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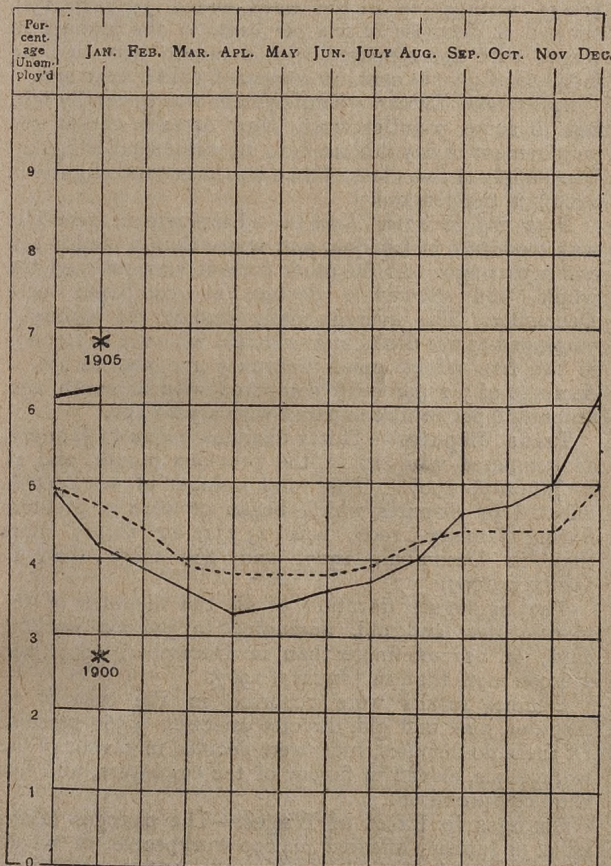
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For January, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 649,789 members in the following trades:—

Building... ..	61,057	Printing & Bookbinding	56,376
Coal Mining	126,725	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering	164,088	nishing	35,200
Shipbuilding	58,424	Miscellaneous	22,178
Other Metal Trades ...	31,751	Total	649,789
Textiles	93,990		

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JANUARY.

[In addition to the 2,642 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,912 were received from employers relating to 1,105,895 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,554 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

ON the whole, employment in January showed but little change as compared with December.

As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in the worsted, jute, and boot and shoe trades, while coal and cotton-spinning were about the same. There was some decline in most of the other industries.

In the 272 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 649,789, making Returns, 40,580 (or 6.2 per cent) were reported as unemployed at the end of January, 1908, as compared with 6.1 per cent. at the end of December, and 4.2 per cent. at the end of January, 1907.

Coal Mining.—Employment continued very good during January. It was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. The number of days worked per week was 5.44, as compared with 5.63 in December, and 5.48 in January, 1907. Employment in January, 1907, and January, 1908, was affected by holidays to the extent of 0.21 and 0.24 days respectively.

Iron Mining.—Employment was fair, but it showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during January was fair on the whole. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 iron-masters employing nearly 23,000 workpeople showed 305 furnaces in blast at the end of January, as compared with 309* in December, 1907, and 343 in January, 1907.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works was not so good as a month ago or a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended January 25th, 1908, at the 200 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 2.5 per cent. less than in the week ended December 21st, 1907, and 6.6 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during January was fairly good. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 430 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of January, 1908, as compared with 436* a month ago and 445 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment showed some improvement during January as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 5.8, as compared with 6.3 a month ago and 3.2 a year ago.

* Revised figures.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment remained slack, and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 15.1, as compared with 14.2 in December, and 8.8 in January, 1907.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* branch continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; in the *Weaving* branch it was slack, and worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 123,965 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was fairly good, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,467 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 6.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was fairly good; not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 51,227 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment on the whole was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,249 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 7.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment on the whole was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,063 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 7.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment on the whole was fair, it showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,179 workpeople in the week ended January 25th, 1908, showed a decrease of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment on the whole was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 8,745 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 6.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 13.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on the whole was fairly good; not so good as a month ago, and better than a year ago. Firms employing 16,690 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed the usual seasonal decline, and was worse than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it continued fair on the whole, but showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment in the *Silk Hat* branch continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment on the whole was fair, slightly worse than a month ago, and better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 61,862 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 1.5 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 Leather Trades.—Employment was quiet generally. It showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,698 had 6.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 7.2 per cent. in December and 6.9 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was dull on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 5.0, as compared with 4.9 at the end of December, and 4.3 in January, 1907. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 4.3, 2.6, and 3.9 respectively.

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

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the furnishing and woodworking trades was bad. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 9.8 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of January as compared with 8.5 per cent. a month ago, and 6.4 per cent. a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade was fair, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued bad, much short time being worked.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass trades was fairly good on the whole, but was not so good as a month ago. It showed some improvement as compared with a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 10,154 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 6.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment was generally fair, but in some counties frost, snow or rain caused the employment of day labourers to be somewhat irregular. The supply of this class of men was in general slightly in excess of the demand.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment generally was moderate in London, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At the other ports it was quiet on the whole, and showed a decline as compared with December. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London in the five weeks ended February 1st was 12,952, a decrease of 7.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty disputes began in January, as compared with 17 in the previous month, and 41 in January, 1907. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during January, 1908, was 23,251, or 12,417 more than in December, 1907, and 869 more than in January, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 382,000 working days, or 221,200 more than in December, 1907, and 214,900 more than in January, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 20 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 3,560 persons. Of these 20 disputes, four were decided in favour of the workpeople, eleven in favour of the employers, and five were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in January affected 424,600 workpeople, of whom 369,000 received advances and 55,600 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 354,000 coal miners in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and the Midlands. Amongst those whose wages were decreased were 24,000 workpeople engaged in the engineering and shipbuilding trades on the North-East Coast and the Clyde, and 10,000 blastfurnacemen in England and Wales. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was an increase of about £15,500 per week, as compared with one of £7,800 in December, 1907*.

* Revised Figures.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Painters, Perth.
On January 17th, a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Secretary of the Perth Master Painters' Association and the Secretary of the Perth branch of the Scottish Amalgamated Society of House and Ship Painters, for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide a question upon which the parties had been unable to agree.

The Board of Trade, on January 23rd, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity. The employers had given notice of alteration of one of the working rules, by which they would have been able to take on men at country jobs without paying country money.

Mr. Hudson heard the parties on January 31st, and issued his award on February 4th, deciding that no alteration in the working rules should be made.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Northampton.
On September 17th, 1907, the lasters and finishers in the boot and shoe trade of Northampton applied to their employers for an increase in the minimum wage to 30s. per week for all operatives of 20 years and upwards.

The matter was discussed by the Local Conciliation Board for this branch of the trade; but the Board was unable to agree either upon the question of the minimum wage, or upon an umpire to whom the matter should be referred.

Accordingly on January 28th application was made by the Conciliation Board to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to decide the question in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on February 5th, appointed Sir A. E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act in that capacity.

Brassworkers, United Kingdom.
Sir J. T. Woodhouse, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this dispute (see LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1907, page 291, and for November, 1907, page 324), issued his award on February 7th.

The workpeople had asked for an increase in the minimum rate of payment, as fixed by Sir David Dale in 1900, with an increase also in the bonus; the employers had put in a counter-demand for a reduction, except in the case of those day workers who were receiving the minimum rate only. Sir J. Woodhouse decided that no sufficient case had been made out for varying Sir D. Dale's award, at the present time and under the existing conditions of the trade. He accordingly disallowed both the proposals of the workpeople for an increase in wages and of the employers for a reduction in wages.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CHECK WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENT OF WORK OF DOCK LABOURERS.

The Departmental Committee appointed by the Home Secretary to consider and report on the best means of securing to workmen who are paid by weight or measurement the means of checking the correctness of their wages, has finished its inquiry as regards the iron and steel trades and other industries, and has been re-constituted for the purpose of dealing in a similar manner with dock labour. The committee is now composed as follows:—Ernest F. G. Hatch, Esq., Chairman; James Anderson, Esq., Amalgamated Stevedores' Labour Protection League; Gerald Bellhouse, Esq., one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories; C. W. Gordon, Esq., Gordon Steam Shipping Company; Thomas Hardy, Esq., Manager of the London and India Docks Company; James Harrington, Esq., London Master Stevedores' Association; James Larkin, Esq., National Union of Dock Labourers; J. C. Mead, Esq., of Messrs. Mead, Son and Hussey, shipowners; J. Lloyd Morgan, Esq., K.C., M.P.; H. Orbell, Esq., Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union; J. Herbert Scrutton, Esq., of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons, and Company, shipowners; James Sexton, Esq., National Union of Dock Labourers; James Wignall, Esq., Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union. Correspondence may be addressed to the Secretary, Alexander Maxwell, Esq., at the Home Office.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN JANUARY.

The various Distress Committees in the United Kingdom have made Returns showing the number of applicants on their books, and known to be out of work, in December, 1907, and January, 1908. The Committees were requested, in making up their Returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work, or to have left the neighbourhood, since registration; and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified. In the case of those Committees which require applicants to report themselves at frequent intervals (failing which their names are removed from the registers), the Committees were also asked to exclude those whose names had been thus cancelled.

The following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of December, 1907, and of January, 1908:—

Distress Committees.	No. "known to be out of work" in		Distress Committees.	No. "known" to be out of work" in	
	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1908.		Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1908.
London (29 committees)	17,336	20,451	Portsmouth	403	501
Outer London (9 committees)	8,091	9,633	South Shields	532	591
Barrow	311	435	Sunderland	2,518	2,474
Birmingham	203	478	Wolverhampton	378	392
Bolton	498	525	York	707	793
Bradford	870	1,069	Other Towns (33)	2,976	4,458
Brighton	805	946	Total, England and Wales	41,973	53,160
Bristol	1,050	1,662	Aberdeen	300	470
Brighton	488	514	Dundee	199	305
Erith	not received	728	Edinburgh	698	1,153
Hastings	not received	728	Glasgow	944	1,849
Hull	622	748	Greenock	360	672
Leeds	564	550	Other towns (4)	207	481
Leicester	1,016	1,084	Total, Scotland	2,708	4,930
Liverpool	804	1,081	Ireland (Dublin and Galway only)	2,933	3,163
Manchester	77*	129*	Total, United Kingdom	47,614	61,253
Middlesbrough	23	416			
Newcastle	618	1,036			
Norwich	841	1,013			
Plymouth and Devonport	815	1,251			

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

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

Distress Committees.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.	Total Amount of Wages paid.
London (Central Body): †		Days.	£.
At Hollesley Bay	405	9,180	1,016
In Parks, &c.	1,436	24,759	4,953
In Women's workrooms	150	3,102	264
Outer London (9 Committees)	3,737	25,332	4,585
Birmingham	127	1,592	268
Brighton	427	2,848	407
Bristol	220	2,189	438
Hastings	438	(estimate) 2,800	410
Leicester	159	1,142	259
Liverpool	155	1,912	226
Newcastle	332	2,250	366
Norwich	389	6,472	647
Plymouth	449	2,572	412
Sunderland	373	2,814	481
Other English Towns (22)	2,036	15,163	2,275
Total, England and Wales	10,233	104,127	17,007
Aberdeen	358	3,184	399
Edinburgh	551	4,528	428
Glasgow	784	12,556	1,300
Greenock	195	2,385	299
Other Scottish Towns (4)	226	2,880	372
Total, Scotland	2,144	25,533	2,798
Ireland (Dublin)	539	3,334	485
Total, United Kingdom	12,886	132,994	20,290

It will be seen that a total of nearly 13,000 men were employed, for an average of rather more than 10 days each, at an average wage of about 3s. a day.

* These are the numbers on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the numbers on the "unemployed register," however, were 849 in December, and 786 in January.
† In addition, the local authorities of some of the various Metropolitan Boroughs provided employment for a number of extra men.

COST OF LIVING OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN LARGE TOWNS.

THE Board of Trade have published a Report* upon the rents paid by working class people in the principal industrial towns in the United Kingdom, and upon the retail prices most usually paid for groceries, bread, provisions, meat, and coal, together with a brief account of the time rates of wages in the industries found in most of the towns, viz., the building trades, and the engineering, printing and furnishing trades. Except in the case of a few of the towns, the present Report does not deal with earnings, in view of the fact that a general enquiry into earnings in all trades in the United Kingdom is now in progress.

The Report covers 94 towns, 77 of which are in England and Wales, 11 in Scotland, and 6 in Ireland, and the statistics for each town relate to October, 1905.

In addition to the General Report, in which a summary of the results of the enquiry is given, the volume contains separate town reports, giving in detail particulars as to housing, rents, prices and wages in each town. These town reports also give some account of such matters as the growth of population, the distribution of occupations (according to the Census of 1901), overcrowding, and vital statistics. Each report contains information as to the prices most usually paid for the various articles of food and for coal, and as to the rates of wages in the standard occupations referred to above; while the case of certain towns characterised by dominant industries, such as the cotton towns of Lancashire and the woollen towns of Yorkshire, some information is also given as to the wages in the staple trades.

Rents of Working Class Dwellings.

It is shown by the report that tenements of four or five rooms (i.e., self-contained two-storeyed dwellings, possessing four or five rooms and a separate scullery) are the predominant types of housing accommodation in England and Wales, and these may be taken as the typical dwellings of the English working classes. In Scotland the housing conditions are different, the prevailing kinds of dwellings consisting of self-contained flats of one, two, or three rooms in blocks of flats of two, three or four storeys. In the Irish towns the housing conditions approximate more closely to those found in English towns, except in the case of Dublin, where the bulk of the working class tenements consist of parts of large houses which have been sub-divided.

While, however, there are these predominant types of working class houses, there is also considerable variation as between the different towns in the three countries, particularly in England and Wales.

On account of these local variations, no uniform type of tenement could be taken as the basis of comparison of rents in different towns. Accordingly the following method of comparison was adopted. In each town the mean rent paid for each of the most prevalent kinds of tenement in that town was compared with the mean rent for tenements of the same number of rooms in London. The results are shown by the method of index numbers, i.e., rents in London being taken as equal to 100, the rents in each of the towns are expressed as a percentage of the rents for similar accommodation in London.

Combining the rent index numbers for the towns in the various geographical divisions of the country, the following comparative Table is obtained:—

Geographical groups.	Mean Rent Index Number. (London=100).	Geographical groups.	Mean Rent Index Number. (London=100).
LONDON	100	Midlands	51
Northern Counties and Cleveland	62	Eastern Counties	50
Yorkshire, except Cleveland	56	Southern Counties	61
Wales and Monmouth	60	Scotland	69
Lancashire and Cheshire	54	IRELAND	50

It is to be noticed that the lowest rents are paid in the Eastern counties, in the Midlands and Lancashire,

* Cost of Living of the Working Classes: Cd. 3864; Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 6s.

and in Ireland. The index number for Scotland is high, but it must be remembered that the comparison is based simply upon the rents paid for the same number of rooms, and that the size of the rooms is usually rather greater in Scotland than in England.

The difference indicated between London and the provinces is further illustrated by the following Table. In this the ranges of weekly rents usually paid in the provincial towns of England and Wales considered as a whole are compared with the usual weekly rents paid in London for the same number of rooms:—

Number of Rooms per Tenement.	Predominant Weekly Rents, including all rates, at Oct., 1905					
	London.			Provincial Towns in England and Wales.		
	Range of Rents.		Mean Rent.	Range of Rents.		Mean Rent.
Two rooms	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Three	4 6	7 6	6 0	3 0	3 6	3 3
Four	6 0	9 0	7 6	3 9	4 6	4 1½
Five	7 6	10 6	9 0	4 6	5 6	5 0
Six	9 0	13 0	11 0	5 6	6 6	6 0
	10 6	15 6	13 0	6 6	7 9	7 1½

It will be seen that rents in the provinces are little more than half the amount of those paid in London. There is much less difference in Scotland between rents in the capital and in the other towns, but in Ireland, again, rents are much higher in Dublin than in the other towns.

If the towns in England and Wales are grouped according to population, and the mean of the rent index numbers for each group taken, the following comparison is obtained:—

Population groups.	Mean Rent Index Number. (London = 100).
Population exceeding 250,000	64
" from 150,000 to 250,000	59
" " 50,000 to 150,000	54
" less than 50,000	53

It would appear from this Table that rents fall as the populations of the towns become less. The differences, however, are only slight, and on reference to the figures for the individual towns it is found that the ranges of rents within the groups shown above are extensive. If the towns are divided into two groups only, according as their populations are or are not more than 100,000, it is found that the difference of rent level becomes more strongly marked, the mean index numbers for the two groups being 61 and 53 respectively.

Retail Prices.

The Returns as to the retail prices of the commodities included in the enquiry show for each town the price most usually paid at October, 1905, for each article, by working class customers, and not necessarily the minimum prices at which the commodities could be obtained. The results of the enquiry show that the variation in predominant prices is much less than the variation in rent.

In order to compare the level of prices in the different towns the following method was adopted. Each article of consumption (groceries, meat and coal) was given a value proportionate to its relative importance in the total quantity consumed by an average working-class family, as ascertained by the Board of Trade in an inquiry, in 1904, into working class budgets*. The amount of expenditure so obtained for each town was compared with the expenditure on similar articles in London, and while the latter was taken as equal to 100, the expenditure in other towns was taken at figures representing percentages of that in London. These percentages are the index numbers shown in the tables set out below. The geographical grouping of the towns as shown for rents is repeated for prices in the following

* Memoranda on British and Foreign Trade and Industry. Cd. 2337 of 1904.

Table, in which, in addition to the index numbers for all the commodities together, separate index numbers are given for groceries, coal and meat.

Geographical groups.	Mean Prices Index Numbers (London = 100).			
	All Commodities.	Groceries.	Coal.	Meat.
London	100	100	100	100
Northern Counties & Cleveland	97	102	71	99
Yorkshire, except Cleveland	94	97	71	99
Lancashire and Cheshire	92	95	70	96
Midlands	93	96	73	95
Eastern Counties	99	99	81	102
Southern Counties	102	103	102	97
Wales and Monmouth	95	98	90	94
Scotland	102	105	76	108
Ireland	97	103	84	88

It will be seen that, broadly speaking, the predominant prices are high in the Northern and Eastern Counties and in Ireland, and higher still in London, the Southern Counties and Scotland; but low in Lancashire and the Midlands, and fairly low in Yorkshire. The influence of the relative proximity of coalfields is seen in the low index numbers for coal in the Northern Counties, Yorkshire, the Midlands, and Lancashire and Cheshire, and in the high index numbers for London and the Southern Counties.

Weekly Rates of Wages.

The occupations selected for a comparison of wages are, as already stated, those in the building, engineering, printing and furnishing trades. Index numbers based upon the weekly time rates of wages in these trades are given in the following Table. In the case of the index numbers marked with an asterisk the number of towns represented in their construction is less than the total number included within the geographical groups:—

Geographical Groups.	Mean Index Numbers (London = 100).				
	Building Trades		Engineering Trade.		Printing Trade.
	Skilled Men.	Labourers.	Skilled Men.	Labourers.	
London	100	100	100	100	100
Northern Counties and Cleveland	88	88	89	86*	82
Yorkshire, except Cleveland	84	89	85	82*	82*
Lancashire and Cheshire	89	88	88	79*	85*
Midlands	90	92	85	81*	80
Eastern Counties	84	81	74*	—	71*
Southern Counties	85	85	85*	85*	71*
Wales and Monmouth	87	85	92*	80*	78
Scotland	86	79	83*	79*	80
Ireland	79	57	90*	70*	82*

For skilled men the highest rates (outside London) obtain in the Lancashire and Cheshire, Northern Counties, Wales and Monmouth, and Midland groups; and the lowest in the Eastern Counties and Southern Counties groups.

Relation of Rates of Wages to Rents and Prices.

If the mean of the wages index numbers in each group for the three trades (building, engineering, and printing) be taken, and the means so obtained divided by the index numbers for rent and prices combined, a comparison of the average level of "real" wages in the selected occupations may be made, i.e., the money wages expressed in terms of their purchasing capacity (as shown by the index numbers of rent and prices combined). The results are shown in the following Table:—

Geographical Groups.	Mean Index Numbers.		
	Rent and Prices combined.	Wages of Skilled Men in Building, Engineering and Printing Trades.	Approximate relative level of "Real Wages."
England and Wales—			
London	100	100	100
Northern Counties & Cleveland	90	86	97
Yorkshire (except Cleveland)	87	84	97
Lancashire and Cheshire	84	87	104
Midlands	85	85	100
Eastern Counties	88	76	86
Southern Counties	93	80	86
Wales and Monmouth	89	86	97
Scotland	95	83	87
Ireland	87	84	97

Rents and Prices Combined.

The amount expended upon articles of food is considerably greater than that expended upon rent, and accordingly, in making comparisons between the different towns as regards rent and prices combined, it has been assumed that the relation between the amounts expended for rent and provisions is as one to four. The result of the comparison of the various districts is shown in the following Table, in which the index numbers for rents and prices combined are given, together with the index numbers for rents and prices separately, for purposes of reference:—

Geographical groups.	Mean Index Numbers (London=100).		
	Rent.	Prices.	Rents and Prices combined.
London	100	100	100
Northern Counties and Cleveland	62	97	90
Yorkshire, except Cleveland	56	94	87
Lancashire and Cheshire	54	92	84
Midlands	51	93	85
Eastern Counties	50	98	88
Southern Counties	61	102	93
Wales and Monmouth	60	96	89
Scotland	69	102	95
Ireland	50	97	87

Thus, when rents and prices are combined, the Lancashire and Cheshire and Midland groups occupy the lowest position among the groups in England and Wales, while London and the Southern Counties and Northern Counties groups are highest. The high index number for Scotland is partly due to the high rent figure, in considering which it must be remembered, as already stated, that the comparison does not take into account differences in the size of the rooms. The index number for prices in Scotland is, however, also high. The position of Ireland, it will be seen, is fairly low.

The figures showing the relative level of rents, prices, and rents and prices combined in each of the separate towns are given in the following Table, in which the towns in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, are shown in alphabetical order.

Town.	Index Numbers for			Town.	Index Numbers for		
	Rent.	Prices.	Rents and Prices combined.		Rent.	Prices.	Rents and Prices combined.
<i>England and Wales.</i>							
London	100	100	100	London	100	100	100
Barrrow-in-Furness	63	99	92	Nottingham	56	96	85
Bedford	49	99	80	Oldham	60	95	88
Birkenhead	70	92	88	Peterborough	39	95	84
Birmingham	59	91	85	Plymouth	81	99	95
Blackburn	50	89	81	<i>Devonport</i>			
Bolton	53	89	82	Portsmouth	57	105	95
Bradford	53	95	88	Preston	48	90	82
Bristol	53	95	87	Reading	58	101	92
Burnley	53	95	87	Rochdale	52	93	85
Burton-on-Trent	52	92	84	St. Helens	56	91	84
Cardiff	59	99	91	Sheerness	59	104	95
Carlisle	58	97	89	Sheffield	55	93	85
Castledare	53	94	86	Southampton	65	103	95
Chatham and Gillingham	49	101	91	South Shields	61	94	87
Chester	50	94	85	Stockport	51	88	81
Coventry	49	99	89	Stockton-on-Tees	54	99	90
Crewe	48	93	84	Stoke-on-Trent	54	90	85
Croydon	81	101	99	Sunderland	59	94	87
Darlington	58	98	90	Swansea	68	95	90
Derby	51	93	85	Swindon	59	98	90
Dover	56	106	96	Taunton	47	96	86
Gateshead	66	98	92	Walsall	43	90	81
Gloucester	48	92	83	Warrington	59	92	84
Grimby	58	93	86	Wigan	50	88	80
Halifax	55	94	86	Wolverhampton	53	89	82
Hanley	51	90	82	Worcester	56	94	86
Huddersfield	64	97	93	York	53	96	87
Hull	48	99	89	<i>Scotland.</i>			
Ipswich	44	103	91	Aberdeen	68	98	92
Jarrow	68	98	92	Dundee	75	105	99
Keighley	57	92	85	Edinburgh & Leith	81	102	98
Kidderminster	43	93	83	Falkirk	69	101	95
Leads	56	93	86	Galashiels	52	107	96
Leicester	48	93	84	Glasgow	76	99	94
Lincoln	54	98	89	Greenock	71	102	96
Liverpool & Bootle	65	91	86	Kilmarnock	66	101	94
Luton	61	101	93	Paisley	60	99	93
Macclesfield	32	90	78	Perth	58	105	96
Manchester and Salford	62	92	86	<i>Ireland.</i>			
Merthyr Tydfil	50	97	88	Belfast	46	101	90
Middlesbrough	59	95	88	Cork	48	95	86
Leeds	76	98	94	Dublin	71	100	94
Newcastle-on-Tyne	63	92	86	Limerick	55	96	88
Newport (Mon.)	57	91	84	Londonderry	39	97	86
Northampton	49	95	86	Waterford	38	92	81

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES, 1906.*

FROM the annual article on Retail Prices of Food which appears in the U.S. Bulletin of Labour for July, 1907, it appears that retail prices of food in the United States were higher in 1906 than in any preceding year since 1890, the first year for which statistics are available. The increase, as compared with 1905, was 2.9 per cent., and as compared with 1896 (the minimum year of the period) 21.2 per cent. The principal increase has been in meat, butter, and eggs, especially in pork (including ham and bacon), the increase in the case of bacon being 8.4 per cent. as compared with 1905, and 55.5 per cent. as compared with 1896.

The following Table shows the increase or decrease in the cost of certain articles of food consumed by working class families in the United States in 1890, 1896 (minimum year), 1905, and 1906, the average for the years 1890-99 being taken as the standard (=100):—

Articles.	Average for 1890-99.	1890.	1896.	1905.	1906.
All Articles ...	100.0	102.4	95.5	112.2	115.7
Beef, fresh ...	100.0	99.5	99.1	112.2	115.7
Pork, fresh ...	100.0	97.0	97.4	126.6	137.7
Bacon ...	100.0	95.8	96.7	138.8	150.4
Butter ...	100.0	99.2	92.7	112.7	118.2
Milk ...	100.0	100.5	99.9	107.0	108.9
Eggs ...	100.0	100.6	92.8	131.6	134.2
Bread ...	100.0	100.3	99.9	104.5	102.3
Flour ...	100.0	109.7	92.7	119.9	108.1
Cornflour ...	100.0	100.0	95.0	122.2	123.2
Rice ...	100.0	101.3	96.7	102.6	105.7
Potatoes ...	100.0	109.3	77.0	113.2	114.4
Coffee ...	100.0	105.4	99.6	93.6	94.7
Sugar ...	100.0	118.6	96.6	103.9	98.2
Apples, evaporated ...	100.0	109.0	88.6	106.0	115.6
Prunes ...	100.0	116.8	86.8	81.4	85.1

It will be seen that coffee, sugar, and prunes are the only articles which show a reduction as compared with the average of the period 1890-99. The prices of milk, bread, rice, and to a less extent sugar have, on the whole, remained fairly uniform throughout the period, but the price of bacon has risen 50 per cent., that of fresh pork 38 per cent., and that of eggs 34 per cent.

On the basis of returns received from 2,567 families, with a mean of 5.3 persons in family, in all parts of the United States, the average total cost of food per working class family in 1906 was calculated at 360 dols. (£75), as compared with 349 dols. (£73) in 1905, and with 297 dols. (£62) in 1896. The cost is highest in the Northern States, especially in the North Atlantic States, and lowest in the Southern States. Expenditure on food represented, in 1906, 42½ per cent. of the total income of a working class family. There was no great variation in this respect between the various main divisions of the country, the lowest proportion being 41 per cent., and the highest 43½ per cent.

OLD AGE PENSIONS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The total number of persons in receipt of old age pensions in New Zealand on March 31st, 1907, was 13,257, of whom 12,597 were Europeans, and 660 Maoris. The European pensioners represented 32 per cent. of the estimated European population eligible in respect of age and residence, as compared with 31 per cent in 1906, and with 42 per cent. in 1901.

The Registrar's report states that the decrease between 1901 and 1906 is attributable to the new and more severe system of investigation inaugurated in 1902, while the increase in 1907 is due to the disappearance of the tendency to regard the pension scheme from a charitable aspect, and to the increase in the amount of the pension from £18 to £26, which had brought forth claimants who had previously declined to apply for a pension.

The number of new claims dealt with during the year was 2,804, of which 2,030 were granted, and 774 were rejected, abandoned, or rendered void by death.

In connection with the granting of new pensions, the department assists applicants in proving their eligibility in respect of age. In 672 cases of this kind dealt with during the year, the claimants were proved to be of the

* Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour, July, 1907.
† Weighted average, i.e., allowing to each article its relative importance in the dietary of a working-class family.

required age in 328 cases, and not of age in 229 cases, in 101 cases inquiries were, at the date of the Report, being made outside the Colony, and in 14 cases no proofs were obtainable.

Eighty per cent. of the pensioners are in receipt of the maximum pension of £26. The total cost of the pensions during the year ended March 31st, 1907—the first complete fiscal year since the pension was increased to £26—was £314,184, equal to 6s. 10d. per head of the European population. The cost for the current year is estimated at £335,000.

CHILDREN UNDER THE POOR LAW.

FROM a recent Report* prepared by T. J. Macnamara, LL.D., the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, it appears that on January 1st, 1907, there were 69,080 children chargeable in England and Wales either as indoor paupers or boarders-out. Of these, 21,498 were maintained in workhouses and infirmaries; 27,698 were in separate establishments for children, such as Grouped Cottage Homes, Scattered Homes, Separate Block Schools, and Combined District Schools; 8,291 were maintained in Training and Industrial Homes and Schools; 8,659 were boarded out; and the remainder were in hospitals or similar institutions.

As regards the method of educating pauper children, it is pointed out that during the last thirty years the tendency has been in the direction of the extinction of the workhouse school. On January 1st, 1907, out of a total of 34,554 children who were of school age (3 to 14 years), only 565 were being educated in workhouse schools, as against 16,302 in 1877, while 17,785 were attending public elementary schools, and 16,204 were being taught in district and other institutional schools.

Tables are appended to the report showing the cost of maintaining and educating poor law children under the various methods adopted by the Metropolitan Unions and the three extra-Metropolitan Unions of West Ham, Richmond, and Croydon, for the year ending Lady Day, 1907. Six Metropolitan Unions have adopted the Cottage Homes system, under which the children live in a group of cottages, each presided over by a "foster-mother" and in many cases by a "foster-father" also. The cost of each child per week under this system, including maintenance of children and officers, education, rates and taxes, loans repaid and interest thereon, &c., amounted to an average of 17s. 3.65d., the lowest being 13s. 1.57d., and the highest 20s. 1.03d. The Report describes this system as "admirable, but expensive." Other Unions have combined to form District Schools, and the average cost per child per week under this method was 13s. 2.08d. Ten other Unions have separate Block Schools, the average cost per child per week under this system being 12s. 3.59d. The Scattered Homes plan has been adopted by five other Unions. Under this method houses are bought or rented in various streets of the locality, where children are placed under the care of a foster mother, while they attend the public elementary schools in the neighbourhood. The average cost per child per week under this system was 10s. 8.65d.

STATE SUBVENTION OF UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT FUNDS IN FRANCE IN 1906.

The second annual report on grants made by the French Government to funds which provide assistance for their members during unemployment has recently been published in the journal of the French Labour Department.

Certain modifications in the scheme have been brought about by a decree of December 31st, 1906. Previously a small fund was not eligible for a share in the State subvention unless it also received a subvention from the municipal authority of the place in which it was situated. The receipt of a subvention from the departmental authority is now also recognised as a qualification for the State grant. Again, funds not confined to one trade were only allowed to receive the State subvention provided they were situated in towns with a population of less than 20,000; this limit has been raised by the decree to 50,000.

* Children under the Poor Law. [Cd. 38,9.] Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 6d.

Of the sum of £4,400 allotted for the purpose of these subventions in 1906, £1,700 was distributed during the year, as compared with £1,107 in the preceding year. Owing to the small number of funds making applications for a share in the subsidy, the grant paid by the State for each half-year was again the maximum allowed by the law, viz., 16 per cent. of the payments made to members in the case of local funds, and 24 per cent. in the case of federations of funds. Of the £1,700 granted to unemployed funds during the year, a total of £1,573 was allotted to funds which received subventions in each half-year, and whose unemployment benefit was confined to one trade, as compared with £1,029 out of a total of £1,107 in 1905. Particulars relating to these Funds are given in the following Table:—

	Group of Trades.					Total.
	Print- ing and Book- binding.	Metal.	Leather and Skins.	Com- merce, Trans- port & Ware- housing.	Other.	
Average membership of funds Members unemployed in the year	13,810 4,288	7,203 1,722	733 208	9,575 207	2,568 882	33,889 7,307
Number of days for which benefit was paid	56,030	13,383	4,460	5,586	10,458	90,847
Amount of benefit paid by funds	5,392	944	586	478	480	7,880
Amount of State subvention	1,195	203	43	63	69	1,573

SHIPS BUILT IN 1907.

Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, for the year 1907, shows that there was a decrease in the total tonnage of vessels launched in the United Kingdom during 1907 as compared with 1906. The aggregate for merchant and war-vessels—viz., 1,742,365 tons—was 194,428 tons below that for 1906, which was the highest on record.

The decrease took place in the output of mercantile tonnage. The total number of vessels in this class launched in 1907 was 841, of 1,607,890 tons gross, which was 220,453 tons below the aggregate for 1906. As regards war vessels there was an increased production. In 1907, 36 were launched, of 134,475 tons displacement, including 51,800 tons built at Royal Dockyards. This aggregate shows an increase of 26,025 tons compared with that for 1906.

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).	
1893	836,183	45,898	
1894	1,046,508	32,971	
1895	900,967	148,111	
1896	1,159,751	163,958	
1897	952,486	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	129,807	
1906	1,828,343	108,450	
1907	1,607,890	134,475	

All the districts shared in the decrease in 1907, with the exception of Glasgow, Leith and Liverpool, where increases of 42,210 tons, 3,903 tons, and 3,049 tons respectively are shown. The following Table shows the districts in which the greatest tonnage, including warships, was launched in 1907, with comparative figures for the previous year:—

District.	Total Tonnage (including War Vessels) launched in		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907 compared with 1906.
	1907.	1906.	
Glasgow ...	389,173	346,963	+ 42,210
Newcastle ...	331,006	403,107	- 72,101
Sunderland ...	291,606	286,701	+ 5,095
Greenock ...	214,484	238,457	- 23,973
Middlesbrough and Stockton ...	138,621	147,857	- 9,236
Belfast ...	128,939	146,231	- 17,292
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	94,469	144,603	- 50,134

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

PARTICULARS are now available of the schemes that have been arranged, in accordance with the agreement of November 6th, 1907, for the following additional railways:—

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Electoral Districts.—The London and South-Western Railway has been divided into three districts for the election of candidates to the Sectional Boards. These districts are:—

1. London (Waterloo) to Clapham Junction inclusive.
2. All portions of the railway south and west of Clapham Junction to Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Southampton inclusive.
3. All portions of the railway west of Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Southampton.

GRADE SECTIONS.

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

Board "A" representing:—Signalmen, pointsmen, gatemen goods guards, brakemen, passenger guards, shunters, horsemen.
Board "B" representing:—Ticket collectors and examiners, head or foremen porters, parcels porters and cloak-room attendants, warehousemen and checkers, carmen, van shifters, stablemen, crane drivers and attendants, porters, carriage examiners, greasers.

Board "C" representing:—Loco. drivers, loco. firemen, loco. cleaners, loco. coalmen.

Board "D" representing:—Foremen platelayers, platelayers, signal and telegraph linesmen.

FURNESS RAILWAY.

Four Sectional Conciliation Boards to be established as under:—

"A."—Goods, including foremen porters, porters, draymen, lorrymen, checkers, number-takers, horse-keepers, timber loaders, weighers and watchmen.

"B."—Locomotive, &c., including engine drivers, firemen cleaners, carriage and wagon examiners and greasers.

"C."—Department of the Superintendent of the Line, including signalmen, pointsmen, goods shunters, passenger guards, goods guards, porter guards, gatekeepers (excluding women), passenger shunters, policemen, parcels vanmen, point oilers, inspectors, foremen porters, porters, yard foremen and ticket collectors.

"D."—Permanent way and signals, including gangers, platelayers, ballast train men, fencers, signal cleaners, and labourers (signal department).

Each Sectional Board to consist of six members, viz., three of the Company's servants employed in dealing with the traffic of the railway, and an equal number of representatives appointed by the Directors.

It is not proposed to divide the line into electoral districts.

The Central Conciliation Board to consist of seven employees, to be selected from the four Sectional Boards (one from the Goods and two from each of the other Boards), and an equal number of representatives appointed by the Directors.

NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.

One Conciliation Board is to be formed, and for the purposes of election the various grades concerned (including the men on the North and South Western Junction Joint line) to be divided into four sections, as follows:—

Section 1.—Locomotive drivers and firemen, &c., including engine drivers, firemen, engine cleaners, loco. hydraulic crane-men, fuelmen, steam crane shunters, carriage brake examiners, carriage examiners, cleaners and washers, gasmen, gas fitters, lifters and oilers, number takers, shunters, wagon examiners and greasers, lifters, stores train attendants, stores labourers, station lamp lighters, and signal lamp lighters.

Section 2.—Signalmen, etc., including signalmen and train register boys.

Section 3.—Permanent Way, Electrical and Signal Departments, including gangers, platelayers, timekeepers, linemen, linemen's assistants, chargemen, chargemen's assistants, fitters' assistants and labourers.

Section 4.—Traffic and Goods Departments (except Signalmen).

&c.). Traffic passenger guards and under-guards, goods brakesmen and under-brakesmen, foremen ticket collectors, ticket collectors and examiners, foremen porters, porters, junior porters, parcel porters, shutters, lift attendants, cloak room attendants, ballast flagmen. Goods capstan men, capstan lads, goods porters, junior goods porters, number takers, weighers, and goods yard attendants.

Each Section may elect two representatives for the men's side of the Conciliation Board.

PAUPERISM IN ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1907.

According to a Return* recently issued, the total number of paupers relieved in England and Wales on July 1st, 1907, was 868,276, an increase of 2,482 (or 0.3 per cent.) as compared with July 1st, 1906, but a decrease of 1,501 (or 0.2 per cent.) as compared with July 1st, 1905. The proportion per 1,000 of the population, however, has fallen as compared with both 1905 and 1906, the proportions being 24.8 in 1907, 25.1 in 1906, and 25.5 in 1905. The proportion in 1907 (24.8 per 1,000) is the same as in 1904, and lower than in any preceding year for which statistics exist, except during the period 1899-1903, when it ranged between 23.6 and 24.4 per 1,000.

The decrease, however, has been confined to the provinces, the proportion in London having risen from 28.5 per 1,000 in 1906, to 28.8 per 1,000 in 1907.

There was a decrease of 4,000 in outdoor paupers, and of 1,600 in casuals, but an increase of 1,300 in insane paupers, and of nearly 6,800 in indoor paupers. It will be seen that there was a transference from outdoor to indoor pauperism, but this transference has been confined to the provinces, London showing an increase under indoor and outdoor pauperism alike.

The number of "ordinarily able-bodied" adult paupers included above was 102,288, of whom 33,489 were men (21,245 indoor and 12,244 outdoor), and 68,799 women (19,600 indoor and 49,199 outdoor).

Although these paupers are classified as "ordinarily able-bodied," a large proportion were sick or temporarily disabled at the time of receiving relief. Of the men, only 11,067 (6,914 indoor and 4,153 outdoor), or 33 per cent. of the "able-bodied" class, were actually in health at the time of receiving relief.

The Return contains a Table, and a Chart, showing the course of pauperism in each year from 1872 to 1907. From this Table it appears that pauperism in England and Wales (including London) declined from 38.0 per 1,000 of the population in 1872 to 29.0 per 1,000 in 1876 and to 25.0 per 1,000 in 1891, since when it has remained nearly constant, but with a slight falling tendency, the absolute minimum being reached in 1900, with 23.6 per 1,000; the rate in 1907, as already stated, was 24.8 per 1,000. In London the rate of pauperism was lower than in the country generally in 1872, and continued to be so till 1895, since when it has been decidedly, and increasingly, higher than the general rate. Starting at 34.7 per 1,000 in 1872, it fell to 25.7 in 1876, and to 23.4 in 1891, the minimum year. After 1891 it rose to 26.0 per 1,000 in 1895 (the same as the general rate for England and Wales), and to 29.5 in 1905; the rate in 1907 was, as already stated, 28.8 per 1,000, or 4 per thousand above the general rate for England and Wales. The present London rate is thus higher than in 1891 (the minimum year) by 5.4 per 1,000, an increase of 23 per cent. in sixteen years; it is, with the exception of 1905, the highest rate recorded since 1874.

Pauperism in December, 1907.

According to a later Return†, the total number of paupers (excluding lunatics) on the 28th December, 1907, was 829,127, of whom 268,804 were indoor, 531,297 outdoor, and 9,737 casual paupers; the remainder were patients in hospitals or persons in receipt of medical relief only.

* Pauperism, England and Wales, on July 1st, 1907. H.C. 108 (i): price 4d.
† Pauperism (England and Wales): Monthly Statements. H.C. 23 (xi): price 1d.

Pauperism during the last quarter of 1907 was lower, for England and Wales as a whole, than in the corresponding period of 1906, except in the last two weeks. The decline was entirely in out-door pauperism. In London, however, the figures show an increase as compared with 1906; the increase is found in the north, east, and south districts of the metropolis alike; and affects both indoor and outdoor pauperism.

Poor Law Expenditure.*

The total net expenditure on poor relief during the twelve months ended Lady Day, 1907, was £14,088,000, of which £3,856,000 was expended in London and £10,232,000 in provincial unions. The principal items of expenditure included in the total of £14,088,000 were the following:—

Items of Expenditure.	London.	Provincial Unions.	Total.
In-maintenance	1,160,000	2,237,000	3,397,000
Out-relief	283,000	2,920,000	3,203,000
Maintenance of lunatics	544,000	1,815,000	2,359,000
Salaries, &c., of officers and servants	856,000	1,648,000	2,504,000
Loan charges: principal and interest	523,000	701,000	1,224,000
Other expenses	534,000	1,026,000	1,560,000
Gross Total	3,900,000	10,347,000	14,247,000
Deduct transfers from reproductive accounts, and repayments	44,000	115,000	159,000
Net Total	3,856,000	10,232,000	14,088,000

These figures show large increases, far exceeding the proportionate growth of population, as compared with 10 and 20 years ago. The following Table shows the expenditure under the various items in 1886-7, 1896-7, and 1906-7:—

Items of Expenditure.	1886-7.	1896-7.	1906-7.
In-maintenance	1,778,000	2,237,000	3,397,000
Out-relief	2,528,000	2,680,000	3,203,000
Maintenance of lunatics	1,160,000	1,642,000	2,359,000
Salaries, &c.	1,313,000	1,782,000	2,504,000
Loan charges	567,000	793,000	1,224,000
Other expenditure	830,000	1,278,000	1,560,000
Total	8,176,000	10,432,000	14,247,000
Increase per cent. in each ten years	—	27.6	36.6

There was thus a total increase of expenditure of £6,071,000, or 74 per cent., during the twenty years, the increase in population during the same period being only 25.3 per cent. Loan charges have increased 116 per cent.; maintenance of lunatics, 103 per cent.; and salaries and indoor maintenance, 91 per cent. each.

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.

No person should emigrate to Canada during the winter season, except under very special circumstances. The supply of labour is quite sufficient, and at Toronto (Ontario) many men have been unable to obtain employment and are largely dependent on charitable societies. By a recent regulation all emigrants landing in Canada between February 15th and April 1st, 1908, must possess 25 dollars. They must, in addition, in every case, have money for their inland railway fares, unless they can satisfy the Emigration Officers at the time of landing that they are going to already assured employment immediately on arrival, or will be cared for by friends. During the existing trade depression the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has closed its British office for engaging emigrants. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway has ceased to contract for more labourers during the winter months.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia are all giving cheap passages to Australia

* Poor Relief (England and Wales): Half-yearly Statements. H.C. 315—(i) of Session 1906, and H.C. 309 of Session 1907: price 3d. each.
† Handbooks (with maps) on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

at the present time, mainly to farm labourers and female servants, and competent members of these classes will have no difficulty in getting work without delay, either there or in the other States. There is not so much demand for mechanics; but in several places, as Tamworth, Orange, Adelaide, &c., there is a fair opening for carpenters, bricklayers, masons, or blacksmiths. As a rule, mechanics will do much better in country towns than in the capitals. Owing to the unsettled state of the coal mining industry in New South Wales, coal miners are not recommended to go there at the present time, unless they have sufficient means of their own to live on at first. In Western Australia some labourers have complained of inability to obtain work, and the Government is therefore employing them at clearing land.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages are given to approved farmers, farm labourers, and female servants, for whom there is a good demand. At Auckland the building, engineering, boot, clothing, carriage-building and furniture trades have all been busy, but the supply of labour is generally sufficient, except that of female machinists in the boot and clothing trades. At Napier there is a demand for carpenters and female machinists; at Wanganui for cabinet makers, coachworkers, dairymen, and female machinists; at Palmerston North for tailors, carpenters, and dressmakers; at Wellington for tailors and dressmakers, plasterers, and woollen mill hands; at Christchurch for female machinists in the boot and clothing trades, and for carpenters, plasterers, painters, and moulders.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one should go to Cape Colony now in search of work. The supply on the spot is quite sufficient, and in most of the large towns exceeds the demand.

Natal.—The supply of white labour is more than sufficient.

Transvaal.—No one should go to the Transvaal now in search of work. Large numbers of men are out of employment, or are working at low wages. No one is allowed to enter the country unless he is sufficiently educated, and has £20 on arrival, or a written promise of immediate employment from an employer.

Orange River Colony.—Many skilled workmen and others are out of employment at Bloemfontein and elsewhere. No one should go to the Colony now in search of work.

Rhodesia.—Miners and others are warned against going to Rhodesia at the present time, unless they have work guaranteed them.

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. 33 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in December.—In consequence of the mildness of the weather, the decline in employment in the building trades was not so marked as is usual in December. The discharges in the automobile branch of the metal trades continued, and there was much unemployment in Paris among automobile carriage builders. In the textile trades employment was normal in the Vosges, the Ardennes, and Normandy, but only moderate in the Nord (except in the Roubaix district), in the Roanne district, and in the smaller centres of Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres. In the silk trade there was a general decline in employment, the power-loom workshops of the Lyons district also being affected. In garment making employment

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

continued satisfactory. Printers and bookbinders were fully employed. There was considerable unemployment in the leather trades. Employment amongst vineyard workers in the South of France improved, owing to vine-dressing, but in many districts rains and floods hindered work. The woodcutting season having commenced in most of the forestry centres, employment for this class of labour improved.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in December were received by the French Labour Department from 1,023 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 233,209. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 8.4 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 9.4 per cent. in the preceding month, and 7.8 per cent. in December, 1906.

Coal Mining in December.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during December was 5.60, as compared with 6.01 in the preceding month and 5.82 in December, 1906. Taking surface and underground workers together, 11.76 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 88.21 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 97.41 and 2.56, and in December, 1906, 20.14 and 79.86.

Labour Disputes in December.—Seventy-eight disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in December, compared with 80 in the previous month and 46 in December, 1906. In 75 of the new disputes 4,997 workpeople took part, as compared with 7,529 who took part in 77 of the November disputes, and 3,869 who took part in 39 of the disputes in December, 1906. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (26), textile (16) and metal groups (7). Of 82 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 11 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 38 in favour of the employers, while 33 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in December.—Two instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred in December, a settlement being effected in each case.

GERMANY.*

Employment in December.—The decline in activity in certain of the larger industries continued in December, iron works and weaving mills being more especially affected. Apart from this there was a sharp decline in employment, such as invariably takes place in December owing to seasonal causes, mitigated only in so far as business incident to Christmas time offered increased opportunities of employment in certain trades. This year the situation was eased to some extent by the mildness of the weather in December, which permitted building operations to be continued almost up to the end of the year.

Among the great industries mining afforded full employment up to the end of December. In iron foundries, steel works, rolling mills and wire-drawing works a decline in employment set in and occasioned discharges of men and the working of short time. Most branches of the engineering trade, however, were fully employed, especially works engaged in making railway rolling stock, &c. Employment was also good in the electrical and chemical trades. For certain branches of the textile trades, notably weaving, employment was unfavourable; the major part of the German textile trades, however, were fully employed in December and had orders to last some time. There was also much unemployment in other trades, such as hair-dressing, glovemaking, hatmaking, upholstery, wood-working, photography.

Unemployment in Fourth Quarter of 1907.—Returns relating to unemployment during the fourth quarter of 1907 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership at the

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

end of the quarter of 1,440,627. From certain branches of the Unions reporting, however, no returns as to the numbers out of work were available; omitting these, the membership covered was 1,434,612, of whom 35,018 (or 2.6 per cent.) were unemployed on December 28th, as compared with 22,742 (or 1.7 per cent.) on November 23rd, and 21,014 (or 1.5 per cent.) on October 26th. The percentage at the end of December, 1906, was 1.6. It should be added that these figures are not comparable with the unemployed percentage for the United Kingdom given on page 33.

The following table shows, for each of the six principal unions for which figures are available, the membership to which the returns as to unemployment relate and the percentage of such members returned as out of work:—

Name of Union.	Membership on Dec. 28th, 1907.	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed on			
		Dec. 28, 1907.	Nov. 23, 1907.	Oct. 26, 1907.	Dec. 29, 1906.
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	366,689	2.4	1.5	1.3	1.1
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ...	40,700	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.5
Woodworkers ...	148,869	5.7	3.2	2.7	3.1
Miners ...	111,470	...	...	...	...
Printers ...	51,261	4.1	3.3	5.2	3.8
Transport Workers ...	88,502	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.9

BELGIUM.†

Employment in December.—According to Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 5.7 per cent. of the 39,579 members of 171 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 3.0 per cent. in the previous month, and 2.2 per cent. in December, 1906. The difference of 3.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago is stated to be due solely to the large amount of unemployment in the Antwerp diamond industry, in which 1,526 persons belonging to Trade Unions were unemployed on December 28th last. (See also note under "Labour Abroad," p. 41).

Labour Disputes in December.—Eleven strikes, affecting 2,534 workpeople (2,300 directly and 234 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in December. In addition to these, three strikes which commenced in previous months, and which affected 264 persons, were also in progress during the month. The bulk of the persons affected by these 14 disputes were employed in mines and quarries and in the textile trades. The termination of 12 of the disputes was reported. Of these 2 (involving 220 strikers) ended in favour of the workpeople and 6 (involving 659 strikers) in favour of the employers, while 4 (involving 315 strikers) were compromised.

NORWAY.‡

Employment in December.—Of 17,301 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1,269, or 7.3 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of December. The figures for December, 1907, November, 1907, and December, 1906, for certain Unions which made returns for each of these months, are given for comparison.

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.
Metal Workers and Moulders	5,908	6,013	5,147	1.5	0.8	1.7
Carpenters, &c.	770	803	606	14.7	3.7	11.7
Cabinet Makers	260	250	230	3.1	0.8	5.2
Painters and Masons	842	877	587	50.5	25.8	44.6
Printers	1,256	1,268	1,260	2.8	0.8	4.0
Wood Pulp and Paper	1,010	1,033	988	2.6	...	...
Bakers	185	170	185	11.4	11.8	10.3
Tinned Goods (Food Preparation)	276	278	213	7.6	1.4	20.7
Boot and Shoe Makers	372	397	264	...	...	0.8
Bookbinders	280	273	197	0.4	...	3.6
Total	11,159	11,368	9,877	6.6	3.0	5.8

* Less than 0.1 per cent.

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

‡ Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

HOLLAND.*

Employment in December.—The slackness in the building trades increased in nearly every district, partly owing to the frost; in trades dependent upon building employment generally was also slack. In the larger metal and engineering establishments employment continued satisfactory on the whole, except in certain towns, where there was a decline; in shipbuilding (especially of iron vessels) it was fair. The slackness in the textile and garment making trades continued, while in the boot and shoe trade employment was still unsatisfactory, though the slackness was less general than a month ago. Employment in the wood-working trades was better than in November, but was still slack with furniture makers. The printing trades continued busy, much overtime being worked. The termination of the bulb-growing season brought about continued discharges of workpeople. In food preparation, the busy season of the cocoa and chocolate trades ended; in the margarine trade, in brewing, and in the tobacco trade there was a decline in employment; in distilling it varied with locality.

Labour Disputes in December.—Thirteen strikes, 10 of which directly affected 276 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in December. Four of the strikes were in the textile trades and two among dock labourers. Two lock-outs also commenced in December. Eleven of the above disputes came to an end during the month, and in addition, seven which began in previous months. The results were known in 14 cases; of these, four terminated in favour of the workpeople, and five in favour of the employers, while five were compromised.

UNITED STATES.

Unemployment in New York City.—The Secretary in Charge of Commercial Matters at H.M. Embassy at Washington, reporting under date of January 9th, states that there were 125,000 unemployed persons in need of relief in New York.

Unemployment in Philadelphia.—A despatch from H.M. Consul, dated January 27th, reports that the firm of locomotive builders referred to in the last issue of the GAZETTE (p. 9) have reduced the strength of their working staff from 19,500 to 11,000. In a later report, dated January 31st, employment is stated to have improved in Western Pennsylvania, several works having resumed after a period of idleness; in and near Philadelphia, however, it remained dull.

Profit-Sharing Scheme in Bridgeport (Conn.).—A manufacturing company which conducts its business on a profit-sharing plan, has for six years used a form of contract of which the principal features are the following:—Employer and employee share, both profits and losses. In the case of gain, the capital invested, first draws 6 per cent. interest. The balance (if any) is then divided in such a way that the amount received by an employee bears to the amount received by the company the proportion borne by his total wages for the year to the capital invested. One-tenth of the wages of every employee who is a party to the contract is withheld each week. When there is not a net loss on the entire business of the year, this reserve money, together with any accrued profit, is paid to the employee. A net loss is divided between the company and the employee in the same way as in the case of a profit, but in no case does the employee become responsible for losses greater than the amount withheld from his wages. In case of sickness an employee may draw on his reserve wages at a rate not greater than 25s. a week, without affecting his interests in the profits at the end of the year.

It has been the company's practice not to invite further signatures to the contract when three-fourths of their skilled men are already working under it; it is stated that there is always a long waiting list. Unskilled labourers (about two-thirds of the whole) do not come under the scheme.

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

† Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Chicago.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN JANUARY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 543 Returns—478 from Employers, 51 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during January. It was about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,406 pits employing 647,687 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended January 25th, 1908, was 5.44, as compared with 5.63 in December, and 5.48 in January, 1907. The decline in employment, as compared with a month ago, is due to New Year holidays, an average of 0.24 of a day per week having been lost from this cause. In January, 1907, an average of 0.21 of a day per week was lost.

Of the 647,687 workpeople covered by the Returns, 537,831 (or 83.0 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended January, 25th, 1908, and of these 371,962 (or 57.4 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in January was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.94), and the lowest in Fife (4.40).

Compared with a month ago the greatest decline occurred in Scotland, where, however, an average of 3.4 days were lost by holidays during the month. In the West Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwick, Worcester and Salop, and Gloucester and Somerset districts the figures show an improvement compared with December.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Jan., 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 Jan., 1908, as compared with	
		Jan. 25th, 1908.†	Dec. 21st, 1907.	Jan. 26th, 1907.*	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	45,368	5.08	5.48	5.24	- .40	- .16
Durham ...	116,974	5.30	5.59	5.30	- .29	...
Cumberland ...	7,776	5.28	5.50	5.32	- .22	- .04
South Yorkshire ...	66,518	5.68	5.90	5.72	- .22	- .04
West Yorkshire ...	24,218	5.43	5.25	5.60	+ .18	- .17
Lancashire and Cheshire	56,717	5.27	5.58	5.31	- .31	- .04
Derbyshire ...	41,233	5.71	5.57	5.44	+ .14	+ .27
Nottingham and Leicester	32,466	4.93	5.16	5.25	- .23	- .32
Staffordshire ...	28,587	5.74	5.65	5.70	+ .09	+ .04
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	11,199	5.72	5.55	5.63	+ .17	+ .09
Gloucester and Somerset	8,236	5.73	5.58	5.94	+ .15	- .21
North Wales ...	11,498	5.69	5.81	5.39	- .12	+ .30
South Wales and Mon. ...	143,690	5.94	5.93	5.94	+ .01	...
ENGLAND AND WALES	894,810	5.53	5.66	5.55	- .13	- .02
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland ...	27,281	4.44	5.17	4.74	- .73	- .30
The Lothians ...	4,698	4.52	5.46	5.21	- .94	- .69
Fife ...	20,529	4.40	5.49	4.76	- 1.09	- .37
SCOTLAND	52,508	4.43	5.32	4.80	- .89	- .36
IRELAND ...	672	5.30	5.45	5.07	- .15	+ .23
United Kingdom ...	647,687	5.44	5.63	5.48	- .19	- .04

In the Northern Counties employment was good generally. In West Yorkshire there was an increase in the average number of days worked compared with December. In Northumberland and Durham, as well as in South Yorkshire and Lancashire, an average of a quarter of a day per week was lost by holidays during January.

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (short days being counted as fractions of a day) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the Returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

† This period includes New Year Holidays.

In the Midlands employment was on the whole good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The Nottingham and Leicester district, however, was affected by disputes occasioning a loss of 0.42 of a day per week on the average.

In Gloucester and Somerset there was an improvement compared with a month ago, and a decline compared with a year ago.

In Wales employment remained very good.

In Scotland employment was good, but showed a decline compared with a year ago. An average of nearly a day per week was lost in January on account of holidays, as compared with about two-thirds of a day in January, 1907.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 211,795 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed."

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Jan., 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 Jan., 1908, as compared with	
		Jan. 25th, 1908.*	Dec. 21st, 1907.	Jan. 26th, 1907.*	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	7,045	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Coking ...	33,332	5.63	5.73	5.67	- .10	- .04
Gas ...	40,341	5.48	5.73	5.50	- .25	- .02
House ...	82,338	5.28	5.54	5.27	- .26	+ .01
Manufacturing and Steam	272,836	5.39	5.35	5.40	+ .04	- .01
Mixed ...	211,795	5.36	5.71	5.59	- .15	- .03
All Descriptions ...	647,687	5.44	5.63	5.48	- .19	- .04

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in January, 1908, amounted to 4,918,630 tons, or 500,311 tons less than in December, 1907, but 83,988 tons more than in January, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 91 Returns—73 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair in iron mines. Taking holidays into account, it showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In shale mines it continued good.

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

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended January 25th the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.30, as compared with 5.82 a month ago and 5.75 a year ago. Time lost through New Year holidays in the four weeks ending January 25th, 1908, amounted to 0.21 of a day per week; while 0.15 of a day per week was lost by disputes in Lancashire and Cumberland during the same period. In the four weeks ending January 26th, 1907, New Year holidays accounted for 0.21 of a day per week.

Districts.	No. employed in Jan., 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 Jan., 1908, as compared with	
		Jan. 25th, 1908.*	Dec. 21st, 1907.	Jan. 26th, 1907.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,510	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,957	5.28	5.90	5.74	- 0.62	- 0.46
Scotland ...	834	5.19	5.78	5.83	- 0.59	- 0.64
Other Districts ...	2,445	4.77	5.70	5.19	- 0.93	- 0.42
All Districts ...	15,746	5.06	5.82	5.75	- 0.82	- 0.45

* This period includes New Year holidays.

Of the 15,746 workpeople covered by the Returns 69·8 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks, as compared with 95·6 per cent. a month ago, and 92·7 per cent. a year ago. These comparisons, however, are affected by holidays.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,200 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended January 25th, 1908, as compared with 3,240 in the previous month, and 3,141 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended January 25th was 5·36, as compared with 5·80 a month ago and 5·25 a year ago. These comparisons, however, are affected by holidays, which amounted to 0·63 of a day per week in the four weeks ended January 25th, 1908, and to 0·62 in the corresponding period of a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued good in Cornwall, and more men were wanted at several mines.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good with lead miners in North Wales and in Derbyshire. In Weardale employment was reported as bad, and much worse than a month ago.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued very slack in North Wales; short time continued to be worked in the Festiniog district.

Granite.—Employment continued dull in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire it was good in the macadam trade. At Dartmoor it was a little better than a month ago; at Penryn it continued fair.

Limestone.—In Cleveland employment continued moderate; in the Buxton district it was slack. In North Wales full time was worked. In the Plymouth district it continued dull. In Cumberland it was bad, with much short time; in the Somerset blue lias quarries it continued bad.

Other Stone.—In Forfarshire employment continued bad, and was worse than a month ago. It was moderate with grindstone makers in the Rowsley district. It continued good in the Clee Hill road-material quarries. In the Bath stone quarries employment was slack, but somewhat better than a month ago. In the Gateshead district it continued moderate, the weather causing some interruption to work. In the Bakewell chert quarries employment was good, and overtime was worked.

Sett-making.—Employment continued dull in Aberdeenshire; at Airdrie it was better than a month ago; at Glasgow it continued slack. In North Wales it was slack. In Leicestershire it continued dull, much short time being worked. In the Clee Hill district it continued quiet.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

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

EMPLOYMENT during January was fairly good. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 383 tinplate and 47 sheet mills were working at the end of January, 1908, as compared with 388 and 48 respectively in December, 1907, and 388 and 57 respectively in January, 1907. The supply of, and demand for, labour continued fairly equal.

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

	January, 1908.		December, 1907.		January, 1907.	
	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	74	383	75	388	75	388
Sheet Mills ...	8	47	8	48	9	57
Total ...	82	430	83	436	84	445

Exports.

	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States ...	4,705	3,442	5,900	+ 1,261	- 1,197
" British East Indies ...	4,979	4,003	5,054	+ 276	- 775
" Germany ...	1,756	2,877	3,663	- 1,121	- 1,907
" France ...	2,165	2,532	1,672	- 367	+ 493
" Netherlands ...	1,619	2,398	3,276	- 779	- 1,657
" Other Countries ...	18,502	16,943	17,307	+ 1,559	+ 1,195
Total ...	33,024	32,195	36,872	+ 829	- 3,848

Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.

	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
To United States ...	4,705	3,442	5,900	+ 1,261	- 1,197	
" British East Indies ...	4,979	4,003	5,054	+ 276	- 775	
" Germany ...	1,756	2,877	3,663	- 1,121	- 1,907	
" France ...	2,165	2,532	1,672	- 367	+ 493	
" Netherlands ...	1,619	2,398	3,276	- 779	- 1,657	
" Other Countries ...	18,502	16,943	17,307	+ 1,559	+ 1,195	
Total ...	33,024	32,195	36,872	+ 829	- 3,848	

Black Plates for Tinning.

	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Total ...	4,301	5,848	7,143	- 1,547	- 2,842

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 115 Returns—108 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing nearly 23,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of January, 1908, was 305, as compared with 309 in December, 1907, and 343 in January, 1907. During January 5 furnaces were re-lit (2 in Cleveland, and 1 each in Cumberland, Lancashire and "Other Districts") and 9 were either damped down or blown out (3 in Derbyshire, 3 in South Wales and Monmouth, 1 in Cumberland, 1 in Lanarkshire, and 1 in "Other Districts").

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with	
	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	80	78	90	+ 2	- 10
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	29	28	38	+ 1	- 9
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	14	14	17	...	- 3
Derby & Nottingham ...	39	42	41	- 3	- 2
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton ...	26	26	25	...	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester ...	34	34	35	...	- 1
S. Wales & Monmouth ...	14	17	16	- 3	- 2
Other districts ...	7	7	6	...	+ 1
England & Wales	243	246	268	- 3	- 25
Scotland					
...	62	63†	75	- 1	- 13
Total	305	309†	343	- 4	- 38

The Imports of iron ore in January, 1908, amounted to 472,659 tons, or 47,706 tons less than in December, 1907, and 337,179 tons less than in January, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in January, 1908, amounted to 90,151 tons, or 3,409 tons less than in December, 1907, and 85,669 tons less than in January, 1907.

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

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 213 Returns—189 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 13 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was not so good as a month ago or a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended January 25th, 1908, at the 200 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 2·5 per cent. less than in the week ended December 21st, 1907, and 6·6 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended January 25th, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 504,300, as compared with 517,100 a month ago, and 539,900 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	In week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.	In week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.
IRON:						
Puddling Forges ...	10,229	- 219	- 320	4·87	- 0·09	- 0·24
Rolling Mills ...	4,043	- 439	- 512	5·03	+ 0·05	- 0·05
Forging ...	458	- 42	- 52	5·46	- 0·16	+ 0·29
Founding ...	1,780	- 82	- 151	5·80	- 0·14	- 0·14
Other Departments ...	725	+ 26	+ 65	5·82	- 0·05	- 0·12
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,755	+ 34	+ 87	5·53	- 0·06	- 0·05
Total, Iron ...	18,970	- 722	- 892	5·10	- 0·06	- 0·15
STEEL:						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,312	+ 76	- 377	5·86	- 0·02	- 0·04
Crucible Furnaces ...	587	- 9	- 5	5·30	- 0·50	- 0·16
Bessemer Converters ...	1,726	- 231	- 353	5·38	+ 0·29	- 0·21
Rolling Mills ...	14,702	- 578	- 1,410	5·37	+ 0·03	- 0·23
Forging and Pressing ...	2,804	- 58	+ 36	5·61	- 0·10	- 0·06
Founding ...	7,615	+ 227	+ 134	5·91	+ 0·02	+ 0·03
Other Departments ...	6,586	- 36	- 7	5·85	- 0·01	- 0·03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	8,061	- 175	- 388	5·95	+ 0·01	...
Total, Iron or Steel ...	80,413	- 784	- 2,370	5·70	+ 0·01	- 0·08
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):						
Rolling Mills ...	10,918	- 572	- 643	5·15	- 0·03	- 0·19
Forging and Pressing ...	842	- 21	+ 124	5·45	- 0·16	+ 0·04
Founding ...	759	- 4	- 8	5·94	- 0·01	...
Other Departments ...	2,973	+ 306	+ 335	5·82	+ 0·20	+ 0·02
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,408	+ 12	+ 649	5·80	+ 0·09	+ 0·04
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,960	- 891	- 1,851	5·47	+ 0·03	- 0·08
Grand Total ...	91,343	- 2,397	- 4,793	5·52	...	- 0·10

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	In week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.	In week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.
Northumberland & Durham	10,966	- 275	- 1,030	5·47	+ 0·08	- 0·16
Cleveland ...	7,800	- 30	- 25	5·83	+ 0·18	- 0·04
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	16,545	- 75	+ 456	5·66	- 0·05	- 0·04
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,631	+ 2	+ 199	5·51	- 0·15	- 0·05
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	9,557	- 1,359	- 2,425	5·35	- 0·14	- 0·21
Staffordshire ...	10,507	+ 22	+ 256	5·35	- 0·08	- 0·09
Other Midland Counties ...	5,208	- 140	- 28	5·40	- 0·14	- 0·09
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,214	- 340	+ 113	5·59	+ 0·02	- 0·09
Total, England and Wales	75,428	- 2,195	- 2,554	5·53	- 0·03	- 0·10
Scotland	15,915	- 202	- 2,239	5·47	+ 0·16	- 0·15
Total	91,343	- 2,397	- 4,793	5·52	...	- 0·10

The decline in employment was greatest in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire district, the number of workpeople employed being 12·4 per cent. less than a month ago and 20·2 per cent. less than a year ago, the decrease compared with a month ago and the greater part of the decrease on a year ago being due to a dispute. The number employed was also considerably less than both a month ago and a year ago in Northumberland and Durham and in Scotland. In the Wales and Monmouth and in the Sheffield and Rotherham districts there was a decline as compared with a month ago, but some improvement as compared with a year ago. In the other Yorkshire towns (except Cleveland) and in Staffordshire, employment was about the same as a month ago, and there was an improvement compared with a year ago.

The reduction in the numbers employed was greatest at puddling forges, at Bessemer converting departments, and at rolling mills, while the only appreciable increase

in the number of workpeople took place at steel foundries.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week remained about the same as a month ago, and was slightly less than a year ago.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during January, 1908, amounted to 66,844 tons, or 33,826 tons less than in December, 1907, and 12,748 tons less than in January, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during January, 1908, amounted to 195,832 tons, or 1,008 tons more than in December, 1907, but 37,588 tons less than in January, 1907.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 988 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 934 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 46 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed some improvement during January as compared with the previous month, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 164,088, show that at the end of January the percentage unemployed was 5·8, as compared with 6·3 a month ago and 3·2 a year ago. As compared with a month ago there was a decline in Scotland, but an improvement in nearly every other district. The improvement was most marked in the Belfast and Dublin, the North-East Coast, and the West Riding districts. As compared with a year ago there was a general decline, notably in Scotland and on the North-East Coast.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
		Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,467	10·4	14·7	5·2	- 4·3	+ 5·2
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,637	4·5	5·0	2·8	- 0·5	+ 1·7
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,433	4·2	3·8	2·4	+ 0·4	+ 1·8
West Riding Towns ...	13,353	6·8	10·1	3·2	- 3·3	+ 3·6
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,751	4·7	4·5	1·7	+ 0·2	+ 3·0
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,721	4·7	5·5	1·7	- 0·8	+ 3·0
Notts., Derby and Leicester District	4,050	6·2	6·2	3·3	...	+ 2·9
London and Neighbouring District	12,042	5·5	6·0	4·1	- 0·5	+ 1·4
South Coast ...	4,208	1·9	2·0	1·7	- 0·1	+ 0·2
South Wales and Bristol District	6,837	2·4	3·2	1·6	- 0·8	+ 0·8
Glasgow and District ...	15,739	11·1	8·2	5·4	+ 2·9	+ 5·7
East of Scotland ...	3,974	10·8	9·0	4·1	+ 1·8	+ 6·7
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,533	8·0	13·6	4·2	- 5·6	+ 3·8
Other Districts ...	5,952	3·8	4·0	2·4	- 0·2	+ 1·4
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	164,088	5·8	6·3†	3·2	- 0·5	+ 2·6

On the North-East Coast employment was better than a month ago but worse than a year ago. Employment with engineers on the Tyne showed improvement, and some overtime was reported. In the railway works it continued fair; at Wallsend and Howdon employment continued fairly good, with some overtime. At Jarrow turbine builders continued busy and night shifts were worked. Employment in marine engineering was quiet on the whole. In the lower reaches of the river it was fairly good on repair work. On the Wear employment continued bad, with a large number of men unemployed. Employment continued good with engineers at Darlington; at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool it was moderate. With ironfounders at Darlington, Newcastle, Gateshead and Wallsend, employment was good; at Middlesbrough it was moderate; at other centres it was bad. With patternmakers employment continued dull except at Newcastle, Gateshead, and Hartlepool, where an improvement was reported. It was bad with brass-turners, fitters and finishers.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.
† Revised figures.

In Lancashire employment with textile machinery engineers continued good, and overtime was still being worked. In general engineering shops employment on the whole was fair, but declining. With ironfounders employment continued good at Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and Warrington; but a decline was reported at Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley and Wigan. With brassfounders at Liverpool it was bad, at Oldham good. Employment with boilermakers was dull generally, except at Crewe, where some overtime was reported. At Barrow employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

In the West Riding employment was moderate on the whole; with boilermakers it was slack generally. At Leeds there was a slight decline with engineers, temporary suspensions or short time having been resorted to by some firms; with pattern makers employment was bad, but ironfounders reported an improvement. With engineers at Halifax it was fairly good; short time is being resorted to at Keighley. At Keighley, Huddersfield, Halifax, and Bradford ironfounders reported a decline. With pattern makers and brassfounders and finishers at Hull employment was bad.

In the Birmingham and Wolverhampton districts employment continued quiet, especially in the cycle and motor trade, as also with ironfounders and toolmakers. At Derby employment continued quiet in general engineering shops, with some short time; in railway shops it was good, with much overtime. It continued good with lace and hosiery-machinery makers at Nottingham, overtime being worked; in general engineering shops it was moderate. It continued bad with ironfounders, and was worse than a month ago. At Leicester employment continued good with shoe machinery makers; in other branches it was quiet. Ironfounders showed an improvement, but there was a decline with tool-makers and boilermakers.

In London employment continued dull, and was not so good as a year ago. At the Royal Dockyards employment continued fairly good. At Southampton it was good on marine engine work, and overtime was worked; it was moderate on boilerwork. At Bristol employment was slack with engineers and ironfounders, and moderate with brassfounders and finishers. At Swindon it was good in all branches. In South Wales employment continued fair, although ironfounders reported a decline at Cardiff.

In Scotland employment generally showed a decline. In the Glasgow district it was fair with brass finishers, except at Greenock; pattern makers were slightly better employed than a month ago. It was slack with ironmoulders and with iron, steel, and brass dressers. At Edinburgh employment generally was bad, except with pattern makers, who reported it as fair. At Falkirk it still continued dull, with short time. At Dundee it was fairly good with ironmoulders and good with brassfounders; pattern makers in machine shops were busy, and brassfounders were improving. At Aberdeen employment generally declined.

At Belfast and Dublin it continued dull. An improvement was reported in the repairing shops at Passage West.

The Imports of machinery in January, 1908, amounted to £351,404, as compared with £402,911 in December, 1907, and £358,036 in January, 1907; and the Exports for the same months to £2,684,187, £2,751,959, and £2,473,236 respectively.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 344 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 322 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT remained slack. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, but was much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,424 members had 8,830 (or 15·1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 14·2 per cent. at the end of December, and 8·8 per cent. at the end of January, 1907.

Compared with a month ago the principal changes were a decline on the Clyde and the Tees and an improvement on the Wear and the Mersey.

Compared with a year ago there was a considerable decline on the North East Coast and on the Humber, the Clyde and the Mersey, the remaining districts showing a slight improvement.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Jan. 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
		Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	10,020	13·7	13·1	7·4	+ 0·6	+ 6·3
Wear	5,641	34·2	39·0	5·8	- 4·8	+ 23·4
Tees and Hartlepool	5,109	27·6	19·7	21·5	+ 7·9	+ 6·1
Humber	2,672	10·7	9·3	4·3	+ 0·8	+ 6·4
Thames and Medway	4,168	8·5	9·3	9·2	- 0·8	- 0·7
South Coast	4,136	1·9	2·1	2·9	- 0·2	- 1·0
Bristol Channel Ports	2,654	12·8	14·2	15·4	- 1·4	- 2·6
Mersey	3,898	7·3	15·1	2·1	- 7·8	+ 3·2
Clyde	14,466	18·2	14·7	9·5	+ 3·5	+ 2·7
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen	2,486	8·8	7·2	10·3	+ 1·6	- 1·5
Belfast	2,613	4·9	2·8	6·6	+ 2·1	- 1·7
Other Districts	2,561	6·6	6·9	10·3	- 0·3	- 3·7
United Kingdom	88,424	15·1	14·2	8·8	+ 0·9	+ 6·3

Employment on the North East Coast was affected by the dispute on the Tyne and Tees. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable decline in employment, especially with iron and steel shipbuilders on the Wear. On the Tyne employment with iron and steel shipbuilders was slack on the whole, though fairly good in some parts of the Newcastle district. With shipwrights it was fair. On the Wear employment was slack generally, but shipwrights reported an improvement. On the Tees employment was slack generally. On the Humber it was dull.

On the Thames employment was dull. At Southampton it was fair on the whole. At the Royal Dockyards it continued good. At the Bristol Channel ports it was dull. On the Mersey it was slack with shipwrights, but moderate with iron and steel shipbuilders.

On the Clyde employment with iron and steel shipbuilders was slack, and several yards were working short time. With shipwrights employment was slack on new work, but good on repair work. At Dundee and Leith employment was fair; at Aberdeen it was dull.

At Belfast employment continued fairly good, but a number of riveters were idle, and a considerable amount of short time was reported by iron and steel shipbuilders. At Barrow employment was moderate. With shipwrights at Lowestoft and Yarmouth it was fairly good. At Dublin it was dull.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 85 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 59 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January was on the whole not so good as a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 16,246 had 3·5 per cent. out of work at the end of January, as compared with 3·1 per cent. at the end of December, and 3·0 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment at Birmingham was fair with brassworkers. With bedstead makers it was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Wolverhampton it continued quiet; at Manchester it was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Leeds it was bad; at Nottingham it was fair, and better than a month ago; it was good at Bolton, Bury and Doncaster. In London it was bad.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment continued good with nail, nut, bolt and rivet makers at Blackheath and Halesowen. It was fair with nut and bolt makers at Birmingham; at Darlaston it continued good. With shoe-rivet, wire nail, and cut nail makers at Birmingham it continued fair; at Winlaton it was quiet.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 494 Returns—382 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 102 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; in the Weaving branch it was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended January 25th was 123,965, being 0·4 per cent. less than a month ago but 0·3 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 4·1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1·1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the preparing and spinning departments employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; the increase in both departments compared with a year ago in the amount of wages paid was mainly due to the recent advance in the rates of wages. In the weaving branch there was a further decline, and employment on the whole was slack, short time being reported in most of the principal weaving districts.

Compared with a month ago, eleven of the districts covered by the returns showed a decline in the amount of wages paid, the greatest decreases taking place in the Burnley, Blackburn and Preston districts; these three districts also showed a decline in the amount of wages paid as compared with a year ago; in the remaining districts there were increases, except in the Ashton district, where there was no change.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.			
	No. paid Wages on pay day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Preparing	14,521	+ 0·2	13,599	+ 0·2	+ 4·9	
Spinning	25,938	+ 0·3	26,019	- 0·4	+ 4·8	
Weaving	55,914	- 0·9	47,266	- 6·7	- 5·9	
Other	10,702	- 0·7	11,777	- 4·5	+ 0·3	
Departments not specified	16,890	- 0·1	17,314	- 5·3	- 1·3	
Total	123,965	- 0·4	115,975	- 4·1	- 1·1	
Districts.						
Ashton District	8,401	- 0·9	7,931	- 4·7	- 0·0	
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	8,092	+ 0·3	7,747	- 2·6	+ 3·1	
Oldham District	13,374	- 0·4	14,464	- 0·6	+ 0·8	
Bolton and Leigh	14,820	- 0·6	13,898	- 1·4	+ 4·5	
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	9,942	+ 0·3	9,438	- 2·2	+ 1·2	
Manchester District	8,134	- 0·5	6,384	- 3·6	+ 1·8	
Preston and Chorley	13,389	- 0·3	11,416	- 6·2	- 3·9	
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	15,206	- 1·3	14,168	- 7·4	- 0·4	
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	15,813	- 0·3	16,581	- 8·4	- 7·9	
Other Lancashire Towns	5,903	+ 0·4	4,991	+ 0·4	+ 2·9	
Yorkshire Towns	5,803	+ 0·5	5,354	- 1·9	+ 2·4	
Other Districts	5,088	- 1·3	5,603	- 4·9	+ 1·6	
Total	123,965	- 0·4	115,975	- 4·1	- 1·1	

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of January the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6·34d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6·63d. per lb. and the lowest 6·07d. The price for December, 1907, was 6·24d. per lb., and for January, 1907, 5·89d. per lb. For the period from February 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "middling American" was 6·34d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during January averaged 9·14d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9·18d., and the lowest 9·10d., per lb. The price for December, 1907, was 9·64d. per lb., and for January, 1907, 9·83d. per lb. For the period from February 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8·93d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on February 7th, 1908, was estimated by the

Wire—Employment continued good generally, but short time was worked in several districts.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Employment in the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton and Willenhall was bad, and worse than a month ago. With hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich employment was fair; at Wolverhampton it was slack. With makers of galvanized hollow-ware in the Midland towns it was slack, and worse than a month ago.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Leeds, Falkirk and Glasgow employment continued quiet, with much short time; at Sheffield it was slack; at Bury and Bolton it continued good.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment in the Sheffield district was good with table blade forgers and strikers, file forgers (by hand) and hardeners, and with haft and scale pressers and cutters; it was fair with saw makers and file cutters, moderate with pen and pocket blade forgers, quiet with razor grinders, and slack with table-blade hafters, pen and pocket-blade grinders and toolmakers. At Birmingham employment was fair with edge toolmakers; at Wednesbury it was bad. At Redditch it was quiet in the needle trade; in the fish-hook trade it was good, but not evenly distributed. With needle-makers at Nottingham it was better than a month ago.

Tubes.—In South Wales employment was good, but not so good as a month ago; it was quiet in South Staffordshire; at Birmingham it was fair.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was slack with factory chain and cable chain-makers and strikers; with block chain-makers it was bad; with anchor-smiths it was slack. With railway spring fitters and vice men at Sheffield it was slack. At Dudley short time was general with anvil and vice makers. At Wednesbury employment was slack with makers of railway axles, wheels, tyres and springs. With anchor-smiths on the Wear employment was bad. With chain-makers at Winlaton it was quiet.

Sheet Metal, etc.—With sheet metal workers and braziers employment was fair at Manchester, but not so good as a month ago. At Leeds it was fair and better than a month ago. With tinplate workers it was fair at Wolverhampton, quiet at Birmingham, and slack at Nottingham; it was slack with ironplate workers at Bilston and in the Lye district, and quiet at Birmingham. In South Wales employment was fair. In Glasgow it continued dull; at Edinburgh it was bad. In London it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With tin-plate workers at Exeter it was fair.

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

Farriers.—Employment continued fair generally. In some districts overtime was worked.

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

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in January, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	£ 8,103	£ 13,963	£ 9,744	- 5,860	- 1,641
Hardware	79,920	93,151	77,925	- 13,251	+ 1,975
Exports:—					
Cutlery	59,864	57,818	60,457	+ 2,016	- 593
Hardware	207,892	195,657	192,972	+ 12,235	+ 14,910
Implements and Tools	202,434	178,180	187,981	+ 24,254	+ 14,453

Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,280,740 bales, as compared with 1,246,690 bales on February 8th, 1907.

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

Description of Cotton.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American ...	311,676	287,171	334,871	+ 24,505	- 23,195
Brazilian ...	6,124	7,357	14,150	+ 1,233	- 8,026
East Indian ...	7,115	3,587	6,549	+ 3,448	+ 566
Egyptian ...	57,759	49,494	65,915	+ 8,265	- 8,156
Miscellaneous ...	5,208	6,597	8,015	+ 1,389	- 2,807
Total	387,882	354,286	429,500	+ 33,596	- 41,618

Exports of Cotton Goods.

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey ...	19,645	16,601	15,360	+ 3,045	+ 4,285
Bleached and Dyed ...	2,557	2,437	2,933	+ 120	- 276
Total	22,203	19,038	18,293	+ 3,165	+ 3,974
	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached ...	178,437	162,377	178,263	+ 16,060	+ 174
Bleached ...	157,005	138,420	157,725	+ 18,585	- 720
Printed ...	92,951	83,032	111,057	+ 9,928	- 18,096
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	99,892	93,668	113,199	+ 6,224	- 13,307
Total	528,295	477,438	560,244	+ 50,857	- 31,949

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 407 Returns—376 received from Employers, 16 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 29,467 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Wool Sorting ...	737	+ 0.7	627	+ 4.1
Spinning ...	5,715	- 1.8	4,976	- 4.6
Weaving ...	12,133	- 1.6	9,763	- 7.1
Other Departments ...	8,458	+ 0.8	8,086	+ 7.2
Unspecified ...	2,424	+ 1.0	2,153	+ 5.3
Total	29,467	- 1.1	25,610	+ 0.5

In the Huddersfield district employment showed a marked decline as compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago, but overtime and night-work

were still reported. In the Leeds district employment was fairly good, but showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the heavy woollen district a further decline was shown, but many firms were still working overtime. Employment at Hawick and Selkirk was slack in the weaving branch; spinners at Hawick were fairly well employed; at Galashiels short time was reported.

Worsted Trade.

Employment was fairly good; not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 51,227 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment with woolcombers in Bradford showed little change compared with a month ago; in the other branches of the trade there was a slight decline. In the Keighley, Halifax, and Huddersfield districts employment was fairly good on the whole, and better than a year ago, but it was not so good as a month ago, and weavers were reported to be waiting for warps.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,324	+ 0.4	5,190	- 0.2
Spinning ...	26,963	+ 0.4	14,844	- 1.0
Weaving ...	10,930	- 0.8	9,709	- 5.8
Other Departments ...	6,392	- 0.0	6,356	+ 4.2
Unspecified ...	1,618	- 3.5	1,119	- 9.2
Total	51,227	- 0.1	37,218	+ 3.0

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Bradford District ...	25,806	+ 0.4	18,274	- 1.9
Keighley District ...	7,064	- 0.2	5,358	- 3.9
Halifax District ...	5,416	- 0.3	3,414	- 0.7
Huddersfield District ...	6,623	- 0.9	5,994	- 7.6
Other Parts of West Riding...	3,013	- 0.7	1,894	+ 0.9
Total, West Riding	47,922	- 0.0	34,934	- 3.1
Other Districts ...	3,305	- 0.6	2,284	- 1.9
Total, Worsted	51,227	- 0.1	37,218	+ 3.0

Prices of Raw Material.

	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs ...	11	11	14
40's Crossbred tops ...	12 1/2	13	17 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs ...	11	11 1/2-11	14
40's Crossbred tops ...	12-13 1/2	14-12	17-17 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	26-26 1/2	27 1/2-26 1/2	26 1/2-27

Imports.

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting ...	737	+ 0.7	627	+ 4.1	+ 2.0
Spinning ...	5,715	- 1.8	4,976	- 4.6	- 0.8
Weaving ...	12,133	- 1.6	9,763	- 7.1	- 2.0
Other Departments ...	8,458	+ 0.8	8,086	+ 7.2	+ 3.1
Unspecified ...	2,424	+ 1.0	2,153	+ 6.0	+ 5.3
Total	29,467	- 1.1	25,610	+ 0.5	+ 0.5

Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')

	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	79,168	43,367	70,860
British Exports ..	1,459	901	2,736
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.			
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	164	187	229
Worsted ...	4,355	3,811	4,547
Alpaca & Mohair ..	1,464	1,228	1,541
Total, Yarn ..	5,983	5,226	6,317
Piece Goods:			
Woolen ... 1,000 yds	7,816	6,722	8,799
Worsted ...	9,862	8,082	11,345
Total, Piece Goods ..	17,678	14,804	20,144

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 113 Returns—106 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 45,249 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with a month ago every department showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid, the decrease being most marked in the weaving department. The increase in the amount of wages paid in the spinning department compared with a year ago was due to an advance in the rates of wages during the year; the weaving department showed a considerable decline.

In Belfast and district employment was bad, and short time was general; in Fifehire it was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in the other parts of Scotland it was fair on the whole.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Preparing ...	5,950	- 0.3	3,107	- 0.3
Spinning ...	11,297	+ 0.1	5,011	- 1.8
Weaving ...	15,148	- 2.7	8,173	- 11.6
Other ...	6,487	- 1.2	4,956	- 3.4
Not specified ...	6,367	- 0.2	3,491	- 12.9
Total	45,249	- 1.1	24,548	- 7.0

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	7,986	4,336	14,810	+ 3,650	- 6,824
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	13,032	13,472	14,652	- 440	- 1,620
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	161,074	139,438	193,773	+ 21,636	- 32,699

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 33 Returns—31 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 18,063 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,063 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,607 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with a month ago, the preparing department showed an increase in the number employed, but the

other departments showed a slight decrease; every department showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase in the amount of wages paid in every department.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Preparing ...	4,055	+ 1.9	2,665	- 0.1
Spinning ...	5,015	- 0.6	3,072	- 0.4
Weaving ...	6,198	- 0.3	4,440	- 2.4
Other ...	1,910	- 3.0	1,916	- 3.1
Not specified ...	885	- 1.6	651	- 0.9
Total	18,063	- 0.2	12,744	- 1.5

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Per cent.	Per cent.
Imports:					
Jute ...	52,005	60,902	70,295	- 8,897	- 18,290
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	49,105	62,963	67,797	- 13,652	- 18,692
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	110,326	111,085	135,914	- 759	- 25,588

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 113 Returns—101 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fairly good; it was not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

Firms employing 16,690 workpeople, and paying £12,445 in wages in the week ended January 25th, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was fairly good. At Hinckley it was moderate; at Loughborough operatives were fairly busy in some branches. Employment at Nottingham was slack with power framework knitters, and worse than a year ago. In Derbyshire it was, on the whole, moderate. With hand framework knitters generally it was fair in some branches, slack in others. In Scotland it was fairly good; not so good as a month ago, but about the same as a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Leicester ...	8,478	- 1.0	6,637	- 1.1
Leicester Country District ...	2,899	+ 0.9	2,142	- 3.3
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	2,780	- 0.1	1,975	- 3.9
Scotland ...	1,772	- 0.8	1,178	- 3.4
Other Districts ...	761	- 1.9	453	+ 6.3
Total, United Kingdom	16,690	- 0.5	12,445	- 1.9

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in January, 1908, amounted to £37,120 and £107,462, as compared with £35,999 and £106,176 in December, 1907, and £30,119 and £93,087 in January, 1907.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in January, 1908, amounted to £163,480 and £47,667, as compared with £113,634 and £41,040 in December, 1907, and £152,319 and £49,157 in January, 1907.

SILK TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fair; it showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was slightly better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,179 workpeople, and paying £5,301 in wages on pay-day in the week ended January 25th, 1908, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.6 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 on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Livers	2,093	- 4.1	- 8.7	2,049	- 14.2	- 35.8
Curtain	2,831	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	2,790	- 2.7	- 1.1
Plain Net	2,880	+ 0.5	+ 4.0	2,325	- 2.1	+ 2.5
Others	881	- 5.7	- 5.4	604	- 5.8	- 12.5
Total	8,745	- 1.8	- 1.8	7,768	- 6.1	- 13.4

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Nottingham City	2,021	- 4.0	- 4.2	1,724	- 7.5	- 17.6
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,602	- 1.2	- 2.1	1,762	- 6.4	- 19.8
Other English districts	3,071	- 1.0	- 0.3	2,429	- 8.0	- 11.4
Scotland	2,051	- 1.4	- 1.4	1,853	- 1.5	- 4.6
Total	8,745	- 1.8	- 1.8	7,768	- 6.1	- 13.4

Branches.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
Throwing	1,002	- 3.3	...	374	- 10.3	- 4.8	
Spinning	2,722	+ 0.4	+ 3.9	1,990	- 2.3	+ 5.0	
Weaving	3,149	- 1.3	+ 0.7	1,932	- 6.6	- 1.7	
Other	1,053	- 0.1	+ 2.5	817	- 5.7	- 1.4	
Not Specified	253	- 0.8	- 2.3	138	- 8.0	+ 2.2	
Total	8,179	- 1.1	+ 1.8	5,301	- 5.2	+ 0.6	

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,517	- 0.8	+ 0.8	2,574	- 3.8	+ 0.5
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	870	+ 1.8	+ 0.0	598	+ 0.3	+ 6.6
Eastern Counties	2,474	- 1.3	+ 3.8	1,331	- 8.2	+ 1.6
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,318	- 3.1	- 3.6	798	- 8.3	- 4.5
Total	8,179	- 1.1	+ 1.8	5,301	- 5.2	+ 0.6

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

At Macclesfield it continued bad with both powerloom and handloom weavers, though at the end of the month it began to improve with the latter. At Congleton it was good with dressers and fair with trimming weavers.

In the Bradford district employment continued fairly good generally. In the Eastern Counties there was a decline.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:—	
Raw Silk	61,271	96,785	124,577	- 32,514	- 60,306
Thrown Silk	38,140	37,357	53,286	+ 783	- 15,146
Spun Silk Yarn	27,346	23,734	34,923	+ 3,612	- 7,577
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,821,111	5,078,393	7,144,644	+ 742,718	- 1,323,533
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk	2,741	3,326	528	- 585	+ 2,213
Spun Silk Yarn	69,295	59,994	96,841	+ 9,301	- 27,546
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	369,395	320,934	753,360	+ 48,461	- 383,965

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 100 Returns—93 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 8,745 workpeople in the week ended January 25th, and paying £7,768 in wages, showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with the week ending December 21st, 1907. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

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

was bad, and worse than a year ago; in the West of England it was slack. In Scotland employment, on the whole, was moderate, and worse than a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Livers	2,093	- 4.1	- 8.7	2,049	- 14.2	- 35.8
Curtain	2,831	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	2,790	- 2.7	- 1.1
Plain Net	2,880	+ 0.5	+ 4.0	2,325	- 2.1	+ 2.5
Others	881	- 5.7	- 5.4	604	- 5.8	- 12.5
Total	8,745	- 1.8	- 1.8	7,768	- 6.1	- 13.4

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Nottingham City	2,021	- 4.0	- 4.2	1,724	- 7.5	- 17.6
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,602	- 1.2	- 2.1	1,762	- 6.4	- 19.8
Other English districts	3,071	- 1.0	- 0.3	2,429	- 8.0	- 11.4
Scotland	2,051	- 1.4	- 1.4	1,853	- 1.5	- 4.6
Total	8,745	- 1.8	- 1.8	7,768	- 6.1	- 13.4

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:—	
Silk Lace	26,887	15,614	31,524	+ 11,273	- 4,637
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace	458,044	411,286	494,258	+ 46,758	- 36,214
Silk Lace	6,735	7,937	10,768	- 1,202	- 4,033

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 31 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 19 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was on the whole fair, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. About two-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked overtime, and rather more than one-fifth worked short time.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment continued moderate, and was not so good as a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as fair at Macclesfield and Leek.

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

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

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago and a year ago.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 128 Returns—98 from Employers, 8 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London showed the usual seasonal decline and was not quite so good as a year ago. In the provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch it continued fair on the whole, but showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during January showed the usual seasonal decline, and was not quite so good as a year ago.

Firms paying £8,704 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended January 25th showed a decrease of 15.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment on the whole was moderate, and slightly worse than a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was fairly good, but not quite so good as a year ago. Firms employing 7,302 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended January 25th showed an increase of 3.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. The Jewish operatives reported employment as bad.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester was fair; at Norwich it showed a decline. At Bristol it was slack, and worse than a year ago. At Glasgow employment was good, and better than a year ago.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in January, 1908, were valued at £185,231, as compared with £183,913 in December, 1907, and £210,873 in January, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £479,358, £404,392, and £520,890 respectively.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 10 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during January in the Silk hat branch continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; in the Felt hat branch it was fair, and better than a year ago.

In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 17.5, compared with 17.4 a month ago, and 12.7 a year ago.

In the Felt hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 3.2, compared with 3.1 a month ago and 5.0 a year ago. Employment at Denton was fairly good, at Stockport it was good, in Warwickshire it was moderate; on the whole, it was better than a year ago.

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

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:	
All kinds	25,948	27,845	51,225	- 1,897	- 25,277
Exports:					
Felt	36,663	26,739	58,330	+ 9,924	- 21,667
Straw	54,979	35,075	51,036	+ 19,904	+ 3,943
Other Sorts	4,612	4,597	4,476	+ 15	+ 136
Total	96,254	66,411	113,842	+ 29,843	- 17,588

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 517 Returns—499 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents, 7 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fair, slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 61,862 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was fairly good, and better than a month ago; it showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago. At Northampton it continued fair, and was better than a year ago; with army boot-makers employment was good. At Kettering there was

an increase in the number employed, but a decline in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. The usual seasonal decline in the heavy boot trade took place at Kingswood, and at Leeds, and in Scotland, but employment at Kingswood and in Scotland was decidedly better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	2,202	+ 1.3	- 4.8	2,496	- 1.7	- 5.8
Leicester	12,803	+ 3.0	- 0.7	13,792	+ 5.1	- 0.4
Leicester Country District	3,243	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	3,098	+ 0.5	+ 5.7
Northampton	9,161	+ 1.2	+ 7.9	8,634	- 1.8	+ 7.8
Northampton Country District	8,712	- 1.3	+ 3.9	8,231	- 4.2	+ 0.3
Kettering	4,003	+ 1.0	- 0.9	3,933	- 1.5	- 0.8
Stafford & District	2,570	+ 0.9	+ 0.4	2,249	- 0.8	+ 1.0
Norwich & District	3,412	+ 2.0	- 0.6	2,875	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Bristol & District	1,652	- 1.3	- 0.4	1,481	- 2.1	+ 6.5
Kingswood	1,793	- 1.2	+ 4.3	1,649	- 16.5	+ 9.3
Leeds & District	4,178	- 3.1	- 5.1	1,023	- 7.8	+ 1.5
Manchester & District	2,423	- 2.8	- 5.5	2,026	- 1.5	- 13.7
Birmingham & District	995	- 2.5	- 3.7	782	- 8.8	- 4.9
Other parts of England and Wales	2,652	+ 1.7	+ 2.2	2,251	- 2.8	+ 3.5
ENGLAND & WALES	57,759	+ 0.7	+ 1.1	55,420	- 1.2	+ 1.9
SCOTLAND	3,848	- 0.2	+ 7.3	3,550	- 6.2	+ 8.6
IRELAND	255	- 4.9	- 9.6	176	- 9.7	- 3.3
UNITED KINGDOM	61,862	+ 0.6	+ 1.4	59,146	- 1.5	+ 2.3

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

Imports (less Re-Exports)	Quantity	Dozen pairs	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
						Month ago.	Year ago.
						Quantity	21,616	11,242	19,958	+ 10,424	+ 1,688
Value	63,386	44,710	66,470	+ 17,676	- 4,084		
Exports (British and Irish)							
Quantity	65,493	65,588	64,855	- 95	+ 638		
Value	167,929	166,691	168,195	+ 1,238	- 266		

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed a decrease in the demand for, and no change in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair, and better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was fairly good; firms employing 1,739 workpeople in the week ended January 25th showed an increase of 4.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fair; not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,845 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended January 25th showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,039 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended January 25th, showed an increase of 3.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 38 Returns—22 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet generally. It showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,698 had 6.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 7.2 per cent. in December and 6.9 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with skinner was bad generally; with curriers it was bad generally and quiet at Birmingham. With dressers at Nottingham employment was bad. With leather workers generally employment was good at Manchester, Bolton, Bury and Wigan.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was bad in London and at Walsall, fair at Glasgow.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment was bad generally, but in London it was fair with fancy leather and morocco finishers. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment was slack in London; fair at Manchester.

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.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	26,246	20,843	40,462	+ 5,403	- 14,216
Ditto, wet	49,704	47,064	35,988	+ 2,640	+ 13,716
Total, hides, dry and wet	75,950	67,907	76,450	+ 8,043	- 500
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	647,908	545,669	1,591,477	+ 102,239	- 853,569
Sheep skins, (value) £	221,214	216,524	226,513	+ 4,690	- 5,299
Leather*	87,677	91,490	109,443	- 3,813	- 21,766
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	41,943	44,876	50,510	- 2,933	- 8,567

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

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 413 Returns—141 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 253 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 23,351 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of January, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,866	+ 0.3	+ 2.6
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,993	+ 0.4	+ 5.7
Southern Counties	7,109	+ 0.5	+ 3.2
Scotland	6,536	+ 0.3	+ 1.9
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	22,504	+ 0.4	+ 2.9
Hand-made Paper	847	- 2.4	- 2.1
Total	23,351	+ 0.3	+ 2.7

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade, with 1,884 members, had 1.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 1.7 per cent. in December, and 1.9 per cent. in January, 1907.

The **Imports** of paper in January, 1908, amounted to £462,388, as compared with £521,755 in December, 1907, and £470,700 in January, 1907, and the **Exports** for the same periods amounted to £206,108, £189,561, and £187,110 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was dull, and worse than a year ago. It was also slightly worse than at the end of December. Trade Unions with 49,376 members had 5.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 4.9 per cent. in December and 4.3 per cent. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	20,492	5.7	6.0	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,333	5.6	4.4	+ 1.2	+ 0.7
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,605	4.0	4.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,409	3.9	3.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
West Midlands	2,485	4.2	3.9	+ 0.3	- 0.3
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,941	3.0	2.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Scotland	5,665	3.3	3.3	...	- 0.3
Ireland	2,446	8.9	8.8	+ 0.1	+ 2.9
United Kingdom	49,376	5.0	4.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.7

London.—Employment was dull, and worse than a year ago. At the end of the month 5.7 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 6.0 per cent. at the end of December and 4.5 per cent. at the end of January, 1907.

Other Centres.—Employment was quiet on the whole, and showed little general change compared with December and with January, 1907. It was good with letterpress printers at Edinburgh, Dundee, Bolton, Leicester and Oxford, and with lithographic printers at Birmingham.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was dull in London. In the provinces it continued fairly good. It was worse on the whole than a month ago, and slightly worse than a year ago.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed in Trade Unions in the *Bookbinding Trades*:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,625	5.5	2.9	5.4	+ 2.6	+ 0.1
Other Districts	3,375	2.9	2.1	2.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.5
United Kingdom	7,000	4.3	2.6	3.9	+ 1.7	+ 0.4

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,829 Returns—854 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 920 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in January continued slack. It was worse than a month ago, and still worse than a year ago.

Returns from 788 firms employing 40,486 workpeople at the end of January are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease of 2.2 per cent., and compared with a year ago a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed. In London the decrease compared with December was very slight, but compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 16.2 per cent. In the provinces there were decreases of 3.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.1 per cent. compared with January, 1907.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	Jan., 1908.		Dec., 1907.		Jan., 1907.	
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London	7,643	7,598	9,332	5,324	5,413	6,164
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,209	2,372	2,346	1,872	1,929	2,254
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,170	3,247	3,159	2,546	2,446	2,609
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,246	2,172	2,274	1,795	1,688	1,743
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	3,030	3,553	2,883	1,616	2,084	2,065
England and Wales	18,298	18,742	20,024	13,163	13,560	14,835
Scotland	2,938	2,787	3,043	1,753	1,832	1,864
Ireland	443	421	412	383	400	525
United Kingdom	21,679	21,950	23,479	15,299	15,792	17,224
	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
London	499	508	577	13,466	13,619	16,073
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	510	525	608	4,891	4,828	5,208
Lancashire and Cheshire	879	897	888	6,598	6,890	6,686
Midland & Eastern Counties	310	307	323	4,381	4,167	4,340
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	484	517	541	5,140	5,964	5,489
England and Wales	2,682	2,754	2,937	34,143	35,056	37,796
Scotland	768	831	844	5,489	5,850	5,781
Ireland	58	68	51	884	889	988
United Kingdom	3,508	3,653	3,832	40,486	41,398	44,538

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of January was 11.1, as compared with 10.7 a month ago and 8.2 a year ago; and for plumbers, for the same dates, 9.0, 9.0, and 6.7 respectively.

London.—Employment remained slack generally, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 12.8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 13.5 per cent. a month ago and 10.3 per cent. in January, 1907. The percentages for plumbers were 14.2, 14.9, and 11.4 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment remained slack in nearly all districts, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. It remained moderate at Oldham, and also with bricklayers at Middlesbrough and Belfast and with plumbers at Leeds, Birmingham, and Cardiff. With masons at Bristol it was reported as improving. Painters and plasterers in Scotland reported a slight improvement.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 182 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 147 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was bad. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,200 reported 9.8 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of January, 1908, as compared with 8.5 per cent. a month ago and 6.4 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was bad, with a considerable amount of short time. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 14.6 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of January, 1908, as compared with 11.5 per cent. a month ago, and 8.5 per cent. in January, 1907.

The **Imports** of furniture and cabinet ware in January, 1908, were valued at £34,375, as compared with £47,735 in December, 1907, and £40,149 in January, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same periods at £66,289, £62,840 and £48,708 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was bad. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 6.4 per cent. both a month ago and a year ago. At Belfast employment was fair.

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

Description.	Jan., 1908.		Dec., 1907.		Jan., 1907.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	37,371	62,458	43,451	- 25,087	- 6,080			
" sawn	189,507	362,809	215,812	- 173,302	- 26,505			
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value) £	22,467	15,251	21,370	+ 7,216	+ 1,097			

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was quiet on the whole. It was good at Hull and fair at Liverpool and Dublin.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachbuilders continued bad, and a considerable amount of short time was reported. With wheelwrights and smiths employment was reported as moderate. It was worse on the whole than a year ago. Trade Unions of coachbuilders, wheelwrights, &c., reported 8.4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 8.2 per cent. a month ago and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was fair. It was better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 4.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 7.5 per cent. a month ago and 5.1 per cent. a year ago.

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

The **Imports** of brushes and brooms in January, 1908, were valued at £23,260, as compared with £31,850 in December, 1907, and £25,649 in January, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same periods at £17,385, £16,879, and £14,600 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 97 Returns—67 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 18 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the glass trades was fairly good on the whole, but was not so good as a month ago. It showed some improvement as compared with a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 10,154 workpeople in the week ended January 25th, and paying £12,304 in wages, showed a decrease on the previous month of 2.6 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 6.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the decreases being common to all departments and to all districts except Scotland.

As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.8 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the improvement being almost entirely in the glass bottle making branch.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle ...	7,033	- 1.2	+ 4.3	8,887	- 4.6	+ 6.1
Plate Glass ...	773	- 8.7	- 8.4	871	- 9.7	- 5.9
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,891	- 4.0	- 1.3	2,034	- 7.4	- 0.2
Other Branches ...	457	- 6.0	- 3.6	512	- 17.6	+ 2.6
Total ...	10,154	- 2.6	+ 1.8	12,304	- 6.1	+ 3.8

Districts.	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Jan. 25th 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		North of England	944		- 11.8	- 10.2	1,000	- 20.9	- 16.0
Yorkshire ...	4,572	- 0.3	+ 6.7	5,705	- 5.3	+ 7.6
Lancashire ...	2,197	- 2.0	+ 1.9	2,667	- 3.5	+ 7.4
Worcester and Warwick	1,250	- 5.7	- 4.7	1,500	- 7.4	+ 0.6
Scotland ...	877	+ 0.1	+ 4.3	1,109	+ 0.7	+ 4.7
Other parts of United Kingdom	314	- 2.8	- 4.8	383	- 2.1	- 0.3
Total ...	10,154	- 2.6	+ 1.8	12,304	- 6.1	+ 3.8

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Leeds, Dublin and Bristol, and in Scotland; fair at Castleford; moderate, and worse than a month ago, in the North of England and at St. Helens; bad at Mexborough and Barnsley. With medical glass bottle makers employment was good at Rotherham and moderate at Leeds. Employment with flint glass makers showed little change from the previous month. With cutters it was fair; at Wordsley and Stourbridge it was good. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was quiet, and showed a further decline. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it was slack. Employment was fairly good with London glass blowers. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was bad, much short time being worked during the month. With decorative glass workers at Manchester employment was slack and showed a decline.

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

Description.	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with		
			Jan., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with	
			A Month ago.	A Year ago.	
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	96,661	111,968	129,916	- 15,307	- 33,255
Plate ...	23,517	31,592	40,391	- 8,075	- 16,874
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	56,787	70,663	68,881	- 13,876	- 12,094
Manufactures, other sorts ...	817	962	1,202	- 145	- 385
Bottles ...	119,280	136,322	115,748	- 17,042	+ 3,532
Exports:					
Plate ...	13,691	12,743	15,046	+ 1,548	- 1,355
Flint ...	4,997	4,865	5,916	+ 134	- 919
Manufactures, other sorts ...	32,017	31,834	35,563	+ 183	- 3,546
Bottles ...	69,016	61,737	67,351	+ 7,279	+ 1,665

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 30 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade was fair, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued bad, much short time being worked.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was fair; it was also fair in Devonshire and at Swadlincote; at Newcastle-on-Tyne it was bad; in Scotland employment showed a decline on the previous month. With makers of china at Longton employment was better than a month ago; but with earthenware makers in South Yorkshire and the River Aire district it was only moderate, and was worse than a month ago. With insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries employment was bad; it was also quiet with stoneware throwers at Glasgow. Packers reported employment as fair, but with short time; engravers as good. With clay tobacco-pipe makers employment was good at Manchester and Gateshead, and dull at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was bad at Peterborough and Nottingham, much short time being worked; it was also slack at Sheffield and in Devonshire and the Eastern Counties; quiet at Market Harborough and Stourbridge; dull at Birmingham and at Glasgow. It was moderate at Bulwell and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; in South Staffordshire and at Wrexham and Ruabon it was fair. Employment was good in South Wales and Monmouthshire and at Flint and Oldham.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in January, 1908, were valued at £59,270, as compared with £93,759 in December, 1907, and £65,312 in January, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £214,078, £206,082, and £212,109 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

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

EMPLOYMENT was generally fair during January, but in some counties frost, snow, or rain caused the employment of day labourers to be somewhat irregular. The supply of this class of men was in general rather greater than the demand.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland and Durham inclement weather somewhat interfered with the employment of day labourers at the beginning of January. Reports from Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire state that work was plentiful in turnip pulling, hedge trimming, manure spreading and other work, but wet weather interrupted employment on several days. The supply of labour was in excess of the demand. Some irregularity of employment through unfavourable weather is also reported from Yorkshire; the supply of day labourers was generally more than sufficient.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents in Cheshire and Derbyshire report that very little time was lost by day labourers, as, owing to the frost, manure could be carted on land previously too wet. In Nottinghamshire outdoor work was not much hindered; the supply of labour was equal to the demand. In Leicestershire outdoor work was interrupted to some extent by wet weather or by frost; but employment generally was plentiful. In some districts a scarcity of men was reported. Day labourers were well employed in Staffordshire in hedge cutting, threshing, and carting manure; but some time was lost owing to bad weather. Very little interruption of work was reported from Shropshire, where the demand for odd men was said to be rather greater than the supply. In Worcestershire work was plentiful and the supply of day labourers not quite adequate in some districts. In Warwickshire the employment of day labourers on such work as threshing, hedging and ditching was somewhat interfered with by wet weather. Work was plentiful, but

the supply of extra labour was generally sufficient. Similar reports come from Northamptonshire. Employment on the whole was good in Oxfordshire, a good deal of manure carting being done on frosty days. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, but a scarcity of milkers and others for permanent situations was reported. Day labourers were in excess of the demand in Buckinghamshire. Wet weather interrupted outdoor work in Hertfordshire for a few days; day labourers were generally plentiful, but men for permanent situations were stated to be scarce in some districts. In Bedfordshire farm work was in arrear, owing to the late harvest and wet autumn, and was somewhat hindered during the month by bad weather. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand.

Eastern Counties.—There was some irregularity of employment in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire owing to bad weather, although work was plentiful in hedging, ditching, manure carting and threshing. In Lincolnshire, on account of wet weather, a few days were lost by men engaged with threshing machines. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, but in the Caistor and Brigg Unions a scarcity of men for root-pulling was reported. Correspondents in Norfolk and Suffolk reported that frosty weather stopped ploughing in the early part of January, but manure carting, threshing, hedging and ditching gave plentiful work to day labourers. In certain districts a number of fishermen were seeking employment on the land, and the supply of day labourers was generally more than sufficient. In Essex frosty weather hindered outdoor work in some districts for a few days; but on the whole work was plentiful, and the supply of men was sufficient for requirements.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—The supply of day labourers in Kent was generally in excess of the demand, work on the farms being fairly forward. The frosty weather interfered with some kinds of field work, but the regular men were found employment in hedging, threshing, and manure spreading. In Surrey and Sussex some irregularity of employment was caused by frosty weather. Day labourers were not in great demand, and the supply of men for permanent situations was generally sufficient. Work was very little hindered by bad weather in Hampshire and Berkshire, and the supply of men, both for casual and permanent work, was about equal to the demand. Rain and frost interfered with the regularity of employment in Wiltshire, and there was a smaller demand for odd men. Employment in Dorsetshire was fairly regular on the whole, day labourers being occupied in threshing, turnip pulling and hedging. Frosty weather interfered with employment in Somersetshire in the early part of January, but work became more regular in the latter part. The supply of day labourers was equal to the demand. In Herefordshire farm work, generally speaking, was in arrear, and employment was fairly plentiful. A scarcity of men for permanent situations is reported from the Ledbury Union. Frosty weather caused some interruption to outdoor work in Gloucestershire, and there was no great demand for extra labour. In Devon and Cornwall severe frost interrupted field work in the early part of January. There was generally sufficient labour for temporary employment, but men for permanent situations were scarce in certain Unions.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 136 Returns—116 from Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was moderate in London, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At the other ports it was quiet on the whole and showed a decline as compared with December.

London.*—Employment generally was moderate in January and worse than a month ago and a year ago; fogs on the river caused fluctuations in the numbers employed. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended February 1st was 12,952, a decrease of 7.1 per

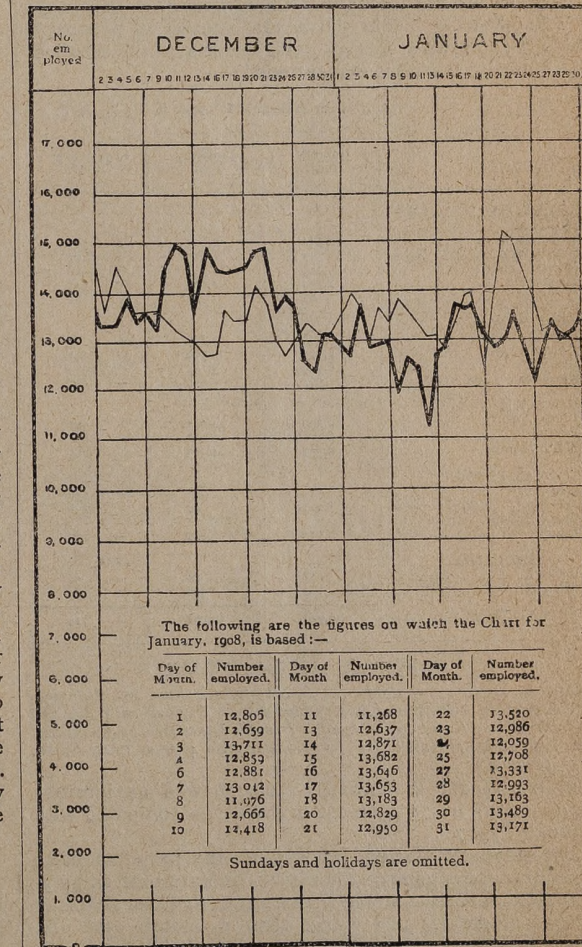
cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The wool sales commenced on 21st January.

The daily numbers in January ranged from 11,268 on the 11th to 13,711 on the 3rd. During the corresponding period of 1907 the numbers ranged from 12,380 on the 31st to 15,181 on the 22nd.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Jan. 4th	4,542	2,434	6,976	6,062	13,038
" " " 11th	4,479	2,032	6,511	5,864	12,375
" " " 18th	4,420	2,074	6,494	6,185	13,679
" " " 25th	4,464	2,365	6,829	6,013	12,842
" " Feb. 1st	4,542	2,375	7,117	6,112	13,229
Average for 5 weeks ended Feb. 1st, 1908	4,489	2,416	6,905	6,047	12,952
Average for Dec., 1907	4,947	2,688	7,575	6,364	13,959
Average for Jan., 1907	4,560	2,678	7,238	6,377	13,605

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of December, 1907, and January, 1908. The corresponding curve for December, 1906, and January, 1907, is also given for comparison.

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



The following are the figures on which the Chart for January, 1908, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	12,805	11	11,268
2	12,659	12	12,637
3	13,711	13	12,871
4	12,859	14	13,682
5	12,881	15	13,646
6	13,012	16	13,653
7	11,076	17	13,183
8	12,665	18	12,820
9	12,418	20	12,950
10		21	13,171

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,377 in January, as compared with 1,427 in the previous month, and 1,461 in January, 1907.

Liverpool.—Employment was very fair, and better than a month ago, with dock labourers; it continued moderate with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports.—Employment for dock and quayside labour on the Tyne and Wear was quiet, and worse than a month ago. At Middlesbrough employment was

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

+ Revised figures.

moderate, and at the Hartlepoons slack; at both towns it was worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At Hull, Grimsby and Goole a decline took place; dock labourers were moderately employed, and coal porters were slack. Employment for dock and riverside labour was slack at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn; dull generally at Plymouth and the South-Western ports, but better than a month ago; and very bad at Bristol and Gloucester. At the South Wales ports and at Manchester dockers were fairly well employed. At Leith, Dundee and Aberdeen employment was fair but showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it improved at Glasgow. It was bad at Dublin, and dull at Limerick.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JANUARY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during January 39,938* seamen, of whom 4,388 (or 11.0 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. The greatest increase as compared with January, 1907, occurred at Southampton, and the most marked decrease at Cardiff, the net result of all the increases and decreases being an increase of 714.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

The following Table shows the number of persons* shipped as crews of foreign-going vessels at the selected ports during the periods mentioned:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in January, 1908.
	January, 1907.	January, 1908.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
East Coast			
Tyne Ports	2,091	2,633	+ 542
Sunderland	567	325	- 242
Middlesbrough	495	437	- 58
Hull	1,510	1,166	- 344
Grimsby	67	43	- 24
Bristol Channel.			
Bristol	618	657	+ 39
Newport, Mon.	1,032	901	- 131
Cardiff	6,059	5,145	- 914
Swansea	547	350	- 197
Other Ports.			
Liverpool	13,510	14,017	+ 507
London	6,030	6,082	+ 52
Southampton	2,559	4,365	+ 1,806
SCOTLAND.			
Leith	532	340	- 192
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	227	91	- 136
Glasgow	3,013	3,000	- 13
IRELAND.			
Dublin	130	80	- 50
Belfast	307	306	- 1
Total	39,224	39,938	+ 714

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

The fish landed in January, 1908, showed an increase in quantity, but a decrease in value, as compared with January, 1907.

Employment during January at the principal ports continued fairly good on the whole. At Yarmouth employment was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Grimsby it was moderate, and worse than a month ago. At Lowestoft it was fair with fishermen and moderate with fish dock labourers and fish curers; at Hull it continued good. Employment at Aberdeen with fishermen, fish dock labourers and fish curers was good. At Macduff it was moderate. At Peterhead it was fair with fishermen, and good with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Fraserburgh it was fair with fishermen. Off the south-western coast of England stormy weather and fog interfered with fishing operations in the earlier part of the month.

* 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.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of the fish landed in January, 1908 and 1907, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Jan., 1908.	Jan., 1907.	Jan., 1908.	Jan., 1907.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 700,624	Cwts. 663,622	£ 534,231	£ 537,570
Scotland	378,953	361,096	155,778	170,190
Ireland	43,518	47,173	19,729	23,336
Total	1,122,095	1,071,891	709,738	731,096
Shell Fish	—	—	26,773	30,657
Total Value	—	—	736,511	761,753

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in January, 1908, were valued at £107,680, as compared with £354,436 in December, 1907, and £64,927 in January, 1907.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of bread on February 1st, 1908 have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources. These Returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

District.	1st Feb., 1908.			1st Jan., 1908.			1st Feb., 1907.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W.	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5	4	4½
E. & N.E.	5½	4½	5½	6	4½	5½	5	4	4½
S.E.	6	5½	5½	6	5	5½	5	4	4½
S.W.	6	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5	4½	4½
W. & W.C.	6	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5	4½	5½
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	5½	7	5½	5½	6	4½	5½
Midlands	6½	5	5½	6½	5	5½	6	4½	4½
Eastern Counties	6½	5	5½	6½	5	5½	6	4½	4½
Southern Counties	7	5	5½	7	5	5½	6	4	5
S. Western Counties and Wales	6½	5	5½	6½	5	5½	6	4	5½
Scotland	7	5½	5½	7	5½	5½	6	4	5½
Great Britain	7	4½	5½	7	4½	5½	6	4	4½

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices shows no change. As compared with a year ago, the mean of the prices shows an increase of 9d. A rise of 1d. is shown in Scotland.

PRICE OF BREAD IN 28 LARGE TOWNS.

Place.	Predominant Price at Feb. 1st, 1908	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
London	d.	d.	d.	Oct. '07	- ½
Birmingham	5½	...	+ ½ to 1	Nov. '07	- ½
Bolton	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol	5½ & 6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Derby	5½	...	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ ½
Huddersfield	5	...	+ 1	...	...
Hull	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Ipswich	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Leeds	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Leicester	5½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Liverpool	5½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Manchester	5½	...	+ 1	Jan. '08	- ½
Middlesbrough	6½	...	+ 1½	Dec. '07	+ ½
Newcastle	5½	...	+ 1	Jan. '08	- ½
Norwich	5½	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Nottingham	5½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Oldham	5	...	+ ½	Nov. '07	+ ½
Plymouth	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries	5	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Wolverhampton	5½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Aberdeen	6	...	+ 1½	Nov. '07	+ ½
Dundee	5½ & 6½	...	+ 1	Dec. '07	- ½
Edinburgh	6½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin	6½	...	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ ½

The above Table shows that compared with a month ago the price of the 4 lb. loaf has fallen ½d. in Manchester and Newcastle. As compared with a year ago, each of the towns except Huddersfield shows an increase. In Middlesbrough and Aberdeen the increase amounted to 1½d. per 4 lbs. In 17 of the towns the rise amounted to 1d., and in 7 to ½d. per 4 lbs. The price in London was from ½d. to 1d. higher.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1907.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
January	6 1	6 10	9 5½	8 9
December	8 0	8 11	11 1½	12 0
1908.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
January	8 2	8 11½	11 3½	12 1

The imports of wheat during September, 1907-January, 1908, amounted to 37,438,100 cwts., or 2,823,900 cwts. more than during the corresponding period of 1906-7. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1907-January, 1908, amounted to 6,744,350 cwts., or 499,250 cwts. more than in September, 1906-January, 1907.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: VALIDITY OF AGREEMENT TILL VARIED BY COURT.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897 (and also by the Act of 1906), that any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished or increased: also, that when the amount of compensation payable to a workman is ascertained by agreement, a memorandum of such agreement may be recorded in the court having jurisdiction, as also may a memorandum of an agreement varying the amount payable, and that such memorandum shall be enforceable as a County Court judgment.

A miner employed by a colliery company was injured by accident and agreed with his employers to receive a certain weekly payment as for total incapacity. A memorandum of this agreement was recorded. Subsequently the injured man's condition improved and he returned to work, accepting smaller weekly payments by way of compensation. They then had a dispute as to the man's earning capacity, and he demanded the full compensation under the recorded agreement. This being refused he took proceedings in the Court of Session to enforce the agreement. The company sought a suspension of his charge, contending that as the man was no longer totally incapacitated and had agreed to accept a lower rate of compensation, he could not now enforce the recorded agreement. On the other side it was contended that the company, if they wished to vary the agreement as recorded, should have taken the regular proceedings to have it reviewed, and that having failed to do so it remained binding upon them.

This contention on behalf of the workman was adopted by the Court of Session, and it was held that he was entitled to enforce the recorded agreement.—*Lindsay v. Fife Coal Company, Court of Session, January 17th, 1908.*

(2) Miscellaneous.

DUTY OF MASTER TO SERVANT: DUTY TO SEARCH FOR MISSING SERVANT: NEGLIGENCE.

A man was employed as a cab driver by a firm of cab proprietors. One stormy winter night he took out his cab, in the ordinary course of his duty, to meet the last train at a neighbouring railway station. He took up a fare at the station and drove away with him. Later, about 11 o'clock p.m., one of the firm who lived close to the stables saw the horse and cab return driverless. He went out, unharnessed and stabled the horse, and then went to a public-house near by to ascertain whether anything was known of the driver. Finding the house closed he went home and made no further enquiries. The cab showed no signs of any accident having happened. The next morning the driver was found in a numb and unconscious state, and suffering from injuries which indicated that he had probably fallen from his box. A few days later the man died, without having ever recovered sufficiently to explain what had occurred. The cause of death was medically certified to be chronic alcoholism accelerated by exposure. There was no evidence that he had been drunk on the night in question.

In these circumstances the widow of the driver brought an action against his employers in the County Court for damages for the death of her husband caused by the alleged negligence of the

defendants. The negligence alleged was that in breach of their duty they had failed and neglected to search or enquire for the deceased, in consequence of which he was exposed throughout the night. The judge decided in favour of the plaintiff, holding that it was the duty of the member of the firm who knew the horse had come back without the deceased to institute a proper search or make enquiries, and that such duty had been neglected. Judgment was accordingly given for the plaintiff for £100.

The defendants appealed. The High Court reversed the decision of the County Court judge on the ground that the duty of the master extended only to taking reasonable precautions to prevent accidents happening to the servant, and that there was no legal duty on the master's part to search or make enquiries as contended for the plaintiff.—*Bond v. Wilson & Sons, King's Bench Division, January 11th, 1908.*

RIGHT TO SUE IN SUPREME COURT AS A PAUPER.

By the rules of the Supreme Court a person may be allowed to sue or defend an action as a pauper, or appeal from a judgment, on proof that he is not worth £25, his wearing apparel and the subject matter of the proceedings only excepted.

A man who had been a police constable took proceedings before a Court of Quarter Sessions with regard to the amount of the pension to which he was entitled. He succeeded in this court, but the decision was reversed by a Divisional Court of the King's Bench Division. He then desired to appeal to the Court of Appeal from the decision of the King's Bench Division, and applied for leave to prosecute the appeal as a pauper. He was in receipt of a pension of £1 8s. a week, and swore that apart from his wearing apparel and the subject matter of the appeal he was not worth £25, and that his pension was inadequate to provide the necessities of life for himself and his family.

His application was refused. The court held that the test was not whether a man had £25 in his pocket, but whether he was good for that amount: and it was quite impossible to say that a man with a pension of £70 a year was not worth £25.—*Kydd v. Watch Committee of Liverpool, Court of Appeal, January 22nd, 1908.*

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

The results of the latest ascertainsments of the selling prices of coal and iron, being the prices upon which wages are regulated, are given in the Table below. The movements in wages which resulted from these ascertainsments are shown in the paragraphs following the Table:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with		
		Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal:—	1907.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
(Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).				
Northumberland	Sept.-Nov.	9 4½	+ 0 0¼	+ 2 5½
Durham	Oct.-Dec.	9 4½	+ 0 2¾	+ 2 1¼
Pig Iron.				
Cleveland	Oct.-Dec.	54 4¾	- 2 10½	+ 0 11½
Cumberland	Oct.-Dec.	69 5¼	- 7 10¼	- 3 4¾
West of Scotland	{ Nov., 1907— Jan., 1908 }	58 11¼	- 5 3¾	- 6 4½
Manufactured Iron.				
(North of England:— Rails, plates, bars, and angles)		145 0¼	- 0 8¼	+ 11 0½
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)	Nov.-Dec.	149 9½	- 0 9½	+ 11 0½
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)		149 1¾	- 0 7¼	+ 13 5½

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board, on January 4th, that the wages of underground and surface workers should remain unchanged. The Durham Conciliation Board has granted the miners an advance of 1½ per cent.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainsments of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were reduced by 3¾ per cent. in the Cleveland district, by 9¾ per cent. in West Cumberland, and by 5 per cent. in the West of Scotland.

Manufactured Iron.—The wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland remain unchanged as a result of the ascertainsments of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during January, 1908, was 294, an increase of 17 as compared with the previous month, and of 26 as compared with January, 1907.

The mean number for January in the years 1903-1907 was 252, the maximum year being 1907 with 268 deaths, and the minimum year 1905 with 239 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in January, 1908, was 124, as compared with 112 in December, 1907, and 113 a year ago. Of the 114 workpeople killed in fatal accidents in mines in January, 1908, 98 were underground workers and 16 surface workers. At factories and workshops the total number was 109 in January, as compared with 112 in the previous month, and 109 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 59, 47, and 41 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during January, 1908, was 116, as compared with 115 in December, 1907, and 106 in January, 1907. The mean for January in the five years 1903-1907 was 131, the highest number being 163 in 1905, and the lowest 106 in 1907.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, as compared with a	
	Jan., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Jan., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	3	4	...	- 1
Engine Drivers...	4	2	1	+ 2	+ 3
Firemen ...	3	2	1	+ 1	+ 2
Guards (Passenger) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	10	16	9	- 6	+ 1
Porters ...	7	4	10	+ 3	- 3
Shunters ...	5	2	1	+ 3	+ 4
Miscellaneous ...	26	18	13	+ 5	+ 13
Contractors' Servants ...	1	...	2	+ 1	- 1
Total, Railway Service	59	47	41	+ 12	+ 18
Mines—					
Underground ...	98	97	89	+ 1	+ 9
Surface ...	16	12	13	+ 4	+ 3
Total, Mines	114	109	102	+ 5	+ 12
Quarries over 20 feet deep	10	8	11	+ 7	- 1
Factories (including Workshops)					
Textile—					
Cotton ...	3	5	3	- 2	...
Wool and Worsted ...	2	3	3	- 1	- 1
Other Textiles ...	1	...	2	+ 1	- 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals ...	5	10	7	- 5	- 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals ...	15	8	14	+ 7	+ 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering ...	1	2	3	- 1	- 2
Ship and Boat Building ...	14	12	4	+ 2	+ 10
Wood ...	1	3	4	- 2	- 3
Chemicals ...	3	1	4	+ 2	- 1
Other Non-Textile Industries ...	30	35	35	- 5	- 5
Total, Factories ...	75	79	79	- 4	- 4
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays... Warehouses ... Buildings to which Act applies ... Laundries ...	24	16	17	+ 8	+ 7
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	34	33	30	+ 1	+ 4
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	2	6	5	- 4	- 3
Total, exclusive of Seamen	294	277	268	+ 17	+ 26
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing ...	17	44	51	- 27	- 34
Steam ...	73	53	46	+ 20	+ 27
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing ...	1	3	3	- 2	- 2
Steam ...	25	15	6	+ 10	+ 19
Total, Seamen	116	115	106	+ 1	+ 10
Total, including Seamen	410	392	374	+ 18	+ 36

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 January was 50, there being 45 cases of lead poisoning, and 5 of anthrax, as compared with 37 cases and 4 cases respectively in January, 1907. In addition to the above, 17 cases of lead poisoning (including 3 deaths) were reported during January among house painters and plumbers.

There were no cases of mercurial poisoning, phosphorus poisoning, or arsenical poisoning in January, 1908. In January, 1907, 1 case each of mercurial and phosphorus poisoning and one death from the latter cause, were reported.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	Cases.		Deaths.	
	Jan., 1908.	Jan., 1907.	Jan., 1908.	Jan., 1907.
Lead Poisoning.				
Smelting of Metals ...	5	1	—	—
Brass Works ...	1	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	—	1	—	—
Printing ...	1	2	—	—
File Cutting ...	2	1	—	—
Turning and Enamelling of Iron ...	1	3	—	—
Hollow-ware ...	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	5	5	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	2	—	—	—
China and Earthenware ...	7*	6	—	1
Litho-Transfer Works ...	1	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	1	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	1	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	3	1	—	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	2	2	—	—
Coach Making ...	6	3	—	—
Shipbuilding ...	—	2	—	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	4	4	—	—
Other Industries ...	4	6	1	—
Total in Factories and Workshops	45	37	2	1
House Painting and Plumbing ...	17	20	3	5

Other Forms of Poisoning.				
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making ...	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	1	—	—
Total ...	—	1	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	1	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	1	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic ...	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	—	—	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	—	2	—	1

Anthrax.				
Wool ...	1	2	—	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	1	1	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	1	1	—	—
Other Industries ...	2	—	1	—
Total, Anthrax ...	5†	4	1	—

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.

The Return shows the name of every seaman whose death has been reported during the month, together with his age, nationality, and last place of abode; the cause, date, and place of death; and the name, official number, and port of registry of the ship on which he was serving.

* Including 2 females.
† Including 3 dock labourers.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty disputes began in January, 1908, as compared with 17 in December, 1907, and 41 in January, 1907. By the 30 disputes, 13,292 workpeople were directly and 5,391 indirectly affected; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before January, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 23,251 workpeople involved in trade disputes during January, 1908, compared with 10,834 in December, 1907, and 22,382 in January, 1907.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining ...	2	3,035	1,482	4,517
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	6	6,058	2,938	8,996
Cotton Manufacture ...	5	2,145	36	2,181
Other Textile Trades ...	5	350	390	740
Clothing ...	5	480	35	515
Transport ...	1	730	404	1,134
Other Trades ...	6	494	106	600
Total, January, 1908...	30	13,292	5,391	18,683
Total, December, 1907 ...	17	3,824	399	4,223
Total, January, 1907 ...	41	11,667	1,753	13,420

Causes.—Of the 30 new disputes, 5 arose on demands for increased wages, 7 on objections to reduction in

wages, 6 on other wages questions, 5 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on details of working arrangements, 3 on questions of Trade Union principle, and one against an increase in hours of labour.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 12 new disputes, directly affecting 1,966 persons, and 8 old disputes, directly affecting 1,594 persons. Of these 20 new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 611 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 11, directly involving 1,619 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 5, directly involving 1,330 persons, were compromised. In the case of 4 other disputes, work has been resumed pending further consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in January of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 330,200 working days. In addition, 51,800 working days were lost during January owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the beginning of the month. Thus the total duration in January of all disputes, new and old, was 382,000 working days, as compared with 160,800 in the previous month, and 167,100 in the corresponding month of 1907.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.†				
Coal Mining—							
Hewers, Hauliers, &c. ...	Gwaun-cae-Gurwen (Notts)	860	...	1908 1 Jan.	...	Against cutting price fixed in two seams.	No settlement reported.
Hewers, Daymen, Banksmen and Pit Lads, Daymen, Banksmen, Mechanics, Labourers, Pit Lads, &c.	Eastwood (Notts)	2,175	1,482	2 Jan.	...	For a new price list, involving increase of wages.	No settlement reported.
Steel Manufacture—							
Bessemer Steel Workers, Workpeople in Rail Mill, &c., and Other Workpeople	Workington...	1,119	608	1 Jan.	34	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	Dispute to be referred to arbitration.
Shipbuilding—							
Sheet Iron Workers, Copper-smiths, Tinsmiths and Labourers	The Clyde ...	867	330	6 Jan.	...	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
Shipwrights, Joiners, Drillers, Cabinet Makers, Machinists, Ship-builders, Engineers, Labourers, &c.	North-East Coast	4,000	2,000	22 Jan.	...	Against proposed immediate reduction in wages of 1s. per week, with further reduction of 6d. per week in March.	No settlement reported.
Cotton Manufacture—							
Ring Spinners and Cardroom Operatives, Winders, Reelers, Warpers, &c.	Oldham (near)	732	743	1907 5 Dec.	41	For advance in piece prices for ring spinners.	Work to be resumed; preparation of universal list to be taken in hand.
Spinners and Card and Blowing Room Operatives	Oldham (near)	1,370	...	1908 2 Jan.	20	For payment of list prices to tenters, and for increase in wages of ring spinners; employer declined to negotiate pending return to work in ring spinners' dispute mentioned above.	Grievances to be investigated.
Weavers and Overlookers ...	Stalybridge ...	356	21	1 Jan.	2	Alleged bad material ...	Employers promised to supply improved material as soon as possible.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture—							
Boot and Shoe Operatives ...	Bristol (near)	183	...	1907 21 Oct.	87	Alleged refusal to employ Trade Unionists	No distinction to be made between union and non-union men. Trade Union rates of wages to be paid.
Boot and Shoe Operatives ...	Northampton	183	...	1908 20 Jan.	14	Strike of finishers against foreman on January 20th, followed by closing of factory at end of week.	Foreman resigned.
Transport—							
Motor Bus Drivers, Conductors and Garage hands	London ...	730	404	2 Jan.	11	Against alteration from day to journey system of payment	Work resumed unconditionally.
Flour Milling—							
Millers and Labourers ...	Swansea ...	149	53	15 Jan.	7	For advance in wages and reduction in hours of labour	Code of working rules agreed upon.
Millers and Labourers ...	Swansea ...	149	53	27 Jan.	3	Refusal to work with two men belonging to another Trade Union	Work resumed on old conditions.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
† The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.
Changes taking effect in January.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in January, 1908, was an increase of £15,515 per week, as compared with an increase of £7,751 per week in December, 1907, and £20,246 per week in January, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 424,625, of whom 368,968 received advances amounting to £18,772 per week, and 55,657 sustained decreases amounting to £3,257 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 119,830, and in January, 1907, 445,336.

Two changes, affecting 292,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; fourteen changes affecting 15,472 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales, and one change, affecting 30 workpeople, was settled by arbitration. The remaining changes, affecting 117,123 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN JANUARY.‡

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.	
Coal Mining	Federated Districts †	1st making-up day in Jan.	Underground Workers ...	280,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent., making wages of Hewers 60 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
			Surface Workers ...	62,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent. to those engaged on the pit banks and screens in manipulating coal.
	South Staffs and East Worcester (parts of)	1st making-up day in Jan.	Hewers and other Underground and Surface Workers	12,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent., making wages of Hewers 60 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Iron Mining ...	Cleveland...	27 Jan.	Ironstone Miners ...	7,500	...	Decrease of 3 per cent., leaving wages 33 7/8 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Quarrying ...	Weardale ...	27 Jan.	Limestone Quarrymen ...	1,700	...	Decrease of 3 per cent., leaving wages 33 7/8 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Pig Iron Manufacture	Cleveland and Durham West Cumberland	4 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen ...	5,500	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3 1/2 per cent., leaving wages 27 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
			Blastfurnacemen ...	1,400	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 9 1/2 per cent., leaving wages 36 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1889.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North Staffordshire	1st making-up day in Jan.	Blastfurnacemen ...	600	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1 1/2 per cent., leaving wages 29 per cent. above the standard.
			Blastfurnacemen ...	1,250	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., leaving wages 27 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1895.
Engineering and Shipbuilding	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Jan.	Iron and Steel Workers and Mechanics	5,000	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., leaving wages 27 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1895.
			Shipbuilders †	11,750	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and 1s. 6d. per week off time rates, except in the case of Holders-on, whose reduction is 1s. per week.
Textile	N.E. Coast, Hull, Barrow, and Birkenhead	22 Jan.	Shipbuilders †	866	...	Advance of 2 1/2 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.
			Fitters, Turners, Smiths, &c.	3,500	...	Advance of 2 1/2 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.
Printing	Bury and District	1st pay Jan.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths, &c.	8,500	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
			Boilermakers (Engine Shops)	2,500	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates.
Other	The Clyde and East of Scotland	22 Jan.	Patternmakers ...	800	...	Decrease of 2d. per hour (8 1/2d. to 8 1/4d.).
			Shipwrights and Drillers ...	4,700	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 2d. per hour off time rates (8 1/2d. to 8d.).
Textile	Oldham and District	8 Jan.	Ship Joiners ...	2,300	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (8 1/2d. to 8d.).
			Mule Spinners (Fine Counts)	5,400	...	Modification of the quick speed clause of the Oldham Piece Price List, stated to have resulted in an average advance of about 3s. per week.
Printing	London ...	1st pay Jan.	Printers' Assistants (Rotary Machines)	2,400	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week.
Other	Swansea ...	1 Jan.	Patent Fuel Workers...	650	...	Advance of 7 1/2 per cent.

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in February it was arranged that the wages of miners in Durham should be advanced by 1 1/2 per cent., making wages 55 per cent. above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron Trade.—A decrease, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent. takes effect in February in the rate of wages of blastfurnacemen in Scotland.

Engineering.—Decreases have also been arranged to take effect in February in the rates of wages of workpeople engaged in the engineering and shipbuilding trades on the North-East Coast.

Full particulars will appear in the March GAZETTE.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.; (4) Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers and Holders-on. † Including York, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, and North Wales.

‡ Revised figures.
 § In this and succeeding issues of the GAZETTE the monthly particulars of changes in wages will be confined to those changes which take effect in the month under review, and not to those changes which were reported during the month. Consequently the figures are not comparable with those published in the previous issues of the Gazette.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for January.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

	January.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 19,704,380	£ 19,745,770	£ 19,953,534	+ £ 207,764	+ £ 249,154
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	20,398,906	26,862,824	24,969,482	-1,893,342	+ 4,570,576
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	13,117,550	13,673,808	11,273,668	-2,400,140	-1,843,882
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	253,497	252,444	171,674	-80,770	-81,823
Total value of Imports	£ 33,474,333	£ 60,534,846	£ 56,368,358	-4,166,488	+ 2,894,028

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	January.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 1,510,081	£ 1,491,219	£ 1,511,728	+ £ 17,509	+ £ 1,547
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	3,263,066	3,881,172	4,237,740	+ 356,568	+ 974,674
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	45,599,983	29,150,703	28,151,235	-999,468	+ 2,551,252
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	401,681	544,513	507,064	+ 37,449	+ 105,383
Total value of Exports of British produce.	£ 30,774,811	£ 35,070,607	£ 34,407,767	-662,840	+ 3,632,956

EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,445,855 in January, 1906; £8,793,276 in January, 1907, and £6,599,209 in January, 1908.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The goods and mineral receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended February 1st, 1908, amounted to £5,081,437, a decrease of £114,712 (or 2 1/3 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period in 1907.

	5 weeks ended February 1st, 1908.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.
	Amount.	£	
English Lines:—		£ 1,984,018	- £ 66,871
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.		562,092	- 19,98
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury Lanes. and Yorks. and N. Eastern		924,660	+ 5,016
L. & S. W. and Gt. Western		762,400	+ 10,700
L. B. & S. C. and S. E. & C.		169,837	- 7,957
Scottish Lines:—		547,941	- 34,084
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian		130,489	- 1,582
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern		1,500,000	...
Total		£ 5,081,437	- £ 114,712

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metalliferous 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 JANUARY.

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

The number of paupers relieved on one day in January, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 226 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with December, 1907, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 8,320 (2 1/3 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 5. The number of indoor paupers showed an increase of 4,361 (2 1/4 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers an increase of 3,959 (1 8/10 per cent.). There were increases in every district except Dundee and Galway, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (18 per 10,000), and the Leicester district (14 per 10,000).

Compared with January, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 2. The number of indoor paupers increased by 5,454 (3 1/10 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers increased by 2,168 (1 0/10 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 18 districts, the most marked being in the Leeds district (23 per 10,000), and the North Staffordshire district (22 per 10,000). In 17 districts there were increases, the greatest being in the East district of the Metropolis (21 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Jan., 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.
ENGLAND & WALES.*					
Metropolis.					
West District ...	12,469	3,916	16,385	193	+ 2 + 1
North District ...	17,149	10,909	28,058	288	+ 3 + 6
Central District ...	7,345	2,615	9,960	637	+ 7 - 19
East District ...	16,301	8,102	24,403	338	+ 7 + 21
South District ...	27,663	21,878	49,541	260	+ 6 + 14
Total, Metropolis ...	80,927	47,420	128,347	270	+ 5 + 9
West Ham ...	4,380	12,782	17,162	235	+ 5 - 3
Other Districts.					
Newcastle District ...	2,656	6,100	8,756	193	+ 5 + 14
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,406	5,318	6,724	303	+ 18 + 11
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,535	5,917	10,452	134	+ 3 - 8
Wigan District ...	2,332	6,189	8,521	209	+ 5 - 4
Manchester District ...	11,228	9,118	20,346	210	+ 10 + 7
Liverpool District ...	13,159	10,810	23,969	226	+ 3 + 4
Bradford District ...	2,001	2,719	4,720	127	+ 2 - 10
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,306	4,130	5,436	148	+ 3 - 2
Leeds District ...	2,999	5,288	8,287	167	+ 2 - 23
Barnsley District ...	804	2,969	3,773	149	+ 4 - 4
Sheffield District ...	3,445	3,603	7,048	165	+ 3 + 2
Hull District ...	1,734	5,410	7,144	261	+ 4 - 1
North Staffordshire ...	2,434	7,537	9,971	288	+ 3 - 22
Nottingham District ...	2,364	6,235	8,599	202	+ 6 - 3
Leicester District ...	1,764	4,992	6,756	285	+ 14 - 7
Wolverhampton District ...	3,897	12,109	16,006	239	+ 3 - 3
Birmingham District ...	5,655	3,851	9,506	160	+ 4 + 10
Bristol District ...	3,108	6,517	9,625	241	+ 3 - 8
Cardiff & Swansea ...	2,393	7,767	10,160	260	+ 4 + 5
Total, "Other Districts" ...	69,220	116,579	185,799	201	+ 4 - 2
SCOTLAND.*					
Glasgow District ...	6,160	17,418	23,578	233	+ 3 + 3
Paisley & Greenock District	922	4,585	5,507	194	+ 1 + 9
Edinburgh & Leith District	2,051	5,477	7,528	180	+ 4 - 5
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	1,013	4,655	5,668	181	... - 6
Aberdeen ...	771	3,179	3,950	226	+ 3 - 14
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	448	1,505	1,953	199	+ 1 - 9
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	11,365	32,799	44,164	212	+ 3 ...
IRELAND.†					
Dublin District ...	7,556	5,376	12,932	323	+ 7 + 1
Belfast District ...	4,178	655	4,833	114	+ 3 + 10
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,771	5,074	9,845	404	+ 11 + 16
Galway District ...	379	356	735	211	- 2 + 7
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	16,884	11,461	28,345	267	+ 6 + 7
Total for above 35 Districts in January, 1908	182,776	221,041	403,817	226	+ 5 + 2

* The rates for January, 1908, and December, 1907, are based upon the estimated population in 1908, and the rate for January, 1907, upon the estimated population in 1907.

† 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.

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

