

of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 14.0, as compared with 13.0 a month ago, and 6.3 at the end of December, 1907. Holiday suspensions affected employment at the end of the month.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued bad, but showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with 54,965 members, reported 24.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 25.2 per cent. a month ago, and 14.2 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* and *Weaving* branches during December was moderate. In both branches it was better than in the previous month, but worse than a year ago. Short time was still worked to a considerable extent in the *weaving* branch. Returns received from firms paying wages to 115,863 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 7.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 6.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,668 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 10.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was moderate, and better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,115 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but was still slack; it was slightly worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,921 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment was fair, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,019 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was moderate. It was rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,937 workpeople, and paying £5,099 in wages in the week ended December 19th, showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 10.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment in England continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago; in Scotland it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,605 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 2.1 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.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment in England was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland it continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,690 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed a decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the provinces it was moderate. In the *ready-made* branch it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

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

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms

employing 60,724 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,369 had 8.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 8.2 per cent. at the end of November, and 7.2 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades was fair. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment during December was fair on the whole, but slack with lithographic printers. It showed a seasonal improvement during the greater part of the month as compared with November, but declined towards the end of the month. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of December was 5.7, as compared with 4.2 a month ago and 4.9 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages were 5.4, 4.4, and 2.8 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment continued slack. It was worse than a month ago, and a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 36,909 reported 10.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 10.1 per cent. at the end of November, and 8.0 per cent. a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment, though dull, continued to show a slight improvement, but was much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,907 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in total earnings as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 12.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery, Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in these trades continued bad with much short time. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment was, in general, regular throughout December, but in most districts day labourers lost time at the end of the month through the severe weather. In many districts the demand for men of that class of labour was not sufficient to give employment to all.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment generally continued moderate in London, and was fair, and better than a month ago, at Liverpool. At the other principal ports it continued dull, and worse than a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London (exclusive of Tilbury) in the four weeks ended December 26th was 12,398, a decrease of 2.4 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 10.9 per cent. as compared with December, 1907.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in wages taking effect in December, 1908, affected nearly 24,000 workpeople, all of whom sustained decreases. The number included 1,000 blastfurnacemen in South Staffordshire, 20,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, and 900 iron moulders at Sheffield. The total computed effect of all the changes was a decrease of nearly £850 per week.

Trade Disputes.—Eleven disputes began in December as compared with 28 in the previous month, and 17 in December, 1907. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during December, 1908, was 17,576, or 123,068 less than in November, 1908, but 6,742 more than in December, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 165,000 working days, or 580,600 less than in November, 1908, but 4,200 more than in December, 1907.

Definite results were reported in 7 disputes, new and old, directly involving 502 persons. Of these 7 disputes, 2 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 4 in favour of the employers, and 1 was compromised.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES, AND PRICES IN 1908.

Employment.

The general decline in employment which began during the second half of the year 1907, continued in 1908, and although there was some slight improvement during November and December, employment at the end of 1908 was worse than at the end of any year since 1892. The prolonged disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades and in the cotton trade adversely affected employment at many establishments not directly concerned in the disputes.

Employment in the coal mining industry continued good throughout the greater part of the year, though it was not up to the level of 1907, in which year the average number of days (5.51) worked per week by the pits was the highest recorded since the first collection of the statistics. At iron mines employment continued good. Employment in the pig iron industry and at iron and steel works was moderate throughout the year, but there was some slight improvement during the last three months, and the number of furnaces in blast at the end of December (286) showed an increase of 19 on the number in blast at the end of July, which was the lowest number for the twelve months. The tinplate industry was very busy throughout the year, and the average number of tinplate and sheet mills working (440) was only four below the average for 1907, which was the highest recorded. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades employment was very bad, even after allowance has been made for the great disturbance to these industries caused by the prolonged disputes. According to Lloyd's Return the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction at the end of December, 1908, was 764,520 tons gross, being 31,142 tons more than in September, 1908, but 184,310 tons less than in December, 1907. The textile trades declined considerably from the prosperous conditions obtaining in 1906 and 1907. Much short time was worked in the spinning branch of the cotton industry, and there was great slackness in the weaving branch. In the woollen and worsted trades employment was moderate. In the linen industry organised short time was worked throughout the year, and employment is still depressed, though there are some indications of improvement. Employment in the lace trade was bad, and in the jute trade fair. In the boot and shoe industry it was fairly good. Unemployment in the building trades increased, and the slackness which has characterised this industry for some years showed no signs of disappearing. In the paper, printing, and bookbinding trades employment was moderate.

Returns relating to over 600,000 members of Trade Unions show that the mean of the percentages of members returned as unemployed at the end of each month of 1908 was 7.8, as compared with 3.7 in 1907, 3.6 in 1906, and 5.0 in 1905. The fluctuations in the percentages* of unemployed in the period 1898-1908 are shown below:—

1898	...	...	2.8	1904	...	...	6.0
1899	...	...	2.0	1905	...	...	5.0
1900	...	...	2.5	1906	...	...	3.6
1901	...	...	3.3	1907	...	...	3.7
1902	...	...	4.0	1908	...	...	7.8
1903	...	...	4.7				

The mean of the monthly percentages for the year 1908 was 7.8, an increase of 4.0 on the mean of the preceding ten years. The mean of the monthly percentage for the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding group of trades was 12.6 in 1908.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed at the end of each month in the years 1905-1908,* with the increases or decreases in 1908 as compared with the three previous years.

* The figures differ slightly from those previously published owing to fuller and more accurate information being available as regards certain Trade Unions.

	Percentage unemployed at the end of each month in*				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1908 as compared with		
	1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.	1907.	1906.	1905.
January	5.8	3.9	4.3	6.3	+1.9	+1.5	-0.5
February	6.0	3.5	4.1	5.7	+2.5	+1.9	+0.3
March	6.4	3.2	3.2	5.2	+3.2	+3.0	+1.2
April	7.1	2.8	3.2	5.2	+4.3	+3.9	+1.9
May	7.4	3.0	3.1	4.7	+4.4	+4.3	+2.7
June	7.9	3.1	3.2	4.8	+4.8	+4.7	+3.1
July	7.9	3.2	3.1	4.7	+4.7	+4.6	+3.2
August	8.5	3.6	3.3	4.9	+4.9	+4.8	+3.6
September	9.3	4.1	3.3	4.8	+5.2	+5.0	+4.5
October	9.5	4.2	3.9	4.6	+5.3	+5.6	+4.9
November	8.7	4.5	4.0	4.3	+4.2	+4.7	+4.4
December	9.1	5.6	4.4	4.5	+3.5	+4.7	+4.6
Mean	7.8	3.7	3.6	5.0	+4.1	+4.2	+2.8

Changes in Rates of Wages.

At the end of 1907 wages stood at a higher level than at the end of any year since statistics of changes in rates of wages were first systematically collected (1893). During the first two months of 1908 wages continued to rise, the advances, in the majority of cases, being based on prices and conditions which had ruled in 1907; but for the other months of the year the general movement was downwards. The general level of wages, however, remained higher at the end of December than at the end of any of the years 1893-1906.

The number of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages during 1908 was 908,627, of whom 63,802 received advances computed as amounting to £4,589 per week, and 465,035 sustained decreases amounting to £66,486 per week. The remaining 379,790 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year. The net result of all the changes taking effect during the year was thus a reduction computed at £61,897 per week. The figures are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. The changes taken into account are only changes in rates of wages, and not fluctuations in the total amount of wages paid due to variations in the amount of employment available, or altered conditions of work, or increments automatically accruing under scales of pay.

The number of workpeople affected by changes and the net results on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople whose rates of wages were changed in		Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Weekly Wages of those affected as compared with the preceding year.	
	1907.	1908.+	1907.	1908.+
Building	...	9,928	£ 232	£ 222
Coal Mining	...	806,339	+ 173,613	- 47,085
Iron, &c., Mining	...	17,041	+ 2,915	- 2,937
Quarrying	...	3,101	+ 673	- 220
Pig Iron Manufacture	...	16,681	+ 1,571	- 2,274
Iron and Steel Manufacture	...	52,595	+ 4,900	- 7,371
Engineering and Shipbuilding	...	48,859	+ 2,365	- 4,044
Other Metal Trades	...	3,169	+ 179	- 344
Textile Trades	...	231,993	+ 11,560	+ 1,113
Clothing Trades	...	5,395	+ 958	+ 89
Printing, &c., Trades	...	8,693	+ 634	+ 954
Glass, &c., Trades	...	5,606	+ 481	+ 201
Other Trades	...	8,254	+ 729	+ 368
Employees of Local Authorities	...	6,915	+ 504	+ 237
Total	...	1,244,739	+ 200,820	- 61,897

The Table shows the marked change that took place in the movement of wages in 1908, as compared with the previous year. In 1907 the changes in each group of trades resulted in a net rise; in 1908 in most of the important groups they resulted in a net fall. This is especially noticeable in the case of coal-mining. In 1907, coal miners had an advance in rates of wages amounting to £173,613 per week, but in 1908 wages declined by £47,085 per week. Miners in every coalfield with the exception of South Wales participated in the changes, although in Lancashire, Yorkshire and the Midlands and in the Bristol and Radstock districts they had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the

* See note * to previous column.
+ The figures for 1908 are preliminary and subject to revision.

year. Of the changes in the other groups of trades, it will be seen from the Table that 103,000 workpeople in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, and 70,000 in pig iron and iron and steel manufacture, sustained net reductions of £4,000 and £9,600 per week respectively.

As previously stated, 1907 was a year of rising wages, as was also 1906. In each of the preceding five years wages fell, and those years were preceded by a five-year period in which wages rose. The number of workpeople affected and the net amount of change in each of these years are shown in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Workpeople affected by Changes in Rates of Wages.	Computed Amount of change in Weekly Wages as compared with each preceding year.	
		Net Increase per week.	Net Decrease per week.
1896	598,865	£ 26,152	—
1897	582,333	30,494	—
1898	1,010,057	80,572	—
1899	1,165,478	89,216	—
1900	1,110,031	206,772	—
1901	927,199	—	77,902
1902	883,101	—	72,865
1903	892,922	—	38,557
1904	799,959	—	39,278
1905	664,777	—	4,087
1906	1,095,601	56,728	—
1907	1,244,739	200,820	—
1908*	908,627	—	61,997
Total for Thirteen years (1896-1908)†	†	691,354	294,586

It will be seen that over the whole period the aggregate of the net increases exceeds that of the net decreases by £396,768 a week.

Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in weekly hours of labour taking effect in 1908 affected only 21,000 workpeople. Of these 3,000 had their aggregate working time increased by 5,500 hours per week, and 18,000 had reductions amounting to 26,000 hours per week.

Trade Disputes.

The number of disputes causing stoppage of work in 1908 was 382, involving directly and indirectly 291,046 workpeople, with an aggregate duration of over 10½ million working days. Although the number of disputes fell below that recorded in either of the two previous years, the number of workpeople involved and the aggregate duration of the disputes in 1908 were the greatest since 1898, the year of the great dispute in the South Wales coal trade. This increase was owing to the disputes in the engineering, shipbuilding, and cotton trades, which together accounted for no less than 166,000 workpeople, or 57 per cent. of all the workpeople involved in the disputes of the year, and for the loss of 8½ million working days, or 77 per cent. of the aggregate duration of all the disputes. Apart from these three disputes, the number of other disputes recorded in 1908 (379), and the number of workpeople involved therein (125,000) were somewhat below the averages for the five previous years, viz., 437 and 133,000 respectively; the aggregate duration of the other disputes, however, (2½ millions), was slightly higher than the average for 1903-7, viz., 2,297,000 working days.

A comparison of 1908 with each of the preceding ten years is given in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	Total No. of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in each year.	Aggregate Duration in working days of all Disputes in each year.
1898	711	253,907	15,289,478
1899	719	180,217	2,516,416
1900	648	188,538	3,152,694
1901	642	179,546	4,142,287
1902	442	156,667	3,479,255
1903	387	116,901	2,338,668
1904	354	87,208	1,484,220
1905	358	93,503	2,470,189
1906	486	217,773	3,018,816
1907	601	147,198	2,162,151
1908*	382	291,046	10,783,000

* The figures for 1908 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† Exclusive of employees of Government Departments, police, agricultural labourers, seamen and railway servants. ‡ It will be understood that although the same workpeople are counted only once in each year many of them appear in several years, and therefore no total can be made for the thirteen years (1896-1908).

Although the number of workpeople involved in 1908 appears large, it amounts to less than 3 per cent. of the total industrial population of the United Kingdom. Spread over this same industrial population, the amount of time lost in 1908 was only about one working day per head.

The textile group of industries was responsible for the greatest number of workpeople involved, and also for the greatest aggregate duration. The metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries follow next as regards aggregate duration, but the mining and quarrying group takes second place as regards numbers involved. All these groups showed large increases over the previous year in respect both of numbers involved and of aggregate duration. The clothing and transport trades showed a falling off on the previous year in every respect. The numbers involved in disputes in the building trades showed some increase on the figures for 1907, but were insignificant as compared with the total number of workpeople employed in these trades. An analysis of the figures for 1908 by groups of trades will be found on p. 31.

Wholesale Prices.

The general level of wholesale prices, as measured by the Board of Trade Index Number*, which is based principally on import and export average values, showed a fall of 2·7 per cent. in 1908 as compared with 1907, but with this exception was higher than in any year since 1891.

The Table below gives the Index Numbers, indicating the percentage rise or fall in wholesale prices during the period 1871-1908, each year of the period being compared with 1900, which is taken as the base year. The figure for 1908 is, however, subject to revision:—

1900 = 100·0.

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1871	136·0	1884	114·7	1897	90·1
1872	145·8	1885	107·7	1898	93·2
1873	152·7	1886	101·6	1899	92·3
1874	148·1	1887	99·6	1900	100·0
1875	141·4	1888	102·7	1901	96·9
1876	138·0	1889	104·0	1902	96·5
1877	141·6	1890	104·0	1903	96·9
1878	134·6	1891	107·4	1904	98·3
1879	146·6	1892	101·8	1905	97·6
1880	129·6	1893	100·0	1906	100·5
1881	127·3	1894	94·2	1907	103·7
1882	128·4	1895	91·0	1908	102·8
1883	126·8	1896	88·2		

Compared with 1907 there was a more or less considerable decline in the price of 28 out of the 45 articles comprising the Index Number, and an increase in the price of 16 articles. The average price of coal was the same in both years, although the price at the end of 1908 was considerably less than at the beginning. Excluding articles of food and drink, the greatest proportionate decreases were in the prices of British wool (32·5 per cent.), lead (29·4 per cent.), copper (28·0 per cent.), jute (26·0 per cent.), and tin (23·6 per cent.). The price of raw cotton fell 8·4 per cent., and of imported wool 9·6 per cent., while caoutchouc declined 10·3 per cent. and pig iron 14·5 per cent. The price of British wool in 1908 showed a great decline from the high prices of the years 1904-7, but it is still considerably higher than the prices in 1901 and 1902, which were the lowest recorded. The principal articles showing an increase in price were cotton seed (4·5 per cent.) and bricks (2·1 per cent.).

The average level of wholesale prices of food and drink (including tobacco) showed a rise of 1·5 per cent. in 1908, following on a rise of 4·6 per cent. in 1907. Eleven of the 23 articles composing the index number showed a decline, the most considerable decline being in the price of hops (27·6 per cent.). Cocoa declined 11·9 per cent., and bacon 7·9 per cent. As regards cereals, there was a rise of 4·7 per cent. in the price of British wheat, and of 9·2 per cent. in the price of imported wheat, and there were slighter rises in the prices of British and imported barley. Maize rose over 12 per cent. in price.

* For the method of construction of this Index Number, and the prices of the 45 articles comprising it, see Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902 (H.C. 321 of 1903). The Index Number has, however, now been recalculated with the year 1900 as its base year instead of 1871.

The price of British oats declined nearly 6 per cent., foreign oats nearly 10 per cent., and rice 7·2 per cent. Among the other articles of food and drink which increased considerably in price were coffee (20·3 per cent.), rum (19·8 per cent.), sugar (7·0 per cent.), and tobacco (5·7 per cent.). Beef rose 1·8 per cent., while mutton fell 4·1 per cent.

Retail Prices.

The general level of retail prices of food in 1908 showed an increase of nearly 2½ per cent. as compared with 1907, of over 5·0 per cent. compared with 1906, and of 8·4 per cent. compared with 1900. The Index Number constructed on the weighted retail prices in London of 23 of the principal articles of food was as follows for the years 1895-1908:

1900 = 100·0.

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1895	93·2	1902	101·6
1896	92·0	1903	103·2
1897	96·2	1904	104·3
1898	100·8	1905	103·7
1899	96·4	1906	103·2
1900	100·0	1907	105·8
1901	101·9	1908	108·4

As compared with 1907 the principal articles which advanced in price were oatmeal (12·4 per cent.), cocoa (10·6 per cent.), bread (7·8 per cent.), flour (6·2 per cent.), beef (6·7 per cent.), butter (5·5 per cent.), potatoes (4·6 per cent.), and mutton (0·2 per cent.). The most important articles which declined in price were bacon, pork, and cheese, which decreased 5·7, 2·7, and 2·9 per cent. respectively. Eggs, sugar and rice also showed some decline.

According to the particulars obtained monthly as to the price of bread in London and 27 of the principal towns of the United Kingdom, there was in 1908 an average rise of 8 per cent. in the price as compared with 1907. There has, however, been some decline from the high prices which obtained in the beginning of 1908, and in none of the 28 towns was the price of bread at the end of December higher than a year ago. In 13 towns there have been reductions varying from ¼d. to 1d. per 4 lbs. as compared with the end of December, 1907. The quarterly returns from 363 co-operative societies in England and Wales and Scotland show an increase of about ¾d. per 4 lbs. in 1908 as compared with 1907, although at December, 1908, the mean price was a trifle lower on the whole than at December, 1907.

COURT OF ARBITRATION.

The following Regulations have been drawn up by the Board of Trade (after consultation with several eminent members of the Chairmen's Panel), in connection with the scheme lately devised for the appointment of Courts of Arbitration for the settlement of industrial disputes. The regulations deal with the procedure to be followed in respect of applications to the Board of Trade for the appointment of Courts of Arbitration, and with certain matters relating to the business of the Courts.

When both parties to an industrial dispute desire to have their differences settled by arbitration it is open to them jointly to apply to the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act either (1) for the appointment of a single arbitrator, or (2) for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration in accordance with the scheme devised in 1908 by the President of the Board of Trade.

The following are the regulations above referred to as having been drawn up by the Board of Trade in connection with the appointment of a Court of Arbitration.

1. The application should state:
 - (a) The subject-matter of the dispute
 - (b) Whether the parties wish the Court to consist of (1) a Chairman and two arbitrators, or (2) a Chairman and four arbitrators;
 - (c) Whether the parties desire the Board of Trade (i.) to appoint a Chairman and arbi-

trators all of whose names have been jointly selected by the parties from the respective panels, or (ii.) to appoint a Chairman whose name has been jointly selected by the parties from the Chairmen's panel, and to select and appoint the arbitrators from the respective panels, or (iii.) to select and appoint the Chairman from the Chairmen's panel, and to appoint arbitrators jointly selected by the parties from the respective panels, or (iv.) to select and appoint all the members of the Court from the respective panels.

(d) Whether the parties wish the Court to appoint, or apply to the Board of Trade to appoint, a technical assessor or assessors.

3. A Court of Arbitration shall, if either party or both parties shall have so requested, or may on their own initiative, if they consider that the assistance of a technical assessor or assessors is expedient, appoint or apply to the Board of Trade to appoint, a technical assessor or assessors accordingly.

4. Technical Assessors shall not be members of the Court. They will be appointed solely for the purpose of giving the Court information on technical matters when required by them. They will only be entitled to be present at such stages of the proceedings as the Court may direct. Every Assessor before taking up his duties shall pledge himself in writing to keep secret all matters with which he shall in the course of the performance of such duties become acquainted.

5. All procedure in connection with the hearing of a case shall be settled by the Chairman after consultation with other members of the Court, including the mode of appearance thereat.

For the convenience of the Court, each application should be accompanied by a statement showing (a) whom the parties desire to represent them at the hearing (whether counsel, solicitor, secretary of the Association or Trade Union involved, &c.), and (b) the approximate number of witnesses each side desires to call.

6. The award of a majority of the members of the Court shall be the award of the Court. When no majority can be obtained in favour of an award, owing to the arbitrators being equally divided, then the matter shall be decided by the Chairman, acting with the full powers of an umpire.

7. After an award is made it shall be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Court, and he shall then cause a copy to be sent to the representatives of both parties to the dispute. The original award, together with any shorthand notes and all relevant papers, shall be forwarded to the Board of Trade.

8. Shorthand notes (and transcripts of such notes) of any part of the proceedings shall only be paid for by the Board of Trade if the Chairman of the Court certifies that the notes were necessary for the purpose of the Court. The Board of Trade will also pay any expenses connected with the drawing of the Award, and for the hire of a room for the hearing of the case when necessary. They will also pay the expenses of the members of the Court.

The first application for the constitution of a Court of Arbitration has been received from the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Northampton, in connection with a dispute as to the framing of a Quantities Statement for Clickers; and the following gentlemen have been appointed from the various panels to form the Court:—Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G. (Chairman), Sir Albert Spicer, Bart., M.P., and Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P. Two technical assessors (Messrs. Sears and Hornsey) have also been appointed on the application of the parties to assist the Court. A first hearing of the case took place at Northampton on January 6th, but an adjournment became necessary in order that further evidence on certain points might be placed before the Court by the parties to the dispute.

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT IN THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

On August 23rd, 1907, a provisional Agreement was entered into by the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the United Society of Boiler Makers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders which provided *inter alia* that conferences between these two bodies should be held in order to arrive at a permanent Agreement by ensuring that no extreme measures should be taken by either side without first having full discussion of the matter at issue.

Views were subsequently exchanged by the parties, but further proceedings were interrupted by the dispute involving shipwrights, joiners, &c., which broke out on the North-East Coast on January 22nd, 1908, and eventually led to a lock-out at other centres early in May. This dispute was settled at the end of May through the mediation of the Board of Trade, and one of the terms of settlement was a provision that these trades also should confer with the employers with a view to setting up permanent machinery to avoid disputes. Accordingly a joint committee of representatives of the Employers' Federation and of the various Trade Unions concerned was appointed to draw up an Agreement, and after many conferences their proposals were embodied in a Memorandum of Agreement, which was provisionally signed, on December 16th, by the President of the Employers' Federation and by the workmen's representatives on the committee. This Agreement is subject to a joint ballot of the members of the Trade Unions concerned, which is to be concluded by February 25th.

The following is a list of the 18 Trade Unions affected by the Agreement:—United Society of Boiler Makers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders; National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators; Amalgamated Union of Cabinetmakers; Amalgamated Society of Wood Cutting Machinists; Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners; Associated Carpenters' and Joiners' Society; General Union of Carpenters and Joiners; Amalgamated Society of Drillers and Hole Cutters; Wear Drillers' Association; General Union of Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers; Associated Blacksmiths' Society; Combined Smiths of Great Britain and Ireland; Co-operative Smiths' Society; National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association; Scottish Amalgamated Society of House and Ship Painters; Scottish Saw Mill Operatives and Wood Cutting Machinists' Society; Sheet Iron Workers', Light Platers' and Ship Range Makers' Society; and the Shipconstructive and Shipwrights' Association and Drillers' and Hole Cutters' Department. It will be observed that the labourers' societies are not included in the Agreement.

The fundamental principle of the Agreement is that there shall be no stoppage of work by either party until the machinery for conciliation provided by the Agreement has been exhausted. Thus in regard to questions of general fluctuations in wages, provision is made for holding conferences to discuss any application for an alteration in wages, and no change in wages can be made until at least two conferences have been held.

On questions other than general fluctuations in wages, including district changes in wages, elaborate machinery has been set up to avoid a stoppage of work. In the first instance disputed matters are to be discussed between the employer and a deputation of the workpeople, with or without the Trade Union official; failing a settlement the question is then to be referred to a joint committee of three employers and three representatives of the Trade Union concerned, none of whom shall be directly connected with the yard where the dispute occurs. If this committee is unable to effect a settlement the matter is to be brought before a conference of the local employers' association and the local representatives of the Trade Union concerned, and if the matter is still unsettled either party may refer it to a central conference between the executive board of the Employers' Federation and the representatives of the Trade Union concerned, both sides having plenary powers of settlement. Finally, in the event of failure to settle at a

central conference, either party may refer the dispute to a grand conference to be held between the Employers' Federation and all the Trade Unions parties to the Agreement.

Local arrangements for piecework may continue or be established, and be subject to the arrangements referred to above, and the existing arrangements for the settlement of demarcation questions are also allowed to continue.

An important feature of the Agreement is the provision that all changes in wages due to the general condition of the industry shall apply to all the trades comprised in the Agreement, and to every federated firm at the same time and to the same extent. The amount of each general change in wages is fixed at 5 per cent. for pieceworkers, and 1s. per week, or 1d. per hour, for timeworkers, according to method of payment.

The Agreement is to continue in force for three years, and to be subject thereafter to six months' notice from either side.

The following is the text of the Agreement:—

The Federation and the Unions recognising that it is in the best interests of both Employers and Workmen that arrangements should be made whereby questions arising may be fully discussed and settled without stoppages of work HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:—

I.—GENERAL FLUCTUATIONS IN WAGES.

(1) Changes in wages due to the general conditions of the Shipbuilding Industry shall be termed general fluctuations. Such general fluctuations in wages shall apply to all the trades comprised in this Agreement and to every Federated firm at the same time and to the same extent.

Differences in rates of wages in any trade in different districts can be dealt with as heretofore under clause II., section 3.

(2) In the case of all such general fluctuations the following provisions and procedure shall apply, viz.:—

(a) No step towards an alteration in wages can be taken until after the lapse of six calendar months from the date of the previous general fluctuation.

(b) Before an application for an alteration can be made, there shall be a preliminary conference between the Federation and the Unions, in order to discuss the position generally. Such conference shall be held within 14 days of the request for same.

(c) No application for an alteration shall be competent until the foregoing preliminary conference has been held, and no alteration shall take effect within six weeks of the date of the application.

(d) The application for a proposed alteration shall be made as follows:—

The Federation to the Unions parties to this Agreement; or

The said Unions to the Federation.

(e) Within 14 days after the receipt of an application the parties shall meet in Conference.

(f) The Conference may be adjourned by mutual agreement, such adjourned Conference to be held within 14 days thereafter.

(g) Any general fluctuation in tradesmen's rates shall be of the following fixed amount, viz.:—

Piecework Rates ... 5 per cent.; and
Time Rates ... 1/- per week, or 1d. per hour
where payment is made by the hour.

II.—QUESTIONS OTHER THAN GENERAL FLUCTUATIONS IN WAGES.

(1) When any question is raised by or on behalf of either an employer or employers, or of a workman or workmen, the following procedure shall be observed, viz.:—

(a) A workman or deputation of workmen shall be received by their employers in the yard or at the place where a question has arisen, by appointment, for the mutual discussion of any question in the settlement of which both parties are directly concerned; and failing arrangement, a further endeavour may, if desired, be then made to negotiate a settlement by a meeting between the Employer, with or without an Official of the Local Association, on the one hand, and the Official Delegate, or other Official of the workmen concerned, with or without the workman or workmen directly concerned, as deemed necessary.

(b) Failing settlement the question shall be referred to a Joint Committee consisting of three employers and three

representatives of the Union or of each of the Unions directly concerned, none of whom shall be connected with the yard or dock where the dispute has arisen.

(c) Failing settlement under Sub-section (b), the question shall be brought before the Employers' Local Association and the responsible Local Representatives of the Union or Unions directly concerned in Local Conference.

(d) Failing settlement at Local Conference, it shall be competent for either party to refer the question to a Central Conference to be held between the Executive Board of the Federation and representatives of the Union or Unions directly concerned, such representatives to have executive power.

(2) If the question is in its nature a general one affecting more than one yard or dock, it shall be competent to raise it direct in Local Conference, or if it is general and affecting the Federated Firms or Workmen in more than one district, it shall be competent to raise it direct in Central Conference without in either case going through the prior procedure above provided for.

(3) The questions hereby covered shall extend to all questions relating to Wages, including District alterations in wages and other matters in the Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing trade, which may give rise to disputes.

III.—GRAND CONFERENCE.

In the event of failure to settle any question in Central Conference under Clause II., Section 1, Sub-section (d), either party desirous to have such question further considered, shall, prior to any stoppage of work, refer same for final settlement to a Grand Conference to be held between the Federation and all the Unions parties to this Agreement.

A Conference may by mutual agreement be adjourned.

On any occasion when a settlement has not been reached, the Conference must be adjourned to a date not earlier than 14 days nor later than one month from the date of such Conference.

IV.—PIECEWORK QUESTIONS—SETTLEMENT OF.

The existing local arrangements for dealing with questions arising out of Piece Price Lists, or in connection with Piece Prices or Piecework, may continue, or be established, with the following further provisions, viz.:—

Failing settlement of any such question under the arrangements already existing, same shall be referred to a Joint Committee in accordance with Clause II., Section 1, Sub-section (b), and, if need be, the further procedure under same Clause, Section 1, Sub-sections (c) and (d), and Clause III.

NOTE.—In districts where there is a Standing Committee, the question instead of being referred to (b) will be dealt with under (c), and, if need be, the further procedure named.

The settlement shall be retrospective.

Any claim for alteration of price must be made before the commencement of the job.

The price to be paid during the time the question is under discussion shall, failing agreement between the employer and workman or workmen concerned, be fixed in the following manner, viz.:—

Two or three employers not connected with the Yard where the question has arisen shall give a temporary decision as to the price to be paid, but said decision shall be without prejudice to either party, and shall not be adduced in evidence in the ultimate settlement of the question.

V.—DEMARICATION QUESTIONS.

The existing local arrangements for the settlement of questions with respect to the demarcation of work shall continue meantime.

VI.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.

At all Meetings and Conferences the representatives of both sides shall have full powers to settle, but it shall be in their discretion whether or not they conclude a settlement.

In the event of any stoppage of work occurring in any Federated Yard or Federated District either in contravention of the foregoing or after the procedure laid down has been exhausted, entire freedom of action is hereby reserved to the Federation, and any Federated Association, and to the Unions concerned, notwithstanding the provisions of this Agreement. The suspension of the Agreement shall be limited to such particular stoppage, and the Agreement in all other respects shall continue in force.

Pending settlement of any question other than questions of Wages, Hours and Piece Prices (the last-named of which is provided for above), two or three Employers not connected with the Yard where the question has arisen shall give a temporary decision, but such decision shall be without prejudice to either party, and shall not be adduced in evidence in the ultimate settlement of the question.

The expression "Employer" throughout this Agreement shall include an Employer's accredited representative.

Until the whole procedure of this Agreement applying to the question at issue has been carried through there shall be no stoppage or interruption of work either of a partial or of a general character.

VII.—DURATION OF AGREEMENT.

This Agreement shall continue in force for three years, and shall thereafter be subject to six months' notice in writing on either side, said notice not to be competent until the three years have elapsed.

On behalf of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation,
(Signed) FRED. N. HENDERSON, President.

On behalf of the Societies whose members are employed in the Shipbuilding Industry,

(Signed) WILLIAM PATERSON.
GEORGE M. SUNLEY.
THOS. PARK.
JOHN THOMSON.
ALEX. COLQUHOUN.
FRANK SMITH, President.
ALEX. WILKIE, Secretary.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

(1) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Northampton.

A Court of Arbitration has been formed to deal with this case; for particulars, see p. 5.

Warpers, Huddersfield.

A dispute having arisen at a woollen mill near Huddersfield the Huddersfield Warpors' Association applied to the Board of Trade, on January 3rd, for the appointment of a Conciliator to bring about a settlement.

The Board of Trade, on January 4th, appointed Mr. John Burnett to act in that capacity.

Carters, etc., Dublin.

On November 16th, 1908, 130 carters employed by four firms of general carriers at Dublin, struck work for an advance in wages, improvement in conditions and recognition of the local officials of the National Union of Dock Labourers, to which the men belonged.

On November 19th Mr. Mitchell, an officer of the Board of Trade, arrived in Dublin, and on the following day a conference took place between representatives of the parties, on the invitation of Sir James Dougherty, Under Secretary for Ireland, who presided. At this conference it was agreed that work should be resumed on November 23rd, on the understanding that the employers would at once consider the men's grievances: a further conference was to be held on November 27th, and, if no agreement was then arrived at, the points in dispute were to be referred to arbitration.

The dispute had by this time spread to the men employed by the Grand Canal Company; but arrangements were made whereby it was thought that a general resumption of work could take place.

On November 23rd the carters resumed work, but some difficulty was experienced in connection with the return to work of the Grand Canal Company's men. Thereupon renewed friction arose between the carters and their employers, which developed so seriously during the week that the general carriers (employers) declined to attend the adjourned conference on November 27th. Three days later six hundred carters employed by 19 firms ceased work, and during the next ten days further stoppages took place, until over 1,000 men were affected, in addition to several hundred employees of the Grand Canal Company, traffic upon which had been brought to a complete standstill. Violent encounters between the strikers and the police occurred almost daily, and business throughout the city was seriously hampered.

On December 9th Archbishops Walsh and Peacocke, with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, intervened, but were unable to effect a settlement. The dispute had by this time become still further complicated by sympathetic strikes on the part of men at several other establishments, including 400 maltsters; the total number out in the middle of the month being estimated at about 2,000.

Meanwhile events had been closely followed by His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Under Secretary, and the Board of Trade; and on December 17th Lord Aberdeen took advantage of the presence of a deputation from the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, which had waited upon him to point out the injury to trade caused by the dispute, to put forward certain suggestions for the termination of the dispute. Sir James Dougherty and Mr. Mitchell were again present on this occasion. As the result of Lord Aberdeen's mediation, negotiations were again opened up, and continued over several days; and on the evening of December 20th his Excellency was able to make the following statement:—

"The efforts of the Lord-Lieutenant and the Under Secretary have resulted in an agreement whereby the men will return to work to-morrow morning. The schedule of rates and hours which the men in the carrying trade submitted to the employers will be referred to arbitration. The arbitrators to be selected out of a panel already agreed upon; meanwhile work to be continued as before the dispute began.

"With respect to the other sections of men concerned, arrangements have been made or are in progress which will enable work to be resumed at the earliest possible moment."

Work was resumed on December 21st.

(2) OTHER CASES.

Boot Operatives (Government Contract Work) Northamptonshire.
Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C., the umpire (appointed with the approval of the Board of Trade) to the Joint Standing Committee in connection with the Government Boot and Shoe Contractors, issued on December 18th an award on three matters which had been submitted to him for decision.

In the first case he decided that certain sub-divisions of operations were in force, and should be included in the revised statement of wages to be printed in accordance with his award of July 20th, 1908 (see LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1908, p. 241).

The second case arose out of a stoppage of work on the question of the rate of wages paid on a certain contract. Mr. Askwith decided that the employers were justified in regarding the rate paid at the time of the stoppage as the "current" rate, it being the same as had been paid in the district for a similar contract in the previous year, without objection on the part of the operatives. The rate for future contracts must, however, be fixed by the Joint Committee.

The third case arose out of an alleged suspension of work at one firm following upon a change of system of working. Mr. Askwith decided that the altered system of working was not provided for in the terms of settlement of 1905, and could not be permitted unless a new price was fixed for the variations proposed by the firm. He further decided that the alleged suspension of work was due to a misunderstanding.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN DECEMBER, 1908.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 34.

DURING December the Local Government Board issued Orders establishing Distress Committees in Darwen, Grays Thurrock, Hartlepool, Hyde, Keighley, Loughborough, Wallsend, Wimbledon, and Wood Green.

The Table given below summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in December, 1908. As regards the number of applicants 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. Those engaged on relief-works are, however, included. The particulars as to relief relate to employment provided by the London Central Body, and by the various Distress Committees, or towards the provision of which the Distress Committees are expected to

contribute. Works provided and entirely paid for by the Local Authorities, without any contribution from the Distress Committees are, as far as possible, excluded:—

Distress Committees.	Net No. of Applicants on Registers at end of Dec., 1908.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.	Total Amount of Wages paid.
			Days.	£
London (Central Body) ...	37,084*	3,896	79,087	14,692
Outer London :				
Barking	218	12	12	3
Croydon	1,425	409	2,000	403
East Ham	1,368	722	3,800	760
Edmonton	1,250	203	2,981	589
Erith	599	161	800	267
Hornsey	250	63	473	145
Leyton	957	312	2,547	446
Tottenham	2,039	937	3,476	609
Walthamstow	1,503	766	3,003	651
West Ham	2,584	551	11,326	1,900
Willesden	1,578	499	5,256	1,030
Total, Outer London ...	13,581	4,655	35,674	6,742
Provincial Towns in England and Wales:				
Northern Counties:				
Newcastle	918	317	2,882	514
South Shields	1,616	457	2,219	444
Sunderland	1,710	201	1,206	221
Tynemouth	594	36	350	71
West Hartlepool	1,020	477	4,601	837
Other Towns (4)	1,222	333	1,402	250
Total, Northern Counties	7,090	1,824	12,660	2,347
Lancashire and Cheshire:				
Barrow-in-Furness	1,889	...	...	...
Birkenhead	524	...	...	...
Bolton	1,264	204	2,310	402
Burnley	790	237	1,000	173
Liverpool	1,486	519	11,387	1,249
Manchester	5,241	1,693	29,222	5,289
Preston	550	...	...	...
Salford	2,269	460	4,140	814
Stockport	649	22	497	78
Other Towns (12)	3,528	705	4,463	743
Total, Lancashire and Cheshire	18,190	4,770	53,019	8,746
Yorkshire:				
Bradford	1,664	141	1,378	230
Hallifax	530	135	528	91
Hull	1,039	24	60	12
Leeds	3,795	627	8,598	1,230
Sheffield	4,027	1,080	14,150	2,163
York	966	53	263	47
Other Towns (2)	657	...	...	...
Total, Yorkshire ...	13,278	2,070	24,977	3,773
Midlands:				
Aston Manor	546	175	778	122
Birmingham	4,089	506	5,456	910
Coventry	1,340	186	935	158
Derby	639	480	3,949	592
Leicester	1,442	260	2,440	418
Nottingham	1,010	301	2,659	302
Walsall	919	...	...	...
West Bromwich	750†	...	...	...
Wolverhampton	740	539	2,836	429
Other Towns (8)	1,642	696	7,283	884
Total, Midlands ...	13,117	3,143	26,316	3,815
Rest of England and Wales:				
Brighton	2,180	894	4,137	585
Bristol	2,101	792	6,084	1,233
Cardiff	1,219	590	2,950	859
Hastings	798	360	3,300	556
Maidstone	805	Return not received.	...	...
Norwich	1,508	656	11,360	1,143
Plymouth	1,321	479	2,632	345
Portsmouth	758	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Southampton	557	32	371	52
Swansea	722	...	...	...
Other Towns (11)	2,926	436	3,495	478
Total, Rest of England and Wales	14,895	4,239	34,329	5,441
Total, Provincial Towns ..	66,570	16,046	151,301	23,924
Total, England and Wales	117,335	24,597	266,062	45,518
Scotland:				
Aberdeen	1,418	799	5,999	749
Dundee	1,724	188	4,963	744
Edinburgh	2,729	1,747	23,879	2,916
Glasgow	1,665	1,994	28,960	3,308
Govan	1,229	374	5,164	629
Greenock	832	490	6,082	682
Leith	716	...	...	...
Partick	739	127†	2,336‡	335
Other Towns (4)	945	116	1,752	149
Total, Scotland ...	12,018	5,765	78,145	9,504
Ireland:				
Belfast	2,090	608	10,186	1,227
Drogheda	316	200	2,500†	307
Dublin	2,686	650	15,328	1,876
Total, Ireland ...	5,092	1,458	28,014	3,410
Total, United Kingdom	134,445	31,820	372,221	58,472

* Applicants on registers of 29 Metropolitan Boroughs. † Estimated.
‡ Including 13 men on piecework, the aggregate duration of whose employment cannot be stated.
§ Includes cost of food and of lodging to men employed at Farm Colony.
|| No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men.

It will be seen that the net total number of applicants remaining on the registers (after deduction of persons disqualified, those who had found work, &c.) was 134,445, of whom 50,765 were in London and "Outer London"; 66,570 in the provincial towns of England and Wales; 12,018 in Scotland; and 5,092 in Ireland. The great majority of the applicants to the Distress Committees were general labourers, or labourers in the building trades. Building trade artisans were also numerous, especially in some of the London and "Outer London" boroughs, and in Brighton, Bristol, Hastings, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh; and artisans in other trades accounted for a considerable proportion of the applicants in centres of the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding industries, particularly Birmingham and the neighbouring towns, and the Clyde-side burghs, in several of which the proportion of such artisans exceeded 60 per cent. of the total number of applicants.

The total number who received employment-relief was 31,820, of whom 8,551 were in London and "Outer London"; 16,046 in the provincial towns of England and Wales; 5,765 in Scotland; and 1,458 in Ireland. The average number of days' employment-relief provided was nearly 12 per man employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 36s. 9d. per man, or 3s. 1d. a day.

REPORT OF THE TRUCK COMMITTEE.

THE Departmental Committee (with the Rt. Hon. T. Shaw, K.C., M.P., Lord Advocate for Scotland, as Chairman) appointed to inquire into the operation of the Truck Acts have issued their Report.* The introductory paragraphs give a brief summary of the law. The Report then deals in detail with workers outside the Acts, and with deductions from wages.

I.—Workers Outside the Acts.

(1) *Outworkers.*—It was pointed out in the Report of the Truck Committee of 1871 that the effect of certain legal decisions had been to establish that only those persons are protected by the Acts who contract for their own personal labour, as distinguished from what has been called the "result" of labour. In the Act of 1887 a special provision was inserted for the protection of persons not working under any contract of service at all, or contract to execute any work or labour, but engaged in making in their own homes with members of their family articles from materials supplied by themselves, and selling the result of their labour to shopkeepers or other dealers. The case of the person to whom work was let out or given out to be done was left untouched. The Act of 1896 extended the duties and powers of the inspectors for the enforcement of the provisions of the Acts to "any place where work is given out by the occupier of a factory or workshop, or by a contractor or sub-contractor." Investigations into the conditions existing in the home industries of Ireland disclosed a widespread system of truck. Successful prosecutions followed, but on appeal by one of the defendants against his conviction it was held by the Irish Court of Queen's Bench, that the Truck Acts did not apply to the case of these out-workers, because upon the evidence their contract would have been performed had they had the work done either in whole or in part by others or wholly by themselves. Therefore, because there had been no anterior contract to do work personally—although there might be no moral doubt that the work had in effect been personally done—the Truck Acts were held not to apply.

The Committee recommend that the Truck Acts should be extended to out-workers.

(2) *Inmates of Charitable Institutions.*—The Committee consider that the application of the Acts would seriously interfere with the beneficial work done by bona-fide charitable institutions, and no abuse has been brought to their notice requiring the intervention of the law. Where, however, under the guise of charity an institution is carried on really as a profit-making concern, they consider such an institution should be put under

the same law as to truck which applies to its commercial rivals.

(3) *Shop Assistants and Others "Living in."*—The Committee were required to consider and report whether the practice of shop assistants and certain classes of workpeople being lodged and boarded by their employers gives rise to abuses needing remedy by an extension of the Truck Acts, or by other action of the State. They recommend:—

(a) That power should be given to a central authority to make regulations as to the accommodation provided in living-in establishments. These regulations should make provision with regard to sanitation, lavatory, bath and sanitary accommodation, ventilation and cubic space of the bedrooms, single beds, &c., and should prohibit the exclusion of workers returning after the hour of locking up. The regulations should cover all establishments where assistants live in. Any distinction that may be necessary between establishments only employing one or two assistants and the larger establishments can be provided for in the regulations.

(b) That the law as to the sale of food unfit for human consumption should be extended to cover the case of an employer supplying, or having in his possession for the purpose of supplying, to his assistants food unfit for human consumption.

(c) That the law should provide for inspection of the living-in arrangements of shops by inspectors of the local authority, who already inspect under the Shop Hours Acts, and that it should be their duty to enforce the regulations made by the central authority.

II. Deductions from Wages.

The Committee recommend:—
That fines should be totally abolished in the case of young persons of sixteen and under in all employments.

That the maximum fine or accumulation of fines in any one week permissible by law should not exceed five per cent. of the wages of the workman for the week.

That the deduction for or payment of a fine should be made only in the week in which it is imposed, and that no claim for arrears of fines should lie.

That the inspectors of the local authority who already enforce the provisions of the Shop Hours Act should be empowered to enforce the provisions of the Truck Acts in regard to fines in shops.

That where it is shown that a bonus is liable to be withheld as a punishment for unpunctuality, breaches of discipline, &c., the Court should have power, after considering all the circumstances of the case, to decide whether the bonus is used by the employer as a means of evading the requirements of the statute, and in the event of its deciding that it is so used, to convict the employer.

That in respect of deductions on payments for bad or negligent work, or injury to materials or other property of the employer, the existing provisions of the law should be repealed, and the matter be left to be regulated under the provisions suggested in regard to fines and the ordinary common law rights of the parties.

That in respect of materials, no deductions or payments should be allowed in respect of materials such as glue, thread, paste, twine, &c., which go into the substance of the fabric or product.

That in respect of the use of tools, machinery, standing room, light, heat, &c., no deductions or payments should be allowed; the alteration of conditions thus produced being left to find its economic adjustment in wage rates, and the employer to have power to sue for any loss occasioned to him by the mis-application or loss of tools, etc. supplied for the use of the workman.

That in respect of the provision of mess-rooms and similar facilities no deductions should be allowed; any charges for these facilities to be by way of a separate bargain and separate payment.

The Committee also make recommendations with regard to deductions for rent, medicine and medical attendance, benefit societies and hospitals.

Mrs. H. J. Tennant and Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., sign a minority Report recommending that fines, deductions for bad work and injury to materials, the living-in system, and the bonus system should be prohibited by law.

* Report of the Truck Committee. Vol. I.—Report and Appendices. [Cd. 4442.] Price 2s. 6d. Vol. II. and III.—Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 4443 and 4444.] Price 3s. 1d. each. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

The volume contains a summary of the laws of the Colonies and certain foreign countries relating to truck and fines and deductions from wages, and details of the constitution of industrial tribunals in France and Germany.

A final appendix gives particulars of legal decisions since the passing of the Act of 1896.

SHIPS BUILT IN 1908.

According to *Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping* the total tonnage of vessels launched in the United Kingdom during 1908 was 1,003,855 tons, or 738,510 tons below the total for 1907, and lower also than in any year since 1893.

The following Table shows the annual tonnage launched in the last fifteen years:—

Year.	Mercantile and other Vessels (not War Ships).	War Ships.
	Tons (Gross).	Tons (Displacement).
1894	1,046,508	32,956
1895	900,967	148,111
1896	1,159,751	163,958
1897	924,486	95,465
1898	1,367,570	191,555
1899	1,416,791	168,590
1900	1,442,471	68,364
1901	1,524,739	211,969
1902	1,427,558	94,140
1903	1,190,618	151,890
1904	1,205,162	127,175
1905	1,623,168	129,801
1906	1,828,343	108,450
1907	1,607,890	134,475
1908	929,669	74,186

The following Table shows the districts in which the greatest tonnage, including warships, was launched in 1908, with comparative figures for the previous year:—

District.	Total Tonnage (including War Vessels) launched in		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1908, compared with 1907.
	1908.	1907.	
Glasgow	237,305	389,173	- 151,868
Newcastle	196,089	331,006	- 134,917
Sunderland	86,547	291,606	- 205,059
Greenock	103,470	214,484	- 111,014
Middlesbrough and Stockton	57,410	138,621	- 81,411
Belfast	153,517	126,939	+ 26,578
Hartlepool and Whitby	37,843	94,469	- 56,626

There were increases in the tonnage launched at Belfast, Dundee, Barrow, and Liverpool; but in all other districts there were large decreases as compared with 1907.

REPORT OF FAIR WAGES COMMITTEE.

THE Committee appointed by the Treasury to consider the working of the Fair Wages Resolution, as embodied in Government contracts, have presented their Report.*

The "Fair Wages" Resolution was passed by the House of Commons on February 13th, 1891, and was as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this House, it is the duty of the Government in all Government contracts to make provision against the evils recently disclosed before the Sweating Committee, to insert such conditions as may prevent the abuse arising from sub-letting, and to make every effort to secure the payment of such wages as are generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen."

The Committee point out that the last clause of the resolution is in practice interpreted to refer to the wages current in the district in which the work is carried out.

The Committee found that, on the whole, neither the evidence submitted to them, nor the number of cases brought to the notice of the Departments, seemed to indicate any widespread defects in the working of the Fair Wages clause in contracts; and the employers and some of the workpeople's representatives who gave evidence before the Committee appeared to be satisfied with the present arrangements. Others of the Trade Union representatives, however, considered that the clause had been of little use, their chief complaints being: the difficulty of protecting the workers in unorganised trades and in isolated factories; the employ-

* Report, Cd. 4422, price 5d. Minutes of Evidence, Cd. 4423, price, 2s. 7d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

ment of women, girls, apprentices, &c., at lower rates of wages on work claimed by fully skilled men; subdivision, or "sectioning," of work; payment for piecework at rates yielding only the bare equivalent of the current time rate; delay in dealing with complaints of breaches of the clause.

The Committee dealt with these and other objections, their principal recommendations being as follows:—

(i.) *Ascertainment of the "Current" Rate of Wages.*—The Trade Union representatives generally desired that contractors should be required, not only to pay the Trade Union rate of wages, but also to observe Trade Union "conditions"—a term which includes such matters as hours of labour, rate of payment for overtime, proportion of apprentices to journeymen, &c.

As regards rates of wages, the Committee found that the proposed substitution of "Trade Union" for "current" rate would be either superfluous or inequitable—superfluous if the Trade Union rate was so far accepted by the employers that the majority of the workpeople in fact obtained that rate; inequitable if the Trade Union rate was obsolete, or was only observed by a minority of employers and workpeople.

As regards Trade Union "conditions," the Committee found that the enforcement of these conditions would entirely exclude some firms from tendering, even though they paid the Trade Union rate of wages. The Committee, however, thought that certain "conditions" might well be considered as falling within the scope of the Resolution when generally accepted, and should be enforced equally with the current rate of wages. For example, overtime should be paid for at the usual overtime rate; and the hours of labour should be those generally accepted. Otherwise, while nominally paying the current rate of weekly wages, a contractor might work his employees longer than the recognised hours for the same wages, and thus in effect pay less than the current rate of wages *per hour*. While the Committee do not recommend that Government contracts should be restricted to what are technically known by Trade Unionists as "fair houses," they think that great care should continue to be taken in selecting firms to be placed on the list of contractors, so as to ensure that only good employers should be admitted.

(ii.) *Piecework Earnings.*—In trades in which both time and piece rates of wages are paid, persons employed on piece-work are, as a general rule, expected to produce a greater output in a given period than those engaged on similar work and paid by time. The Committee think that the principle that piece-work earnings are expected to exceed time wages should be recognised, though no rule can be universally applied as to the exact proportion between the two amounts; individual complaints must be dealt with in accordance with the special circumstances of each case. In all cases where such a comparison between time and piecework earnings is likely to be required, the Committee recommend that contractors should be enjoined to keep records of the time worked by pieceworkers.

(iii.) *Unorganised Trades.*—These are the trades (of which tailoring is a conspicuous example) in which either the employers or the workpeople, or both, are so unorganised that no concerted action is possible by which a rate can be formally or tacitly agreed upon between the parties. In all such cases, and in any other case in which the Department concerned considers that difficulties are likely to arise in ascertaining the "current" rate of wages, the Committee recommend that one or other of the under-mentioned methods, or a combination of them, should be adopted:—

(a) The rates to be paid to the various classes of workpeople for each operation to be specified in the contract.

(b) A minimum time rate of wages to be fixed, below which no person engaged on the contract work should be paid.

(c) Wages in unorganised trades to be fixed by Wages Boards.

(d) Contractors to be required, when tendering, to state rates of wages and hours of labour proposed to be paid and observed.

The first of the above methods (a) has been adopted by the London County Council in their clothing contracts, and the second (b) by the Post Office in certain contracts. The Committee refer to the danger, with regard to method (a), that the rates fixed might be so high as to enable the contractor to employ his workpeople concurrently on private work at excessively low rates, and to the difficulty which arises in regard to (b) in cases where the workpeople are employed only part time on Government work in any one week. They suggest in both cases that an hourly rate might be fixed in the contract, and that it should be required that the earnings of any person who, for any portion of the week, was employed on contract work should not average less than such hourly rate for the whole time worked during the week, whether on Government or other work.

With regard to (c), the Committee observe that a general system of Wages Boards could not be set up for Government work only, but that the matter should be dealt with as part of the general question of the institution of Wages Boards. (See Report* of the Select Committee on Home Work.)

Method (d) is that adopted by the Canadian Government in some of their contracts. The Committee recommend that, if any scheme of this character should be adopted, the Government should signify that the rates submitted by the contractors were not necessarily accepted as the "current" rates, and that the obligation to pay "current" rates still continued.

(iv.) *Isolated Factories.*—Where the employer tendering for a contract is the only employer engaged in the particular trade in a district, it is impossible to decide upon the "current" rate of wages by reference to the rate paid by competing firms. In such cases the current rate might be decided by agreements between the employers' and workpeople's organisations, covering large areas; or fixed by analogy with other districts, or with other trades in the same district. The investigations of the Board of Trade into rents, prices, wages, and cost of living might be utilised in the fixing of suitable rates in such cases.

(v.) *Subdivision of Work, or "Sectioning."*—Operations for which a certain rate is current sometimes tend to be split up into a number of processes for which sectional rates are paid, some of which are lower than the current rate for the whole; and in some cases no "current" rate of payment for the various sectional processes can be said to exist.

The Committee recommend that such cases should be dealt with on their merits; they point out that the whole tendency of modern industry is towards specialisation of this kind, and they see "no good reason for restricting Government contractors in particular" . . . to existing methods of production, "or for interfering with a natural and legitimate tendency in the development of economic production."

(vi.) *Employment of Women.*—The Committee found that the competition of female labour was viewed with considerable alarm in certain trades by the representatives of the men; but they do not consider that the Government is called on to interfere so long as the current rate is paid for both kinds of labour. They do not consider that it was the intention of the Resolution to enforce the payment to women of the rate "current" for men employed on the same class of work, but they observe that the unorganised condition of women's labour tends to depress their rates of wages, and renders it necessary for Government Departments to watch very carefully the trades in which women are engaged on contract work.

(vii.) *Other Recommendations.*—Other recommendations of the Committee are:—That the "fair wages" clauses of the contract should be posted in all works in which Government contracts are being executed, it being left to the workers to see that the employer carries out his obligations in this respect; that the names of successful tenderers, so far as practicable and at the discretion of the Departments concerned, should be published in the BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL or the BOARD OF TRADE

* H.C. 246 of Session 1908. Price 5d. A detailed account of this Report appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1908, pp. 239-40.

LABOUR GAZETTE; that a uniform set of clauses should be drawn up for use by all Departments; and that the several Departments should co-operate in other matters (such as inspection, dealing with complaints, &c.) as much as possible. With a view to furthering the latter object it is suggested that an advisory Committee should be formed of representatives of the different contracting Departments, to meet from time to time for the discussion of matters of common interest and the settlement of disputed questions.

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.

There is no demand now for more emigrants of any kind except farmers and female servants. There have been a large number of unskilled labourers out of work in the majority of the cities, as is usual during the winter season. Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dols.—or between January 1st and February 15th, 1909, the sum of 50 dols.—in addition to a ticket to his or her destination; unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant. All emigrants sent out to Canada 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. Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or other charitable institution, he may, under existing Canadian Law, be deported together with all those dependent on him or her, after investigation of the facts.

Australia.

A large number of farmers, farm labourers and female servants went out under the assisted passage system last year to New South Wales. There is an excellent demand for these classes in that State, as well as in Queensland, Western Australia, and Victoria, all of which States grant reduced passages to emigrants. The prospects for mechanics are not so good unless they are specially skilled, and there is very little opening for miners or town labourers. There have been serious disputes as to wages at the large Broken Hill Silver Mines in New South Wales—which employ several thousand miners—and one or two mines have closed down.

New Zealand.

There is a good demand for farmers, farm labourers, shepherds, milkers, and female servants, and reduced passages are granted to approved members of these classes. There is no general demand for mechanics, but at this season of the year competent men can get work. There is no opening for men who want light work, nor for clerks; colonial experience is considered to be essential for clerks, and there is always a surplus of men awaiting engagements.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Emigrants should avoid Cape Colony at the present time, as there is no demand for them anywhere.

Natal.—The Municipality of Durban have issued a notice, warning all those who are in search of employment, that numerous artisans, mechanics, clerks, and labourers are unemployed, and that there is little prospect of newcomers obtaining work.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—The supply of labour in both these Colonies is greater than the demand, except in the case of female servants, for whom there are occasional openings.

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

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. 1 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in November.—Employment declined in the building and allied trades. In the metal and engineering trades there was no change on the whole; there was much unemployment among watchmakers of the Franche-Comté. In the textile trades employment improved in the Nord Department, and continued satisfactory in the Vosges, but declined in the Ardennes; in the Seine-Inférieure Department it was moderate. In silk manufacture the improvement in the St. Etienne district and with power-loom weavers in the Lyons district continued. In garment making employment showed scarcely any change from a month ago. In the printing trades it improved both at Paris and in the provinces. There was still much unemployment among leather dressers and tanners at Millau, and among dock and wharf labourers. Unemployment increased among vineyard workers in the south of France, as in the majority of centres winter work had not commenced. With wood-cutters, owing to differences between the Trade Unions and the wood merchants, there was no decrease in the number of unemployed. Among gardeners at Paris employment was satisfactory for the time of year.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in November were received by the French Labour Department from 968 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 223,063. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais, 9·4 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 8·7 per cent. in the previous month, and 9·4 per cent. a year ago.

Coal Mining in November.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during November was 5·97, as compared with 5·97 in October, and 6·01 in November, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 95·69 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 3·63 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 90·16 and 9·63, and in November, 1907, 97·41 and 2·56.

Labour Disputes in November.—Forty-five disputes (42 strikes and three lock-outs) were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, compared with 74 in the previous month, and 89† in November, 1907. In 39 of the new disputes 4,597 workpeople took part, as compared with 6,496 workpeople who took part in 73 of the October disputes, and 7,529 who took part in 77 disputes in November, 1907. The trades in which most disputes occurred were the textile (10), building (8), metal and transport (5 each). Of 41 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 9 resulted in favour of the workpeople and 16 in favour of the employers, while 16 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.—Four instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in November. In one case a committee of conciliation was formed, but did not succeed in arriving at a settlement; the dispute, however, was terminated by direct agreement later. In the other three cases the employers refused to take part in the conciliation proceedings; in two of these the disputes were ultimately settled by direct agreement.

GERMANY.

Employment in November.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the

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

Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of December:—"Compared with the previous month, the condition of the labour market in November showed a decline. This was due in the first instance to a number of seasonal influences, above all the decreased activity in the building trades, and the close of the season in various branches of the clothing trades, garment making in particular. In addition to this slackness in the seasonal trades, there was a continuance of the decline in a number of the larger industries. Thus the Ruhr colliery industry continued depressed owing to insufficient orders coming in from consumers, more particularly from ironworks; for this reason short time was largely worked. The same was reported for lignite mining, where the state of trade was, on the whole, unsatisfactory. In the pig iron industry stocks continued to accumulate. In steel works and rolling mills employment was worse than a month ago, and the supply of labour exceeded the demand, especially in the north-west of Germany. In iron foundries there was likewise a large surplus of labour owing to the continued unsatisfactory state of trade. In railway carriage building there was a decline which had an unfavourable effect on the labour market. As regards the textile trades, employment in cotton-spinning, and to a large extent in cotton-weaving, was continuously unsatisfactory, and there was no longer any scarcity of workpeople, as had been reported in the earlier months of the year for these branches. The reports of the factory sick funds for the textile industry as a whole, however, showed a slight increase in the number employed. In the chemical trades, colour factories especially complained of decreased sales, both in the home and foreign markets. The electrical industry had still on the whole a sufficiency of work, though many workpeople offering their services could not be taken on, especially in the large towns. Against this decline in the larger industries there was an improvement, owing to the approach of Christmas, in a small number of industries, especially in commercial undertakings, in certain branches of the food preparation trades, and in the printing and bookbinding trades."

BELGIUM.*

Employment in November.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 5·6 per cent. of the 43,257 members of 198 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 5·7 per cent. in October, and 3·0 per cent. in November, 1907. (As regards foreign unemployment statistics in general, see note under "Labour Abroad" above.)

HOLLAND.†

Employment in November.—In general there was no improvement in the building trades, and in many towns unemployment increased. In the larger metal and engineering trades and in shipbuilding the state of employment varied. In the textile trades there was little change compared with the previous month. In neither the ready-made nor the bespoke branches of the men's tailoring trade was there much activity for the time of year, and employment was less favourable than usual. In the boot and shoe trades employment generally was slack. The slackness continued in most branches of the woodworking trades, but in some cases, e.g., for cabinet makers, trunk makers and coopers, there was a slight improvement. In the printing trades the improvement continued, but the state of employment was still much below the normal. Most occupations connected with the cultivation of bulbs come to an end in November. In the margarine trades employment was rather better than in October, but the brewing and mineral water trades were passing through their slack season. Persons engaged in the cocoa and chocolate trades were busy, owing to the approach of Christmas.

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

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

Labour Disputes in November.—Nine disputes, six of which directly affected 91 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in November. Six disputes (including three of the above) terminated during the month. Of three disputes of which the results were known, two ended in favour of the workpeople, and the remaining one was compromised.

SWEDEN.

State of Employment in November.—A despatch from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Stockholm, dated November 25th, states that at that date the adverse influence of general trade depression was being felt by the labour market. The industries chiefly affected by the stagnation in trade were the metal, engineering, wood-working, building and textile trades. A report issued by the Swedish Board of Trade, dealing with unemployment, stated that the number of unemployed was large relatively to Sweden's small population. In the building industry activity was 50 per cent. less than a year ago. Other industries suffered in consequence, especially the iron and wood trades, which were also affected by a reduced demand from abroad. In the iron and steel and engineering trades, in all branches of the wood trade, and in the wood-pulp, paper, textile, stone, margarine and cigar trades, production diminished; in the case of the tile and cement factories at Skane the reduction amounted to 60 per cent. Many dismissals and much short time were reported, and in some cases works were closed. In machine manufacture it is estimated that workpeople had to be reduced by 10 per cent. The public employment bureaux reported about 227 applicants for every 100 situations, or about double the proportion of last winter. The despatch estimates that there were about 6,000 unemployed in Stockholm, over 2,000 in Gothenburg, and about 1,800 in Helsingborg, with numbers of factory and farm hands in the south, in addition to several thousands in the sugar industry there. The report mentioned above recommends the Government and municipal and other communal authorities to undertake such suitable public works as will afford employment.

NORWAY.

*Employment in November.**—The following Table shows the percentage of members unemployed in certain Trade Unions which made Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics for each of the three months, November and October, 1908, and November, 1907:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Nov., 1908.	Oct., 1908.	Nov., 1907.	Nov., 1908.	Oct., 1908.	Nov., 1907.
Carpenters, &c. ...	707	712	707	10·2	5·6	4·4
Painters and Masons ...	720	806	827	35·0	17·7	25·2
Metal Workers ...	5,336	5,263	5,169	3·6	3·4	0·8
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	474	492	414	1·7	0·6	...
Printers ...	1,325	1,322	1,268	0·5	0·5	0·8
Bakers ...	210	200	172	12·4	16·5	11·6
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers ...	630	694	675	...	...	...
Sawyers and Planers ...	712	741	875	9·3	7·8	10·6
Cabinet Makers ...	295	232	255	1·0	0·7	0·8
Total ...	10,459	10,527	10,563	6·0	4·4	3·9

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 12.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Employment in Chicago.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Acting-Consul at Chicago, dated December 14th, it is stated that about 120,000 persons were out of work in Chicago at that date, half of these being unskilled labourers. Although public and charitable agencies had more calls on them for assistance than ever before at that time of the year, they did not expect the suffering to be so acute as in the previous year, as so many foreigners had returned to Europe. It was most important, however, that people should not think of going to Chicago at present, especially those without a trade.

* Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES
IN DECEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 502 Returns—440 from Employers, 52 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry was fairly good during the four weeks ended December 19th, and showed some improvement as compared with a month ago. It was not so good as a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,365 pits employing 653,239 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended December 19th, 1908, was 5·29, as compared with 5·19 in November, and 5·63 a year ago.

Of the 653,239 workpeople covered by the Returns 500,176 (or 76·6 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended December 19th, 1908, while 345,863 (52·9 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in December was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5·70), and the lowest in Nottingham and Leicester (4·61).

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended December 19th, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in November, 1908, and December, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 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 Dec., 1908, as compared with	
		Dec. 19th, 1908.	Nov. 21st, 1908.	Dec. 21st, 1907.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	45,648	5·27	5·24	5·48	+·03	-·21
Durham ...	114,443	5·45	5·35	5·59	+·10	-·14
Cumberland ...	7,457	5·15	4·94	5·50	+·21	-·35
South Yorkshire ...	68,282	5·28	5·27	5·90	+·01	-·62
West Yorkshire ...	24,856	4·99	4·71	5·25	+·28	-·26
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	58,133	5·05	4·76	5·58	+·29	-·55
Derbyshire ...	41,782	5·00	4·78	5·57	+·22	-·57
Nottingham and Leicester ...	35,624	4·61	4·70	5·16	-·09	-·55
Staffordshire ...	29,293	5·11	5·03	5·65	+·08	-·54
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,759	5·45	5·15	5·55	+·30	-·10
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,185	5·13	4·98	5·58	+·45	-·45
North Wales ...	11,308	5·54	5·30	5·81	+·24	-·27
South Wales and Mon. ...	144,048	5·70	5·57	5·93	+·13	-·23
ENGLAND AND WALES	697,198	5·22	5·20	5·66	+·12	-·34
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland ...	25,400	5·00	4·93	5·17	+·07	-·17
The Lothians ...	4,438	5·08	5·14	5·46	+·06	-·38
Fife ...	25,485	5·06	5·36	5·49	-·30	-·43
SCOTLAND	55,323	5·03	5·14	5·32	-·11	-·29
IRELAND ...	718	5·59	5·37	5·45	+·22	+·14
United Kingdom ...	653,239	5·29	5·19	5·63	+·10	-·34

Employment during December was good generally in Northumberland, Durham and South Yorkshire, and showed some improvement as compared with a month ago. The average number of days worked was less than a year ago, especially in South Yorkshire. In Lancashire and Cheshire and in Derbyshire employment was moderate, and as compared with a year ago there was a decline of over half a day per week. In Leicestershire employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In South Wales it was good, especially at pits producing anthracite. In Scotland the average number of days worked per week (5·03) was 0·29 lower than in December, 1907, the decline being most marked

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

in Fifeshire; employment in the Lothians and in Ayrshire was fair; in Lanarkshire it was moderate.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, classified according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were employed. At pits employing 218,059 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 month ago there was some improvement at each class of pit. As compared with a year ago all classes, except anthracite, showed a decline, which amounted to 0.36 and 0.33 of a day per week at house coal pits and manufacturing and steam coal pits respectively.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 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 Dec., 1908, as compared with	
		Dec. 19th, 1908.	Nov. 21st, 1908.	Dec. 21st, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	7,987	Days. 5.83	Days. 5.73	Days. 5.73	+ .10	+ .10
Coking ...	33,717	5.45	5.31	5.73	+ .14	- .28
Gas ...	39,447	5.44	5.34	5.54	+ .10	- .10
House ...	85,771	4.99	4.81	5.35	+ .18	- .36
Manufacturing and Steam ...	270,458	5.38	5.31	5.71	+ .07	- .33
Mixed ...	218,059	5.23	5.12	5.63	+ .11	- .40
All Descriptions ...	683,239	5.29	5.19	5.63	+ .10	- .34

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in December, 1908, amounted to 5,371,904 tons, or 189,638 tons more than in November, 1908, but 47,037 tons less than in December, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 83 Returns—66 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron and shale mines, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

It continued generally fair in tin, copper, and lead mines; and moderate, on the whole, in quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended December 19th, 1908, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.75, as compared with 5.81 a month ago and 5.82 a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. employed in Dec., 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 December, 1908, as compared with	
		Dec. 19th, 1908.	Nov. 21st, 1908.	Dec. 21st, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,560	Days. 5.85	Days. 5.84	Days. 5.90	+ 0.01	- 0.05
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,568	5.75	5.82	5.78	- 0.07	- 0.03
Scotland ...	771	5.75	5.77	5.70	- 0.02	+ 0.05
Other Districts ...	2,420	5.42	5.69	5.71	- 0.27	- 0.29
All Districts ...	18,319	5.75	5.81	5.82	- 0.06	- 0.07

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 89.3 per cent. worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended December 19th, as compared with 88.0 per cent. a month ago and 95.6 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,431 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended December 19th, as compared with 3,393 in the previous month, and 3,240 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended December 19th, was 5.81, as compared with 5.77 a month ago, and 5.80 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued fair in the Camborne district, and some improvement on

the previous month was reported from the St. Just district; elsewhere in Cornwall employment was slack.

Lead Mining.—Employment was fair in North Wales, moderate in the Weardale district.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack in North Wales, and there was some short time both in the Carnarvon and in the Festiniog districts. Employment was quiet at Ballachulish (Argyllshire), where there was also short time.

Granite.—Employment in the macadam trade in Leicestershire was good. It was dull, but showed a slight improvement on a month ago, in Aberdeenshire. It was fair at Gunnislake, bad at Princetown, and dull in the Penryn district.

Limestone.—Employment was generally affected by bad weather. It was good in North Wales until the snow stopped all work; in Cumberland there was an improvement on a month ago. In the Cleveland district it was moderate, with some short time. In the Buxton district it was dull, but slightly better than a month ago. In the Somerset blue lias quarries, and in the Plymouth district, employment continued bad.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in the Cleve Hill road material quarries and in chert quarries at Bakewell. In sandstone quarries in North Wales it was good until affected by the weather. It was fair in the Forest of Dean, but slack in the Bath stone quarries. Employment was fairly good in the Sheffield district; in the grindstone trade it was slack at Barnsley and Wickersley. In grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district it was moderate. It was slack in grindstone quarries in the Gateshead district. In Forfarshire employment continued bad.

Settmaking.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago in Leicestershire. It was fair in Scotland, and in North Wales. It was also fair in the Sheffield district. In the Cleve Hill district employment continued quiet.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell and Lee Moor districts.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—109 from Employers and an Employers' Association, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during December continued moderate. It was worse than a year ago.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of December, 1908, was 286, as compared with 289 in November, 1908, and 305 in December, 1907. During December 1 furnace was re-lit (in Yorkshire), and 4 were either damped down or blown out (1 each in the Cleveland district, Cumberland, Lancashire, and Derbyshire). The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 22,100 in December 1908; a decrease of 3.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with	
	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	80	81	78	- 1	+ 2
Cumberland & Lancs.	26	28	28	- 2	...
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	11	10	14	+ 1	- 3
Derby & Nottingham	29	30	40	- 1	- 11
Leicester, Lincoln, & Northampton	26	26	26	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	34	34	34	...	...
S. Wales & Monmouth	8	8	15	...	- 7
Other districts ...	7	7	7	...	...
England & Wales	221	224	242	- 3	- 21
Scotland ...	65	65	63	...	+ 2
Total ...	286	289	305	- 3	- 19

The Imports of iron ore in December, 1908, amounted to 535,872 tons, or 15,496 tons less than in November, 1908, but 15,507 tons more than in December, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in December, 1908, amounted to 86,315 tons, or 13,942 tons less than in November, 1908, and 7,245 tons less than in December, 1907.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 213 Returns—196 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 3 from Trade Unions; and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works during December continued about the same as in the previous month. It was worse than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended December 19th, 1908 (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), was 456,300, an increase of 900 shifts (or 0.2 per cent.) as compared with November, 1908, but a decrease of 58,500 shifts (or 11.4 per cent.) as compared with December, 1907.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.			
	In week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	In week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
			A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.
IRON :						
Puddling Forges ...	9,293	- 107	- 1,234	4.65	- 0.10	- 0.32
Rolling Mills ...	3,766	- 40	- 744	4.63	+ 0.07	- 0.38
Forging ...	419	+ 19	- 67	5.17	- 0.04	- 0.45
Founding ...	1,803	+ 6	- 18	5.93	+ 0.03	- 0.01
Other Departments	621	+ 94	- 33	5.75	- 0.08	- 0.12
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,756	+ 4	- 52	5.47	- 0.02	- 0.07
Total, Iron ...	17,688	- 24	- 2,148	4.91	- 0.02	- 0.26
STEEL :						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,446	- 112	- 743	5.78	+ 0.03	- 0.07
Crucible Furnaces ...	521	- 3	- 60	4.90	+ 0.69	- 0.85
Bessemer Converters ...	1,567	89	- 212	5.08	...	- 0.09
Rolling Mills ...	13,761	+ 52	- 1,414	5.11	+ 0.02	- 0.23
Forging and Pressing ...	2,559	+ 37	- 201	5.34	+ 0.31	- 0.35
Founding ...	6,627	+ 20	- 821	5.76	+ 0.47	- 0.14
Other Departments	6,528	+ 74	- 74	5.76	+ 0.09	- 0.11
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,075	- 145	- 924	5.92	- 0.01	- 0.03
Total, Steel ...	46,084	- 232	- 4,449	5.84	+ 0.12	- 0.18
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):						
Rolling Mills ...	9,982	- 389	- 1,580	5.04	...	- 0.15
Forging and Pressing ...	603	- 103	- 183	5.71	+ 0.20	- 0.27
Founding ...	708	+ 13	- 32	5.87	+ 0.05	- 0.07
Other Departments	3,276	+ 38	- 3	5.78	+ 0.02	- 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,580	- 29	+ 143	5.78	- 0.02	- 0.03
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,149	- 470	- 1,668	5.81	+ 0.01	- 0.07
Grand Total ...	84,891	- 726	- 8,262	5.88	+ 0.08	- 0.18

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with		
	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.	
Northumberland & Durham	8,688	- 395	- 2,241	5.16	+ 0.05	- 0.28
Cleveland ...	7,992	+ 256	+ 168	5.63	- 0.01	- 0.02
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	13,008	- 32	- 1,087	5.50	+ 0.36	- 0.22
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	3,805	- 35	- 606	5.29	- 0.04	- 0.42
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	8,762	+ 67	- 2,353	5.38	- 0.07	- 0.12
Staffordshire ...	9,627	- 161	- 743	5.22	- 0.06	- 0.26
Other Midland Counties ...	4,710	+ 125	- 507	5.26	- 0.03	- 0.29
Wales and Monmouth ...	9,816	- 421	- 705	5.53	+ 0.03	- 0.08
Total, England and Wales	68,708	- 616	- 8,194	5.39	+ 0.07	- 0.19
Scotland ...	16,183	- 110	- 58	5.31	+ 0.02	+ 0.04
Total ...	84,891	- 726	- 8,262	5.88	+ 0.08	- 0.18

As compared with a month ago there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in the Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, and "Other Midland Counties" districts, but decreases in all the other districts. As compared with a year ago there was a slight increase in the Cleveland district; in all other districts there were decreases, most marked in Northumberland and Durham, Sheffield and Rotherham, and Cumberland and Lancashire. The departments chiefly affected by the decreases as compared with a

month ago were the rolling mills and open hearth melting furnaces; as compared with a year ago the decline was general, and was most marked at rolling mills and puddling forges.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.38, as compared with 5.30 in November, 1908, and 5.53 in December, 1907. Compared with a month ago there was no great change in the number of shifts worked, except in the Sheffield and Rotherham district, where there was an increase of 0.36 of a shift. None of the principal departments showed any marked change, except steel foundries (increase of 0.47 of a shift). Compared with a year ago there was a general decrease, which was greatest in the Leeds, Bradford, &c., district. The principal departments most affected were puddling forges and rolling mills.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during December, 1908, amounted to 101,823 tons, or 5,671 tons less than in November, 1908, but 1,153 tons more than in December, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during December, 1908, amounted to 188,533 tons, or 6,281 tons less than in November, 1908, and 6,291 tons less than in December, 1907.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued very good. It was better than a month ago and a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 406 tinplate mills were working at the end of December, as compared with 395 a month ago, and 388 a year ago. The numbers of sheet mills working at the same dates were 50, 49 and 48. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,200 workpeople.

Works	Number of Works open.*		Number of Mills in operation.			
	At end of Dec., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	At end of Dec., 1908.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
			Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Works	76	+ 2	+ 1	406	+ 11	+ 18
Steel Sheet Works	8	...	...	50	+ 1	+ 2
Total ...	84	+ 2	+ 1	456	+ 12	+ 20

Exports.—The Table below shows the quantity of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, exported in the months stated:—

	Dec., 1908.			Nov., 1908.			Dec., 1907.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
To United States ...	3,225	4,819	3,442	- 1,654	- 217	...	...	...	...	...
" British East Indies ...	4,516	2,897	4,003	+ 1,619	+ 513	...	...	...	...	...
" Germany ...	1,841	3,044	2,877	- 1,203	- 1,036	...	...	...	...	...
" France ...	1,951	1,124	2,532	+ 837	- 571	...	...	...	...	...
" Netherlands ...	2,593	2,056	2,368	+ 537	+ 195	...	...	...	...	...
" Other Countries ...	19,114	17,640	16,943	+ 1,474	+ 2,171	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	33,280	31,640	32,195	+ 1,610	+ 1,059	...	...	...	...	...

* It will be understood that in addition to the works returned as open, i.e., giving full or partial employment, a certain number of 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.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 342 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 321 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December continued bad, but showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago. It was, however, much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 54,965 members had 13,562 (or 24.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, 1908, as compared with 25.2 per cent. a month ago, and 14.2 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, there was a decline in employment in five districts, and an improvement in seven districts. The improvement was most considerable on the Wear. Compared with a year ago, all districts showed a decline, amounting to over 12 per cent. in the Tyne, Humber, Clyde, and Belfast districts, and to nearly 20 per cent. in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and to nearly 34 per cent. at Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Dec., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,914	25.6	27.6	13.1	- 2.0	+ 12.5
Wear ...	3,521	42.8	52.4	39.0	- 9.6	+ 3.8
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,661	39.3	40.1	19.7	- 0.8	+ 19.6
Humber ...	2,494	23.5	27.2	9.3	+ 3.7	+ 13.6
Thames and Medway ...	4,351	12.3	12.1	9.9	+ 0.2	+ 3.0
South Coast ...	4,134	3.9	4.0	2.1	- 0.1	+ 1.8
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,580	20.2	20.7	14.2	- 0.5	+ 6.0
Mersey ...	4,151	23.5	20.7	15.1	+ 2.8	+ 8.4
Clyde ...	11,030	28.5	26.5	14.7	+ 2.0	+ 13.8
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	2,022	41.1	37.9	7.2	+ 3.2	+ 33.9
Belfast ...	3,155	14.9	13.8	2.8	+ 1.1	+ 12.1
Other Districts ...	2,974	15.7	18.0	6.9	- 2.3	+ 8.8
United Kingdom ...	54,965	24.7	25.2	14.2	- 0.5	+ 10.5

On the Tyne employment continued slack generally, but was on the whole better than a month ago. On the Wear a considerable improvement on the previous month was reported, but employment was still very bad. On the Tees it was bad generally; at Middlesbrough, however, it was moderate. On the Humber employment continued bad, but at Selby it was fair.

In London employment continued slack. On the South Coast employment was fair on the whole; with shipwrights at Chatham, Portsmouth, and Devonport it was very good. At the Bristol Channel ports employment continued slack generally. On the Mersey it continued bad; at Barrow it was moderate.

On the Clyde employment continued slack. At Aberdeen, Leith, and Dundee it was bad. At Belfast employment was bad. At Dublin and Cork it continued bad.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's Returns there was at the end of December, 1908, an increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 31,142 tons gross (or 4.2 per cent.), as compared with the end of September, 1908, and a decrease of 184,310 tons gross (or 19.4 per cent.) as compared with the end of December, 1907.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	End of Dec., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Dec., 1908, as compared with end of		End of Dec., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Dec., 1908, as compared with end of	
		Sept. '08.	Dec., '07.		Sept., '08.	Dec., '07.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ...	245,753	+ 17,707	- 55,404	5,751	- 1,215	- 32,184
Belfast ...	196,160	+ 38,740	+ 1,653	...	...	...
Tyne ...	143,850	- 33,533	- 61,021	67,599	- 17,318	- 15,160
Wear ...	68,700	+ 11,795	+ 7,625	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	30,655	+ 4,495	- 7,275	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton ...	26,906	- 10,090	- 34,357	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington ...	4,833	- 217	- 8,647	42,406	+ 346	+ 5,206
Other Districts ...	47,663	+ 2,245	- 17,484	5,295	+ 920	- 1,598
Royal Dockyards ...	...	...	...	98,220	- 14,600	- 5,210
Total ...	764,520	+ 31,142	- 184,310	219,271	- 31,867	- 49,446

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with the end of September, 1908, there were increases in four of the principal districts. The increase in the Belfast district amounted to nearly 40,000 tons. In the Tyne and in the Middlesbrough districts there were decreases of about 34,000 and 10,000 tons respectively. As compared with a year ago every district except Belfast and the Wear showed a decrease.

War Vessels.—There were decreases, as compared with September, 1908, on the Clyde and on the Tyne. In the Barrow district there was but little change. As compared with a year ago the tonnage under construction on the Clyde declined from 37,935 tons displacement to 5,751 tons displacement; there was also a decrease on the Tyne. At Barrow there was an increase of about 5,000 tons. At the Royal Dockyards the tonnage was 14,600 tons less than in the September quarter, and 5,710 tons less than in the December, 1907 quarter.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,005 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 959 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 40 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued slack, and was worse than a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago. The usual holiday suspensions affected employment at the end of the month.

Returns from Trade Unions having a membership of 162,891 show that at the end of December the percentage unemployed was 14.0, as compared with 13.0 a month ago, and 6.3 at the end of December, 1907. Compared with a month ago there was a considerable decline in employment in the West Riding District and at Belfast and Dublin. Compared with a year ago every district showed a decline, the most noticeable being in Scotland, in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn district, and in the West Riding.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Dec., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	7,014	21.6	21.2	14.7	+ 0.4	+ 6.9
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	18,555	13.9	12.4	5.0	+ 1.5	+ 8.9
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District ...	13,107	14.8	13.9	3.8	+ 0.9	+ 11.0
West Riding Towns ...	12,320	21.8	17.7	10.1	+ 4.1	+ 11.7
Hull and Lincolnshire District ...	4,037	10.8	10.4	4.5	+ 0.4	+ 6.3
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District ...	6,983	10.7	9.8	5.5	+ 0.9	+ 5.2
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District ...	4,348	11.7	11.2	6.2	+ 0.5	+ 5.5
London and Neighbouring District ...	11,560	8.2	8.3	6.0	- 0.1	+ 2.2
South Coast ...	4,412	4.0	4.4	2.0	- 0.4	+ 2.0
South Wales and Bristol District ...	5,800	9.7	8.2	3.2	+ 1.5	+ 6.5
Glasgow and District ...	15,580	25.1	24.5	8.2	+ 1.0	+ 16.9
East of Scotland ...	4,078	24.5	22.7	9.0	+ 1.8	+ 15.5
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,550	20.5	15.0	13.6	+ 5.5	+ 6.9
Other Districts ...	6,012	15.5	13.1	4.0	+ 2.4	+ 11.5
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available) ...	162,891	14.0	13.0	6.3	+ 1.0	+ 7.7

On the North-East Coast employment continued slack, with a high percentage of Trade Union members unemployed. At Newcastle, however, it was moderate with engineers, and good in ordnance works; with pattern makers and ironfounders it continued bad. On the Wear employment continued very bad, but at Darlington it was moderate.

In Lancashire employment continued slack, much short time being worked. With makers of textile machinery, employment declined, and was reported as only moderate.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment was bad, and showed a considerable decline upon the previous month, while short time was general. With wool-comb, hackle and gill makers it was good. On the Humber employment was still slack, but rather

* Exclusive of Superannuated members.

better than a month ago; at Lincoln and Doncaster it was moderate.

In the Midland Counties employment was slack generally. Makers of refrigerating and sugar machinery at Derby were well employed, as also hosiery and lace machine builders and brass bobbin and carriage makers at Nottingham. The cycle and motor trade in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district continued to improve, although there are still many unemployed. At Leicester employment continued good with shoe machinery makers, and a further improvement was reported with tool makers.

Employment continued slack in London. It was dull on the South Coast, but rather better than a month ago. In the Royal Dockyards it continued fair. At Bristol and in South Wales employment was slack on the whole, but moderate with some branches of ironfounders and patternmakers.

In Scotland employment continued bad, nearly one-fourth of the Trade Union members being out of employment, while short time was general. At Belfast and Dublin employment was bad, and considerably worse than in November.

The Imports of machinery in December, 1908, amounted to £333,178, as compared with £269,943 in November, 1908, and £402,911 in December, 1907; and the Exports for the same months amounted to £2,355,890, £2,533,028, and £2,751,959 respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 96 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 72 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 24,415 had 5.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4.8 per cent. a month ago and 2.5 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment was bad generally; it was fair with brassworkers at Manchester.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment was good at the beginning of the month, quiet at the end. With nut and bolt makers at Birmingham it continued quiet; at West Bromwich it was slack; at Winlaton bad. With shoe rivet and wire nail makers at Birmingham employment was fair; with cut nail makers it was moderate.

Wires.—Employment was moderate on the whole. It was fair at Warrington; bad at Birmingham.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment was moderate in the hollow-ware trade; at Wolverhampton and Willenhall it was bad with lock and latch makers.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment continued slack, with much short time.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—At Sheffield employment was slack generally; it was moderate with file forgers and cutters. At Redditch it was fair on the whole with needle and fish-hook makers.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire employment was bad, and worse than a month ago; in South Wales it was slack; at Birmingham, fair.

Chains, Anchors and Springs.—At Cradley Heath employment with chain makers continued bad. With railway spring fitters it was bad at Sheffield, fair at Rotherham. In the spring trade at West Bromwich it was fair. With anchor smiths at Cradley and on the Wear, and with anvil and vice makers at Dudley, it was bad.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment was bad at Manchester, fair at Aberdeen; in London it was not so good as a month ago. With tin-plate workers employment was bad at Oldham; slack at Wolverhampton, Edinburgh and Leith; fair in the Lye district. With iron-plate workers it was fair at Lye, quiet at Birmingham.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment with goldsmiths and jewellers in London was fair. With jewellers at Birmingham it was quiet. With silversmiths it was bad at Birmingham and Sheffield. With silver

and electro-plate operatives employment was good in London; with finishers at Sheffield it was moderate. At Birmingham it was bad with electro-plate workers, fair with Britannia metal workers. With watchmakers at Coventry it continued quiet.

Furriers.—Employment was fair generally.

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

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery ...	19,830	19,731	13,963	+ 99	+ 5,867
Hardware ...	81,609	81,079	93,151	+ 530	- 11,542
Exports:—	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery ...	50,614	48,878	57,848	+ 1,736	- 7,234
Hardware ...	167,266	170,463	195,657	- 3,197	- 28,391
Implements and Tools ...	148,039	154,257	178,180	- 6,158	- 30,081

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 458 Returns—367 received from Employers, partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 81 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning and Weaving branches during December was moderate. In both branches it was better than in the previous month, but worse than in December 1907. Short time was still worked to a considerable extent in the weaving branch.

Returns relating to 115,863 workpeople paid wages in the week ended December 19th showed that as compared with a month ago the number employed increased by 2.4 per cent., and the amount of wages paid by 7.8 per cent. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. paid Wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Preparing ...	13,688	+ 0.0	- 0.7	12,750	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	...	...
Spinning ...	23,658	+ 0.4	- 1.9	23,228	+ 1.7	- 3.5	...	...
Weaving ...	53,876	+ 2.6	- 4.3	45,139	+ 9.9	- 11.0	...	...
Other ...	10,295	+ 2.1	- 2.5	11,049	+ 10.1	- 4.5	...	...
Departments not specified ...	14,345	+ 8.0	- 2.3	15,350	+ 17.2	- 5.2	...	...
Total ...	115,863	+ 2.4	- 3.3	107,526	+ 7.8	- 6.7	...	...

As compared with a month ago there was some increase both in the numbers employed and in the wages paid in every department. In the weaving department the wages paid showed an increase of about 10 per cent. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease in the number employed in all departments; the wages paid showed a slight increase in the preparing department, but in all other departments there was a decrease, which, in the weaving department, amounted to 11 per cent.

In the Oldham district there was, as compared with a month ago, but little change in either the number employed or the amount of wages paid. In the Bolton and Preston districts the numbers employed showed increases of 5·7 and 5·0 per cent., and the amount of wages paid increases of 8·8 and 9·6 per cent. respectively. In the Blackburn district there was an increase of 7·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease both in the numbers employed and in the wages paid in every district, except in the case of the Bury district, which showed some increase in the numbers employed. The decrease amounted to 18·1 per cent. in the wages paid in the Burnley district, and to over 8·0 per cent. in the Preston and Blackburn districts. In the Bolton district there was but little change, and in the Oldham district the decrease was less than 2 per cent.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of December the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 4·91d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5·02d. and the lowest 4·80d. per lb. The price for November, 1908, was 5·06d. per lb., and for December, 1907, 6·24d. per lb. For the period from January 1st to 11th, 1909, the average price of "middling American" was 5·07d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during December, 1908, averaged 8·32d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8·4d. and the lowest 8·2d. per lb. The price for November, 1908, was 7·96d., and for December, 1907, 9·64d. per lb. For the period from January 1st to 11th, 1909, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8·21d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on January 8th, 1909, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,366,680 bales, as compared with 1,109,080 bales on January 10th, 1908.

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

Description of Cotton.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	265,619	226,980	287,171	+ 39,639	- 20,552
Brazilian	8,208	9,819	7,357	- 1,611	+ 851
East Indian	7,525	2,054	3,667	- 529	+ 2,142
Egyptian	46,166	27,471	49,494	+ 18,695	- 3,328
Miscellaneous	9,563	7,737	6,597	+ 1,626	+ 2,766
Total	331,881	274,061	354,286	+ 57,820	- 22,405

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1908, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Bleached and Dyed	13,102	6,789	16,601	+ 4,313	- 3,499
Total	2,049	2,098	2,437	- 649	+ 388
Cotton—					
Thread for Sewing	2,356	2,030	3,248	+ 326	- 892
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Bleached	128,682	133,638	162,377	- 4,976	- 33,695
Printed	111,442	170,333	138,420	+ 1,109	- 26,978
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	74,417	66,211	83,031	+ 8,206	- 8,616
Total	73,832	68,750	93,608	+ 5,082	- 19,776
Total	388,373	378,932	477,438	+ 9,421	- 89,065

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 417 Returns—393 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 15 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 28,668 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0·6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3·4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 10·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.
Wool Sorting ...	675	- 0·1 - 1·9	659	- 2·8 - 4·6
Spinning ...	5,745	- 0·9 - 6·2	4,828	- 1·5 - 12·8
Weaving ...	12,316	- 0·8 - 3·9	9,921	- 3·5 - 11·9
Other Departments ...	8,287	+ 0·5 - 1·5	7,917	- 2·6 - 9·8
Unspecified ...	1,645	+ 1·1 + 0·2	1,418	+ 1·4 - 0·5
Total ...	28,668	- 0·6 - 3·4	24,743	- 2·5 - 10·7

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.
Huddersfield District ...	4,744	- 2·3 - 6·6	4,582	- 5·9 - 16·8
Leeds District ...	3,290	+ 0·7 - 8·6	2,793	- 2·7 - 16·6
Dewsbury & Batley District	4,779	- 0·8 - 5·1	4,082	- 2·7 - 20·1
Other Parts of West Riding	2,334	- 2·4 - 0·7	2,128	- 2·3 - 4·0
Total, West Riding ...	15,147	- 1·2 - 5·7	13,501	- 3·8 - 16·1
Scotland ...	2,423	- 0·1 - 1·5	6,344	- 2·6 - 5·3
Other Districts ...	6,098	+ 0·3 + 0·2	4,898	+ 1·2 - 0·4
Total, Woollen ...	28,668	- 0·6 - 3·4	24,743	- 2·5 - 10·7

Employment was bad in the Huddersfield, Leeds, and Dewsbury and Batley districts; it was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago; much short time was reported. Employment was reported as slack at Hawick, and fair at Selkirk and Galashiels.

Worsted Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, and better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 48,115 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0·6 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 a decrease of 1·4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.
Wool Sorting & Combing ...	5,226	+ 0·6 + 2·3	5,990	+ 1·1 + 1·8
Spinning ...	27,036	+ 0·7 + 0·5	14,582	+ 2·2 + 2·6
Weaving ...	9,381	+ 0·5 - 7·6	8,136	+ 1·5 - 12·0
Other Departments ...	5,019	+ 0·5 - 1·8	5,052	+ 2·2 - 3·5
Unspecified ...	1,453	- 0·3 - 3·6	1,047	+ 6·7 - 3·9
Total ...	48,115	+ 0·6 - 1·4	33,907	+ 2·0 - 4·6

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.
Bradford District ...	23,757	+ 0·8 - 2·2	16,520	+ 1·5 - 5·4
Keighley District ...	7,225	+ 0·5 - 0·5	5,170	+ 3·2 - 5·7
Halifax District ...	5,372	+ 0·1 + 1·2	3,408	+ 6·0 + 0·2
Huddersfield District	5,612	- 0·4 - 1·5	5,038	- 0·9 - 6·1
Other Parts of West Riding	3,378	+ 1·1 + 1·7	2,076	+ 2·8 + 1·1
Total, West Riding ...	45,344	+ 0·6 - 1·2	32,212	+ 1·9 - 4·6
Other Districts ...	2,771	+ 1·7 - 4·5	1,695	+ 2·6 - 4·5
Total, Worsted ...	48,115	+ 0·6 - 1·4	33,907	+ 2·0 - 4·6

In the Bradford, Keighley and Halifax districts employment was moderate; during the latter part of the month a decided improvement was shown. In the Huddersfield district employment was fair, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs ...	9	8	11
40's Crossbred tops ...	11	10	11
60's Super Botany tops ...	24	23	26
Course of Prices during the month:			
Lincoln Hogs ...	9	8	11
40's Crossbred tops ...	11, 11, 11	9, 11	14, 12
60's Super Botany tops ...	24, 24, 24	23, 24	27, 26

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	9,097	3,620	4,336	+ 5,477	+ 4,761
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	11,209	11,780	13,472	- 571	- 2,263
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	167,909	134,531	139,438	+ 35,378	+ 28,471

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS').					
Imports ... 1,000 lbs.	73,637	52,231	74,755	+ 21,406	- 1,118
British Exports ...	5,743	5,012	901	+ 731	+ 4,842
Re-Exports of Imported Wool	49,208	44,776	32,388	+ 24,432	+ 16,820
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.					
Yarn:					
Woollen ... 1,000 lbs.	150	144	187	+ 6	- 37
Worsted ...	4,411	3,951	3,811	+ 460	+ 609
Alpaca & Mohair ..	1,251	1,074	1,228	+ 177	+ 23
Total, Yarn ..	5,812	5,169	5,226	+ 643	+ 586
Piece Goods:					
Woollen ... 1,000 yds.	6,545	5,187	6,722	+ 1,358	- 177
Worsted ...	7,766	5,130	8,082	+ 2,636	- 316
Total, Piece Goods ..	14,311	10,317	14,804	+ 3,994	- 493

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 122 Returns—111 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was slack, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was slightly worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 48,921 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 1·3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was no change in the number employed, and a decrease of 1·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.
Preparing ...	6,632	+ 1·5 + 1·1	3,347	+ 3·4 - 1·7
Spinning ...	12,349	- 0·1 + 0·4	5,328	+ 2·9 - 4·6
Weaving ...	15,906	+ 2·4 - 2·0	9,311	+ 3·6 - 0·4
Other ...	7,131	+ 0·9 + 0·9	5,455	+ 1·5 + 1·5
Not specified ...	6,993	+ 1·6 + 1·8	3,687	+ 2·0 - 6·8
Total ...	48,921	+ 1·3	27,128	+ 2·7 - 1·9

Districts.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Belfast ...	17,138	+ 2·2	- 0·9	9,265	+ 2·4 - 4·8
Other Places in Ireland	16,764	+ 1·3	+ 1·5	8,576	+ 4·1 - 1·0
Total, Ireland ...	33,902	+ 1·7	+ 0·3	17,841	+ 3·2 - 3·0
Fifehire ...	6,490	- 0·3	- 0·3	4,092	+ 1·9 + 6·1
Other Places in Scotland	6,514	+ 0·6	- 1·5	3,953	+ 0·2 - 3·2
Total, Scotland ...	13,004	+ 0·3	- 0·9	8,055	+ 1·9 + 1·3
England ...	2,015	- 0·2	- 0·2	1,232	+ 6·0 - 6·7
United Kingdom }	48,921	+ 1·3	...	27,128	+ 2·7 - 1·9

In the Belfast district employment was still bad, but showed an improvement compared with November; it is reported that a number of mills have started running 40 and 44 hours per week instead of 32 hours since the beginning of 1909. In the other parts of Ireland a further improvement was shown. In Fifehire employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the other parts of Scotland the improvement reported in November was maintained.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	9,097	3,620	4,336	+ 5,477	+ 4,761
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	11,209	11,780	13,472	- 571	- 2,263
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	167,909	134,531	139,438	+ 35,378	+ 28,471

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 32 Returns—29 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 18,019 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0·1 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2·6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,019 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,527 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.
Preparing ...	4,172	- 0·7 - 1·2	2,705	+ 0·1 - 3·7
Spinning ...	5,256	+ 0·7 - 1·3	3,189	- 0·2 - 2·9
Weaving ...	5,818	- 0·3 - 5·1	4,172	+ 0·2 - 7·0
Other ...	1,910	- 0·1 - 0·5	1,892	+ 0·4 - 4·9
Not specified ...	863	- 0·3 - 4·0	541	...
Total ...	18,019	- 0·1 - 2·6	12,499	+ 0·1 - 5·9

Compared with a month ago the number employed and the amount of wages paid showed little change in any department. Compared with a year ago, every department showed a decline both in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid, the decline being most marked in the weaving department.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago

Returns from firms employing 7,605 workpeople in the week ended December 19th, showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was reported as bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch; short time was reported by a number of firms, and employment was worse than a year ago. In the Long Eaton district employment showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but many firms were still working short time. In the West of England employment was slack in the plain net branch, but better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. In Scotland employment in the curtain branch was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester	8,047	+ 0.6	£ 6,275	+ 2.1	+ 3.2
Leicester Country District	2,914	+ 0.5	£ 2,124	+ 1.6	+ 5.6
Notts. and Derbyshire	3,894	+ 0.4	£ 2,783	+ 1.6	+ 2.4
Scotland	2,167	+ 0.7	£ 1,492	+ 4.7	+ 2.9
Other Districts	640	+ 0.3	£ 393	+ 0.8	+ 5.9
Total, United Kingdom	17,690	+ 0.5	£ 13,067	+ 2.1	+ 2.5

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester	8,047	+ 0.6	£ 6,275	+ 2.1	+ 3.2
Leicester Country District	2,914	+ 0.5	£ 2,124	+ 1.6	+ 5.6
Notts. and Derbyshire	3,894	+ 0.4	£ 2,783	+ 1.6	+ 2.4
Scotland	2,167	+ 0.7	£ 1,492	+ 4.7	+ 2.9
Other Districts	640	+ 0.3	£ 393	+ 0.8	+ 5.9
Total, United Kingdom	17,690	+ 0.5	£ 13,067	+ 2.1	+ 2.5

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the value of woollen and cotton hosiery imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1908.		Nov., 1908.		Dec., 1907.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Imports (less Re-Exports):	£	£	£	£	£	£	+
Hosiery, Woollen	20,535	19,486	28,252	1,049	7,717			
Cotton	86,675	81,266	99,302	5,409	12,627			
Exports:	£	£	£	£	£	£	+	-
Hosiery, Woollen	95,745	71,309	113,634	25,436	16,889			
Cotton	29,250	22,153	41,040	7,097	11,790			

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 56 Returns—53 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate. It was rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,937 workpeople, and paying £5,099 in wages in the week ended December 19th, 1908, showed that, as compared with November, there was a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 5.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 10.6 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 in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing	886	+ 1.2	£ 400	+ 1.5	+ 9.3
Spinning	2,527	+ 0.2	£ 1,824	+ 0.6	+ 3.8
Weaving	3,312	+ 1.3	£ 1,992	+ 5.4	+ 20.0
Other	1,091	+ 1.7	£ 824	+ 0.7	+ 1.2
Not specified	121	+ 0.8	£ 59	+ 1.7	+ 6.3
Total	7,937	+ 0.8	£ 5,099	+ 1.8	+ 10.6

With throwsters and spinners employment was fair at Macclesfield and moderate at Congleton, where much short time was worked. At Congleton it was fair with trimming weavers. With throwsters and trimming weavers employment at Leek was bad, and worse than a year ago; it was fair with spinners; in all branches much short time was worked. At Macclesfield employment with powerloom weavers was moderate; with

“outside” handloom weavers it was bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago; with handloom weavers working in factories it was good. In the Bradford district employment was quiet, and showed little change as compared with November. In the Eastern Counties employment was rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

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

Description.	Dec., 1908.		Nov., 1908.		Dec., 1907.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Imports:—	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	+
Raw Silk	140,993	73,578	96,785	67,415	44,208			
Thrown Silk	44,412	38,065	37,357	3,747	5,055			
Spun Silk Yarn	30,257	27,986	23,734	2,271	6,523			
Silk Broad-Stuffs	4,990,056	5,084,956	5,078,393	94,940	88,337			
Exports:—	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	+	-
Thrown Silk	4,167	5,636	3,326	1,469	841			
Spun Silk Yarn	57,811	55,058	59,094	2,753	4,183			
Silk Broad-Stuffs	421,390	325,887	320,034	95,503	100,456			

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 61 Returns—26 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 25 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

Employment during December continued bad. It was better than in the previous month, but worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked. Returns received from firms employing 6,212 workpeople and paying £5,092 in wages in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with November. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 5.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was slack; it was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The Trade Union dyers reported much short time.

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

Silk Dyers.—Employment at Macclesfield and Leek continued fair. Some short time was worked.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment generally continued slack, with much short time, and was worse than a year ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire employment showed an improvement. In Glasgow it was bad with calico printers, engravers and block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester employment showed a further decline; at Hinckley it continued bad; at Loughborough it showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. With dyers at Nottingham employment was good; at Basford and Bulwell it was fairly good with bleachers, and moderate with hosiery trimmers; on the whole employment in Nottinghamshire was better than a month ago and a year ago, and some overtime was reported in each branch.

Calenderers, &c.—At Glasgow employment was fair, and better than a month ago; it was however not so good as a year ago.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 116 Returns—87 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London showed a decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the provinces it was moderate. In the ready-made branch it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during December showed a decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £10,417 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended December 19th showed a decrease of 12.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago; the numbers employed showed a slight improvement, but much short time was still worked. Firms employing 7,318 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment continued slack at Manchester; at Bristol it was bad, and worse than a month ago; at Glasgow it was moderate, and better than a month ago; at Norwich it was moderate. In all these centres it was worse than a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in December, 1908, were valued at £209,238, as compared with £182,978 in November, 1908, and £183,913 in December, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months at £387,504, £376,616, and £404,392 respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 493 Returns—475 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents, 6 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 60,724 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 4.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
London	2,305	+ 0.1	+ 8.3	2,305	+ 1.3
Leicester	12,763	+ 1.4	+ 3.4	12,671	+ 1.4
Leicester Country District	3,093	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	2,840	+ 1.9
Northampton	7,941	+ 0.8	+ 2.3	7,331	+ 1.1
Northampton Country District	8,744	+ 1.0	+ 1.2	7,842	+ 3.0
Kettering	3,982	+ 1.0	+ 4.2	3,814	+ 2.9
Stafford & District	2,537	+ 1.0	+ 3.5	2,438	+ 10.2
Norwich & District	3,302	+ 1.2	+ 2.7	2,772	+ 2.6
Bristol & District	1,830	+ 2.2	+ 4.6	1,601	+ 2.4
Kingswood	1,825	+ 5.9	+ 0.7	1,509	+ 17.1
Leeds & District	1,927	+ 3.2	+ 4.2	1,671	+ 6.1
Manchester & District	2,775	+ 0.5	+ 1.0	2,267	+ 9.0
Birmingham & District	848	+ 1.7	+ 5.1	659	+ 3.4
Other parts of England and Wales	2,745	+ 0.3	+ 1.4	2,338	+ 0.8
ENGLAND & WALES	56,517	+ 0.2	+ 1.2	51,858	+ 0.2
SCOTLAND	3,927	+ 0.2	+ 4.4	3,690	+ 0.7
IRELAND	280	+ 2.4	+ 4.5	221	+ 2.8
UNITED KINGDOM	60,724	+ 0.2	+ 1.3	55,769	+ 0.1

At Leicester employment was quiet, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 108 Returns—100 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in Scotland it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 17,690 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was quiet, and worse than a year ago; at Hinckley it was fairly good in some departments, slack in others; at Loughborough it was fair. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was moderate; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was moderate, with much short time. In Scotland it was good, and better than a year ago.

worse than a year ago, and many firms were still working short time. At Northampton and Kettering employment was still slack, but showed an improvement compared with November; with army bootmakers in Northamptonshire it was bad, but slightly better than a month ago. At Bristol employment was bad. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and Leeds employment was bad, and much worse than a year ago. In Scotland employment on the whole showed little change.

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

	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	25,653	25,347	20,857	+ 306	+ 4,796
Value ... £	56,872	56,982	56,188	+ 110	+ 684
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	82,632	81,880	85,573	+ 752	- 3,941
Value ... £	186,767	196,279	191,601	- 9,512	- 4,834

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

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 39 Returns—24 from Trade Unions and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, and was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,369 had 8.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 8.2 per cent. at the end of November, and 7.2 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with skinner was fair at Birmingham and Leeds; dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, in London. With curriers it was bad in London, Walsall, Birmingham and Edinburgh; fair at Glasgow and Leeds. With dressers employment continued slack. With leather workers generally employment was fair at Bolton, Bury and Wigan; quiet at Leeds; bad at Manchester.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—In London employment was fair with brown saddlers, bad with harness makers. At Walsall employment with saddlers and harness makers was bad, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago; short time was general. With saddlers at Dublin it was dull; at Glasgow, moderate.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad generally, and short time was worked. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment was bad in London and Manchester; short time was general.

Imports and Exports.

The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	33,896	29,872	20,843	+ 4,024	+ 13,053
Do, wet	64,380	45,514	47,054	+ 28,866	+ 17,316
Total, hides, dry and wet	98,276	75,386	67,897	+ 22,890	+ 30,369
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	1,176,122	905,765	545,669	+ 259,357	+ 630,453
Sheep skins, (value) £	190,710	198,765	216,544	- 8,055	- 25,814
Leather*					
	cwts. 116,028	cwts. 92,866	cwts. 91,490	+ 23,162	+ 24,538
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	32,585	39,193	44,876	- 6,608	- 12,291

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

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 12 Returns—1 from an Employers' Association, and 11 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during December in the *Silk* hat trade was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 19.0, compared with 18.1 a month ago, and 17.4 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade employment was slack, but showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 4.6, compared with 4.7 a month ago, and 3.1 a year ago. Employment was quiet at Denton and Stockport, with much short time. In Warwickshire it was fair, but not so good as a month ago and 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.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds ... Dozens	56,945	19,026	27,845	+ 17,919	+ 9,100
Exports:					
Felt ... Dozens	37,510	31,374	26,739	+ 6,136	+ 10,771
Straw ... Dozens	37,129	34,264	35,075	+ 2,865	+ 2,054
Other Sorts ... Dozens	6,416	7,616	4,597	- 1,210	+ 1,819
Total ... Dozens	81,055	73,264	66,411	+ 7,791	+ 14,644

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 169 Returns—160 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade was fair with retail firms, and moderate with court dress-makers; in both branches it was better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was moderate, and better than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally, and in the corset trade, it was moderate.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,683 dressmakers in the week ended December 19th, showed a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 7.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dress-makers employing 857 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment was moderate.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 2,550 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 6.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate, and showed the usual seasonal decline.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed a decline in the demand for and supply of dressmakers and milliners as compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was quiet, and worse than a month ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was fair; firms employing 1,784 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 10.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was quiet, and worse 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 6,432 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,158 in wages, in the week ended December 19th, showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,124 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 6.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 429 Returns—141 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 267 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fair on the whole, but short time was reported at a number of mills. In the *machine-made paper* trade employment was rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago; while in the *hand-made paper* trade a slight improvement was shown compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 22,863 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of December, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties ...	6,698	- 0.5	- 0.3
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ...	1,946	+ 0.6	- 2.0
Southern Counties ...	7,284	- 1.1	+ 6.5
Scotland ...	6,108	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	22,036	- 0.5	+ 1.9
Hand-made Paper ...	827	+ 0.1	- 1.1
Total ...	22,863	- 0.5	+ 1.8

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,614 members had 3.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 3.2 per cent. a month ago, and 1.7 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 585 members had 4.6 per cent. unemployed, compared with 5.8 per cent. a month ago, and 5.9 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of paper in December, 1908, amounted to £473,294 as compared with £432,168, in November, 1908, and £521,755 in December, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months amounted to £200,992, £188,215, and £189,561 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT with letterpress printers was fair, and showed a seasonal improvement compared with November, but it declined towards the end of the month, the percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of December being greater than at the end of November, 1908, and December, 1907. With lithographic printers employment remained slack.

London.—Employment during December was fair with letterpress printers, but declined towards the end of the month. With lithographic printers it was slack. At the end of December 6.6 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 4.1 a month ago, and 6.0 in December, 1907.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers was fair generally, and overtime was frequently resorted to on Christmas work. It was better than in November,

but declined towards the end of the month. It was slack during the month with general printers at Leeds, and also with press and machinemens at Edinburgh, with whom it was worse than a month ago and a year ago. With lithographic printers employment continued slack.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	20,720	6.6	4.1	6.0	+ 2.5	+ 0.6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,277	5.2	3.4	4.4	+ 1.8	+ 0.8
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,715	5.3	4.4	4.7	+ 0.9	+ 1.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,460	3.7	2.3	3.1	+ 1.4	...
West Midlands	2,382	3.8	4.2	3.9	- 0.4	- 0.1
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,519	3.8	2.9	2.6	+ 0.9	+ 1.2
Scotland ...	5,494	5.7	4.4	3.3	+ 1.3	+ 2.4
Ireland ...	2,461	7.1	8.9	8.8	- 1.8	- 1.7
United Kingdom	49,028	5.7	4.2	4.9	+ 1.5	+ 0.8

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was fair in London during the first part of the month, some overtime being worked, but it fell off during the second half of the month, and short time was resorted to in some cases. In the provinces employment was quiet on the whole, but rather better than a month ago.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	3,609	5.7	3.6	3.4	+ 2.1	+ 2.8
Other Districts ...	3,344	5.1	5.3	2.1	- 0.2	+ 3.0
United Kingdom	6,947	5.4	4.4	2.8	+ 1.0	+ 2.6

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,195 Returns—776 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,364 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in December was slack in all parts of the United Kingdom. It was worse than in November, and much worse than in December, 1907. At the end of the month a heavy fall of snow seriously interfered with building operations. With plumbers employment generally showed little change.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.		Ladys was Devon		Incr. end Dec. in , and
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Dec.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Dec.	Incr. end Dec. in , and	
London ...	7,248	- 205	100	5,048	- R.
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,007	- 239	434	1,585	- s.)
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,049	- 638	473	2,554	- don,
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,212	- 138	335	1,717	- ol.
England and Wales ...	17,078	- 1,431	1,918	12,429	- a
Scotland ...	2,559	- 205	315	1,999	- 2.
Ireland ...	315	- 87	450	521	-
United Kingdom	19,952	- 1,723	2,681	14,246	- 2,997

District.	Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	No. of Work-people	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	No. of Work-people	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
London ...	547	- 12	12,843	- 438
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	493	- 10	4,088	- 450
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	943	- 28	6,546	- 1,333
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	316	- 12	5,245	- 280
England and Wales ...	2,717	- 65	32,221	- 2,743
Scotland ...	740	- 19	4,695	- 343
Ireland ...	77	- 7	913	- 111
United Kingdom	3,534	- 91	37,732	- 3,197

Returns received from 715 firms employing 37,732 workpeople at the end of December show that there was a total decrease in the number of workpeople employed of 7·8 per cent., compared with a month ago, and of 12·0 per cent. compared with a year ago. The decline in employment as compared with both a month ago and a year ago affected every district.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of December was 15·9, as compared with 13·5* a month ago and 11·6* a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 12·1, 12·0, and 9·0 respectively. In both cases the percentages for December, 1908, were highest in the Northern Counties and in Scotland, where many carpenters and plumbers are engaged in shipbuilding. For London the Trade Union Returns show that 15·5 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed, as compared with 13·6 a month ago and 14·5 a year ago; the corresponding percentages for plumbers being 15·2, 16·6 and 14·9 respectively.

Employment was slack in nearly every large centre, the only towns of any size where carpenters were reported as moderately well employed being Middleton, Stockport, Barnsley, Huddersfield, Swansea, Llanelly, and Dundalk. Masons and plasterers at Dundee were reported as fairly well employed, as also were bricklayers and masons at Cardiff and masons and labourers at Cheltenham. An improvement was reported at Dudley and Wolverhampton, and also at Felixstowe, Halstead, and Bury St. Edmunds.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 184 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 151 from Trade Unions, and 31 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked. Trade Unions with a total membership of 36,909 reported 10·8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 10·1 per cent. in the previous month, and 8·0 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment generally continued bad with cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers, and was worse than a year ago. Short time was reported in many places. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 13·8, as compared with 12·9 a month ago, and 11·4 a year ago.

Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in value, 1908, were valued at £30,586, as compared with £32,532 in November, 1908, and £47,735 in December, 1907; and the Exports for the same time were valued at £61,705, £68,922, and £62,840 respectively.

Mill Sawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 9·7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 8·7 per cent. a month ago, and 5·4 per cent. a year ago. Employment continued fair at

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

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	Loads. 53,450	Loads. 51,737	Loads. 61,458	+ 1,713	- 9,008
" sawn	316,218	406,962	362,809	- 50,744	- 46,591
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 15,274	£ 15,224	£ 15,231	+ £ 50	+ £ 23

* Revised figures.

Coopers.
Employment on the whole was dull, and showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was, however, reported to be fair at Belfast and Manchester, and good at Dublin.

Coachbuilding.
Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked. Trade Unions reported 10·6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 10·9 per cent. a month ago, and 8·1 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.
Brushmakers.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than either in the previous month or a year ago. A considerable amount of short time was reported. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 9·4, as compared with 6·6 a month ago, and 7·5 a year ago. Employment was reported to be good at Dublin and also at Bristol, where some overtime was worked.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was bad on the whole, showing little change compared with a month ago. With basket makers it was bad in London, although better than a month ago, and bad also at Leicester.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in December, 1908, were valued at £27,004, as compared with £27,373 in November, 1908, and £31,850 in December, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £15,150, £14,426 and £16,879 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 96 Returns—62 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 23 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though dull, continued to show a slight improvement, but was much worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,907 workpeople in the week ended December 19th, and paying £9,709 in wages, showed an increase of 1·3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1·5 per cent. in the total earnings paid, as compared with a month ago.

As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 10·0 per cent. in the number employed and of 12·4 per cent. in the total earnings. The decline was principally in the Lancashire and Yorkshire districts.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid Wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Glass Bottle ...	5,043	+ 1·7	£ 6,426	+ 2·9
Plate Glass ...	687	- 0·1	814	- 6·0
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	1,811	+ 0·9	2,026	- 0·6
Other Branches ...	361	...	443	+ 6·7
Total ...	7,907	+ 1·3	9,709	+ 1·5

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid Wages in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 19th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
North of England	879	+ 6·8	1,101	+ 5·2
Yorkshire ...	4,007	- 0·3	5,024	+ 1·6
Lancashire ...	590	+ 7·3	732	+ 6·9
Worcester and Warwick	1,215	...	1,510	- 2·6
Scotland ...	784	- 0·1	1,010	+ 0·3
Other parts of the United Kingdom	332	+ 2·8	332	+ 1·2
Total ...	7,907	+ 1·3	9,709	+ 1·5

Employment with glass bottle makers continued good at Glasgow and Bristol, moderate in the North of England, and dull at Dublin. It was bad in Lancashire and in Yorkshire, except at Leeds where it was moderate; it was slack at Portobello. With flint glass makers and with cutters employment was generally fair. Employment continued slack with plate glass bevellers at Birmingham, dull with glass blowers in London, and moderate with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. It was bad, and worse than a month ago, with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear.

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

Description.	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	133,204	113,716	111,608	+ 19,483	+ 21,236
Plate	27,737	24,139	31,592	+ 3,598	- 3,855
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	69,692	64,617	70,663	+ 5,045	- 971
Manufactures, other sorts...	234	257	962	- 23	- 728
Bottles	106,111	95,707	136,322	+ 10,404	- 30,211
Exports:	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Plate	13,605	16,950	12,143	- 3,344	+ 1,463
Flint	6,732	5,209	4,863	+ 1,523	+ 1,869
Manufactures, other sorts ...	31,219	41,152	31,834	- 9,233	+ 85
Bottles	56,955	72,586	61,737	- 15,631	- 4,782

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 27 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, 13 and from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued bad.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was bad generally, worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago; short time was general. Employment was dull, with some short time, at Glasgow, and in Devonshire and Cornwall. It was bad, with short time, at Bristol. In South Yorkshire a further slight improvement was reported, but employment remained worse than a year ago. With clay tobacco pipe makers it was good at Manchester, and dull at Newcastle and Gateshead.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was fair in North and South Wales, moderate in the Tees district, and good with glazed tile makers in Shropshire. In all other districts it was bad.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in December, 1908, were valued at £76,710, as compared with £69,302 in November, 1908, and £93,759 in December, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £165,564, £185,668, and £206,082 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 209 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

EMPLOYMENT was, in general, regular throughout December, but in most districts day labourers lost time at the end of the month through the severe weather. In many districts the demand for men of that class of labour was not sufficient to give employment to all.

Northern Counties.—Employment was fairly regular in Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland, in which counties the supply of day labourers was fully equal to a somewhat limited demand. Threshing and other work provided a fair amount of employment in Lancashire. A number of agricultural labourers were reported to be in irregular work in Yorkshire, partly on account of stormy weather at the end of the month, and partly on account of an insufficient demand for their services.

Midland Counties.—Unfavourable weather interrupted the employment of day labourers at the end of the month in Cheshire and Derbyshire, where there was only a moderate demand for this class of labour. Threshing, root-lifting, and manure-carting provided fairly regular employment in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. There was a fair demand for day labourers in Staffordshire and Shropshire, but in many districts the supply was more than sufficient. A few day labourers were in irregular employment in Worcestershire and Warwickshire. There was generally regular work for agricultural labourers in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire until the end of the month, when bad weather

caused day labourers to lose time. In Buckinghamshire the demand for day labourers was not equal to the supply, and some men were consequently in irregular work. Employment was generally regular in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, except during the last week, when day labourers lost time through wet and snowy weather; the supply of labour was about equal to the demand.

Eastern Counties.—Threshing, hedging, ditching, etc., caused a fairly good demand for extra labour in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, and little or no surplus was reported. Employment was generally regular in Lincolnshire, with the supply of labour about equalled by the demand; in the Lincoln Union a correspondent stated that more day labourers could have been employed. Work on the root crops, threshing, carting manure, hedging and ditching afforded a good deal of employment in Norfolk and Suffolk; in several districts, however, the demand for extra labourers was affected by the forward state of work, and there was a consequent irregularity of employment for some men of this class. Employment was fairly regular in Essex, but owing to the forward state of work the supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of requirements, and in addition some men of this class were hindered at the end of the month by bad weather.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was fairly regular in Kent; a number of day labourers, however, were unable to get regular work, on account of an insufficient demand. Threshing, hedge-trimming, and manure carting provided fairly full and regular employment in Surrey and Sussex, but the supply of day labourers tended to be in excess of the demand. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from certain districts. Some day labourers in Hampshire were in irregular employment owing to an excess in the supply of labour, while bad weather at the end of the month caused further loss of time to this class of men. Difficulty in obtaining men for tending stock owing to an objection to Sunday work, was reported in the Petersfield Union. In Berkshire employment was generally regular, and the supply of day labourers about equal to the demand. Threshing, securing root crops, hedging and ditching, and manure-carting caused a fair demand for extra labour in Wiltshire, but it was generally more than met by the supply. The supply of and demand for day labourers were generally about equal in Dorset and Somerset. There was only a moderate demand for extra labour in Herefordshire, but employment was fairly regular on the whole; some scarcity of men for permanent situations, however, was reported. Threshing, hedge-trimming, ditching, and manure-spreading caused a fairly good demand for labour in Gloucestershire, but the supply was sufficient. Employment was fairly regular in Devon and Cornwall, though somewhat interrupted at the end of the month by wet weather. Day labourers were in fair demand for hedge-trimming, carting manure, and work on the root crops.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 135 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued moderate in London, and was fair, and better than a month ago, at Liverpool. At the other principal ports it was dull, and showed a further decline compared with the previous month.

London.—Employment generally continued moderate during December, and was worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended December 26th was 12,398, a decrease of 2·4 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 10·9 per cent. as compared with December, 1907.

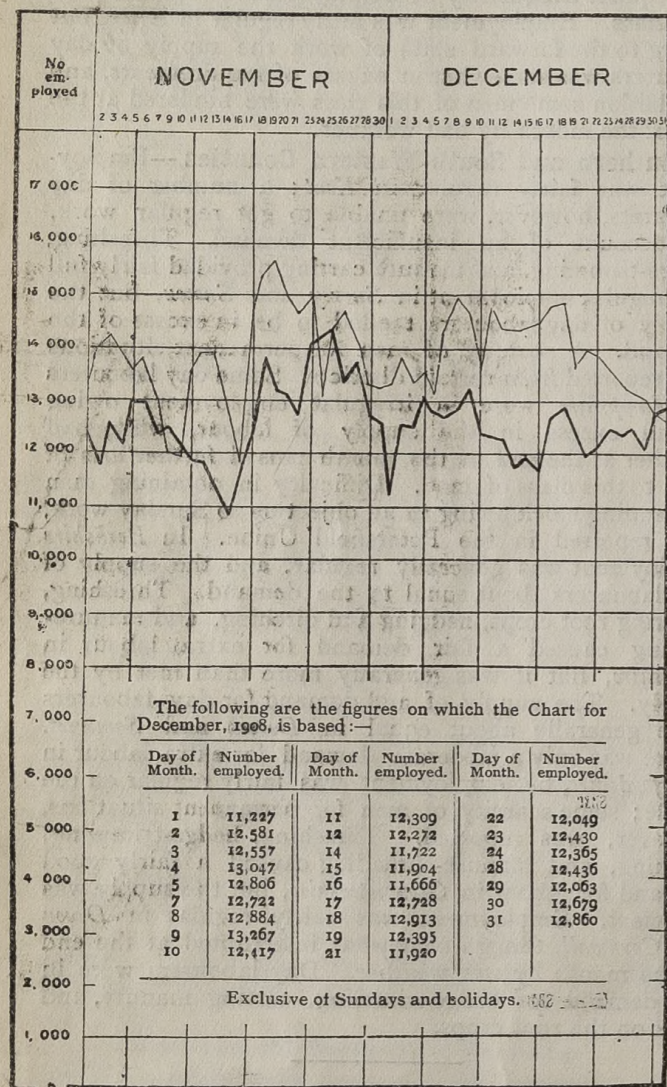
The daily numbers in December, 1908, ranged from 11,227 on the 1st to 13,267 on the 9th. During December, 1907, the numbers ranged from 12,365 † on the 28th to 14,929 † on the 10th.

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Dec. 5th	4,797	1,684	6,475	5,993	12,468
" " " 12th	4,672	2,181	6,852	5,793	12,645
" " " 19th	3,802	2,685	6,487	5,734	12,221
" " " 26th	4,046	2,583	6,629	5,562	12,191
Average for 4 weeks ended Dec. 26th, 1908	4,353	2,256	6,609	5,789	12,398
Average for Nov., 1908	4,260	2,155	6,415	6,288	12,703
Average for Dec., 1907	4,947	2,628	7,575	6,343	13,918

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of November and December, 1908. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1907, is also given for comparison.



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,443 during December, as compared with 1,137 a month ago, and 1,427 in December, 1907.

Employment with dock labourers and quay and railway carters at *Liverpool* was generally fair, and better than a month ago.

Other Ports.—Employment with dock labourers on the Tyne and Wear was bad, and worse than a month ago; it was fair with trimmers and teamers. Employment was slack and worse than a month ago at *Hartlepool* and *Middlesbrough*. At *Hull* and *Grimsby* it was bad with dock labourers, and moderate with coal porters, a general decline being reported; there was, on the other hand, some improvement at *Goole*, where employment was reported as fair. It was moderate at *Yarmouth* and *Lowestoft*. At *Plymouth* it was quiet. Employment was dull at *Bristol*; and fair, but not so good as a month ago, at the South Wales ports. It was bad at *Manchester*. At *Leith* dock labourers were slack, but

* Exclusive of *Tilbury*.

† Revised figures.

coal trimmers continued well employed. Employment was dull generally at *Greenock*, good at *Dundee*, and bad at *Aberdeen*. It was quiet with dock labourers at *Belfast*, and fair at *Dublin*.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during December 34,920 seamen*, of whom 3,817 (or 10.9 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with December, 1907, there was a decrease of 1,031. Increases occurred at four ports, the greatest increase being at *Bristol*. At the other ports there were decreases, the most considerable occurring at *Liverpool*, the Tyne Ports, *Middlesbrough* and *Hull*.

For the year ended December, 1908, the total number of seamen* shipped was 482,049, a decrease of 8,813 as compared with 1907. At *Glasgow*, *Cardiff*, *Hull*, *Liverpool*, and *Middlesbrough* there were large decreases, and smaller decreases at most of the other ports. The only large increase was at *Southampton*.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	December,			January-December,		
	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,504	2,302	- 202	30,485	29,712	- 773
Sunderland	369	289	- 80	4,590	4,555	- 35
Middlesbrough	360	161	- 199	4,795	3,519	- 1,276
Hull	1,087	895	- 192	14,625	12,218	- 2,407
Grimsby	37	40	+ 3	1,327	1,787	+ 460
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	594	698	+ 174	7,422	7,204	- 218
Newport, Mon.	724	719	- 5	11,000	11,348	+ 348
Cardiff	4,784	4,762	- 22	61,235	57,150	- 4,085
Swansea	437	342	- 95	5,902	4,942	- 960
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	13,127	12,861	- 266	182,047	180,706	- 1,341
London	5,340	5,468	+ 128	72,599	73,388	+ 789
Southampton	3,186	3,170	- 16	41,575	47,915	+ 6,340
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	313	192	- 121	4,963	4,052	- 911
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	305	184	- 121	2,915	2,519	- 396
Glasgow	2,566	2,620	+ 54	42,137	37,960	- 4,177
IRELAND.						
Dublin	42	32	- 10	683	681	- 2
Belfast	246	185	- 61	2,502	2,393	- 109
Total	35,951	34,920	- 1,031	490,862	482,049	- 8,813

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 17 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 6 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in December, 1908, showed a decrease both in quantity and value as compared with December, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports was generally moderate, and worse than a month ago.

At *Yarmouth* the herring fishery ended at about 21st December, and employment with fish dock labourers and fish curers was not so good as in November. At *Grimsby*, *Hull* and *Lowestoft* employment was moderate generally; it was worse than in the previous month at *Grimsby* and *Lowestoft*, and about the same as before at *Hull*. At *Aberdeen* it was good with fishermen, and moderate with fish dock labourers and fish curers. It was generally bad at *Peterhead*, and worse than a month ago. At *Macduff* and *Fraserburgh* employment continued moderate, except with dock labourers at *Fraserburgh*, with whom it was bad. Off the south-west coast of England the industry on the whole was slack.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in December, 1908 and 1907:—

* 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*.

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1907.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	883,387	948,635	571,241	628,233
Scotland	268,111	259,793	119,538	120,352
Ireland	32,666	34,653	12,212	14,036
Total	1,184,164	1,242,991	703,011	762,621
Shell Fish			29,301	32,583
Total Value			732,312	795,204

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in December 1908, were valued at £369,993, as compared with £501,524 in November, 1908, and £354,436 in December, 1907.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: SEAMAN RETURNING TO SHIP.

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

A fireman on board a British ship lying in a foreign port went ashore with some of his companions. At that port it is the law that seamen from a foreign ship going ashore must be provided with written passes. The men went ashore in order to obtain ordinary necessities of life, such as clothing and soap. They had some drink while on shore, but when they returned to the ship were apparently quite capable of taking care of themselves. The access to the ship was by a ladder fixed to a stay on the ship, with the other end resting on the quay. While climbing up this ladder the fireman fell over into the water and was drowned. His widow claimed compensation.

The County Court judge was not satisfied on the evidence that the men had passes, but he decided that if they had not it was because their superior officer omitted to give them, and that he knew they were going ashore. He decided that the man had not been guilty of any serious or wilful misconduct, and that the accident had arisen out of and in the course of the man's employment. An award was accordingly made in the widow's favour. The shipowners appealed on the ground that the accident was not one arising out of and in the course of the employment. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.—*Moore v. Manchester Liners, Ltd., Court of Appeal, December 17th, 1908.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: COMMENCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT.

A colliery company had two pits about two miles apart, connected by a siding belonging to a railway company which started on the colliery company's premises at the West pit, and ran to their premises at the East pit. The railway company, by arrangement with the colliery company, ran four trains a day over this siding to enable the workmen to get from one pit to the other free of charge. A miner who was on duty in the night shift at the East pit entered the colliery company's premises by a gate at the West pit, which he was obliged to do in order to reach the train by which he was to be conveyed to the East pit. While passing along a pathway on his employer's premises to reach the train he caught his foot in some points, fell and was injured. He claimed compensation; but the colliery company resisted his claim on the ground that when he met with the accident his employment had not begun, and that it was a mere coincidence that the accident had happened to him upon their premises, over which he was passing as one of the public, the public being constantly allowed to use the pathway. For the claimant it was contended that he was on his employer's premises in connection with his contract to work. The County Court judge held that the claimant's employment must be held to have begun as soon as he reached his employer's premises from which the train was to start by which he had, as a workman, the right to travel to the place where he had to work; and that therefore the accident had arisen out of and in the course of his employment, and he was entitled to compensation. From this decision the colliery company appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the decision of the County Court judge was right and dismissed the appeal.—*Blackburn v. The Sheffield Coal Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, December 2nd, 1908.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: ASSISTANT TO A LION TAMER: FATAL ACCIDENT: MISCONDUCT.

Where it is proved that an injury to a workman is attributable to the wilful and serious misconduct of that workman, compensation must be disallowed, unless the injury caused death or serious and permanent disablement.

A lady, who exercised the vocation of a lion tamer and exhibitor of performing lions, employed a man as her assistant in looking after the lions and cleaning out their cages. She used to travel with her show to various theatres and such-like places. Last July, while the lions were in their cages at a certain theatre where the lady was giving her performance, and after the cages had been

cleaned out and everything put in order, the man was left in charge of the lions during the lady's absence. His orders were merely to see that no harm came to them, and that they did not do any harm. In the course of the afternoon the man requested one of the stage hands employed in the theatre to help him to move a lion from one cage to another. When this had been done it appears that a lion escaped and got into a dressing-room. Whereupon the two men pushed an empty cage up against the dressing-room door. The man went into the dressing-room to try and drive the lion into the cage while the stage hand got on top of the cage ready to let the door down behind the lion when he entered. While the man was trying to drive the lion into the cage the animal turned on him and killed him. A dependant of the man then claimed compensation under the Act in respect of the fatal accident, both against the proprietors of the theatre and the lady. At the hearing it was contended for the respondents that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the employment. The County Court judge held that on the facts the deceased must have interfered with the lion, not in performance of his duty, but for some purpose of his own. There was no evidence to show that he had acted in any emergency, and most probably he was making an attempt at lion taming. The judge therefore disallowed the claim, and also decided that in any case the theatre proprietors were not liable. The dependant appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the judge was right in deciding that the theatre proprietors were in no way liable, but that he was wrong as far as the lady was concerned. There was no evidence to show whether the lion had escaped by accident or through the fault of the deceased; but as death had resulted from the accident it was immaterial whether the accident was due to serious and wilful misconduct or not. Therefore, as the deceased was left in charge of the lions, it was his duty to try and get the escaped lion back into the cage. That duty arose out of and in the course of his employment, and the claimant was entitled to compensation.—*Hasselmann v. Poole, Court of Appeal, December 8th, 1908.*

REFUSAL OF WORKMAN TO UNDERGO SURGICAL OPERATION: CONTINUED INCAPACITY: LIABILITY TO PAY COMPENSATION.

Compensation is only payable under the Act during total or partial incapacity for work resulting from the injury.

In the course of a workman's employment in February, 1907, a heavy weight fell upon his foot and seriously injured it. The employers paid the injured man compensation till the end of January, 1908. After the accident the man's foot was treated at the hospital and two or three small operations were performed. Then the second toe and part of the big toe were removed. Later, as it was found that the man still had pain in the big toe, the X rays were used to examine it, and it was found that a small piece of bone which had been broken away from the bone of the big toe in the accident was still loose in the stump of the big toe. The workman refused to have this piece of bone removed, and the employers stopped the weekly payments. The man then demanded arbitration; but on May 1st, the day fixed for the hearing, it was agreed between him and his employers that he was to be paid compensation up to date, and that he would forthwith submit himself to examination by his own doctor and the doctor of the employers in consultation, and would submit to the operation if the two doctors advised him so to do. In the meantime as long as he followed the advice of the two doctors and continued in a state of incapacity for work, compensation was to be paid; but if he refused to follow the advice of the doctors no further compensation was to be paid pending the decision of a judge on the workman's claim. He was accordingly examined by the two doctors named in the agreement, and both of them advised him to submit to the operation of removing the detached piece of bone. The man, however, refused to undergo the operation, and proceeded with his claim for an award of compensation. On hearing the evidence, the County Court judge decided that the operation recommended was a simple one, not involving any appreciable risk, and which any man of ordinary nerve would in his own interests be willing to undergo; that the workman was 30 years of age and in good health; and that without the operation it was doubtful whether the toe would ever recover. In these circumstances the judge said that if he were free to do so he would refuse to make an award in the man's favour, but that he felt bound by previous decisions of the Court of Appeal to decide contrary to his own opinion of what he thought just. He accordingly awarded the man compensation. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal, on reference to the papers in *Rothwell v. Davis*, stated that according to the medical evidence in that case it appeared that a surgical operation would have been attended with very considerable risk, and that the decision in that case was not one lending any support to the suggestion that an injured workman who refused to submit to a simple operation was entitled to claim compensation for continued incapacity which that operation might terminate; that in this case the continuance of the incapacity was due to the man's unreasonable refusal and not to the accident; and that, therefore, the case must go back to the County Court judge to make an award as he thought just and fitting.—*Warnken v. Richard Morland & Son, Limited, Court of Appeal [Reported], December 5th, 1908.*

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: ENFORCED STOPPAGE OF WORK: VOLUNTARY ABSENCE FROM WORK: CORRECT MODE OF COMPUTATION.

Where incapacity for work results from an injury to a workman by accident so as to entitle him to compensation, the compensation is computed according to his "average weekly earnings," and is to be computed in such manner as is best calculated to give the rate per week at which the workman was being remunerated.

A miner in the employment of a colliery company was injured in circumstances which admittedly entitled him to compensation. Application, however, was made to the County Court judge for an award, as the parties were unable to agree as to the mode of calculating the average weekly earnings of the claimant before the accident. It was proved that he had been in the employment of the company for the whole period of twelve months, but there were fourteen weeks when work was stopped, and two weeks in addition when there was no work owing to recognised holidays. Therefore the man could only have worked thirty-six weeks in the year. In fact, as he was ill for two weeks, and took a holiday for one other week, he actually only worked thirty-three weeks. The total amount of his earnings during the year amounted to £68. The claimant, not being satisfied with the judge's basis of calculation, appealed to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal held that the true test for computing the weekly earnings was to ascertain what were the earnings of a workman in a normal week, taking into account days in which he could not have worked even if he had wished to, and been well enough to do so. The division of £68 by 33 gave the average amount of the man's earnings during each week in which he had actually worked, but as he could only have worked thirty-six weeks, it was necessary in order to obtain the correct average for the whole year to take $\frac{33}{36}$ of the amount. Therefore the true average weekly earnings was represented by the fraction $\frac{2}{3}$ of $\frac{2}{3}$. This was the method adopted by the County Court judge, and therefore the appeal was dismissed.—*Onslow v. Cammoch Chase Colliery Co., Limited, Court of Appeal, December 1st and 9th, 1908.*

PRINCIPAL AND CONTRACTOR: SHIPOWNER AND SEA CAPTAIN.

It is provided by the Act that where a principal for the purposes of his trade or business contracts with any other person for the execution by or under the contractor of the whole or any part of any work undertaken by the principal, the principal shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which he would have been liable to pay under the Act if that workman had been immediately employed by him. But where the principal is liable to pay compensation in this way, he is entitled to be indemnified by any person who would have been liable to pay compensation to the workman independently of this provision.

Colliery proprietors had coal depots in various parts of the world. For the purpose of their business at these depots it was necessary for them to use lighters and to have new lighters built from time to time. When a new lighter was built it was their custom to contract with some sea captain to take the lighter out to the depot. They had two lighters built for use at St. Vincent, and contracted with a sea captain to take them out under their own sail. Under the contract the contractor was to engage the crew and find everything necessary for the voyage for a lump sum. The captain took command of one lighter himself and entrusted the command of the other to another captain employed by him. The boatswain of the second lighter was injured during the voyage and claimed compensation from the colliery proprietors. The County Court judge made an award in his favour, and the colliery proprietors appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the appellants in the course of or for the purpose of their trade or business had contracted with the captain for the execution by him of part of the work proper to their undertaking, and that the case fell precisely within the provisions of the Act. Therefore the claimant was entitled to compensation and the appeal must be dismissed.—*Dittmar v. Wilson, Sons & Co., Limited, Court of Appeal, December 9th and 17th, 1908.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

PROCURING WORKMEN TO BREAK CONTRACTS: ACTION AGAINST TRADE UNION: CAN PROCURING BE JUSTIFIED?

In the year 1904 a master plasterer took a contract for plastering a large building some fourteen miles from Birmingham. He engaged as foreman a man who in the previous year had been expelled from a trade union of workmen. An agreement was in force between this trade union and two associations of employers, representing plasterers and builders. By this agreement it was provided that no boycotting or black-listing was to take place by the workmen's union where the employers' firms adhered to rules mutually agreed upon; that in the event of any dispute between his men and any employer who belonged to either of the contracting associations no strike should be sanctioned by the union until six clear working days had expired from receipt of notice from the district branch of the union, during which time the matter in dispute should be considered by a joint committee of employers and workmen; that failing a settlement by such committee reference of the matter should immediately be made to a standing joint committee of members of the employers' and workmen's central bodies, and that no strike or lock-out should be sanctioned by the central bodies of either the employers or the men until this joint committee had met and discussed the grievance; that workmen, members of the union, should not be required to work with defaulters or men who had made themselves especially objectionable to the trade union; and that no employer should be required to pay more than the local standing rate of wages to men engaged in the town or district where work was being executed, or where no such rate existed, that of the nearest town or district. The union also undertook not to take any steps to compel men regularly employed as foremen or superintendents to become members, and the employers undertook not to take steps to compel men to abstain from becoming members. The men belonging to the union who were employed on the work in question objected to work with the foreman and with some other

men who had been fined by the union as defaulters, and they were anxious to have the matter of complaint settled under the agreement. The secretary of the local branch of the union brought the cause of the men's complaint to the notice of the contractor. A long correspondence took place during December, 1904, and January, 1905. On January 11th, 1905, the secretary demanded a meeting of the committee under the agreement to consider the matter in dispute. On January 14th a meeting of the local branch of the union was held, and the members employed by the contractor were told that unless they received instructions to the contrary they were to give an hour's notice on the following Tuesday evening. Most of the men were entitled to leave work at any time on giving one hour's notice. But two of them, who were engaged as scagliola workers, were working, one of them under an agreement for a term of five years from Christmas, 1901, and the other under an agreement for three years from March, 1904. Previously to this the local conciliation committee consisting of six employers and six men had met, but the employers refused to discuss the matter with the men on the ground that the building upon which the work was being carried out was too far away from Birmingham to be within their jurisdiction. In pursuance of the instructions given to the men on January 14th, 1905, they all gave an hour's notice on the evening of the 17th, and refused to return to work. The union paid strike pay to all their members on strike including the two scagliola workers.

The contractor then brought an action against the trade union and its trustees and the secretary of the Birmingham Local Branch for an injunction and for damages for inducing the men to break their contracts, and against the two scagliola workers for damages for breach of contract. The judge found that the defendants, the central union, had authorized and sanctioned the calling out of the men; that neither the central officials nor the district secretary knew when the men were called out that the two scagliola workers had been engaged under agreements; that the union ratified the action of the local branch after they knew of those agreements and continued to pay strike pay to the men, but that such ratification was not sufficient to enable the plaintiff to recover against the union for wrongfully inducing the men to break their agreements; that the members of the union bona fide believed that the employers were trying to avoid having the dispute settled under the agreement; that the employers represented on the local conciliation committee were wrong in refusing to attempt to settle the matter in dispute; and that the union had acted bona fide in calling out the men after such refusal. As far as the two men were concerned, however, they had broken their agreements and were liable to pay damages. Judgment was accordingly given in favour of all the defendants except these two men. The plaintiff was awarded £25 damages for breach of agreement against each of them.

The plaintiff appealed against this judgment, contending that he was entitled to succeed against the defendants in whose favour judgment had been given. The Court of Appeal held that the judge was wrong in his opinion that a refusal by employers to refer a dispute to arbitration under an existing agreement would justify a union in calling out men in breach of agreements into which they had entered; that in this case a bona fide belief on the men's part that the employers were trying to evade their agreement would not justify the union in ratifying the action of the branch and continuing to pay strike pay after they knew men were breaking their agreements by refusing to work; that the branch knew of the agreements on January 14th and before the men were called out; that this knowledge by the branch legally amounted to knowledge by the union; that there can in law be no excuse for inducing or procuring a man to break a contract which that man had a right to make, and that therefore the plaintiff was entitled to judgment against the union. With regard to the secretary, however, as the judge at the trial had found that he had no knowledge of the agreements when the men were called out, and as there was evidence in support of such finding, the judgment in his favour was not disturbed. The decision of the Court of Appeal that the action was not barred by the Trades Disputes Act, 1906, as it was begun before that Act came into force, was delivered on an earlier day. [See LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1908, p. 357.]—*Smithies v. The National Association of Operative Plasterers and Others, Court of Appeal, December 21st, 1908.*

(3) Trade Disputes Act.

ACTION FOR LIBEL AGAINST TRADE UNION: NO TRADE DISPUTE: LIABILITY OF UNION.

It is provided by the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, that an action against a trade union, whether of workmen or masters, or against any members or officials thereof, on behalf of themselves and of other members of the trade union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union, shall not be entertained by any court.

A duly registered trade union was the proprietor of a newspaper. A solicitor, who had at one time acted professionally for the trade union, alleging that he had been libelled in this paper, brought an action for damages against the editor, printers, and the trade union. On behalf of the trade union it was contended at the trial that the action could not succeed against them because of the provisions of the Act. It appeared that there was no trade dispute either in existence or in contemplation. The judge held that the immunity which Parliament had given to trade unions from liability for a tortious act did not extend to such an act committed otherwise than in furtherance or in contemplation of a trade dispute, and as there was no evidence that the libel was published in furtherance or contemplation of any trade dispute, the union were liable. The plaintiff recovered damages against the union, as well as against the other defendants.—*Richards v. Bartram and Others, King's Bench Division, December 15th, 1908.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant price of 4 lbs. of bread on January 1st, 1909, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and 30 from other sources. The Returns are summarised in the following Table, in which the highest predominant rates and the lowest predominant rates are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

District.	1st Jan., 1909.			1st Dec., 1908.			1st Jan., 1908.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5½	5	5'3	5½	4½	5'1	5½	5½	5'5
E. & N.E. ...	5½	5	5'3	5½	5	5'4	6	4½	5'4
S.E. ...	5½	5	5'4	5½	5	5'4	6	5	5'5
S.W. ...	6	5½	5'6	6	5½	5'6	6	5½	5'6
W. & W.C. ...	6	5½	5'7	6	5	5'6	6	5½	5'7
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5	5'8	7	5	5'8	7	5½	6'0
Midlands ...	6	5	5'4	6	5	5'4	6½	5	5'7
Eastern Counties ...	6	5	5'4	6	5	5'4	6½	5	5'8
Southern Counties	6½	4½	5'9	6½	4½	5'9	7	5	5'1
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5'5	6	5	5'5	6½	5	5'8
Scotland ...	7	5½	6'1	7	5½	6'1	7	5½	6'2
Great Britain ...	7	4½	5'6	7	4½	5'6	7	4½	5'8

Compared with a month ago the mean of the prices remains unaltered. As compared with a year ago a slight decrease is shown.

In the next Table the predominant price is shown for 28 of the principal towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on Jan. 1st, 1909	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London ...	d. 5½	d. ...	d. ...	Oct. '07	− ½
Birmingham ...	5 & 5½	...	− ½	Aug. '08	+ ½
Bolton ...	6	...	...	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff ...	5 & 5½	...	− ½	Mar. '08	− ½
Derby... ..	5	...	...	April '08	− ½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	5½	...	− ½	Mar. '08	− ½
Ipswich ...	6	...	...	Oct. '07	+ ½
Leeds... ..	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ 1
Leicester ...	5	...	− ½	Feb. '08	− ½
Liverpool ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Manchester ...	5	...	− 1	Oct. '08	+ ½
Middlesbrough ...	5½	...	− 1	April '08	+ ½
Newcastle ...	5½	...	− ½	Jan. '08	− ½
Norwich ...	5	...	− ½	Feb. '08	− ½
Nottingham ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '08	+ ½
Oldham ...	4½	...	− ½	Aug. '08	+ ½
Plymouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries ...	5	...	...	Aug. '08	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	5	...	− ½	Feb. '08	− ½
Aberdeen ...	5½	...	− ½	May '08	− ½
Dundee ...	5½ & 6½	...	...	Dec. '07	− ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin ...	6	...	− ½	Mar. '08	− ½

As compared with a month ago, no change in the price of bread occurred in any of the towns shown in the Table. As compared with a year ago, 15 of the towns (including London) show no change, one (Birmingham) shows a decrease of ½d., per 4 lbs., nine show decreases of ¼d., one (Cardiff) a decrease of ¾d., and two (Manchester and Middlesbrough) decreases of 1d.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September-December, 1908, amounted to 29,983,795 cwts., or 421,805 cwts. less than in the corresponding months of 1907. The imports of flour during September-December, 1908, amounted to 4,712,989 cwts., or 419,351 cwts. less than in September-December, 1907.

The following Table gives the mean London Gazette

price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated.

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales), Per cwt.*	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash. Per cwt. s. d.
		Wheat. Per cwt. s. d.	Wheat-meal and Flour. Per cwt. s. d.	
1907.	8 0	8 11	11 1½	12 0
December ...	7 4	8 7	11 1	11 3
1908.	7 6	8 6½	11 0	11 3½
November ...	...	...	...	...
December ...	...	...	...	...

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901: Dangerous Trades: Vitreous Enamelling.—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that where the Home Secretary is satisfied that any manufactory, machinery, plant, process or description of manual labour, used in factories or workshops, is dangerous or injurious to health, or dangerous to life or limb (either generally or in the case of any class of persons) he may certify the same to be dangerous; and thereupon he may, subject to the provisions of the Act, make such regulations as appear to him to be reasonably practicable and to meet the necessity of the case. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has certified the process of vitreous enamelling of metal or glass to be dangerous, and has accordingly made Regulations†, dated December 18th, 1908, to apply to all factories and workshops in which the said process is carried on, and to come into force on April 1st, 1909. The Regulations do not apply to (a) the enamelling of jewellery or watches; or (b) the manufacture of stained glass; or (c) enamelling by means of glazes or colours containing less than 1 per cent. of lead. "Enamelling" in the Regulations means crushing, grinding, sieving, dusting or laying on, brushing or wooling off, spraying, or any other process for the purpose of vitreous covering and decoration of metal and glass. Provision is made for ventilation, light, cleanliness, protection from dust and spray, and protection from noxious gases. No child or young person under 16 years of age may be employed in the process at all; and every person employed must be examined once in every three months (or at such other intervals as may be prescribed in writing by the Chief Inspector of Factories) by the Certifying Factory Surgeon of the district, or by some other medical practitioner appointed by the Chief Inspector. H.M. Inspectors are given power at any time to take samples for analysis of the enamelling material being used, or mixed for use, but must (if so required) deliver to the occupier a sealed duplicate.

East Indian Wool.—In further pursuance of the powers above specified, the Home Secretary has made Regulations‡, dated December 18th, 1908, to apply to all factories in which East Indian wool is used, and to come into force on January 1st, 1909. Under these Regulations it is provided that no East Indian wool or hair shall be treated in any dust-extracting machine unless such machine is covered over, and the cover connected with an exhaust fan, so arranged as to discharge the dust into a furnace or into an intercepting chamber; and that the occupier shall provide suitable overalls and respirators to be worn by all persons employed in collecting and removing the dust.

Derivatives of Benzene: Explosives: dinitrobenzol.—The Home Secretary has also certified the manufacture of nitro and amido-derivatives of benzene and of explosives with the use of dinitrobenzol or dinitrotolnol to be dangerous; and has accordingly, under the above-mentioned powers, made Regulations§ dated December 30th, 1908, to apply to all factories and workshops in which these manufactures are carried on. Provision is made by these Regulations for proper ventilation and for getting rid of steam, vapour and dust of a harmful nature; for forbidding certain operations to be performed by hand; for the periodical examination by the surgeon of all persons employed for the suspension by him of such persons as he thinks fit; for the provision of suitable overalls and clothing, suitable rooms for meals, and suitable cloak-rooms and lavatories; for forbidding persons to eat, drink or smoke in any room in which a process is carried on; and for other purposes.

* In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, the rate of conversion from quarters to cwts. is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.
† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1908. No. 1258.
‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1908. No. 1287.
§ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1908. No. 1310.

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 December, 1908, was 45, consisting of 43 cases of lead poisoning, and two cases of anthrax. In addition 25 cases of lead poisoning (8 of which were fatal) were reported during December among house painters and plumbers.

During the twelve months ended December, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 727, as compared with 653 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 40 in each of the two years, 1908 and 1907. In addition there were 239 cases of lead poisoning (including 44 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during 1908, as compared with 174 cases (including 39 deaths) during 1907.

Analysis by Industries.

[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.]

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Dec. 1908.	Twelve Months ended Dec., 1908.	Month of Dec. 1908.	Twelve Months ended Dec., 1908.
	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.
Lead Poisoning.				
Smelting of Metals ...	4	70	28	—
Brass Works ...	1	6	9	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	1	14	6	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1	27	20	—
Printing ...	3	30	26	—
File Cutting ...	1	9	10	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	1	10	25	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	2	79	71	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	—	12	7	—
China and Earthenware*	5*	117	103	—
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	2	10	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	1	3	4	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	—	7	6	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	1	25	21	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	5	25	35	—
Coach Making ...	2	70	70	—
Shipbuilding ...	3	15	22	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	5	47	49	—
Other Industries ...	7	28	36	—
Total in Factories and Workshops	43	646	578	1
House Painting and Plumbing ...	25	239	174	8
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	25	239	174	8
Other Forms of Poisoning.				
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	2	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	—	5	6	—
Other Industries ...	—	5	1	—
Total ...	—	10	7	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	1	1	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	1	1	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	16	4	—
Other Industries ...	—	7	5	—
Total ...	—	23	9	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	—	34	17	1
Anthrax.				
Wool ...	—	18	23	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	11	17	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	2	23	12	—
Other Industries ...	—	5	6	—
Total, Anthrax ...	2	47	88	7

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 5 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 2 were males.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1908, was 246, an increase of 18 as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 31 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for December in the years 1903-1907 was 249, the maximum year being 1907 with 277 deaths, and the minimum year 1903 with 223 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in December, 1908, was 115, as compared with 103 in November, 1908, and 112 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1908, was 90, as compared with 82 in the previous month, and 112 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 39, 41, and 47 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during December, 1908, was 76, as compared with 156 in November, 1908, and 115 in December, 1907.

During the twelve months ended December, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 2,892, as compared with 3,035 in the preceding twelve months. The total number of seamen reported as killed during the same period was 1,283 in 1908, and 1,363 in 1907.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, as compared with a	
	Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	3	3	- 1	- 1
Engine Drivers...	—	1	2	- 1	- 2
Firemen ...	2	4	2	- 2	...
Guards (Passenger) ...	1	1	—	—	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	3	10	16	- 7	- 13
Porters ...	5	4	4	+ 1	+ 1
Shunters ...	4	3	2	+ 1	+ 2
Miscellaneous ...	19	13	18	+ 6	+ 1
Contractors' Servants ...	3	2	—	+ 1	+ 3
Total, Railway Service	39	41	47	- 2	- 8
Mines—					
Underground ...	86	83	97	+ 3	- 11
Surface ...	19	14	12	+ 5	+ 7
Total, Mines	105	97	109	+ 8	- 4
Quarries over 20 feet deep ...	10	6	3	+ 4	+ 7
Factories and Workshops—					
Textile—					
Cotton ...	2	3	5	- 1	- 3
Wool and Worsted ...	4	2	3	+ 2	+ 1
Other Textiles ...	2	1	—	+ 1	+ 2
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals ...	2	3	10	- 1	- 8
Founding and Conversion of Metals	9	10	8	- 1	+ 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	2	4	2	- 2	...
Ship and Boat Building ...	10	10	12	...	- 2
Wood ...	3	2	3	...	...
Chemicals ...	4	4	1	...	+ 3
Laundries ...	—	—	—	...	...
Other Non-Textile Industries	33	24	35	+ 9	- 2
Total, Factories ...	71	63*	79	+ 8	- 8
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays...	12	7	16	+ 5	- 4
Warehouses ...	—	1	6	- 1	- 6
Buildings to which Act applies	7	11	11	- 4	- 4
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	19	19	33	...	- 14
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894					
Total, exclusive of Seamen	246	228*	277	+ 18	- 31
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing ...	11	79	44	- 68	- 33
Steam ...	56	70	53	- 14	+ 3
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing ...	3	1	3	+ 2	...
Steam ...	6	6	15	...	...
Total, Seamen	76	166	115	- 80	- 38
Total, including Seamen	322	384*	392	- 62	- 70

* Revised figures.

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Eleven disputes commenced in December, 1908, as compared with 28 in November, 1908, and 17 in December, 1907. By the 11 disputes, 3,051 persons were directly and 4,618 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 17,576 persons involved in trade disputes in December, 1908, compared with 140,644 in November, 1908, and 10,834 in December, 1907.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining ...	5	2,090	4,595	6,685
Textile ...	5	951	23	974
Other Trades ...	1	10	—	10
Total, December, 1908	11	3,051	4,618	7,669
Total, November, 1908	28	15,390	1,396	16,786
Total, December, 1907	17	3,884	399	4,283

Causes.—Of the 11 new disputes, 2 arose on demands for increased wages, 1 on an objection to a reduction in wages, and 1 on a question as to readjustment of wages, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 on details of working arrangements, and 1 in sympathy with other workpeople.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 4 new disputes, directly involving 196 persons, and 3 old disputes, directly involving 306 persons. Of these 7 new and old disputes, 2, directly involving 139 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 4, directly involving 133 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 1, directly

involving 230 workpeople, was compromised. In the case of 5 disputes terminated during the month, work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in December of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 101,700 working days. In addition, 63,300 working days were lost in December owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 165,000 working days, compared with 745,600 in the previous month and 160,800 in December, 1907.

Summary for the years 1907 and 1908.—The following table summarises by trades the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the years 1907 and 1908 respectively. Other particulars of the disputes of 1908 are given on p. 4.

Groups of Trades.	1907.			1908.†		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ...	22	1,430	23,128	19	4,796	71,000
Mining and Quarrying...	112	54,567	563,061	137	82,281	1,276,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	134	19,576	467,633	59	59,234	3,849,000
Textile ...	153	47,429	644,460	66	132,589	5,378,000
Clothing ...	64	11,613	277,949	32	4,837	69,000
Transport ...	29	8,708	85,471	21	4,503	49,000
Other Trades ...	87	6,345	95,449	48	4,956	91,000
Total ...	601	147,493	2,162,151	382	291,045	10,783,000

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began in 1908.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.‡				
Coal Mining—							
Drivers, Rope Lads, Hewers, Shifters, &c.	Newcastle-on-Tyne (near)	119	1,119	15 Dec.	2	For advance in wages ...	Dispute to be referred to representatives of owners and of men.
Pony Drivers, Miners, Daymen, Swifacemen, &c.	Leeds (near)	230	776	14 Oct.	40	Against proposed 5 per cent. reduction in wages	Scale in force at another colliery belonging to same owners to be paid.
Steel Manufacture—							
Steel Workers (Bessemer MHL) and Other Workpeople	Leeds...	95	530	21 Nov.	25	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Cotton Weaving—							
Weavers ...	Preston ...	750	...	18 Dec.	2	Because of discharge of a weaver for alleged disorderly conduct	Weavers fined; discharged man reinstated, investigation to be made into charges against him.
Transport—							
Carters, Dock Labourers, Canal Workers and Malsters	Dublin ...	2,000	...	16 Nov.	30	For advance in wages, improvement in working conditions, and recognition of Trade Union officials	Work resumed pending arbitration.

* 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 involved," i.e. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

§ The figures for 1908 are preliminary only, and are subject to revision.

CONCILIATION COUNCILS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment Act, 1908, provides that in future no industrial dispute shall be referred to the district conciliation boards, which are to cease to exist on the expiration of the term of office of their present members. No industrial dispute is to be referred to the Court of Arbitration until it has been first referred to a Council of Conciliation. The Governor is empowered to appoint paid Conciliation Commissioners (not exceeding four in number), who shall exercise

jurisdiction in such industrial district or districts as may be assigned to them by the Governor. The Conciliation Commissioner for the district in which a dispute arises, together with assessors nominated by the parties to the dispute, and approved by him, are to constitute a Council of Conciliation. The Act imposes penalties on employers who dismiss workers merely because they have been officially concerned in conciliation negotiations or proceedings, or merely because they are entitled to the benefit of an award.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in December.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in December, 1908, was a decrease of £845 per week, as compared with a decrease of £4,560 per week in November, 1908, and an increase of £11,455 per week in December, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 23,852, all of whom sustained decreases. The total number affected in the preceding month was 138,119, and in December, 1907, 284,867.

One change, affecting 900 workpeople, was arranged

by a Conciliation Board; and four changes, affecting 22,592 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining change, affecting 360 workpeople, was arranged directly between representatives of employers and workpeople without stoppage of work.

Hours.

No changes in hours of labour were reported as taking effect in December, 1908.

Summary of Changes in 1908.

See article on pp. 3 and 4.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN DECEMBER.

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.
Fig Iron Manufacture	South Staffs. ...	1st making-up day in Dec.	Blastfurnacemen ...	1,000	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.	
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Midlands (including parts of S. Lancs. and S. Yorks.)	7 Dec.	{ Puddlers ... Millmen ... }	20,000	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (8s. 9d. to 8s. 6d.). Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.	
	S. Wales and Monmouthshire	7 Dec.	Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen, Enginemn, &c.	1,523	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.	
Engineering	Sheffield ...	19 Dec.	Iron Moulders ...	900	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 2s. per week off time rates (42s. to 40s.)	
	Birkenhead ...	3 Dec.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths, Machinemn, Brass Moulders & Finishers, Patternmakers, &c. (on new work)	360	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates.	

NOTE.—Since the publication of the last GAZETTE the following important changes have been arranged to take effect in January. Full particulars will appear in the February GAZETTE:—

Coal Mining.—Wages of miners in Northumberland have been reduced by 3½ per cent.
 Pig Iron Manufacture.—Under the sliding scale arrangements the wages of blastfurnacemen have been reduced in Cleveland and Durham by 2 per cent., and in S. Wales and Monmouthshire by 5½ per cent., and have been increased in West Cumberland by 1 per cent.
 Iron and Steel Manufacture.—In S. Wales and Monmouthshire the wages of iron and steel workers have been reduced by 5½ per cent.

* 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, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

PROFIT-SHARING IN 1906-7.

In continuation of the Report on Profit-Sharing published by the Department in 1894 (C. 7458 of 1894), and of the statements on this subject contained in previous numbers of the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE,* the following details bring the information previously supplied up to the end of June, 1907.

From the information available there were at that date 51 firms in the United Kingdom which were practising profit-sharing. It was ascertained that 5 of the firms previously included in the statistics had abandoned profit-sharing, and particulars were obtained with regard to one firm which had adopted profit-sharing since the last report:—

Profit-Sharing Schemes Abandoned.

Duration of Profit-Sharing.	Name.	Business.	No. of employees.	Cause of cessation of Profit-sharing.
1881-1906	Birmingham Coffee House Co., Ltd.	Temperance catering and hotel	279	Diminution of profits.
1886-1907	J. W. Arrowsmith...	Printer and Publisher	68	Increase of wages granted
1890-1907	A. B. ...	Fruit ...	10-18	Want of success
1891-1906	Dobson and Barlow, Ltd.	Engineers ...	2,800	Apathy of employees.
1900-1907	S. Gallery & Sons...	Slipper manufacturers	116	Reconstruction of company.

The firm which had adopted profit-sharing since the last report was the Levant Mining Co., Cornwall, with about 500 employees. The scheme took the form of payment of a cash bonus.†

The total number of persons employed by the 51

* See July, 1895, p. 207; July, 1896, p. 208; September, 1896, p. 275; July, 1897, p. 195; August, 1898, p. 228; August, 1899, p. 217; August, 1900, p. 227; August, 1901, p. 231; March, 1902, p. 70; July, 1902, p. 183; October, 1903, p. 272; October, 1904, p. 293; September, 1905, p. 283; and April, 1907, p. 101.

† This scheme was abandoned in September, 1907, owing to dissatisfaction of employers with results.

firms known to be practising profit-sharing at June 30th, 1907, was minimum 43,729, maximum 45,898. The number varies between these limits according to season, &c. The corresponding number of firms, in 1906, according to information received since the last report, was 55 with 46,450-48,524 employees.

With regard to the addition made to the wages of the participating employees by the bonus allotted in 1906, information was received respecting 45* cases covering 39,296 employees. The results are summarised in the following Table:—

Ratio of Bonus to Wages in 1906.

Ratio of Bonus allotted in 1906 to Wages.	No. of cases in which the Bonus in Col. 1. was paid.	No. of Employees (mean between minimum and maximum) in 1906.	No. of participants in 1906.
Nil	7	1,974	—
1 and under 2 per cent.	4	968	862
2 " 3 " "	5	19,876	2,982
3 " 4 " "	3	606	452
4 " 5 " "	12	4,853	3,259
5 " 6 " "	2	715	674
6 " 7 " "	2	5,999	543
7 " 8 " "	2	170	170
8 " 9 " "	5	1,574	1,205
9 " 10 " "	2	2,449	1,670
Over 10 per cent.	1	112	5

The figures show a mean bonus of 6.6 per cent. on wages paid in 1906 in the above cases (compared with 5.5 per cent. in 1905 in the 52 cases for which information was available). Excluding 7 cases in which no bonus was earned, the bonus allotted in 1906 in the remaining 38 cases was at the mean rate of 8.0 per cent. (compared with 7.2 per cent. for 42 cases in 1905).

* In a case in which the bonus is stated separately for distinct branches of a business, the ratios are also stated separately. The 45 cases include 2 in which profit-sharing ceased to be in force after the date in 1906 for distribution of bonus.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for December.

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.

	December.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	19,222,109	20,737,519	21,611,892	+ 874,373	+ 2,389,683
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	22,900,123	23,146,189	23,210,023	+ 63,834	+ 309,900
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	12,372,877	11,931,338	11,791,570	- 139,768	- 581,307
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	176,293	177,435	219,497	+ 42,052	+ 43,204
Total value of Imports	54,671,502	55,992,481	56,832,982	+ 840,501	+ 2,161,480

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 board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

	December.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,726,455	1,862,767	1,989,320	+ 126,553	+ 262,865
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	3,531,234	4,491,681	4,312,695	- 178,986	+ 781,461
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	25,566,716	25,846,462	25,538,894	- 3,077,568	- 3,027,822
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	584,770	540,826	560,667	+ 19,841	- 24,103
Total value of Exports of British produce.	31,403,175	32,741,736	32,401,876	- 3,340,160	- 2,007,599

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,746,072 in December, 1906; £6,719,972 in December, 1907; and £8,186,526 in December, 1908.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended January 2nd, 1909, amounted to £4,902,481, a decrease of £120,412 (or 2.4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the fifty-three weeks ended January 2nd, 1909, the receipts amounted to £55,370,547, a decrease of £2,543,207 (or 4.4 per cent.) as compared with 1907.

	5 weeks ended January 2nd, 1909.		53 weeks ended January 2nd, 1908.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London, and N. Staffs.	1,784,942	- 77,888	20,443,562	- 1,265,891
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	545,436	- 6,399	6,078,348	- 202,810
Lancs. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	926,849	- 57,967	10,177,137	- 627,389
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	722,500	+ 23,090	8,433,500	- 39,910
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	176,351	+ 2,184	1,968,156	- 49,127
Scottish Lines:—				
N. British, Caledonian, and Glasgow & S. Western	601,319	- 13,567	6,694,489	- 365,323
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland, G. W., and Gt. Northern	143,084	+ 10,135	1,575,355	+ 7,243
Total	4,902,481	- 120,412	55,370,547	- 2,543,207

* 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 DECEMBER.

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

The number of paupers relieved on one day in December, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 237 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with November, 1908, the total number of paupers increased by 6,464 (1.5 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 3. The number of indoor paupers increased by 4,399 (2.4 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 2,065 (0.9 per cent.). Increases occurred in 29 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (24 per 10,000). There were decreases in 4 districts, the greatest occurring in the Bolton district (20 per 10,000). In the Newcastle and Nottingham districts no changes occurred.

Compared with December, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 14. The number of indoor paupers increased by 9,675 (5.4 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 19,042 (8.8 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 5 districts, the most marked being in the Galway district (10 per 10,000). In 29 districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (232 per 10,000). In the Barnsley district there was no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Dec., 1908.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	A month ago.	A year ago.
	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.				
ENGLAND & WALES.*					
Metropolis.					
West District ...	12,510	3,421	15,931	187	+ 4 - 5
North District ...	17,294	11,384	28,678	284	- 6 + 8
Central District ...	7,016	2,538	9,554	315	+ 6 - 5
East District ...	16,721	9,056	25,777	387	- 1 + 26
South District ...	27,995	22,638	50,633	285	+ 8 + 8
Total, Metropolis ...	81,506	49,037	130,543	273	+ 3 + 8
West Ham ...	4,755	14,031	18,786	287	+ 8 + 20
Other Districts.					
Newcastle District...	2,885	5,959	8,844	195	+ ... + 4
Stockton & Tees District...	1,619	9,950	11,569	520	+ 24 + 232
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,703	6,605	11,308	145	- 20 + 13
Wigan District ...	2,467	6,001	8,468	208	+ 1 + 2
Manchester District ...	11,916	10,665	22,579	233	+ 2 + 31
Liverpool District ...	13,859	11,922	25,781	843	+ 5 + 18
Bradford District ...	2,238	2,822	5,060	136	+ 1 + 11
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,394	4,239	5,633	154	+ 4 + 9
Leeds District ...	3,264	5,225	8,489	171	+ 9 + 4
Barnsley District ...	845	2,386	3,231	147	+ 1 ...
Sheffield District ...	3,733	3,726	7,459	163	+ 5 + 9
Hull District ...	1,863	5,982	7,845	575	+ 14 + 24
North Staffordshire ...	4,693	8,244	10,847	281	+ 10 + 23
Nottingham District ...	2,366	6,034	8,400	193	- ... - 1
Leicester District ...	1,704	5,029	6,793	283	+ 10 + 9
Wolverhampton District...	4,179	12,095	16,274	243	+ 3 + 4
Birmingham District ...	5,825	4,508	10,333	174	+ 6 + 17
Bristol District ...	3,166	6,233	9,399	235	+ 3 - 6
Cardiff & Swansea ...	2,542	7,692	10,234	262	+ 3 + 2
Total, "Other Districts" ...	73,231	125,815	199,046	216	+ 3 + 17
SCOTLAND.*					
Glasgow District ...	6,472	18,827	25,299	280	+ 8 + 17
Paisley & Greenock District	986	2,789	3,775	209	+ 9 + 13
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,957	5,661	7,618	183	+ 2 + 5
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	1,002	2,759	3,761	168	+ 7 + 4
Aberdeen ...	789	3,389	4,178	239	+ 9 + 12
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	456	1,676	2,132	217	+ 1 + 16
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	11,662	35,101	46,763	221	+ 6 + 12
IRELAND.†					
Dublin District ...	7,466	5,689	13,155	328	+ 5 + 9
Belfast District ...	4,450	981	5,431	188	+ 6 + 15
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,658	5,127	9,785	401	+ 10 + 8
Galway District ...	362	343	705	202	- 3 - 10
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	16,936	12,140	29,076	284	+ 7 + 10
Total for above 35 Districts in Dec., 1908	188,060	236,124	424,214	237	+ 3 + 12

* 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.

Germany (continued)—

Journal of the German Labour Department, December 1908. Text of Prussian circular of November 12th, urging expedition of public works to relieve unemployment; hours of labour in Wurtemberg, October 1st, 1908; workmen's insurance in 1907. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

Austria-Hungary.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, November 1908. With supplement giving text of Government Bill of November 3rd, 1908, on social insurance, and summary of old age pension regulations in Belgium, Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d. Supplement, pp. 338.]

Statistical Journal of Hungary, September-October, 1908. Working conditions and institutions (sick funds, dining rooms, &c.) in the Hungarian tobacco factories. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

Report for 1907 of the Federation of German Co-operative Societies in Austria. Karl Wrabetz. [Vienna: Im Selbstverlage des Allgemeinen Verbandes: pp. xxiv. + 55.]

Mining Inspection in Austria, Reports for 1906. Ministry of Public Works, 1908. [Vienna: Verlag des Manzschens k.u.k. Hof-Verlags- und Universitäts Buchhandlung, I., Kohlmarkt, 20; pp. 527.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, November, 1908. Regulations under law of 1907, on weekly rest. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

Proceedings of the Higher Council of Labour, June, 1908. Italian Labour Department. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. 226: price 1s. 7d.]

Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Italian Tobacco Industry. Ministry of Finance, 1908. [Rome: pp. 227.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department. November 30th (labour disputes in October), and December 15th (Employment in November). [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt; price 1d. each part.]

Yearbook of Labour Legislation of 1907. Contains texts of laws, decrees, &c., relating to labour, issued in 1907 (by countries). Belgian Labour Department. [Brussels: Albert Dewit, 53 rue Royale: pp. xx. + 947: price 4s. 10d.]

Almanac of Belgian Co-operative Societies for 1909. [Brussels: 17 rue James Watt: pp. 64: price 1½d.]

Home Work in Belgium. Vol. IX. Inquiry as to wages in the men's garment industry. Belgian Labour Department. [Brussels: J. Lebegue & Cie, rue de la Madeleine, 46: pp. 52 + 411: price 3s. 7d.]

General Bibliography of Home Work. Supplement to reports on "Home Work in Belgium." Belgian Labour Department, 1908. [Brussels: Albert Dewit, rue Royale 53: pp. 301: price 2s. 5d.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, November, 1908. Employment and labour disputes in October. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

Reports of Dutch Chambers of Labour, 1907. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. 636.]

Denmark.

Statistical Yearbook of Denmark, 1908. Insurance, labour disputes, co-operation, trade unions, old age assistance, &c. Danish Statistical Office, 1908. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag: pp. xviii. + 207.]

Sweden.

Industrial Accidents in Sweden in 1906. Swedish Labour Department, 1908. [Stockholm: pp. xiii. + 257: price 1s. 8d.]

Factory Inspection in Sweden in 1907. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckman: pp. 368.]

Unemployment in Sweden in the Autumn of 1908, and Measures taken by the Municipalities. Swedish Labour Department. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckman: pp. 107: price 1s. 1d.]

Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, Nos. 9-10, 1908. Reports on industrial accidents, factories, and labour of children and young persons in 1906. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt and Söner: price 2d.]

Bulgaria.

Monthly Journal of the Statistical Office of Bulgaria, No. 1, October, 1908. Prices of food and wages of labourers and masons in various towns.

Spain.

Labour Legislation in Spain, July 1907 to June 1908. Spanish Labour Department. [Madrid: Calle Mayor 93: pp. 559: price 1s. 5d.]

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES**REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING DECEMBER.**

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

(1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in December was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 5; under the Industrial and

Provident Societies Acts, 19; under the Friendly Societies Act, 55 (including 27 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 5; in all, 84.

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

Trade Unions.—*England*.—5, viz., Met. Tramway Officials' Assoc., 58, Lyndhurst Road, Peckham, S.E.; Nat. Fed. of Women Workers, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.; Progress. Sheet Metal Workers' Soc., Canal Tavern, Leicester Row, Coventry; Manchester, Salford and Dist. Journeymen Hairdressers' Trade Soc., Crosby Hotel, Withy Grove, Manchester; Internat. Union of Journeymen Hairdressers of London, 107, Charlotte Street, W. *Scotland*.—Nil. *Ireland*.—Nil.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales*.—18, viz., *Retail Distributive Societies*: (3) Clee Hill and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Titterstone House, Bitterley, Ludlow; Grove Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Crown Wharf, Deptford, S.E.; Hastings and St. Leonard's Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 155, Queen's Road, Hastings. *Agricultural Distributive Societies*: (3) Marshland and Wingland Agric. Trading Assoc., Ltd., The Telephone Hall, Walpole, Halesworth; Timberland & Dist. Agric. Union, Ltd., Timberland, Lincoln; Littleton & Badsey Growers, Ltd., 2, Orchard Cottage, Aldington, near Evesham. *Small Holdings Societies*: (5) Blyth Small Holdings and Allotments Assoc., Ltd., 92, Waterloo Road, Blyth; Pickering Small Holdings and Allotments Assoc., Ltd., 21, Hurgate, Pickering; Woking Village and Mayford Allotments and Small Holdings Assoc., Ltd., High Street, Old Woking; Coychurch Lower Small Holdings and Allotments Assoc., Ltd., Shelf Farm, Coychurch, Bridgend; Oakdale Small Holdings Assoc., Ltd., 1, The Pavement, Ashley Road, Upper Parkstone, Dorset; *Working Men's Clubs*: (4) Vale of Derwent Social Club, Ltd., Club House, Rowlands Gill, Newcastle-on-Tyne; West Stanley Workmen's Union, Club and Inst., Ltd., High Street, West Stanley, S.O., co. Durham; Chippenham and Dist. Constitutionel Club, Ltd., Foghamshire, Chippenham; Backworth Club, Ltd., Backworth, Newcastle-on-Tyne. *Productive Society*: (1) Co-partnership Publishers, Ltd., 6, Bloomsbury Square, W.C. *Miscellaneous*: (2) *Scotland*.—Nil. *Ireland*.—1, viz., *Agricultural Productive Society*: (1) Ballinamore (New) Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Ballinamore, co. Leitrim.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales*.—28, viz., Woolston and Dist. Trades and Labour Club, Woolston, Southampton; Plaxtol Working Men's Club and Inst., Plaxtol, Sevenoaks; Urmston Working Men's Club, Urmston, Manchester; Caversham Working Men's Social Club, Caversham; Warminster and Dist. Conservative Working Men's Club, Warminster; York, Layerthorpe and Dist. Working Men's Club, York; Hull Amalg. Soc. of Engineers Working Men's Club and Inst., Hull; St. Clement's Working Men's Club, York; Goldthorpe Recreation Working Men's Club and Inst., Goldthorpe, Rotherham; Trafalgar Working Men's Club, Huddersfield; Hope Working Men's Club and Inst., Mexboro', Rotherham; Thrybergh Working Men's Club and Inst., Thrybergh, Rotherham; Frickley Colliery Working Men's Club and Inst., South Elmsall, Doncaster; Truslove and Bray Thrift Soc., West Norwood, S.E.; Minerva Mutual Money Soc., Newport, Mon.; South Wales and Monmouthshire Permanent Money Soc., Cardiff; Woolston Amalg. Medical Assoc., Woolston, Southampton; All Soul's Female Sick Benefit and Burial Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Hindley and Dist. Miners' Burial Soc., Hindley, Wigan; St. Elizabeth's Catholic Sick and Burial Soc., Litherland, Liverpool; Manchester and General Collecting Soc., Manchester; Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney, Superannuation Scheme, Hackney, N.E.; British Guardian Collecting Soc., St. George's Circus, S.E.; St. John's No. 2, Sick Benefit Soc., Clerkenwell, E.C.; Honourable Soc. of Ancient Potters, Holborn Bars, E.C.; Prospective Oddfellows Ind. Friendly Soc., Chorley, Lichfield; Star of Hope Past Grands Lodge of Oddfellows, Swindon; Court Lovely Peace Friendly Soc., Batley Carr, Dewsbury. *Scotland*.—Nil. *Ireland*.—Nil.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in Dec. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	2	...	7
Industrial and Provident Societies	9	1
Friendly Societies...	23	6
" Branches	14	...
Building "	1	8	...

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