workers should be done by engineers.	No settlement reported.
Textile—Cotton weavers, winders, warpers, &c.	North & North East Lancashire	150,000	—	21 Dec.	—	Strike at two mills against the employment of non-unionists, followed by lock-out at all mills connected with the N. and N.E. Lancs. Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association.	No settlement reported.
Dyers, printers, finishers, &c. . . .	Vale of Leven	4,000	—	11 Dec.	9	For an advance in wages, a 55 hours week, and time and half for overtime.	(See p. 6).
Transport—Canal bargemen .. .	Liverpool and District	450	—	11 Dec.	—	Refusal to act as porters unless paid 6d. per hour for the work.	No settlement reported.
"Short" carters .. .	Liverpool and District	500	—	11 Dec.	16	For an advance in wages to 27s. and 30s. per week, shorter hours, and a re-arrangement of the system of overtime.	Advance in wages granted, hours of labour reduced by 1 per week and overtime re-arranged.
Carters .. .	Newcastle-on-Tyne	900	—	18 Dec.	6	For an advance in wages and overtime rates, and payment of special rates for Sunday work.	Advance of 1s. per week granted.
Carters and dock labourers .. .	Dundee ..	1,750	—	18 Dec.	6	Demand by carters for minimum wage of 21s. per week, with 6-monthly increments to 23s., and advance of 1s. to those with 21s. and over, and by dockers for certain advances in wages.	(See p. 5).
Dock workers .. .	Swansea ..	4,000	—	ec.	2	Against the introduction of non-union labour to load a certain ship.	Work resumed upon ship leaving the port.
Printing Trade—Lithographic printers .. .	Edinburgh and Glasgow	430	—	9 Dec.	13	For advance in wages, and for reduction of hours from 50 to 49 per week in Edinburgh.	Minimum wage advanced to 37s. (except on rotary machines) for a week of 50 hours.

* 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 aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
† The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
‡ Number involved up to end of December.

wages questions, 18, directly involving 9,773 workpeople, being due to demands for increased wages, and 5, directly involving 697 persons, to other wages questions. Of the remaining new disputes, 7, directly involving 158,862 workpeople, arose on questions of trade union principles; 9, directly involving 1,972 persons, on questions as to the employment of particular classes or persons; one on details of working arrangements and one was a sympathetic strike.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 26 new disputes, directly involving 11,844 persons, and 8 old disputes, directly involving 664 persons. Of these new and old disputes, 9, directly involving 3,357 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople, 5, directly involving 4,084 persons, were settled in favour of the employers, and 20, directly involving 5,067 persons, were compromised. In the case of 3 other disputes, work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The time lost in December by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 581,400 working days. In addition, 119,700 working days were lost during December owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 701,100 working days, as compared with 409,500 in the previous month and 1,179,000 in December, 1910.

Summary for 1910 and 1911.—A Table showing the disputes of 1910 and 1911 summarised by trades will be found in the article on p. 4.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in December.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in December, 1911, was an increase of £977 per week, as compared with an increase of £1,528 per week in November, 1911, and one of £6,783 per week in December, 1910. The number of workpeople affected was 11,426, all of whom received advances. The total number affected in November, 1911, was 23,800, and in December, 1910, 345,450.

One change affecting 590 workpeople was arranged by a Conciliation Board, whilst the remaining changes,

affecting 10,836 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In five cases, affecting 739 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported as taking effect in December, 1911, affected 1,060 workpeople, whose working time was reduced by 3,320 hours per week.

For Summary of Changes in 1911 see article on p. 3.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect in 1911.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.						
Building	Leicester ..	2 Dec.	Carpenters and joiners ..	590	..	Increase of ½d. per hour (9d. to 9½d.).
Engineering	Peterborough ..	5 Dec.	Fitters, turners, patternmakers, &c. . .	300	..	Increase of 1s. per week.
Other metal trades	Walsall and Birmingham.	1 Dec.	Bobbers, moppers, bit, spur and stirrup filers and dressers.	200	..	Increase of 10 per cent.
	Redditch and Dist. Liverpool ..	16 Dec. 16 Dec.	Needle scuriers .. .	100	..	Increase of from 1s. to 4s. per week.
Printing ..	Edinburgh and Glasgow.	25 Dec.	Compositors, machinemen and linotype operators.	1,650	..	Increase of 1s. per week on jobbing and weekly news, and of 2s. per week on morning and evening news. Increases to a minimum rate of 37s. per week.
			Litho. printers .. .	370	..	
Glass ..	Yorkshire ..	1 Dec.	Compositors and machinemen (jobbing).	281	..	Increase of 1s. 8d. per week.
			Compositors and linotype operators (morning and evening news).	750	..	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week.
Food ..	Cardiff ..	4 Dec.	Bakers † .. .	140	..	Increase of 8d. per week's work and 1d. per move on "overwork" to makers, and of 2s. per week's work and 2d. per move on "overwork" to blowers.
			Bakers .. .	620	..	Increase of 2s. per week to first and second hands, and increases to a uniform rate of 24s. to other adults. Increase of 2s. per week.
Transport	Edinburgh and Leith. Tyne, Blyth and Amble. Liverpool ..	11 Dec. 1 Dec. 11 Dec.	Trimmers .. .	1,550	..	Increase of 5 per cent.
			Coal carters † .. .	800	..	Increase of 1s. per week.
	Glasgow and Dist.	16 Dec.	Carters employed by railway contractors.	1,500	..	Increase of 1s. and 2s. per week.
II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.						
Food ..	Cardiff ..	4 Dec.	Bakers † .. .	140	..	Decrease of 2 hours per week.
Transport ..	Liverpool ..	11 Dec.	Coal carters † .. .	800	..	Decrease of 3½ hours per week.

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the February "Gazette" of the following important changes which have been arranged to take effect in January:—
Coal Mining.—Increase of 1¼ per cent. in the wages of coal miners in Northumberland.
Pig Iron Manufacture.—Increase of ¼ per cent. in the wages of blast furnacemen in Cumberland and South Wales and Mon., and decrease of ¼ per cent. in Cleveland and Durham.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Increase of ¼ per cent. in the wages of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Mon.
* Exclusive of Seamen, Agricultural Labourers and Railway Servants.
† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
‡ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

CONCILIATION IN SWEDEN IN 1910.

The Swedish Board of Trade has recently issued a report* for the year 1910 on the working of the Conciliation Act of December 31st, 1906. This measure provided for the appointment by the Crown of official conciliators, whose principal duty consists in "promoting the settlement of disputes between employers and workpeople or between members of either class among themselves."

The number of cases in which mediation was offered in 1910, whether in relation to threatened or to actual stoppages of work, was 33, as compared with 79 in 1909. In 14 of these cases the proffered mediation was declined, the refusal coming from the employers in 11 cases, from the workpeople in 2 cases, and from both parties in the remaining case. The number of cases of actual intervention by the conciliators in 1910 was 17, and in 13 of these cases a settlement was effected as the result, direct or indirect, of such intervention. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 60 and 47 respectively. Stoppages of work were involved in 10 of the 17 cases of intervention in 1910, as compared with 46 of the 60 cases in 1909, the stoppages having, in nearly every case, occurred before the intervention of the conciliator.

* Statens Förläsningsmänn för Medling i Arbetstvister Verksamhet under år 1910. Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN HOLLAND IN 1910.

ACCORDING to the Report† on the strikes and lock-outs of 1910 recently issued by the Dutch Central Statistical Office 146 disputes were reported to that Department as having commenced during the year, as compared with 189 in 1909. The number of persons directly affected in 1910 was 13,238, as compared with 8,455 in 1909. The aggregate number of working days lost by these persons in 1910 was 334,596, but in addition 31,717 were lost by non-disputants belonging to the same establishments, giving a total of 366,313, as compared with 297,061 in 1909. The trades in which most working days were lost by persons directly affected were the textile, metal, engineering and shipbuilding, and the house-building trades, including cleaning of buildings, maintenance of roads, &c. Of the 143 disputes which terminated in 1910, 29 ended in favour of the workpeople, 56 in favour of the employers and 52 were compromised, while in 6 cases the results of the disputes were indefinite or unknown.

† Bijdragen tot de Statistiek van Nederland. CLIX—Werkstakingen en Uitsluitingen in Nederland gedurende 1910. The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante 1911.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES IN DECEMBER.

THE following Tables show the work of the Labour Exchanges during the five weeks ended December 29th. The total number of Exchanges included in the return is 261*. The period covered is 28 working days.

Certain employments of a peculiarly casual nature followed by men and women are dealt with on a separate register, described as the Casual Register, and the statistics for these employments are shown in Table V., Tables I. to IV. below referring only to applications and vacancies on the General Register.

GENERAL REGISTER.

The number of applications received during the period was 148,696 (men 100,749, women 27,394, boys 12,788, and girls 7,765), a daily average of 5,311, compared with 6,834 in November. The total number of applications on the register at some time or other during the period was 240,651 (men 167,343, women 43,502, boys 18,071, and girls 11,735). These figures are exclusive of re-applications from persons already placed in vacancies by the Exchanges during the period, which numbered 12,151 in December, and represent separate individuals, except in so far as there may have been duplicate registrations in London and other places where more than one Exchange is easy of access to the same person.

The total number of applications remaining on the register at December 29th was 62,481 (men 46,701, women 8,563, boys 4,500, and girls 2,717), as compared with 91,955 (men 66,594, women 16,108, boys 5,283, and girls 3,970) at November 24th.

The number of vacancies filled during the period was 50,200 (men 29,337, women 11,144, boys 6,161, and girls 3,558), a daily average of 1,793, compared with 2,002 in November. The work of the Exchanges was considerably affected during December by the Christmas holidays.

Of the vacancies filled during December, 7,460 (men 5,546, women 1,432, boys 354, and girls 128) were temporary, in the sense of being known to be for less than a week's employment.

The vacancies filled during December include 5,927 cases in which persons were placed by the Exchanges in districts other than those in which they were registered. Of the total number of such transferences 2,334 were in London, 1,183 in Lancashire and Cheshire, 471 in the Yorkshire Division, 447 in Scotland, and 445 in the West Midlands Division, representing respectively 29.3, 11.1, 9.1, 6.5, and 10.3 per cent. of the vacancies filled in these areas.

The proportion of vacancies filled by the Exchanges to vacancies notified by employers was 75.8 per cent. (men 77.7, women 73.0, boys 72.8, girls 74.9), as compared with 76.7 per cent. during November.

Of the men's applications on the register at some time during the month the largest percentages occur in the following groups of trades:—Building, 17.0 (labourers, 3.1, others 13.9); General Labourers, 16.7; Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, 16.7; Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances, 16.1. Of the women's applications, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 47.1; Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging, 11.2; Textiles, 10.3; and Dress, 6.4.

Of the men's vacancies filled during December, the largest percentages occur in General Labourers, 19.0; Building, 17.8 (labourers 3.8, others 14.0); Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances, 17.1; and Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, 10.2. Of the women's vacancies filled, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 38.6; Textiles, 18.8; Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging, 11.8; and Dress, 5.8.

The demand for workers during the month exceeded the supply in the case of the cotton, woollen and worsted trades, and in the case of women in the clothing trade and in laundry work. In the shipbuilding trade there was also a large demand for workmen of all classes, and in the engineering and metal trades there was a scarcity of workers in some districts.

CASUAL REGISTER.

The total number of applicants given work in the casual employments included in the Casual Register was 1,940 (men 1,667, women 273). The total number of separate jobs given in such employments was 11,510 (men 10,919, women 591).

BOTH REGISTERS TOGETHER.

The total number of workpeople's applications on both registers at the end of December was 64,016, compared with 93,514 a month previously.

At 146 Exchanges which have been open for a year or more, the number of applications remaining on the register at the end of the month was 48,776, as compared with 73,474 a month ago, and 64,763 a year ago, and the number of vacancies filled during the month was 41,923, as compared with 41,274 a month ago, and 41,463 a year ago, the daily averages being 1,497, 1,720, and 1,481 respectively.

POST OFFICE TEMPORARY CHRISTMAS WORK.

The figures relating to applications and vacancies in connection with Post Office temporary Christmas work are not included above, but are shown separately in Tables I., III., and IV. The number of applications registered solely for this work was 20,155 (men 19,709, women 41, boys 403, girls 2), and the number of such vacancies known to have been filled during December was 27,981 (men 27,505, women 30, boys 445, and girls 1).

* In addition to the 252 Exchanges included in the returns for November, the following 9 Exchanges were opened during December, and their returns are incorporated in the tables:—*Altrincham*, 1, Manchester Road; *Colne*, 11 and 13, Exchange Street; *Darlington*, 7, Houndgate; *Hebburn*, 52, Carr Street, and 136, Ellison Street; *Leven and Methil*, Shorehead, Leven; *Maesteg*, 60, Commercial Street; *Peterborough*, Corner of City Road and New Road; *Southport*, 54, Eastbank Street; *Tralee*, 9, The Square.

The business of the Glasgow Exchange has been transferred to 29, Collego Street, Glasgow.

The following Exchanges are now open, or are expected to be opened before the end of January, making a total of 273 Exchanges:—*Abertillery*, 14, Carmel Buildings; *Armley*, 8 and 10, Stock Hill; *Beeston*, 23, Church Street; *Bishop Auckland*, 9 and 10, Tinters Street; *Dundalk*, Francis Street; *Hebden Bridge*, 23, Market Street; *Oxford*, 55, Cowley Road; *Portadown*, Post Office; *Porth*, 75, Pontypridd Road; *Sowerby Bridge*, Central Buildings, Hollings Mill Lane; *Treorchy*, 222, High Street; *Truro*, 43, Daniel Road.

ADULTS—DISTRICT TABLE.*

Table I.—Applications for Employment, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the period of five weeks ended December 29th, 1911. (General Register.)

Districts. (The numbers in brackets refer to the number of Exchanges.)	APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT.									VACANCIES.									Post Office temporary Christmas Staff—Vacancies Filled. †
	On Live Register at Beginning of Period.			Received during Period. ‡			On Live Register at End of Period.			Notified during Period. ††			Filled during Period. ††						
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Temporary.	Other.	Men.	Women.	Total.		
London (30)	18,582	4,205	22,787	25,385	8,209	33,594	11,654	2,007	13,661	6,266	3,517	9,783	1,082	6,637	5,085	2,634	7,719	6,599	
South-Eastern (9) ..	476	187	663	480	259	739	278	85	363	118	134	252	35	145	85	95	180	268	
Brighton	751	101	852	765	171	936	705	51	756	85	71	156	10	112	78	44	122	243	
Reading	1,987	382	2,369	3,039	587	3,626	1,570	213	1,783	1,000	273	1,273	47	920	797	170	967	784	
Other Exchanges (7) ..																			
Total	3,214	670	3,884	4,284	1,017	5,301	2,553	349	2,902	1,203	478	1,681	92	1,177	960	309	1,269	1,295	
South-Western (13)—																			
Bristol (2)	742	231	973	1,196	353	1,549	423	134	557	422	210	632	110	342	286	166	452	550	
Plymouth & Devonport (3)	2,754	106	2,860	4,478	134	4,612	3,418	67	3,485	483	42	525	24	354	350	28	378	219	
Portsmouth	1,383	56	1,439	1,519	64	1,583	1,128	10	1,138	352	26	378	61	281	326	16	342	353	
Southampton (2) ..	499	50	549	876	64	940	272	28	300	284	15	299	36	247	267	16	283	192	
Other Exchanges (6) ..	1,971	396	2,367	3,022	503	3,525	1,457	229	1,686	1,169	239	1,408	119	746	709	156	865	1,419	
Total	7,349	839	8,188	8,091	1,118	9,209	6,698	468	7,166	2,710	532	3,242	350	1,970	1,938	382	2,320	2,733	
East Midlands & Eastern Counties (22)—																			
Derby	346	82	428	620	175	795	219	46	265	216	98	314	26	211	169	68	237	180	
Ipwich	242	107	349	378	108	486	145	56	201	89	55	144	24	103	75	52	127	56	
Leicester	636	122	758	906	287	1,193	580	47	627	263	223	486	45	356	221	180	401	334	
Northampton	339	117	456	453	146	599	122	40	162	105	134	239	10	126	65	71	136	98	
Notwich	849	167	1,016	724	212	936	546	97	643	124	132	256	11	140	72	79	151	109	
Northingham	724	221	945	1,315	445	1,760	392	70	462	179	245	424	12	376	177	211	388	576	
Other Exchanges (16) ..	1,532	589	2,121	3,005	830	3,835	1,234	386	1,620	800	399	1,199	132	697	596	233	829	640	
Total	4,668	1,405	6,073	7,401	2,203	9,604	3,238	742	3,980	1,776	1,286	3,062	260	2,009	1,375	894	2,269	1,893	
West Midlands (33)—																			
Birmingham (5) ..	1,839	270	2,109	2,744	626	3,370	914	124	1,038	816	340	1,156	64	766	605	225	830	1,326	
Coventry	247	70	317	600	116	716	173	37	210	404	99	503	15	374	308	81	389	104	
Dudley	114	39	153	301	51	352	61	13	74	46	36	82	3	53	37	19	56	34	
Stoke (3)	398	126	524	878	297	1,175	262	59	321	232	150	382	24	252	173	103	276	139	
Walsall	147	61	208	326	107	433	81	18	99	169	62	231	23	170	138	55	193	96	
West Bromwich	223	45	268	288	65	323	188	23	211	129	12	141	9	110	106	13	119	31	
Wolverhampton	430	77	507	667	131	798	223	30	253	246	84	330	32	200	178	54	232	225	
Other Exchanges (20) ..	2,422	556	2,977	3,259	706	3,965	1,647	313	1,960	1,296	356	1,654	120	1,063	960	233	1,183	785	
Total	5,820	1,243	7,063	9,043	2,089	11,132	3,549	617	4,166	3,340	1,139	4,479	290	2,988	2,455	783	3,278	2,740	
Yorkshire Division (28)—																			
Bradford	461	55	516	800	133	933	280	45	325	281	85	366	128	173	234	67	301	397	
Grimsby	178	108	286	363	184	547	114	48	162	156	94	250	26	138	111	53	164	57	
Halifax	245	90	335	462	107	569	178	51	229	171	83	254	57	190	175	72	247	131	
Huddersfield	263	45	308	711	126	837	237	46	283	205	85	290	39	189	164	64	228	203	
Hull	508	164	672	789	231	1,020	307	95	402	160	108	268	19	201	143	77	220	382	
Leeds (2)	1,114	182	1,296	1,644	258	1,902	527	70	597	337	143	480	97	254	239	112	351	1,043	
Rotherham	101	22	123	343	37	380	76	14	90	332	13	345	42	239	273	77	379	523	
Sheffield (2)	635	150	785	1,236	257	1,493	388	80	468	395	117	502	83	286	302	77	379	523	
York	349	48	397	768	120	888	212	36	248	327	78	405	91	267	304	54	358	238	
Other Exchanges (17) ..	1,383	424	1,807	3,188	769	3,957	1,077	234	1,311	1,378	459	1,837	257	1,192	1,118	331	1,449	688	
Total	5,237	1,278	6,515	10,304	2,222	12,526	3,996	689	4,085	3,732	1,265	4,997	839	3,139	3,063	915	3,978	3,720	
Lancashire & Cheshire (56)—																			
Ashton	186	67	253	413	163	576	178	54	232	191	126	317	65	185	170	80	250	44	
Barrow	99	41	140	219	85	304	38	30	68	159	65	224	1	185	140	46	186	52	
Birkenhead (2)	503	253	756	588	295	883	229	141	370	294	201	495	98	330	256	173	428	261	
Blackburn	187	40	227	439	181	620	138	30	168	124	121	245	8	14					

JUVENILES—DISTRICT TABLE.

Table II.—Applications for Employment, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the period of five weeks ended December 29th, 1911.

Districts. <i>(The numbers in brackets refer to the number of Exchanges.)</i>	APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT.									VACANCIES.								
	On Live Register at beginning of Period.			Received during Period.*			On Live Register at end of Period.			Notified during Period.†			Filled during Period.†					
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.			
London (30)	1,271	751	2,022	3,886	2,248	6,134	1,081	578	1,659	2,425	1,113	3,538	1,794	845	2,639			
South-Eastern (9)—																		
Brighton	26	30	56	77	43	120	15	6	21	64	27	91	42	17	59			
Reading	30	24	54	82	62	144	16	31	47	38	20	58	39	18	57			
Other Exchanges (7)	161	76	237	251	100	351	138	35	173	77	72	149	56	45	101			
Total	217	130	347	390	205	595	169	72	241	179	119	298	137	80	217			
South-Western (15)—																		
Bristol (2)	141	71	212	209	63	272	113	33	146	168	38	206	103	26	129			
Plymouth (5)	208	34	242	144	23	167	246	21	267	73	21	94	62	15	77			
Portsmouth	66	9	75	82	4	86	35	1	36	30	6	36	24	—	24			
Southampton (2)	39	9	48	48	10	58	22	9	31	12	5	17	12	5	17			
Other Exchanges (5)	115	41	156	212	72	284	104	28	132	158	57	215	101	42	143			
Total	569	164	733	698	172	870	520	92	612	441	127	568	302	88	390			
East Midlands and Eastern Counties (22)—																		
Derby	23	8	31	81	46	127	25	11	36	88	39	127	53	33	86			
Ipwich	10	19	29	56	38	94	14	17	31	31	28	59	26	23	49			
Leicester	38	10	48	138	28	166	29	7	36	123	24	147	79	17	96			
Northampton	26	15	41	63	42	105	13	4	17	66	89	155	47	35	82			
Norwich	37	44	81	92	51	143	21	21	42	80	46	126	66	23	89			
Nottingham	64	46	110	269	242	511	86	40	126	164	158	322	151	129	280			
Other Exchanges (16)	157	209	366	300	285	585	120	166	286	161	160	321	114	123	237			
Total	355	351	706	989	742	1,731	308	266	574	713	524	1,237	516	383	899			
West Midlands (33)—																		
Birmingham (5)	137	100	237	405	188	593	114	103	217	319	179	498	212	75	287			
Coventry	16	8	24	40	15	55	3	6	9	35	14	49	23	12	35			
Dudley	15	29	44	53	16	69	7	11	18	17	9	26	17	8	25			
Stoke (3)	41	44	85	118	100	218	33	19	52	44	41	85	38	40	78			
Walsall	9	9	18	34	34	68	9	10	19	43	31	74	28	28	56			
West Bromwich	32	20	52	43	32	75	21	16	37	49	6	55	40	4	44			
Wolverhampton	27	34	61	100	51	151	24	16	40	67	22	89	57	18	75			
Other Exchanges (20)	230	219	449	509	321	830	169	135	304	361	211	572	263	163	426			
Total	507	463	970	1,326	767	2,093	384	312	696	925	513	1,438	678	348	1,026			
Yorkshire Division (28)—																		
Bradford	8	2	10	50	10	60	8	5	13	65	9	74	36	8	44			
Grimby	54	33	87	116	63	179	44	17	61	33	43	76	33	42	75			
Halifax	5	3	8	41	14	55	7	4	11	35	26	61	32	14	46			
Huddersfield	20	6	26	76	33	109	19	3	22	60	29	89	56	25	81			
Hull	70	106	176	161	190	351	38	61	99	88	91	179	70	87	157			
Leeds (2)	66	53	119	241	164	405	58	49	107	150	123	273	130	88	218			
Rotherham	34	11	45	51	16	67	27	5	32	30	7	37	24	6	30			
Sheffield (2)	53	49	102	135	102	237	15	11	26	127	74	201	80	59	139			
York	85	11	96	121	48	169	79	6	85	46	52	98	42	45	87			
Other Exchanges (17)	178	168	346	363	266	629	111	96	207	240	182	422	177	133	310			
Total	573	442	1,015	1,355	905	2,261	406	287	693	874	636	1,510	683	507	1,187			
Lancashire and Cheshire (56)—																		
Ashton	11	3	14	37	30	67	11	9	20	40	28	68	23	19	42			
Barrow	20	24	44	31	40	71	15	14	29	17	23	40	11	18	29			
Birkenhead (2)	36	40	76	48	62	110	24	30	54	50	33	83	22	26	48			
Blackburn	14	5	19	25	13	38	9	3	12	38	15	53	12	8	20			
Bolton	10	3	13	42	24	66	11	4	15	37	24	61	27	15	42			
Burnley (2)	7	3	10	26	10	36	4	2	6	18	14	32	9	5	14			
Liverpool and Bootle (5)	136	281	417	443	276	718	120	154	274	222	81	303	185	68	253			
Manchester (2)	19	14	33	198	116	314	14	20	34	207	103	310	134	66	200			
Oldham	9	2	11	50	22	72	4	6	10	46	24	70	17	10	27			
Preston	19	6	25	64	39	103	10	8	18	33	32	65	24	23	47			
Rochdale	12	4	16	29	8	37	9	1	10	37	15	52	16	8	24			
Salford and Eccles (2)	28	19	45	102	48	150	20	4	24	53	47	100	39	34	73			
Stockport	7	11	18	37	14	51	7	2	9	23	14	37	18	8	26			
Warrington	9	76	85	23	54	77	4	37	41	17	26	43	20	24	44			
Wigan	26	18	44	44	34	78	16	15	31	27	25	52	18	18	36			
Other Exchanges (33)	190	177	367	571	347	918	155	119	274	462	307	769	282	202	484			
Total	551	688	1,239	1,770	1,136	2,906	433	428	861	1,327	811	2,138	857	552	1,409			
Northern Division (16)—																		
Carlisle	26	10	36	67	48	115	16	8	24	30	47	77	25	37	62			
Middlesbrough	40	41	81	68	63	131	34	26	60	44	38	82	41	26	67			
Newcastle	24	44	68	82	105	187	13	21	34	76	56	132	63	49	112			
South Shields (2)	26	35	61	39	92	131	19	25	44	11	21	32	11	21	32			
Sunderland	9	21	30	40	24	64	13	13	26	42	8	50	20	5	25			
West Hartlepool (2)	49	57	106	67	57	124	38	43	81	57	17	74	30	16	46			
Other Exchanges (8)	77	182	259	260	270	530	77	106	183	115	88	203	90	83	173			
Total	251	370	621	623	659	1,282	210	242	452	375	275	650	280	247	527			
Wales (18)—																		
Cardiff (3)	46	34	80	173	60	233	34	9	43	83	29	112	72	24	96			
Merthyr Tydfil	4	6	10	1	3	4	2	4	6	5	1	6	2	—	2			
Newport	30	17	47	86	30	116	20	10	30	43	22	65	37	18	55			
Swansea	10	25	35	50	36	86	7	8	15	31	19	50	27	16	43			
Other Exchanges (12)	80	51	131	129	79	208	59	36	95	56	19	75	29	14	43			
Total	170	133	303	439	206	645	122	67	189	218	90	308	167	72	239			
Scotland (24)—																		
Aberdeen	46	16	62	188	99	287	133	59	192	92	27	119	53	26	79			
Dundee	47	11	58	105	40	145	27	9	36	29	7	36	28	7	35			
Edinburgh and Leith (3)	91	95	186	268	173	441	192	134	326	148	93	241	101	71	172			
Glasgow, Govan and Partick																		

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER, 1911.

(NOTE.—These are not connected with the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges.)

During December 492 fresh applications (235 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 10 bureaux furnishing returns, and 483 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 159 persons, of whom 99 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 159 situations found for applicants, 117 were of a more or less permanent character, while 42 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks, parlourmaids, housemaids, and children's nurses exceeded the supply; the supply of ladies' maids exceeded the demand.

	Applications offered by Work-people during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Perma- nently.	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Tem- porarily.
Summary by Bureaux.								
Central Bureau — 5, Princes Street, Caven- dish Square, W.	86	102	66	66	33	26	3	7
Y.W.C.A. — 26, George Street, (1).. Hanover Sq. (2)..	182	204	292	279	37	37	30	33
Dublin: — 30, Molesworth Street..	13	15	8	12	2	..	..	1
Other Bureaux (Birming- ham, Liverpool, Man- chester, Leeds, Edin- burgh, and Glasgow) ..	142	148	96	101	39	39	5	8
Total of 10 Bureaux..	492	549	483	506	117	116	42	57
Summary by Occupations.								
Superintendents, Forewomen, &c.	55	31	25	18	10	3	1	1
Shop Assistants	7	10	2	3	..	..	..	..
Dressmakers, Milliners, &c.	45	58	10	35	3	11	1	6
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	58	60	28	22	14	13	5	7
Apprentices and Learners	10	13	11	18	10	14	..	..
Domestic Servants ..	235	287	357	372	67	65	32	37
Miscellaneous ..	82	90	50	38	13	10	3	6
Total of 10 Bureaux..	492	549	483	506	117	116	42	57

In addition to the above registered applications the returns show that 20 persons in London and 30 in the provinces were referred to other agencies; 225 persons in London and 66 in the provinces were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.

THE total number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe was 597,448 during the eleven months ended November, 1911, and of this total 435,722 were British subjects. The corresponding number for January to November, 1910, was 595,276, of whom 382,002 were British subjects. During the first eleven months of 1911 the number of passengers who arrived in the United Kingdom from places out of Europe was 314,567, of whom 173,367 were British subjects; the corresponding number for the same period of 1910 was 266,913, of whom 147,411 were British subjects. The balance outward during the eleven months ended November, 1911, was 282,881, as compared with 328,591 in 1910, and an average of 256,200 in January-November of the five years 1906-1910. The corresponding numbers for British subjects only were 262,355 and 234,591, and an average of 181,029. Of the balance outward of British subjects, 53 per cent. left for British North America in the period January-November, 1911, compared with 51 per cent. in 1910, and 48 per cent. in January-November, 1906-1910. The corresponding percentages who left for the United States were 21, 33, and 40 respectively.

	Eleven months ended Nov., 1911.		Eleven months ended Nov., 1910.		Average Jan.-Nov. in years 1906-1910.	
	British.	Total.	British.	Total.	British.	Total.
Outward:						
Total ..	435,722	597,448	382,002	595,276	321,786	512,523
To British N. America ..	182,080	209,605	153,998	192,086	116,157	143,453
To United States ..	118,169	242,034	128,435	293,992	126,824	281,686
Inward:						
Total ..	173,367	314,567	147,411	266,913	140,756	256,323
From British N. America	43,009	67,497	35,528	52,238	29,736	44,347
From United States ..	63,762	171,350	51,529	145,846	54,769	146,917
Balance Outward:						
Total ..	262,355	282,881	234,591	328,363	181,029	256,200
To British N. America ..	139,071	142,108	118,470	139,848	86,420	99,107
To United States ..	54,407	70,684	76,906	148,146	72,055	134,769

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES.

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING DECEMBER.

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

Trade Unions (3).—England and Wales.—3, viz.:— Gloucester and Dist. Wholesale and Retail Dairymen's Soc., County Chambers, Station Road, Gloucester; Shropshire Miners, Enginemen's and Surfacedmen's Federation, Liberal and Labour Club, Oakengates, Wellington, Salop; Birmingham and Dist. Municipal Employees' Assoc., 1, Institute Road, King's Heath, Birmingham. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—Nil.

Industrial & Provident Societies (13).—England and Wales.—8, viz.:—Working Men's Clubs (2): Sheffield Trades' Hall, Ltd., Isaacs Buildings, Upper Charles Street, Sheffield; Rushden and District (1911) Trade Union Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, Higham Road, Rushden, Northampton. Agricultural Distributive (1): Swaledale Farmers' Association, Ltd., Low Houses, Low Row, Richmond, Yorkshire. Small Holdings (4): Stoughton Smallholders' Club, Ltd., 2, Downs View, Stoughton, Guildford; Sibley Greeden Allotments Society, Ltd., 3, Swan Street, Sibley, Loughborough; Chesterton Allotment Society, Ltd., 15, Catherine Street, Chesterton, Cambridge; Keighley and District Smallholders, Ltd., 6, Balfour Street, Keighley. Miscellaneous (1).—Scotland (1), Scottish Co-op. Holiday Assoc., Ltd., 263, Wallace St., Kingston, Glasgow. Ireland (4), viz.:—Agricultural Productive (1), Charleville Co-operative Creamery, Ltd., Charleville, Co. Cork. Agricultural Distributive (1), Duncormack Co-op. Pig and Cattle Suppliers Sy., Ltd., Duncormack, Co. Wexford. Co-operative Distributive (1), Irish Co-operative Wholesale Sy., Ltd., 151, Thomas Street, Dublin. Miscellaneous (1).

Friendly Societies (35).—England & Wales (33).—Natl. Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers, Sunderland (No. 12 Branch), Club and Inst., Sunderland; Plashet Social and Progressive W.M. Club and Inst., Forest Gate, E.; Peckham W.M. Unionist Club, Peckham, S.E.; Brafield W.M. Club and Inst., Northampton; Stafford Constitutional Club, Stafford; Walsall Central W.M. Club, Walsall; Cudworth Industrial W.M. Club and Inst., Barnsley; Hodroyd Hall W.M. Club and Inst., Barnsley; Flockton Green W.M. Club and Inst., Wakefield; Platts Common W.M. Club and Inst., Barnsley; Llwynypia Prize Flute Band W.M. Club and Inst., Tonypandy, Glam.; Ynysir Social Club and Inst., Ynysir, Glam.; Hereford and Monmouth Counties Permanent Money Soc., Hereford; Birkdale Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Southport; Temple Guiting and District Pig Insurance Soc., Wincobcombe, Glouc.; Edmonton and District Hand in Hand Yearly Div. Friendly Soc., Edmonton, N.; Harlesden P.S.A. Sick and Prov. Soc., Harlesden, N.W.; St. Barnaban (St. Marylebone) Sick and Benefit Soc., Marylebone Street, N.W.; Dartmouth Sick Benefit and Div. Soc., Dartmouth Park, N.W.; Post Office Insurance Soc., Bedford Row, W.C.; Munster Park Wesleyan Sick and Prov. Club, Fulham, S.W.; Marylebone Presbyterian Church Men's Own Friendly Prov. Soc., Edgware Road, W.; Old Gravel Pit Sick and Prov. Soc., Clapton, N.E.; Manchester Endowment Assurance Soc., Manchester; Ashford P.S.A. Slate Club, Ashford; Cheshire Fire Brigade Friendly Soc., Runcorn; United Permanent Money Soc., Swansea; Welsh Metropolitan Investment and Loan Soc., Cardiff; Low Moor (Bradford) Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Bradford; Pinvin and District Agricultural Credit Soc., Pershore, Worcs.; Blackwood and District Permanent Money Soc., Newport, Mon.; London County Council Tramway Employees' Mutual Loan and Investment Soc., Hatcham, S.E.; Middleton Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Manchester. Scotland (1), Springburn Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Glasgow. Ireland (1), Mutual Loan and Investment Soc., Dublin.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Class of Society.	Notices received in Dec. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	4	1
Industrial and Provident Societies
Friendly Societies	16	3
" Branches	48	..
Building ..	4	13	1

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION.

ACCORDING to the August Immigration Bulletin of the United States Department of Commerce and Labour, the total number of aliens admitted into the United States during August, 1911, was 50,110, compared with 78,574 in August, 1910, and 59,777 in August, 1909. The inward balance of aliens in the year ended June, 1911, was 572,921, compared with 839,134 in the year ended June, 1910, and 525,984 in the year ended June, 1909.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Royal Commission on the Railway Conciliation Scheme of 1907. Minutes of Evidence, Appendices and Index. [Cd. 6014: pp. vii. + 788: price 6s. 3d.]

Report of the London Traffic Branch of the Board of Trade, 1911. Fourth Report. [Cd. 5972: pp. iv. + 162, with plates: price 5s. 4d.]

Railway Agreements and Amalgamations. Departmental Committee. Board of Trade. Minutes of Evidence, with Appendices and Index. [Cd. 5927: pp. vi. + 1021: price 8s.]

Mines and Quarries. General Report, with Statistics, for 1910. Part III., Output. Mineral output and prices at mines and quarries; diagrams showing the fluctuations in prices of coal, iron, copper, lead, tin and zinc from 1873 to 1910. Home Office. [Cd. 5977: pp. 139: price 1s. 5d.]

Memorandum on Steam Boilers. By William Buchan, one of H.M. Inspectors of Factories. Home Office, 1911. [Stationery Office Publication: pp. 37, with diagrams: price 1s. 3d.]

Departmental Committee on Telegraphists' Cramp. Report of Committee to enquire into the prevalence and causes of the disease known as telegraphists' cramp, and to report what means may be adopted for its prevention. Home Office. [Cd. 5968: pp. 74: price 7d.]

Circular Instruction to Post Office Officials covering Report of the Committee of Medical Officers appointed to enquire into the Conditions of Working of Telephonists. General Post Office. [Cd. 5976: pp. 46: price 5d.]

National Insurance Bill, 1911. Part I. Report of the Actuaries in relation to the National Insurance Bill as amended in Committee. [Cd. 5983: pp. 20: price 2d.]

Copy of the Bill showing the differences between the Bill as introduced in the House of Commons and as passed by that House. [Cd. 5989: pp. 96: price 9d.]

Part II. (Unemployment). Explanatory Memorandum. [Cd. 5991: pp. 6: price 1d.]

Copy of a Memorandum explanatory of the Bill as passed by the House of Commons so far as relates to National Health Insurance. [Cd. 5995: pp. 16: price 2d.]

The Insurance Commission for National Health, England. Copy of Papers relating to Appointment of Staff. [Cd. 6000: pp. 4: price 4d.]

Administration of Outdoor Relief. Memorandum on the Report of the Departmental Committee with respect to the Orders relating to. Local Government Board. [Cd. 5996: pp. 4: price 4d.]

Building Societies. Sixteenth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1910. Part I. Report. [H.C. 160: pp. 17: price 2d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland. Detailed Report for the year 1910. Produce of crops, live stock, bee-keeping, forestry, holdings and occupiers, &c. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 5964: pp. xxxix. + 147: price 9d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH COLONIES.

India.—Prices and Wages in India. 28th Issue, 1911. Compiled in the Office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence of India. [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing: pp. 230.]

Canada.—The Labour Gazette, November, 1911. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during October; wholesale and retail prices, trade disputes and industrial accidents during October; mining conditions in Ontario; recent legal decisions affecting labour. [Ottawa: C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer: pp. 115.]

Ontario.—Education for Industrial Purposes. Report by John Seath, Superintendent of Education for Ontario. (Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer: pp. v. + 390.)

New Zealand.—Journal of the Department of Labour, November, 1911. Condition of Trade and Employment as at October 31st; cases under the Workers' Compensation Act, persons assisted to employment, recent legal decisions, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

Reports of Labour Bills, Committee on. (a) The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Amendment Bill (pp. 12). (b) The Workers' Compensation Amendment Bill (pp. 21). [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

Victoria.—Wages Boards Determinations. Factory Engine-Drivers' Board, dated October 13th, 1911. Tuckpointers' Board, dated October 18th, 1911, cancelling that of June 9th, 1909. Millet Broom Board, dated September 8th, 1911, cancelling that of January 9th, 1911. Furniture Board, Wood Mantelpiece or Overmantel, dated October 11th, 1911, cancelling that of December 13th, 1907. Tilers' Board, dated October 18th, 1911. Bricklayers' Board, dated September 28th, 1911. Boot and Shoe Board, dated October 30th, 1911, cancelling that of May 11th, 1911. Engineering Board, dated October 30th, 1911. Marine Stores, dated October 13th, 1911. Pastrycooks, dated October 30th, 1911, cancelling that of July 25th, 1911. Rubber Trade, dated November 10th, 1911, cancelling that of November 20th, 1909.

Queensland.—Twenty-sixth Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, Building Societies, and Trade Unions, 1910. [Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, Government Printer.]

Wages Board Determinations. Central Printing Board, dated September 29th, 1911, cancelling that of May 6th, 1910. Brisbane Orchestra Musicians' Board, dated September 29th, 1911. Brisbane Printing Trade Board, dated October 10th, 1911, cancelling that of June 25th, 1909.

South Africa.—Annual Report of the Department of Commerce and Industries for 1910. [Pretoria: Government Printing and Stationery Office: pp. 10.]

Reports of the Inspector of White Labour, Transvaal, and the Government Labour Bureau, Capetown, for October, 1911. State of the Labour Market—Monthly Report.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

International.—Journal of the International Labour Office, No. 7, 1911. (French Edition.) [Paris: Berger-Levrault & Cie.] Ditto, Nos. 9-10, 1911. (German Edition.) [Jena: Gustav Fischer.] Labour legislation.

Bulletin of the Bureau of Economic and Social Intelligence, August 31st and September 30th, 1911. Co-operation, insurance, &c. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome: pp. xvi. + 269 and xv. + 257: price 1s. 7d. each part.]

International Co-operative Bulletin, December, 1911. International Co-operative Alliance. [Zürich: Hadlaubstrasse 86.]

Bulletin of Social Insurance, March, August, September and October. Also Supplement to 1910 issues, containing third series of reports of International Conference at The Hague, September, 1910. International Permanent Committee of Social Insurance. [Paris: Musée Social, 5 rue Las Cases.]

Yearbook of Labour Legislation, 1910. Belgian Labour Department, 1911. [Brussels: A. Dewit: pp. xvi. + 676: price 4s. 10d.]

United States.—Special Reports of the Bureau of the Census. Fisheries of the United States, 1908. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 324.]

Reports on Condition of Women and Child Wage-earners in the United States. Vol. XII. Employment of Women in Laundries. Department of Commerce and Labour. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 121.]

Massachusetts. 41st Annual Report on the Statistics of Labour, 1910. Part I.—Prevailing Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour. Part II.—Strikes and Lock-Outs. Part III.—Living Conditions of the Wage-Earning Population in Certain Cities of Massachusetts. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 333.]

Massachusetts. Labour Bulletin, No. 85, November, 1911. Quarterly Report on the State of Employment, September 30th, 1911. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

Indiana. Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Statistics for 1909 and 1910. Free Employment Bureaus, industrial statistics, &c. [Indianapolis: W. B. Burford, State Printer: pp. 1266.]

France.—Journal of the French Labour Department, November, 1911. Employment and labour disputes in October; co-operative societies for distribution (stores) on January 1st, 1911; State subventions to unemployment funds in 1910; two decrees of October 8th, 1911, regulating employment in glassworks. [Paris: Berger-Levrault & Cie: price 2d.]

Reports on Night Work in Bakeries. Conseil Supérieur du Travail. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. 156.]

Population Census of March 4th, 1906. (1) Statistics of Power-driven Establishments. (2) Population grouped (i) by arrondissements and establishments (ii) by occupations, civil state and age, French Statistical Department, 1911. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. (1) 110, (2) 217.]

Report on Scales of Wages, Commission and Allowances of State Officials and Workpeople in France, 1871-1911. Extract from Journal Officiel, September 30th and October 11th, 1911. French Statistical Department. [Paris: pp. 70.]

Statistics of Trade Unions, Employers' Associations, &c., 1910-1911. French Labour Department. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. lii. + 940.]

Journal of the French Ministry of Agriculture, October, 1911. Prices in September. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: price 6d.]

Germany.—Annual Reports of Factory and Mine Inspectors for 1910. Four vols. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: R. von Deckers Verlag.]

Journal of the German Labour Department, December, 1911. Employment in November; miners' earnings in third quarter of 1911; orders regulating employment in stone quarrying and stone cutting trades, employment of women in mines in Oppeln district, and employment of women and young persons in sugar factories; statistics of sickness insurance, 1908-1910. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

Journal of the Imperial Statistical Office, 1911. Part IV. Statistics of prices; strikes and lock-outs in third quarter of 1911; children, young persons and women employed in factories in 1910; population census of December 1st, 1910 (final figures). [Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht: pp. 185: price 2s.]

Journal of the Statistical Office of Saxony, Part I., 1911. [Dresden: von Zahn und Jaensch: price 1s. 6d.]

Population of Strassburg according to Census of December 1st, 1910. Municipal Statistical Office. [Strassburg: pp. 19.]

Journal of the Imperial Insurance Office, November 15th, 1911. [Berlin: Behrend & Co.]

Report of Congress of General Federation of German Co-operative Societies (Schulze-Delitzsch), Stettin, August 8th, 10th, 11th, 1911. [Berlin: F. Guttentag: pp. 400.]

Public Labour Registries in Germany in 1909 and 1910. Federation of German Labour Registries. Supplement to Der Arbeitsmarkt, December 20th, 1911. [Berlin: G. Reimer: pp. 181.]

—*Journal of the Statistical Office of Wurtemberg*. Nos. 1-13 (issues for 1911). Increased cost of living (October number), prices, labour registries, &c. [Stuttgart.]
 —*Annual Statistics of Munich, 1910. Part II. Labour Exchanges*. Municipal Statistical Office. [Munich: J. Lindauersche Buchhandlung: pp. 111.]

Austria.—*Journal of the Austrian Labour Department*, November, 1911. Labour disputes and employment in October; Icelandic laws of 1909 on apprenticeship and relief for necessitous aged persons. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d.]
 —*Strikes and Lock-outs in Austria in 1910*. Austrian Labour Department. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. 169 + 336.]

Italy.—*Journal of the Italian Labour Department*, November, 1911. Employment and labour disputes in October; retail prices of food in October; workmen's housing in Italy in 1909 and in France in 1910. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 4d.]
 —*Roman Catholic Workmen's Organisations in Italy*. Italian Labour Department, 1911. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. liv. + 360.]

—*Journal of the Italian Department of Credit and Thrift, April and May*. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 10d. (April) and 1s. 7d. (May).]
 —*Proceedings of the Higher Council of Labour, Sixteenth Sitting, April, 1911*. Italian Labour Department. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. 91: price 1s. 5d.]

—*Wages and Hours in the Silk Industry in 1909*. Italian Labour Department, 1911. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. x. + 111: price 10d.]

Belgium.—*Report on Trade Unions, Employers' Associations, &c., recognised under Law of March 31st, 1898, during 1905-1907, with Summary for 1908-1910*. Belgian Labour Department, 1911. [Brussels: J. Lebegue: pp. xxvii. + 370 + 14.]
 —*Exhibition of Home Industries, Brussels, 1910*. Brussels Exhibition. [Brussels: Misch & Thron: pp. lxi. + 459.]
 —*Industrial Monographs: Engineering Trades. Vol. II*. Belgian Labour Department, 1911. [Brussels: J. Lebegue & Co.: pp. 182.]

—*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, November 15th, 1911*. Employment in October. November 30th, 1911. Labour disputes in October; prices of food on October 31st. [Brussels: E. Daem: price 1d. each.]

Holland.—*Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, November 30th, 1911*. Employment in October; labour disputes in 1910 and in October, 1911. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

—*Strikes and Lock-outs in Holland in 1910*. Dutch Central Statistical Office. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. xci. + 61: price 5d.]

—*Reports of Chambers of Labour for 1910*. Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. 460 + xiv.]

—*Monthly and other Periodical Statistics of Holland. No. 26. First Months of 1911*. Wholesale prices, &c. Dutch Central Statistical Office. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 6d.]

Switzerland.—*Prices of Meat in 1910 and First Half of 1911 in 22 Towns and Markets of Switzerland*. Municipal Statistical Office, 1911. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. 101: price 1s. 2½d.]
 —*Dr. Reichsberg's Dictionary of Economics*. Last two vols. (S-V, V-Z). [Berne, 1911: Verlag Encyclopädie.]
 —*Census of Undertakings of August 9th, 1905. Vol. III*. Classification according to size of undertakings, sex, nationality and age of persons engaged therein, conditions of apprenticeship, &c., &c. (home industries separately treated). Federal Department of the Interior, 1911. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. x. + 199 + 373: price 4s.]

Denmark.—*Statistics of Denmark. Series IV. Vol. XXXVII*. Population on February 1st, 1911, &c. Danish Statistical Office, 1911. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel: pp. xxxii. + 200; 23, 24.]
 —*Statistical Yearbook of Denmark, 1911*. Statistics of sickness insurance, unemployment, trade unions, strikes and lock-outs, wages, co-operation, &c. Statistical Department of Denmark. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel: pp. xix. + 212.]

—*Journal of the Danish Statistical Office, December, 1911*. Unemployment in September. [Copenhagen: price 1½d.]

Sweden.—*Journal of the Swedish Labour Department. No. 10, 1911*. Labour exchanges in third quarter of 1911; unemployment in trade unions, May-July, 1911; census of unemployed, January 31st, 1910; food prices, &c. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

—*Department for Social Affairs. Proposed Re-organisation of certain Departments as a Branch of the Swedish Home Office*. Inter-departmental Committee, 1911. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. vi. + 233.]

—*Census of Unemployed in Sweden, January 31st, 1910*. Swedish Labour Department. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. 181: price 1s. 1½d.]

Russia (Finland).—*Statistics of Finland: (1) Industrial Statistics for 1909. (2) Friendly Societies, 1907 and 1908*. Industrial Department of Finland, 1911. [Helsingfors: pp. (1) xi. + 142; (2) 45 + 65 + 61.]

Norway.—*Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office. Nos. 6-8, 1911*. Unemployment in trade unions, May-August; labour exchanges, May-August; prices of commodities in July and August; miners' wages in 1909. [Christiania.]

—*Accident Insurance in 1908*. Norwegian Insurance Department, 1911. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug: pp. xxxii. + 155: price 1s. 1½d.]

Bulgaria.—*Births, Marriages and Deaths in Bulgaria, 1905 and 1906*. Bulgarian Statistical Department, 1911. [Sofia: pp. 239 (1905), and 219 (1906): price 4s. 5d. and 5s. 7d. respectively.]
 —*Journal of the Bulgarian Statistical Department, September, 1911*. Prices of food, &c., and wages of bricklayers and masons and labourers in August in principal towns. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat: price 2½d.]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, DECEMBER, 1911.

ADMIRALTY—WORKS DEPARTMENT.

FENCING, STEEL, for H.M. Dockyard, Chatham.—*W. Bain & Co., Ltd.*, Lochrin Iron Works, Coatbridge.

PIPES, CAST IRON, for Ascension.—*Stanton Iron Works Co., Ltd.*, near Nottingham.

TANKS, STEEL, OIL.—*Widnes Foundry Co., Ltd.*, Widnes, Lancs.

WORKS SERVICES:—

Landing Steps and Footway at Oil Fuel Depot, Turnchapel.—*Steer & Pearce*, 8, Carfrae Terrace, Plymouth.

New Surgery, North Yard, Devonport.—*Jas. Crockerell*, Richmond Walk, Devonport.

Officers' Cabins, Submarine Depot, Haslar.—*Jno. Hunt*, South Wharf, Cleveland Rd., Gosport.

Workmen's Cottages, Torpedo Range, Loch Long.—*Wm. Clarke*, 43, Sandgate St., Ayr.

ADMIRALTY—CONTRACT DEPARTMENT.

BOOTS, STOKHOLD.—*Adams Bros.*, Raunds, Wellingborough; *John Horrel & Sons*, Raunds, Wellingborough.

BRASS FOUNDRY.—*J. Cartland & Son, Ltd.*, Constitution Hill, Birmingham; *Evered & Co., Ltd.*, Surrey Works, Lewisham Rd., Smethwick; *J. P. Marrian & Co.*, Slaney St., Birmingham; *T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd.*, Union St., West Bromwich; *Winfields Rolling Mills, Ltd.*, Cambridge St., Birmingham.

BROOMS, BRUSHES, &c.—*Brushes, Ltd. (H. Rose & Sons)*, Grosvenor Rd., St. Albans, Herts; *D. Burrow & Sons*, Hunslet Rd., Leeds; *D. Clark & Sons*, Stafford St., Walsall; *E. A. & W. Greenslade*, Thomas St., Bristol; *Hawtin, Hornett & Co. (Successors)*, 16, London Wall, E.C.; *G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd.*, 75, Farringdon Rd., E.C.; *S. Ludbrook & Co., Ltd.*, Harford St., Mile End, E.; *Newton & Cook*, 3, Wardour St., W.; *S. D. Page & Sons, Ltd.*, Norwich; *A. Reid & Sons*, 283, Tabard St., Borough, S.E.; *W. H. Voules & Sons, Ltd.*, Broad Weir, Bristol.

BRUSHES, PAINTERS', &c.—*A. Bennet & Co.*, Painting Brush Works, Manchester, S.W.; *D. Clark & Sons*, Stafford St., Walsall; *Hamilton & Co. (London), Ltd.*, 118, Clerkenwell Rd., E.C.; *G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd.*, 75, Farringdon Rd., E.C.; *S. D. Page & Sons, Ltd.*, Norwich; *W. H. Voules & Sons, Ltd.*, Broad Weir, Bristol.

CANVAS.—*Boase Spinning Co., Ltd.*, Dundee; *Port Glasgow & Newark Sailcloth Co.*, Port Glasgow; *Richards, Ltd.*, Broadfoot Works, Aberdeen.

CUTLERY, IVORY HANDLED.—*William Hutton & Sons, Ltd.*, West St., Sheffield.

CUTLERY.—*John Clark & Son, Ltd.*, Mowbray Works, Sheffield; *H. G. Long & Co., Ltd.*, Hallamshire Works, Sheffield; *Frank Mills & Co., Ltd.*, Hanover Works, Division St., Sheffield; *Southern & Richardson*, Don Cutlery Works, Sheffield; *T. Turner & Co.*, Suffolk Works, Sheffield.

ENAMELLED WARE.—*Anglo-American Tin Stamping Co., Ltd.*, West Bromwich; *Griffiths & Browett, Ltd.*, Bradford St., Birmingham; *Joseph Sankey & Sons, Ltd.*, Albert St. Works, Bilston.

ELECTRO PLATE.—*Barker Bros., Silversmiths, Ltd.*, Constitution Hill, Birmingham; *Deykin & Harrison, Ltd.*, Jennens Row, Birmingham; *Elkington & Co., Ltd.*, 22, Regent St., S.W.; *Fenton Bros., Ltd.*, South Moor St., Earl St., Sheffield; *William Hutton & Sons, Ltd.*, West St., Sheffield; *Martin Hall & Co., Ltd.*, Shrewsbury Works, Sheffield; *Potosi Silver Co.*, 143, Newhall St., Birmingham; *T. Wilkinson & Sons*, Pelican Works, Great Hampton St., Birmingham.

HANDKERCHIEFS, BLACK SILK.—*J. T. Brockhurst & Sons (1911), Ltd.*, Macclesfield; *J. Dunkerley & Son, Ltd.*, Oxford Rd. Mills, Macclesfield.

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