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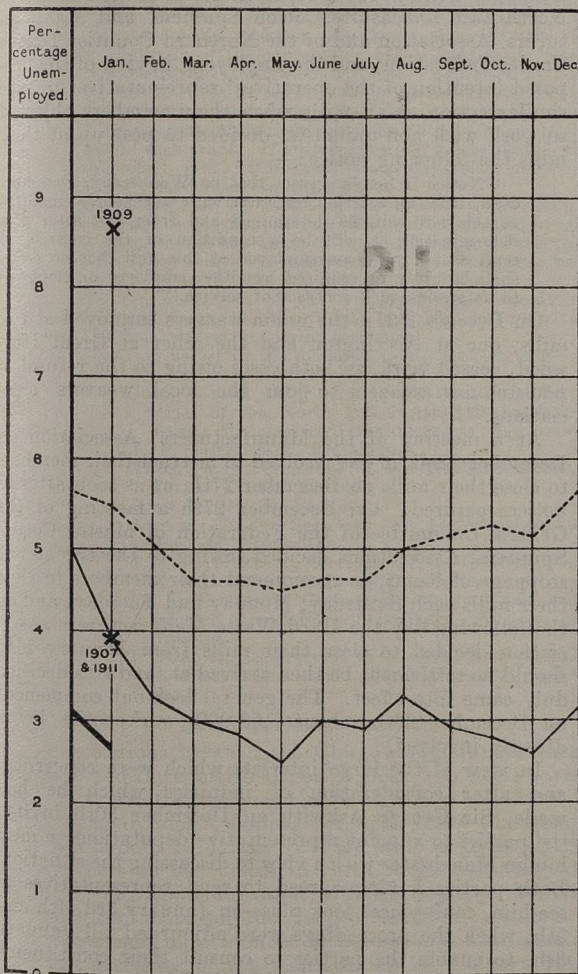
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1912. — Thin Curve = 1911.
----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1902-1911.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1902-1911.



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 JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in January continued good on the whole. It was adversely affected by the important dispute in the cotton trade, and by disputes in the hosiery and lace curtain trades.

In the coal mining, engineering and shipbuilding trades employment, which was already good, continued to improve in January. There was some decline in the boot and shoe, pottery, glass and brick trades.

As compared with a year ago most of the principal industries showed an improvement, which was considerable in the iron and steel, engineering, shipbuilding, tinsmith and boot and shoe trades. There was a decline in the pig iron, linen and brick trades.

In the 394 trade unions, with a net membership of 820,874, making returns 22,485 (or 2.7 per cent.) were returned as unemployed at the end of January, 1912, compared with 3.1 per cent. at the end of December, 1911, and 3.9 per cent. at the end of January, 1911.

Returns from firms employing 436,187 workpeople in the week ended January 27th, 1912, showed a decrease of 8.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages taking effect in January affected 88,600 workpeople, and resulted in a net increase of £2,600 per week. Amongst those whose wages were increased were 50,500 coal miners in Northumberland and the Forest of Dean, 6,250 blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and 10,200 workpeople in engineering works on the Clyde. In Cleveland and Durham 5,500 blastfurnacemen sustained a slight decrease.

Trade Disputes.—The dispute in the cotton weaving industry, which began in December, 1911, involving about 150,000 workpeople, came to an end on January 20th, 1912. Other large disputes in January were those involving about 8,000 dock workers, etc., at Glasgow and district, 2,000 jute weavers, etc., at Dundee, 1,600 hosiery dyers, scourers and trimmers at Leicester, 1,100 lace weavers, etc., at Newmilns, and 1,100 coal-miners near Wakefield. The number of new disputes beginning in January was 60, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress during the month was 190,374, or 9,173 more than in December, 1911, and 154,140 more than in January, 1911. The total number of working days lost by these workpeople was 2,711,200, or 2,010,100 more than in December, 1911, and 2,151,200 more than in January, 1911.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Cases dealt with under the Conciliation Act include those affecting cotton operatives in North and North-East Lancashire, dock workers at Glasgow, ironmoulders in Scotland, dyers, etc., in the Vale of Leven, flax workers at Manchester, shipwrights and joiners at Belfast, Tyne steamboat men and painters at Harrogate.

EMPLOYMENT RETURNS FOR JANUARY.

(This Summary is based on 2,984 Returns from Employers, relating to 1,290,614 workpeople, and 3,078 from Trade Unions, relating to 820,874 members.)

I.—TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Jan., 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Building	64,649	5.4	+ 0.5	- 4.5
Coal Mining*	162,224	1.0	+ 0.2	...
Engineering	188,829	2.7	- 0.5	- 1.2
Shipbuilding	65,121	2.7	- 1.3	- 3.7
Other Metal	49,963	2.7	- 1.1	...
Textiles*	129,646	2.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Paper, Printing and Bookbinding.	63,577	5.5	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Furnishing and Wood-working.	39,193	3.9	- 0.4	- 2.1
Miscellaneous... ..	57,672	2.2	- 0.3	- 2.4
Total... ..	820,874	2.7	- 0.4	- 1.2

* 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.

II.—EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Jan., 1912.	January 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining	683,039	5.62	+ 0.08	+ 0.06
Iron "	17,298	5.72	- 0.05	- 0.18
Shale "	3,411	5.65	- 0.04	- 0.17
		No. of Furnaces in Blast.	No.	No.
Pig Iron	22,000	298	+ 1	- 9
		Mills Working.	+ 6	+ 53
Tinplate & Steel Sheet	28,550	571		
		Shifts Worked (One Week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel	100,129	562,300	- 0.9	+ 10.0
		Earnings in one Week.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton	117,567	94,155	- 20.7	- 16.0
Woollen	27,418	25,635	- 2.3	+ 4.2
Worsted	43,721	32,587	- 2.5	- 0.4
Linen	44,615	26,355	- 4.5	- 3.6
Jute	16,444	12,008	- 0.0	+ 0.7
Hosiery	18,494	14,205	- 6.3	+ 0.4
Lace	5,559	5,331	- 2.2	+ 3.5
Other Textiles	17,874	14,090	- 1.8	+ 3.6
Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing & Finishing	31,889	36,471	- 5.9	+ 0.5
Boot and Shoe	66,960	66,002	- 1.6	+ 6.5
Shirt and Collar	6,258	4,116	- 0.8	+ 5.6
Pottery	18,807	17,325	- 6.7	+ 3.1
Glass	8,861	11,234	- 4.3	+ 14.1
Brick	11,720	11,817	- 5.7	- 8.2
Total	436,187	371,331	- 8.5	- 3.1

Note.—For further details see Articles on pp. 52 to 65.

† These comparisons are affected by the recent dispute in the Cotton Trade.
‡ This increase is partly due to a rise in the rate of wages.

THE INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Industrial Council was held on February 14th, at the Board of Trade Offices, 7, Whitehall Gardens. The members of the Council present were Sir George Askwith (Chairman), Mr. George Ainsworth, Sir Hugh Bell, Bart., Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., Rt. Hon. Thomas Burt, M.P., Messrs. G. H. Claughton, W. A. Clowes, J. R. Clynes, M.P., J. H. C. Crockett, F. L. Davis, T. L. Devitt, Sir Thos. R. Ratcliffe-Ellis, Mr. H. Gosling, Sir Charles Macara, Bart., Messrs. W. Mosses, W. Mullin, E. L. Poulton, Alexander Siemens, J. W. White, Alexander Wilkie, M.P., J. E. Williams, and Mr. H. J. Wilson, Registrar of the Council. The following members were unable to be present:—Messrs. T. Ashton, F. Chandler, F. W. Gibbins, A. Henderson, M.P., J. Hodge, M.P., and Robert Thompson, M.P.

The proceedings were private.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS.

Cotton Operatives, North and North-East Lancashire.

A general lock-out of cotton operatives in North and North-East Lancashire commenced towards the end of December, 1911, arising out of a movement by the Weavers' Associations against the employment of non-unionists. With this object the union operatives at certain mills handed in notices to cease working with non-unionists. The matter was discussed at a meeting on December 12th, 1911, of representatives of the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and of the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation, and the employers, in view of the proposed intention of the operatives' representatives to take similar action at all mills when their members objected to work with non-unionists, decided to post up at their mills the following notice:—

"Notice is hereby given, that on Wednesday, December 20th, 1911, all existing contracts with workpeople employed at this mill will be determined and from and after such determination it will be a condition of the contract of service of any person employed at this mill that no notice shall be given or required by either employer or employed to determine such contract of service."

On December 21st the union weavers employed at two mills, one at Accrington and the other at Great Harwood, ceased work, in both cases owing to the refusal of non-unionist weavers to join the local weavers' associations.

At a meeting of the Manufacturers' Association on December 22nd, it was resolved to instruct their members to close their mills on December 27th, or as soon after as notices expired. On December 27th a meeting of the General Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations decided, owing to the threatened stoppage of looms, to recommend their members to close their mills each Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, and on the following day the Hard Waste Manufacturers' Association decided to close their mills from January 11th should no settlement be then arrived at, and this decision duly came into effect. The general lock-out commenced on December 28th, about 150,000 workpeople being directly involved.

In view of the large interests which were concerned, and after consideration of inquiries which he had made, Sir George Askwith on December 30th invited the parties to appoint representative deputations to meet him in Manchester with a view to discussing the situation. Both parties having agreed to send representatives to see him, conferences took place on January 3rd, 4th and 5th, when the proceedings were adjourned till January 8th, to enable the parties to consult their constituents with regard to suggestions which had been made.

In the meantime, difficulties had arisen between the North and North-East Lancashire Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Association of Card and Blowing Room Operatives upon the question whether the employers had contravened an agreement by locking out the card and blowing room operatives and ring spinners employed by them. Conferences of representatives of these parties were held on December 29th and on January

2nd and 5th, when it was agreed to ask Sir George Askwith to decide the matter. Sir George met representatives of the two sides on January 6th, and an amicable settlement was arrived at.

The conferences on the non-unionist question were resumed on January 8th and 9th, and the proceedings were again adjourned till January 15th. On January 15th and 16th Sir George Askwith continued negotiations, and it was finally arranged that certain proposals submitted by the employers with a view to a settlement should be laid by the operatives' officials before the representatives of the various associations comprising the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation, and that the parties should again meet Sir George Askwith on January 19th. These proposals were accepted on behalf of the workpeople, and at the meeting on January 19th the following agreement was signed by representatives of the parties, and work accordingly was resumed on January 22nd:—

DISPUTE ON NON-UNIONIST QUESTION.

OFFICIAL TERMS OF SETTLEMENT, JANUARY 19TH, 1912.

As each side claims a principle—the operatives that the workpeople have the right to refuse to work with non-unionists at any shed or mill, the employers that they must maintain their established practice of strict impartiality as regards unionists and non-unionists—and as both parties attach great importance to maintaining such rights, it be now agreed by the employers' and operatives' representatives that, with a view of providing a means whereby the dispute may be settled by reason and in a friendly manner, work shall be resumed at 6 a.m. on Monday, January 22nd, 1912, under the old conditions of employment, on the understanding that at the end of a period of six months, during which no action shall be taken in tendering notices or striking mills on the non-unionist question, Sir George Askwith, who has been Chairman of the conferences which have taken place, and has heard the views which have been expressed by both sides, will, if requested, submit to the parties his suggestions upon the matter, containing, if possible, a means by which both sides can maintain their principles without injury to the rights of each other. If such suggestions are requested, the parties shall meet within twenty-one days after receiving them for consideration of the subject.

In the event of the foregoing procedure not providing a solution of the question, neither side shall be entitled to take any action on the non-unionist question involving a stoppage of machinery unless six months' notice in writing has been previously given by the one side to the other.

The representatives of the employers' and operatives' associations desire their respective members to accept this as an official intimation of the settlement.

Signed on behalf of the undermentioned Associations:—

WILKINSON HARTLEY, Chairman.

JOHN TAYLOR and F. A. HARGREAVES, Joint Secretaries of the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association.

J. E. TATTERSALL, President.

THOS. SHAW, Secretary of the Northern Counties Textile Trades' Federation.

JOHN W. OGDEN, President.

JOSEPH CROSS, Secretary of the Amalgamated Weavers' Association.

J. E. TATTERSALL, Secretary of the General Union of Associations of Loom Overlookers.

W. C. ROBINSON, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Association of Beamers, Twisters, and Drawers.

E. STRONG, Secretary of the General Amalgamation of Clothlookers and Warehousemen's Associations.

Dock Workers, Glasgow.

Negotiations between the Glasgow Shipowners' Association and the Scottish Union of Dock Labourers having failed to effect a settlement with regard to conditions of employment, and a stoppage of work being threatened, in December, 1911, the position was brought by the shipowners to the notice of Sir George Askwith, who entered into communication with the parties. Further negotiations between the parties, however, resulted in an agreement on a number of points, and at a meeting of the executive of the men's union on January 16th, 1912, it was resolved not to accept a proposal of the shipowners that the outstanding points should be discussed at a conference presided over by Sir George Askwith, the men stating that, in their opinion, the time had not arrived for the intervention of a third party. On January 19th an agreement, subject to the acceptance of the general body of workers, was arrived at after further conferences between representatives of the parties. This

agreement was however, subsequently rejected at a mass meeting of the men. The shipowners thereupon, by a notice posted at the docks, intimated that on and after January 29th they would put into operation the terms and conditions of employment as adjusted at the conferences.

On January 29th the men employed at the docks and quays, numbering about 7,000, ceased work, bringing the shipping of the port practically to a standstill.

On February 5th Sir George Askwith went to Glasgow and entered into negotiations with the representatives of the shipowners and the men, with the result that a joint conference, under his chairmanship, was commenced on February 6th. The conference continued till the end of the following day, when the parties separated, no settlement having been arrived at. Sir George Askwith remained in Glasgow, and succeeded in arranging that negotiations should be continued, a sub-committee, consisting of representatives of both sides, meeting the following day (February 8th), under his chairmanship. The conferences were continued on February 9th, and terms of settlement were arrived at in the early morning of February 10th. These terms having been accepted by the members of the respective associations, work was resumed. The terms of settlement consisted of the draft agreement arrived at on January 19th, together with a series of explanatory answers that had been given by the shipowners' representatives to questions that had been submitted to them, through Sir George Askwith, by the representatives of the men. In addition, the following arrangements were made with regard to the resumption of work:—

General Cargo:—

Liners and Ocean Steamers:—

Loading general cargo—eight men to be in the hold. Dis-

charging general cargo—six men to be in the hold.

When oil is discharged from lower holds in lots of 100

tons or over, eight men to be employed.

Slings to be regulated by stevedores with due regard to

safety and economic working.

Ore Trade:—

Unloading of vessels to start with two tubs and a swing-

ing tub till bottom is reached, after which four tubs to

be used. Men's committee to consider if they will agree

to fourth tub being used when 12 feet from top of

coamings.

Number of Men in Gangs:—

Sixteen men in holds of boats from foreign ports (Spain,

Portugal, &c.) as at present. Special consideration to

be given by men's committee to special boats, such as

"Glenmore" and "Behera" type.

Boats of Coasting Type, wherever from:—

Boats up to 150 tons—nine men in gang. Boats 150-350

tons—13 men in gang. Boats 350 to about 1,000 tons—

15 men in gang. All over—19 men in gang.

Ironmoulders, Scotland.

In September, 1911, the Scottish ironmoulders, through the Associated Ironfounders and the Central Ironmoulders' Association, made application for an increase in wages of ¼d. an hour or 1s. per week, in the case of time workers, and 2½ per cent. in the case of piece workers. This application was successful in the case of the timeworkers, who received the increase as from February 1st, 1912, but as regards the pieceworkers the employers expressed themselves unable, in the present state of trade, to make any advance. A ballot of the men was taken, and showed a large majority in favour of a strike unless the increase in piecework rates was conceded as from February 1st. Negotiations had meantime been proceeding between the parties, and the executives of the unions offered to take the advance on March 1st, while the employers subsequently offered the advance asked for as from May 1st. This offer was rejected by the men's executives, and notices to cease work as from February 2nd and 3rd were handed in by the men.

The matter having been brought to the attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department, Mr. H. J. Wilson visited Glasgow and conferred with representatives of the Employers' Association and of the unions concerned, and arranged a joint meeting of representatives of the employers and the Central Ironmoulders' Association. The members of the joint meeting, after some discussion, finally decided that a suggestion regarding the date upon which the advance should

come into operation should be made by Mr. Wilson for the consideration of both sides. Mr. Wilson suggested that the advance should come into force on April 1st, and this date was accepted by the employers, and the representatives of the men agreed to take a ballot on the matter, work to be continued pending the result. The ballot showed a considerable majority in favour of accepting the advance from April 1st.

Dyers, &c., Vale of Leven.

An agreement was arrived at on January 5th (see LABOUR GAZETTE, January, 1912, page 6) in connection with the demand of the male workers in the employment of the United Turkey Red Company, Ltd., for an advance of wages and other alterations in working conditions. No agreement was, however, arrived at at this conference with regard to the women workers. After some negotiations the parties agreed that the question of the demands of the women workers should be referred to arbitration, and the Right Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., was appointed to act in that capacity. Owing to illness Sir David Harrel was unable to attend the arbitration proceedings arranged for February 6th, and, with a view to avoiding delay, Sir George Askwith, who was then in Glasgow, suggested to the parties that they should consider whether a settlement of the matter could be arrived at by negotiation. This suggestion was adopted and as a result of conferences between representatives of the parties and Mr. H. J. Wilson, of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department, the following terms of agreement were arrived at:—

VALE OF LEVEN WORKS—UNITED TURKEY RED CO., LTD., WOMEN WORKERS—TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.

- (1) Weekly pays on Saturdays.
- (2) Three days' lying time.
- (3) Advance of sixpence per week to all women time-workers over or under eighteen years of age.

Advance of 5 per cent. to all piece-workers at Dillchip and Milton.

Advance of 2½ per cent. to all piece-workers at Alexandria, and a further advance of 2½ per cent. on and from May 2nd, 1912.

The advances not to be given to apprentices with less than two years, but apprentices on completing two years' service to be placed upon same footing as women and girls doing identical work with the same degree of efficiency.

With a view to maintaining the average wage, the firm propose to make as soon as possible such re-arrangements of work as may be practicable, in order to enable the piece-workers to be fully occupied during the ten hours of the day.

- (4) The advances to be retrospective to January 25th last.
- (5) Instances where girls or women working side by side and doing identical work with the same degree of efficiency get different rates of pay, to be adjusted by levelling up the wages of those paid at the lower rates.
- (6) A private conference on complaints concerning certain conditions which have not been brought to the notice of the directors.
- (7) This agreement to continue in force until December 31st, 1912, and to continue in force thereafter until one month's notice in writing has been given by either side.

Flaxworkers, Manchester.

In October, 1911, about 300 flax workers, of whom about 250 were females, employed in a mill at Manchester struck work in support of their demand for increased wages and other matters. The attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department having been called to the matter, a conference of the parties was held on January 12th, under the chairmanship of Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., who was appointed to act as conciliator, and terms of settlement were arrived at, subject to acceptance by the workpeople. These terms were rejected by the women workers, and the men decided to defer their decision until the matters affecting the women had been settled.

At a meeting of the workpeople on February 7th, however, it was decided by a majority vote to accept the terms of January 12th, and work was resumed on February 12th.

By this settlement women and girls earning 6s. per week and under receive an advance of 6d. per week, and those earning over 6s. per week an advance of 1s. per week. A minimum wage of £1 per week is established for men over 21 years of age, and an advance of 1s. per week granted to all men on weekly wages and a 5 per

cent. increase to all male pieceworkers. Questions of overtime and fines were also dealt with.

Shipwrights and Joiners, Belfast.

Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., the arbitrator appointed to deal with a dispute as to demarcation of work between shipwrights and joiners at Belfast, having heard the parties and inspected the work, issued his award on January 27th, deciding that the work in dispute (sheathing or second wood lining on top of insulation work) was joiners' work.

Tyne Steamboatmen.

The Federation of Tyne, Wear and Tees Steamboatmen having been unable to come to an agreement with the Tyne Tug Owners' Association regarding a demand on the part of the men for alterations in working conditions, the parties agreed to refer the matter to the decision of an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, and on January 20th application was made accordingly. The Chief Industrial Commissioner appointed Mr. J. Burnett to act in the desired capacity. Mr. Burnett issued his award on February 12th, giving a decision upon a considerable number of points that had been raised in connection with the working rules.

Painters, Harrogate.

Mr. Alderman T. Smith, the arbitrator appointed to deal with this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE, January, 1912, p. 7), issued his award on 15th January. The workpeople had asked that the first rule of the existing code of working rules should be deleted, and there be inserted in its place the clause "That the standard rate of wages be 8½d. per hour." Mr. Smith advanced the rate from 7½d. to 8d. per hour, which rate is to be paid to all efficient workmen who have worked at the trade for not less than five years, before arriving at the age of twenty-one years. Efficient workmen at present employed at the standard rate of wages who may not have worked at the trade for fully five years (before arriving at the age of twenty-one years) are entitled to the advanced rate.

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

THE Board of Trade have issued to-day the seventh volume* of the Report upon the Enquiry into the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople of the United Kingdom. The earlier volumes (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April and September, 1909; April, July and December, 1910; and September, 1911) related to the textile, clothing, building and woodworking trades, certain public utility services, agriculture, and the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades; the present volume deals with railway service in 1907.

The number of workpeople in respect of whom returns of rates of wages, earnings and hours of duty were obtained for the purposes of the present volume was considerably over 400,000, and included practically all those employed by railway companies in the departments to which this volume relates—viz., the coaching and traffic, goods, locomotive, carriage and wagon (exclusive of construction works), permanent way, and stores, stationery and printing; station-masters, booking-clerks and officials on the salary list are not included.

The great majority of the railway servants included in the returns were male time workers in regular employment, who may therefore be regarded as the normal type of railway servant, and the particulars given in the remainder of this summary, except where otherwise stated, will relate to workpeople of this class.

On railways other than electric, nearly all the workpeople were "six-day workers"—i.e., their rate of pay was for a working week of six days, Sunday duty when taken being paid for as overtime or equivalent time off being given in lieu of payment; coaching and traffic porters were the only grade which included a considerable proportion of "other workers"—i.e., workpeople who regularly or occasionally performed Sunday duty

* Earnings and Hours Enquiry. VII. Railway Service in 1907. Cd. 6053. Price 2s. 3d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

without extra pay. On electric railways, on the other hand, less than half the total number of workpeople were "six-day workers."

It must be remembered that since the date of the returns upon which this Report is based, many changes have taken place in railway rates of wages and working conditions. The precise effect of all these changes cannot be stated from the data available to the Department, but they were in the direction of increases of wages and reduction of hours, the more recent changes especially affecting the lower grades of labour.

Railways other than Electric.—The number of male time workers paid wages in the last pay-week of October, 1907, who were in regular employment in the departments included in the returns was 401,437, of whom 365,901 were adult workmen and 35,536 were lads and boys. Their average rate of wages for a full week was 24s. 4d. for adult workmen, and 11s. 3d. for lads and boys, while the average weekly earnings of adult workmen and lads and boys were 26s. 8d. and 11s. 11d. respectively. In a number of cases a cash "bonus" was paid in addition to the nominal rate of wages. On the average this bonus increased the rate of wages of men by 2d. to 24s. 6d. and that of lads and boys by 1d. to 11s. 4d.; the bonus is included in the average earnings previously stated.

The average weekly rates of wages (with and without bonus) and earnings of "six-day workers" in certain of the principal grades were as follows:—

Occupation.	Average Rates of Wages.		Average Actual Earnings.
	Without Bonus.	With Bonus.	
Engine Drivers	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Goods Guards and Brakemen	40 0	40 3	45 11
Passenger Guards	28 2	28 2	31 2
Signalmen	27 8	27 9	29 3
Shunters	24 8	25 4	27 6
Firemen	23 9	23 10	27 5
Shunters (Goods)	23 9	23 9	25 7
Porters (Permanent Way) ..	20 0	(No bonus)	21 10
Platelayers and Packers ..	20 0	19 5	21 8
Porters (Coaching and Traffic)	18 8	18 8	19 9

As between the various districts of the United Kingdom rates of wages and earnings were on the whole highest in the Northern Counties and Cleveland, and distinctly lower in Ireland than in the rest of the United Kingdom; in Scotland they were usually somewhat lower than in England and Wales.

As already stated, the earnings quoted include a certain amount of cash "bonus." Other additions to the nominal rates of wages took the form of allowances of uniform or partial clothing, or of a house rent-free or at a reduced rental; the value of these allowances, however, has not been included in the rates of wages or earnings stated. In the case of adult workmen the allowance of uniform or partial clothing was valued at an average of 7d. per week per recipient, or 4d. per head of the whole number of men; the principal grades receiving an allowance of uniform were passenger and goods guards, signalmen, shunters, coaching and traffic porters and foremen. The housing allowance averaged 1s. 10d. weekly per recipient, or 1d. per head of all the men.

A considerable number of railway servants were entitled to sick pay, pensions, &c., under contributory pension or provident schemes, to which the railway companies also contributed. In a few other cases sick pay or pensions were given by the companies.

The average annual earnings of all workpeople (including piece workers and casual workers), as estimated from the total wages bill for the year, were nearly £65.

The hours of duty for a full week were given in the majority of cases exclusive of meal-times; for adult workmen ("six-day workers") such hours averaged 58.0 for the United Kingdom as a whole and for lads and boys 58.9. The hours were on the whole longer in Scotland and shorter in the Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, than in the rest of the United Kingdom. Of the adult workmen 50 per cent. worked 60 hours or over, 24 per cent. 54 hours and under 56, and 10 per cent. under 54 hours.

Of the total number in regular employment on railways other than electric, over two-thirds had annual holidays with pay, usually of from 3 to 6 days.

For reasons which are stated in the Report it has not been possible to institute a comparison between the present figures and the results of the similar investigation previously made into rates of wages of railway servants in 1886 and 1891.

Electric Railways.—No female or casual workers were returned as employed on electric railways, and of the 6,951 employees, 6,940 were time workers; 6,354 of these were adult workmen, and 586 lads and boys. The average rates of wages of these time workers for a full week were 29s. 6d. for adult workmen and 12s. 11d. for lads and boys, while the average weekly earnings for adult workmen and lads and boys were 30s. 1d. and 13s. 0d. respectively. Bonus was paid to some of the adult workmen, but was not sufficient in amount to affect the average rate of wages for all men.

As regards the principal grades of adult workmen, motormen who were "six-day workers" were rated at 38s. 11d. and earned 38s. 10d. on the average, while "other workers" were rated at 41s. 1d. (or 41s. 2d. with bonus) and earned 41s. 9d. The average rate of wages for "six-day workers" among mechanics was 35s. 9d., and the average earnings were 36s. 8d. Signalmen ("other workers") were rated at 31s. 2d. (or 31s. 4d. with bonus), and earned 31s. 11d., while platelayers and packers ("six-day workers") were rated at 27s. 2d., and earned 28s. 10d. Lift attendants ("other workers") had an average rate of 25s. 1d. and earnings of 25s. 5d., and labourers ("six-day workers") in the traffic and engineering departments an average rate of 24s. 11d. and earnings of 25s. 6d., while of the conductors and gatemen "six-day workers" were rated at 24s. 5d. and earned 24s. 7d., and "other workers" were rated at 24s. 1d. and earned 23s. 11d.

An allowance of uniform or other clothing was given to rather more than half the adult workmen, its estimated weekly value being nearly 9d. per recipient, or over 4d. per head of all men.

The average annual earnings of workpeople employed on electric railways, as estimated from the total wages bill for the year, were about £74.

The average hours, for a full week, of the adult workmen whose hours of duty, exclusive of mealtimes, were given in the returns were 54.0 in the case of "six-day workers" and 60.2 in the case of "other workers."

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A REPORT with Statistical Tables and Charts relating to industrial and agricultural co-operative societies in the United Kingdom* has recently been issued by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade.

This Report is a continuation, revised and extended, of the volume† issued by the Department in 1901, which reviewed British co-operative movements down to 1899. The statistics in the present volume cover the succeeding decade and, as far as practicable, the year 1910.

During this period the progress made by co-operation in the United Kingdom has been very remarkable. Not only has the ground previously covered been more than retained, but new fields of activity have been entered, so that the distinctive characteristic of the present Report is the great variety of the enterprises embraced. The progress made with different forms of agricultural co-operation has been specially marked, and has made it necessary to adopt a more elaborate classification of the societies than that which seemed adequate when the earlier volume was prepared. Thus the 4,675 societies dealt with in the present Report have been divided into five main groups, consisting of 1,580 Industrial Societies, 717 Agricultural Societies, 540 Banking, Credit and Insurance Societies, 1,824 Housing and Building Societies, and 14 Central Propagandist organisations. Each of these groups is again sub-divided

* Report on Industrial and Agricultural Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom with Statistical Tables. Cd. 6045, 1912. Price 1s. 6d., by post 2s.
† Report on Workmen's Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom. Cd. 698, 1901.

in order that the reader may more easily perceive the special functions performed by the various types of societies.

Summary: Industrial and Agricultural Distribution and Production.

The aggregate membership recorded by 2,233 productive and distributive co-operative societies of all kinds in 1909 was 2,597,236, an increase of 917,221, or 55 per cent., as compared with 1899. The value of the total trade of these societies (exclusive of banking, credit, insurance, and building society transactions) was, in 1909, nearly 132 million pounds, an increase over 1899 of 56½ millions, or 75 per cent.

Industrial Distribution and Production.

By far the greatest volume of co-operative trading is still done by the group of industrial co-operative societies. In 1909 these societies numbered 1,580 and had an aggregate membership of 2,512,048; their total distributive and productive business amounted to nearly 128 million pounds, an increase of nearly 54 millions, or 73 per cent., over 1899.

The total trade of 1,430 retail distributive societies in 1909 amounted to nearly 70½ million pounds, an increase as compared with 1899 of over 25 millions, while the trade of the two wholesale societies amounted to over 33 millions, an increase over 1899 of nearly 14 millions. These sales included goods of the wholesale value of about 24 million pounds produced by the industrial co-operative societies in their own factories and workshops, this amount being equal to about 45 per cent. of the estimated wholesale value of the year's turnover of the retail societies; if to this is added the products of agricultural co-operative societies purchased by retail societies, it is probable that altogether 50 per cent. in value of the goods sold was produced by workpeople employed under conditions controlled by co-operators themselves.

The capital of the retail distributive societies in 1909 exceeded 37½ million pounds. Of this sum nearly 20½ millions were invested otherwise than in the societies' own undertakings, over 12½ millions being invested in other undertakings largely co-operative, such as the wholesale societies and the productive societies, and 7½ millions in house property let on rental, or in process of sale to members.

Of the 24 million pounds of co-operative production in 1909, 21 millions represented the value of the goods produced in the factories and workshops of two wholesale and 976 retail societies, and about 3¼ millions that produced by the 142 societies established primarily for production. Of the latter £1,111,563 was the output of corn mill societies, £838,818 that of various other consumers' productive societies, and £1,354,487 that of the workers' productive societies, formed primarily in the interests of the producers, but many of which are largely financed and controlled by consumers' societies, which buy nearly the whole of their products. Most of the workers' productive societies allot a share of profits to their employees in the form of a dividend or bonus on wages; and in most cases the employees are represented on the managing committee. Tables are given in the Report showing the extent to which the workers in these societies share in the profits, capital and control of the societies by which they are employed.

Agricultural Distribution and Production.

The agricultural societies at work in 1909 fall into three main classes, viz., 336 purchase and sale societies, 317 productive (*i.e.*, dairying and farming) societies, and 64 small holdings and allotments societies. Most of these societies differ essentially in character from the societies engaged in industrial production, since in the main they are established and carried on neither in the interests of the consumers of the goods produced, as is the case with the great majority of co-operative societies, nor in the interests of the workers employed, as is the case with the workers' productive societies dealt with in this Report. The members of the agricultural societies are mainly small farmers who are not employed by their society, but who follow their daily occupations as private individuals, using the society for the collective manufacture of butter and cheese from milk provided by themselves; for the marketing of this and other produce

raised upon their farms; and for the collective purchase of seeds, manures, implements, &c., in bulk, with a view to obtaining better terms than would be possible if they bought individually.

The agricultural development of co-operation may be dated from 1895; but up to about 1901 agricultural co-operation was, except for a few isolated societies, confined to Ireland, where it had been promoted by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. In 1901, however, an agricultural organisation society was registered in London, and this was followed in 1905 by the registration of a similar society for Scotland, both being worked on similar lines to those of the Irish Society. The activities of these societies have resulted in a rapid growth in the extent and importance of agricultural co-operation in Great Britain.

Between 1895 and 1909 the agricultural co-operative societies of all kinds making returns increased from 58 (46 for production and 12 for distribution) for the whole of the United Kingdom to 653 (317 for production and 336 for distribution), while their combined sales increased from £354,379 to £3,609,172. Of the societies reporting in 1909, 454 (294 for production and 160 for distribution) were in Ireland, and their sales amounted to £2,392,525. These figures, however, do not include those relating to the 64 small holdings and allotments societies making returns, most of which are of recent formation.

In addition to the above societies there were 71 industrial societies and one agricultural distributive society engaged in productive farming and dairying operations in 1909, the productions of which reached a total value of £467,967.

Banking and Credit.

The bank department of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society at the end of 1909 was dealing with the ordinary banking business of over 900 societies, and its receipts for that year on current accounts amounted to about 64 millions, an increase of 35½ millions, or 126 per cent., as compared with 1899.

The small credit societies, established mainly in connection with agricultural co-operation, have increased from 55 in 1899 to 241 in 1909. The amount on loan in the latter year was £102,838, an increase of £72,128, or 235 per cent., as compared with 1899.

Insurance.

The Report contains an account of "collective assurance," an interesting development in co-operative life assurance, which was inaugurated in 1904 by the Co-operative Insurance Society, Limited. Its main features are that on payment by a retail distributive society of an annual premium based on the total amount of its sales to members, the lives of the individual members of the society are insured for an amount varying with that of their respective annual purchases from the society; for a small additional premium members' families may also be included in the scheme. At the end of 1910, 277 societies with an aggregate membership of 441,979 had availed themselves of this method of collective insurance.

Miscellaneous.

Among other enterprises dealt with in the Report are the Cattle and Pig Insurance Societies, the modern Tenants' Co-partnership Societies, and the old-established Building Societies and Loan Societies, which work more or less on co-operative lines.

Appendices to the Report contain specimens of the form of rules and balance-sheets usually adopted by co-operative societies, and particulars of the various central organisations formed for propaganda and other purposes.

NEW PROVISIONS OF THE GERMAN INSURANCE CODE.

The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* of December 12th selects for mention the following important changes made by the new German Insurance Code (see September GAZETTE, 1911, p. 332) as coming into effect on January 1st, 1912.

Insurance against infirmity and old age is for the first time compulsory for persons employed as assistants or apprentices in pharmacies, or as actors or members of

orchestras, or in the capacity of works officials or foremen—always provided the earnings of such persons do not exceed £100 per annum.

The benefits of the Infirmity and Old Age Insurance Law are extended by the granting of (a) pensions to permanently disabled widows of insured males, to orphans under 15, and to disabled widowers of insured females so long as they remain incapacitated, and provided the deceased had supported the family out of their earnings, (b) allowances to insured widows on the death of their insured husbands, and (c) endowments to orphans on completion of their fifteenth year. Another extension of the benefits hitherto claimable under the law is the granting to a person in receipt of an infirmity pension of a 10 per cent. increase of the pension for every child under 15 (up to a limit of five children).

The system of returning half the premiums under certain circumstances, as for example on the marriage of insured females, will no longer be continued, but the title to benefits can be retained by means of voluntary insurance.

The receipt of pensions, &c., by public officials no longer precludes the concurrent receipt of an infirmity or old age pension under the Act; these latter will, from January 18th, 1912, be paid in full, in addition to the earned official pension.

In order to provide for the extended scope of the insurance, the former weekly premiums are from January 1st, 1912, raised as follows:—Wage—Class I., 1½d. to 2d.; II., 2½d. to 3½d.; III., 3½d. to 4½d.; IV., 4½d. to 5½d.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE OF SALARIED EMPLOYEES: NEW GERMAN LAW.

H.M. AMBASSADOR at Berlin, in a despatch of January 4th, transmits the text of a new law of December 20th last on the subject of compulsory insurance for salaried employees, together with a memorandum summarising its principal provisions.

The new measure is intended to provide an old age, infirmity and widows' and orphans' insurance fund for the large class of salaried employees (other than those in the public services) whose social status is held to be superior to that of "workpeople," and for whom no general provision has been made in the various social insurance laws hitherto enacted in that country.* The number of persons affected by the compulsory clauses of the new law is estimated at 1,800,000.

Scope of Law.

Insurance is compulsory for all persons belonging to any of the classes enumerated below, who have completed their sixteenth year and who had not reached the age of sixty at the time of entering upon their present occupation, provided such persons are fit for work and are in receipt of a salary not exceeding 5,000 marks (= £246) per annum:—(1) Employees exercising managerial functions, where such employment constitutes their chief vocation; (2) works superintendents, &c., and members of office or counting-house staff, where such employment constitutes their chief vocation; (3) shop assistants and chemists' assistants; (4) members of theatrical and orchestral companies; (5) teachers; (6) masters, officers, pursers, &c., on German vessels, whether sea-going or plying on inland waters, where such employment constitutes their chief vocation.

The compulsory provisions of the law may also be extended by the Federal Council of the Empire to persons working on their own account (*i.e.*, not for a wage or salary), who discharge functions of a kind similar to those mentioned above.

Clergymen, teachers in public schools, doctors, dentists, and veterinary surgeons are exempt, also persons who, while studying for their future profession, earn fees by giving instruction to others.

There is no general provision for voluntary insurance, but persons who leave an occupation in which insurance is compulsory, if they have been insured for at least six months, may continue the insurance voluntarily. Those

*Otherwise than by the Accident Insurance Law which, as recently amended, covers Works Superintendents earning up to 5,000 marks (£246) per annum.

who reside abroad may continue their insurance voluntarily under similar conditions.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Insured persons are divided into nine classes, according to their salaries, the limits in each class, and the contributions payable per calendar month being as under:—

Class.	Limits of Yearly Salary.	Contributions per month.
A	550 marks (£27) or less	1·6 marks. (1s. 7d.)
B	Over 550 marks up to 850 marks (£27—£42)	3·2 marks. (3s. 1½d.)
C	Over 850 marks up to 1,150 marks (£42—£57)	4·8 marks. (4s. 8½d.)
D	Over 1,150 marks up to 1,500 marks (£57—£74)	6·8 marks. (6s. 8½d.)
E	Over 1,500 marks up to 2,000 marks (£74—£88)	9·6 marks. (9s. 5½d.)
F	Over 2,000 marks up to 2,500 marks (£88—£123)	13·2 marks. (13s. 11¾d.)
G	Over 2,500 marks up to 3,000 marks (£123—£148)	16·8 marks. (16s. 8d.)
H	Over 3,000 marks up to 4,000 marks (£148—£197)	20·0 marks. (19s. 8d.)
I	Over 4,000 marks up to 5,000 marks (£197—£246)	26·6 marks. (26s. 8d.)

Allowances in kind (e.g. board and lodging), bonuses, &c., are reckoned as salary for the purpose of this law.

These rates of contributions may be increased or reduced according as the balance-sheet, which is to be prepared every five years, shows a deficit or surplus.

Benefits Provided.

These are of two kinds—viz., (a) pensions for old age and premature infirmity and (b) pensions to widows and orphans. The former are payable when the insured person attains the age of 65 or becomes unfit for work, provided that the contributions have been kept up for a specified number of months (*see below*). Where the insured person is not permanently incapacitated, an infirmity pension may be granted temporarily when he or she has been unfit for work during 26 consecutive weeks. Pensions are payable to widows of insured persons and to orphans up to the age of eighteen, or to widowers who, owing to infirmity, had been principally dependent upon their wives for support.

Where a person is suffering from a disease which threatens to incapacitate him from work, his cure may be undertaken by the Insurance Institute (*see below*), and during such treatment an allowance may be made to persons dependent upon him for support.

In order to qualify for a pension for old age or infirmity the insured persons must have contributed to the Fund for not less than 120 months in the case of men and 60 months in the case of women. In order to secure pensions for widows and orphans, contributions must have been paid by the insured for at least 120 months.

The annual value of an old-age or infirmity pension is calculated at one-fourth of the contributions paid during the qualifying period, plus one-eighth of any subsequent contributions. In the case of women the corresponding pension is one-fourth of the contributions paid during the first 60 months. Pensions to widows and widowers are calculated at two-fifths of the old age or infirmity pension received by the breadwinner at the time of death, or of the pension to which he or she would have been entitled if incapacitated from work at the time of death. Orphans who have lost one parent receive one-fifth, those who have lost both parents one-third of the widow's pension, provided the total pensions for widow and orphans do not exceed the amount of retirement pension received or receivable by the breadwinner. Pensions are payable in monthly instalments through the post.

On re-marriage, widows and widowers lose their retirement pension, but a widow on re-marriage may claim a capital sum equal to three times her yearly pension. Persons are not entitled to pensions when in receipt of an allowance under the "workmen's" insurance or of earned income, which, added to the pension, would make the total income exceed the annual income corresponding to the average of his or her 60 highest monthly contributions.

Organisation.

A special Department is created under the title of Imperial Insurance Institute for Salaried Employees.

At the head of this Department will be a Managing Board, consisting of a Chairman and the requisite number of members (with the status of "official") permanently appointed on the recommendation of the Federal Council of the Empire. These will be assisted by two representatives of the insured classes and two of their employers, none of whom, however, are to be "officials." Provision is also made for an Administrative Council, presided over by the Chairman of the Managing Board, and consisting of 12 elected representatives of employers and employees respectively. This Council will advise the Managing Board on all matters of importance, and prepare the estimates and statements of accounts. Pensions Committees will be established when and where required, whose duties will be to decide as to the amount of pensions, their grant, withdrawal, &c.

The law further provides for the establishment of local Arbitration Courts and for a Higher Arbitration Court, sitting at Berlin.

Cost of Insurance.

The cost of the insurance is to be borne by the employees and their employers in equal shares, without State subvention. Contributions are paid on the scale shown in the above table to the various offices by the employers, who deduct one-half of the amount from their employees' wages. Stamps for the amount paid are issued and attached to cards obtained and kept by the employees. Provision is also made for the payment of contributions and the receipt of pensions and allowances through approved societies. An employee who is already insured in a life insurance society may be dispensed from contributing to the State Insurance Fund. In such case, however, the employer must pay his share of the contributions of his employee to the State fund, and the employee will receive half the benefits provided under the law.

Rights of Foreigners.

Reciprocal arrangements may be concluded with other nations in so far as their laws provide benefits corresponding to those under the salaried employees' insurance.

Date of Entering into Force.

The provisions of the law relating to the establishment of the institutions necessary for its operation came into force on December 20th, 1911. The date upon which the law itself becomes operative, either for the whole or a portion of the Empire, will be determined by Imperial decree issued with the concurrence of the Federal Council.

It may be added that in providing a separate scheme of compulsory insurance against old age and infirmity for salaried (as distinct from wage-earning) employees in private undertakings, Germany has now adopted a principle that has already been embodied in the social legislation of Austria since 1906.

MINIMUM WAGES IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS IN BELGIUM.

The Belgian Labour Department has recently issued a Report* of an investigation on the subject of minimum wages required to be paid in contracts carried out for public bodies in that country.

Origin.

The first instance of the introduction of a minimum wage clause in estimates for public works in Belgium occurred in 1853, when, as the result of a report by the Mayor of Brussels, an order was issued by the Board of Aldermen to the effect that in the case of works carried out for the Municipal Authorities employers should receive 64 centimes for every 2 hours of labour by a skilled worker and 42 in the case of an unskilled worker, on condition that 50 centimes were paid to the worker in the first case and 34 centimes in the second, such condition to be expressly mentioned in the contract with the municipality. The clause continued to figure in contracts up till 1887, after which it fell into disuse. Its results had been insignificant.

* *Le Minimum de Salaire et les Administrations Publiques en Belgique.* Office du Travail, 1911. Brussels: J. Lebegue & Cie.

Many other Communal and Provincial Authorities followed the example of Brussels, and in 1896 an Enquiry made by the town of Brussels revealed the fact that out of the 9 provinces 8 had stipulations relating to the wages of workpeople inserted in their contracts, while out of the 86 Municipalities with over 8,000 inhabitants 47 had adopted the principle.

Adoption of Principle by State.

In 1896 the Minister of Agriculture and Public Works made a statement in the Chamber of Representatives to the effect that he would provisionally apply the principle of a minimum wage clause in contracts for public works undertaken by his Department, and on July 2nd of the same year he issued a decree specifying the clauses to be inserted in such contracts, and prescribing, *inter alia*, that the employer had to sign a document to the effect that he undertook to pay workpeople, apprentices, and labourers employed upon building, excavating and paving works wages not less than those indicated in that document.

The experiment, made for one year, was renewed, while the Minister stated that he would apply the clause to other categories besides the above three, though not to workshops; and by the circulars of November 6th, 1899, and May 22nd, 1900, the principle was extended to all categories of workpeople employed at works directed by, and subject to the control of State officials. At the present time nearly all the State Departments in Belgium regularly insert a minimum wage clause in contracts carried out for them.

Method of Fixing Minimum Rates.

The methods of determining the minimum rates vary. In the province of Antwerp a special committee of the Provincial Council receives the advice of the technical experts and reports to the Council, which fixes the rates. In the provinces of Hainaut and Liège the Standing Committee of the Provincial Council fixes the rate after taking the opinion of the technical departments concerned. In Brabant the Provincial Standing Committee consults successively the employers' associations, trade unions, and, if it be necessary to decide between these, the Councils of Industry and Labour, and on the proposals of these Councils the Provincial Council fixes the rate. In Eastern and Western Flanders the employers are required to submit the minimum rates of wages they will pay to workpeople engaged upon work for which tenders are made, and the Provincial Standing Committee then fixes the rates. In the provinces of Limburg and Namur lists of rates are drawn up by that Committee, based, in the case of work in the district in which the work is done. In the Province of Luxemburg the principle of minimum wages has been abandoned.

The chief towns, as a rule, fix their minimum rates after consultation with bodies possessing expert knowledge. Antwerp takes the advice of the Municipal Labour Exchange, the committee of which is composed of employers and workpeople. Brussels consults employers' associations and trade unions, and where it is necessary to decide between these, the sections of the Council of Industry and Labour concerned. In Ghent and in the suburban communes of Greater Brussels proposed rates or amendments are drawn up by the Board of Aldermen. Bruges adopts a method similar to that of Western Flanders. In Liège the advice of the heads of the departments concerned is taken, while Verviers consults employers' associations and trade unions. In all these cases the proposals adopted by the Board of Aldermen are submitted to the Town Council for discussion and final decision.

Minimum Wages Clauses at the Present Time.

The Report contains a summary of information collected with regard to the Provinces and to the Communes or Municipalities which on December 31st, 1909, had 10,000 inhabitants or more. All the Provinces except Luxemburg and 58 out of the 104 Communes or Municipalities had adopted the principle of the insertion of a minimum wage clause. In many other cases the principle has been put in operation without such

formal acceptance. There are several instances again where minimum rates are not insisted upon except where works subsidised by the State or Province are carried out. In 10 cases only is it definitely stated that no minimum scale of wages is in operation.

Rates of Wages Per Hour.

The following table gives the rates of wages per hour required to be paid in some of the larger towns of Belgium by contractors to workpeople in certain occupations:—

Occupation.	Minimum Rates of Wages per Hour.					
	Brussels.	Antwerp.	Liège.	Ghent.	Bruges.	Malines.
Bricklayers and Masons	d. 3½	d. 4½	d. 3½	d. 4	d. 3½	d. 3
Carpenters	4½	4½	3½	4	3½	3½
Joiners	4½	4½	3½	4	3½	3½
Painters	3½	4½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Glaziers	4½	4½	3½	4	3½	3
Plumbers and Zinc Workers	4½	4½	3½	4	3½	3
Tile Layers (flooring) ..	4½	4½	3½	3½	..	..
Gasfitters	4½	4½	4½	3½	..	..
Roofers, Slaters, Tilers	3½	4½, 4½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Ceiling Plasterers	3½	4½	3½	4½	3½	3
Locksmiths and Stove Fitters	4½	4½	4	3½, 4	3½	..
Paviors	4	4½	3½	4½	3½	3
Navvies	3½	3½, 3½, 4½	3½	3½	3½	2½

The above rates, which in each case are the latest shown in the report, were adopted at various dates, viz., Malines 1901, Liège 1904, Brussels and Bruges 1906, Antwerp 1909, and Ghent 1910.

SHIPS BUILT IN 1911.

According to *Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping*, the total tonnage of vessels launched in the United Kingdom during 1911 was 2,034,630 tons, an increase of 756,816 tons on the total for 1910 and of 917,334 tons on the total for 1909. The output of mercantile tonnage in 1911 was 1,803,844 tons gross, an increase of 660,675 tons on 1910. The 1911 figure is the highest recorded, with the exception of that for the year 1906 (1,828,343 tons). As regards war vessels in 1911, the output (230,786 tons displacement) constitutes a record, and is nearly 100,000 tons greater than in 1910.

The total output of the world during 1911 was 3,419,009 tons, an increase of 1,150,302 tons in 1910. Of the 1911 total 2,650,140 tons were merchant vessels (2,531,423 steam and 118,717 sail).

The following table shows the annual tonnage launched in the United Kingdom during the last fifteen years:—

Year.	Mercantile and other Vessels (not War Ships).		War Ships.
	Tons (Gross).	Tons (Displacement).	
1897	962,486	95,465	
1898	1,367,570	191,555	
1899	1,416,791	168,690	
1900	1,442,471	88,364	
1901	1,524,739	211,969	
1902	1,427,558	94,140	
1903	1,190,618	151,890	
1904	1,205,162	127,175	
1905	1,623,168	129,801	
1906	1,828,343	108,450	
1907	1,607,890	134,475	
1908	929,669	74,186	
1909	991,086	126,230	
1910	1,143,169	134,645	
1911	1,803,844	230,786	

The following table shows the districts in which the greatest tonnage, including warships, was launched in 1911, with comparative figures for the previous year:—

District.	Total Tonnage (including war vessels) launched in		Inc (+) or Dec. (-) in 1911, as compared with 1910.
	1911.	1910.	
Newcastle	441,079	232,346	+ 208,733
Glasgow	408,226	233,446	+ 174,780
Sunderland	288,228	179,435	+ 107,393
Greenock	207,301	142,722	+ 64,579
Belfast	180,547	163,336	+ 17,211
Middlesbrough and Stockton	141,934	103,754	+ 33,180
Hartlepool and Whitby	135,557	86,285	+ 49,262

Compared with 1910, there were increases in all these districts, the greatest being in the Newcastle district,

208,733 tons; Glasgow district, 174,780 tons; and Sunderland district, 107,393 tons.

The mercantile tonnage launched abroad in 1911 amounted to 846,296 tons; the countries with the greatest output were Germany (255,532 tons), United States (171,569 tons), and France (125,472 tons). The total warship tonnage launched abroad during 1911 was 538,083 tons, and of this total Germany accounted for 128,340 tons, Russia for 93,260 tons, and Italy for 75,018 tons.

According to the latest information received by *Lloyd's Register*, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels of all nationalities totally lost, broken up, &c., during 1911 amounted to 863,000 tons gross (592,000 steam and 271,000 sail), and the net increase in the world's mercantile tonnage at the end of 1911 was about 1,787,000 tons. Steam tonnage increased by 1,940,000 tons, while sailing tonnage was reduced by 153,000 tons.

TRADE UNIONS IN FRANCE.

The latest report upon trade unions in France shows that there were 5,325 in existence on January 1st, 1911, with a total membership of 1,029,238, as compared with 5,260, having 977,350 members, on the corresponding date of 1910. Thus the membership, which for the first time exceeded a million, increased by 51,888, or 5.3 per cent., during the year. The following Table shows the number and membership of French trade unions for each of the ten years 1902—1911:—

Year (Jan. 1st)	No. of Unions.	Total Membership.	Year (Jan. 1st)	No. of Unions.	Total Membership.
1902 ..	3,679	614,173	1907 ..	5,322	896,012
1903 ..	3,934	643,757	1908 ..	5,524	957,102
1904 ..	4,227	715,576	1909 ..	5,354	944,761
1905 ..	4,625	781,344	1910 ..	5,260	977,350
1906 ..	4,857	836,134	1911 ..	5,325	1,029,238

Between January 1st, 1902, and the corresponding date of 1911 the aggregate membership had increased by 415,065, or 68 per cent.

The following Table shows the numerical strength of organised labour in various occupation groups on January 1st, 1911, as compared with the corresponding date of 1902:—

Group of Trades.	Total Membership (January 1st).	
	1911.	1902.
Building Trades	122,565	119,683
Mining and Quarrying	65,603	83,409
Metal Trades	98,727	75,964
Textile Trades	92,991	57,174
Clothing and Cleaning Trades (excluding Boot and Shoe and Glove Making)	28,493	17,121
Transport, Warehousing, &c. ..	314,582	106,872
Agriculture, &c.	61,613	15,515
Printing, Paper, and Allied Trades ..	24,738	19,146
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades ..	33,498	20,643
Chemical Trades	35,444	24,010
Glass, Pottery, &c. Trades	16,695	12,212
Food Preparation Trades	56,162	26,356
Skies and Leather Trades (including Boot and Shoe and Glove Making)	26,826	21,663
Other Trades	51,301	14,437
Total	1,029,238	614,204*

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 34, 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. They should wait till March.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Passages.—Free, assisted, or nominated passages are granted by the Governments of New South Wales,

* The slight discrepancy between this and the corresponding figure in the preceding Table appears in the source, but is not explained.

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

Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia.

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, plasterers, sawyers, tailors, tailoresses, bookbinders, farriers, able-bodied labourers and female servants are in great demand. The strike of iron workers at Lithgow continues. In country districts employment is generally plentiful, and there is a great demand for lads from the Pitt Town Agricultural Training Farm. The Central (Unemployed) Body of London is now assisting 1,000 single men and reservists under 45 years to take up country work in New South Wales and Queensland. They must have resided for twelve months in London, and must apply to the Distress Committee in the Borough in which they reside.

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 a large amount of money is being spent on public works. There is a good demand for plasterers, first-class painters, tinsmiths, boilermakers, blacksmiths, copper-smiths, female servants, and, in country districts, for farm labourers and unskilled labourers.

Queensland.—There is a shortage of labour in almost every branch of skilled work, more especially in the clothing, furniture, and printing trades, in foundries, leather works, tanneries, sawmills, joinery works, tinsmithing, coopering, and coach works. There is a good demand also in country districts for farm and dairy hands.

Western Australia and Tasmania.—The principal demand is for farmers, farm labourers, and female servants.

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 the building trades have been busy nearly everywhere, and carpenters and joiners have been in special demand; bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers, gas-fitters, and building trade labourers are wanted in many places. The engineering trades have been fairly busy, especially at Invercargill, but the supply of men is generally sufficient. Women workers are much wanted in the woollen mills, clothing trades, 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. Skilled miners are always in demand. Employment in Cape Town continues to improve, but, except in a few cases, there is little demand for more labour there or in other parts of the Union. Women, however, are wanted, and 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. 41-42 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 December.—The decline reported in the previous month in the building trades became more marked during December. In the metal trades employment continued favourable, except for tin-box makers, among whom unemployment, already high, increased. A slight revival of activity took place in the textile trades, but short time was still prevalent in the Nord district. In the printing trades employment was good, the proportion of persons out of work being very small, both at Paris and in the provinces. Employment continued to improve in the skin and leather trades. The improvement in employment among vineyard workers in the South of France was maintained as regards those engaged in pruning and fumigating, but other work was hindered by bad weather. Employment improved slowly for woodmen, winter work having commenced, although engagements were not as yet numerous. Gardeners in the Paris district reported no change in employment compared with the preceding month.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in December were received by the French Labour Department from 896 trade unions with an aggregate membership of 244,785. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 6·7 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed in December, as compared with 7·6 per cent. in the previous month, and 6·5 per cent. in December, 1910.†

Coal Mining in December.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground was 5·62 in December, as compared with 6·00 in the previous month, and 5·94† in December, 1910. Taking surface and underground workers together, 11·22 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 88·69 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 98·5 and 1·45, and in December, 1910, 0·61 and 98·14.

Labour Disputes in December.—Sixty-eight labour disputes (67 strikes and one lock-out) were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in December, as compared with the same number in the previous month and 71† in December, 1910. In 65 of the new disputes 5,743 workpeople took part, as compared with 6,676 who took part in 62 disputes in the previous month, and 5,598 in 66 disputes in December, 1910. The groups of trades in which the greatest number of disputes occurred were the building (20), transport (12), textile (9), and metal (7). Of 75 new and old disputes reported to have terminated, 14 ended wholly in favour of the workpeople, and 35 wholly in favour of the employers, while 26 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in December.—Seventeen instances of recourse to the law of 1892 on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in December, the initiative being taken in 4 cases by the workpeople, in one case by the employers, in 2 cases by both parties, and in the remaining 10 cases by the Justice of the Peace. The proffered intervention was declined by the employers in 5 cases, and by the workpeople in 3. In the 9 remaining cases committees of conciliation were formed, resulting in a settlement of 7 disputes, a collective agreement being signed in each case.

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

† Revised figure.

‡ These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 41-42. See also Note above.

GERMANY.

Employment in December.—According to the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department), employment in December continued at the same level as in the previous month in the majority of trades, but there was a decline in most of those engaged in the manufacture of goods for the Christmas market. In coalmining in the Ruhr district the improvement reported in the last two months was maintained, while the demand for coal was also satisfactory in Upper and Lower Silesia. In lignite-mining in Central Germany, however, the situation was less favourable, owing to the mild weather and the early close of the sugar-beet season. Employment was again brisk in the chemical and electrical trades and in potash mining, while the situation in pig-iron manufacture and in iron foundries, steel works, rolling mills, and engineering works was described in almost all cases as favourable. In the building trades there was seasonal depression, although in many localities employment was still satisfactory. As regards cotton manufacture, the reports indicate that employment was satisfactory in the Rhine Provinces, Westphalia, Saxony, and Silesia, but unsatisfactory in Hanover, Alsace-Lorraine, and part of Southern Germany. The woollen cloth weaving industry suffered from the small amount of material required, owing to the narrow skirt fashion, and operatives were badly employed.

Returns relating to unemployment were furnished to the German Labour Department by 53 trade unions with an aggregate membership of 2,038,002. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership covered was 1,974,694, of whom 47,196, or 2·4 per cent., were stated to be unemployed at the end of December, 1911. Further particulars for each of the principal unions for which statistics are available are given in the following Table:—

UNION.	Member-ship reported on at end of Dec., 1911.	Percentage of Member-ship returned as un-employed at end of month.*		
		Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1911.	Dec., 1910.
All Unions making Returns ..	1,974,694	2·4	1·7	2·1
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Miners	120,136	0·2	0·3	0·1
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)	513,634	1·4	1·3	1·6
Engineers and Metal Workers	31,589	1·2	1·2	1·1
(Hirsch-Dumcker)				
Metal Workers (Christian)	43,302	0·7	0·6	0·9
Textile Workers (Soc. Dem.)	126,658	1·3	0·6	†
Textile Workers (Christian)	39,672	0·7	0·9	1·2
.. .. .	43,835	5·4	1·8	3·7
Boot and Shoe Makers	192,045	2·2	1·5	1·4
Transport Workers	61,019	3·9	2·8	3·5
Printers	30,714	2·8	2·0	2·9
Bookbinders	181,360	4·7	2·5	5·2
Woodworkers	43,162	1·0	2·3	1·9
Brewery and Mill Workers	183,742	2·0	1·5	1·2
Factory Workers (irrespective of trade)	46,965	0·8	0·6	0·6
State and Municipal Workers				

The percentage of unemployed among those unions which made returns at all three periods was 2·4 at the end of December, 1911, as compared with 1·6 per cent. in the previous month and 2·2 at the end of December, 1910.*

The number of days lost owing to unemployment during the fourth quarter of 1911 by members of trade unions making returns was calculated to be 1·1 per cent. of the possible working days during that period, as compared with the same percentage in the previous quarter and 1·2 per cent. in the fourth quarter of 1910.

Amendment of Industrial Code.—A despatch of January 12th from H.M. Ambassador at Berlin transmits a copy of a law dated December 27th, 1911, amending certain sections of the Industrial Code of the German Empire. The effect of the more important changes may be summarised as follows:—

(1) In future if a commune, or union of communes, fails to introduce compulsory attendance at continuation schools for young workpeople under 18 years, after having been requested to do so by the employers or workpeople of the locality, the Higher Administrative Authorities may take the step on their own initiative.

(2) Hitherto only the Federal Council was competent to limit the hours of labour in trades where the length

* These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 41-42. See also Note above.

† No report.

of the working day was prejudicial to the health of the persons employed. In future the Police Authorities can do this in any locality.

The new provisions enter into force on April 1st, 1912.

Strike in the Lithographic Trades of Germany.—H.M. Consul at Leipzig, in a despatch dated January 30th, reports the conclusion of a strike of lithographers, which began on September 22nd at Leipzig, and spread rapidly over the whole of Germany, some 4,500 men being ultimately affected. The chief demands of the strikers were for shorter hours of labour, an increase in the minimum wage, and a reduction in the number of apprentices. Under an agreement reached on January 29th, after the strike had lasted over 18 weeks, the hours of lithographic printers are fixed at 53 and those of lithographic artists at 48 per week; the wages of journeymen during the first year out of apprenticeship are to be increased by 2s. 6d. per week (which will bring their weekly wage up to 21s. 8d. in Leipzig). Terms have also been settled as to the proportion of apprentices to journeyman and arrangements made for the settlement of differences by arbitration. It is stated that the dispute has cost the union about £50,000 in strike pay.

SWEDEN.*

Unemployment in May-July.—The latest details available as to unemployment among members of trade unions in Sweden, based on returns made to the Swedish Labour Department, relate to May, June, and July, 1911. (For particulars as to earlier months see GAZETTE for August, 1911, p. 292.)

The following Table shows the membership respecting which returns as to unemployment were obtained and the percentage of such membership reported unemployed on the 1st of each month for the unions as a whole, and also for certain principal unions:—

Union.	Membership Reporting			Percentage Unemployed†		
	May, 1911.	June, 1911.	July, 1911.	May, 1911.	June, 1911.	July, 1911.
All Unions making Returns.	57,833	56,369	52,881	6·7	3·5	3·2
Principal Unions:—						
Stonecutters (Quarrymen) ..	3,309	3,275	2,790	3·4	2·4	1·5
Bricklayers and Masons ..	2,845	1,265	1,205	29·5	4·8	3·1
Metal Workers	16,846	16,365	15,468	4·0	3·6	3·1
Wood Workers	4,230	3,743	3,790	7·9	5·1	3·1
Boot and Shoe Makers ..	3,388	3,402	3,378	1·6	1·4	5·6
Factory Operatives and Labourers	3,628	4,152	3,341	9·8	7·9	8·4

BELGIUM.

Hours of Labour of Women, Young Persons, and Children in Chocolate and Confectionery Works.—A Royal Decree of December 29th, 1911,‡ states that the hours of labour of children and young persons under 16 and of women over 16 and less than 21 employed in chocolate and confectionery works must not exceed 10 per day. On 30 days in the year such persons may be employed up to 11 hours on the employer giving notice to the factory inspector. When the daily hours of labour do not exceed 9 a midday pause of at least 45 minutes must be granted to these classes of workpeople; when they exceed 9, but not 10, there must be a second pause of at least 15 minutes. When, by way of exception, the daily hours of labour exceed 10 per day, a third pause of at least 15 minutes must be granted.

Strike of Coalminers in the Borinage District.—Despatches from H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, dated January 6th to February 6th, report that a strike of coalminers took place in the Borinage (Mons) district, the mines situated at Dour, Quaregnon, Frameries, and Flénu being more particularly affected. The dispute originated in the proposal to introduce the payment of wages at fortnightly intervals (instead of weekly, as heretofore), with a view to facilitating clerical work in the offices of the mines. A proposal to postpone the alteration in the system of payment until July 1st was declined by the employers.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry and

* Meddelanden från K. Kommerskollegii Afdelning for Arbetsstatistik (Journal of the Swedish Labour Department).

† These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 41-42. See also Note above.

‡ *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

Labour both intervened in person, but their efforts to bring about a settlement were unsuccessful.

[According to newspaper reports a general meeting of the miners' unions was held on February 14th, at which it was decided to resume work on the following day. The miners on strike numbered from 25,000 to 30,000 at the commencement of the dispute.]

NORWAY.*

Employment in December.—The following table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of December in trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Labour Department, comparative figures relating to the same unions being added for the previous month and for December, 1910:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.†		
	Dec. 31st, 1911.	Nov. 30th, 1911.	Dec. 31st, 1910.	Dec. 31st, 1911.	Nov. 30th, 1911.	Dec. 31st, 1910.
Masons and Bricklayers ..	535	540	441	5.6	3.9	18.1
Carpenters, &c. ..	986	988	747	4.8	2.3	3.1
Painters ..	280	280	381	17.9	20.0	22.0
Metal Workers ..	6,936	6,655	6,226	1.4	1.0	2.2
Boot and Shoe Makers ..	617	624	631	1.1	0.5	2.4
Printers ..	1,920	1,907	1,510	1.1	0.3	2.3
Bakers ..	390	398	300	9.0	7.7	8.3
Cabinet Makers ..	501	519	433	1.4	0.8	0.5
Total ..	12,165	11,901	10,689	2.4	1.7	3.7

DENMARK.†

Employment in October and November.—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Office, 7.6 per cent. of the 88,000 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 5.5 per cent. at the end of October and 12.2 per cent. a year ago.† The number of days lost by such members of trade unions, owing to unemployment, was 1¼ per member during November, as compared with 1 during October and nearly 2½ during November, 1910.

UNITED STATES.

Liability of Members of Trade Unions for Damage due to Strike: Decision of Supreme Court.—A despatch from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated January 17th, transmits an article from the New York "Sun" of January 16th, which states that the Supreme Court of the United States has upheld the judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in what is known as the Danbury Hatters' Case. The effect of this decision is to affirm the judgment of the lower court that the members of a trade union cannot be held to answer for damages to property resulting from violence due to a strike and accompanying boycott ordered by the officers of the union unless it is conclusively proved that the members of the union actually participated in the acts of violence or authorised them, or had guilty knowledge of them.

Strike of Textile Workers at Lawrence (Mass.).—H.M. Consul-General at Boston, in despatches dated January 16th to 26th, reports concerning a strike of workpeople employed in textile mills at Lawrence (Mass.). The Massachusetts Legislature has recently passed an Act reducing the hours of labour for women and minors in mills and factories from 56 to 54 per week, which became operative from February 1st. In many cases employers had reduced the hours of labour of all workpeople to 54 per week owing to the interdependence of the various classes of operatives. The dispute began on January 13th, when the workmen found that their wages were reduced in proportion to the hours of labour. Demands were made for a 15 per cent. increase in wages and the abolition of overtime. The strike ended on January 15th, when the workpeople returned under the old conditions.

According to the latest report the Massachusetts House of Representatives have agreed to appoint a small committee to investigate the conditions in the Lawrence textile industry.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Labour Department.
† These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 41-42. See also note ab. ve.
‡ Statistiske Efterretninger (Journal of the Danish Statistical Office).

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES DURING JANUARY.

COAL MINING.

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

EMPLOYMENT at coal mines was very good during January, and better than both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,308 pits employing 683,039 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the fortnight ended January 27th, 1912, was 5.62, compared with 5.54 a month ago and 5.56 a year ago.

Of the 683,039 workpeople covered by the Returns 646,140 (or 94.6 per cent.) were employed at pits working 10 or more days during the fortnight ended January 27th, 1912, while 561,301 (or 82.2 per cent. of the total) were employed at pits working 11 days or more.

The highest averages were in Gloucester and Somerset (5.91 days) and South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.90 days). The lowest average was in the Staffordshire district (5.13 days).

The following Table shows the average number of days worked during the fortnight ended January 27th, 1912, together with the figures for similar periods in December, 1911, and January, 1911. Collieries at which there were disputes, causing stoppage of work, are excluded from the figures:—

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in Jan., 1912, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in January, 1912, as compared with a	
		Jan. 27th, 1912.	Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Jan. 28th, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	50,264	5.41	5.45	5.30	- 0.04	+ 0.11
Durham ..	130,800	5.51	5.50	5.43	+ 0.01	+ 0.08
Cumberland ..	6,346	5.74	5.57	5.59	+ 0.17	+ 0.15
South Yorkshire ..	76,053	5.82	5.74	5.72	+ 0.08	+ 0.10
West Yorkshire ..	25,405	5.78	5.59	5.62	+ 0.19	+ 0.16
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	59,591	5.69	5.50	5.46	+ 0.19	+ 0.23
Derbyshire ..	44,854	5.60	5.46	5.52	+ 0.14	+ 0.08
Nottingham and Leicester	33,742	5.21	5.03	5.03	+ 0.13	+ 0.13
Staffordshire ..	30,055	5.13	5.31	5.74	- 0.18	- 0.61
Warwick, Worcester and Salop	8,520	5.40	5.45	5.63	- 0.05	- 0.23
Gloucester and Somerset ..	7,241	5.91	5.04	5.71	+ 0.87	+ 0.20
North Wales ..	11,497	5.82	5.88	5.72	- 0.06	+ 0.10
South Wales and Mon. ..	139,839	5.90	5.76	5.97	+ 0.14	- 0.07
ENGLAND AND WALES	629,207	5.63	5.53	5.59	+ 0.08	+ 0.04
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ..	23,631	5.30	5.40	5.14	- 0.10	+ 0.16
The Lothians ..	3,789	5.49	5.62	5.48	- 0.13	+ 0.01
Fife ..	25,821	5.62	5.53	5.28	- 0.01	+ 0.24
SCOTLAND ..	53,241	5.42	5.48	5.24	- 0.06	+ 0.18
IRELAND ..	591	5.29	5.58	5.33	- 0.29	- 0.04
United Kingdom ..	683,039	5.62	5.54	5.56	+ .08	+ 0.06

In Northumberland employment was fairly good and better than a year ago; in Durham it continued good and better than a year ago. In Cumberland and in Yorkshire employment was good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. Employment in Lancashire and Cheshire and in Derbyshire was good generally, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. In Nottingham and Leicester and Staffordshire (except North Staffordshire, where it was very good) employment was fair, but showed a considerable decline on a year ago. In Shropshire it was good. Employment in Gloucester and Somerset was very good, and much better than both a month ago and a year ago. In North Wales it was good; it was also good in South Wales and Monmouth, and better than a month ago. In West Scotland and the Lothians employment was good, but showed a decline on a month ago. In Fife it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

* 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 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 Work-people employed in Jan., 1912, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
		Jan. 27th, 1912.	Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Jan. 28th, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite ..	6,517	5.81	5.85	5.74	- 0.04	+ 0.07
Coking ..	37,308	5.61	5.57	5.50	+ 0.04	+ 0.11
Gas ..	46,567	5.59	5.47	5.51	+ 0.12	+ 0.08
House ..	85,908	5.35	5.33	5.39	+ 0.02	- 0.04
Steam ..	269,596	5.69	5.62	5.67	+ 0.07	+ 0.02
Mixed ..	237,043	5.63	5.54	5.52	+ 0.09	+ 0.11
All Descriptions ..	683,039	5.62	5.54	5.56	+ 0.08	+ 0.06

Compared with a month ago there was some improvement at pits producing all classes of coal except anthracite coal. Compared with a year ago there was a slight decline at house coal pits and an improvement at all other pits.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in January, 1912, amounted to 5,683,978 tons, or 356,801 tons less than in December, 1911, but 461,037 tons more than in January, 1911.

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 continued good in iron mines, and fairly good in shale mines. As compared with a year ago there was a decline in employment in iron mines; in shale mines the average time worked showed a decline, but there was an increase in the number of workpeople employed.

Employment continued fair generally in tin and lead mines. It was fair, on the whole, in and about quarries, but again somewhat hindered by bad weather.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the fortnight ended January 27th the weekly average number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.72, as compared with 5.77 a month ago and 5.90 a year ago.

Districts.	Work-people employed in Jan., 1912.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan. 1912, on a	
		Jan. 27th, 1912.	Dec. 23rd, 1911.	Jan. 28th, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland ..	8,243	5.63	5.72	5.86	- 0.09	- 0.23
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	5,282	5.97	5.82	6.00	+ 0.15	- 0.03
Scotland ..	1,150	5.81	5.81	5.90	..	- 0.09
Other Districts ..	2,623	5.49	5.62	5.88	- 0.13	- 0.39
All Districts ..	17,298	5.72	5.77	5.90	- 0.05	- 0.18

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 84.0 per cent. were employed at mines working 11 or more days during the fortnight ended January 27th, as compared with 93.0 per cent. a month ago and 95.0 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—According to the Returns received, there were 3,411 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended January 27th, who worked on an average 5.65 days per week, as compared with 3,394 workpeople in December, 1911, who worked 5.69 days, and 3,171 workpeople in January, 1911, who worked 5.82 days.

Tin Mining.—Employment was generally fair in Cornwall, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago; it was fairly good in the Camborne district, but only moderate in the Marazion district.

Lead Mining.—Employment was fairly good in North Wales and at Darley Dale (Matlock), and showed but little change on a month ago and a year ago. In Wear-dale it was good, and better than a month ago.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was reported as quiet generally in North Wales, and was not as good as a month ago and

a year ago; it continued fairly good, however, in the Festiniog district. At Delabole (Cornwall) employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago.

Granite.—Employment continued fair in Leicestershire. In the Aberdeen district it was, on the whole, moderate, and worse than a year ago. It continued fair at Plymouth and Princetown, but was dull at the other principal centres in Devon and Cornwall.

Limestone.—Employment was much hindered by bad weather; it was otherwise reported as fair in the Wear-dale district and fairly good in the Buxton district.

Other Stone.—Employment with chert quarrymen at Bakewell showed a decline on a month ago, when it was reported as good. It was fair, but hindered by bad weather, in the Clee Hill road-material (basalt) quarries. The weather also interrupted work in freestone quarries in the Newcastle and Gateshead districts, where employment was otherwise fair. Employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago, with short time, in whinstone quarries in Upper Wear-dale. It continued moderate in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. In sandstone quarries in North Wales employment was fair for the first half of the month, but was afterwards affected by severe weather. Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago in sandstone quarries in Forfarshire. There was also a decline on the previous month at Barnsley and Rotherham, where bad weather hindered work.

Settmaking, &c.—With settmakers employment was fair, on the whole, in Scotland, and rather better than a month ago; it was still dull at Aberdeen, but good at Bonawe and Gourock; employment was also fair in Leicestershire, the Clee Hill district, and in North Wales; at Rowley Regis (Staffs.) it was quiet. With monumental granite cutters in the Aberdeen district employment was bad, but somewhat better than a month ago. It continued moderate, on the whole, with stonemasons employed about granite quarries in Cornwall.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district; in the Lee Moor district it was moderate.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

EMPLOYMENT during January, 1912, continued moderate. 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 January, 1912, was 298, as compared with 297 in December, 1911, and 307 in January, 1911. Two furnaces were relit during the month (one each in the Cleveland district and South Yorkshire), while one was damped down (in Staffordshire).

The number of workpeople employed at the end of January, 1912, at the works covered by the Returns, was 22,000, an increase of 0.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
	January, 1912.	December, 1911.	January, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ..	79	78	80	+ 1	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	25	26	29	..	- 3
S. and S.W. Yorks ..	11	10	12	+ 1	- 1
Derby & Nottingham	33	33	34	..	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	28	28	27	..	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	33	34	34	- 1	- 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	11	11	12	..	- 1
Other districts ..	6	6	6	..	..
England & Wales ..	227	225	234	+ 1	- 7
Scotland ..	71	71	73	..	- 2
Total ..	298	297	307	+ 1	- 9

The Imports of iron ore in January, 1912, amounted to 578,409 tons, or 81,976 tons more than in December, 1911, but 102,831 tons less than in January, 1911.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in January, 1912, amounted to 105,159 tons, or 28,720 tons less than in December, 1911, but 24,254 tons more than in January, 1911.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 203 Returns—190 from Employers, received partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 2 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the iron and steel industry showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was much better than a year ago. According to returns covering 100,129 workpeople, the volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended January 27th, 1912, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. on a month ago, and an increase of 10.0 per cent. on a year ago. The total number of shifts worked during the week ended January 27th, 1912, was about 562,300, a decrease of 5,100 on a month ago, but an increase of 50,900 on a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
IRON:						
Puddling Forges ..	9,238	- 97	+ 96	5.21	- 0.14	+ 0.32
Rolling Mills ..	3,600	+ 16	+ 116	5.14	- 0.07	+ 0.24
Forging ..	376	- 55	+ 17	5.45	+ 0.42	+ 0.45
Founding ..	2,039	- 62	+ 23	5.37	+ 0.05	+ 0.24
Other Departments ..	868	- 2	+ 15	5.82	+ 0.19	+ 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ..	1,821	+ 26	+ 10	5.80	+ 0.22	+ 0.25
Total, Iron ..	17,742	- 174	+ 477	5.37	- 0.05	+ 0.28
STEEL:						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,507	+ 194	+ 579	5.87	..	+ 0.14
Crucible Furnaces ..	516	- 18	- 5	5.57	- 0.26	+ 0.48
Bessemer Converters ..	1,738	+ 5	+ 157	5.23	+ 0.15	+ 0.10
Rolling Mills ..	17,353	- 289	+ 1,697	5.46	- 0.03	+ 0.18
Forging and Pressing ..	3,321	- 67	+ 183	5.67	+ 0.04	+ 0.07
Founding ..	9,109	+ 70	+ 1,212	5.83	- 0.01	- 0.02
Other Departments ..	8,558	+ 129	+ 447	5.81	+ 0.02	+ 0.06
Mechanics, Labourers ..	8,808	- 19	+ 862	5.95	..	+ 0.02
Total, Steel ..	68,940	+ 5	+ 6,132	5.71	- 0.02	+ 0.09
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):						
Rolling Mills ..	11,829	- 70	+ 781	5.28	- 0.11	+ 0.13
Forging and Pressing ..	647	+ 3	+ 45	5.82	+ 0.13	+ 0.10
Founding ..	795	- 3	+ 91	5.91	..	..
Other Departments ..	3,976	- 141	+ 223	5.88	- 0.01	+ 0.07
Mechanics, Labourers ..	6,200	- 27	+ 135	5.80	+ 0.01	+ 0.05
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ..	23,447	- 238	+ 1,275	5.55	- 0.06	+ 0.08
Grand Total ..	100,129	- 407	+ 6,884	5.62	- 0.03	+ 0.11
Districts.						
Northumberland & Durham	11,506	- 143	+ 485	5.65	- 0.04	+ 0.12
Cleveland ..	9,029	- 82	+ 391	5.77	+ 0.14	+ 0.28
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	19,528	+ 11	+ 2,416	5.72	- 0.01	+ 0.07
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,512	- 99	+ 48	5.67	+ 0.07	+ 0.33
Cumberland, Lanca. & Ches.	9,309	- 235	+ 2,204	5.61	+ 0.01	+ 0.43
Staffordshire ..	9,493	- 5	+ 134	5.40	- 0.21	- 0.05
Other Midland Counties ..	5,341	- 21	+ 178	5.58	- 0.01	+ 0.13
Wales and Monmouth ..	13,399	+ 176	+ 1,015	5.40	- 0.20	- 0.07
Total, England and Wales ..	82,117	- 398	+ 6,871	5.60	- 0.05	+ 0.12
Scotland ..	18,012	- 9	+ 13	5.68	+ 0.05	+ 0.19
Total ..	100,129	- 407	+ 6,884	5.62	- 0.03	+ 0.14

Compared with a month ago, employment showed a slight decline in all districts except Cleveland and Scotland; the decline was most noticeable in the Staffordshire district, and affected puddling forges, iron forges, and steel rolling mills. At open hearth melting furnaces there was an improvement. The total number of workpeople employed decreased by 407 (0.4 per cent.), and the average number of shifts worked by 0.03 of a shift.

Compared with a year ago, employment showed an improvement, which was general in all districts and in every department. The improvement was greatest in the Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, Sheffield and Rotherham districts, and the departments chiefly affected were steel rolling mills and foundries. The total number of workpeople employed increased by 6,884 (7.4 per cent.), and the average number of shifts worked increased by 0.14 of a shift.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during January, 1912, amounted to 175,232 tons, or 14,845 tons more than in December, 1911, and 46,025 tons more than in January, 1911.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron and tinned plates and

black plates) during January, 1912, amounted to 282,472 tons, or 44,519 tons more than in December, 1911, and 27,808 tons more than in January, 1911.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

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

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

At the works covered by the Returns, 504 tinplate mills were working at the end of January, 1912, compared with 498 a month ago and 452 a year ago. The number of sheet mills working at the end of January was 67, the same number as a month ago, and 1 more than at the end of January, 1911.

The works to which these particulars relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 28,550 workpeople.

The following table shows the number of works open and the number of mills in operation at the end of January, 1912, 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 Jan., 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)		At end of Jan., 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Works	80	+ 1	+ 3	504	+ 6	+ 52
Steel Sheet Works	10	+ 1	-	67	-	+ 1
Total ..	90	+ 2	+ 3	571	+ 6	+ 53
Exports.						
	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.						
To United States ..	234	364	5,921	- 130	- 5,687	
" British East Indies ..	3,445	4,796	5,710	- 1,351	- 2,285	
" Germany ..	4,058	3,592	3,571	+ 466	+ 487	
" France ..	4,082	2,767	2,220	+ 1,295	+ 1,842	
" Netherlands ..	4,107	3,964	2,451	+ 143	+ 1,656	
" China and Japan ..	5,213	2,081	3,003	+ 3,132	+ 2,210	
" Australia ..	5,340	2,000	2,229	+ 3,340	+ 3,111	
" Canada ..	1,171	768	1,644	+ 403	+ 473	
" Other Countries ..	17,190	13,469	16,954	+ 3,721	+ 836	
Total ..	44,820	33,801	43,703	+ 11,019	+ 1,117	
Black Plates.						
Total ..	5,768	4,334	5,073	+ 1,434	+ 695	

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 365 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 344 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was very good in all the principal centres during January, especially on the Clyde and at Belfast; there was generally an improvement on a month ago, and a more marked improvement on a year ago.

Trade Unions with a membership of 65,121 reported 2.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 4.0 per cent. a month ago and 6.4 per cent. a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Jan., 1912.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
		Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ..	9,344	3.7	4.4	8.2	- 0.7	- 4.5
Wear ..	4,918	5.0	3.3	14.2	+ 1.7	- 9.2
Tees and Hartlepool ..	5,488	5.4	7.2	9.3	- 1.8	- 3.9
Humber ..	2,766	3.2	8.7	9.1	- 5.5	- 5.9
Thames and Medway ..	4,542	3.0	6.9	4.9	- 3.9	- 1.9
South Coast ..	5,029	1.5	3.3	2.2	- 1.8	- 0.7
Bristol Channel Ports ..	2,594	3.2	12.4	12.4	- 9.2	- 9.2
Mersey ..	4,855	1.8	3.2	2.9	- 1.4	- 1.1
Clyde ..	16,149	1.3	1.7	4.8	- 0.4	- 3.5
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ..	2,175	5.5	4.4	8.9	+ 1.1	- 3.4
Belfast ..	3,884	0.4	0.4	0.6	-	- 0.2
Other Districts ..	3,385	0.9	1.7	3.5	- 0.8	- 2.6
United Kingdom ..	65,121	2.7	4.0	6.4	- 1.3	- 3.7

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

Compared with a month ago, there was a decrease in the number unemployed in all the districts except the Wear and East Coast of Scotland, which showed increases, and Belfast, which showed no change; the most marked decreases occurred at the Bristol Channel ports and on the Humber.

Compared with a year ago, every district showed a decrease in the number unemployed, the largest decreases occurring on the North-East Coast, the Bristol Channel, and the Humber.

Employment generally continued good in the Tyne and Wear districts, and was better than a year ago. Much overtime was worked by shipwrights on both rivers. There was a further improvement in employment at Elswick. Platers, riveters, and caulkers on the Wear reported a decline on the previous month on repair work, but were very busy on new work. Employment continued good on the Tees; it showed an improvement on a month ago with iron shipbuilders at the Hartlepool, and was very good with shipwrights.

Employment was good, and showed an improvement on the previous month on the Humber.

Employment also improved in the Thames and Medway district, where it was generally good. It was very good and better than a month ago on the South Coast. At the Bristol Channel ports boilermakers and shipwrights were reported as having been fully employed, employment showing a marked improvement on the previous month and a year ago.

Employment was very good with boilermakers and fair with shipwrights on the Mersey; much overtime was worked by boilermakers at Birkenhead. Employment continued good at Barrow.

Employment was still very good on the Clyde, and generally continued good on the East Coast of Scotland.

Employment continued very good at Belfast, where the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed remained as low as 0.4.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,074 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1,042 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January continued good, and was better than both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 188,829 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of January was 2.7, as compared with 3.2 a month ago and 3.9 at the end of January, 1911. As compared with a month ago, there was some decrease in the percentage unemployed in all districts except Manchester and Liverpool and the East of Scotland. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease in the percentage unemployed in all districts except the South Coast, the East of Scotland, and Belfast and Dublin; the most marked change was on the North-East Coast.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Jan., 1912.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
		Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	14,977	2.4	3.7	7.9	- 1.3	- 5.5
Manchester and Liverpool District	20,309	3.0	2.6	3.3	+ 0.4	- 0.3
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,557	5.7	6.3	7.6	- 0.6	- 1.9
West Riding Towns	12,663	3.3	4.4	4.8	- 1.1	- 1.5
Hull and Lincolnshire District	4,609	2.8	3.0	4.5	- 0.2	- 1.7
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	8,337	1.6	2.7	1.9	- 1.1	- 0.3
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,625	2.1	3.1	4.6	- 1.0	- 2.5
London and neighbouring District	12,189	1.5	2.1	2.2	- 0.6	- 0.7
South Coast ..	4,851	1.4	2.6	1.4	- 1.2	- 1.2
South Wales and Bristol District	7,198	1.2	2.7	2.3	- 1.5	- 1.1
Glasgow and District ..	17,637	3.6	3.9	4.4	- 0.3	- 0.8
East of Scotland ..	3,870	8.3	8.1	7.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Belfast and Dublin ..	4,163	4.7	4.9	3.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Other Districts ..	5,322	1.2	2.4	2.7	- 1.2	- 1.5
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	188,829	2.7	3.2	3.9	- 0.5	- 1.2

On the North-East Coast employment continued good. It was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. Night shifts continued to be worked on the

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

Tyne and Wear, and overtime was frequent on these rivers and to some extent also on the Tees and at Hartlepool.

Employment in Lancashire was good in general engineering shops; but with textile machinery makers it continued slack, and short time was general. Employment at Crewe was fair.

Employment in the West Riding of Yorkshire was good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. Overtime was reported at Leeds and Sheffield. In Hull and Lincolnshire employment was good on the whole, and better than a year ago.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry district employment improved and was good, a considerable amount of overtime being reported. In the cycle trade employment was fair. At Derby and Leicester it continued good; at Nottingham it was moderate. In the Eastern Counties employment was good on the whole.

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 good, and showed an improvement on the previous month; in the Royal Dockyards it continued good. Employment remained good at Swindon, and was good and better than a month ago at Bristol and in South Wales.

Employment in the Glasgow district continued good, except with some branches of ironmoulders, and overtime was reported. It continued good at Edinburgh and Falkirk. At Dundee employment was fair; at Aberdeen it was good. 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, on the whole, moderate, and not so good as a month ago.

The Imports of machinery in January, 1912, amounted to £514,947, or £61,229 more than in December, 1911, and £81,228 more than in January, 1911.

The Exports of machinery in January, 1912, amounted to £2,666,642, or £15,739 more than in December, 1911, and £180,559 more than in January, 1911.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 86 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 64 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Trade Union returns, with a total membership of 28,370, reported 1.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with the same percentage a month ago, and 2.1 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, &c.—Employment with brassworkers continued good, on the whole, and was better than a year ago. With bedstead workers at Birmingham it was only moderate.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Employment continued good in the hand-made nut and bolt trade in the Darlaston district; it was good, and better than a month ago, in the nut, bolt, spike and rivet trade at Blackheath (Staffs.) and Halesowen. At Birmingham it continued good with wire nail and shoe rivet makers, and fairly good with cut nail makers; it was also good with nut and bolt makers. At Smethwick employment with nut and bolt and screw rivet makers was fairly good.

Wire.—Employment, on the whole, continued fairly good; it was slack at Birmingham and Ambergate.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Employment continued fairly good with hollow-ware workers at West Bromwich, and good at Wolverhampton. It was fairly good with lock and latch makers at Wolverhampton and Willenhall.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—Employment at Falkirk continued good. In England it continued moderate, and short time was still worked.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—At Sheffield employment continued good in most branches; tool, shear and razor workers, saw makers, and file forgers, however, reported it as fair and scissors grinders as moderate. It continued fairly good with edge-tool makers at Birmingham. At Walsall it continued good with makers of bits, stirrups and other saddlery parts.

At Redditch it continued good in the needle and fish-hook trades. In the watch trade at Coventry employment was quiet.

Tubes.—Employment continued good in South Staffordshire, and also with brass and copper tube makers at Birmingham.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—At Cradley Heath employment continued good with chainmakers generally; it was moderate with anchor-smiths. It was good, on the whole, with anchor-smiths on the Tyne and Wear. At Dudley it was good with anvil and vice makers. At Sheffield and Rotherham it was good with railway spring fitters and vicemen. With spring makers it continued fairly good at West Bromwich, and good at Wednesbury.

Sheet Metal Workers.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. In the iron-plate trade employment was fair at Birmingham, and in the Lye district, and was fairly good at Bilston, Dudley, and Wolverhampton. With tinplate makers-up it continued good at Wolverhampton and Oldham, and was fairly good at Birmingham. At Edinburgh it continued good with tinsmiths.

Gold, Silver, and Britannia Metal.—Employment in these trades at London and Sheffield was quiet, on the whole, and not so good as a month ago. With goldsmiths in London it was slack, though better than a year ago. At Birmingham it was fair with silversmiths and electroplaters, and with jewellers; with Britannia metal workers it was still good, but showed some decline on a month ago.

Farriers.—Employment with farriers continued good, on the whole; in London it was fair.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	£ 11,416	£ 16,313	£ 12,844	- 4,897	- 1,428
Hardware	107,176	99,954	86,127	+ 7,222	+ 21,049
Exports:—					
Cutlery	70,856	76,403	72,252	- 5,747	- 1,596
Hardware	244,860	228,983	216,610	+ 18,877	+ 28,250
Implements and Tools ..	253,647	222,284	214,153	+ 31,363	+ 39,494

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 454 Returns—358 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 90 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during the first three weeks of January was disorganised on account of a dispute affecting weavers in North and North-East Lancashire, and as a result the time worked in the bulk of spinning mills was reduced by three days per week. The dispute terminated on January 20th, work being resumed by the weavers on 22nd, and the earnings figures in the Table below in the case of many returns from weaving factories refer only to the amount paid in the first three days of the week specified, and are therefore not comparable with the figures for a month ago and a year ago, which refer to complete weeks.

There was little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago in the numbers employed in any of the departments, except in the preparing department, where there was an increase of 5.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. In consequence of the dispute there were decreases of 15.0 and 13.1 per cent. on a month ago, and of 13.0 and 11.8 per cent. on a year ago in the preparing and spinning departments respectively; and in the weaving branch a decrease of 28.0 per cent. was shown on a month ago and of 20.7 per cent. on a year ago.

In the Oldham district fully 80 per cent. of the workpeople employed in the spinning mills worked short time to the extent of 3 days per week during the dispute in the weaving branch; with velvet weavers, who were not affected by the dispute, employment was reported good throughout the month. In the Bolton district employment with spinners was fair during the last 10 days of January. In most of the weaving districts, after the mills reopened, employment soon recovered, and at the end of the month was fair generally.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	16,218	- 1.1	+ 5.4	12,788	- 15.0	- 13.0
Spinning	27,444	- 0.2	+ 0.0	24,126	- 13.1	- 11.8
Weaving	50,426	- 0.5	+ 0.8	35,791	- 28.0	- 20.7
Other	8,874	- 1.8	- 0.8	9,479	- 13.2	- 8.4
Not specified	14,555	- 0.3	+ 0.2	11,971	- 21.7	- 18.0
Total	117,567	- 0.6	+ 1.0	94,155	- 20.7	- 16.0
Districts.						
Ashton	6,502	- 1.2	- 1.1	5,610	- 17.6	- 16.8
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,170	- 3.4	+ 2.3	5,456	- 16.0	- 6.7
Oldham	15,659	- 1.0	- 0.6	14,423	- 15.9	- 14.3
Bolton and Leigh	15,937	- 0.2	+ 0.6	14,326	- 6.8	- 3.3
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	8,788	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	7,832	- 9.9	- 3.8
Manchester	9,105	+ 0.1	- 0.2	7,349	- 5.4	+ 1.2
Preston and Chorley	11,412	- 1.3	- 3.2	5,803	- 47.6	- 43.0
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	15,250	- 0.4	+ 1.4	9,875	- 38.4	- 33.8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	11,280	- 0.1	+ 1.2	8,831	- 35.7	- 30.1
Other Lancashire Towns	5,828	+ 0.9	+ 7.2	4,318	- 9.9	- 1.3
Yorkshire Towns	5,221	+ 0.1	- 2.9	4,999	- 2.5	- 1.3
Other Districts	6,515	- 0.9	- 1.6	5,333	- 5.7	- 2.2
Total	117,567	- 0.6	+ 1.0	94,155	- 20.7	- 16.0

Cotton forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.

Description of Cotton.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	Bales. 253,153	Bales. 280,256	Bales. 302,184	- 27,103	- 49,031
Brazilian	3,968	7,997	5,443	+ 4,039	- 1,485
East Indian	1,631	1,150	11,956	+ 481	- 10,325
Egyptian	52,033	43,477	50,516	+ 8,556	+ 1,117
Miscellaneous	7,858	8,194	7,641	+ 336	+ 217
Total	318,633	341,074	377,740	- 22,441	- 59,107

Prices of Raw Cotton at Liverpool.

The following Table shows the prices of raw cotton ("middling" American and "good fair" Egyptian) at Liverpool during January, 1912, together with the increases and decreases as compared with December, 1911, and January, 1911:—

	Jan., 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Middling American:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	5.38	+ 0.36	- 2.66
Highest Price on any one day	5.57	+ 0.46	- 2.54
Lowest " " " "	5.10	+ 0.18	- 2.88
Good Fair Egyptian:			
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	8.79	+ 0.01	- 1.58
Highest Price on any one day	8.94	+ 0.06	- 1.50
Lowest " " " "	8.63		- 1.50

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on February 9th, 1912, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,329,540 bales, as compared with 1,390,410 bales on February 10th, 1911.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	1,000 lbs. 17,821	1,000 lbs. 15,775	1,000 lbs. 16,553	+ 2,046	+ 1,268
Bleached and Dyed	2,812	2,856	2,977	- 44	- 165
Total	20,633	18,631	19,530	+ 2,002	+ 1,103
Cotton—					
Thread for Sewing	2,041	1,877	1,839	+ 164	+ 202
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached	1,000 yds. 178,887	1,000 yds. 161,356	1,000 yds. 182,225	+ 17,531	+ 3,338
Bleached	160,865	149,285	156,765	+ 11,371	+ 3,891
Printed	104,306	96,133	108,763	+ 8,173	+ 4,457
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	115,845	110,429	120,476	+ 5,416	+ 4,631
Total	559,684	517,203	568,229	+ 42,491	- 8,535

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES

(Based on 357 Returns—332 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen Trade.

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

Returns from firms employing 27,418 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	772	- 4.2	- 1.0	903	- 3.6	+ 0.8
Spinning	5,731	+ 0.0	+ 1.6	5,292	- 2.5	+ 3.4
Weaving	11,804	- 0.1	+ 3.2	10,362	- 2.2	+ 6.3
Other Departments	7,827	- 0.1	- 0.1	7,944	- 1.7	+ 3.1
Not specified	1,284	+ 0.1	- 1.2	1,234	- 4.4	+ 0.4
Total	27,418	- 0.2	+ 1.6	25,635	- 2.3	+ 4.2
Districts.						
Huddersfield District	3,480	+ 1.1	+ 6.8	3,842	- 1.6	+ 9.9
Leeds District	2,791	- 0.1	- 1.2	2,615	- 3.0	+ 5.8
Dewsbury & Batley District	4,777	- 1.0	- 0.9	4,861	- 2.7	+ 1.5
Other Parts of West Riding	2,413	+ 0.3	+ 6.1	2,473	- 0.2	+ 9.7
Total, West Riding	13,461	- 0.0	+ 2.2	13,791	- 2.0	+ 6.0
Scotland	7,673	- 0.3	+ 1.4	6,968	- 3.1	+ 3.0
Other Districts	6,284	- 0.3	+ 0.7	4,876	- 1.8	+ 1.2
Total	27,418	- 0.2	+ 1.6	25,635	- 2.3	+ 4.2

In all the principal districts employment showed a decline compared with a month ago, but it was still, on the whole, good, and better than a year ago in every district and every department.

Worsted Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in spinning, but a decline in the other departments.

Returns from firms employing 43,721 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.5 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 a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting & Combing	5,394	- 0.4	+ 0.2	5,504	- 1.8	- 2.0
Spinning	23,362	- 0.2	+ 1.9	13,457	- 1.7	+ 2.4
Weaving	8,767	- 1.4	- 2.0	7,716	- 4.8	- 3.9
Other Departments	4,956	- 0.8	- 0.5	4,931	- 2.9	- 1.1
Not specified	1,232	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	979	+ 2.4	+ 2.7
Total	43,721	- 0.5	+ 0.6	32,587	- 2.5	- 0.4
Districts.						
Bradford District	21,259	- 0.2	+ 1.2	16,250	- 1.6	+ 0.7
Keighley District	7,002	- 0.7	- 0.9	5,143	- 2.1	- 4.7
Halifax District	5,075	- 0.0	+ 1.2	3,523	- 0.1	+ 2.7
Huddersfield District	3,995	- 2.2	- 1.5	3,514	- 8.5	- 4.0
Other Parts of West Riding	2,774	- 2.8	- 1.2	1,769	- 4.9	- 1.4
Total, West Riding	40,105	- 0.6	+ 0.4	30,199	- 2.6	- 0.7
Other Districts	3,616	+ 0.7	+ 3.2	2,388	- 1.9	+ 3.3
Total	43,721	- 0.5	+ 0.6	32,587	- 2.5	- 0.4

In the Bradford district there was a decline in every branch compared with a month ago, but employment in spinning and weaving was better than a year ago. In the Keighley district some short time was reported, and employment was not so good as a year ago in the wool-combing and weaving departments. In the Halifax district employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Huddersfield area there was slack-

ness in the weaving department, and employment, on the whole, showed a decline compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS).					
Imports .. 1,000 lbs.	117,051	74,528	124,514	+ 42,523	- 7,463
British Exports	2,805	3,203	2,668	- 398	+ 137
Re-Exports of Imported Wool .. 1,000 lbs.	28,899	29,995	19,234	- 1,096	+ 9,665
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.					
Woolen .. 1,000 lbs.	425	473	457	- 48	- 32
Worsted	4,840	4,498	5,381	+ 342	- 541
Alpaca and Mohair,	1,224	1,043	1,480	+ 181	- 256
Total, Yarn	6,489	6,014	7,318	+ 475	- 829
Piece Goods:					
Woolen .. 1,000 yds.	10,170	7,964	10,228	+ 2,206	- 58
Worsted	8,654	6,638	8,961	+ 1,416	- 907
Total Piece Goods	18,224	14,602	19,189	+ 3,622	- 965

Prices of Raw Wool.

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

	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.
Average Prices:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs	9 3/4	9 3/4	10
40's Crossbred tops	13 3/4	13 3/4	

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) tons	11,158	7,404	11,269	+ 3,754	- 111
Exports:					
Linen Yarn 100 lbs.	13,796	13,466	15,575	+ 330	- 1,779
Linen Piece Goods 100 yds.	184,184	186,940	189,956	- 2,756	- 5,772

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 36 Returns—3 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.) EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 16,444 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and no change in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 16,444 workpeople reported on, 14,175 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in Dundee and district, where employment was fairly good. In the Forfar district employment continued good.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	3,561	+ 1.0	- 3.8	2,471	+ 0.8	- 2.3
Spinning	4,591	- 0.1	- 0.5	2,978	- 0.9	+ 2.4
Weaving	5,683	+ 1.6	+ 2.5	4,152	- 0.4	+ 1.0
Other	1,724	+ 2.8	+ 2.0	1,751	+ 0.5	+ 1.6
Not specified	885	+ 1.4	+ 0.8	666	+ 1.7	+ 1.2
Total	16,444	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	12,008	- 0.0	+ 0.7

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute tons	64,573	67,530	35,879	- 2,957	+ 28,694
Exports:					
Jute Yarn 100 lbs.	57,216	52,998	35,737	+ 4,218	+ 21,479
Jute Piece Goods 100 yds.	120,096	128,638	102,160	- 8,542	+ 17,936

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 71 Returns—63 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.) EMPLOYMENT was moderate, and showed a decline compared with a month ago, except in the curtain branch; compared with a year ago there was an improvement in the levers and curtain branches and a decline in the plain net branch.

Returns from firms employing 5,559 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Levers	1,376	- 1.4	+ 2.6	1,736	- 6.3	+ 13.5
Curtain	1,869	- 0.1	- 2.1	1,960	+ 6.9	+ 3.4
Plain Net	1,630	- 0.3	- 6.9	1,192	- 6.8	- 2.2
Others	684	- 6.4	- 11.3	443	- 9.4	- 12.6
Total	5,559	- 1.3	- 3.7	5,331	- 2.2	+ 3.5

Districts.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,098	- 1.8	- 2.8	1,360	+ 0.9	+ 0.3
Other English districts	1,868	- 0.1	- 4.4	1,487	- 7.1	+ 1.3
Scotland	1,025	- 1.2	- 1.2	1,036	+ 6.7	+ 8.1
Total	5,559	- 1.3	- 3.7	5,331	- 2.2	+ 3.5

At Nottingham employment in the levers branch was bad, and worse than a month ago; in the curtain branch it continued good, and in the plain net branch fair. In the Long Eaton district employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago. In the West of England employment in the plain net branch was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland a number of works were closed on account of a dispute; at firms not affected by the dispute employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Cotton Lace	276,548	236,098	233,585	+ 40,450	+ 42,963
Silk Lace	18,838	13,782	30,679	+ 5,056	- 11,841
Exports:					
Cotton Lace	396,650	365,481	390,456	+ 31,169	+ 6,194
Silk Lace	4,272	4,814	12,889	- 542	- 8,617

HOSIERY TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT showed a decline compared with a month ago, chiefly owing to the dyers' and trimmers' dispute at Leicester; it was about the same as a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 18,494 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester	7,808	- 1.9	+ 0.4	6,231	- 7.8	- 2.1
Leicester Country District	2,364	- 3.2	+ 2.4	1,783	- 13.1	- 5.9
Notts and Derbyshire	5,021	+ 0.9	+ 2.4	3,855	- 1.5	+ 2.7
Scotland	2,604	- 1.8	+ 8.5	1,877	- 4.6	+ 7.1
Other Districts	697	+ 0.7	+ 16.6	459	+ 0.9	+ 19.5
Total, United Kingdom	18,494	- 1.2	+ 2.8	14,205	- 6.3	+ 0.4

At Leicester and in the country district employment was fairly good, but was affected by the dyers' and trimmers' dispute, short time being worked by a number of firms in consequence. With power frame workers in Nottingham and Derbyshire employment was good, and better than a year ago; with hand frame workers in the country districts it was fair. In Scotland employment showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Hosiery, Woollen	40,426	39,216	40,141	+ 1,210	+ 285
" Cotton	182,441	150,849	150,795	+ 31,592	+ 31,646
Exports:					
Hosiery, Woollen	174,923	125,795	183,617	+ 49,128	- 8,694
" Cotton	50,519	46,160	57,172	+ 4,359	- 6,653

SILK TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good during January; it showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 9,185 workpeople in the week ended January 27th, 1912, showed no change in the number of workpeople employed, and a decrease 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 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing	1,000	+ 2.0	+ 3.4	431	- 2.3	+ 3.1
Spinning	2,691	- 0.1	- 0.1	2,055	+ 1.0	+ 1.6
Weaving	3,881	- 0.4	- 1.2	2,710	- 1.0	+ 1.4
Other	789	- 0.4	- 1.4	618	- 4.8	+ 11.2
Not specified	824	+ 0.6	+ 8.1	598	+ 0.7	+ 9.5
Total	9,185	+ 0.0	+ 0.3	6,412	- 0.7	+ 3.2

Districts.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	990	+ 0.6	+ 2.7	746	+ 3.0	+ 5.7
Eastern Counties	2,994	- 0.8	- 0.5	1,834	- 2.3	+ 5.3
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek	1,836	+ 0.7	- 2.3	1,135	- 0.9	- 3.2
Total	9,185	+ 0.0	+ 0.3	6,412	- 0.7	+ 3.2

Employment with throwsters and spinners was good at Congleton; at Leek it was fair, but some short time was reported. At Macclesfield it was fair with throwsters and good with spinners; employment with handloom weavers was fair in factories, but bad with outside workers; with power loom weavers it was moderate. With trimming weavers employment was moderate at Congleton and bad at Leek.

In the Bradford district employment was moderate, and not so good as a month ago. In the Eastern Counties it was fair. At Dublin employment was bad, and worse than a month ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Raw Silk lbs	144,308	70,813	70,723	+ 73,495	+ 73,585
Thrown Silk lbs	46,383	46,061	28,210	+ 322	+ 18,173
Spun Silk Yarn lbs	52,216	56,854	45,053	- 4,638	+ 7,163
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	7,718,989	5,739,219	6,632,236	+ 1,979,770	+ 1,086,753
Exports:					
Thrown Silk lbs	4,489	5,994	6,096	- 1,505	- 1,607
Spun Silk Yarn lbs	88,362	102,857	124,914	- 14,495	- 36,552
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	375,054	378,189	398,710	- 3,135	- 23,656

CARPET TRADE.

(Based on 33 Returns—24 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January showed a decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,689 workpeople, and paying £7,678 in wages in the week ended January 27th, showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Kidderminster district there was a decline as compared with a month ago, but it was rather better than a year ago. In the Halifax and Bradford district employment was, on the whole, slightly better than a month ago. In Scotland it continued fairly good generally, and was about the same as a year ago.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

(Based on 366 Returns—349 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 10 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair, and not so good as a month ago, being somewhat affected by the dispute in the cotton trade. It showed little change compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 31,889 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed a decrease of 0.9

per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trades:—	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Bleaching	3,480	- 1.0	- 1.1	3,313	- 8.4	- 7.5
Printing	1,022	- 0.7	+ 4.4	1,222	- 5.9	+ 2.1
Dyeing	15,852	- 0.8	+ 1.4	19,808	- 7.4	- 0.2
Trimming, Finishing, and Other Departments	10,715	- 1.1	+ 0.7	11,175	- 2.7	+ 3.7
Not specified	820	+ 1.5	+ 3.5	953	- 0.9	+ 7.2
Total	31,889	- 0.9	+ 1.0	36,471	- 5.9	+ 0.5

Districts:—	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Lancashire	10,644	- 1.6	+ 0.6	12,191	- 4.6	- 0.1
Scotland	3,569	+ 0.5	- 1.4	3,189	- 0.1	+ 1.0
Ireland	756	+ 3.7	+ 5.7	589	+ 0.9	+ 8.1
Other Districts	3,450	- 0.3	+ 3.0	3,648	- 4.8	+ 5.0
Total	31,889	- 0.9	+ 1.0	36,471	- 5.9	+ 0.5

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. At Basford it was quiet. In Dundee it continued fair.

Printing.—Employment with machine calico printers was fairly good, but showed a decline compared with a month ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was quiet. In Scotland employment was good.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in Yorkshire showed a decline compared with a month ago and 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 was good, but showed a decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. With silk dyers employment was reported as slack at Macclesfield, fair at Leek and good at Congleton. With lace dyers at Nottingham it was moderate.

Trimming, Finishing, etc.—At Leicester employment with hosiery trimmers was disorganised by a dispute; at Hinckley and Loughborough it was good; at Basford it was fair. With calenderers at Glasgow it was fair, but employment was somewhat affected by the Vale of Leven dispute; at Dundee it was good.

LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 35 Returns—23 from Trade Unions and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was generally better than a year ago. Trade Unions with 3,060 members reported 5.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 5.2 per cent. a month ago and 6.3 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, &c.—Employment with skinner was fair at Leeds; in London it was fair, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. With curriers employment continued bad in London, but was slightly better than a year ago; it was quiet at Birmingham, and worse than a month ago, with much short time; it was fair at Walsall, and better than a year ago; there was also an improvement on a year ago at Glasgow, where employment continued fair. Employment continued bad at Edinburgh, and was slightly worse than a month ago. With leather workers employment continued fair at Bolton, Bury and Wigan, and was good at Manchester; at Leeds short time was general, and employment was very quiet, and worse than a month ago.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—In London employment continued good with makers of riding saddles and quiet in other branches. At Walsall it was very quiet with gig saddlers, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, much short time being worked; it was good

with new brown saddlers, with whom there was a decline on a month ago and an improvement on a year ago. At Glasgow and Dublin employment was good with saddlers generally, and better than a month ago.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—Employment with portmanteau makers continued fair in London, and was slightly better than a year ago; it was good at Manchester, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. With fancy leather workers it was good, but slightly worse than a month 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.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry .. cwt.	57,088	40,855	38,655	+ 16,233	+ 18,433
Ditto, wet .. cwt.	30,298	65,301	46,101	+ 14,997	+ 34,197
Total Hides, dry and wet .. cwt.	137,386	106,156	84,756	+ 31,230	+ 52,630
Goat skins, undressed, No. Sheep skins .. (value) £	852,354 258,554	1,009,563 181,664	849,429 246,103	- 157,209 + 76,890	+ 2,925 + 12,451
Leather* .. cwt.	104,402	110,648	92,167	- 6,246	+ 12,235
Exports:					
Hides .. cwt.	17,308	17,336	19,162	- 28	- 1,854
Gloves .. doz. prs.	13,978	13,182	11,219	+ 796	+ 2,759
Machinery Belting .. cwt.	2,770	2,903	3,161	- 133	- 391
Saddlery and Harness .. (value) £	45,709	49,899	40,604	- 4,190	+ 5,105
Other Sorts .. (value) £	46,335	56,971	41,715	- 10,636	+ 4,620

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 496 Returns—435 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 50 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued fair and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 66,960 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.				
London	3,131	- 1.9	3,496	- 0.9
Leicester	13,183	+ 1.1	14,525	- 1.3
Leicester Country District	3,103	+ 1.2	3,055	- 0.4
Northampton	11,164	+ 1.5	10,924	- 0.4
Northampton Country District	9,045	+ 3.4	8,816	- 0.2
Kettering	3,886	+ 1.5	3,922	- 0.1
Stafford & District	2,699	+ 1.8	2,572	- 0.4
Norwich & District	3,739	+ 2.2	3,269	- 2.3
Bristol & District	1,457	+ 0.8	1,178	- 7.9
Kingswood	1,758	- 1.0	1,648	- 8.5
Leeds & District	2,426	- 0.3	2,202	- 6.1
Manchester & District	3,183	- 0.3	2,952	- 2.8
Birmingham & District	978	- 2.2	811	- 0.6
Other parts of England and Wales	3,300	- 1.5	2,966	- 4.2
ENGLAND & WALES	63,052	+ 1.1	62,336	- 1.6
SCOTLAND	3,494	+ 0.4	3,407	- 0.7
IRELAND	414	+ 2.7	259	- 4.1
UNITED KINGDOM	66,960	+ 1.0	66,002	- 1.6

At Leicester, Northampton and Kettering employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago. With army bootmakers in Northamptonshire the improvement reported last month was maintained. At Norwich employment was fairly good, not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. At Bristol, Kingswood and Leeds some short time was reported, and employment showed a decline compared with a month

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

ago. At Kingswood it was much better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less re-exports)					
Leather .. doz. pairs	15,398	14,704	10,785	+ 694	+ 4,613
.. value £	57,201	51,317	47,769	+ 5,884	+ 9,432
Rubber .. doz. pairs	4,177	3,071	5,606	+ 1,106	- 1,429
.. value £	6,436	4,973	6,905	+ 1,463	- 469
Other materials .. doz. pairs	2,478	11,985	2,747	- 9,507	- 269
.. value £	1,769	8,664	2,578	- 6,895	- 809
Exports (British & Irish)					
Leather .. doz. pairs	102,697	98,356	100,075	+ 4,341	+ 2,622
.. value £	290,464	285,543	266,390	+ 4,921	+ 24,074
Rubber .. doz. pairs	11,960	14,763	11,069	- 2,793	+ 901
.. value £	12,640	16,995	12,251	- 4,355	+ 389
Other materials .. doz. pairs	5,363	7,540	6,951	- 2,177	- 1,588
.. value £	3,826	5,341	4,215	- 1,515	- 389

HAT TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT during January in the silk hat trade was moderate, and about the same as 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 January was 1.3, compared with 2.4 a month ago and 6.9 a year ago. At Denton, Stockport, and in Warwickshire employment was reported as good.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds .. dozens	72,416	58,936	39,470	+ 13,480	+ 32,946
Exports:					
Felt	63,207	56,722	61,365	+ 6,485	+ 1,842
Straw	63,976	45,485	65,077	+ 18,491	- 1,101
Other sorts	16,789	14,125	11,588	+ 2,664	+ 5,201
Total	143,972	116,332	138,030	+ 27,640	+ 5,942

TAILORING TRADE.

Based on 110 Returns—82 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

Bespoke Branch.

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

Returns from firms paying £8,443 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended January 27th showed a decrease of 19.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was moderate, and not so good as a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; some deficiency of labour was reported. Returns from firms employing 9,628 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. The Jewish operatives reported a seasonal slackness.

Other Centres.—Employment, on the whole, was better than a year ago. At Bristol employment continued fair, at Manchester it was fairly good, at Norwich it continued good, at Glasgow it was good and better than a month ago.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in January 1912, were valued at £221,909, as compared with £212,578 in December, 1911, and £203,833 in January, 1911; and the Exports for the same months at £741,345, £634,765, and £691,520 respectively.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 218 Returns—210 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trades was fair with retail firms and better than a year ago, and slack with court and private dressmakers, and not so good as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades employment was fairly good. In the shirt and collar trade it was fair in England and Scotland, and good in Ireland; in the corset trade it was fairly good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West End, employing 1,959 dressmakers in the week ending January 27th, showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair. Court and private dressmakers employing 935 workpeople in the week ending January 27th showed a decrease of 12.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 5.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was slack. With milliners in the West End employment was fair.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing, and millinery trades firms in London employing 3,432 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended January 27th showed an increase of 15.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume, skirt, and blouse trades firms employing 2,630 workpeople in the week ended January 27th showed no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,877 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,774 in wages in the week ended January 27th, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair in England and Scotland, and good in Ireland.

Corset Trade.—Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from corset manufacturers employing 6,482 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended January 27th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 429 Returns—120 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 292 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

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

Returns from firms employing 22,126 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the total number of work-

people employed by them compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Description.	Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Jan., 1912.	As compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	5,754	Per cent. 0.5	Per cent. 2.2
Midlands, Wales and Ireland	1,572	0.4	1.8
Southern Counties	7,209	0.2	2.9
Scotland	6,821	0.4	1.2
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,356	0.4	2.1
Hand-made Paper	770	0.1	0.4
Total	22,126	0.4	2.0

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,330 members had 1.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 1.7 per cent. a month ago and 2.1 per cent. (out of 1,460 members) a year ago. In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 524 members had 4.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 2.3 in December and 5.8 in January, 1911.

The Imports of paper in January, 1912, were valued at £586,462, as compared with £601,040 in December, 1911, and £533,656 in January, 1911; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £314,764, £279,789, and £261,258 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was moderate on the whole. In most centres there was a decline as compared with a month ago. Employment was better than a year ago except in London and the West Midlands.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1912.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	21,662	7.5	9.4	5.5	- 1.9	+ 2.0
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,559	4.9	4.3	5.2	+ 0.6	- 0.3
Lancs. and Cheshire	7,146	6.5	5.2	6.7	+ 1.3	- 0.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,663	3.6	3.0	3.8	+ 0.6	- 0.2
West Midlands	2,659	5.2	4.0	5.1	+ 1.2	+ 0.1
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	4,458	3.0	2.6	3.4	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Scotland	6,004	3.6	3.3	3.8	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Ireland	2,563	8.3	6.7	10.0	+ 1.6	- 1.7
United Kingdom	52,714	6.0	6.3	5.4	- 0.3	+ 0.6

London.—The employment of Trade Union members was quiet, and worse than a year ago. There was, however, a decrease in the general percentage unemployed at the end of the month as compared with the end of December.

Other Centres.—Employment was moderate on the whole with letterpress printers, and fairly good with lithographic printers. It was worse generally than a month ago, and better than a year ago. With letterpress printers it was good at Edinburgh, Dundee, Leicester, Nottingham and Oxford; while at Leeds, Bradford, Hull, Dublin and Belfast it was slack, and at Manchester and Liverpool a number of Trade Union members were out of employment at the end of the month.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in London was quiet during January, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, though at the end of the month there was a slight decrease in the percentage unemployed as compared with the end of December. In other centres employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1912.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,512	5.4	5.7	4.3	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Other Districts	3,497	2.7	2.2	3.7	+ 0.5	- 1.0
United Kingdom	7,009	4.1	3.9	4.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,594 Returns—1,140 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,427 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in outdoor occupations during January was adversely influenced by bad weather. Employment generally was quiet and worse than a month ago, except with plumbers, who continued fairly well employed, and with plasterers, with whom employment was still bad. It was better than a year ago in all branches.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of January was 5.4, as compared with 4.7 a month ago and 9.5 a year ago. For plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 4.8, 4.9, and 11.2 respectively. For both carpenters and plumbers the decrease in the percentages unemployed, as compared with a year ago, was common to all the principal districts; the improvement was most marked in the Northern Counties, where many of the members are engaged in shipbuilding, and where employment also showed an improvement as compared with a month ago.

For London the Trade Union returns show that the percentage of carpenters and joiners unemployed was 5.8, as compared with 4.4 a month ago and 8.0 a year ago; the corresponding figures for plumbers were 5.6, 10.0, and 12.5 respectively.

Returns received from 1,083 firms, employing 56,861 workpeople at the end of January, showed that, as compared with a month ago, there was an increase of 5.1 per cent. in the total number employed by them in the London district, and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in other districts. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 18.8 per cent. in London and of 4.6 per cent. in other districts.

District.	No. paid on last pay-day in Jan. 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		No. paid on last pay-day in Jan. 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Skilled Tradesmen.				Labourers.			
London	10,589	+ 550	+ 1,746	7,708	+ 350	+ 1,276		
Northern Counties & Yorks.	2,652	- 169	+ 64	1,994	- 8	+ 233		
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	4,139	+ 271	+ 1	3,587	- 133	+ 398		
Midland & Eastern Counties	3,645	+ 78	+ 121	3,064	+ 184	+ 346		
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	4,770	+ 30	+ 490	3,121	+ 286	+ 346		
Other Districts	608	- 9	+ 77	487	+ 53	+ 125		
England and Wales ..	26,401	+ 209	+ 2,499	19,961	+ 732	+ 1,965		
Scotland	3,205	- 144	+ 133	1,922	- 14	+ 318		
Ireland	691	+ 37	+ 127	568	- 40	- 200		
United Kingdom ..	30,297	+ 102	+ 2,759	22,471	+ 678	+ 2,083		
	Lads and Boys.				Total.			
London	545	+ 7	- 37	18,842	+ 907	+ 2,985		
Northern Counties & Yorks.	505	- 7	- 78	5,151	- 184	+ 39		
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	963	+ 12	- 57	8,689	- 392	- 289		
Midland & Eastern Counties	438	- 2	- 40	7,147	+ 260	+ 479		
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	622	+ 2	+ 4	8,513	+ 318	+ 832		
Other Districts	59	+ 2	+ 2	1,192	+ 46	+ 204		
England and Wales ..	3,132	+ 14	- 214	49,494	+ 955	+ 4,250		
Scotland	834	+ 55	+ 29	5,961	- 103	+ 480		
Ireland	127	+ 4	- 2	1,406	+ 1	- 75		
United Kingdom ..	4,093	+ 73	- 187	56,861	+ 883	+ 4,655		

The principal exceptions to the general state of employment are indicated below:—

Employment continued fair, except with plasterers, on the Tees, and bad, except with slaters, at Hull. At Bradford and Huddersfield it was fair with carpenters and bad with plumbers. It was fair with carpenters at Sunderland and York, and with slaters at Leeds.

Employment was fair with carpenters at Liverpool, Warrington, St. Helens, Stockport, Wigan, Oldham and Burnley, with painters at Barrow and Blackpool, and with plasterers at Liverpool. It was slack with plumbers at Blackburn and Preston.

Employment was fair on the whole at Coventry, Lincoln, Cambridge and Ipswich. It was fair with bricklayers at Derby, with carpenters at Birmingham,

Stoke and Walsall, and with masons at Nottingham. Employment showed an improvement, though still bad, with bricklayers at Leicester and with carpenters at Burton. It was fair and better than a month ago with painters at Northampton.

Employment continued fair at Chatham, Portsmouth and Southampton. It was fair with carpenters and plasterers at Bristol and Cheltenham, with carpenters at Cardiff, and with bricklayers, masons and painters at Swansea.

Employment continued fair with carpenters at Glasgow and Edinburgh. It was good with carpenters at Belfast and with slaters at Dublin.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 185 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 153 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair during January, showing a slight improvement on a month ago. Trade unions with a membership of 39,193 reported 3.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 4.3 per cent. a month ago and 6.0 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment continued fair on the whole with cabinet makers, but was bad with french polishers and upholsterers. Trade unions reported 6.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 6.0 per cent. a month ago and 9.2 per cent. a year ago. At Hull and Leeds employment was quiet; at Belfast and on the Tees it was good.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in January, 1912, were valued at £28,368, as compared with £36,194 in December, 1911, and £31,252 in January, 1911; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £113,726, £118,865, and £100,854 respectively.

Mill Sawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment was fair in these trades, and showed an improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. Trade unions reported 3.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 4.1 per cent. a month ago and 5.9 per cent. a year ago. It was reported as quiet at Bristol and Nottingham, dull at Liverpool, Aberdeen, Leicester, and Dundee, and good at Hull and Sheffield. Short time was worked at Dundee and Bristol.

Imports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.
" sawn	229,827	231,163	196,724	- 1,336	+ 33,103
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£14,792	£20,925	£13,179	- £6,133	+ £1,613

Coopers.

Employment continued fairly good, and was about the same as a month ago, but better than a year ago. At Burton-on-Trent and Liverpool it continued quiet; at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast it was good.

Coachbuilding.

Employment was fairly good on the whole. Trade unions reported 2.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 3.2 per cent. a month ago and 3.6 per cent. a year ago. At Belfast employment was quiet, at Liverpool moderate, and at Hull, Sheffield and Glasgow good.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmaking.—Employment was good, and better than a month and a year ago. Trade unions reported 2.2 per cent. unemployed, compared with 9.1 per cent. in the previous month and 5.2 per cent. a year ago.

POTTERY TRADES.

(Based on 93 Returns—85 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January was good on the whole, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month. It was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 18,807 workpeople in the week ended January 27th, 1912, showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 5.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
China Manufacture ..	3,047	- 0.2	+ 8.2	3,297	- 3.5	+ 9.6
Earthenware Manufacture	11,644	+ 0.0	+ 7.4	10,528	- 5.8	+ 4.1
Other Branches (including unspecified)	4,116	- 1.5	- 2.5	3,500	- 12.1	- 6.0
Total	18,807	- 0.3	+ 5.2	17,325	- 6.7	+ 3.1
Districts.—						
Potteries	13,879	+ 0.1	+ 5.6	12,062	- 8.1	+ 1.0
Other Districts	4,928	- 1.6	+ 4.1	5,263	- 3.5	+ 8.2
Total	18,807	- 0.3	+ 5.2	17,325	- 6.7	+ 3.1

Employment in the Potteries was good, and showed little variation as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment was fairly good on the whole, but at Glasgow it was slack. In the West of England it was moderate. With clay tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow employment was slack, and short time was still worked.

The Imports of chinaware and earthenware in January, 1912, were valued at £65,589, as compared with £81,771 in December, 1911, and £66,572 in January, 1911; the Exports for the same months were valued at £251,057, £249,581, and £246,708 respectively.

BRICK TRADE.

(Based on 144 Returns—133 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was quiet, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago; it was, however, still good in Scotland and better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 11,720 workpeople in the week ended January 27th, 1912, showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 5.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 8.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	3,409	- 2.8	- 3.0	£ 3,773	- 7.5	- 2.3
Midland and Eastern Counties	3,713	- 1.5	- 5.0	3,256	- 11.8	- 20.4
Southern & South-Western Counties and Wales	2,436	- 1.1	- 4.8	2,576	+ 6.3	- 6.3
Scotland	1,322	- 0.5	+ 4.2	1,480	- 1.4	+ 7.2
Other Districts	840	- 5.8	+ 5.1	732	- 12.8	- 7.7
Total	11,720	- 2.0	- 2.7	11,817	- 5.7	- 8.2

In the Northern Counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire district employment was moderate, and worse, on the whole, than a month ago and a year ago. Employment continued slack in the Midlands, much short time being worked at Nottingham and in South Staffordshire. Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago in the Eastern Counties. In the Southern and South-Western Counties it was fair, and better than a month ago. In North Wales it was very quiet, with much short time. In Scotland employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment with general wheelwrights and smiths continued moderate, as in the previous month, and was better than a year ago. With packing-case makers and basket makers employment was fairly good generally.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in January, 1912, were valued at £34,373, as compared with £36,040 in December, 1911, and £30,680 in January, 1911; the Exports for the same months were valued at £20,803, £20,462, and £18,622 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 88 Returns—56 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 22 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good on the whole. It was not so good as a month ago, but, as compared with a year ago, was much better in the glass bottle trade branch, and in the other branches showed little change.

Returns received from firms employing 8,861 workpeople in the week ended January 27th, 1912, showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 11.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 14.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Glass Bottle	6,117	+ 1.6	+ 16.7	8,174	- 1.5	+ 20.3
Plate Glass	683	- 0.4	+ 2.9	833	- 6.6	+ 0.5
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,844	- 0.6	+ 1.9	1,985	- 13.4	+ 0.3
Other Branches	217	- 1.8	+ 5.3	242	- 6.2	+ 0.4
Total	8,861	+ 0.9	+ 11.9	11,234	- 4.3	+ 14.1
Districts.						
North of England	781	- 5.9	+ 2.0	1,014	- 13.3	+ 13.2
Yorkshire	4,922	+ 2.6	+ 19.2	6,495	- 1.5	+ 20.8
Lancashire	902	+ 0.8	+ 10.4	1,062	- 3.0	+ 11.3
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	1,240	- 0.3	+ 2.8	1,539	- 5.9	+ 2.1
Scotland	676	- 0.9	+ 0.1	790	- 10.6	- 0.1
Other parts of the United Kingdom	340	+ 2.1	+ 3.3	334	- 8.2	+ 3.4
Total	8,861	+ 0.9	+ 11.9	11,234	- 4.3	+ 14.1

With glass bottle makers in Yorkshire and Lancashire employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. In the North of England employment was good, but not so good as a month ago. In Scotland and at Bristol employment continued good. At Dublin it was bad, and worse than a month ago. With flint-glass makers at Birmingham, Wordsley and Stourbridge employment continued good. It was good also with flint-glass cutters, many of whom were working overtime. With plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham it continued good. Employment at St. Helens continued good with sheet and plate glass workers; with sheet-glass flatteners it was moderate. Pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear continued to work short time. With glassblowers in London employment continued good.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Window and German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	121,801	121,825	112,779	- 24	+ 9,022
Plate	29,830	24,534	33,866	+ 5,296	- 4,036
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	67,674	81,456	56,677	- 13,782	+ 10,987
Manufactures, other sorts	1,953	1,244	185	+ 709	+ 1,768
Bottles	gross. 147,353	gross. 156,110	gross. 131,345	- 7,757	+ 16,008
Exports:					
Plate	19,843	15,546	18,091	+ 4,297	+ 1,752
Flint	8,914	7,528	6,157	+ 1,286	+ 2,657
Manufactures, other sorts	50,327	62,727	44,755	- 12,400	+ 5,572
Bottles	gross. 79,631	gross. 70,539	gross. 79,253	+ 9,092	+ 378

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 231 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

Outdoor employment was hindered by bad weather in January, and labourers not attached to the staff of a farm lost time in consequence. There was the usual seasonal slackness in the demand for such extra men, and a surplus in the supply was reported in a number of districts. Their work chiefly consisted in threshing, hedging, and carting and spreading manure.

Northern Counties.—There was but little employment for extra labourers in these counties during January. The number of such men who sought work was also small, and, apart from several days on which outdoor work was stopped by bad weather, generally about balanced the demand. An excess in the supply was, however, reported in the Stockton-on-Tees (*Durham*), West Ward (*Westmorland*), and Leyburn, Pickering, and Sherburn (*Yorkshire*) Rural Districts.

Midland Counties.—Rain and snow interrupted the employment of extra labourers considerably in these counties. When the weather permitted there was a moderate demand for men for such work as hedging and ditching, repairing fences, threshing, and carting manure, but the supply was sufficient, and in many cases was in excess of requirements.

Eastern Counties.—A good deal of time was lost by extra labourers employed at threshing. The partial failure of the root crops was further accountable for irregularity of employment for extra men, particularly in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, where the supply was in excess of the demand in many districts.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Extra labourers were in moderate demand for threshing, hedging, ditching, draining, manuring land and cutting wood, but their employment was generally somewhat irregular. An excess of such men was reported from several districts in *Surrey* and *Hampshire*, and also from the Chailey (*Sussex*) and Westbury and Cricklade (*Wiltshire*) Rural Districts; certain correspondents referred to the demand for extra men in their districts being smaller than usual on account of the forward state of farm work. Men for permanent situations were still reported as scarce in the Godstone (*Surrey*) and the Stow-on-the-Wold and Thornbury (*Gloucestershire*) and South Molton (*Devon*) Rural Districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 133 Returns—115 from Employers, 8 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London was fair generally; at the other principal ports it continued fairly good. On the whole, there was an improvement on a year ago.

London.*—Employment was fair generally, and better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended January 27th, 1912, was 16,020, an increase of 4.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 11.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.*				
	In Docks.			At 104 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Jan. 6th	5,645	2,283	7,928	7,058	14,986
" " " 13th	6,546	2,553	9,099	7,205	16,304
" " " 20th	6,795	2,242	9,037	7,027	16,064
" " " 27th	7,413	2,202	9,615	7,112	16,727
Average for 4 weeks ended Jan. 27th, 1912	6,600	2,320	8,920	7,100	16,020
Average for Dec., 1911	5,661	2,391	7,952	7,321	15,273
" " Jan., 1911	4,941	2,768	7,709	6,675	14,384

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

During January, 1912, the maximum number employed was on the 26th (17,236), and the minimum number on the 6th (13,848). During January, 1911, the maximum number occurred on the 10th (15,765), and the minimum number on the 20th (13,285).

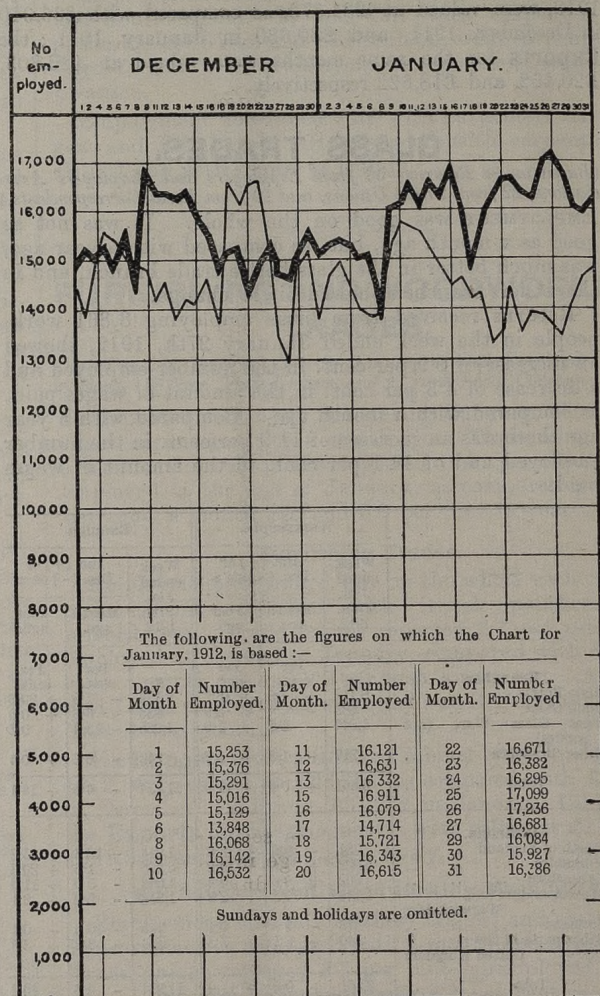


Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 104 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of December, 1911, and January, 1912. The corresponding curve for December, 1910 and, January, 1911, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to December, 1911, and January, 1912, and the thin curve to December, 1910, and January, 1911.]

The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,772 during January, 1912, as compared with 1,942 during the previous month, and 1,508 during January, 1911.

Liverpool.—Employment continued good on the whole with dock labourers, and a considerable amount of overtime was reported. It was fair with quay and railway carters, and showed little change, on the whole, compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Other Ports.—Dock labourers and coal trimmers and teamers continued fairly well employed on the Tyne and Wear. At Hartlepool and Middlesbrough employment was good with dock labourers and fair with river-side workers. It was moderate at Hull, good at Grimsby, and fair at Goole. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft there was a decline; employment was good at Harwich and Parkeston. It was quiet at Plymouth, and fair at Bristol, but not so good as a month ago. Employment at the South Wales ports was good generally, and better than a month ago.

Employment at Glasgow was slack, and at the end of the month seriously affected by a dispute. It was fair at Greenock and Leith, good at Grangemouth, and fairly good at Dundee. At Belfast there was an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago.

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 January, 1912, showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with January, 1911.

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Jan., 1912.	Jan., 1911.	Jan., 1912.	Jan., 1911.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales..	711,971	703,284	624,090	567,147
Scotland	285,718	328,681	142,510	159,744
Ireland	158,927	220,842	40,118	54,521
Total	1,156,616	1,252,807	806,718	781,412
Shell Fish	—	—	30,541	19,483
Total Value	—	—	837,259	800,895

Employment at the principal ports was fair on the whole. At Grimsby it was good with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and fair with fish curers. Employment at Hull was fair with fishermen, and good with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Lowestoft it was moderate with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. Employment at Yarmouth was bad with all classes. At Aberdeen employment was good with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Peterhead it was bad with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and fair with fish curers. Employment at Fraserburgh was fair with fishermen and fish curers, and bad with fish dock labourers. At Macduff it was fair generally. Off the South-Western Coasts of England fishing operations were but moderately successful.

The Exports of herrings, cured and salted, in January, 1912, were valued at £97,858, as compared with £480,015 in December, 1911, and £87,786 in January, 1911.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JANUARY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during January 40,281 seamen,* of whom 4,458 (or 11.1 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. Compared with January, 1911, there was a net increase of 364. There were large increases at London and Southampton, while the most marked decreases were at Liverpool and the Tyne ports.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in		
	January, 1911.	January, 1912.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1912.
ENGLAND & WALES.			
East Coast.			
Tyne Ports	3,028	2,194	- 834
Sunderland	278	235	- 43
Middlesbrough	394	386	- 8
Hull	1,456	1,626	+ 170
Grimsby	50	38	- 12
Bristol Channel.			
Bristol	875	822	- 53
Newport, Mon.	1,025	1,041	+ 16
Cardiff	4,814	4,564	- 250
Swansea	502	373	- 129
Other Ports.			
Liverpool	13,246	12,348	- 898
London	7,416	8,656	+ 1,240
Southampton	3,217	4,183	+ 966
SCOTLAND.			
Leith	604	507	- 97
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	326	370	+ 44
Glasgow	2,426	2,619	+ 193
IRELAND.			
Dublin	40	157	+ 117
Belfast	220	162	- 58
Total	39,917	40,281	+ 364

* 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.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lbs. of bread on February 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.	Feb. 1st, 1912.			Jan. 1st, 1912.			Feb. 1st, 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	5	5.2	5½	4½	5.2	5½	4½	5.3
E. & N.E. ..	5½	5	5.3	5½	5	5.3	5½	5	5.3
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	5.4
W. & W.C. ..	6	5½	5.6	6	5½	5.6	6	5½	5.7
N. Counties & Yorks.	6½	5	5.6	6½	5	5.6	6½	5	5.5
Lancs. & Cheshire..	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3
Midlands	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3
Eastern Counties ..	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3	6	5	5.3
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	5	5.6	7	4½	5.6	7	4½	5.6

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the predominant prices remained unaltered; it was also the same as on February 1st, 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 Feb. 1st, 1912.*	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London	d.	d.	d.	Aug. '11	d.
Birmingham ..	5½	..	..	Sept. '11	+ ½
Bolton	5½ & 6	..	..	Nov. '10	..
Bristol	5½	..	..	April '11	..
Cardiff	5½	..	..	June '10	..
Derby	5	..	..	Dec. '10	..
Hull	5½	..	..	June '10	..
Ipswich	5½	..	..	June '10	..
Leeds	6½	..	..	May '10	..
Leicester	5	..	..	May '10	..
Liverpool	5	- ½	..	Jan. '12	..
Manchester	5½	..	..	Oct. '11	..
Middlesbrough ..	5 & 5½	..	+ ½	March '11	..
Norwich	5	..	- ½	Nov. '09	..
Nottingham	5½	..	..	June '10	..
Oldham	4½	..	- ½	April '11	..
Plymouth	6	..	..	June '10	..
Portsmouth	6	..	..	Oct. '10	..
Potteries	5	..	..	Aug. '11	..
Southampton ..	5 & 5½	..	- ½	Sept. '11	..
Wolverhampton ..	5	..	..	June '10	..
Aberdeen	5½	..	..	Sept. '11	..
Dundee	5½	..	..	Aug. '11	..
Edinburgh	6½	..	..	Aug. '11	..
Glasgow	6	..	..	Oct. '11	..
Belfast	6	..	..	1st Jan. '12	..
Dublin	6	..	..	May '10	..

As compared with a month ago, the price of bread has fallen ½d. per 4 lbs. at Liverpool. As compared with February 1st, 1911, the price is lower in four of the towns and higher in one (Manchester). In the remaining 22 towns no change is shown.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	British Wheat		Imports (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households & Mill for Cash).
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1911.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	
January	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
December	7 10	7 10	10 10	10 10	
1912.					
January	7 8	8 2½	10 7½	10 6½	
1912.					
January	7 9	8 3½	10 8½	10 8	

The imports of wheat during September, 1911—January, 1912, amounted to 40,521,049 cwts., or

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

2,183,107 cwt. less than in the corresponding months of 1910-1911. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1911—January, 1912, amounted to 4,577,495 cwt., or 136,088 cwt. less than in September, 1910—January, 1911.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADE.

The results of the ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given in the table below:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal. Northumberland .. Durham .. (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth.)	1911. Sept.—Nov.	s. d. 7 3-09	+ 0 1-53	- 0 0-62
	Oct.—Dec.	7 7-18	+ 0 1-27	- 0 3-00
Pig Iron. Cleveland .. Cumberland .. West of Scotland ..	Oct.—Dec.	47 4-61	- 0 1-83	- 2 6-11
	Oct.—Dec.	62 2-492	+ 0 4-353	- 2 8-928
	Nov., 1911— Jan., 1912	54 6-58	+ 1 10-36	- 1 1-92
Manufactured Iron. North of England :- (Rails, plates, bars, and angles.)	Nov.—Dec., 1911	126 6-26	+ 1 3-01	- 0 7-44
		133 3-46	+ 2 10-54	+ 5 5-11
		120 8-38	- 80	- 4 3-81

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided by the Northumberland Conciliation Board that the wages of underground workers and "banksmen" should be advanced by 1¼ per cent., and those of other surface workers by 1 per cent. The Durham Conciliation Board decided that wages should remain unaltered.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were reduced by ¼ per cent. in Cleveland and increased by ¾ per cent. in Cumberland and by 2½ per cent. in the West of Scotland.

Manufactured Iron.—In the Midlands the wages of puddlers were advanced by 3d. per ton and those of millmen by 2½ per cent., whilst in the North of England and the West of Scotland wages remained unchanged as a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

CLAIM OF COMPENSATION: COMPROMISE: MUTUAL MISTAKE AS TO EXTENT OF INJURY.

A man was employed as a labourer by a firm of plasterers. One day while riddling lime he found that the skin of the tips of the fingers of his right hand was broken, and subsequently they became very painful, and he had to leave off work. He asked for compensation, and as a result had an interview with an agent of the insurance company with which his employers were insured. This agent, after some negotiation, offered the workman £6 in full satisfaction of his claim to compensation. This offer the workman accepted, and signed a receipt to that effect. Afterwards he found that he was suffering from septic poisoning; and eventually part of his hand had to be amputated. He then took proceedings, asking that the agreement should be set aside. It was proved that the employers had denied that the workman's injuries had arisen from any accident, and that he was advised in the negotiations by a solicitor, who explained to him before he signed the receipt that he was accepting the £6 in full settlement of any claim he might have. In these circumstances the Court of Session dismissed the action, holding that the workman was not entitled to go back upon an agreement to accept a certain sum in full settlement of his claim merely because there was a mutual mistake as to the extent of his injuries, and that he afterwards found them to be much more serious than he anticipated. The fact that a man makes a bad bargain is no reason for setting that bargain aside.—*McGivrey v. Paterson and Company.*—*Court of Session.*—18th January, 1912.

(2) Factory Acts.

OUTWORKERS: PIECEWORKERS: PARTICULARS OF WORK AND WAGES: MEN'S WORKSHOPS.

It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that in the case of persons employed in such classes of work as may from time to time be specified by Special Order of the Home Secretary the occupier of every factory or workshop must keep in the prescribed form and manner lists showing the names and addresses of all outworkers employed in the business of the factory or workshop. This provision was applied by Order to the making, cleaning, washing, repairing, altering, mending, and finishing of wearing apparel. It is also provided by the Act that in every textile factory the occupier shall, in order that each pieceworker may be able to compute the amount of wages payable to him in respect of his work, cause to be published 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. Such particulars of the work as affect the amount of wages payable must be furnished to the pieceworker, in writing, at the time when the work is given out. The Home Secretary has power by Special Order to extend these provisions to any class of non-textile factories, or to any class of workshop. He may also extend them to any class of persons of whom lists may be required to be kept under the provisions first mentioned above. These last mentioned provisions were extended by Special Order to outworkers employed in the class of work mentioned in the other Special Order. The Act, however, provides that these provisions as to particulars of wages and work to pieceworkers shall not apply to "men's workshops"—that is to say, workshops in which no women, young persons, or children are employed.

A tailor in London was the occupier of a tailoring workshop from which work was given out to outworkers, who were paid by the piece. Proceedings were taken against the employer by a factory inspector for giving out an article of wearing apparel to one of these outworkers to be worked upon and paid for by the piece, without giving him any written particulars of the wages applicable to the work. It was contended in defence by the tailor that as his workshop was a "men's workshop," within the meaning of the Act, the Order of the Home Secretary did not apply. The magistrate held that this view was correct, and dismissed the summons. The inspector appealed, on a case stated for the opinion of the High Court.

The High Court held that the magistrate was right; that the man in question was an outworker and also a pieceworker, but he was an outworker working in connection with the workshop. This workshop, however, was a men's workshop to which the provision as to particulars did not apply. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Seal v. Alexander.*—*King's Bench Division.*—19th January, 1912.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for January, 1912.

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.

	January, 1912.		
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with	
		1911.	1910.
	Thousand £	Thousand £	Thousand £
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco ..	24,218	+ 3,603	+ 2,620
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured*	27,413	- 1,338	+ 5,705
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	15,108	+ 2,042	+ 2,733
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcels Post)	263	+ 2	+ 35
Total value of Imports	67,002	+ 4,309	+ 11,093

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.

	January, 1912.		
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with	
		1911.	1910.
	Thousand £	Thousand £	Thousand £
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco ..	2,303	+ 277	+ 679
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured†	4,896	+ 516	+ 914
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	32,407	+ 1,742	+ 3,798
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcels Post)	811	+ 151	+ 223
Total Value of Exports of British Produce	40,417	+ 2,686	+ 5,614

The exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise amounted to £9,595,000 during January, 1912, an increase of £953,000 on January, 1911, and of £1,447,000 on January, 1910.

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
‡ Coal, wool, oil, seeds, &c., hides and skins.
§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

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 January, 1912, was 42, consisting of 37 cases of lead poisoning, 3 of mercurial poisoning, and 2 of anthrax. In January, 1911, 48 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of mercurial poisoning, and 2 of anthrax were reported.

The number of deaths reported during January, 1912, was 7 (6 due to lead poisoning and 1 to anthrax), as compared with 2 in January, 1911 (both due to lead poisoning).

In addition to the above, 12 cases of lead poisoning (1 of which proved fatal) were reported in January, 1912, among house painters and plumbers, as compared with 17 (including 6 deaths) in January, 1911.

(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.	
	January, 1912.	January, 1911.	January, 1912.	January, 1911.
Lead Poisoning.				
Among Operatives engaged in—				
Smelting of Metals	3	3	1	—
Brass Works	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ..	—	2	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	4	1	1	—
Printing	—	5	—	—
File Cutting	—	2	—	—
Tinning of Metals	—	1	—	—
White Lead Works	5	1	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ..	—	1	—	—
China and Earthenware*	5	9	3	—
Litho-Transfer Works	1	—	1	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ..	—	—	—	—
Vitreous Enamelling	2	5	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ..	3	2	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	2	—	—
Coachmaking	6	6	—	1
Shipbuilding	5	3	—	—
Paint used in other Industries ..	—	2	—	—
Other Industries	1	—	—	—
Total in Factories & Workshops	37	48	6	2
House Painting & Plumbing ..	12	17	1	6
Other Forms of Poisoning.				
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	—	—
Furriers' Processes	1	—	—	—
Other Industries	2	—	—	—
Total	3	1	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	3	1	—	—
Anthrax.				
Wool	2	—	1	—
Handling of Horsehair	—	—	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ..	—	2	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Anthrax †	2	2	1	—
Total reported under Factory and Workshop Act	42	51	7	2
Grand Total	54	68	8	8

* Of the 5 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry 3 were females.
† In addition 1 case affecting a dock labourer was reported.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported killed in the course of their employment during January, 1912, was 256, a decrease of 13 on a month ago, but an increase of 5 on a year ago. The mean number for January during the years 1907-1911 was 260, the maximum year being 1908, with 294, and the minimum year 1909, with 231 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in January, 1912, was 114, compared with 112 in December, 1911, and 114 in January, 1911. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during January, 1912, was 107, compared with 106 a month ago, and 102 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the railway service were 34, 49, and 33 respectively.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during January, 1912, was 215, an increase of 40 on a month ago, and of 88 on a year ago.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1912, on a	
	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen & Goods Guards	4	3	4	+ 1	..
Engine Drivers .. .. .	..	3	..	- 3	..
Firemen	2	3	3	- 1	- 1
Guards (Passenger) .. .. .	..	..	..	+ 1	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	9	7	8	+ 2	+ 1
Porters	3	5	7	- 2	- 4
Shunters	2	5	1	- 3	+ 1
Miscellaneous	13	20	9	- 7	+ 4
Contractors' Servants .. .. .	..	3	1	- 3	- 1
Total, Railway Service	34	49	33	- 15	+ 1
Mines—					
Underground	89	90	100	- 1	- 11
Surface	23	10	7	+ 13	+ 16
Total, Mines	112	100	107	+ 12	+ 5
Quarries over 20 feet deep ..	2	12	7	- 10	- 5
Factories and Workshops—					
Textile—					
Cotton	1	5	4	- 4	-
Wool and Worsted	3	..	3	+ 3	..
Other Textiles .. .. .	..	1	3	- 1	- 3
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	3	1	3	+ 2	..
Founding and Conversion of Metals	7	13	10	- 6	- 3
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	2	5	5	- 3	- 3
Ship and Boat Building	15	16	14	- 1	+ 1
Wood	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Chemicals	6	5	3	+ 1	+ 3
Laundries	1	..	..	+ 1	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	31	33	32	- 2	- 1
Total, Factories and Workshops.	72	81	79	- 9	- 7
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5.					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	26	20	9	+ 6	+ 17
Warehouses	2	4	3	- 2	- 1
Buildings to which Act applies ..	7	1	11	+ 6	- 4
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5.	35	25	23	+ 10	+ 12
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	1	2	2	- 1	- 1
Total, excluding Seamen	256	269	251	- 13	+ 5
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	6	33	23	- 27	- 17
Steam	189	128	72	+ 61	+ 117
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	1	3	18	- 2	- 17
Steam	19	11	14	+ 8	+ 5
Total, Seamen	215	175	127	+ 40	+ 88
Total, including Seamen	471	444	378	+ 27	+ 93

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION.

According to the September Immigration Bulletin of the United States Department of Commerce and Labour, the total number of aliens admitted into the United States during September, 1911, was 62,599, compared with 83,931 in September, 1910, and 67,619 in September, 1909. The inward balance of aliens in July, 1911, was 10,938, compared with 51,642 in July, 1910, and 52,920 in July, 1909.

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.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—The most important dispute in progress during January was that in the cotton weaving industry, which began in December, 1911, and ended on January 20th. The number of new disputes which began in January was 60, as compared with 41 in the previous month and 35 in January, 1911. In these new disputes 29,901 workpeople were directly and 3,989 indirectly involved, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before January, give a total of 190,374 workpeople involved in trade disputes in January, 1912, as compared with 181,201 in December, 1911, and 36,234 in January, 1911.

New Disputes in January, 1912.—In the following table the new disputes for January are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades	No. of Disputes	No. of Workpeople involved.		
		Directly	Indirectly	Total
Building	2	35	—	35
Coal Mining	5	7,873	297	8,170
Quarrying	1	124	—	124
Engineering	5	766	66	832
Shipbuilding	3	2,885	53	2,938
Other Metal	4	178	—	178
Textile	12	5,191	2,479	7,670
Clothing	2	335	—	335
Transport	8	9,786	1,091	10,877
Other Trades	15	2,402	3	2,405
Employees of Local Authorities	3	326	—	326
Total, January, 1912	60	29,901	3,989	33,890
Total, December, 1911	41	171,533	1,237	172,770
Total, January, 1911	35	8,386	5,245	13,631

Principal Disputes which began or ended in January.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.†
		Directly.	Indirectly.†				
Coal Mining— Miners	Shifnal, Salop	1,551	—	1912 2 Jan.	5	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Non-unionists joined the trade union.
Miners	Maesteg, Glam.	4,987	—	1 Jan.	3	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Miners and surface workers	Wakefield (near)	879	306	1911 24 Aug.	114	For increase in price for shifting dirt, and other matters.	Agreement arrived at as to allowance for shifting dirt.
Engineering— Engineers, &c.	Liverpool and Birkenhead	325	—	1912 22 Jan.	—	For an advance in wages of 2s. on day rates and 5% on piece rates.	No settlement reported.
Shipbuilding— Labourers, smiths, platers, &c.	Cowes	335	53	8 Jan.	7	For an advance in wages of 2s. per week.	Starting rate advanced to 21s. per week, with an increase of 1s. per week after 12 months' service.
Textile— Cotton weavers, winders, wipers, &c.	North and North-East Lancashire	150,000	—	1911 21 Dec.	25	Strike at two mills against the employment of non-unionists, followed by lock-out on December 28th at all mills connected with the N. and N.E. Lancs. Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association.	(See p. 42.)
Woolcombers, &c.	Bradford	1,540	—	1912 4 Jan.	6	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Unionists and non-unionists to work together.
Hosiery dyers, scourers and trimmers	Leicester	1,600	—	1 Jan.	23	Dispute arising out of the refusal of scourers at one firm to refer a question of reinstatement to an umpire for decision, and of the women workers to agree to the Board of Trade as a final Court of Appeal in all questions arising out of a new price list.	Matters in dispute to be settled at joint conferences under an independent chairman.
Jute weavers, spinners, preparers, reelers, winders, &c.	Dundee	533	1,556	9 Jan.	23	For an advance in piece prices ..	Advance of 3½d. per length granted on a certain fabric, with compensation for any deficiency in wages that may occur during a period of 6 weeks.
Lace weavers, oncost hands, darners, winders, shuttlers, &c.	Newmilns and District	350	750	8 Jan.	28	For an advance in wages of 1s. per week, abolition of piece-work and payment of time and a quarter for all overtime.	Advance of 1s. per week on time and 6½ per cent. on piece rates granted; conciliation machinery agreed upon to decide the question of day work or piece work if the workpeople are unable to enforce the system of fixed wages at Darvel before December 31st, 1912.
Transport— Dock workers, sailors, firemen, crane-men, &c.	Glasgow and District	7,000	1,000	29 Jan.	13	Against the enforcement by employers of new working conditions agreed to by employers and men's leaders but rejected by the men.	(See p. 43.)

* 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.

Causes.—Of the 60 new disputes, 20, directly involving 3,529 workpeople, arose on demands for increased wages; 10, directly involving 2,371 persons, on other wages questions; 9, directly involving 11,349 persons, on questions relating to working arrangements; 9, directly involving 8,835 persons, on questions of trade union principles; and 9, directly involving 1,437 workpeople, on questions as to the employment of particular classes or persons. Of the remaining disputes, 2 arose on demands for reduction in hours of labour, and one was a sympathetic strike.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 40 new disputes, directly involving 24,784 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, directly involving 151,928 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes 11, directly involving 7,662 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 19, directly involving 6,148 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 19, directly involving 162,902 persons, were compromised. In the case of 5 other disputes work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in January by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 2,605,300. In addition, 105,900 working days were lost during January owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in January of all disputes, new and old, was 2,711,200 working days, as compared with 701,100 in the previous month and 560,000 in the corresponding month of last year.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in January.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in January, 1912, was an increase of £2,633 per week, as compared with an increase of £977 per week in December, 1911, and a decrease of £49 per week in January, 1911. The number of workpeople affected was 88,621, of whom 82,001 received advances amounting to £2,664 per week and 6,620 sustained decreases amounting to £31 per week. The total number affected in December, 1911, was 11,426, and in January, 1911, 82,162.

Two changes affecting 1,258 workpeople were settled by arbitration; four changes, affecting 52,000 workpeople, were arranged by conciliation or mediation; and fourteen changes, affecting 16,127 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 19,236 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In five cases, affecting 2,593 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by the changes, and the net effect on their weekly wages were as follows:—

Groups of Trades	January.			
	1911.		1912.	
Building	No. 850	£ 70	No. 2,755	£ 283
Coal Mining	45,000	557	50,500	1,064
Iron, &c., Mining	9,000	80	—	—
Quarrying	2,557	18	61	3
Pig Iron Manufacture	9,996	34	9,297	12
Iron and Steel Manufacture	8,907	97	6,822	50
Engineering and Shipbuilding	2,898	314	13,570	729
Other Metal Trades	8	1	212	52
Textile Trades	362	25	1,171	78
Clothing Trades	470	24	445	26
Printing, &c., Trades	—	—	345	17
Glass, &c., Trades	300	26	—	—
Transport Trades	—	—	2,700	268
Other Trades	400	23	—	—
Employees of Local Authorities	1,414	60	743	57
Total	82,162	49	88,621	2,633

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in January, 1912, affected 1,973 workpeople, and resulted in a decrease of 3,846 hours per week.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect in 1912	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics)	
					Increase.	Decrease.
I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.						
Building	Dundee	1 Jan.	Painters	300	..	Increase of ¼d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).
	Perth	1 Jan.	Painters	120	..	Increase of ¼d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.).
	West of Scotland	1 Jan.	Painters	2,000	..	Increase of ¼d. per hour (9d. to 9½d.).
Coal Mining	Northumberland	8 and 15 Jan.	Underground workers and "banksmen" (except deputies, mechanics, enginemen, and firemen)	45,000	..	Increase of 1¼ per cent., making wages 28¼ per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
	Forest of Dean	15 Jan.	Hewers, other underground and surface workers (including enginemen and mechanics)	5,500	..	Increase of 1 per cent., making wages 23 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Cleveland and Durham	6 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	5,500	..	Decrease, under sliding scale, of ¼ per cent., leaving wages 19 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	West Cumberland	1 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	1,400	..	Increase, under sliding scale, of ¾ per cent., making wages 27¼ per cent. above the standard of 1889.
	South Wales and Mon.	1 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	1,250	..	Increase, under sliding scale, of ¾ per cent., making wages 14¼ per cent. above the standard of 1886.
Engineering and Shipbuilding	Southampton	1 Jan.	Iron and steel workers and mechanics	5,000	..	Increase of 1s. per week.
	Dundee	13 Jan.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, &c.	330	..	Increase of 2½ per cent. on piece rates and of 1s. per week on time rates.
Other metal	Belfast	3 Jan.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, brass finishers, copper-smiths, brass makers, &c.	10,200	..	Increase of 2½ per cent. on piece rates and of ¼d. per hour or 1s. per week on time rates.
	South Staffs and East Worcester	1 Jan.	Ship painters	495	..	Increase of ½d. per hour (9d. to 9½d.).
Textile	Skipton	1 Jan.	Sailmakers	128	..	Increase of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.).
	Leeds	1 Jan.	Fitters, turners, machinemen, pattern-makers, &c.	700	..	Increase of 1s. per week.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	Leeds	1 Jan.	Ship painters	400	..	Increase of 1s. 3d. per week (3s. to 3s. 3d.).
	Cardiff and District	1 Jan.	Anvil and vice makers	230	..	Increase in piece rates estimated to be equivalent to 7¼ per cent.
Printing	Leeds	1 Jan.	Weavers	858	..	Adoption of "Coln's Coloured Goods List" less 5 per cent., resulting in an average increase of 7¼ per cent., increase of 1s. per week (29s. to 30s.).
	Sheffield	1 Jan.	Compositors and machinemen on jobbing work, compositors on news work, litho. printers and bookbinders	345	..	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: Compositors and machinemen (jobbing) litho. printers and bookbinders 34s. 6d., compositors (weekly news) 34s. 6d., (morning news) 45s., (evening news) 36s.
Transport	Liverpool	1 Jan.	Carters	1,000	..	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: One horse 24s., two horses 28s.
	Plymouth and District	1 Jan.	Short cart drivers	500	..	Increase to rates of 30s. per week for team drivers, and 27s. for one-horse drivers.
Employees of Local Authorities	Bristol	1 and 11 Jan.	Carters	1,200	..	Increase to rates of 23s. per week for single-horse and 25s. for pair-horse drivers.
	.. .. .	.. .. .	Road-sweepers, labourers, &c.	648	..	Increase of 1s. or 2s. per week, or of ¼d. per hour.
II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.						
Printing	Dundee	1 Jan.	Compositors and machinemen on jobbing work, compositors on morning and evening news, and line operators on morning news	273	..	Decrease of 1 or 2 hours per week.
Transport	Liverpool	1 Jan.	Short cart drivers	500	..	Decrease of 1 hour per week (56 to 55).
	Plymouth and Dist.	1 Jan.	Carters	1,200	..	Decrease of 2½ hours per week (65 to 62½).

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the March "Gazette" of the following important changes arranged to take effect in February:—
Pig Iron.—Increase of 2½ per cent. in the wages of blast-furnacemen in Scotland.
Iron and Steel.—Increase of 1¼ per cent. in the wages of steel melters in England and Scotland; increase of 3d. per ton and 2½ per cent. in the wages of iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands.
* Exclusive of Seamen, Agricultural Labourers and Railway Servants. † At some of the collieries wages are 45 per cent. above the standard.
‡ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." § See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

WORK OF BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES IN JANUARY

Summary.—The total number of workpeople's applications on both the General and Casual Registers* of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges at the end of January was 97,175, compared with 64,016 a month previously, and 97,477 a year ago. The number of Exchanges open at January 26th was 269, compared with 261 a month ago and 161 a year ago.

GENERAL REGISTER.

Applications Received.—The number of applications received during the period was 188,873 (men 119,432, women 37,475, boys 18,591, and girls 13,375), a daily average of 7,870, compared with 5,311 in December. The total number of applications on the register at some time or other during the period was 251,354 (men 166,133, women 46,038, boys 23,091, and girls 16,092). These figures are exclusive of re-applications from persons already placed in vacancies by the Exchanges during the period, which numbered 9,676 in January, 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.

Of the men's applications on the register at some time during the month the largest percentages occur in the following groups of trades:—General Labourers, 18.0; Building, 16.7 (labourers 3.3, others 13.4); Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances, 16.6; Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, 15.5. Of the women's applications, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 46.0; Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging, 10.6; Textiles, 9.2; and Dress, 6.9.

The total number of applications remaining on the register at January 26th was 94,887 (men 65,901, women 16,562, boys 7,069, and girls 5,355), as compared with 62,481 (men 46,701, women 8,563, boys 4,500, and girls 2,717) at December 29th.

The following table shows the number of applicants on register at end of each week during January 1912, December 1911, and January 1911:—

Month.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.
1st week	88,084	93,424	78,464
2nd week	97,415	91,680	89,282
3rd week	95,110	86,595	94,682
4th week	94,887	67,789	94,920
5th week	—	62,481	—

Vacancies Notified.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 67,467 (men 37,079, women 14,671, boys 9,974, and girls 5,743), a daily average of 2,811, compared with 2,365 in December and 1,658 in January, 1911.

Of the men's vacancies notified during January the largest percentages occur in Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances, 18.9; General Labourers, 15.9; Building, 10.9 (labourers 2.4, others 8.5); and Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, 8.5. Of the women's vacancies notified, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 41.0; Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging, 14.4; Textiles, 14.0; and Dress, 8.4.

Vacancies Filled.—The number of vacancies filled during the period was 53,420 (men 30,746, women 11,115, boys 7,150, and girls 4,409), a daily average of 2,226, compared with 1,793 in December and 1,314 in January, 1911.

Of the vacancies filled during January, 12,065 (men 10,504, women 1,029, boys 405, and girls 127) were temporary, in the sense of being known to be for less than a week's employment.

The vacancies filled during January include 5,383 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 2,234 were in

* 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.

London, 842 in the Yorkshire and East Midlands Division, 799 in Scotland and North of England, 725 in the North-Western Division, and 476 in the West Midlands Division, representing respectively 21.1, 7.5, 10.2, 8.0, and 8.0 per cent. of the vacancies filled in these areas.

The proportion of vacancies filled by the Exchanges to vacancies notified by employers was 79.2 per cent. (men 82.9, women 75.8, boys 71.7, girls 76.8), as compared with 75.8 per cent. during December.

Of the men's vacancies filled during January the largest percentages occur in General Labourers, 18.1; Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances, 17.4; Building, 11.2 (labourers 2.4, others 8.8); and Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, 7.8. Of the women's vacancies filled, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 40.4; Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging, 15.8; Textiles, 14.4; and Dress, 7.4.

All the above figures exclude 3,626 temporary vacancies for Post Office temporary Christmas work filled during December, but not included in the returns for that month, owing to the figures not being available. The total number of such Post Office vacancies filled during the present winter by the Exchanges was 31,772.

The following table gives the figures for the 160 Exchanges which have been open for a year or more:—

	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.
Applications received during month	163,752	129,624	163,087
Total Number	163,752	129,624	163,087
Daily Average	6,823	4,629	7,091
Vacancies notified during month	52,717	51,459	38,124
Total Number	52,717	51,459	38,124
Daily Average	2,197	1,838	1,668
Vacancies filled during month	41,460	39,020	30,212
Total Number	41,460	39,020	30,212
Daily Average	1,728	1,394	1,314
Applications remaining on register at beginning of month	48,850	74,008	64,350
Applications remaining on register at end of month	76,754	48,850	94,920

CASUAL REGISTER.

The total number of applicants given work in the casual employments included in the Casual Register was 3,433 (men 2,438, women 995). The total number of separate jobs given in such employments was 10,254 (men 9,030; women 1,224).

Unsatisfied Demand for Labour.

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 trades 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.

New Exchanges.—In addition to the 261 Exchanges included in the returns for December, the following 9 Exchanges were opened during January, and their returns are incorporated in the tables:—*Armley*, 8 and 10, Stock Hill; *Dundalk*, Francis Street; *Hebden Bridge*, 23, Market Street; *Portadown*, Post Office; *Porth*, 75, Pontypridd Road; *Sowerby Bridge*, Central Buildings, Hollings Mill Lane; *Swindon*, Town Hall; *Trowbridge*, Town Hall; *Truro*, 43, Daniel Road.

The Exchange at Leith Docks has been closed.

The following Exchanges are now open, or are expected to be opened before the end of February, making a total of 279 Exchanges:—*Abertillery*, 4, Carmel Buildings; *Glasgow* (South Side), 624, Eglinton Street, South Side; *Haydock*, 404, Clipsley Lane; *King's Lynn*, 21, New Conduit Street; *Leek*, 61, Derby Street; *Mearborough*, Oriental Chambers, Bank Street; *Morley*, 88, Queen Street; *Sheepshear*, 147, North Street, Leeds; *South Shields* (Docks), Old Post Office, Dean Street; *Swadincote*, 51, High Street.

ADULTS—DISTRICT TABLE.*

Table I.—Applications for Employment, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the period of four weeks ended January 26th, 1912. (General Register.)

Districts.	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.				
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Temporary.	Other.	Men.	Women.	Total.
London and South-Eastern (45)	14,207	2,356	16,563	39,502	14,036	53,538	23,903	5,735	29,638	7,038	4,728	11,766	979	8,467	5,825	3,621	9,446
South-Western (16)	6,698	468	7,166	9,361	1,642	11,003	6,066	842	6,908	2,429	528	2,957	256	2,093	1,987	362	2,349
West Midlands (33)	5,537	1,073	6,610	12,838	2,923	15,761	6,338	1,150	7,488	4,483	1,169	5,652	1,732	2,801	3,684	849	4,533
Yorkshire and East Midlands (47)	4,646	975	5,621	19,437	5,290	24,727	7,681	2,198	9,879	8,621	1,975	10,596	4,783	4,414	7,656	1,541	9,197
North-Western (56) †	6,388	1,881	8,269	18,551	6,765	25,316	8,962	2,851	11,813	5,914	3,380	9,294	2,253	5,260	4,911	2,602	7,513
Scotland and North of England (39)	5,962	1,142	7,104	17,115	5,637	22,752	8,025	2,443	10,468	5,789	1,903	7,692	1,101	5,144	4,724	1,521	6,245
Wales (including Mon.) (19)	1,415	259	1,674	4,258	1,326	5,584	1,630	585	2,215	1,821	404	2,225	296	1,237	1,310	283	1,593
Ireland (13)	1,850	409	2,259	5,443	1,543	6,986	3,236	758	3,994	984	584	1,568	133	852	649	336	985
Total (268) †	46,701	8,563	55,264	126,505	39,162	165,667	65,901	16,562	82,463	37,079	14,671	51,750	11,533	30,328	30,746	11,115	41,861
Total a month ago (260) †	66,594	16,103	82,702	109,965	29,298	139,263	46,701	8,563	55,264	37,758	15,260	53,018	6,978	33,503	29,337	11,144	40,481
Total a year ago (160) †	50,418	7,610	58,028	109,489	27,758	137,247	70,709	13,190	83,899	20,390	8,644	29,034	3,486	19,597	16,552	6,531	23,083
TOWNS.																	
(Pop. 500,000 and over).																	
London (30)	11,654	2,007	13,661	31,786	11,732	43,518	18,772	4,484	23,256	4,927	3,995	8,922	762	6,353	4,005	3,110	7,115
Glasgow (Govan, Partick) (5)	970	172	1,142	4,108	1,350	5,458	1,973	476	2,349	746	472	1,218	110	915	644	381	1,025
Liverpool and Bootle (5)	746	140	886	3,085	1,117	4,202	976	628	1,604	355	450	1,365	402	708	743	367	1,110
Manchester (2)	954	158	1,112	2,531	751	3,282	1,275	215	1,490	448	409	857	42	588	345	286	631
Birmingham (5)	914	124	1,038	4,164	882	5,046	2,114	293	2,407	1,073	402	1,475	315	827	368	274	1,142
(Pop. 250,000 and over).																	
Sheffield (2)	388	80	468	2,595	407	3,002	613	196	809	1,715	84	1,799	1,344	268	1,545	67	1,612
Leeds (2)	527	70	597	1,410	344	1,754	432	85	517	263	161	424	43	294	215	122	337
Edinburgh and Leith (2)	686	81	767	1,711	488	2,199	1,190	239	1,429	407	138	545	115	369	361	123	484
Belfast	389	127	516	1,289	243	1,532	669	187	846	116	69	185	28	108	84	52	136
Bristol (2)	423	134	557	1,353	345	1,698	724	272	996	280	184	464	41	290	182	149	331
Dublin	861	118	979	1,972	520	2,492	1,330	219	1,549	257	94	351	62	207	75	269	269
Cardiff	280	45	325	895	177	1,072	458	79	537	256	95	351	147	183	248	82	330
Hull	307	95	402	911	390	1,301	494	207	691	174	113	287	20	197	149	68	217
Newcastle-on-Tyne	520	76	596	1,004	450	1,454	517	160	677	161	205	366	74	177	109	142	251
Nottingham	392	70	462	1,302	587	1,889	641	177	818	233	200	433	99	309	226	182	408
Stoke-on-Trent (3)	262	59	321	1,397	476	1,873	550	183	733	565	202	767	402	235	499	138	637
Salford and Eccles (2)	334	51	385	1,005	368	1,373	522	109	631	148	118	266	22	182	109	95	204
(Pop. 100,000 and over).																	
Portsmouth	1,128	10	1,138	1,739	139	1,878	1,406	60	1,466	464	35	499	47	334	361	20	391
Leicester	580	47	627	926	448	1,374	546	128	674	256	152	408	68	278	213	133	346
Cardiff (3)	469	60	529	925	454	1,379	495	169	654	185	107	292	33	197	128	102	230
Bolton	320	50	370	716	234	950	370	87	457	159	104	263	73	196	184	84	268
Dundee	331	46	377	923	438	1,361	296	148	444	251	188	439	188	218	233	173	406
Aberdeen	447	68	515	389	271	660	398	131	529	125	70	195	15	165	111	69	180
Sunderland	182	21	203	527	118	645	263	44	307	214	35	249	16	63	57	22	79
Oldham	137	47	184	527	217	744	247	77	324	128	120	248	59	109	82	86	168
Blackburn	138	30	168	299	165	464	193	56	249	64	64	118	11	73	31	53	84
Brighton	278	85	363	585	420	1,005	412	182	594	109	141	250	17	139	66	90	156
Birkenhead (2)	229	141	370	578	287	865	282	183	475	249	144	393	89	266	231	124	355
Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham.	593	42	635	1,684	159	1,843	840	76	916	963	35	1,003	28	932	927	33	960
Derby	219	46	265	710	258	968	349	139	488	215	64	279	29	216	185	60	245
Norwich	546	97	643	944	364	1,30											

JUVENILES—DISTRICT TABLE.

Table II.—Applications for Employment, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the period of four weeks ended January 26th, 1912.

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 and South Eastern (45)	1,250	650	1,900	7,230	4,957	12,187	2,384	1,499	3,883	3,167	1,979	5,146	2,399	1,530	3,929			
South Western (16)	520	92	612	1,246	414	1,660	711	216	927	545	189	734	375	135	510			
West Midlands (33)	601	512	1,113	1,911	1,433	3,344	651	564	1,215	1,202	694	1,896	823	562	1,385			
Yorkshire and East Midlands (47)	497	323	820	2,696	2,309	5,005	939	928	1,867	1,671	1,146	2,817	1,188	896	2,084			
North Western (56)†	433	423	856	2,384	1,561	3,945	693	696	1,389	1,544	781	2,325	1,007	498	1,505			
Scotland and North of England (39)	730	602	1,332	2,446	2,417	4,763	1,020	1,136	2,156	1,322	772	2,094	956	655	1,611			
Wales (including Mon.) (19)	122	67	189	562	403	965	201	200	401	264	99	363	207	84	291			
Ireland (13)	347	43	390	838	235	1,073	470	116	586	259	83	342	195	49	244			
Total (268)†	4,500	2,717	7,217	19,213	13,669	32,882	7,069	5,355	12,424	9,974	5,743	15,717	7,150	4,409	11,559			
Total a month ago (260)†	5,283	3,970	9,253	13,524	8,060	21,584	4,500	2,717	7,217	8,458	4,753	13,211	6,151	3,558	9,719			
Total a year ago (160)†	4,142	2,180	6,322	15,995	9,845	25,840	6,339	4,182	11,021	5,775	3,315	9,090	4,406	2,723	7,129			
TOWNS.																		
Population 500,000 and over:—																		
London (30)	1,081	578	1,659	6,286	4,355	10,641	1,917	1,250	3,167	2,775	1,720	4,495	2,096	1,353	3,449			
Glasgow, Govan, Partick (5)	120	28	148	482	277	759	122	150	272	289	278	567	205	242	447			
Liverpool and Bootle (5)	14	20	34	649	488	1,134	136	269	405	293	118	411	207	96	303			
Manchester (2)	14	20	34	327	141	468	58	37	95	268	111	379	192	62	254			
Birmingham (5)	114	103	217	560	331	891	212	118	330	374	250	624	215	215	430			
Population 250,000 and over:—																		
Sheffield (2)	15	11	26	225	210	435	47	55	102	168	83	249	113	73	186			
Leeds (2)	58	49	107	268	277	545	72	56	128	161	156	317	142	144	286			
Edinburgh and Leith (2)	192	134	326	271	208	479	225	153	378	130	88	218	37	62	193			
Belfast	123	2	125	145	19	164	115	10	125	42	14	56	35	6	41			
Bristol (2)	113	33	146	313	180	493	162	100	262	217	63	280	125	51	176			
Dublin	103	16	119	270	75	345	104	36	140	92	12	104	76	10	86			
Bradford	8	6	13	65	19	84	11	6	17	75	21	96	36	14	50			
Hull	38	61	99	217	517	534	73	183	256	73	77	150	70	67	137			
Newcastle-on-Tyne	13	21	34	122	343	31	60	91	65	71	136	49	65	114				
Nottingham	86	40	126	274	208	482	93	45	138	162	129	291	140	113	253			
Stoke-on-Trent (3)	33	19	52	171	178	349	68	63	131	58	68	126	46	44	90			
Salford and Eccles (2)	20	4	24	137	59	196	32	7	39	72	52	124	47	23	70			
Population 100,000 and over:—																		
Portsmouth	35	1	36	183	14	202	110	1	111	30	17	47	24	4	28			
Leicester	29	7	36	181	50	231	52	14	66	178	38	216	90	22	112			
Cardiff (3)	34	9	43	183	126	309	49	59	103	75	25	100	57	23	80			
Bolton	11	4	15	38	33	71	8	13	21	23	13	36	17	8	25			
Dundee	27	9	36	94	73	167	38	24	62	22	18	40	20	18	38			
Aberdeen	133	59	192	143	120	263	110	42	152	73	33	106	70	32	102			
Sunderland	13	13	26	70	77	147	23	40	63	124	17	141	26	7	33			
Oldham	4	6	10	52	18	70	21	7	28	23	16	39	12	7	19			
Blackburn	15	3	18	38	14	52	13	2	15	30	10	40	7	14				
Brighton	24	30	54	71	93	164	32	55	87	50	31	81	24	23	47			
Birkenhead (2)	73	5	78	155	39	194	137	20	157	9	18	27	8	16				
Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham	25	11	36	116	68	184	42	18	60	85	42	127	57	31	88			
Derby	21	21	42	155	83	238	48	31	79	99	50	149	76	29	105			
Norwich	22	9	31	76	18	94	40	20	60	19	1	20	19	1	20			
Southampton (2)	10	8	18	74	35	109	24	7	31	30	14	44	17	12	29			
Preston	7	28	35	62	145	207	16	59	75	76	22	15	37	17	54			
Gateshead	7	8	15	107	20	127	32	12	44	17	12	29	12	29				
Swansea	246	21	267	401	89	490	323	43	368	103	34	137	84	26	110			
Plymouth and Devonport (3)	7	2	9	31	26	57	6	11	36	25	61	18	11	29				
Stockport	19	25	44	54	122	182	16	53	69	26	24	50	26	24	50			
South Shields (2)	19	3	22	89	45	134	20	12	32	60	57	117	58	28	86			
Huddersfield	3	6	9	56	31	87	6	6	12	46	24	70	30	19	49			
Coventry	4	2	6	50	4	54	14	2	16	16	7	23	7	4	11			
Burnley (2)	34	26	60	81	121	202	36	61	97	41	18	59	42	17	59			
Middlesbrough	7	4	11	41	18	59	11	6	17	40	15	55	26	14	40			
Halifax	24	16	40	151	102	253	46	49	95	86	22	108	64	19	83			
Population 50,000 and over:—																		
Wolverhampton	9	10	19	81	62	143	30	14	44	46	38	84	37	34	71			
Walsall	9	1	10	32	10	42	10	3	13	24	9	33	12	5	17			
Rochdale	13	4	17	102	35	137	21	12	33	94	60	154	62	19	81			
Northampton	11	4	15	84	9	93	24	1	25	41	24	65	37	6	43			
Paisley	16	15	31	69	25	94	26	15	41	46	14	60	31	10	41			
Wigan	20	10	30	95	80	175	23	28	51	34	36	70	26	32	58			
Newport (Mon.)	79	6	85	130	68	198	98	14	112	44	54	98	41	50	91			
York	2	4	6	10	6	16	7	7	14	4	1	5	3	1	4			
Merthyr Tydvil	25	4	29	118	55	173	101	30	131	30	9	39	19	6	25			
Cork	16	31	47	81	95	166	41	49	90	25	11	36	22	10	32			
Reading	13	6	19	92	65	157	33	27	60	50	25	75	31	19	50			
Greenock	44	17	61	171	63	234	82	30	112	45	25	70	39	20	59			
Grimsby	14	17	31	87	92	179	30	42	72	59	41	100	44	31	75			
Ipswich	4	37	41	65	109	174	16	66	82	31	28	59	22	26	48			
Warrington	21	16	37	81	89	170	30	29	59	56	21	77	47	18	65			
West Bromwich	38	43	81	95	180	73	61	134	27	14	45	24	17	41				
West Hartlepool (2)	15	14	29	52	39	91	28	19	47	32	34	66	15	24	40			
Barrow	27	5	32	74	32	106	35	13	48	3	8	47	31	9	40			
Rotherham	4	9	13	22	3	25	6	2	6	20	9	1	10	1	10			
Bury	5	4	9	13	7	20	6	26	31	24	24	48	13	19	32			
Lincoln	24	26	50	71	49	119	29	40	69	36	11	47	35	11	45			
Stockton and Thornaby	12	8	20	65	40	105	20	16	36	23	10	33	16	6	22			
Wakefield	11	7	18	60	79	139	26	27	53	15	25	40	8	21	29			
Dunley	9	10	19	72	89	161	13	36	49	27	13	40	28	12	40			
Barnsley	10	3	13	20	13	33	15	8	23	9	7	16	7	6	13			
Gloucester	7	3	10	21	12	33	4	—	4	24	33	57	10	11	21			
Luton	9	10	18	64	31	95	8	10	18	52	17	69	44	16	60			
Population under 50,000:—																		
Exeter	22	28	50	99	66	165	47	54	101	39	7	46						

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN JANUARY.

The total number who received employment relief was 6,024, of whom 2,902 were in London and "Outer London," 1,873 in the provincial towns in England and Wales, 505 in Scotland, and 744 in Ireland. The average duration of employment relief was 12.8 days per person employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 36s. 7d. per head, or about 2s. 10½d. per day.

The net total number of applicants remaining on the registers at the end of January (after deduction of those who had found work, &c.) was 33,431, of whom 17,386 were in London and "Outer London," 12,558 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 977 in Scotland, and 2,510 in Ireland.

During the month registration was resumed at Great Yarmouth.

The total number of Distress Committees in operation at the end of January, 1912, was 79, as compared with 78 at the end of December, 1911, and 101 at the end of January, 1911. Of the Distress Committees in operation at the end of January, 1912, 39 were in London and "Outer London," 32 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 January, 1912, together with the corresponding figures for December, 1911, and January, 1911. 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.		
	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.
London:—				Days.	Days.	Days.
County	1,797	592	2,079	27,659	9,949	35,889
Outer	1,105	381	2,473	10,601	3,620	18,721
Total, London ..	2,902	973	4,552	38,260	13,569	54,610
Northern Counties ..	55	32	286	335	290	2,791
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	95	58	160	849	420	2,097
Yorkshire	91	158	981	261	710	5,591
Midlands	195	74	340	447	214	1,483
Eastern Counties ..	372	120	604	4,045	1,347	6,989
Southern Counties ..	774	567	1,031	10,072	5,923	9,144
Wales and Monmouth ..	291	—	337	5,169	—	3,650
England and Wales ..	4,775	1,982	8,291	69,438	22,463	86,355
Scotland	505	402	1,345	9,227	6,994	20,513
Ireland	744	340	870	8,112	3,060	10,440
United Kingdom ..	6,024	2,724	10,506	76,777	32,517	117,308

Districts.	Total Amount of Wages Paid.			Net No.* of Applicants Remaining on the Registers at end of		
	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.	Jan., 1912.	Dec., 1911.	Jan., 1911.
London:—						
County	4,792	1,387	6,621	12,869	11,401	19,838
Outer	1,885	618	3,548	4,517	3,617	8,315
Total, London ..	6,677	2,005	10,169	17,386	15,018	28,153
Northern Counties ..	63	55	404	344	341	960
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	114	49	315	655	525	3,175
Yorkshire	52	130	1,115	3,212	2,232	5,137
Midlands	97	64	273	1,367	1,302	2,691
Eastern Counties ..	443	135	638	1,732	1,083	2,347
Southern Counties ..	1,265	676	1,388	4,325	3,677	5,749
Wales and Monmouth ..	477	—	891	923	1,024	1,021
England and Wales ..	9,193	3,114	15,193	29,944	25,252	49,233
Scotland	709	745	1,920	977	835	3,205
Ireland	1,116	504	1,306	2,510	2,154	3,903
United Kingdom ..	11,018	4,363	18,418	33,431	28,241	55,446

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 33,431 applicants remaining on the registers at the end of January, 1912, 15,338 were labourers, porters, &c.; 10,039 were connected with the building trades; 2,184 were carters, &c.; 1,025 were clerks, shop assistants, &c.; and the occupations of the remainder were not specified.

* 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.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in January, 1912, in the 35 urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 207 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with December, 1911, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 1,704 (or 0.5 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 1. The number of outdoor paupers relieved decreased by 175 (or 0.1 per cent.) whilst the number of indoor paupers increased by 1,879 (or 1.0 per cent.). There were increases in 20 districts, decreases in 11, and in 4 districts there was no change. The most marked increases were in the Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (10 per 10,000), in the Manchester district (9 per 10,000), and in the Leicester district (8 per 10,000). The most marked decrease was in the Stockton and Tees district (12 per 10,000).

Compared with January, 1911, the rate per 10,000 decreased by 5. The number of outdoor paupers decreased by 2,405 (or 1.3 per cent.), and the number of indoor paupers by 4,949 (or 2.6 per cent.). There were decreases in 23 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (60 per 10,000), in the Leeds district (25 per 10,000), and in the Manchester district (21 per 10,000). There were increases in 8 districts, the most marked being in the Dublin district (16 per 10,000). In the remaining 4 districts there was no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of January, 1912.			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	12,454	2,368	14,822	185	- 2	
North District	16,846	3,316	20,162	247	- 1	
Central District	6,610	1,446	8,056	471	+ 3	
East District	15,365	5,075	20,439	301	+ 2	
South District	26,945	14,378	41,323	223	- 3	
Total, Metropolis ..	78,218	31,583	109,801	243	- 1	
West Ham	5,349	10,864	16,213	227	- 2	
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ..	2,829	5,220	8,049	174	- 6	
Stockton & Tees District ..	1,404	3,608	5,012	209	- 60	
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ..	4,964	5,512	10,476	132	+ 5	
Wigan District	2,599	5,563	8,162	192	- 2	
Manchester District ..	12,187	8,897	21,084	212	+ 9	
Liverpool District	13,370	10,732	24,102	220	- 4	
Bradford District	2,238	1,812	4,050	110	+ 1	
Halifax & Huddersfield ..	1,426	3,209	4,635	122	+ 4	
Leeds District	3,207	3,930	7,137	151	- 3	
Barnsley District	982	2,499	3,481	121	+ 3	
Sheffield District	3,497	3,101	6,598	139	- 2	
Hull District	2,147	5,265	7,412	247	+ 2	
North Staffordshire ..	2,521	5,795	8,316	212	+ 4	
Nottingham District ..	1,841	4,014	5,855	256	+ 8	
Leicester District	3,911	9,098	13,009	193	- 1	
Wolverhampton District ..	5,515	4,248	9,763	169	+ 2	
Birmingham District ..	3,098	4,784	7,882	205	+ 2	
Bristol District	2,637	6,993	9,630	229	- 1	
Cardiff & Swansea ..						
Total, "Other Districts" ..	72,780	98,696	171,476	182	+ 2	
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	6,130	18,061	24,211	257	+ 1	
Paisley & Greenock District ..	926	2,696	3,622	195	+ 2	
Edinburgh & Leith District ..	1,811	5,351	7,162	178	- 1	
Dundee and Dunfermline ..	1,004	2,633	3,637	183	+ 1	
Aberdeen	721	2,846	3,567	218	+ 1	
Coatbridge & Airdrie ..	501	1,909	2,410	241	+ 5	
Total for the above } Scottish Districts ..	11,093	33,516	44,609	224	+ 1	
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	6,774	5,669	12,443	304	+ 6	
Belfast District	3,519	1,266	4,785	107	+ 1	
Cork, Waterford and Limerick District ..	3,885	4,328	8,213	339	+ 10	
Galway District	293	262	555	162	- 8	
Total for the above } Irish Districts ..	14,471	11,525	25,996	230	+ 5	
Total for above 35 Districts in Jan., 1912	181,911	186,184	368,095	207	+ 1	

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses.

† The rates for January, 1912, and December, 1911, are based on the estimated population in 1912, the rates for January, 1911, upon the estimated population in 1911.

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

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JANUARY, 1912.

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

DURING January 939 fresh applications (489 from domestic servants, etc.) for work were registered by 10 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 860 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 219 persons, of whom 131 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 219 situations found for applicants, 181 were of a more or less permanent character, while 38 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids greatly exceeded the supply; the supply of housemaids much exceeded the demand.

Applications by Workpeople during	Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
			Permanently.		Temporarily.	
	Jan., 1912.	Jan., 1911.	Jan., 1912.	Jan., 1911.	Jan., 1912.	Jan., 1911.
Summary by Bureaux.						
Central Bureau:— 5, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. Y. W. C. A.:— 26, George Street, (1) .. Hanover Sq. (2) ..	134	134	108	86	41	32
Dublin:— 30, Molesworth Street ..	44	26	33	34	8	7
Other Bureaux (Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, and Glasgow) ..	249	236	178	141	47	38
Total of 10 Bureaux ..	939	935	860	815	181	175
Summary by Occupations.						
Superintendents, Forewomen, &c.	82	69	35	20	8	1
Shop Assistants	32	19	2	2	3	2
Dressmakers, Milliners, &c.	56	77	25	38	14	18
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	131	101	42	42	14	13
Apprentices and Learners	26	27	29	38	21	21
Domestic Servants	489	496	643	616	106	99
Miscellaneous	123	146	84	59	15	23
Total of 10 Bureaux ..	939	935	860	815	181	175

In addition to the above registered applications, the returns show that 38 persons in London and 47 in the provinces were referred to other agencies; 311 persons in London and 98 in the provinces were given advice as to training, etc., 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 during the year ended December 31st, 1911, was 623,292, of whom 454,576 were British subjects; the corresponding number for the year 1910 was 618,859, of whom 397,848 were British subjects. The total number of passengers who arrived in the United Kingdom from places out of Europe in 1911 was 350,459, of whom 192,718 were British subjects; the corresponding number for 1910 was 298,779, of whom 164,139 were British subjects. The balance outward during 1911 was 272,833, as compared with 320,080 in 1910, and an annual average of 249,411 in the five years 1906-1910. The corresponding numbers for British subjects only were 261,858 and 233,709, and an average of 179,058. Of the balance outward of British subjects 52 per cent. left for British North America in the year 1911, as compared with 49 per cent. in 1910, and 47 per cent. in 1906-1910. The corresponding percentages of persons who left for the United States were 19, 22, and 39 respectively.

	Year ended Dec. 31st, 1911.		Year ended Dec. 31st, 1910.		Annual Average 1906-1910.	
	British.	Total.	British.	Total.	British.	Total.
Outward:						
Total	454,576	623,292	397,848	618,859	334,105	534,482
To British N. America ..	184,891	213,315	156,990	196,305	118,050	146,540
To United States	121,829	250,893	132,192	302,364	130,745	293,311
Inward:						
Total	192,718	350,459	164,139	298,779	155,046	285,071
From British N. America ..	50,107	78,906	41,309	61,600	34,394	51,846
From United States	72,088	191,380	58,823	163,949	61,224	164,268
Balance Outward:						
Total	261,858	272,833	233,709	320,080	179,058	249,411
To British N. America ..	134,784	134,409	115,881	134,705	83,656	94,694
To United States	49,741	59,513	73,569	139,415	69,521	129,043

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 January 27th, 1912, amounted to £4,390,802, an increase of £71,719 (or 1.7 per cent.) on the total for the corresponding period of 1911.

	4 weeks ended Jan. 27th, 1912.	
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1911.
English Lines:—	£	£
L. & N. W., Midland, N. London, and N. Staffs	1,449,039	+ 11,336
Gt. Northern, Gt. Central, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	742,725	+ 22,528
Lancs. and Yorks. and N. Eastern	759,048	- 16,322
L. & S. W. and Gt. Western	674,900	+ 15,900
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	153,321	+ 1,878
Scottish Lines:—		
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	496,600	+ 36,300
Irish Lines:—		
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland Gt. Western, and Gt. Northern	115,169	+ 99
Total	4,390,802	+ 71,719

Appointment of Certifying Factory Surgeons during January, 1912.

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.*
Bedale, Yorks ..	F. R. Eddison	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Blaenavon	A. H. James, The Park	The Surgery, Blaenavon, weekdays, 10-11 a.m.
Chatham	J. N. Robins, 105, High-street, Rochester	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Coatbridge	R. Hamilton, Dundyvan-road ..	Surgery, Dundyvan-road, Wednesday, 9-

Town Planning and other Acts, &c. [Cd. 5978: pp. cxxxviii. + 313: price 1s. 10d.]

Gas Undertakings. Return relating to all authorised Gas Undertakings belonging to Local Authorities for year ended March 31st, 1911. [H. C. 336: pp. 59: price 6d.] Return as to Undertakings other than those of Local Authorities, year 1910. Price of gas, number of consumers, &c. Board of Trade. [H. C. 335: pp. 101: price 10d.]

Tramways and Light Railways (Street and Road). Return for year, 1910 in respect of Companies, and for year ended March 31st, 1911, in respect of Local Authorities. Board of Trade. [H. C. 340: pp. 55: price 6d.]

Port of London Authority. Second Annual Report to Board of Trade for year ended March 31st, 1911. [H. C. 341: pp. 21: price 2d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1910-11. Report and Tables relating to Irish agricultural labourers, migratory agricultural labourers, wages of permanent agricultural labourers, &c. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 6019: pp. 37: price 2d.]

Public Works, Ireland. Seventy-ninth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Works for the year ending March 31st, 1911. Loans for housing of the working classes, acquisition of small dwellings, &c. [Cd. 5845: pp. 95: price 9d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. — Report of the Department of Labour for the year ending March 31st, 1911. Wholesale prices, strikes and lock-outs, industrial accidents in 1910, work of Fair Wage Officers, &c. [Ottawa: C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer: pp. 153.]

— Report of Proceedings under the Combines Investigation Act. Appendix to the Annual Report of the Department of Labour, 1910-11. [Ottawa: C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer: pp. 22.]

— The Labour Gazette, December, 1911. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during November; provincial legislation affecting labour; prices, wholesale and retail; trade disputes and industrial accidents during November. [Ottawa: C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer: pp. 113.]

New Zealand. — Journal of the Department of Labour, December, 1911. Condition of trade and employment; persons assisted to employment; co-operative works; accidents in factories; accidents reported under the Scaffolding Inspection Act, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 68.]

— Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, Vol. xii. Part 6. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 96.]

Victoria. — Wages Board Determinations. Jewellers' Board, dated December 1st, 1911, cancelling that of November 25th, 1910.

Queensland. — Wages Board Determinations. Dock Labourers' Industry Board for South-East Coast, dated November 8th, 1911, cancelling that of December 8th, 1909. Shore Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants' Industry Board for the South-Eastern Division, dated November 10th, 1911, cancelling that of May 12th, 1911. Brisbane Orchestral Musicians' Board, dated November 14th, 1911, cancelling that of September 29th, 1911.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

International. — Journal of the International Labour Office, No. 3, 1911. (French Edition.) [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie.] No. 1, 1911, and Index to Vol. V., 1910 (English Edition.) [London: Pioneer Press.] Supplement; Bibliography. (German Edition. [Jena: Gustav Fischer.] Labour Legislation.

Bulletin of the Bureau of Economic and Social Intelligence, October 31st, 1911. Co-operation, insurance, &c. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome: pp. xiv. + 223: price 1s. 7d.]

Journal of the International Association for Combating Unemployment, No. 2, 1911. [Paris: 34, Rue de Babylone.]

— List of Industrial Poisons and other Materials injurious to Health employed in Industry. Based on the findings of the Committee of the International Union for Legal Protection of Workmen. Compiled by Professor Dr. Th. Sommerfeld and Gewerberat Dr. R. Fischer. International Labour Office. [Jena: Gustav Fischer: pp. 30.]

— International Co-operative Bulletin, January, 1912. Co-operative Societies for Production and Distribution in France. [Zürich: Hadlaubstrasse 86.]

United States. — Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1910. Industrial Education in the United States. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 822.]

— Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour, No. 95, July, 1911. industrial lead poisoning in Europe; white lead industry in the United States; deaths from industrial lead poisoning in New York. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. vi. + 346.]

— Wool and Manufactures of Wool. Report of the Tariff Board on Schedule K. of the Tariff Law. Vol. I.: Summary of Findings and Glossary. Vol. II.: Raw Wool: Production and Shrinkage. Vol. III.: Manufacturing Costs, Tops, Yarn and Cloth, Ready-made Clothing. Vol. IV.: Wages and Efficiency of Labour and Machinery in the United States. [Washington: pp. 1,222.]

— Massachusetts. Labour Bulletin, No. 86, December, 1911. Fourth Annual Report on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour, 1910, with comparative statistics for 1907-1909. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 112.]

— Pennsylvania. Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal

Affairs. Part III. Thirty-eighth Report of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics, 1910. Industrial accidents, mediation and arbitration, wages, &c. [Harrisburg: C. E. Aughinbaugh: pp. 477.]

— Crop Statistics of Nebraska, 1911. Bulletin 25A, November, 1911. Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics. [Nebraska: Clafin Printing Co.: pp. 55.]

France. — Statistics of Poor Relief Institutions for 1909. French Ministry of Labour and Social Thrift, 1911. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. ix. + 177.]

— Journal of the French Labour Department, December, 1911. Employment and labour disputes in November; trade unions, employers' associations and trades councils on January 1st, 1911; co-operative societies for distribution (stores) on January 1st, 1911; law of December 22nd, 1911, on night work of women. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: price 2d.]

— Journal of the French Ministry of Agriculture, November, 1911. Inquiry relating to wages in agriculture (first instalment of report); prices in October. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: price 6d.]

— Statistical Year Book of Paris, 1909. Prices. Municipal Statistical Office, 1911. [Paris: Masson et Cie: pp. xxxi. + 720: price 5s.]

Germany. — Sickness Insurance in 1910. Imperial Statistical Office, 1911. [Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht: pp. xix. + 81: price 1s. 2½d.]

— Journal of the German Labour Department, January, 1912. Employment in 1911 and December, 1911; unemployment in German trade unions in the fourth quarter of 1911; workpeople's insurance in 1910; "Sweat Shop" law of December 20th, 1911; law of December 27th, 1911, amending Industrial Code. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

— Journal of the Imperial Insurance Office, No. 1, 1912. Statistics of accident and infirmity and old-age insurance in 1910. [Berlin: Behrend & Co.: price 1s.]

— Report of the Württemberg Department of Railways, Shipping, Posts and Telegraphs, for the year ending March 31st, 1911. Württemberg Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Traffic Department. [Stuttgart: J. B. Metzler: pp. vii. + 318.]

— Journal of the Statistical Office of Württemberg, No. 1, 1912. Labour exchanges in Württemberg in December, 1911; prices. [Stuttgart.]

— Wages and Conditions of Labour in the Upholstering and Allied Trades. Enquiry carried out in September, 1910, by the Federation of Upholsterers, etc., in Germany. [Berlin, 1911: Selbstverlag des Verbandes der Tapezirer und verwandter Berufsgenossen Deutschlands: pp. 75.]

— Wages, etc. Tariff of German Printers in force from January 1st, 1912. [Berlin: W. Buxenstein.]

— Hours of Labour in the Iron and Metal Industry of Germany. [Stuttgart, 1911: Alexander Schlicke & Cie: pp. vii. + 176.]

— Regulations for carrying out the Insurance Code, with special reference to Infirmity Insurance and Insurance of Widows, Orphans, etc. [Dresden, 1911: Wilhelm und Bertha von Baensch Stiftung: pp. 12.]

Austria-Hungary. — Statistical Year-book of Austria, 1910. Population at December 31st, 1910; prices of food; wages and hours of labour of miners; industrial accidents; sickness and accident insurance; co-operation; strikes and lock-outs, &c. Austrian Statistical Central Commission, 1911. [Vienna: pp. iv. + 484: price 5s.]

— Strikes and Lock-Outs in 1910. Austrian Labour Department. Supplement to the Journal of the Statistical Central Commission. [Vienna: Gottlieb Gistel & Cie: pp. 169.]

— Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, December, 1911. Law of December 26th, 1911, on employment of women and children in mines; wages increases for State workers. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d.]

— Collective Labour Agreements made and renewed in 1909. Austrian Labour Department, 1911. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. v. + 228.]

— Overtime Permits in Factories in 1910. Austrian Labour Department, 1911. [Vienna: k. k. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 29.]

— Statistics of Mining in Austria for 1909; Sickness, Mortality and Infirmity Statistics of the Miners' Insurance Funds in 1908. Austrian Ministry of Public Works, 1911. [Vienna: k. k. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 125.]

— Journal of the Austrian Statistical Central Commission, November-December, 1911. [Brünn: F. Irrgang.]

— Journal of Trade and Industrial Regulations, No. 10, 1911. Austrian Ministry of Commerce. [Vienna: Verlag der Manzchen K. K. Hof-Verlags- und Universitäts-Buchhandlung: price 10d.]

— Journal of Workpeople's Accident and Sickness Insurance. Austrian Ministry of the Interior, January, 1912. [Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei.]

— Statistical Journal of Hungary, November, 1911. Co-operative Societies for distribution (stores); labour exchanges. Hungarian Ministry of Commerce. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

Italy. — Journal of the Italian Labour Department, December, 1911. Strikes and retail prices in November. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 4d.]

— Journal of the Department of Credit and Thrift, (1) June, (2) July and August, 1911. (1) Contains Luxembourg Law of May 6th, 1911, on insurance against old age and illness; statistics of Servian co-operative societies, 1911; Württemberg savings banks in 1909. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price (1) 1s. 4d. and (2) 1s. 8d.]

Belgium. — Factory Inspection: Reports for 1910. Belgian Labour Department, 1911. [Brussels: J. Lebegue and Co.: pp. 417: price 2s. 5d.]

— Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, December 15th, 1911. Employment in November. December 31st, 1911. Strikes in November; trade unions recognised between 1905 and 1907; law of October 7th, 1911, amending Dutch Labour Law; law of June 5th, 1911, on inspection of mines; employment of women, young persons, and children in chocolate and confectionery works; regulation of night work by women employed in the manufacture of artificial silk and in fish preserving. January 15th, 1912. Employment in December. [Brussels: E. Daem: price 1d. each.]

Holland. — Dutch Statistical Year Book, 1910. Wages and hours of labour; strikes and lock-outs; factory inspection; labour exchanges; prices of articles of food; accident insurance; savings banks; co-operative credit societies (Raiffeisen). [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. xxxii. + 315.]

— Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, December 30th, 1911. Employment and labour disputes in November; factory inspection in 1910; industrial accidents in 1905 and 1906; wages of railway servants; wages and hours of coopers in 1910 at Vlaerdingue. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

— Movement of Population, 1910. Dutch Central Statistical Office, 1911. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. xl. + 168: price 8d.]

— Housing Statistics (Census of December 31st, 1909). Dutch Central Statistical Office, 1911. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. 281: price 1s. 8d.]

— Enquiry Relating to Conditions in the Dutch Home Industries. Part I. Food Preparation Trades. [The Hague, 1911: Ter Algemeene Landsdrukkerij: pp. v. + 310: price 1s. 3d.]

Norway. — Statistical Year Book of Christiania, 1910. Occupations in 1900; prices; labour registries; savings banks. Municipal Statistical Office, 1911. [Christiania: J. Chr. Gundersens Boktrykkeri: pp. x. + 184.]

Sweden. — Statistical Year Book of Sweden, 1912. Wages of agricultural labourers, 1866-1910; savings banks, 1907-1910; post office savings banks, 1906-1910; friendly societies, 1906-1910; industrial accidents, 1908; strikes and lock-outs, 1905-1910; labour exchanges, 1907-1910. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. xi. + 175: price 2s. 3d.]

— Labour Disputes in Sweden in 1910. Swedish Labour Department. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. 67: price 1s. 1d.]

— Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 11, 1911. Proposed Government Department for Social Affairs; Danish sick funds amending Bill; wages in the tobacco trades in 1908; labour registries in October; prices. No. 12, 1911. Wages in agriculture; labour disputes in third quarter of 1911; labour registries in November; prices; the great labour dispute in Norway in the summer of 1911; wages in Russian factories. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

— Agricultural Wages and Working Conditions in 1910. Swedish Labour Department, 1911. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. 138: price 1s. 1d.]

Denmark. — Report of Unemployment Inspector for Financial Year 1910-1911 to Danish Minister of Interior. [Copenhagen: Harald Jenens Bogtrykkeri: pp. 24.]

— Causes of Death in Towns of Denmark in 1910, by J. Carlsen. Higher Council of Health for Denmark, 1911. [Copenhagen: Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri: pp. 29.]

Spain. — Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, December, 1911. Bill to amend the law of May 19th, 1908, on industrial tribunals; factory inspection in 1909; labour disputes. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez: price 2½d.]

Portugal. — Journal of the Portuguese Labour Department, Nos. 54, 56, 57, 61, 69, 1911. No. 54 contains labour legislation; No. 57, factory inspection in first district in 1910; No. 61, hat industry in first factory inspection district; No. 69, inquiry relating to conditions in the textile trades: schedule of questions. [Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional.]

Russia (Finland). — Journal of the Finnish Industrial Department, No. 5, 1911. Labour disputes reported up to December 1st, 1911; labour exchanges in third quarter of 1911; prices in third quarter of 1911. [Helsingfors: Kejserliga Senatens Tryckeri: price 2½d.]

— Report on Friendly Societies Amending Bill. Committee for Revision of Labour Legislation, 1911. [Helsingfors: Frenckell-ska Tryckeri-Aktiebolaget: pp. 153 + 160.]

Bulgaria. — Journal of the Bulgarian Labour Department, October, 1911. Prices of food, &c.; wages of bricklayers and masons and labourers in September in principal towns. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat: price 2½d.]

— Statistical Year Book of Bulgaria, 1910. Average prices; co-operative societies; trade unions; strikes; wages of bricklayers and masons, agricultural labourers and day workers. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat: pp. xxvii. + 587.]

— Foreign Trade and Navigation of Bulgaria. Contains prices of food; wages of bricklayers and masons, agricultural labourers and day labourers. Bulgarian Statistical Department, 1911. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat: pp. lviii. + 530 + charts: price 7s. 6d.]

Roumania. — Movement of Population of Roumania in 1901-1903. Final figures. [Bucharest, 1911: George Ionescu: pp. 8 + lxxvi. + 193.]

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES.

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING JANUARY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

Trade Unions (1). — England and Wales.—1, viz.: British Seafarers' Union, 8, Terminus Terrace, Southampton. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—Nil.

Industrial & Provident Societies (22). — England and Wales.—16, viz.: — Working Men's Clubs (5): Camberwell Conservative Club, Ltd., 1, Brunswick Square, Camberwell, S.E.; United Service Club (Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Dist.), Ltd., 3, Market Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Milton Unionist Club, Ltd., Station Road, New Milton, Hants; West Boldon Bank House Club and Institute, Ltd., Bank House, West Boldon, East Boldon, co. Durham; Easington Colliery Club and Institute, Ltd., 22, Seventh Street, Easington Colliery, Castle Eden, co. Durham. Co-operative Distributive (1): Manchester Jewish Society, Ltd., 220, Bury New Road, Salford, Manchester. Co-operative Productive (1): Manchester and Dist. Co-op. Laundries Assoc., Ltd., Lytham Street, Church Street, Newton Heath, Manchester. Agricultural Distributive (2): Gloucester Farmers, Ltd., Albion House, King Street, Gloucester; Newchurch and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., "Beaulieu," Borthwood, Sandown, Isle of Wight. Tenants' Societies (2): Cardiff Workers' Co-op. Garden Village Soc., Ltd., 4, Park Place, Cardiff; Street Tenants, Ltd., 39, High Street, Street, Somerset. Small Holdings (2): Burnley Smallholders' Assoc., Ltd., 3, Standish Street, Burnley; Keyworth Smallholders, Ltd., House of Mr. Wm. Doleman, Keyworth, Nottingham. Miscellaneous (3). — Scotland (1): Benderloch Agric. Soc., Ltd., Ledaig, Argyllshire. Ireland (5), viz.: — Agricultural Distributive (5): Louth and Meath Farmers' Dead Meat Soc., Ltd., The Abattoir, Drogheda co. Louth; Templetown Co-op. Pig and Cattle Suppliers' Soc., Ltd., Templetown, co. Wexford; Poulfer Co-op. Pig and Cattle Suppliers' Soc., Ltd., Poulfer, co. Wexford; Banow Co-op. Pig and Cattle Suppliers' Soc., Ltd., Carrig-on-Banow, co. Wexford; Mulrankin Co-op. Pig and Cattle Suppliers' Soc., Ltd., Mulrankin, co. Wexford.

Friendly Societies (24). — England and Wales (21): — Hendon Social and W.M. Club, Sunderland; Phoenix Bowling W.M. Club and Inst., Oldham; Wood End Liberal W.M. Club and Inst., Wood End, nr. Atherstone; Blenheim W.M. Club and Inst., Barnsley; Blaenclydach Labour and Progressive W.M. Club and Inst., Blaenclydach, Rhondda, Glam.; Blaengarw W.M. Club and Inst., Blaengarw, Bridgend; Ystrad-Rhondda W.M. Club and Inst., Ystrad-Rhondda, Centre, Rhondda, Glam.; Bristol and Dist. Boot and Shoe Trade Manager's and Foreman's Assoc., Bristol; Glossop Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Ashton-under-Lyne; Pendlebury Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester; Bradford (Manchester) Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Ashton-under-Lyne; L.C.C. Bow Tram Workers' Mutual Loan and Investment Soc., Bow, E.; Horbury Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Horbury, Wakefield; Highams Park Sick Benefit Soc., Highams Park; Lord Palmerston Benefit Soc., Highgate, N.W.; Poplar Borough Council Superannuation and Pensions Funds, Poplar, E.; Stanley Sick and Benefit Soc., Fulham, S.W.; Acton Adult School Sick Benefit Soc., Acton, W.; Redcliffe Dist. Adult School Sick and Benefit Friendly Soc., Redcliffe, Bristol; Cutwood Church Friendly Soc., Cutwood, Wakefield; Bentley Colliery Sick and Accident Soc., Bentley, Doncaster. Scotland (2): Partick Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Glasgow; Partick and Dist. Friendly Societies' Medical Assoc., Partick. Ireland (1): Moate Trade and Labour Friendly Soc., Moate, co. Westmeath.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Class of Society.	Notices received in Jan. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	2	2	1
Industrial and Provident Societies	2	12	6
Friendly Societies	2	16	6
Building "	2	14	1
		1	

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, JANUARY, 1912.

ADMIRALTY, WORKS DEPARTMENT.

BRICK RUBBISH for H.M. Dockyard, Chatham.—Smeed, Dean & Co., Ltd., Sittingbourne.

EXPANDED METAL for H.M. Dockyard, Chatham.—Expanded Metal Co., Ltd., York Mansions, York St., Westminster, S.W.

PAVING SLABS for H.M. Dockyard, Chatham.—Patent Victoria Stone Co., Hamilton House, Bishopsgate St., E.C.

PIPES, CAST IRON, for H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.—Cochrane & Co., Woodside Ironworks, near Dudley.

RAILS for H.M. Dockyard, Chatham.—R. White & Sons, Widnes, Lancs.

RAILWAY MATERIALS FOR H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.—*T. Summerson & Sons, Darlington.*
TANKS, STEEL, OIL.—*Newton Chambers & Co., Ltd., Thorncliffe Ironworks, Sheffield.*
THAMES BALLAST FOR H.M. Dockyard, Chatham.—*S. J. Brice & Sons, 6, High St., Rochester; W. B. Little, Upnor, near Rochester.*
WORKS SERVICES:—
Reconstruction of Slipway, Portland.—*Playfair & Toole, Southampton.*
Steelwork for Electrical Fitters' Workshop, H.M. Dockyard, Haulbowline.—*J. Lysaght, Ltd., St. Vincent's Ironworks, Bristol.*

ADMIRALTY: CONTRACT DEPARTMENT.

ANCHORS.—*W. L. Byers & Co., Ltd., York Chambers, Sunderland; Wasteneys Smith, 60, Sandhill, Newcastle-on-Tyne.*
BARRELS, ELM.—*W. Ryan & Co., Imperial St., Bromley-by-Bow, E.*
BRACKETS, PENDANTS, &C.—*A. Gabriel & Co., 4 and 5, A.B. Row, Birmingham.*
BOOTS, HALF.—*Adams Bros., Raunds.*
BLUETT COMBINATION SUITS.—*J. Hunter & Son, Ltd., 137-143, Brownlow Hill, Birmingham; E. Milns & Co., 69-72, Hatfield St., Blackfriars, S.E.*
CAPS, BLUE CLOTH.—*J. Compton & Sons, 421, Old Kent Rd., S.E.*
CANVAS, BROWN.—*Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.*
COMFORTERS, JERSEYS, SOCKS AND STOCKINGS, &C.—*H. Bates & Co., Ltd., Station St., South Wigston, Leicester; A. E. Hill, Frederick St., South Wigston, Leicester; W. & H. Howe, Curzon St., Leicester; A. Kemp, Dover St., Leicester; I. & R. Morley, 18, Wood St., E.C.; D. Payne & Son, Ltd., Hinckley, Leicester; Pool, Lorrimer & Taberner, 35, King St., Leicester; Salmon & Welch, Great Central St., Leicester; Star Knitting Co., Ltd., Thorne, Wakefield; W. P. Stevington, Knitonia Works, Sanvey Gate, Leicester; S. D. Stretton & Sons, Southgate St., Leicester; Toller & Lankester, Jarrom St., Leicester; H. Waddington & Co., 123, Highgate, Kendal; A. Yates & Co., Millstone Lane, Leicester.*
CORDAGE.—*J. T. Davis, Ltd., Coborn Rd., Bow, E.; Dixon & Corbett & R. S. Newall & Co., Ltd., Teams Ropeworks, Gateshead-on-Tyne; Frost Bros., Ltd., 342, Commercial Rd. East, E.; Wm. Terrell & Sons, Ltd., Arnos Vale, Bristol; J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Universe Works, Garrison St., Birmingham.*
COUNTERPANES, COVERLETS AND TOILET CLOTHS.—*Barlow & Jones, Ltd., 2, Portland St., Manchester; H. Bond & Co., 12, Tariff St., Dale St., Manchester.*
DECK FITTINGS.—*J. Roby, Rainhill, nr. Liverpool.*
DRILL, WHITE COTTON.—*The Greenmount Spinning Co., Ltd., 47, Franklin St., Belfast; J. Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., 50, Piccadilly, Manchester.*
DUCK, COTTON.—*L. Behrens & Sons, 131, Portland St., Manchester.*
DRUMS, CYLINDRICAL.—*Guelph Patent Cask Co., Ltd., Deptford Ferry Rd., Millwall, E.*
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