

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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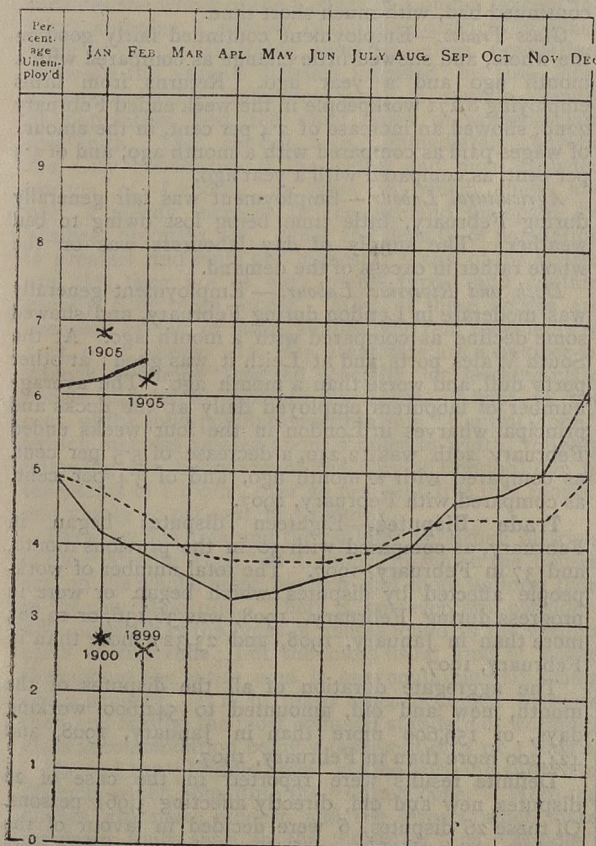
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF  
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve—1908.      ——— Thin Curve—1907.  
----- Dotted Curve—Mean of 1898-1907.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For February, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 639,073 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 60,854	Printing & Bookbinding 56,371
Coal Mining ... .. 127,725	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering ... .. 154,017	nishing ... .. 35,278
Shipbuilding ... .. 55,197	Miscellaneous ... .. 21,756
Other Metal Trades ... 32,092	
Textiles ... .. 95,783	
	Total ... .. 639,073

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[In addition to the 2,682 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,898 were received from employers relating to 1,072,963 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,580 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in February showed, on the whole, a slight decline as compared with the previous month. In the woollen and worsted, boot and shoe, jute, and tinplate trades it remained fairly good, and in coal-mining very good. Employment was adversely affected by the strikes of engineers and shipwrights on the North-East Coast, which rendered idle a large number of other workpeople not directly concerned in the disputes.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in most of the principal industries.

In the 268 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 639,073, making Returns, 40,900 (or 6.4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, 1908, as compared with 6.2 at the end of January, 1908, and 3.9 per cent. at the end of February, 1907.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continued very good during February. There was a slight decline as compared with a year ago. The number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended February 22nd was 5.56 as compared with 5.69 a year ago. Comparison with a month ago is affected by the New Year holidays.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment was fairly good, and about the same as a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines and openworks was 5.78, as compared with 5.88 in February, 1907.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry during February was fair on the whole. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing nearly 23,000 workpeople showed 299 furnaces in blast at the end of February, as compared with 305 in January, 1908, and 343 in February, 1907.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works remained about the same as a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended February 22nd, 1908, at the 200 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.6 per cent. less than in the week ended January 25th, 1908, and 8.3 per cent. less than a year ago.

**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment during February continued fairly good. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 436 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of February, 1908, as compared with 430 a month ago and 449 a year ago.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment was moderate on



the whole. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, but a general decline compared with a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 5.9, as compared with 5.8 a month ago and 2.8 a year ago.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment remained slack, and was greatly affected by the dispute on the North East Coast. It was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 20.0, as compared with 15.1 per cent. at the end of January, and 7.5 per cent. a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment in the *Spinning* branch was good, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago: it was about the same as a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 126,374 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was slightly worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,646 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,318 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax (Linen) Trade.**—Employment continued quiet, and was much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,006 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment on the whole continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,654 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment was fair generally, but showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,477 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd, 1908, showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Firms employing 8,978 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 15.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment on the whole continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a year ago. Firms employing 15,983 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed the usual seasonal slackness, and was about the same as a year ago. In the *Provinces* it was bad. In the *ready-made* branch it was fairly good, and, on the whole, showed little change compared with a year ago.

**Hat Trade.**—Employment in the *Silk Hat* branch was bad, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* branch it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 63,579 workpeople

in the week ended February 22nd showed an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment was quiet generally. It showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and a slight decline as compared with a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,637 had 6.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.9 per cent. in January, and 6.2 per cent. a year ago.

**Paper Making Trades.**—Employment in these trades continued good.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment continued dull on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 4.8 as compared with 5.0 at the end of January, and 3.6 in February, 1907. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 5.8, 4.3, and 4.1 respectively.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in February continued slack. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in February continued bad. It was better on the whole than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.3 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 9.8 per cent. a month ago, and 5.3 per cent. a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment in the *Pottery* trade was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it continued bad, with much short time.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment continued fairly good on the whole, and showed little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,271 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd, showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Agricultural Labour.**—Employment was fair generally during February, little time being lost owing to bad weather. The supply of day labourers was on the whole rather in excess of the demand.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment generally was moderate in London during February, and showed some decline as compared with a month ago. At the South Wales ports and at Leith it was good; at other ports dull, and worse than a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London in the four weeks ended February 29th was 12,240, a decrease of 5.5 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. as compared with February, 1907.

**Trade Disputes.**—Eighteen disputes began in February, as compared with 30 in the previous month, and 37 in February, 1907. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during February, 1908, was 36,136, or 12,885 more than in January, 1908, and 23,327 more than in February, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 541,600 working days, or 159,600 more than in January, 1908, and 424,200 more than in February, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 26 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 3,961 persons. Of these 26 disputes, 6 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 10 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes taking effect in February affected 146,700 workpeople, of whom 127,400 received advances and 19,300 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 120,000 coal miners in Durham. Amongst those whose wages were reduced were about 10,000 workpeople engaged in certain branches of the engineering trade on the North-East Coast. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net increase of about £940 per week.

## COST OF LIVING OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN LONDON.

THE Report\* on the Cost of Living of the Working Classes recently issued by the Board of Trade (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February) relates to a number of the principal industrial towns in the United Kingdom, these towns being compared as regards rents of working class dwellings, retail prices of food, and rates of wages with London. The comparison shows by how much the rents paid in London exceed those most usually paid in the provincial towns, as a whole, where the general level of rent is from 50 to 60 per cent. of that in the metropolis. As regards the prices usually paid by working class people for the chief articles of food (including groceries, provisions, bread and meat) and for coal, there is less divergence; and the statistics show that in only 9 of the 72 towns investigated in England and Wales is the aggregate of prices most usually paid for these groups of commodities greater than in London. When rents and prices are considered together, in the ratio of their relative importance, the combined expenditure upon rent, the chief articles of food, and coal in the provincial towns varies from 78 to 99 per cent. of the expenditure in London. In 52 of the 72 towns the combined expenditure upon rent, food, and coal ranges from 84 to 92 per cent. of the expenditure in London. The rates of wages in the trades taken into consideration in the comparison (the building, engineering, printing, and furnishing trades) are considerably higher in London than in the towns in the provinces.

### Rents of Working-Class Dwellings.

The section of the report which relates to London includes the whole of the County of London (except the City), and also a number of outlying districts in which there is a considerable working-class population. Between the various districts included in this large area considerable differences exist in rentals, density of population and the chief types of working-class dwellings. The central area, immediately beyond the City boundaries, is the oldest and most crowded portion of London, an area in which there has been a steady increase in the demand for space for business premises, &c. Here the density of population is greatest and rents are highest. Many of the houses are old; they are of very many types, and contain usually 6 or more rooms. Most of these houses are occupied by two or more families who rent tenements of 1, 2, or 3 rooms. In this area there are a number of "block dwellings" erected specially for working-class people and let in separate tenements. About 10 per cent. of the total population within this "Central Zone," (which includes an area about 2 miles in width, roughly following the boundary of the City of London) live in tenements of 1 room; over 20 per cent. live in 2 rooms; and nearly 20 per cent. in 3 rooms.

Beyond this area and the outlying suburban districts is the "Middle Zone" of London, in which the houses are, on the whole, more modern and more uniform than in the central portion. There is, however, still considerable diversity in the types of houses found in the various parts of this zone; but the most usual kind of house throughout the entire area is one containing six rooms and a scullery. It is in many cases occupied by more than one family, the most common standard of working-class accommodation being a tenement of 2 or 3 rooms.

Beyond the "Middle Zone" are the outlying suburban districts which constitute the "Outer Zone." Here the houses are more modern and the streets much more regularly built than in the "Central" or "Middle" zones. The working-class standard of accommodation here consists of a self-contained house of 4, 5, or 6 rooms or a flat of 3 or 4 rooms. This last form of dwelling is in some cases one floor of a 6 or 7 roomed house which has been specially converted for the use of two families; in other cases it is a self-contained flat possessing a separate entrance and separate domestic conveniences.

\* Cost of Living of the Working Classes: Cd. 386; Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 6s.

Rents are highest in the "Central Zone," lower in the "Middle Zone," and lower still in the "Outer Zone." The mean rents for various numbers of rooms in each zone considered as a whole are as follows:—

Number of Rooms (exclusive of Scullery).	Mean Weekly Rent, including all Rates, at October, 1905.		
	Central Zone.	Middle Zone.	Outer Zone.
1	s. d. 4 6	s. d. 3 9	s. d. —
2	7 0	6 0	—
3	8 9	7 6	6 6
4	—	9 0	7 9
5	—	11 0	9 6
6	—	13 0	11 0

If the rents in the "Middle Zone" are taken as a standard of comparison and represented by 100, and the rents in the two other areas expressed as percentages of those in the "Middle Zone," the relative level of the three zones may be shown thus:—

Zone.	Relative level of Rents.
Central ... ..	118
Middle... ..	100
Outer ... ..	86

Within each zone there is considerable variation in rents, and the whole area may be divided into 13 sections. The various levels of rents obtaining in these districts, expressed as percentages of the rents for the same number of rooms in the "Middle Zone" as a whole, are as follows:—

District.	Relative level of Rents.
<b>Central Zone—</b>	
West ... ..	125
East ... ..	107
South ... ..	101
<b>Middle Zone—</b>	
North ... ..	104
West ... ..	102
East ... ..	95
South-West ... ..	96
South-East ... ..	88
<b>Outer Zone—</b>	
West ... ..	95
South ... ..	88
East ... ..	80
North ... ..	80
North-East ... ..	79

The relative differences in rent shown by these figures are illustrated in graphic form in the map which accompanies the Report.

In so far as workpeople living in the districts included in the "Outer Zone" travel to the central parts of London for their work, the low level of rents in such districts is to some extent counterbalanced by the expenditure incurred in travelling. Such expenditure, when the workmen's trains or trams are utilised, amounts usually to 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s. per week, varying according to the distance travelled and the time at which the journey has to be commenced.

### Retail Prices.

The returns relating to the prices of commodities show that there is considerable uniformity throughout the different districts of London in the prices usually paid for the principal articles of food. The prices at which many of the articles can be purchased are to a considerable extent governed by the "multiple" firms which have branches in most of the districts.

In the different parts of London there are certain important main shopping thoroughfares in which a great proportion of the purchases of the residents in the districts are made. These main roads serve generally as the shopping centres for large areas, and the prices ruling in these roads are the determining factor in settling the prices level of the districts.

For these reasons there is little variation in the predominant prices in the different districts, as will be seen from the figures given in the following table, in which is shown the general level of predominant prices in each of the thirteen separate divisions of London set out in the rent table above. The basis of these figures was obtained for each district by giving to the price



most commonly paid for each article a value proportionate to its relative importance in the expenditure of an average working-class household, as ascertained by the Board of Trade in an inquiry in 1904 into working-class budgets.\* The amount of expenditure thus obtained in each district has been compared with the mean expenditure in the five divisions of the "Middle Zone." As in the case of rents, the "Middle Zone" has been represented by 100 and the prices in each division are expressed in the table as percentages of those obtaining in that zone as a whole.

District.	Relative level of Predominant Prices.	Mean for each Zone.
<b>Central Zone—</b>		
West ... ..	101	99
South ... ..	99	
East ... ..	97	
<b>Middle Zone—</b>		
North ... ..	101	100
West ... ..	101	
South-West ... ..	100	
South-East ... ..	99	101
East ... ..	98	
<b>Outer Zone—</b>		
South ... ..	103	101
West ... ..	102	
North ... ..	101	
North-East ... ..	101	100
East ... ..	100	

#### Rents and Prices Combined.

In considering rents and prices together it must be remembered that expenditure on food, etc., is considerably greater than that on rent. Accordingly the figures given in the following Table, which shows the relative level of rents and prices combined in each of the three zones, have been obtained by assuming that a typical working class family spends four times as much on food, etc., as on rent. The separate figures for rents and for prices are reproduced in the Table for reference:—

Zone.	Relative level of		
	Rents.	Prices.	Rents and Prices combined.
Central ... ..	118	99	103
Middle ... ..	100	100	100
Outer ... ..	86	101	98

The effect of the comparative uniformity in prices is seen in the resulting figures for rents and prices combined. The high rents in the "Central Zone" are to some extent counter-balanced by the lower prices, though this zone remains the highest as regards rents and prices combined, which are 3 per cent. higher than in the "Middle Zone," and 5 per cent. higher than in the "Outer Zone." Rents are much lower in the "Outer Zone" than in the "Middle Zone," but prices are slightly higher, the combined level of rents and prices being 2 per cent. lower in the former zone.

The following Table shows in similar manner the figures for each of the 13 divisions for which rents and prices figures separately have already been given:—

District.	Relative level of		
	Rents.	Prices.	Rents and Prices Combined.
<b>Central Zone—</b>			
West ... ..	125	101	106
East ... ..	107	97	99
South ... ..	101	99	99
<b>Middle Zone—</b>			
North ... ..	104	102	102
West ... ..	102	101	101
South-West ... ..	96	100	99
East ... ..	96	98	98
South-East ... ..	88	99	97
<b>Outer Zone—</b>			
West ... ..	95	102	101
South ... ..	88	103	100
North ... ..	80	101	97
North-East ... ..	79	101	97
East ... ..	80	100	96

\*British and Foreign Trade and Industry: Series II. Cd. 2337 of 1904.

## RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

DETAILS are appended of some further schemes that have been arranged, in accordance with the agreement of November 6th, 1907, relating to the following railways:—

### GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

The staff affected consists of those engaged in the manipulation of traffic. The grades are to be grouped in six sections, each having its own Board as follows:—

**Sectional Board "A"** to include Locomotive engine drivers, locomotive firemen, engine cleaners, examiners, greasers, coalmen and crane-men (hydraulic).

**Sectional Board "B"** to include signalmen and signal porters.

**Sectional Board "C"** to include:—Goods guards, ballast guards, bank guards, branch guards (other than passenger), pilot guards, brakemen and goods train shunters (foremen, head and under), shunt horse drivers and capstanmen, whether under the control of the goods or passenger department.

**Sectional Board "D"** to include:—Passenger guards, ticket collectors, ticket examiners, passenger train shunters, passenger department foremen and porters (other than those who, although employed under divisional superintendents, are engaged exclusively with goods work, for whom see Sectional Board "F," where they are embraced as "goods porters") and passenger lampmen.

**Sectional Board "E"** to include:—Gangers and packers, including relaying men, bridgemen, slip and drainage gangers and men, signal and telegraph linemen and wiremen.

**Sectional Board "F"** to include:—Goods foremen (engaged on manual labour and not merely supervising), checkers, warehousemen, stowers, loaders, callers-off, goods porters, weighbridgemen, goods carmen, chain or trace horse drivers, goods lampmen, sweepers, parcel carmen, horsekeepers, foragemen and harness cleaners.

NOTE.—It is to be understood that boys engaged in the manipulation of traffic (although not qualified to nominate or vote) are to be included for representation purposes with the adult staff with whom they are associated in their work, e.g., lad porters will be embraced with porters, van boys with carmen, slipper boys with shunt horse drivers, capstan boys with capstanmen, &c.

### ELECTORAL AREAS.

For electoral purposes the line is divided into six areas. From each area will be elected six staff representatives, being one from each group of grades for each of the Sectional Boards. Thus there will be 36 staff representatives, 6 of whom will sit on Board A, 6 on Board B, and so on, in like proportion.

The areas referred to are as follows:—

**District No. 1.**—To comprise the stations within the Division of the London Passenger Divisional Superintendent. To embrace also the Great Western and Great Central Joint Line Staff,\* the West London Extension Signal Department and Permanent Way Staff, and the Great Western Signal Department and Permanent Way Staff on the Hammersmith and City Line.

**District No. 2.**—To comprise the stations within the Divisions of the Birmingham and Chester Passenger Divisional Superintendents. To embrace also the following joint lines and stations:—Shrewsbury to Hereford, Tenbury, Wellington, Buttington, and Minsterley, inclusive.

**District No. 3.**—To comprise the stations within the Divisions of the Gloucester and Worcester Passenger Divisional Superintendents. To embrace also the Joint Staff at Worcester and Churchdown Stations, and the Maintenance Staff at Stoke Works Passenger Station; also the Great Western Drivers, Firemen, Signal Department and Permanent Way Staff working on the Severn and Wye Joint Line.

**District No. 4.**—To comprise the stations within the Division of the Bristol Passenger Divisional Superintendent. To embrace also the Joint Staff at Bristol Station; the Joint Staff on the Weymouth-Portland and Easton-Church Hope Lines; also Staff in the grades affected in the Channel Islands.

**District No. 5.**—To comprise the stations within the Divisions of the Exeter and Plymouth Passenger Divisional Superintendents.

**District No. 6.**—To comprise the stations within the Divisions of the Pontypool Road, Cardiff, and Swansea Passenger Divisional Superintendents, and staff in the grades affected stationed in Ireland. To embrace also the following Joint Lines and Stations:—Vale of Towy (except Maintenance Staff on the

(\*Aylesbury Station will be dealt with in the Metropolitan Railway Company's scheme.)

Northern portion), Pontardulais Station, Great Western Staff at Six Pit Exchange Sidings.

### SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY.

The South Eastern and Chatham Railway is divided for electoral purposes into three districts, being the areas controlled by the District Superintendents, viz:—

1. **London District**, including all stations and places as follows:—Charing Cross to Orpington, including Bromley North; Lee to Strood, including Port Victoria Branch and Chatham Central; Deptford to Slades Green; Blackheath to Barnehurst; Lewisham Junction to Addiscombe Road, including Hayes Branch; Victoria and Holborn to New Brompton, including Gravesend West Street Branch; Denmark Hill to Crystal Palace; Catford Loop and Greenwich Park Branches; Snow Hill, Moorgate Street, Stewart's Lane and Rotherhithe Road.

2. **Eastern District**, including all stations and places as follows:—Paddock Wood to Dover and Margate, including Hawkhurst, Sandgate, Deal and Whitstable Harbour Branches; Bearsted to Ashford; Ashford to Ore, including Lydd Branch; Elham Valley Line; Rainham to Dover and Ramsgate Harbour, including Sheerness Branch and Sheppey Light Railway.

3. **Western District**, including all stations and places as follows:—East Croydon to Reading; Red Hill to Tonbridge; Caterham and Chipstead Branches; Chelsfield to Tonbridge, including Westerham Branch; Tonbridge to Hastings, including Bexhill; Eynsford to Maidstone East, including Sevenoaks (Bat and Ball); Yalding to Maidstone West; Cuxton to Maidstone West; also Coombe Lane, Selsdon Road, Sanderstead and Upper Warlingham.

### GRADES TO COME UNDER THE OPERATION OF THE SCHEME.

The grades of employees have been grouped in four sections as shown below. There will be two representatives for each district on each Sectional Board, making a total of six members on each Board, exclusive of the Company's representatives. The Central Board to consist on the men's side of eight members, two to be chosen from each of the Sectional Boards.

**Sectional Board No. 1**, representing:—Gangers, signal fitters and linesmen, platelayers and signal fitters' labourers.

**Sectional Board No. 2**, representing:—Signalmen, passenger guards, goods guards, shunters, capstanmen and number-takers.

**Sectional Board No. 3**, representing:—Engine drivers, firemen, engine cleaners, firelighters, coalmen, shed labourers, washers-out, glandpackers, carriage and wagon examiners (vacuum and electrical included), carriage cleaners, greasers, abourers and gasmen.

**Sectional Board No. 4**, representing:—Gatemen, lampmen, porters, loaders, checkers, ticket examiners and collectors, counter-men, callers-off, roadermen, warehousemen and crane-men.

### TAFF VALE RAILWAY.

It is proposed that there shall be formed three Sectional Boards and one Central Board for the staff affected, viz:—

**Board "A."**—Locomotive Department to include drivers, motormen, firemen, assistant motormen, passed firemen, cleaners and steam risers.

The number of members to be elected by the staff to this Board is three.

**Board "B."**—Permanent Way Department to include permanent waymen, re-layers, ballastmen, point oilers, and road and yard cleaners and repairers.

The number of members to be elected by the staff to this Board is two.

**Board "C."**—Traffic Department to include passenger guards, goods and mineral guards, assistant guards and brakemen, shunters, groundmen, motor car conductors, ticket collectors, porters (passengers and goods, all grades), signalmen, relief signalmen, lampmen, police, and gatemen.

The number of members to be elected by the staff to this Board is four.

An equal number of members of each Board will be nominated by the directors.

The Central Conciliation Board will consist of one elected member from each Sectional Board, and an equal number of representatives nominated by the Directors.

### SOUTH WESTERN AND MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANIES' SOMERSET AND DORSET JOINT LINE.

There will be three Sectional Conciliation Boards on the Joint Line as follows:—

**Section 1.**—Locomotive Department to include drivers, firemen, cleaners, and carriage and wagon examiners.

**Section 2.**—Engineers' Department to include permanent waymen, platelayers, and signal and telegraph linemen.

**Section 3.**—Traffic Department to include passenger guards, goods guards and brakemen, signalmen, head or foremen porters, parcel porters, porters, checkers, draymen, horse drivers, shunters, gatemen, ticket collectors, horse keepers, and warehousemen.

The wages staff of 20 years of age or upwards comprised in each of the three sections will be entitled to elect from among their numbers four representatives to act on their Sectional Conciliation Board.

A Central Conciliation Board will be formed after the Sectional Boards have been elected, and will consist on the men's side of six members, two being chosen from each of the Sectional Boards.

## OUTPUT OF COAL AND EMPLOYMENT AT COAL MINES IN 1907.

A PRELIMINARY statement\* has recently been issued by the Home Office relating to the output of coal and other minerals, and the number of persons employed, at mines in the United Kingdom during the year 1907. From this statement it appears that the output of coal in the year 1907 was nearly 268 million tons, being an increase of over 16½ million tons, or 6·7 per cent. as compared with 1906.

The following statement shows the output in the principal districts in each of the years 1906 and 1907:—

District.	Output of Coal in		Increase in 1907 compared with 1906.	
	1906	1907	Quantity.	Per cent.
Northumberland ... ..	1,000 tons. 13,283	1,000 tons. 13,722	439	3·3
Durham ... ..	38,814	40,265	1,451	3·7
Yorkshire ... ..	34,550	35,173	623	1·8
Lancashire and Cheshire ... ..	25,217	26,565	1,348	5·3
Derbyshire ... ..	16,467	16,683	216	1·3
Notts and Leicestershire ... ..	12,731	14,546	1,815	14·3
Staffordshire ... ..	13,433	14,606	1,173	8·7
S. Wales and Monmouth ... ..	47,056	49,978	2,922	6·2
Lanarkshire ... ..	17,215	17,968	753	4·4
Fifeshire ... ..	7,783	8,530	747	9·6
Other Districts ... ..	26,402	28,392	1,990	7·5
	251,051	267,828	16,777	6·7

Every coalfield, without exception, shared in the general increase of output. The three principal coalfields, those of South Wales and Monmouth, Northumberland and Durham, and Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, had outputs of 50, 54, and 78 million tons respectively, the South Wales coalfield having increased its output by nearly three million tons, and the Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire coalfield by six million tons, the increase in each case being over 6 per cent.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel from the United Kingdom in 1907 amounted to 66,063,258 tons, and the quantity of coal shipped as bunker coal to 18,618,828 tons—increases of 8,271,054 tons and 28,615 tons respectively, as compared with 1906.

The total number of persons employed at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act and the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act in 1907 (including a certain number of persons engaged in mining ironstone, fireclay, shale, &c.) was 940,618, an increase of 58,273, or 6·6 per cent. In 1907 there was very little change in the output per person employed as compared with 1906.

It will thus be seen that there were increases in all the coalfields. The largest increase, both in actual numbers and (with the exception of Fifeshire) proportionately, took place in the South Wales and Monmouth district (15,600 or 8·9 per cent.). The largest proportionate increase was in Fifeshire (13·7 per cent.). Large increases also occurred in Yorkshire (8,700 or 7·1 per cent.), and in Notts and Leicestershire (3,000 or 7·3 per cent.).

\* Advance proof of Tables relating to the Output of Coal and other minerals, and the number of persons employed under the Coal and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts.



The total number of persons employed in and about coal mines, and other mines worked under the Coal Mines Regulations Act, in the principal districts in each of the years 1906 and 1907 was as follows:—

District.	No. employed in		Increase in 1907 as compared with 1906.	
	1906.	1907.	No.	Per cent.
Northumberland ... ..	46,721	49,265	2,544	5.4
Durham ... ..	130,279	137,122	6,843	5.3
Yorkshire ... ..	123,507	132,342	8,835	7.1
Lancashire and Cheshire ... ..	91,383	95,523	4,140	4.5
Derbyshire ... ..	51,924	55,999	4,075	7.8
Notts and Leicestershire ... ..	41,645	44,673	3,028	7.3
Staffordshire ... ..	49,708	51,348	1,640	3.3
South Wales and Monmouth ... ..	174,660	190,263	15,603	8.9
Lanarkshire ... ..	50,157	53,498	3,341	6.7
Fife ... ..	20,574	23,399	2,825	13.7
Other Districts ... ..	100,747	107,881	7,134	7.1
Total, United Kingdom ... ..	882,345	940,618	58,273	6.6

### RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

#### Steel Workers.

On February 28th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Steel Ingot Makers' Association and the British Steel Smelters' Association, asking for the appointment of an Arbitrator to interpret a clause in an agreement entered into by the parties in 1905.

On March 11th the Board of Trade appointed His Honour Judge Austin to act in that capacity.

#### Boot and Shoe Operatives, Northampton.

Sir Alfred E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., the Umpire appointed in this dispute (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 35), issued his award on March 11th.

The dispute arose out of a demand by the lasters and finishers for an increase in the minimum wage from 28s. to 30s. per week.

Sir A. E. Bateman decided that the minimum rate should be increased to 29s. per week, such increase to come into operation from the first full week in April, 1908. He further fixed January 1st, 1910, as the date before which the question should not be re-opened.

#### Steel Workers, Workington.

On January 1st about 1,100 steel workers at the Derwent Iron and Steel Works, Workington, struck work against a proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent., thereby throwing another 600 workpeople out of work. On February 8th an agreement was arrived at that the question should be referred to arbitration.

On February 14th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by Messrs. Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., and the British Steel Smelters' Association, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle the matter in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on February 20th, appointed Sir F. Forbes Adam, C.I.E., to act in that capacity.

#### Painters, Tyne and Wear.

A dispute having arisen between employers and operatives in the painting trade of the Tyne and Wear District, with reference to the rate of wages to be paid under the painters' working rules, and the date when alterations in the rules should take place, the employers on February 1st locked out about 1000 operatives. The employers offered to submit all questions in dispute to arbitration. The men accepted the proposed arbitration, and on March 9th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the North of England Federation of Master House Painters and the National Amalgamated Society of House and Ship Painters, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the matters in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on March 13th, appointed Sir Alfred E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act in that capacity.

### FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1907.

THE number of deaths from industrial accidents reported in the year 1907 was 4,460, an increase of 341 on the year 1906 and of 277 on the average for the five years 1903-1907. With the exception of quarrying, each group of occupations shows an increase as compared with 1906. These increases were most marked in the shipping and mining groups.

The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople reported killed by accidents connected with their employment for each of the five years 1903-1907, together with the mean for that period:—

Industry.	Total Number of Deaths from Industrial Accidents in					Mean for the 5 years 1903-7.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	
Shipping ... ..	1,380	1,049	1,525	1,200	1,163	1,303
Mines:—						
Underground ... ..	938	944	1,076	1,036	1,126	1,024
Surface ... ..	139	148	129	142	147	145
Total ... ..	1,077	1,092	1,205	1,178	1,273	1,169
Quarries (over 20 ft. deep) ... ..	95	112	99	97	89	93
Railway Service:—						
Companies' Servants ... ..	470	431	474	470	487	456
Contractors' Servants ... ..	27	17	19	14	12	18
Factories & Workshops:—						
Textile Trades (except Printing, Dyeing and Bleaching) ... ..	65	68	84	68	95	76
Metal Trades ... ..	161	154	175	167	198	171
Engineering, Shipbuilding, Machinery, &c. ... ..	238	231	253	259	244	245
Other Non-Textile Trades ... ..	284	274	263	305	313	288
Total, Factories and Workshops ... ..	748	727	775	799	850	780
Works under Sections 103-5 of Factory Act, 1901 (Laundries, Docks, Warehouses, Buildings, &c.) Under Notice of Accidents Act ... ..	299	291	288	347	329	305
Total ... ..	4,172	3,775	4,389	4,119	4,460	4,183

As compared with 1906 there was an increase of 163 in the shipping industry, the figures under this head as regards deaths from shipwreck fluctuating considerably from year to year, as seen from the following Table:—

Year.	Deaths by wrecks and other casualties to vessels.	Deaths by other accidents.
1903	622	719
1904	361	758
1905	810	715
1906	459	741
1907	633	730

Of the 1,273 deaths from accidents to miners in 1907, 584 (or about 46 per cent.) were due to falls of ground, 44 were due to explosions, 102 were due to shaft accidents, and 210 to men being run over or crushed by trams and tubs underground; while 147 occurred on the surface. The total number of deaths was higher than in any of the years 1903-1906, and 104 more than the mean for the five years 1903-1907.

The fatal accidents to factory operatives reported in 1907 numbered 850: 13 of the persons killed were women, 88 children or young persons, and 749 men.

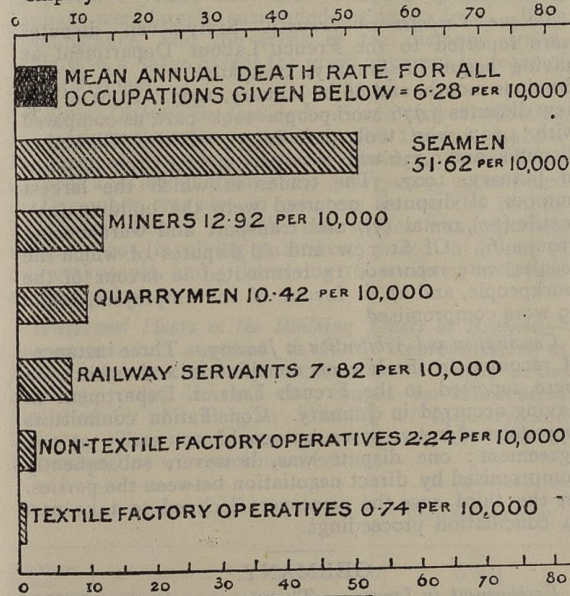
The most marked increases in 1907 as compared with 1906 were in the textile group (95 against 68), and in the metals group (198 against 167). The total number of fatal accidents at factories and workshops in 1907 was greater than in any of the four preceding years, and exceeded the mean annual number for the period 1903-1907 by 70.

The 329 fatal accidents reported under sections 103-105 of the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901 included 167 accidents at docks, wharves and quays, as compared with 143 in 1906. The number of fatal accidents in connection with the construction of buildings in 1907 was 127, 18 less than in the previous year.

The number of fatal accidents to railway servants in 1907 was 487, an increase of 17 on 1906, and 31 more than the mean for the five years 1903-1907. Of the

487 accidents, 440 were "accidents connected with the movement of railway vehicles." The greatest number of fatal accidents in any one occupation was, as usual, among permanent way men, the deaths among these men (excluding labourers and contractors' servants) numbering 99. There were 57 fatal accidents among porters, 46 among engine drivers and firemen, 40 among brakemen and goods guards, and 38 among shunters.

In comparing the figures of the several trades in the foregoing Table, it is important to bear in mind the proportion which the number of fatal accidents bears to the total number of workpeople engaged in the several industries. Accordingly in the chart below the results are reduced, as far as possible, to a ratio showing the mean annual death rate from accidents per 10,000 employed in each group of trades during the five years 1903-7. It will be understood that these ratios are only approximately correct, as accurate figures respecting the numbers employed are not available for each of the years covered. The industries included in the chart employed about six millions of workpeople.



### DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN FEBRUARY.

THE various Distress Committees in the United Kingdom have made Returns showing the number of applicants on their books, and known to be out of work, in February, 1908. The Committees were requested, in making up their Returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work, or to have left the neighbourhood, since registration; and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified.

The following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of February, 1908:—

Distress Committees.	No. returned as "known to be out of work" in February, 1908.	Distress Committees.	No. returned as "known to be out of work" in February, 1908.
London (29 committees)	21,901	Sheffield ... ..	788
Outer London (9 committees)	10,570	South Shields ... ..	1,727
Barrow ... ..	536	Sunderland ... ..	2,692
Birkenhead ... ..	362	Swansea ... ..	343
Birmingham ... ..	755	Wolverhampton ... ..	370
Bradford ... ..	1,027	Yarmouth ... ..	366
Brighton ... ..	1,170	Other Towns (32) ... ..	4,189
Bristol ... ..	93	Total, England and Wales ... ..	57,214
Exeter ... ..	50	Aberdeen ... ..	479
Hastings ... ..	857	Edinburgh ... ..	1,753
Hull ... ..	1,113	Glasgow ... ..	1,901
Leeds ... ..	472	Govan ... ..	266
Leicester ... ..	959	Greenock ... ..	598
Liverpool ... ..	1,348	Other towns (4) ... ..	325
Manchester ... ..	137	Total, Scotland ... ..	5,424
Middlesbrough ... ..	394	Ireland (Dublin only) ... ..	2,933
Newcastle ... ..	1,281	Total, United Kingdom ... ..	65,389
Norwich ... ..	1,157		
Plymouth and Devonport ... ..	1,120		
Portsmouth ... ..	420		

\* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number in the "unemployed register," however, was 82.

The great majority of the applicants were general labourers, building trade labourers, &c. Building trade-artisans were also numerous, amounting to about 30 per cent. of the total number in some of the Outer London boroughs and at Brighton.

The following Table shows the amount of employment-relief given by the various Committees in February:—

Distress Committees.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.	Total Amount of Wages paid.
London (Central Body):†		Days.	£
At Hollesley Bay ... ..	384	7,693	328
In Women's Workrooms ... ..	135	2,803	257
In Parks, &c. ... ..	2,317	36,237	8,527
At Alexandra Palace ... ..	491	6,350	1,412
By arrangement with Borough Councils ... ..	2	320	68
Total ... ..	3,359	53,403	11,152
Outer London (9 Committees) ... ..	3,504	28,624	5,373
Birmingham ... ..	214	2,412	433
Brighton ... ..	442	2,862	404
Bristol ... ..	326	2,663	533
Hastings ... ..	674	estimate 4,300	591
Hull ... ..	398	1,178	236
Leicester ... ..	344	3,300	539
Liverpool ... ..	155	2,300	270
Newcastle ... ..	278	3,509	526
Norwich ... ..	441	9,872	987
Plymouth ... ..	395	9,480	359
Portsmouth ... ..	145	1,577	213
Reading ... ..	177	2,545	374
South Shields ... ..	370	2,084	418
Sunderland ... ..	1,238	5,028	922
Other Towns (20) ... ..	1,504	13,226	1,742
Total, England and Wales ... ..	14,456	148,243	25,081
Aberdeen ... ..	312	3,540	445
Dundee ... ..	25	388	62
Edinburgh ... ..	693	15,409	1,804
Glasgow ... ..	806	16,401	1,700
Govan and Partick ... ..	181	2,727	350
Greenock ... ..	380	2,082	505
Leith ... ..	34	estimated 200	27
Total, Scotland ... ..	2,761	42,747	4,893
Ireland (Dublin only) ... ..	843	4,738	910
Total, United Kingdom ... ..	18,040	195,728	30,884

It will be seen that the total number who received employment relief was 18,040, of whom 7,263 were in London and "Outer London," 7,193 in the rest of England and Wales, and 3,584 in Scotland and Ireland. The average number of days' relief given was nearly 11. The average day's wage was about 3s. 2d.

### EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.†

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, etc.)

#### Canada.

All emigrants sent out to Canada after 15th April, 1908, by British charitable societies or by public funds must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada. Work has been slack in Canada during the winter, and there have been considerable numbers out of employment at Hamilton, Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Calgary, New Westminster, Vancouver, and coal miners at Nanaimo (B.C.). Work is expected to be better in country districts in the spring, but no one should go to towns even then, unless he is guaranteed immediate work, or has money to keep him at first. No one should emigrate before the middle of May in expectation of getting work on railway construction, and even then only strong adaptable men of the navy type are likely to be selected.

#### Commonwealth of Australia.

In many country districts there is a good demand for farm labourers, for general labourers, dairymen, men on sheep and cattle stations, and for men competent to work in an orchard or vineyard. There is a fair demand for first-class carpenters, bricklayers, masons and iron-

\* Including some not registered by the Distress Committees as unemployed. † In addition, the local authorities of some of the various Metropolitan Boroughs provided employment for a number of extra men. ‡ Handbooks (with maps) on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.



workers in several country towns. Mechanics should not linger in the capitals on the chance of work. There is no demand for railway or tramway men, or police, the local candidates being more than sufficient. There is not much demand for miners. There is a good demand almost everywhere for female servants, especially general servants. Free or cheap passages are now granted to farm labourers and female servants by the Governments of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

#### New Zealand.

Reduced passages are given to approved farmers, farm labourers and female servants, for whom there is a good demand. Work for mechanics has been generally brisk throughout New Zealand, and there has been a demand for carpenters, coach builders and tailors in more than one place. Sawmillers have been busy. There is an opening in Taranaki and some other country districts for a large number of young men in the cheese and butter factories, and at milking and general farm work. There is a continued demand for women and girls in the boot and clothing factories and woollen mills, and for dressmakers and milliners.

#### South Africa.

*Cape Colony.*—No one should go to Cape Colony now in search of work. At Cape Town there is an excess of men in the building, engineering, and many other trades. At East London there is still a large number of unemployed. At Aliwal North there is an excess of clerks, salesmen, and labourers. At Kimberley there is a considerable number of unemployed Europeans, most of whom appear to belong to the building trades. At King William's Town there is a considerable excess of artisans and labourers.

*Natal.*—There is no demand for any class of workman.

*Transvaal.*—There has been a steady increase in the number of white men employed at the mines since the middle of 1907. There is still, however, a large number of unemployed in Johannesburg, and no one should think of going there now in search of work. Relief works have been started to help those in distress. Even the supply of female servants is now stated to be equal to the demand.

*Orange River Colony.*—The supply of all kinds of labour in the Orange River Colony is more than sufficient.

*Rhodesia.*—Miners without means are warned against going to Rhodesia.

### 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 be properly used with those on p. 65 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.)]

#### FRANCE.\*

*Employment in January.*—Owing to frosty weather employment in the building trades showed a considerable decline. On the whole the metal trades were not so busy as in December. There was a high percentage of unemployment among automobile carriage builders at Paris and porcelain workers at Limoges. Employment in the textile trades was normal in the Vosges, Ardennes and Aisne departments; in the Nord department generally there was a perceptible decline, and in the smaller centres of the Ouest employment was moderate only. There was increased unemployment among silk-weavers in the St. Etienne and Lyons districts. Garment makers were less busy. In the printing and bookbinding trades employment was still satisfactory, although a slight decline was reported. Vineyard work in the south of France was impeded by rain; woodcutters generally were fully employed. Employment with gardeners in the Paris

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

district remained satisfactory, but many agricultural labourers were out of work in certain districts of the Seine-et-Marne department.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in January were received by the French Labour Department from 1,030 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 226,406. Excluding returns from the Miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 10.9 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 9.4 per cent. in the previous month, and 7.8 per cent. in January, 1907.

*Coal Mining in January.*—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during January was 5.84, as compared with 5.60 in the preceding month, and 6.03 in January, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 9.11 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 90.86 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 11.76 and 88.21, and in January, 1907, 95.85 and 4.14.

*Labour Disputes in January.*—Sixty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, compared with 78 in the previous month, and 86 in January, 1907. In 61 of the new disputes 3,776 workpeople took part, as compared with 4,997 who took part in 75 of the December disputes, and 9,736 who took part in 77 of the disputes in January, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (23), textile (11), metal (7), and transport and warehousing groups (6). Of 61 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 11 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 21 in favour of the employers, while 29 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in January.*—Three instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred in January. Conciliation committees were formed in two cases, but could not arrive at any agreement; one dispute was, however, subsequently compromised by direct negotiation between the parties. In the third case the employers declined to take part in conciliation proceedings.

#### GERMANY.\*

*Employment in January.*—There was a further decline in activity in a number of industries, partly due to the frost, which hindered building operations and laid up shipping on the Rhine and Elbe for three weeks. A number of industries are reported as being adversely affected by the conditions prevailing in the American money market. Chief among these are the iron and the weaving industries. The latter report considerable restrictions of output, which, if prolonged, cannot fail to react on the spinning industries. Toymaking too was considerably affected by the American conditions, so that many in this trade were without employment. Except in these trades and in leather glovemaking there was not any considerable decline as compared with a month ago. In coalmining and in the electrical and chemical trades employment continued good on the whole. In engineering the demand for workpeople was somewhat less, but wherever possible short time was worked as an alternative to reducing the number of persons employed.

#### HOLLAND.†

*Employment in January.*—In general employment in the building trades showed no improvement; in some towns there was a slight recovery in certain branches, but in other towns, partly owing to the frost, the unemployment increased. In the larger metal and engineering establishments employment was satisfactory. Shipbuilders were also satisfactorily employed, and in some parts were busy. The slackness in the textile and garment making trades continued, and there was no

\* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).

† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

general improvement in the boot and shoe trades. There was less employment for woodworkers than in December, and furniture-makers continued slack. Employment in the printing trades was satisfactory on the whole, but in some towns slackness was reported. There was general slackness in the cocoa and chocolate trades, as also, though to a less extent, in brewing and in the margarine trade. In distilling and in the tobacco trades employment varied with locality.

#### BELGIUM.

*Employment in January.\**—According to Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 12.0 per cent. of the 45,309 members of 207 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 5.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 2.5 per cent. in January, 1907. It should be remarked that a greater proportion of workpeople employed in the building trades are now included in the statistics than in previous years, and that building operations in January were largely suspended owing to frost. This circumstance, and the crisis in the diamond trade, explain to a large extent the great apparent increase of unemployment.

*Labour Disputes in January.\**—Seven strikes, affecting 234 workpeople, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in January. In addition to these a strike of about 1,200 quarrymen, commenced in December, was also in progress during the month. The termination of 6 of the new strikes was reported. Of these one (involving 31 strikers) ended in favour of the workpeople, and 5 (involving 167 strikers) in favour of the employers.

*Wages and Hours in the Building Trades at Brussels.*—A memorandum supplied to H.M. Representative at Brussels gives certain particulars as to wages in the building trades in that city, based on information furnished by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour. The usual rates per hour at the end of December last were as shown below.—

	Usual Rate per Hour.
	d.
Bricklayer	4½ to 5½
Mason	5 to 6
Carpenter	5 to 5½
Slater	4½
Plasterer	5 to 5½
Plumber	5 to 6
Painter	5 to 6
Labourer	3½

The minimum rates allowed on municipal contracts by the authorities are nearly always exceeded by the actual rates in practise paid.

In order to arrive at a correct estimate of the remuneration in this group of trades, it must be remembered that a large number of workpeople employed in Brussels live outside the town, where rents are lower, and have facilities for getting to and from work at reduced rates on the railways and tramways.

The number of actual working hours in the building trades varies in summer from eleven to twelve.

#### ITALY.

*Workmen's Dwellings in Rome.*—A despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Rome, dated February 25th, states that the Italian Government has authorised the State Bank of Deposits and Loans to make a loan of £400,000 to the municipal authorities of Rome for the construction of workmen's dwellings and other building requirements.

#### NORWAY.†

*Employment in January.*—Of 11,197 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central

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

† Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Bureau of Statistics, 5.6 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 72).

The following Table shows for the same Unions the membership and percentage unemployed in each group of trades at the end of January, as compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.
Metal Workers and Moulders	5,901	5,908	5,649	1.1	1.5	1.2
Carpenters, &c.	760	770	793	13.6	14.7	15.4
Painters and Masons	850	835	887	45.0	43.1	42.9
Boot and Shoe Makers	385	372	264	1.0	...	1.2
Printers	1,059	1,098	1,097	0.6	3.0	1.9
Bookbinders	473	263	220	1.5	...	3.2
Cabinet Makers	357	351	340	1.4	2.3	2.1
Wood Pulp and Paper Makers	1,112	1,050	1,076	0.9	2.8	...
Bakers	210	180	195	9.5	12.2	7.7
Tinned Goods (Food Preparation)	280	276	243	8.6	7.6	9.0
Total	11,197	11,113	10,444	5.6	6.1	5.0

#### UNITED STATES.

*Legal Decisions Respecting Labour.\**—On January 6th last it was decided by the Supreme Court of the United States that the Employers' Liability Law, making railways responsible for injuries resulting from the negligence of fellow-servants, was unconstitutional.

A second decision of the Supreme Court was issued on January 27th, declaring the Act of June 1st, 1898, which made it illegal for employers to discharge their workpeople because of their membership of a Trade Union, invalid.

A third judgment, delivered on February 3rd, decided that Trade Unions cannot be permitted to interfere by boycott with the free exchange of commerce between the States. This case arose out of a labour dispute in the State of Connecticut, where an employer declared for the "open shop." A boycott was then declared by the American Federation of Labour on all goods made by the firm. As a large proportion of these goods were sold outside Connecticut, the boycott came under the laws forbidding combinations in restraint of trade or commerce in interstate trade.

*Unemployment in Chicago Consular District.*—Reporting under date of January 21st H.M. Consul-General at Chicago stated that the steel mills of a machinery manufacturing company, employing 1,200 men, had been closed for some weeks, but had resumed in the first week of January; the resumption was, however, not considered likely to be permanent. At the Chicago stockyards about 5,000 skilled men applied for work in one day, without success, and all the railways have curtailed development work. It was also reported that on February 1st a car-building company would pay off 2,000 men and close part of its works, and that, in view of the reaction of trade and the mildness of the weather, certain coal mines had agreed to reduce their output by 60 per cent. A later despatch from the same source stated that the United States Steel Corporation had notified its workpeople in the Pittsburg district that a reduction of wages would be made on February 1st of 15 per cent. on the average, but rising in some cases to 40 per cent., and that a railway company employing 1,000 persons in its workshops, had given notice of a reduction of working time from 4 days to 2 per week.

*Emigration from the United States.*—A despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Washington, dated January 22nd, reports that there was no abatement of the great exodus of labourers from the United States which began in November. Reports for the first seventeen days of January showed that during that period 30,056 steerage passengers left the country, or more than three times as many as in the same period of 1907. A large number of the returning emigrants seem to be Italians.

\* Based on a memorandum prepared by the British Commercial Agent at New York and a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Washington.



REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES  
IN FEBRUARY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 510 Returns—456 from Employers, 44 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during February. There was, however, a slight decline compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,365 pits employing 624,281 workpeople show that the average number of days\* worked per week during the four weeks ended February 22nd, 1908, was 5.56, as compared with 5.44 in January (when 0.24 of a day per week was lost on account of holidays), and as compared with 5.69 in February, 1907.

Of the 624,281 workpeople covered by the Returns, 562,195 (or 90.0 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended February 22nd, 1908, and of these 460,716 (or 73.8 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in February was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.83).

In the following Table the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended February 22nd, 1908, is shown together with the figures for similar periods in January, 1908, and February, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Feb., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with	
		Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Jan. 25th, 1908.	Feb. 23rd, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
Northumberland ...	44,890	5.39	5.08	5.48	+ .31	- .09
Durham ...	115,740	5.47	5.30	5.54	+ .17	- .07
Cumberland ...	7,336	5.62	5.28	5.73	+ .34	- .11
South Yorkshire ...	65,252	5.80	5.63	5.92	+ .12	- .12
West Yorkshire ...	23,605	5.47	5.43	5.73	+ .04	- .26
Lancashire and Cheshire	56,347	5.60	5.27	5.66	+ .33	- .06
Derbyshire ...	39,138	5.71	5.71	5.68	...	+ .03
Nottingham and Leicester	33,571	4.93	4.93	5.29	...	- .36
Staffordshire ...	28,407	5.73	5.74	5.81	- .01	- .08
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	10,452	5.66	5.72	5.69	- .06	- .03
Gloucester and Somerset	8,174	5.64	5.73	5.87	- .09	- .23
North Wales ...	9,680	5.71	5.69	5.84	+ .02	- .13
South Wales and Mon. ...	130,807	5.83	5.94	5.94	- .11	- .11
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>873,399</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>+ .08</b>	<b>- .10</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ...	26,724	5.06	4.44	5.43	+ .62	- .37
The Lothians ...	5,145	5.25	4.32	5.70	+ .73	- .45
Fife ...	18,336	4.83	4.40	5.55	+ .43	- .72
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>50,205</b>	<b>4.99</b>	<b>4.43</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>+ .56</b>	<b>- .52</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>4.69</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>- .61</b>	<b>- .65</b>
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>624,281</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>5.44</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>+ .12</b>	<b>- .13</b>

Compared with a month ago, and making allowance for the New Year holidays, employment in Northumberland showed an improvement; in Nottinghamshire some time was lost owing to a dispute. Compared with a year ago there was a slight improvement in Derbyshire and a decline in all other districts in England and Wales. The decrease in number of days worked was greatest in Nottingham and Leicester (0.36), West Yorkshire (0.26) and Gloucester and Somerset (0.23).

In Scotland there was a decline of employment compared with a month ago, after allowing for holidays

\* The figures in this article only show the number of days (short days being counted as fractions of a day) 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. † This period includes New Year Holidays.

in January. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease in the number of days worked in all districts, the decrease amounting to 0.72 of a day in Fife.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 204,424 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." Compared with a year ago there was an improvement at pits producing anthracite and gas coal, and a decline at pits producing all other classes of coal.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Feb., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with	
		Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Jan. 25th, 1908.	Feb. 23rd, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	6,231	5.74	5.63	5.46	+ .11	+ .28
Coking ...	33,569	5.58	5.48	5.74	+ .10	- .16
Gas ...	40,486	5.51	5.28	5.38	+ .23	+ .13
House ...	80,720	5.49	5.39	5.69	+ .10	- .20
Manufacturing and Steam	238,851	5.60	5.56	5.76	+ .04	- .16
Mixed ...	204,424	5.53	5.33	5.67	+ .20	- .14
<b>All Descriptions ...</b>	<b>624,281</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>5.44</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>+ .12</b>	<b>- .13</b>

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in February, 1908, amounted to 4,892,875 tons, or 25,755 tons less than in January, 1908, but 324,606 tons more than in February, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 88 Returns—72 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good in iron mines. It was about the same as a year ago. In shale mines it continued good.

Employment was fairly good in tin, copper, and lead mines. It continued dull generally in quarries.

Mining.

**Iron Mining.**—During the four weeks ended February 22nd, the average number of days per week worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.78, as compared with 5.30 a month ago and 5.88 a year ago. The average for January was reduced by the New Year holidays.

The following table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Feb., 1908, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with	
		Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Jan. 25th, 1908.	Feb. 23rd, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland ...	7,407	5.84	5.28	5.94	+ 0.56	- 0.10
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,709	5.72	5.19	5.94	+ 0.53	- 0.22
Scotland ...	685	5.60	4.77	5.19	+ 0.83	+ 0.41
Other Districts ...	2,529	5.77	5.76	5.84	+ 0.01	- 0.07
<b>All Districts ...</b>	<b>15,130</b>	<b>5.78</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>5.88</b>	<b>+ 0.48</b>	<b>- 0.10</b>

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns, 87 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended February 22nd, as compared with 69.8 per cent. a month ago, and 92.6 per cent. a year ago.

**Shale Mining.**—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,269 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended February 22nd, as compared with 3,200 a month ago, and 3,179 a

\* This period includes New Year Holidays.

year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 22nd, was 5.83, as compared with 5.77 in February, 1907.

**Tin and Copper Mining.**—Employment was fairly good in Cornwall, but showed some decline as compared with a month ago.

**Lead Mining.**—Employment continued good in the North Wales and Derbyshire districts. In Weardale it was moderate.

Quarrying.

**Slate.**—In North Wales employment continued slack, and short time was still worked in the Festiniog district.

**Granite.**—Employment on Dartmoor was fair, and a little better than a month ago; at Penryn it was fair, but not so good as a month ago. At Aberdeen it continued dull.

**Limestone.**—In Cleveland employment was fairly good; in the Buxton district it was quiet. In North Wales it was fair, bad weather having caused some interruption. In the Plymouth district it was dull, and worse than a month ago. In Cumberland it was dull, with short time. In the Somerset blue lias quarries it continued bad.

**Other Stone.**—Sandstone quarrymen continued to be fairly well employed in North Wales, but bad weather caused some loss of time. In Forfarshire employment was bad, and worse than a month ago. It continued good in the road-material quarries at Clee Hill, while in the Bath stone quarries it was bad, and slightly worse than a year ago. In the Gateshead district it was fairly good. Employment in the Bakewell chert quarries was good.

**Settling.**—Employment at Aberdeen continued dull; at Airdrie it was regular; at Glasgow it continued slack. In North Wales it was fair; in Leicestershire it was dull, about four days per week being worked. In the Clee Hill district it was very quiet.

**China Clay.**—Employment in the St. Austell district was very good.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during February, 1908, was fair on the whole. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing nearly 23,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, 1908, was 299, as compared with 305 in January, 1908, and 343 in February, 1907. During February 3 furnaces were re-lit (1 each in Cumberland, Yorkshire and Staffordshire) and 9 were either damped down or blown out (2 each in Cleveland and in Derbyshire, and 1 each in Cumberland, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Monmouthshire and Lanarkshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with	
	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>					
Cleveland ...	78	80	90	- 2	- 12
Cumberland & Lancs.	28	29	37	- 1	- 9
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	15	14	17	+ 1	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	37	39	42	- 2	- 5
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	25	26	25	- 1	...
Stafford & Worcester	35	31	36	+ 1	- 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	13	14	16	- 1	- 3
Other districts ...	7	7	6	...	+ 1
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>- 5</b>	<b>- 31</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>- 13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>- 6</b>	<b>- 44</b>

The Imports of iron ore in February, 1908, amounted to 439,016 tons, or 33,643 tons less than in January, 1908, and 139,321 tons less than in February, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in February, 1908, amounted to 96,394 tons, or 6,243 tons more than in January, 1908, and 43,441 tons less than in February, 1907.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 214 Returns—200 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 3 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works remained about the same as a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended February 22nd, 1908, at the 200 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.6 per cent. less than in the week ended January 25th, 1908, and 8.3 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended February 22nd, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 501,300, as compared with 504,300 a month ago, and 540,500 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.	
	In week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.
<b>IRON:</b>				
Puddling Forges ...	10,334	+ 105	4.74	- 0.13
Rolling Mills ...	4,383	+ 340	4.80	- 0.23
Forging ...	441	- 17	5.31	- 0.15
Founding ...	1,883	+ 103	5.92	+ 0.10
Other Departments	722	+ 3	5.84	+ 0.02
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,699	+ 49	5.51	- 0.02
<b>Total, Iron ...</b>	<b>19,452</b>	<b>+ 482</b>	<b>4.99</b>	<b>- 0.11</b>
<b>STEEL:</b>				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,586	+ 274	5.83	- 0.03
Crucible Furnaces	593	+ 6	4.62	- 0.68
Bessemer Converters	1,878	+ 152	4.86	- 0.52
Rolling Mills ...	14,475	- 227	4.88	- 0.49
Forging and Pressing	3,979	+ 178	5.61	- 0.06
Founding ...	7,684	+ 48	5.89	+ 0.02
Other Departments	6,599	- 77	5.81	- 0.04
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,761	- 300	5.95	...
<b>Total, Steel ...</b>	<b>80,462</b>	<b>+ 49</b>	<b>5.32</b>	<b>- 0.18</b>
<b>IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):</b>				
Rolling Mills ...	11,485	+ 567	5.07	- 0.08
Forging and Pressing	761	- 81	5.31	- 0.14
Founding ...	739	- 20	5.90	+ 0.04
Other Departments	3,333	+ 365	5.83	+ 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,946	+ 478	5.72	- 0.08
<b>Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ...</b>	<b>23,269</b>	<b>+ 1,309</b>	<b>5.41</b>	<b>- 0.06</b>
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>93,183</b>	<b>+ 1,840</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>- 0.14</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Northumberland & Durham	11,227	+ 261	5.00	- 0.38
Cleveland ...	7,901	+ 101	5.66	- 0.17
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,650	+ 105	5.59	- 0.07
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,535	- 96	5.40	- 0.11
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	11,210	+ 1,653	5.12	- 0.23
Staffordshire ...	10,495	- 12	5.34	- 0.01
Other Midland Counties	5,136	- 72	5.33	- 0.07
Wales and Monmouth	8,969	- 1,245	5.41	- 0.18
<b>Total, England and Wales</b>	<b>76,123</b>	<b>+ 695</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>- 0.16</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>17,060</b>	<b>+ 1,145</b>	<b>5.42</b>	<b>- 0.05</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,183</b>	<b>+ 1,840</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>- 0.14</b>

The number of workpeople employed was considerably greater than a month ago in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire district, the increase being due to resumption of work after a dispute. In Scotland also, the number employed was considerably greater than a month ago, but in Wales and Monmouth there was a decline. Compared with a year ago the number employed was less in every district except Staffordshire.



In most of the larger departments the number of workpeople employed was greater than a month ago, but less than a year ago. At steel rolling mills, however, there was a decline as compared with both periods.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.38, as compared with 5.52 a month ago, and 5.61 a year ago, the decline being almost universal. It was particularly marked at crucible furnaces, Bessemer converting departments, and rolling mills. The districts most affected by this decline were Northumberland and Durham and Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during February, 1908, amounted to 73,231 tons, or 6,387 tons more than in January, 1908, and 11,561 tons more than in February, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during February, 1908, amounted to 184,362 tons, or 11,470 tons less than in January, 1908, and 12,546 tons less than in February, 1907.

### TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 57 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during February continued fairly good. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 385 tinplate and 51 sheet mills were working at the end of February, 1908, as compared with 383 and 47 respectively in January, 1908, and 392 and 57 respectively in February, 1907. The supply of, and demand for, labour continued fairly equal.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of February, 1908, January, 1908, and February, 1907. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople.

	February, 1908.		January, 1908.		February, 1907.	
	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	75	385	74	383	75	392
Sheet Mills ...	8	51	7	47	9	57
Total ...	83	436	82	430	84	449

Exports.—The Table below shows the quantity of tinned plates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning exported during the periods named:—

	Feb., 1908.		Jan., 1908.		Feb., 1907.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</b>								
To United States ...	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British East Indies ...	5,018	4,703	5,392	4,315	5,374	+	374	+
Germany ...	4,223	4,279	3,940	4,56	4,283	+	283	+
France ...	2,513	2,730	3,319	2,757	3,066	+	306	+
Netherlands ...	2,444	2,165	2,787	2,259	3,663	+	363	+
Other Countries ...	2,071	1,619	2,276	452	3,05	+	305	+
13,375	18,502	13,706	5,127	331				
Total ...	29,624	33,024	31,820	3,400	1,896			
<b>Black Plates for Tinning.</b>								
Total ...	5,013	4,301	5,076	712	63			

\* It will be understood that in addition to the works returned as open, i.e., giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the Returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

### ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 987 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 934 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 43 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, but a general decline compared with a year ago.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 154,017 show that at the end of February the percentage unemployed was 5.9, as compared with 5.8 a month ago and 2.8 a year ago. As compared with a month ago there was no considerable change in the percentage unemployed in any district except the North-East Coast, where a dispute is in progress. As compared with a year ago there was a general decline, which was most marked in Scotland, where there was a considerable increase in the number of moulders out of employment.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Feb., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	4,894†	16.0†	10.4	5.1	+ 5.6	+ 10.9
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,548	5.1	4.5	2.5†	+ 0.6	+ 2.0
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,374	3.9	4.2	1.8	- 0.3	+ 2.1
West Riding Towns ...	13,268	7.3	6.8	3.1	+ 0.5	+ 4.2
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,987	4.6	4.7	2.2†	- 0.1	+ 2.4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,779	4.9	4.7	1.5	+ 0.2	+ 3.4
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,285	5.5	6.2	2.9	- 0.7	+ 2.6
London and Neighbouring District	11,809	6.1	5.5	3.6	+ 0.6	+ 2.5
South Coast ...	4,298	2.5	1.9	1.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
South Wales and Bristol District	7,145	3.4	2.4	2.0	+ 1.0	+ 1.4
Glasgow and District	16,029	12.3	11.1	4.0	+ 1.2	+ 8.3
East of Scotland ...	4,024	10.9	10.8	4.0	+ 0.1	+ 6.9
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,362	7.3	8.0	3.0	- 0.7	+ 4.3
Other Districts ...	6,308	3.6	3.8	2.2	- 0.2	+ 1.4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	154,017	5.9	5.8	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 3.1

On the North-East Coast employment was greatly affected by the strike of turners, fitters, and machinemen. At Newcastle, however, it continued good in railway works, and with ironfounders generally. Bridge-builders reported employment as moderate at Darlington, and slack at Middlesbrough and Stockton.

In Lancashire employment with textile machinery engineers continued good, a considerable amount of overtime being worked. In general engineering shops employment remained fair, though at Manchester a decline was reported. Brassfounders at Manchester and Liverpool and railway coachmakers at Manchester reported employment as slack. With ironfounders employment was fairly good on the whole; with patternmakers, moderate as a rule but slack at Liverpool; with boilermakers quiet generally. At Barrow employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

In the West Riding employment was dull on the whole, and considerably worse than a year ago. Engineers at Leeds, Wakefield and Rotherham were, however, fairly well employed. At Hull employment was dull. At Lincoln and Grantham it was fairly good.

At Birmingham and Coventry employment was dull, with some short time; but a slight improvement in the cycle and motor industry was reported. In the Wolverhampton district an improvement was reported by electrical and general engineers, and motor and cycle makers were busy; but locomotive engineers, iron safe makers, and gunlock makers were not well employed. At Derby employment continued quiet in general engineering works, and good in railway works. At Nottingham it remained good with lace and hosiery-machine makers; with general engineers it was

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

† Excluding members on strike.

moderate; with ironfounders and cycle makers it was bad. At Leicester and in the Potteries employment was quiet generally; at Colchester and Ipswich it was fairly good.

In London employment continued dull generally, but copper-smiths were fairly well employed. At the Royal Dockyards employment remained fairly good. At Southampton it was fair on marine engine work, and moderate on boilerwork. With engineers at Plymouth it was reported as bad. At Swindon it continued good with railway coachbuilders, but it declined with engineers, and boilermakers were on short time. At Bristol employment was moderate; at Cardiff fairly good; at Newport bad with engineers but good with ironfounders.

In the Glasgow district employment was fair with general and electrical engineers, a considerable amount of overtime being worked. With brassfinishers also employment was fair, but patternmakers, ironfounders, and irondressers were badly employed. At Greenock employment with engineers and brassfinishers was reported as bad. At Edinburgh, Falkirk, and Aberdeen employment was slack. At Dundee employment was fairly good generally, but not so good as a month ago, while pattern makers reported it as slack.

At Belfast and Dublin employment continued dull. At Cork it was fairly good, and better than a month ago.

The Imports of machinery in February, 1908, amounted to £423,300 as compared with £351,404 in January, 1908, and £400,039 in February, 1907; and the Exports for the same months to £2,337,887, £2,684,187, and £2,026,510 respectively.

### SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 341 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 319 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT remained slack and was greatly affected by the dispute on the North East Coast. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 55,197 members had 11,056 (or 20.0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 15.1 per cent. at the end of January, and 7.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1907.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Feb., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	7,188†	31.4†	13.7	6.1	+ 17.7	+ 25.3
Wear ...	5,199†	48.8†	34.2	4.2	+ 14.6	+ 44.6
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,434†	44.4†	27.6	14.4	+ 16.8	+ 39.0
Humber ...	2,815	12.4	10.7	5.0	+ 1.7	+ 7.4
Thames and Medway ...	4,150	6.3	8.5	9.6	- 2.3	- 3.3
South Coast ...	4,167	2.9	1.9	2.1	+ 1.0	+ 0.8
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,660	10.8	12.8	16.3	- 2.0	- 5.5
Mersey ...	3,629	8.0	7.3	3.4	+ 0.7	+ 4.6
Clyde ...	12,310	18.9	18.2	8.7	+ 0.7	+ 10.2
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	2,539	11.4	8.8	6.5	+ 2.6	+ 4.9
Belfast ...	2,855	6.5	4.9	4.4	+ 1.6	+ 2.1
Other Districts ...	3,013	5.6	6.6	9.3	- 1.0	- 3.7
United Kingdom ...	55,197	20.0	15.1	7.5	+ 4.9	+ 12.5

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago there was a large increase in the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed on the North East Coast. Compared with a year ago there was also a considerable increase in the percentage unemployed on the Clyde. In the Thames and Bristol Channel districts there was some improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Employment on the Tyne and Tees was dislocated by the dispute. It was moderate in ship-repairing yards at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. On the Wear employment continued bad, and was worse than

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.  
† Members on strike are excluded from these figures.

a month ago and a year ago, one large shipyard having closed. On the Humber employment on new work was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; on repairs it was fair.

On the Thames employment remained dull. At Southampton it was fair on ship-work, but bad on yacht work. At the Royal Dockyards it continued good. At the Bristol Channel ports it was moderate. On the Mersey it was dull.

On the Clyde shipwrights reported an improvement, and were generally well employed, except at Port Glasgow and Greenock. With iron and steel ship-builders employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Dundee and Leith employment was fairly good; at Aberdeen it remained dull.

At Belfast employment was fair on the whole. At Barrow it was moderate, and better than a year ago. With shipwrights at Lowestoft, Yarmouth and Wyvenhoe it was fairly good. At Cork it was fair, and better than a month ago.

### MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 99 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 66 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during February remained slack. It was about the same as a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 16,594 had 3.7 per cent. out of work at the end of February, as compared with 3.5 per cent. at the end of January, and 3.1 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brass-workers at Birmingham was moderate; it was quiet at Wolverhampton. At Manchester, London, and Leeds it was bad; at Bolton and Bury it was good; at Nottingham it was fair. With bedstead makers at Birmingham it continued bad.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment with nail, nut, bolt and rivet makers was moderate, and worse than a month ago. At Birmingham it was fair; at Darlaston it continued good; at Winlaton it was moderate.

Wire.—Employment was fairly good generally.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment in the lock and latch trade was bad, and worse than a month ago, short time being general. At Wolverhampton it was slack in the hollow-ware trade; at West Bromwich it was fair. With hollow-ware stampers and buffers at Sheffield it was bad; with galvanized hollow-ware makers in the Midland towns it was fair, and better than a month ago.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Rotherham, Falkirk, Glasgow and Edinburgh employment was fair, and slightly better than a month ago.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield was good with file forgers (by hand), file cutters and hardeners, and fair with table blade forgers and saw makers. It was slack with pen and pocket blade grinders, and with table and butcher knife hafters, and quiet with razor grinders. At Birmingham employment with edge tool makers was moderate; at Wednesbury it was slack. It continued quiet at Redditch in the needle trade; in the fishhook trade (deep sea hooks) it was good.

Tubes.—Employment in South Wales was very good; it was quiet, and worse than a month ago, in South Staffordshire; at Birmingham it was moderate.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—Employment at Cradley Heath continued bad with block chain-makers; with factory chain and cable chain makers and strikers it was slack; with wrought anchor-smiths it was fair. At Sheffield employment with railway spring fitters and vice men continued slack. At Wednesbury it was slack with railway axle and wheel-makers. With anvil



and vice-makers at Dudley employment continued slack. Employment with anchor-smiths on the Wear continued bad.

**Sheet Metal, etc.**—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers at Manchester continued fair, but was not so good as a month ago. At Leeds it was fairly good; at Bolton it was fair; at Bury it was quiet. With tinplate workers it was slack at Wolverhampton, dull at Edinburgh, good at Oldham, and fair at Aberdeen. With ironplate workers it was fairly good at Dudley, Bilston and Wolverhampton; it was slack in the Lye district and quiet at Birmingham. In London it continued bad, and was worse than a month and a year ago.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—In London employment was bad with goldsmiths and jewellers, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; with silversmiths it was bad, short time being worked. At Birmingham employment was slack with jewellers; with silversmiths and electroplaters it was quiet, and worse than a month ago; with Britannia metal workers it continued bad. With silversmiths at Sheffield it was bad, and worse than a month ago, short time being worked. At Coventry employment in the watch trade continued quiet.

**Farriers.**—Employment generally continued fair.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the value of cutlery and hardware imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery ... ..	12,495	8,103	9,846	+ 4,392	+ 2,649
Hardware ... ..	39,227	79,950	74,649	+ 9,327	+ 14,578
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Cutlery ... ..	48,048	59,864	46,513	- 11,516	+ 1,535
Hardware ... ..	191,381	207,892	190,026	- 16,511	+ 1,315
Implements and Tools ...	159,188	202,434	166,209	- 43,246	- 7,021

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 484 Returns—382 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 92 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT** in the *Spinning* branch was good, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended February 22nd was 126,374, being 0.8 per cent. less than a month ago and 0.3 per cent. less than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the preparing and spinning departments employment showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was still good; it showed little change compared with a year ago; the increase in both departments in the amount of wages paid compared with a year ago was mainly due to the advance in the rates of wages during the year. In the weaving branch employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, short time being worked in most of the principal districts.

Compared with a month ago, eleven of the districts covered by the returns showed a decline in the amount of wages paid, the greatest decrease being in the Manchester district (9.0 per cent.). Compared with a year ago eight districts showed a decline in the amount of wages paid, the greatest decline taking place in the Manchester district (9.0 per cent.) and in the Blackburn district (7.9 per cent.).

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.

<b>Departments.</b>	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Preparing ... ..	14,251	- 0.3	+ 1.3	13,133	- 1.8	+ 3.3
Spinning ... ..	25,337	- 0.8	+ 1.2	25,077	- 2.1	+ 3.1
Weaving ... ..	58,881	- 1.3	- 1.3	50,056	- 2.0	- 7.8
Other ... ..	10,853	- 1.0	- 0.3	12,219	- 0.7	- 2.6
Departments not specified	16,802	- 1.1	- 0.1	17,415	- 1.6	- 3.0
<b>Total</b> ... ..	126,374	- 0.8	- 0.3	117,880	- 1.8	- 3.2

Districts.	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Ashton District ... ..	8,538	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	8,068	- 0.8	- 3.2
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	7,745	- 2.7	+ 0.8	7,357	- 1.0	+ 3.6
Oldham District ... ..	11,858	- 2.3	- 2.7	12,932	- 1.3	+ 2.4
Bolton and Leigh ... ..	16,054	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	14,468	- 2.2	+ 2.1
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	10,673	- 0.5	+ 1.0	9,912	- 1.9	- 1.5
Manchester District ...	9,646	- 1.1	- 1.9	6,985	- 9.0	- 9.0
Preston and Chorley ...	13,160	- 1.3	- 1.7	11,287	- 0.9	- 4.9
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	17,454	- 0.5	- 1.1	16,144	- 2.3	- 7.9
Barnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	16,161	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	17,289	- 0.0	- 7.0
Other Lancashire Towns	3,932	- 0.2	+ 0.6	3,506	- 2.2	+ 0.2
Yorkshire Towns ... ..	5,103	- 1.4	...	4,837	- 2.8	- 1.7
Other Districts ... ..	6,050	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	5,095	+ 0.7	- 0.8
<b>Total</b> ... ..	126,374	- 0.8	- 0.3	117,880	- 1.8	- 3.2

**Raw Cotton.**

**American Cotton.**—During the month of February the average price of raw cotton "midding American" at Liverpool was 6.20d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.40d. per lb. and the lowest 5.96d. The price for January, 1908, was 6.34d. per lb., and for February, 1907, 6.02d. per lb. For the period from March 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "midding American" was 6.08d. per lb.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during February averaged 8.45d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.1d., and the lowest 7.8d., per lb. The price for January, 1908, was 9.14d. per lb., and for February, 1907, 10.3d. per lb. For the period from March 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.8d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on March 6th, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,179,050 bales, as compared with 1,326,140 bales on March 8th, 1907.

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

Description of Cotton.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Bales.	Bales.
American ... ..	279,435	311,676	280,765	- 32,241	- 1,330
Brazilian ... ..	3,778	6,124	16,851	- 2,346	- 13,073
East Indian ... ..	5,366	7,115	5,844	- 1,749	- 478
Egyptian ... ..	28,251	57,759	39,483	- 29,493	- 11,222
Miscellaneous ... ..	4,572	5,208	5,892	- 650	- 1,320
<b>Total</b> ... ..	321,412	387,882	348,834	- 66,470	- 27,422

**Exports of Cotton Goods.**

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
<b>Cotton Yarn and Twist—</b>					
Grey ... ..	17,251	19,646	14,700	- 2,395	+ 2,551
Bleached and Dyed ...	2,553	2,537	2,204	- 4	+ 349
<b>Total</b> ... ..	19,804	22,203	16,904	- 2,399	+ 2,900

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
				1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
<b>Cotton Piece Goods—</b>					
Grey or Unbleached ...	166,359	178,437	174,995	- 12,078	- 7,756
Bleached ... ..	154,436	157,005	159,937	- 1,569	+ 15,439
Printed ... ..	89,191	92,061	91,522	- 3,770	- 2,331
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	95,139	99,892	95,127	- 4,753	+ 12
<b>Total</b> ... ..	506,125	528,295	500,741	- 22,170	+ 5,384

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 413 Returns—302 received from Employers, 14 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

**Woollen Trade.**

**EMPLOYMENT** on the whole was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was slightly worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 28,546 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district night work was not so common as a year ago. In the Leeds district employment was fair. In the Dewsbury and Batley district employment was still fair, but less over-time and night work were reported. An improvement was reported at Hawick, Selkirk, and Galashiels, and full time was again being worked.

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
				No. employed on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
<b>Departments.</b>	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Wool Sorting ... ..	606	- 1.5	- 0.7	536	- 3.9	- 6.6	
Spinning ... ..	5,771	- 0.3	- 1.3	5,102	+ 0.9	- 0.7	
Weaving ... ..	12,094	- 0.1	- 0.8	10,184	+ 2.2	- 1.5	
Other Departments ...	8,020	- 0.4	+ 1.0	7,937	+ 0.2	- 0.1	
Unspecified ... ..	2,155	- 2.1	...	1,845	- 2.8	- 1.0	
<b>Total</b> ... ..	28,646	- 0.4	- 0.4	25,624	+ 0.8	- 0.9	
<b>Districts.</b>							
Huddersfield District ...	4,734	+ 1.0	- 1.2	5,040	+ 3.3	- 3.5	
Leeds District ... ..	4,350	+ 0.2	- 1.8	3,890	+ 2.9	- 0.6	
Dewsbury & Batley District...	4,041	- 1.2	- 5.0	3,789	- 3.7	- 6.1	
Other Parts of West Riding...	2,078	- 0.0	+ 6.6	1,881	- 1.8	+ 5.1	
<b>Total, West Riding</b> ...	15,183	+ 0.1	- 1.4	14,600	+ 0.7	- 2.4	
Scotland ... ..	7,515	- 1.0	+ 0.2	6,334	+ 2.3	+ 0.0	
Other Districts ... ..	5,948	- 1.0	+ 1.3	4,690	- 0.7	+ 2.9	
<b>Total, Woollen</b> ... ..	28,646	- 0.4	- 0.4	25,624	+ 0.8	- 0.9	

**Worsted Trade.**

**EMPLOYMENT** on the whole was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 49,318 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and 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 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment with woollsorters and combers at Bradford showed an improvement, but night workers were not fully employed; in the other branches it showed a decline. In the Keighley, Halifax, and Huddersfield districts employment was fairly good.

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
				No. employed on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
<b>Departments.</b>	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,375	+ 1.1	+ 0.4	5,183	+ 1.8	+ 0.5	
Spinning ... ..	26,263	- 0.0	- 0.3	14,310	- 0.8	+ 1.3	
Weaving ... ..	10,436	- 2.4	- 0.0	8,827	- 4.3	- 1.5	
Other Departments ...	5,708	- 1.3	+ 3.5	5,594	- 2.6	+ 1.2	
Unspecified ... ..	1,536	- 3.3	+ 3.3	1,111	+ 0.5	+ 11.7	
<b>Total</b> ... ..	49,318	- 0.7	+ 0.2	35,025	- 1.6	+ 0.7	
<b>Districts.</b>							
Bradford District ... ..	24,356	- 0.7	- 0.7	17,166	- 1.0	- 1.1	
Keighley District ... ..	6,981	- 0.1	+ 5.0	5,035	- 1.4	+ 3.8	
Halifax District ... ..	5,429	- 0.5	- 3.5	3,504	- 0.6	+ 1.7	
Huddersfield District ...	6,577	- 2.3	- 1.4	5,271	- 4.1	+ 2.1	
Other Parts of West Riding...	3,094	- 0.3	+ 1.2	1,839	- 1.0	+ 0.4	
<b>Total, West Riding</b> ...	46,427	- 0.8	- 0.2	33,317	- 1.5	+ 0.6	
Other Districts ... ..	2,891	+ 0.5	+ 7.5	1,708	- 1.8	+ 4.1	
<b>Total, Worsted</b> ... ..	49,318	- 0.7	+ 0.2	35,025	- 1.6	+ 0.7	

**Prices of Raw Material.**

	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.
<b>Average Prices:</b>	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	11 1/2	11	14
40's Crossbred tops ...	11 1/2	12 1/2	17 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	26	26 1/2	27 1/2
<b>Course of Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	11-10 1/2	11	14-13 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ...	12 1/2-11 1/2	12-13 1/2-12 1/2	17 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	26 1/2-25 1/2	26-26 1/2	27-27 1/2

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

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
<b>Imports (less Re-Exports)</b> 1,000 lbs.	51,295	79,168	57,444	- 27,873	- 6,149
British Exports " "	1,457	1,459	2,710	- 2	- 1,253
<b>Yarn:</b>					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	142	164	181	- 22	- 39
Worsted ... ..	3,877	4,315	4,051	- 478	- 174
Alpaca & Mohair " "	1,123	1,404	1,333	- 341	- 210
<b>Total, Yarn</b> ... ..	5,142	5,983	5,565	- 841	- 423
<b>Piece Goods:</b>					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	7,480	7,816	7,222	- 336	+ 258
Worsted ... ..	8,520	9,862	8,858	- 1,342	- 338
<b>Total, Piece Goods</b> ...	16,000	17,678	16,080	- 1,678	- 80

**FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.**

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

**EMPLOYMENT** continued quiet, and was much worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 47,006 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd, showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with



Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing ...	6,466	+ 1.0	+ 7.2	3,257	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Spinning ...	12,161	+ 0.1	+ 6.8	5,491	- 2.4	- 0.2
Weaving ...	15,134	- 1.7	- 9.5	8,028	- 3.6	- 19.7
Other ...	6,847	- 1.1	+ 3.6	5,263	+ 0.4	- 0.0
Not specified ...	6,378	+ 2.0	- 0.8	3,653	+ 5.7	- 7.9
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>47,006</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>- 1.5</b>	<b>25,672</b>	<b>- 0.9</b>	<b>- 9.4</b>

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

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	9,239	7,936	9,521	+ 1,253	- 232
<b>Exports:</b>					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	11,427	13,032	13,163	- 1,505	- 1,736
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	122,735	161,074	152,833	- 58,339	- 30,098

**JUTE TRADE.**

Based on 39 Returns—37 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 18,654 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,654 workpeople covered by the Returns, 16,037 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago, every department showed an improvement in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing ...	4,584	+ 2.4	+ 6.9	2,911	+ 4.0	+ 13.0
Spinning ...	3,272	- 0.5	+ 4.1	3,306	+ 1.2	+ 10.3
Weaving ...	6,223	+ 0.0	+ 2.3	4,526	+ 1.4	+ 6.7
Other ...	2,080	+ 3.1	+ 4.8	2,059	+ 2.0	+ 6.4
Not specified ...	695	+ 0.6	+ 3.3	518	+ 1.2	+ 7.9
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>18,654</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>+ 4.3</b>	<b>13,350</b>	<b>+ 2.0</b>	<b>+ 9.0</b>

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the months stated.

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Jute ... Tons	18,593	52,005	46,292	- 33,412	- 27,699
<b>Exports:</b>					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	44,458	49,105	57,481	- 4,647	- 13,023
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	108,368	110,326	119,774	- 1,958	- 11,404

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 103 Returns—93 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued fairly good; it was slightly better than a year ago.

Firms employing 15,983 workpeople, and paying £11,861 in wages in the week ended February 22nd, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment showed a slight decline, but was fairly good, and better than a year ago. At Hinckley it was moderate; at Loughborough it was fairly good in some branches, but not so good in others. Employment at Nottingham was moderate with power framework knitters, and worse than a year ago. In Derbyshire it was, on the whole, slack. With hand framework knitters generally it was moderate. At Hawick and Selkirk it was good, and about the same as a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester ...	7,512	+ 0.9	+ 4.4	5,759	- 1.0	+ 3.0
Leicester Country District ...	2,508	+ 1.5	+ 5.2	1,909	+ 2.6	+ 1.4
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	3,137	- 0.9	- 1.6	2,444	- 0.9	- 4.8
Scotland ...	2,061	- 0.3	+ 0.1	1,431	+ 1.1	+ 1.1
Other Districts ...	525	- 2.2	+ 2.1	318	- 2.8	+ 7.8
<b>Total, United Kingdom</b>	<b>15,983</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 2.5</b>	<b>11,861</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in February, 1908, amounted to £47,434 and £144,240, as compared with £37,120 and £107,462 in January, 1908, and £34,488 and £85,931 in February, 1907.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in February, 1908, amounted to £139,370 and £41,591, as compared with £163,480 and £47,667 in January, 1908, and £128,416 and £45,735 in February, 1907.

**LACE TRADE.**

(Based on 99 Returns—89 from Employers, 6 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,978 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd, and paying £3,021 in wages, showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 15.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was fair in the curtain branch, fairly good in the plain net branch; in the levers branch it continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the Long Eaton district employment was bad, and worse than a year ago; in the West of

England it was slack. In Scotland employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lavers ...	2,542	+ 0.5	- 9.5	2,457	- 6.3	- 37.5
Curtain ...	2,563	+ 0.6	- 0.4	2,573	+ 3.0	+ 2.6
Plain Net ...	2,976	+ 0.7	+ 5.7	2,358	- 0.7	+ 1.9
Others ...	891	+ 1.4	- 5.4	623	+ 2.8	- 14.0
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,978</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>- 1.8</b>	<b>8,021</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>- 15.5</b>

(Based on 34 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 12 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Raw Silk ... Lbs.	51,073	64,271	114,721	- 12,198	- 62,648
Thrown Silk ... "	52,461	38,140	56,378	+ 14,321	- 3,917
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	21,552	27,346	34,050	- 5,794	- 12,498
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	6,832,866	5,821,111	6,650,768	+ 1,011,775	+ 202,118
<b>Exports:</b>					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs.	3,481	2,741	372	+ 740	+ 3,109
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	69,640	69,295	94,370	+ 354	- 24,721
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	379,188	369,395	1,027,188	+ 9,793	- 648,000

(Based on 54 Returns—52 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair generally, but showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,477 workpeople, and paying £5,527 in wages on pay-day in the week ended February 22nd, 1908, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing ...	1,032	- 1.6	- 6.1	367	- 5.9	- 11.6
Spinning ...	2,813	- 0.8	+ 1.7	2,105	- 1.1	+ 0.9
Weaving ...	3,444	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	2,176	- 2.8	- 4.4
Other ...	1,956	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	811	- 0.6	- 6.1
Not specified ...	132	- 4.3	- 2.2	68	+ 6.3	+ 7.9
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,477</b>	<b>- 0.9</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>- 2.0</b>	<b>- 3.1</b>

With spinners and throwsters, employment continued good at Macclesfield and Congleton, and fair at Leek.

At Macclesfield it was fair with powerloom weavers, bad with outside handloom weavers, and good with handloom weavers in factories. With trimming weavers it was bad at Leek, moderate at Congleton. At Congleton it continued good with dressers. In the Bradford district employment continued fairly good generally. In the Eastern Counties employment was bad.

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

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Raw Silk ... Lbs.	51,073	64,271	114,721	- 12,198	- 62,648
Thrown Silk ... "	52,461	38,140	56,378	+ 14,321	- 3,917
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	21,552	27,346	34,050	- 5,794	- 12,498
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	6,832,866	5,821,111	6,650,768	+ 1,011,775	+ 202,118
<b>Exports:</b>					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs.	3,481	2,741	372	+ 740	+ 3,109
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	69,640	69,295	94,370	+ 354	- 24,721
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	379,188	369,395	1,027,188	+ 9,793	- 648,000

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

(Based on 34 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 12 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

**Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.**

**Woollen and Worsted Dyers.**—Employment in the West Riding was on the whole moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. About three-eighths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about a quarter worked overtime.

**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment on the whole was quiet, and worse than a year ago.

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

**Calico Printers, &c.**—Employment with machine calico printers was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; with calico printers' engravers it was fairly good. In Glasgow it was bad with calico printers and engravers, and fair with block printers.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.**—At Leicester employment showed a further slight improvement; at Hinckley it was quiet; at Loughborough it was moderate. With dyers at Nottingham employment was fair; at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate with bleachers, and fair with hosiery trimmers; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was not so good as a year ago.

**Calenderers, &c.**—In Glasgow employment continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. In Dundee it was moderate with bleachfield workers, fair with calender workers.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on 127 Returns—96 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London showed the usual seasonal slackness, and was about the same as a year ago. In the Provinces it was bad. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good, and, on the whole, showed little change compared with a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

**London.**—Employment during February showed the usual seasonal slackness, and was about the same as a year ago.

Firms paying £9,016 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended February 22nd showed an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Centres.**—Employment was reported as bad at Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast; fair at Dublin.

**Ready-made Branch.**

**London.**—Employment on the whole was fairly good, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.



**Leeds.**—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago. Firms employing 7,670 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended February 22nd showed an increase of 3·7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0·8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The Jewish operatives reported employment as bad, but not so bad as a month ago.

**Other Centres.**—Employment at Manchester was moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Norwich it was moderate. At Bristol on the whole it was fair, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At Glasgow employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in February, 1908, were valued at £234,364, as compared with £185,231 in January 1908, and £252,860 in February, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months at £430,207, £479,358 and £451,950 respectively.

### HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 11 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during February in the *Silk* hat branch was bad, but better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat branch it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 10·9, compared with 17·5 a month ago, and 7·1 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 2·1, compared with 3·2 a month ago and 3·4 a year ago. Employment at Denton and Stockport was good; in Warwickshire it showed a decline; on the whole it was better than a year ago.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
All kinds ... ..	Dozens. 30,242	Dozens. 25,948	Dozens. 45,654	Dozens. + 4,294	Dozens. - 15,412
<b>Exports:</b>					
Felt ... ..	50,873	36,663	63,172	+ 14,210	- 12,299
Straw ... ..	48,876	54,979	51,362	- 6,103	- 2,486
Other Sorts ... ..	7,789	4,612	4,419	+ 3,177	+ 3,370
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>107,538</b>	<b>96,254</b>	<b>118,953</b>	<b>+ 11,284</b>	<b>- 11,415</b>

### BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 504 Returns—488 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 63,579 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed an increase of 0·9 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 an increase of 1·8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Northampton it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; with army bootmakers it was fairly good, but showed a slight decline. At Bristol it was fairly good, and better than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and at Leeds there was a further decline as compared with the previous month, but employment was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment was fairly good, and much better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. employed during week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.					
London ... ..	2,245	+ 2·8	2,539	+ 4·3	- 4·7
Leicester ... ..	1,725	+ 2·8	15,288	+ 6·1	+ 2·4
Leicester Country District	3,345	+ 0·4	3,241	- 0·6	- 5·9
Northampton Country District	9,574	+ 2·2	9,170	+ 5·4	+ 8·9
Stafford & District ... ..	2,581	+ 0·4	2,889	+ 1·8	+ 1·3
Norwich & District ... ..	3,395	+ 0·3	2,893	+ 1·3	- 0·4
Bristol & District ... ..	1,455	+ 2·4	1,336	- 0·1	+ 7·6
Kingswood ... ..	1,812	- 0·2	1,537	- 7·9	+ 4·2
Leeds & District ... ..	2,191	- 0·3	1,860	- 4·0	+ 3·7
Manchester & District ... ..	2,506	- 1·1	2,060	- 1·6	- 14·6
Birmingham & District ... ..	971	+ 1·7	770	+ 2·4	- 3·1
Other parts of England and Wales	2,782	- 0·9	2,384	...	+ 2·0
ENGLAND & WALES ... ..	59,410	+ 1·0	57,710	+ 2·2	+ 1·8
SCOTLAND ... ..	3,009	+ 0·5	3,707	+ 3·1	+ 13·3
IRELAND ... ..	220	+ 2·0	181	+ 2·8	- 0·5
UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	63,579	+ 0·9	61,598	+ 2·2	+ 2·3

### Imports and Exports.

	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports (less Re-Exports)</b>					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	23,370	21,646	21,049	+ 1,724	+ 2,321
Value ... .. £	72,875	62,386	71,479	+ 10,489	+ 1,595
<b>Exports (British and Irish)</b>					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	89,241	83,277	82,078	+ 5,964	+ 7,153
Value ... .. £	193,832	184,357	178,689	+ 11,475	+ 17,143

### OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 195 Returns—192 from Employers, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trades was moderate; it was worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades in London employment was fair, and better than a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was fair; in the corset trade fairly good.

**Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,332 dressmakers in the week ended February 22nd, showed a decrease of 1·0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4·3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. Court dressmakers, employing 1,108 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd, showed an increase of 9·4 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 5·5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. Employment with milliners in the West-End was fair, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,638 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed an increase of 8·0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 4·3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a month ago; compared with a year ago little change was shown. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month

was good; firms employing 1,830 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd showed an increase of 5·1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,878 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 22nd, and paying £5,115 in wages, showed an increase of 4·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1·5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 2,977 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 22nd, showed a decrease of 2·0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3·6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

### OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 47 Returns—30 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet generally. It showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and a slight decline compared with a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,637 had 6·6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6·9 per cent. in January, and 6·2 per cent. a year ago.

**Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.**—Employment with skimmers was bad in London and at Birmingham, dull at Leeds; with curriers it was bad in London and at Walsall, quiet in Birmingham and Glasgow, and fair in other centres. With leather workers generally it was fair at Manchester, Bolton and Bury, and good at Wigan; in Leeds it was very quiet.

**Saddle and Harness Makers.**—Employment was bad in London and at Walsall; it was fair with saddlers in Glasgow and Dublin.

**Miscellaneous Leather Trades.**—With fancy leather workers employment was bad generally. With fancy leather and morocco finishers in London it was quiet. With portmanteau and trunk makers it was quiet in London and moderate at Manchester.

### Imports and Exports.

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry ... ..	25,957	26,246	41,103	- 289	- 15,146
Ditto, wet ... ..	78,407	49,704	46,982	+ 28,703	+ 31,425
<b>Total, hides, dry and wet</b>	<b>104,364</b>	<b>75,950</b>	<b>88,085</b>	<b>+ 28,414</b>	<b>+ 16,279</b>
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	884,109	647,908	988,607	+ 236,201	- 104,498
Sheep skins, (value) £	203,129	221,214	214,660	- 18,085	- 11,531
<b>Leather* ... ..</b>	<b>85,577</b>	<b>87,877</b>	<b>81,029</b>	<b>- 2,100</b>	<b>+ 4,548</b>
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Saddlery and harness (value) ... ..	£ 37,238	£ 41,943	£ 36,429	- 4,705	+ 809

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

(Based on 424 Returns—135 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 270 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

#### PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. Returns received from firms employing 22,240 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an

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

increase of 0·1 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of February, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:</b>			
Northern Counties ... ..	6,426	+ 0·6	+ 3·6
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ... ..	2,461	+ 0·1	+ 3·8
Southern Counties ... ..	6,600	- 0·1	+ 3·5
Scotland ... ..	5,717	- 0·2	+ 1·8
<b>Total, Machine-made Paper, &amp;c.</b>	<b>21,504</b>	<b>+ 0·1</b>	<b>+ 3·1</b>
<b>Hand-made Paper ... ..</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>- 0·4</b>
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>22,240</b>	<b>+ 0·1</b>	<b>+ 3·0</b>

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade, with 1,876 members, had 1·8 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 1·6 per cent. in January and 1·8 per cent. in February, 1907.

The **Imports** of paper in February, 1908, amounted to £524,584, as compared with £462,388 in January, 1908, and £401,205 in February, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same periods amounted to £198,053, £206,108, and £190,034 respectively.

#### PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was quiet on the whole. It was rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago, the decline being chiefly due to slackness in London.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	20,489	5·2	5·7	2·7	- 0·5	+ 2·5
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,333	4·4	5·6	4·5	- 1·2	- 0·1
Lancs. and Cheshire ... ..	6,591	5·0	4·0	5·1	+ 1·0	- 0·1
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,415	2·7	3·9	2·7	- 1·2	...
West Midlands ... ..	2,495	4·5	4·2	4·5	+ 0·3	...
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,952	2·7	3·0	2·6	- 0·3	+ 0·1
Scotland ... ..	5,602	3·9	3·3	3·3	+ 0·6	+ 0·6
Ireland ... ..	2,462	8·3	8·9	5·9	- 0·6	+ 2·4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>49,339</b>	<b>4·8</b>	<b>5·0</b>	<b>3·6</b>	<b>- 0·2</b>	<b>+ 1·2</b>

**London.**—Employment remained dull. It was rather better than a month ago, but decidedly worse than a year ago. At the end of the month 5·2 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 5·7 per cent. at the end of January and 2·7 per cent. at the end of February, 1907.

**Other Centres.**—Employment was quiet on the whole. With letterpress printers it was better than in January. Lithographic artists reported a slight improvement, but with lithographic printers employment showed a decline. Employment with letterpress printers was reported as fair at Edinburgh, and as good at Dundee, Bolton, Liverpool, Leicester, Nottingham and Oxford. Electrotypers and stereotypers were fairly well employed.

#### BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in London was slack, with short time, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the provinces it was quiet on the whole. At Manchester it was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	3,629	7·4	5·5	5·6	+ 1·9	+ 1·8
Other Districts ... ..	3,403	4·1	2·9	2·6	+ 1·2	+ 1·5
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>7,032</b>	<b>5·8</b>	<b>4·3</b>	<b>4·1</b>	<b>+ 1·5</b>	<b>+ 1·7</b>



**BUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 1,839 Returns—866 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 920 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 53 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in February continued slack. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Returns from 800 firms employing 47,093 workpeople at the end of February are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was an increase of 3·2 per cent., and compared with a year ago a decrease of 5·8 per cent., in the total number of workpeople employed. In London the increase compared with January was 7·4 per cent., and the decrease compared with February, 1907, was 12·9 per cent. In the provinces the changes in the numbers employed were smaller in proportion, there being an increase of 1·2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1·8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Jan., 1908.	Jan., 1907.	Feb., 1907.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London ... ..	8,849	8,148	10,456	6,091	5,745	6,718
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,470	2,401	2,669	1,996	2,041	2,670
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,316	3,356	3,408	2,762	2,691	2,599
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,910	2,916	2,782	3,629	3,641	2,864
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,936	2,784	2,998	1,724	1,790	2,075
England and Wales ...	20,481	19,605	22,313	16,202	15,908	16,916
Scotland ... ..	3,306	3,138	3,264	1,737	1,782	1,707
Ireland ... ..	579	656	855	1,007	884	701
United Kingdom ...	24,376	23,379	26,432	18,946	18,574	19,424

District.	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.
London ... ..	584	463	640	15,824	14,466	17,814
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	547	529	631	8,013	8,971	8,970
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	899	889	937	6,977	6,936	6,934
Midland & Eastern Counties	388	374	411	6,927	6,931	6,087
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	494	478	501	5,184	5,082	5,974
England and Wales ...	2,912	2,833	3,120	39,598	38,346	42,389
Scotland ... ..	797	801	916	5,840	5,721	5,977
Ireland ... ..	62	59	81	1,688	1,879	1,637
United Kingdom ...	3,771	3,693	4,117	47,093	45,646	49,973

Compared with a month ago an improvement in employment was reported by painters, carpenters, and slaters, and a decline by plumbers. Compared with a year ago a decline was reported by nearly all branches, but slaters in England reported an improvement.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of February was 9·7, as compared with 11·1 a month ago and 7·9 a year ago; and for plumbers, for the same dates, 12·4, 9·0, and 7·3 respectively.

London.—Employment remained slack generally. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 10·5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 12·8 per cent. a month ago and 8·2 per cent. in February, 1907. The percentages for plumbers were 15·8, 14·2, and 13·0 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment remained slack in nearly all districts. It was rather better on the whole than a month ago, especially with painters, but was worse than a year ago. Plumbers were not so well employed as in January.

On the Tyne and Wear and at Sheffield a decline in employment was reported, and at Leeds a very large proportion of bricklayers and plasterers were unemployed. Painters at Manchester, Blackburn and Burnley were fairly well employed, and at Oldham employment generally continued moderate. Masons were well employed at Derby, Burton, Northampton and Cambridge. Employment was fair at Clacton and Felixstowe, but declined at Nottingham. With bricklayers at Derby and Burton a decline in employment was reported. In the Bristol,

Plymouth and Cardiff districts masons, bricklayers and carpenters reported an improvement in employment. At Llandudno and Rhyl employment was reported as improving. At Edinburgh and Dundee painters were fairly well employed. At Glasgow and Aberdeen masons reported a decline in employment. Painters at Cork were fairly well employed.

**FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.**

(Based on 182 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 150 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was bad. It was better on the whole than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,278 reported 8·3 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1908, as compared with 9·8 per cent. a month ago, and 5·3 per cent. a year ago.

**Furnishing Trades.**

Employment in the furnishing trades was bad, but better than a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 11·4 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1908, as compared with 14·6 per cent. a month ago, and 6·9 per cent. in February, 1907.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in February, 1908, were valued at £50,061, as compared with £34,375 in January, 1908, and £35,416 in February, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods at £51,210, £66,289, and £56,102 respectively.

**Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.**

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued bad. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7·8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 7·1 per cent. a month ago and 4·5 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.—The Table below shows the quantities of hewn and sawn timber, and the values of house frames, &c., imported for the months stated.

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Feb., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Loads.	Loads.
Timber, hewn ... ..	25,009	37,371	31,959	− 12,362	− 6,950
"  sawn ... ..	126,771	189,507	152,073	− 62,735	− 25,502
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 13,977	£ 22,467	£ 14,990	− £ 8,490	− £ 1,013

**Coopers.**

Employment with coopers continued quiet generally. It was fair at Hull and at Dublin.

**Coachbuilding.**

Employment with coachbuilders continued bad. It was better on the whole than a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. In Liverpool and Manchester employment showed an improvement. Trade Unions reported 6·9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 8·4 per cent. a month ago and 3·7 per cent. a year ago.

**Miscellaneous.**

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 3·4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 4·2 per cent. a month ago and 4·3 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was bad generally, but good at Bolton and Bury. With basket-makers it continued bad in London, moderate at Leicester, and good at Oldham.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in February, 1908, were valued at £29,000, as compared with £23,260 in January, 1908, and £24,675 in February, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £15,502, £17,385, and £14,214 respectively.

**POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.**

(Based on 31 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued bad, with much short time.

Pottery Trade.—Employment was fair in Devonshire; in Staffordshire and Scotland it was moderate, and worse than a month ago; at Bristol it declined and short time was worked. With earthenware makers in South Yorkshire and the River Aire district it was fair; in the Potteries it was bad, and worse than a month ago. With insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries employment continued bad. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was good at Manchester and Gateshead; dull at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was good at Oldham and in South Wales; fair at Stourbridge; moderate in the South-Western and Eastern Counties, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; bad at Peterborough, Nottingham, Birmingham, Bristol, and Glasgow, and in Staffordshire and Shropshire; quiet in North Wales and in South Yorkshire.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in February, 1908, were valued at £78,534, as compared with £59,270 in January, 1908, and £63,369 in February, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £211,010, £214,078, and £183,219 respectively.

**GLASS TRADES.**

(Based on 89 Returns—61 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the glass trades continued fairly good on the whole, and showed little change as compared with a month ago and with a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,271 workpeople in the week ended February 22nd, and paying £10,145 in wages, showed, as compared with the previous month, very little change in the numbers employed, but an increase of 2·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. As compared with February, 1907, the numbers employed increased by 0·4 per cent., and the wages paid by 4·5 per cent. The increase in the wages paid as compared with both periods was confined to the glass bottle department in Yorkshire, in which there was an advance in wages during the month, all other branches showing a decrease.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Feb. 22nd 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle ... ..	5,738	+ 0·7	+ 3·8	£ 7,420	+ 4·4	+ 9·5
Plate Glass ... ..	750	− 3·0	− 11·0	836	− 4·0	− 9·0
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,365	− 0·9	− 4·0	1,424	− 2·0	− 6·4
Other Branches ... ..	418	− 3·0	− 6·7	465	− 2·5	− 5·5
Total ... ..	8,271	− 0·1	+ 0·4	10,145	+ 2·4	+ 4·5

Districts.	No. of Workpeople.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
North of England	923	− 3·8	− 12·6
Yorkshire ... ..	4,637	+ 1·4	+ 7·0
Lancashire ... ..	740	− 0·4	− 8·3
Worcester and Warwick	1,095	− 1·8	− 8·4
Scotland ... ..	876	− 0·1	+ 3·5
Total ... ..	8,271	− 0·1	+ 0·4

With glass bottle makers employment was good at Leeds and at Bristol, and in Scotland; fair at Dublin;

moderate in the North of England, and at Castleford. In Lancashire it was worse than a month ago. With medical glass bottle makers employment continued good at Rotherham, and moderate at Leeds. With flint glass makers it was moderate on the whole in England and good in Scotland. With cutters it was good at Wordsley, and moderate at Birmingham. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was bad; with flatteners at St. Helens it was slack. London glass blowers reported employment as fairly good and better than a month ago. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it continued bad; at Glasgow it was dull. With decorative glass workers at Manchester it was also dull.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the months stated:—

Description.	Feb., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Feb., 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 124,033	cwts. 96,661	cwts. 103,305	+ 27,374	+ 20,728
Plate ... ..	35,275	23,517	32,063	+ 11,758	+ 3,212
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	57,570	56,787	57,177	+ 583	+ 193
Manufactures, other sorts...	873	817	642	+ 56	+ 231
Bottles ... ..	gross 131,748	gross 119,280	gross 100,496	+ 12,468	+ 31,252
<b>Exports:</b>					
Plate ... ..	cwts. 10,015	cwts. 13,691	cwts. 10,184	− 3,646	− 159
Flint ... ..	4,195	4,977	5,600	− 802	− 1,405
Manufactures, other sorts ...	28,470	34,017	30,059	− 5,547	− 1,599
Bottles ... ..	gross 65,608	gross 69,016	gross 70,140	− 3,408	− 4,532

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.**

(Based on 200 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

EMPLOYMENT, generally speaking, was fairly regular during February, little time being lost owing to bad weather. The supply of day labourers was on the whole rather in excess of the demand.

Northern Counties.—Though the weather during February was changeable, out-door work in Northumberland and Durham was fairly regular during the greater part of the month, and ploughing was proceeded with. A correspondent in the Morpeth Union (Northumberland) states that some of the district hirings have just been held, and that there was a good demand for farm labourers, but wages were unchanged. There was little demand for extra labour during the month. In Cumberland and Westmorland the weather was open until the latter part of the month, when snow caused some interruption of work. Day labourers were employed in cutting turnips, spreading manure, hedging and draining. Day labourers were not in much demand in Lancashire and Yorkshire, wet weather having interrupted out-door work. Men for permanent situations were in demand in certain Unions.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Cheshire and Derbyshire state that employment was little interfered with by rain during February; day labourers were engaged in threshing, manure spreading, draining and hedge cutting. A correspondent in the Nantwich Union (Cheshire) states that stockmen and ploughmen were in request. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire outdoor work was rendered somewhat irregular by wet weather, and the supply of day labourers was generally more than sufficient. Day labourers were fully employed as a rule in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire in threshing, manure-carting, hedge-trimming, and ploughing, and the supply of this class of labour was generally adequate. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported in several districts in these counties. Very few extra men were required in Northamptonshire, where the open weather allowed outdoor work to be carried on and arrears to be made up. Employment was fairly regular in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, but there was little demand for day



labourers. Wet and boisterous weather interfered to some extent with outdoor employment in *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire*.

**Eastern Counties.**—Agricultural labourers in *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* were for the most part fully employed, little time being lost owing to bad weather. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. Employment in *Lincolnshire* was only slightly interrupted by wet weather. The supply of day labourers was generally adequate. Similar reports come from *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*. Towards the end of the month wet weather interrupted outdoor work in *Essex*, and some day labourers lost time.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Correspondents in *Kent* report that employment was little hindered by bad weather, but the supply of day labourers was greater than the demand. Similar reports were received from correspondents in *Surrey* and *Sussex*. Employment was fairly regular in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire*, and day labourers were fully employed in threshing, hedge-trimming and manure spreading. The supply of this class of men was adequate. Work was uninterrupted in *Wiltshire*, where the supply of day labourers was rather in excess of the demand. Day labourers were fairly well employed in *Dorsetshire*, where the open weather permitted spring corn to be sown and farm work to be generally advanced. A correspondent in the Wareham and Purbeck Union states that at the hiring fair on February 14th the supply of men for permanent situations was in excess of the demand. The supply of extra men was equal to requirements in *Somersetshire*, where employment was generally plentiful. In *Herefordshire* employment was fairly regular with day labourers, and in some districts the demand was somewhat greater than the supply. Permanent men were fully employed in *Gloucestershire*, where the open weather was generally favourable to farm operations, but day labourers were in little request. Employment in *Devonshire* and *Cornwall* was regular and plentiful, and day labourers were in demand for turnip lifting, hedging, ditching and threshing. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported in certain Unions.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 140 Returns—116 from Employers' Associations, 10 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was moderate in London during February, and showed some decline as compared with a month ago. At the South Wales ports and at Leith it was good; at other ports dull, and worse than a month ago.

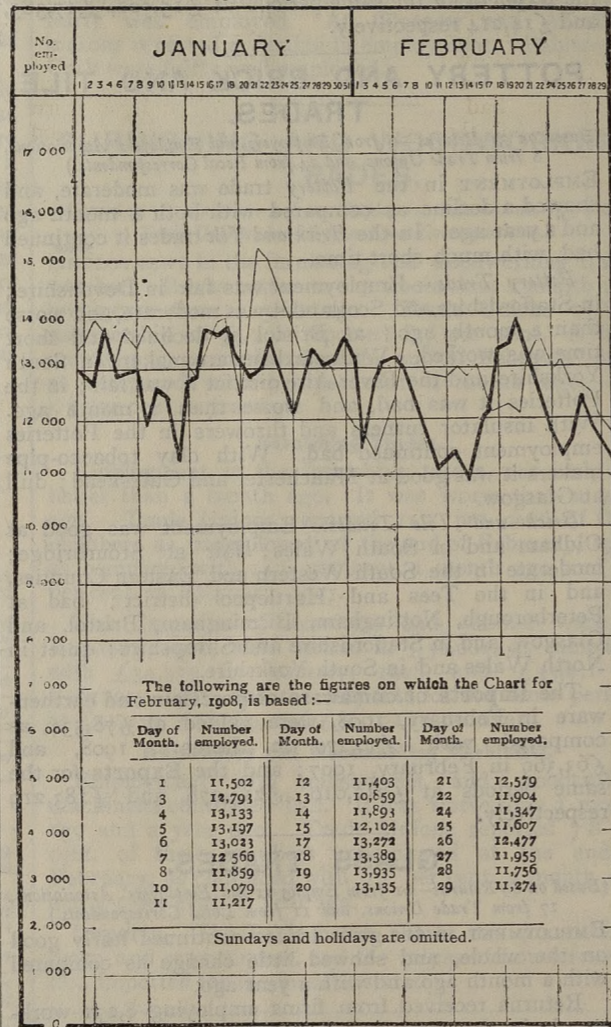
**London.**\*—Employment generally was moderate during February. Wool sales and deliveries during the first two weeks caused an improvement at the London Docks. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended February 29th was 12,240, a decrease of 5.5 per cent. compared with the previous month, and of 3.4 per cent. as compared with February, 1907. The daily numbers in February ranged from 10,859 on the 13th to 13,935 on the 19th. During the corresponding month of 1907 the numbers ranged from 11,274 on the 4th to 13,597 on the 22nd.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Feb. 8th	4,218	2,733	6,953	5,809	12,762
" " 15th	3,374	2,038	5,412	5,753	11,165
" " 22nd	4,370	2,842	7,212	5,824	13,036
" " 29th	3,788	2,197	5,985	5,751	11,736
Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 29th, 1908	3,988	2,468	6,456	5,784	12,240
Average for Jan., 1908	4,489	2,416	6,905	6,047	12,952
Average for Feb., 1907	3,895	2,587	6,482	6,183	12,665

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of January and February, 1908. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1907, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1907-8, and the thin curve to 1906-7.]



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,007 during February, 1908, as compared with 1,377 in the previous month, and 1,098 in February, 1907.

At *Liverpool* employment was slack at the South Docks, but fair at the North Docks. It continued fair with quay and railway carters.

**Other Ports.**—Employment with dock and quayside labour on the Tyne and Wear was bad generally, and worse than a month ago. At *Middlesbrough* and the *Hartlepoons* it was dull on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Dockers were moderately employed at *Hull* and *Grimsby*, and very slack at *Goole*; employment with coal porters was bad, and a general decline was reported. Dock and riverside labourers were slack generally at the East Coast ports. At the South-Western ports employment was moderate with general quay labour, but better on the whole than a month ago. Employment in *Bristol* was dull, but slightly better than in January; it had improved and was good at the South Wales ports, and at *Manchester* it was moderate. Dockers were fairly well employed at *Leith*; there was a decline at *Greenock* and *Dundee*; at *Aberdeen* employment continued fair. It was bad with dock labourers at *Dublin* and *Belfast*.

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 15 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in February, 1908, showed a decline in both quantity and value as compared with February, 1907. Employment during February at the principal ports was, on the whole, only moderate. At *Yarmouth*,

employment with fishermen showed some improvement, but with fish dock labourers and fish curers it continued bad. At *Grimsby* it was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At *Lowestoft* and *Hull* it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers; with fish curers it was moderate. At *Aberdeen* employment was fair with all classes; at *Macduff* it continued moderate; at *Peterhead* it was bad with fishermen and worse than a month ago; with fish dock labourers and fish curers it was fair; at *Fraserburgh* it was moderate with fishermen, bad with fish dock labourers, and good with curers. Off the south-west coast of England good catches were made in the early part of the month.

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Feb., 1908.	Feb., 1907.	Feb., 1908.	Feb., 1907.
<b>Fish (other than Shell):</b>				
England and Wales ... ..	Cwts. 591,173	615,766	£ 525,043	£ 570,335
Scotland ... ..	396,523	445,176	167,718	195,191
Ireland ... ..	21,234	17,570	10,937	11,436
Total ... ..	1,008,930	1,078,512	703,708	776,962
<b>Shell Fish ... ..</b>			29,562	30,670
<b>Total Value ... ..</b>			733,270	807,632

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in February, 1908, were valued at £101,947 as compared with £107,680 in January, 1908, and £71,410 in February, 1907.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN FEBRUARY.**

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during February 34,452 seamen\*, of whom 3,724 (or 10.8 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. The greatest increase as compared with February, 1907, occurred at *Southampton*, and the greatest decreases at *Cardiff* and *Glasgow*. The total number shipped in February 1908, was the same as in February, 1907.

For the two months ended February, 1908, the total number of seamen\* shipped was 74,390, or 714 more than during the corresponding period of 1907. The greatest increase occurred at *Southampton* and the greatest decrease at *Cardiff*.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	February,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.	January-February,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.
	1907.	1908.		1907.	1908.	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	2,624	2,323	- 301	4,715	4,956	+ 241
Sunderland ... ..	359	396	+ 37	876	721	- 155
Middlesbrough ... ..	318	210	- 108	783	647	- 136
Hull ... ..	1,065	1,003	- 62	2,575	2,169	- 406
Grimsby ... ..	46	94	+ 48	113	137	+ 24
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ... ..	607	583	- 24	1,245	1,240	- 5
Newport, Mon. ... ..	732	770	+ 38	1,704	1,671	- 33
Cardiff ... ..	5,068	4,178	- 890	11,127	9,323	- 1,804
Swansea ... ..	443	422	- 21	990	772	- 218
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ... ..	12,063	12,481	+ 418	25,573	26,498	+ 925
London ... ..	5,156	5,181	+ 25	11,176	11,263	+ 87
Southampton ... ..	2,254	3,860	+ 1,606	4,813	8,225	+ 3,412
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith ... ..	419	222	- 197	951	562	- 389
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ... ..	168	122	- 46	395	213	- 182
Glasgow ... ..	2,868	2,267	- 601	5,881	5,267	- 614
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ... ..	30	40	+ 10	160	190	+ 40
Belfast ... ..	232	300	+ 68	539	606	+ 67
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>34,452</b>	<b>34,452</b>		<b>73,676</b>	<b>74,390</b>	<b>+ 714</b>

\* 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.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

**(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.**

**ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF THE EMPLOYMENT: MISCHIEVOUS CONDUCT: WRONGFUL ACT OF FELLOW WORKMAN.**

Where a workman is injured by accident, compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, is payable only where the accident was one arising out of, and in the course of the employment.

A miner in the employment of an iron and coal company had brought a hutch to a place where he was working, for his own use. Two other miners mischievously made off with the hutch followed by the man first mentioned. When he caught them up he took a prop and pushed one of the other men with it in order to get the hutch from him. The man pushed, resenting this, threw a handful of coal dust at his assailant, who, in trying to avoid the missile, struck his head against a protruding part of the wall of the passage and injured one of his eyes. The injured man claimed compensation, and succeeded in obtaining an award in the Sheriff's Court.

The employers appealed, and the Court of Session decided that the accident was due to the mischievous misconduct of a fellow servant, that it was not incidental to the employment of a miner, that the accident did not arise out of the employment, and that the man was not entitled to compensation.—*Burley v. Baird & Company, Ltd., Court of Session, February 5th, 1908.*

**ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT. WHO IS A WORKMAN? SHIP'S CAPTAIN.**

Compensation is payable only where the accident which caused injury to a workman was an accident arising out of and in the course of the employment. The term "workman" does not include any person employed otherwise than by way of manual labour whose remuneration exceeds £250 a year.

The captain of a ship was paid £216 a year, and was provided while on board the ship with food, and also had a small allowance made to him for washing. He was on board during the greater part of the year. While his ship was in dock at Antwerp some of the crew deserted. In order to report this matter to the British Consul, the captain left the ship and went into the town, arriving at the Consulate just as it was closed for the midday meal time, according to the custom of most offices in Antwerp. The captain then, in trying to jump on to a tram car while in motion, fell and was killed some 20 yards from the door of the Consulate. The tram car was going in the direction of the centre of the town, but it was unknown what the captain's object was in travelling by it, or where he intended to go. It was supposed, however, that his intention was to return to the Consulate later, and to spend the intervening time in going into the town, and getting his own midday meal. The captain's dependents made a claim for compensation, and obtained an award in their favour from the County Court judge, who decided that the deceased had been killed by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, and that he was a workman within the meaning of the Act. He decided that the deceased was a workman on the ground that his total remuneration did not exceed £250 a year, as he did not save enough by his allowance for food and washing to bring his pay of £216 up to that sum. The ship owners appealed. The Court of Appeal held that the County Court judge had applied the wrong test in determining the value of the deceased's allowances; that the true test was, not what the deceased could himself have provided his board for, but what was the actual value to him of the board allowance provided for him by his employers. The Court therefore remitted the case to the County Court judge to ascertain this value, and whether when added to £216 cash the remuneration exceeded £250 a year. Then, if it was found that the deceased was a workman, the case must come back for argument on the other point as to whether there was evidence that the accident had arisen out of and in course of the employment.—*Dothie v. McAndrew & Co., Court of Appeal, February 11th and 12th, 1908.*

**ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT: ACCIDENT RETURNING FROM PAY OFFICE.**

A workman had been for many years in the employment of a Municipal Corporation, and had for three months been employed about the construction of a sewer. On the day of the accident he went to work as usual at 6 o'clock a.m., at a part of the works which was about three-quarters of a mile from the pay office. In the middle of the day he was allowed half an hour off to go to the pay office for his wages. Having been paid, he got on to a tram car to return to his work; but being told by the conductor that he was on the wrong tram, he jumped off and was knocked down by a passing vehicle and severely injured. He took proceedings to obtain an award of compensation, but compensation was refused on the ground that the accident had not arisen in the course of his employment.

Against this decision the injured man appealed, and the Court of Appeal decided that the continuity of the man's employment had not been broken by his entering the tram car; that the accident was one arising out of and in the course of the employment, and that he was entitled to compensation.—*Nelson v. Corporation of Belfast, Court of Appeal of Ireland, February 17th, 1908.*

**"AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: WAITERS' 'TIPS.'**

In case of a fatal accident to a workman, the amount of compensation payable to his dependents is calculated according to the "average weekly earnings" of the deceased. Illegitimate children



are included among "dependents" if they are in fact dependent upon the deceased's earnings at the time of the fatal accident.

A young man who was employed as a waiter upon a restaurant car on a railway, was killed by an accident in circumstances entitling his dependents to compensation from his employers. He had an illegitimate child dependent upon him, and a claim was made for compensation for this child. The employers did not dispute the right of the child to compensation; but contested the amount payable. The wages of the deceased had been 12s. 6d. a week, and he also was entitled to three meals a day upon the car. These three meals were agreed to be worth another 12s. 6d. a week; and the County Court judge assessed the compensation payable on the basis of the deceased's average weekly earnings having been 25s. It was, however, contended for the claimant that as the deceased used to receive at least from 10s. to 12s. a week in gratuities or "tips" from passengers whom he served with meals, these sums should be reckoned in his average weekly earnings. The County Court judge, however, refused to accept this argument on the ground that "earnings" means earnings as between employer and workman, and cannot include sums paid to the workman by other persons, and also on the ground that there was no evidence of any express agreement between employer and workman that the latter should retain these tips.

The claimant appealed; and the Court of Appeal reversed the decision of the County Court judge, and remitted the case to him to ascertain what amount the deceased had received in tips, and to assess compensation on the basis of the tips having been part of his weekly earnings. The Court held that the measure of compensation under the Act is "earnings" not wages; and that where the employment is of such a nature that the habitual giving and receiving of gratuities is open and notorious, and allowed by the employer, the amount of such gratuities are earnings and should be taken into account; also that it was unnecessary to show any express agreement between workman and employer as to the taking of gratuities, if there was an implied understanding between them on the subject.—*Penn v. Spiers & Pond, Ltd., Court of Appeal, February 10th, 11th, and 17th, 1908.*

**INCAPACITY: CURE POSSIBLE BY OPERATION: OBLIGATION ON WORKMAN TO SUBMIT TO OPERATION.**

Where a workman has been injured by an accident in circumstances entitling him to compensation the compensation is payable only during incapacity.

A workman employed by an iron and coal company had his hand injured by an accident, and was paid compensation by his employers for some time. Then, according to the opinion of several medical men, an operation involving the removal of part of an injured finger should be performed; and in their opinion if it was performed the man would be almost as fit to engage in his ordinary work as before the injury. Also, in their opinion, the operation was a simple one and not attended with appreciable risk or serious pain. The man refused to undergo the operation, and on the application of the employers the Sheriff-Substitute ended the compensation.

The workman appealed to the Court of Session; and that Court decided that by refusing to undergo the operation the workman had forfeited his right to receive further compensation, as a workman was bound to behave like any prudent and reasonable man who wished to be restored to health.—*Donnelly v. Baird & Company, Ltd., Court of Session, February 1st, 1908.*

**(2) Trade Disputes Act.**

**TRADE DISPUTE: RIGHT TO BE UPON PREMISES FOR PURPOSE OF PERSUASION.**

The Belfast Harbour Commissioners, under the powers of a private Act of Parliament, made a bye-law which said: "No person shall without permission in writing from the secretary, preach, read aloud, lecture, address any crowd or assembly of persons, sing or perform with any musical instrument within any shed or on any quay, pier, or other property of the Commissioners." It is provided by the Trades Disputes Act, 1906, that "It shall be lawful for one or more persons, acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a Trade Union or of an individual employer or firm in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute to attend at or near a house or place where a person resides or works or carries on business or happens to be, if they so attend merely for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information, or of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working."

A strike was in progress among the dockers employed at the Belfast Docks. A man, who was an official of the Dock Labourers Union, during the strike addressed a meeting of dock labourers within the walls of the docks without permission. For this offence he was prosecuted under the bye-law and convicted and fined. At the hearing evidence was given by a harbour constable that he warned the defendant that he was acting in violation of the harbour bye-laws, and the defendant admitted that he was aware of this. The constable, however, also admitted that the defendant in his address was advising the strikers to return to work. Against the conviction there was an appeal to the King's Bench Division. It was contended on behalf of the defendant that the Trades Disputes Act overruled the private Act and the bye-laws made under it, and authorised the defendant to act in the way in which he had. On behalf of the harbour authorities it was contended that the words in the bye-laws were "in" or "on," and that these words were different in effect from the "at or near" of the Trades Disputes Act. The Court held that the great object of this section of the Trades Disputes Act was to define those acts which should not be considered intimidation, i.e., peacefully acquiring information or peacefully communicating with workmen or peacefully endeavouring to persuade them, and to take peaceful picketing out of the category of intimidation. It was never

intended to authorise any person as a matter of right to invade or go upon the premises of another person against his will. The provision that a person may attend for the purpose of peacefully picketing "at or near" gave that person no right to be "in" or "on" the premises or to commit any trespass. The Trades Disputes Act did not in any way affect the bye-law. The defendant by his own admission had infringed the bye-law, and the decision of the magistrates was right.—*Larkin, Appellant: Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Respondents, King's Bench Division of Ireland, January 15th and 16th and February 10th, 1908.*

**(3) Trade Union Acts.**

**SUM PAYABLE BY UNION ON DISABLEMENT OF MEMBER: RESUMPTION OF WORK: RETURN OF SUM: WHAT IS A "FITTER"?**

A workman who was a member of a Trade Union was as such entitled to certain benefits in case of accident. He was by trade a "fitter," and was employed upon a ship which was being repaired in dock, when he met with an accident to his eyes, causing injury which was thought to be so serious as to permanently disable him. Under the rules of his union he was entitled in case of permanent disablement to a sum of £100; but as a condition of receiving that sum he was obliged to execute a bond undertaking to refund the money, if he engaged in any of the trades mentioned in one of the rules, among which was included that of "fitter." The injury turned out not to be so serious as was at first feared; and some time after receiving the £100, the injured man took up work as a marine engineer, a trade which was not specifically mentioned in the rule referred to. The union then demanded the return of the £100; and on the demand being refused brought an action against the workman for that sum upon the bond.

The question for decision in the action was whether, when the defendant took up the work of a marine engineer, he was working as a "fitter" within the meaning of the rules of his union.

The judge decided in favour of the union, holding that the word "fitter" was meant to include all classes of fitters, and one class of fitter consisted of marine engineers, part of whose work consisted in the work of a fitter; therefore when the defendant resumed work as a marine engineer, he resumed work as a fitter, and judgment must be given against him for the £100.—*Gordon & Another v. Mowatt, King's Bench Division, February 19th, 1908.*

**(4) Merchant Shipping Acts.**

**COLLISION: LOSS OF LIFE OR PERSONAL INJURY: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: WHO ARE "OWNERS" OF A SHIP? CHARTERERS BY DEMISE.**

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, that where loss of life or personal injury is caused to any person upon a ship, or loss or damage is caused to goods upon the ship or to the ship herself by reason of the improper navigation of another ship, without the actual fault or privity of the owners, the owners of the ship in fault shall not be liable to damages beyond the following amounts:—(i.) in respect of loss of life or personal injury, either alone or together with loss of or damage to ship or goods, an aggregate amount not exceeding £15 per ton of the tonnage of the ship in fault; and (ii.) in respect of loss of or damage to ship or goods, whether there be also loss of life or personal injury or not, an aggregate amount not exceeding £3 a ton of such tonnage. Where it is alleged that a ship has incurred liability in respect of loss of life, personal injury, or loss of, or damage to, ship or goods, and several claims are made against the owners, the owners may apply to the High Court, and that Court may determine the amount of the owners' liability and distribute the amount ratably among the several claimants. In such a case the claims for loss of life and personal injury are entitled to £7 a ton, and all claims rank equally against the other £3 a ton; so that when the claimants in respect of loss of life and personal injury have exhausted the £7 a ton, they may prove with the claimants in respect of injury to property against the other £3 a ton.

A company carrying on business as contractors hired from the owners a certain steam hopper for use in carrying out certain extensive harbour works. The contractors had the sole possession, control, and management of the hopper as if they were the owners of the vessel, though in fact they were "charterers by demise."

While the hopper was proceeding to sea with a load of clay, she came into collision with a steamship and sank her. The steamship and her cargo were lost, and of the crew of nine two were drowned and five died of exposure. The hopper was in fault, and several actions for damages were started against the contractors, by relations of the deceased men for the loss of their lives, by others for personal injuries, and by the owners of the sunk vessel and cargo. The contractors brought an action claiming a declaration that as owners of the ship in fault they were not answerable in the various actions for more than an aggregate sum of £15 a ton of the hopper's tonnage, which amounted to about £6,200. The defence to the action was that the contractors were not the "owners" of the hopper, but merely the hirers; and that not being the "owners," and being in fault, they were fully liable for all damages, and not protected by the provisions of the Act limiting the liability of owners.

In the High Court this defence succeeded, and it was held that charterers by demise are not "owners" within the meaning of the Act, and therefore cannot claim the benefit of the limitation of liability.

The Court of Appeal affirmed the decision of the High Court. On further appeal to the House of Lords, however, these decisions were reversed; and it was decided that the word "owners" should not be construed in the narrow sense suggested; that it includes charterers by demise who have control of a ship, and navigate her with their own master and crew; and that the contractors were entitled to the declaration they claimed.—*The Hopper No. 66: Sir John Jackson, Ltd., v. the Owners of the steamship "Blanche" and Others, House of Lords, February 28th, 1908.*

**(5) Miscellaneous.**

**CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT: CONTRACT IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE: WRONGFUL DISMISSAL: COMPLETE DETERMINATION OF CONTRACT.**

A company carrying on business as bill posters and advertising agents entered into a written contract with a man in 1901 to act as secretary and manager of the company. It was a term of the contract that the service should be subject to 12 months' notice in writing by either party; also that the man should not whilst in the employment, or within two years after its termination, engage in any similar business within a radius of 50 miles of the office of the company. After he had been in the employment for some five years, in March, 1906, the man was summarily and wrongfully dismissed. He brought an action for damages against the company, and recovered a substantial sum. He then in October, 1906, commenced business on his own account as an advertising agent in the town in which the office of the company was situated. In June, 1907, he sold his business to a company, of which he himself became manager.

In September, 1907, the successors to the business of his former employers brought an action against him, claiming an injunction to restrain him from carrying on the business of an advertising agent in the town in breach of his contract of employment, and damages for that breach. The plaintiffs got judgment in the Chancery Division for an injunction and for damages. The defendant appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the employers by wrongfully dismissing the defendant in breach of their contract with him had repudiated and completely put an end to that contract, and the terms of the contract were from the time of such repudiation no longer binding in any part upon the defendant; therefore the plaintiffs were entitled to no relief against the defendant, and the judgment of the Chancery Division should be reversed.—*General Bill Posting Co., Ltd., v. Atkinson, Court of Appeal, February 1st, 1908.*

**PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.**

**I.—BREAD.**

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies and Master Bakers' Associations in Great Britain, and from local correspondents, showing the price of household bread per 4 lbs. on February 28th, 1908.

**Returns from Co-operative Societies.**

The figures in the following Table are based on 233 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 132 from Scotland:—

District.	Price on 28th Feb., 1908.			Price last quarter. (2nd Dec., 1907.)			Price a year ago. (1st March, 1907.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	7 7/8	5 1/2	6 2/2	7	5 1/2	6 1/8	7	4 1/2	5 5/9
Lancs. & Cheshire	7 1/2	5	6 1/9	6 1/2	4 1/2	5 9/8	6	4	5 1/10
N. Mid. Counties...	6 5/8	5	5 1/4	5	5 1/4	5 1/4	4	4	4 1/4
W. do. do. ...	6 5/8	5	5 7/8	6 1/2	5	5 8/8	5 1/2	4	5 0/0
S. do. do. ...	6 5/8	5	5 1/4	6 1/2	4 1/2	5 0/0	5 1/2	4	4 7/4
Eastern Counties...	6 5/8	5	5 1/4	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 9/7	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 0/7
London ...	6	5 1/2	5 3/4	6	5 1/2	5 8/8	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 0/0
S.E. Counties ...	6 1/2	5 1/2	6 0/4	6 1/2	5	6 0/9	6	5	5 3/3
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 7/3	6 1/2	5	5 8/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 9/4
ENGLAND AND WALES ...	7 1/8	5	5 8/1	7	5 1/2	5 8/4	7	4	5 0/3
SCOTLAND.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties ...	7	5 1/2	6 1/3	7	5	6 0/2	6	5	5 2/2
Eastern Counties	7	4	5 2/4	7 1/4	4	6 2/4	6	4	5 2/8
Lanarkshire ...	6 1/2	5 1/2	6 0/7	6 1/2	5 1/2	6 0/7	5 1/2	5	5 1/3
Other Southern Counties...	7	6	6 1/2	7	6	6 1/2	6	5	5 6/1
Scotland ...	7	4	6 2/5	7 1/2	4	6 2/3	6	4	5 3/3
Great Britain ...	7 1/8	4	5 9/7	7 1/2	4	5 9/8	7	4	5 1/4

It will be seen that the mean of the prices for February 28th, 1908, shows little change as compared with that for December 2nd, 1907. As compared with a year ago, an increase of 78d. per 4 lbs. occurred in England and Wales, and an increase of 90d. in Scotland.

**Returns from Master Bakers' Associations and from Local Correspondents.**

The figures in the following tables are based on Returns received from Master Bakers' Associations and from other sources.

District.	28th Feb., 1908.			1st Feb., 1908.			1st Mar., 1907.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	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. ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 5/8	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 5/8	5	4	4 7/7
E. & N.E. ...	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 2/8	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 2/8	5	4	4 6/6
S.E. ...	6	5 1/2	5 5/8	6	5 1/2	5 5/8	5	4	4 6/6
S.W. ...	6	5 1/2	5 5/8	6	5 1/2	5 5/8	5	4	4 6/6
W. & W.C. ...	6	5 1/2	5 7/8	6	5 1/2	5 7/8	5	4	4 6/6
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5 1/2	5 9/8	7	5 1/2	5 9/8	6	4	5 0/0
Midlands ...	6	5	5 6/8	6 1/2	5	5 7/8	5 1/2	4	4 8/8
Eastern Counties ...	6 1/2	5	5 7/8	6 1/2	5	5 7/8	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 8/8
Southern Counties ...	6 1/2	5	5 7/8	6 1/2	5	5 7/8	6	5	5 3/8
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5 7/8	6 1/2	5	5 7/8	6	4 1/2	5 0/0
Scotland ...	7	5 1/2	6 2/2	7	5 1/2	6 2/2	6	4 1/2	5 2/2
Great Britain ...	7	4 1/2	5 7/7	7	4 1/2	5 8/8	6	4	4 9/9

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices remains almost unaltered. As compared with a year ago, an increase of 8d. occurred. In Scotland the increase amounted to 1d. per 4 lbs.

**Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.**

Place.	Predominant Price at Feb. 28th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
				Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London ...	d.	d.	d.		d.
Birmingham ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1/2 to 1	Oct. '07	- 1/2
Bolton ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1/2	Nov. '07	- 1/2
Bristol ...	5 1/2 & 6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ 1/2
Cardiff ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Derby ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1	Feb. '08	- 1/2
Huddersfield ...	5	...	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ 1/2
Hull ...	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ 1/2
Ipswich ...	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ 1/2
Leeds ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Leicester ...	5	...	+ 1/2	Feb. '08	- 1/2
Liverpool ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1/2	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Manchester ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1 1/2	Jan. '08	- 1/2
Middlesbrough ...	6 1/2	...	+ 1 1/2	Dec. '07	+ 1/2
Newcastle ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1/2	Jan. '08	- 1/2
Norwich ...	5	...	+ 1/2	Feb. '08	- 1/2
Nottingham ...	5 1/2	...	+ 1/2	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Oldham ...	5	...	+ 1/2	Nov. '07	+ 1/2
Plymouth ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Portsmouth ...	6	...	+ 1/2	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Potteries ...	5	...	+ 1/2	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Wolverhampton ...	5	...	+ 1	Feb. '08	- 1/2
Aberdeen ...	6	...	+ 1 1/2	Nov. '07	+ 1/2
Dundee ...	5 1/2 & 6 1/2	...	+ 1	Dec. '07	- 1/2
Edinburgh ...	6 1/2	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Glasgow ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Belfast ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1/2
Dublin ...	6 1/2	...	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ 1/2

The above Table shows that compared with a month ago the price of the 4 lb. loaf has fallen 1/2d. in Cardiff, Leicester, Norwich and Wolverhampton. As compared with a year ago, all of the towns except Huddersfield show an increase. In Middlesbrough, Manchester and Aberdeen the increase amounted to 1 1/2d. per 4 lbs. In 13 other towns the rise amounted to 1d., and in 10 to 3/4d. per 4 lbs. The price in London was from 1/2d. to 1d. higher.

**II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.**

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1907.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
February 1907 ...	6 2	8 1 1/2	9 5 1/2	8 10
February 1908 ...	8 2	8 1 1/2	11 3 1/2	12 1
February ...	7 7	8 7 1/2	11 2	11 9

The imports of wheat during September, 1907-February, 1908, amounted to 44,137,700 cwts., or 5,128,100 cwts. more than during the corresponding period of 1906-7. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1907-February, 1908, amounted to 7,868,038 cwts., or 753,338 cwts. more than in September, 1906-February, 1907.



FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during February, 1908, was 255, a decrease of 39 as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 18 as compared with February, 1907.

The mean number for February in the years 1903-1907 was 216, the maximum year being 1907 with 237 deaths, and the minimum year 1905 with 189 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in February, 1908, was 134, as compared with 124 in January, and 97 a year ago. At factories and workshops the total number was 86 in February, as compared with 109 the previous month, and 88 a year ago.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during February, 1908, was 120, as compared with 116 in January, 1908, and 225 in February, 1907.

During the two months ended February, 1908, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 549, as compared with 505 in 1907. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 236 in 1908, and 331 in 1907.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Feb. 1908, Jan. 1908, Feb. 1907), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb. 1908, as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, and Seamen.

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 Workshops Act during February was 58, consisting of 50 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of arsenic poisoning and 7 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 15 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during February among house painters and plumbers.

During the two months ended February, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 108, as compared with 78 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 5, as against 7 in 1907. In addition there were 32 cases of lead poisoning (including 7 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first two months of 1908, as compared with 28 cases (including 8 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1907.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of Feb. 1908, Two Months ended Feb., 1908, 1907), Deaths (Month of Feb. 1908, Two Months ended Feb., 1908, 1907). Rows include Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax.

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.

\* Of the 10 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 7 were females. † Including 2 dock labourers.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.\*

Number and Magnitude.—Eighteen disputes began in February, 1908, as compared with 30 in January, 1908, and 37 in February, 1907. By the 18 disputes, 11,193 workpeople were directly and 2,578 indirectly affected; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 36,136 workpeople involved in trade disputes during February, 1908, compared with 23,251 in January, 1908, and 12,809 in February 1907.

New Disputes in February, 1908.—In the following Table the new disputes in February are summarised by trades affected:—

Table with columns: Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total). Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Cotton Manufacture.

Causes.—Of the 18 new disputes, 3 arose on demands for increased wages, 3 on objections to reduction in wages, 6 on other wages questions, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 4 from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 8 new disputes, directly affecting 1,236 persons, and 18 old disputes, directly affecting 2,725 persons. Of these 26 new and old disputes, 6, directly involving 933 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10, directly involving 1,714 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 10, directly involving

1,314 persons, were compromised. In the case of 3 other disputes, work has been resumed pending further consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in February of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 197,100 working days. In addition, 344,500 working days were lost during February owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the beginning of the month. Thus the total duration in February of all disputes, new and old, was 541,600 working days, as compared with 382,000 in the previous month, and 117,400 in the corresponding month of 1907.

Summary for the First Two Months of 1907 and 1908.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the two months January and February, 1907 and 1908, respectively, were as follows:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Jan.-Feb., 1907, Jan.-Feb., 1908. Sub-columns: No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople affected, Aggregate Duration in Working Days.

Principal Disputes.—Particulars of the principal disputes which began, or were settled, in February are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during February are not separately stated in this Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with columns: Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

\* 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. † In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," 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.

QUEENSLAND FACTORY REPORT, 1906-7.

According to a recent Report of the Queensland Department of Labour, the total number of factories in Queensland on March 31st, 1907, was 1,624, of which 1,012 were in Brisbane. Most of the factories, however, were very small, 916 employing less than five workpeople, and only 193 (of which 145 were in Brisbane) employing more than 20.

The total number of employees was 18,511—12,689 males and 5,822 females; nearly half of the female employees were apprentices, learners, or improvers, or were under 18 years of age. It is to be noted that the number of female employees has shown an almost unbroken increase since 1897, while the number of male employees, after rising to 13,500 in the year 1900, fell to below 12,000 in 1905; it has since risen to 12,689, but is still nearly a thousand lower than in 1900.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in February.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in February, 1908, was an increase of £942 per week, as compared with an increase of £15,515 per week in January, 1908, and one of £20,577 in February, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 146,762, of whom 127,424 received advances amounting to £1,923 per week, and 19,338 sustained decreases amounting to £981 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 424,625 and in February, 1907, 325,062.

Three changes, affecting 124,100 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and three changes affecting 7,460 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 15,202 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for January and February, 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in January and February, 1908, was 604,307, as compared with 778,214 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 511,886 workpeople a net increase of £21,350, and 92,421 workpeople a net decrease of £5,252. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £16,098 per week, as compared with an

increase of £41,560 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

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

Groups of Trades.	January—February.			
	1907.		1908.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building ... ..	...	...	183	+ 20
Coal Mining ... ..	633,750	+ 35,620	480,000	+19,018
Iron, &c., Mining ... ..	11,296	+ 314	7,885	+ 289
Quarrying ... ..	2,055	+ 10	2,190	+ 95
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	15,188	+ 92	13,604	- 764
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	30,698	+ 956	15,930	- 706
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	2,608	+ 133	69,348	- 2,552
Other Metal Trades ... ..	6	+ 1	42	+ 2
Textile Trades ... ..	77,484	+ 3,109	5,669	+ 295
Printing, &c., Trades ... ..	3,270	+ 168	3,607	+ 249
Glass, &c., Trades ... ..	1,062	+ 173	4,745	+ 295
Other Trades ... ..	139	+ 12	1,794	+ 98
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	667	+ 40	210	+ 23
<b>Total...</b>	<b>778,214</b>	<b>+ 41,560</b>	<b>604,307</b>	<b>+16,098</b>

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in February, 1908, affected 212 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 371 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in January and February, 1908, was 395, the net decrease in their working hours being 1,047 per week.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1908.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)				
					Increase.	Decrease.			
<b>I.—RATES OF WAGES.</b>									
Coal Mining	Durham	10 & 17 Feb.	Underground Workers, Banksmen, Cokemen, Enginemen, and Mechanics	120,000	Advance of 1½ per cent., making wages 55 per cent. above the standard of 1899.				
			Other Surface Workers		Advance of 1½ per cent., making wages 52 per cent. above the standard of 1899.				
			Pig Iron Manufacture	Scotland	1 Feb.	Blastfurnacemen and Labourers	3,500	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent., leaving wages 25 per cent. above the standard of 1st January, 1899.	
						Steel Melters and Pitmen	2,620	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1½ per cent.	
			Iron and Steel Manufacture	Great Britain and Wales	2 Feb.	Gas Produccermen and Charge Wheelers	630	Decrease of ¾ per cent.	
						Rail, Wire and Hoop Millmen	620	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 16 per cent., leaving wages 31 per cent. above the standard.	
			Engineering	North-East Coast	19 Feb.	Ironfounders	3,000	Decrease, under Conciliation Board, of 2½ per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates (38s. to 37s.).	
						Patternmakers	1,100	Decrease, under Conciliation Board, of 1s. per week (39s. to 38s.).	
						Brass Turners, Fitters & Finishers, Brass Moulders, Smiths and Strikers, Boilermakers, Painters, Joiners, Millsawyers and Wood Cutting Machinists, Cabinet Makers, Braziers, Sheet Metal Workers, Electrical Workers, Enginemen and Cranemen, Drillers and Hole Cutters' Labourers	5,500	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates, to those rated at 26s. and over, and of 6d. per week to those rated at 22s. and under 26s. Those receiving over 20s. and under 22s. to be reduced if advanced in February, 1906. Those receiving 20s. and under not to be reduced.	
						Boilermakers (Engine and Boiler Shops)	400	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates.	
Glass	Yorkshire and Lancashire	3 Feb.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths, Machinemen and Machine Workers	2,970	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.				
			Boilermakers (Engine and Boiler Shops)	500	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 3d. per hour, or 1s. per week, off time rates.				
			Glass Bottle Makers	3,990	Advance of 2s. per week on weekly rates, and of 2½ per cent. on "overwork" rates. Weekly rates after change: Makers, 36s.; Blowers, 34s.; Gatherers, 29s.				
Glass	Scotland	3 Feb.	Boys		Advance of 2½ per cent. on "overwork" rates.				
			Glass Bottle Makers, Blowers, Gatherers and Boys†	212	Reduction in the number of bottles to be made before "overwork" is counted, and advance of 3d. per gross on "overwork" rates.				
<b>II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.</b>									
Glass	Scotland	3 Feb.	Glass Bottle Makers, Blowers, Gatherers and Boys‡	212	Decrease of 2½ hours per week to those engaged on dark metal, and of 1½ hours to those engaged on pale metal. Hours after change: 42½ per week for all.				

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—It is reported that a reduction of 5 per cent. in the rate of wages of miners in the Forest of Dean was arranged on 14th March. Iron and Steel Trade.—It is reported that a reduction of 5 per cent. took effect early in March in the rate of wages of Puddlers and Millmen in Scotland. Full particulars will appear in the April GAZETTE.

\* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

† The number given includes a few men at Newport (Mon.), Blyden, Belfast and London, who were also affected. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. § See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for February.

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.

	February.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	16,571,358	16,338,941	18,714,310	+ 2,375,369	+ 2,142,952
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	18,152,269	23,992,912	20,999,261	- 2,993,651	+ 2,846,992
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	12,591,550	12,369,937	12,467,085	+ 97,098	- 124,465
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	212,076	224, 57	246,159	+ 21,402	+ 34,083
<b>Total value of Imports</b>	<b>47,527,253</b>	<b>52,926,597</b>	<b>52,428,515</b>	<b>- 499,782</b>	<b>+ 4,899,862</b>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	February.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,312,455	1,389,330	1,448,861	+ 59,531	+ 136,406
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	3,094,726	3,906,263	4,172,478	+ 266,215	+ 1,077,752
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	24,016,320	26,363,318	25,875,481	- 487,837	+ 1,859,161
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	347,622	414,434	454,694	+ 38,260	+ 105,072
<b>Total value of Exports of British produce.</b>	<b>28,771,123</b>	<b>32,073,345</b>	<b>31,949,514</b>	<b>- 123,831</b>	<b>+ 3,178,391</b>

EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,995,860 in February, 1906; £9,425,830 in February, 1907, and £7,497,673 in February, 1908.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The goods and mineral traffic of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended February 29th, 1908, amounted to £4,330,391, a decrease of £146,989 (or 3·3 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the nine weeks ended February 29th, 1908, the receipts amounted to £9,411,828, a decrease of £261,701 (or 2·7 per cent.) as compared with the first two months of 1907.

	4 weeks ended February 29th, 1908.		9 weeks ended February 29th, 1908.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.
<b>English Lines:—</b>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.	1,639,346	- 60,571	3,623,364	- 127,442
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	480,655	- 17,654	1,044,747	- 37,588
London, and Yorks., and N. Eastern	810,519	- 9,758	1,735,179	- 4,742
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	641,300	- 7,900	1,403,700	+ 2,800
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	145,440	- 5,737	315,277	- 13,694
<b>Scottish Lines:—</b>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	500,915	- 44,545	1,048,856	- 78,629
<b>Irish Lines:—</b>				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	112,216	- 824	242,705	- 2,406
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,330,391</b>	<b>-146,989</b>	<b>9,411,828</b>	<b>- 261,701</b>

\* 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.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

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

The number of paupers relieved on one day in February, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 228 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with January, 1908, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 3,809 (0·9 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers showed an increase of 1,010 (0·6 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers an increase of 2,799 (1·3 per cent.). There were increases in 24 districts, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (15 per 10,000). In 6 districts there were decreases, most marked in the Hull district and in the Leicester district (11 and 10 per 10,000 respectively). Five districts showed no change.

Compared with February, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 1. The number of indoor paupers increased by 4,363 (2·4 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 920 (0·4 per cent.). Increases occurred in 15 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (42 per 10,000). In 19 districts there were decreases, and in the Halifax and Huddersfield district no change was indicated.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Feb., 1908.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<b>Metropolis.</b>						
West District	12,604	3,830	16,434	193	...	- 2
North District	17,141	11,025	28,166	289	+ 1	- 4
Central District	7,363	2,656	10,019	840	+ 3	- 10
East District	16,469	8,141	24,610	340	- 2	+ 18
South District	27,952	22,402	50,354	264	+ 4	+ 10
<b>Total, Metropolis</b>	<b>81,529</b>	<b>48,054</b>	<b>129,583</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
West Ham	4,432	12,717	17,149	238	...	- 15
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District	2,705	6,109	8,814	196	+ 2	+ 12
Stockton & Tees District	1,425	5,654	7,079	318	+ 15	+ 42
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,493	5,908	10,401	194	...	- 8
Wigan District	2,332	6,160	8,492	208	- 1	- 7
Manchester District	11,197	9,214	20,411	210	...	+ 4
Liverpool District	13,262	10,965	24,227	229	+ 3	+ 3
Bradford District	2,031	2,704	4,735	128	+ 1	- 11
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,322	4,248	5,570	122	+ 4	...
Leeds District	3,032	5,320	8,352	169	+ 2	- 19
Barnsley District	841	2,985	3,826	181	+ 2	- 4
Sheffield District	3,768	3,656	7,424	186	+ 1	+ 3
Hull District	1,809	5,668	7,477	262	- 11	+ 4
North Staffordshire	2,462	7,625	10,087	261	- 3	- 20
Nottingham District	2,345	6,276	8,621	203	+ 1	- 4
Leicester District	1,746	4,776	6,522	275	- 10	- 13
Wolverhampton District	3,895	12,144	16,039	240	+ 1	- 8
Birmingham District	5,734	3,984	9,718	163	+ 3	+ 13
Bristol District	3,124	6,590	9,714	243	+ 2	- 7
Cardiff & Swansea	2,442	7,926	10,368	265	+ 5	+ 7
<b>Total, "Other Districts"</b>	<b>69,665</b>	<b>117,966</b>	<b>187,631</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District	6,182	17,794	23,976	227	+ 4	+ 5
Faisley & Greenock District	889	2,638	3,527	193	+ 1	+ 7
Edinburgh & Leith District	2,011	5,558	7,569	181	+ 1	+ 6
Dundee & Dunfermline	983	2,686	3,669	183	+ 1	- 3
Aberdeen	783	3,225	4,008	230	+ 4	- 13
Coatbridge & Airdrie	446	1,565	2,011	203	+ 4	- 4
<b>Total for the above Scottish Districts</b>	<b>11,274</b>	<b>33,466</b>	<b>44,740</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District	7,615	5,470	13,085	327	- 6	- 6
Belfast District	4,740	685	5,425	114	...	- 8
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,751	5,101	9,852	406	+ 2	+ 11
Galway District	380	381	761	218	+ 7	+ 13
<b>Total for the above Irish Districts</b>	<b>16,886</b>	<b>11,637</b>	<b>28,523</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>+ 3</b>
<b>Total for above 35 Districts in February, 1908</b>	<b>183,788</b>	<b>223,840</b>	<b>407,628</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>+ 1</b>

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



LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.\*

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 52 Labour Bureaux during February; of these Bureaux 29 were in London (including West Ham), and 23 in the provinces. Of the 29 London Bureaux, 26 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 18,355, of which 14,064 were in London, and 4,291 in the provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 4,352, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 3,110, or 16.9 per cent. of the applications received, and 71.5 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 1,864 (or 59.9 per cent.), and temporary 1,246 (or 40.1 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 164; wood-working trades, 55; metal and engineering trades, 120; other skilled trades, 99; "transport and general," 289; other trades, men and boys, 411; women and girls,

508. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 124; metal and engineering trades, 77; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 179; general labourers, 58; bill distributors, 361; employees of local authorities, 66; charwomen and domestic servants, 218; other occupations, 156. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 225 men.

The number of applicants registered at the Bureaux for which figures for 1908 and 1907 can be given was 16,810 in February, 1908, as compared with 12,099 in February, 1907. Employers offered 4,086 situations during February, 1908, of which 2,937 were filled. In February, 1907, 3,579 situations were offered, and 2,696 filled. The number of workpeople on the Registers at the end of February, 1908, was 21,247 as compared with 19,288 in February, 1907.

[NOTE.—During the Christmas pressure at the Post Office 750 vacancies were placed at the disposal of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London by the Postmaster-General, and 643 men were actually engaged. In addition to these, 460 men were engaged at local and sub-offices. These figures were not included in the table relating to December, 1907, in the January issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE.]

WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING FEBRUARY, 1908.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men and Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Build-ing Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men and Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

\* The figures for the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange relate to the 4 weeks ended February 28th, 1908; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month. † Of the 204 situations found by the Camberwell Exchange during January, 1908, 125 were notified during December, 1907. ‡ The City of London Exchange was opened on January 1st, 1908, and during that month 210 situations were offered and 111 filled. § In addition 142 men were provided with work especially to alleviate distress. ¶ In addition 607 individuals were provided with employment-relief.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February 917 fresh applications (468 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 9 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 824 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 244 persons, of whom 140 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 244 situations found for applicants, 202 were of a more or less permanent character, while 42 were temporary only.

The work done by the Bureaux during February is shown in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Applications by Work-people during, Situations offered by Employers during, Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily). Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

In addition to the above registered applications, the returns from the three London Bureaux show that 63 women were referred to other Agencies, and 116 were given advice as to Training, &c.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING FEBRUARY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in February was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 30; under the Friendly Societies Act, 60 (including 35 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all, 109.

Among the new Societies registered in February were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England.—3, viz., Nottingham Lace Finishers' Assoc., 10, South Parade, Nottingham; Waterproof Garment Makers' and Machinists' Trade Union, Manchester, Caxton Hall, Chapel Street, Salford, Manchester; Manchester Jewish Master Butchers' Assoc., Ellesmere Hotel, Water Street, Manchester. Scotland.—Nil.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England.—23, viz., Co-operative Distributive Societies: (2) Cheadle (Staffs) Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 23, New Street, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent; South Cerney and Dist. Co-op. Soc. Ltd., The Cross, South Cerney, Cirencester. Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (2) Hunsingore and Dist. Fruit Growers Assoc. Ltd., Walshford, Wetherby; Caerphilly and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 29, Cardiff Road, Caerphilly, Cardiff. Working Men's Clubs: (5) South Crosland and Netherton Socialist Inst., Ltd., Lane Ecd, Netherton, Huddersfield; Walthamstow Unionist Club, Ltd., 58, High Street, Walthamstow; Skelton and Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., Airy Hill Road, Skelton, York; Lewisham Socialist and Labour Inst., Ltd., 18, Sportsbank Street, Catford, S.E.; Lanchester and Dist. Workmen's Club, Ltd., Club House, Lanchester, Durham. Miscellaneous: (14) Scotland.—(1) Co-op. Agric. Soc.: Ainess Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Novar Estate Office, Evanton. Ireland.—(6) Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (5) Ballyclough Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Ballyclough, co. Cork; Kilchreist Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Kilchreist, Loughrea, co. Galway; Coislough Co-op. Agric.

Soc., Ltd., Coislough, Carrow Kennedy, Westport, co. Mayo; Ballykelly Co-op. Threshing Soc., Ltd., Ballykelly, co. Wexford; Rochestown Co-op. Threshing Soc., Ltd., Rochestown, co. Wexford; Co-op. Distributive Soc.: Bray and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 5, Kilmarten Place, Bray, co. Wicklow.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—20, viz., Wallasey Working Men's Conservative and Unionist Club, Birkenhead; Star of Beighton Working Men's Club and Inst., Sheffield; Margate Liberal and Radical Working Men's Club and Inst., Margate; Oakfield Workmen's Social Club and Inst., Cardiff; Hopkinstown Working Men's Club and Inst., Pontypridd; Oldham and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Oldham; Morris and Jonathan Loan Soc., Whitechapel, E.; Dormansland Small Holdings and Allotments Credit Soc., East Grinstead; County Money Soc., Cardiff; Chester Dist. Grand Lodge Friendly Soc., Chester; Merrie Cike Sick and Funeral Friendly Soc., Carlisle; Alexandra Benefit Soc. for Women, Beckenham; Belviden Benefit Soc., Ashford; New Century Friendly Collecting Soc., Grimsby; Gladstone Provident Slate Club, Lewisham, S.E.; Dentists Provident Soc., Hanover Square, W.; Locket Road Slate Club (Sick Benefit Soc.), Wealdstone, S.O.; St. Helen's Mutual Assistance Soc., St. Helens; Perseverance Sick, Funeral and Dividend Soc., Small Heath, Birmingham; Doncaster and Dist. Friendly Soc., Doncaster. Scotland.—1, viz., Oil, Colour, Chemical and Kindred Workers National Friendly Soc., Glasgow. Ireland.—4, viz., Belfast Corporation Employees Provident Soc., Belfast; Juvenna Tontine and Loan Soc., Dublin; Beagh Credit Soc., Shanaglish, co. Galway; Horeswood Co-op. Agric. Bank, Horeswood, co. Wexford.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table with columns: Notices Received in Feb. of (Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up, Registry Cancelled). Includes Trade Unions, Industrial and Provident Societies, Friendly Societies, Building Societies.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

Returns received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom, for the last quarter of 1907, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £8,916,757, an increase of 7.2 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1906, and of 30.3 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1902 (i.e., five years ago.)

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £2,148,886, an increase of 10.7 per cent. on the last quarter of 1906, and of 62.0 per cent. on that of 1902.

The following table gives details for the three societies:—

Table with columns: Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales (In fourth quarter of 1907, 1906, 1902), Percentage increase in 1907 as compared with (A year ago, Five years ago).

\* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments. † Decrease. ‡ This Society has no manufacturing departments.



**PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR  
RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.**

**UNITED KINGDOM.**

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

*Cases of Industrial Poisoning, Fatal and Non-Fatal Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences in Factories, Workshops, &c., during the year 1907.* Preliminary Tables (subject to correction). Home Office. [Cd. 3925: pp. 9: price 1½d.]

*Output of Coal and other Minerals and the number of Persons employed at Mines worked under the Coal and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts during the year 1907.* Advance Proof (subject to correction). Home Office.

*Report to Home Office on Circumstances attending an Explosion in the Press House at the Factory of Messrs. Kynoch, Ltd., at Worsboro' Dale, on December 12th, 1907.* [Cd. 3907: pp. 7: price 1d.]

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