

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

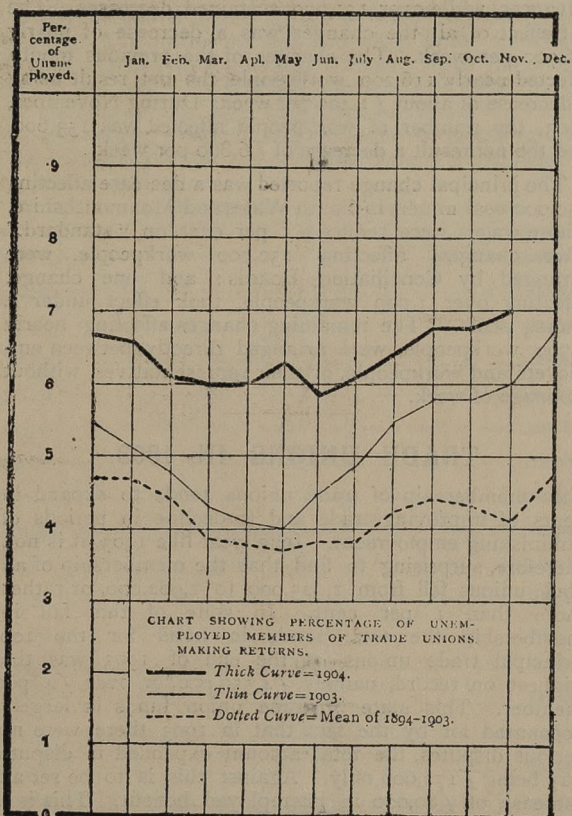
PUBLISHED ON THE 16th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. XII.—No. 12.

DECEMBER, 1904.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN NOVEMBER.

[Based on 4,400 returns, viz.: 3,108 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,209 from Trade Unions, and 83 from other sources.]

Employment in November was, on the whole, dull, and rather worse than a month ago. A further slight decline took place in the shipbuilding and boot and shoe industries, but employment in cotton and tinsplate manufactures continued to improve. In the woollen industry employment was slightly below the level of a month ago.

As compared with a year ago most trades showed a decline, except the cotton, woollen and tinsplate industries. Shipbuilding also showed a slight improvement, but employment was still very bad.

In the 274 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 577,268 making returns, 40,244 (or 7.0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 6.8 per cent. at the end of October, and 6.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1903.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued moderate. The number of days worked by the collieries was less than in the November of any year since 1895. At collieries employing 541,071 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 5.14 days per week, as compared with 5.16 in October, and 5.24 in November, 1903. At the pits for which returns have been received the number of workpeople employed

in November was rather larger than in both October, 1904, and November, 1903.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good. At the 125 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 26th November was 5.86, as compared with 5.83 in October, and 5.74 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed was 1.8 per cent. greater than in October, and 2.2 per cent. greater than in the corresponding month a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry showed a further slight improvement, but it continued to be below the level of a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that 304 furnaces, employing about 21,400 workpeople, were in blast at the end of November, compared with 302 in October, and 314 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment in this industry showed little change as compared with a month and a year ago. Returns relating to 194 works, employing 73,505 workpeople, showed a decrease in the total volume of employment during the week ended November 26th of 0.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding week of October, and of 0.5 per cent. as compared with the corresponding week of November, 1903.

Tinsplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry continued to show an improvement, and was considerably better than a year ago. At the end of November 400 mills were working, as compared with 394 a month ago, and 349 at the end of November, 1903. The estimated number of workpeople employed in November was 20,000.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally was dull. It was slightly better on the whole than a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of November was 7.8, as compared with 7.9 at the end of October, and 6.0 at the end of November, 1903.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment in this industry continued bad, and was slightly worse on the whole than a month ago, but slightly better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members who were unemployed at the end of November was 16.6, as compared with 16.1 at the end of October and 17.1 at the end of November, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment continued dull during November. It was rather worse than in October, and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters and Joiners* was 10.1 at the end of November, compared with 8.3 at the end of October, and 6.1 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 10.2 at the end of November, compared with 9.1 at the end of October, and 7.2 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was slack, worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members (exclusive of coopers) at the end of November was 8.4, as compared with 7.5 per cent. in October and 6.5 per cent. a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment in November showed a further seasonal improvement but was not quite so good on the whole as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 3.4, as compared with 4.7 in October and 3.0 in November, 1903.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade was fairly good. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of November was 3.1, compared with 2.6 in October and 2.4 a year ago.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continued bad on the whole. It was also bad in the *Pottery* trades, and rather worse than a year ago. In the *Brick* and *Tile* trades it continued slack.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued good and showed a further improvement. Returns from firms employing 54,448 workpeople in *preparing and spinning* showed that only 2.8 per cent. were in mills working short time during the last week in November, compared with 3.8 per cent. during the last week of October, and 8.4 per cent. during the last week of November, 1903. Of the 102,795 workpeople in *weaving and other departments* 1.9 per cent. only were in factories working short time during the last week in November, compared with 3.9 per cent. in October and 13.3 per cent. a year ago.

Woollen and Worsteds Trades.—Employment in the *Woollen* trade continued good, although slightly worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the *Worsted* trade employment showed an improvement, but was still bad, and much the same as a year ago. Returns received from 156 woollen and worsted firms, employing 44,417 workpeople, and paying £33,502 in wages, for the last week in November showed no change in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week of October, and an increase of 3.0 per cent. compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade showed a slight improvement in some districts in England, and continued good in Scotland. In the *Jute* trade it was fairly good. In the *Flax* trade it continued slack in Scotland, moderate in Ireland.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade showed a decline, and was slightly worse than a year ago. In the ready-made branch it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trades showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago with silk hatters, but better with the felt hatters. In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November, was 13.4, compared with 11.3 in October and 10.0 a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade in the corresponding periods the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed were 2.3, 1.2, and 3.5 respectively.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued bad; it was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. Returns received from 494 firms, employing 62,277 workpeople, and paying £55,321 in wages during the last week in November, showed a decrease of 4.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in October, and of 9.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment in these trades continued bad generally, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of November was 11.2, compared with 9.8 in October, and 8.3 in November, 1903.

Agricultural Labourers were well employed till the latter part of November, when work in the fields was interrupted to some extent by snow. The supply of day labourers was, generally speaking, sufficient for requirements.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during November was moderate, about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended November 26th was 13,503, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. on the average for October, and of 10.8 per cent. on the average for November, 1903.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during November, 1904, was 7,236, compared with 7,741 in October, 1904, and 13,763 in November, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 67,200 working days,

as compared with 61,100 in the previous month, and 108,400 in November, 1903. Twenty-five disputes began in November, involving 4,760 workpeople, compared with 15 in October, and 30 in November, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 25 disputes, new and old, affecting 5,224 persons. Of these disputes, seven, involving 3,604 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eleven, involving 993 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and seven, involving 627 persons, were compromised. In the case of three other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 645 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during November affected nearly 154,400 workpeople, of whom nearly 2,700 received advances, while over 151,700 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of nearly £6,700 per week. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 116,200 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of about £1,400 per week. During November, 1903, the number of workpeople affected was 153,600, and the net result a decrease of £6,800 per week.

The principal change reported was a decrease affecting 150,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, whose wages were reduced 5 per cent. on "standard." Two changes, affecting 150,700 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and one change, affecting over 1,000 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes affecting nearly 2,700 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1903.

THE membership of trade unions tends to expand in years of improving trade and to decline in periods of diminishing employment. In a year like 1903, it is not, therefore, surprising to find that the membership of all trade unions fell from 1,925,000 to 1,902,000, or rather more than 1 per cent. In spite of this fall in membership the total funds in hand for the 100 principal trade unions at the end of 1903 was the highest on record, namely, £4,550,000, or over £4 per member. This state of trade union funds is largely accounted for by the fact that in 1903 there were no serious disputes, the total amount expended in dispute pay being £172,000 only. Against this is to be set an increase of £80,000 in unemployed benefit. This is a form of insurance against unemployment much practised by the older trade unions in this country, and in 1903 over half a million pounds were paid under this head by the 100 principal unions to their members. The expenditure on other friendly benefits was even greater than on unemployed benefit, the amount being £791,000. Thus, while the expenditure on strike pay was less than 10 per cent. of the total expenditure, unemployed and other friendly benefits accounted for over 68 per cent.

Membership.

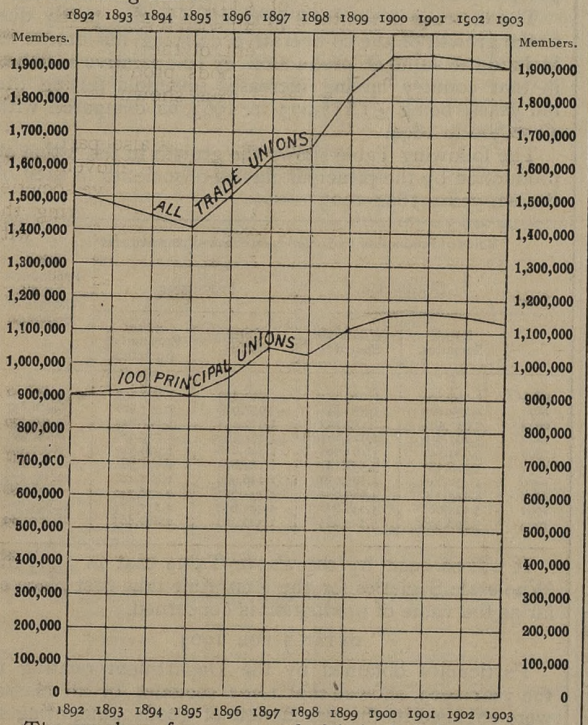
At the end of 1903 there were in existence 1,166 Trade Unions, with a total membership of 1,902,308, as compared with 1,190 Unions with 1,924,809 members at the end of 1902, a decrease in membership of 22,501. In the building trades (excluding labourers) the decrease amounts to 1.4 per cent., a falling off arising mainly from the Unions which do not pay unemployed benefit; in the mining and quarrying group it amounts to 0.5 per cent; in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades to 0.1 per cent.; in the textile trades to 1.1 per cent.; and in the transport trades to 0.5 per cent. Over three-fourths of the total membership of all the unions is found in the above five groups of trades. The next largest group, however, comprising builders' and general labourers, a section generally much affected by bad trade, shows a decrease of 9.8 per cent.

The Table below gives at the end of each of the years 1892-1903, the membership (1) of 100 principal Unions,

and (2) of all other Unions, with the percentage increase or decrease compared with the previous year:—

Year.	100 Principal Trade Unions.		Other Trade Unions.		All Trade Unions.	
	Total.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent.	Total.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent.	Total.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent.
1892	902,763	—	606,769	—	1,509,532	—
1893	909,222	+ 0.7	579,235	- 4.5	1,488,457	- 1.4
1894	924,100	+ 1.6	583,471	- 9.6	1,447,571	- 2.7
1895	910,310	- 1.5	504,480	- 3.6	1,414,800	- 2.3
1896	958,658	+ 5.3	544,056	+ 7.8	1,502,714	+ 6.2
1897	1,058,659	+ 10.4	564,357	+ 3.7	1,623,016	+ 8.0
1898	1,034,377	- 2.3	625,661	+ 10.9	1,660,038	+ 2.3
1899	1,111,329	+ 7.4	709,217	+ 13.4	1,820,546	+ 9.7
1900	1,150,995	+ 3.6	776,366	+ 9.5	1,927,361	+ 5.9
1901	1,153,744	+ 0.2	785,278	+ 1.1	1,939,022	+ 0.6
1902	1,148,582	- 0.4	776,227	- 1.2	1,924,809	- 0.7
1903	1,133,640	- 1.3	768,668	- 1.0	1,902,308	- 1.2

From the above Table it will be seen that there has been a decline during the last two years in the membership both of the 100 principal Unions and of the other Unions, but over the period of eleven years (1892-1903) the membership in each case has increased by more than one-fourth. The fluctuations over the period for all Trade Unions and the 100 principal Unions are shown in the following chart:—



The number of women and girls included as members in 1903 was 119,416, as compared with 122,210 at the end of 1902, a decrease of 2.3 per cent. The decline was chiefly in the cotton trade unions and followed upon a period of unsettled employment in the cotton trade.

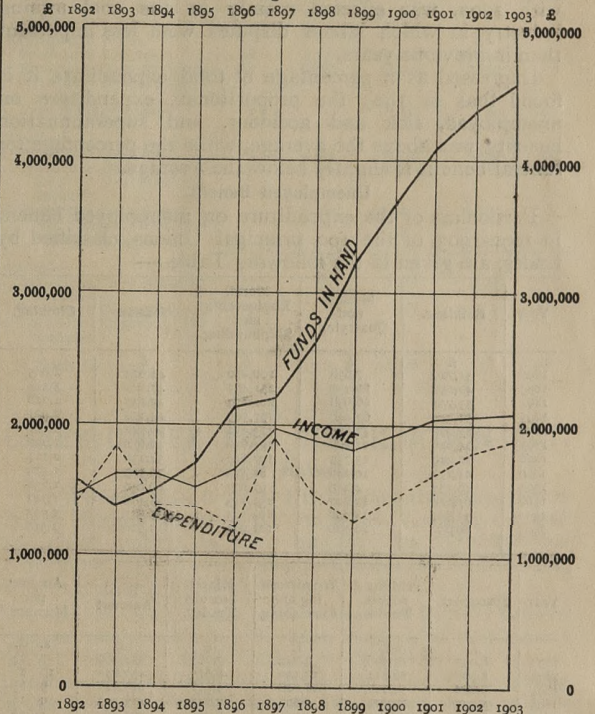
Accounts of 100 Principal Trade Unions.

An analysis of the accounts of 100 of the principal Unions for the twelve years 1892-1903 has been made, the results of which are shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Membership at end of Year.	Income.		Expenditure.		Funds at end of Year.	
		Amount.	Per Member.	Amount.	Per Member.	Amount.	Per Member.
1892	902,763	£ 1,402,386	s. d. 32 4 1/2	£ 1,433,111	s. d. 31 9	£ 1,573,944	s. d. 34 10 1/2
1893	909,222	1,613,514	35 6	1,835,054	40 4 1/2	1,552,404	29 9
1894	924,100	1,617,270	35 0	1,423,331	30 9 1/2	1,546,343	33 5 1/2
1895	910,320	1,540,058	33 10	1,375,943	30 2 1/2	1,710,458	37 7
1896	958,658	1,653,009	34 5 1/2	1,217,827	25 5	2,145,640	44 9 1/2
1897	1,058,659	1,974,385	37 3 1/2	1,901,051	35 11	2,216,974	41 10 1/2
1898	1,034,377	1,899,549	36 8 1/2	1,483,083	28 6 1/2	2,032,540	50 10 1/2
1899	1,111,329	1,826,312	32 10 1/2	1,253,663	22 6 1/2	3,104,889	57 8
1900	1,150,995	1,933,798	33 7 1/2	1,448,610	25 2	3,690,077	64 1 1/2
1901	1,153,744	2,024,161	35 1	1,626,375	28 2 1/2	4,087,863	70 10 1/2
1902	1,148,582	2,067,666	36 0	1,783,351	31 6 1/2	4,374,178	76 18 1/2
1903	1,133,640	2,073,612	36 7	1,895,01	33 2 1/2	4,550,775	80 1 1/2

In the period covered by the Table, the funds of the 100 Unions have risen from £1,573,944, or 34s. 10 1/2d. per head of the total membership, to £4,550,775, or 80s. 3 1/2d. per head—about two and one-third times the amount per head at the end of 1892. The total income in 1903 was £2,073,612, or rather more than the total for 1902, previously the highest year in the Table. The expenditure in 1903 was £1,895,015, which amount has only once been exceeded, viz., in 1897, the year of the great engineering dispute, when the income and expenditure per head of total membership were higher than in any subsequent year.

The fluctuations in income and expenditure, and the consequent fluctuations in the amount of funds in hand, are shown in the following chart:—



The increase in expenditure in 1903 was general, except in the mining and quarrying group of trades, which group is to be credited with £123,470 out of the total increase in funds, largely due to a diminution of outlay on labour disputes. The greatest proportionate increase in expenditure occurred in the textile, clothing, and transport groups, in each of which groups it exceeded 30 per cent. The greatest decrease in income and funds was in the textile group, which felt acutely the want of employment arising from the high price of raw material; the decrease in the income of this group amounting to 6 per cent., and the decrease in funds to 3 per cent.

The following Table gives the expenditure of the 100 Unions under the heads of (1) dispute benefit, (2) unemployed benefit, (3) other benefits, and (4) working and other expenses of management:—

Year.	Dispute Benefit.		Unemployed Benefit.		Other Benefits.		Working and other Expenses.	
	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.
1892	£ 398,035	27.8	£ 324,869	22.7	£ 455,653	31.8	£ 254,554	17.7
1893	574,268	31.3	457,846	25.0	545,485	29.7	257,513	14.0
1894	167,776	11.8	447,248	31.4	530,861	37.0	277,446	19.5
1895	197,368	14.4	415,533	30.2	509,984	37.3	253,058	18.4
1896	171,168	14.0	261,387	21.5	513,748	42.2	271,524	22.3
1897	659,070	34.7	327,734	17.2	600,491	31.6	313,749	16.5
1898	328,651	22.2	237,469	15.0	613,360	41.3	304,503	20.5
1899	119,574	9.5	187,332	14.9	624,856	49.9	322,201	25.7
1900	149,122	10.3	260,655	18.0	682,413	47.1	356,420	24.6
1901	204,622	12.6	324,863	20.0	720,513	44.3	376,377	23.1
1902	217,698	12.2	420,311	23.5	751,448	42.2	393,591	22.1
1903	172,418	9.1	504,214	26.6	791,404	41.8	426,979	22.5

During the 12 years 1892-1903 the 100 principal Unions have expended in the aggregate £18,700,000, of

which amount £4,200,000, or 22·3 per cent., has been spent on unemployed benefit. On other friendly benefits, such as payments to sick, injured and superannuated members, and on account of funeral expenses, £7,300,000, or 39·3 per cent., has been expended. About £3,400,000, or 18·0 per cent. of the total, has been spent on dispute benefit, and the remaining £3,800,000, or 20·4 per cent., on working and other expenses. It will be seen that in 1903 the percentage expenditure on unemployed and friendly benefits was 68·4, which is higher than in any other year in the Table except 1894. Dispute benefit, on the other hand, amounted to only 9·1 per cent. of the total expenditure, a lower percentage than in any other year during the period 1892-1903. The decrease in expenditure on dispute benefit in 1903, as compared with 1902, was effected mainly in the coal mining industry, in which labour disputes were less important than in previous years.

Expressed as a percentage of total expenditure it is found that in 1903 the proportionate expenditure on unemployed, sick and accident, and superannuation benefits was above the average, while the percentage for funeral benefit is slightly below the average.

Unemployed Benefit.

Particulars of the expenditure on unemployed benefit in 1892-1903, of the 100 principal Unions, classified by trades, are given in the following Table:—

Year.	Building.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	Textile.	Clothing.
1892	31,729	7,638	190,070	44,623	2,605
1893	40,030	62,435	251,461	47,200	3,514
1894	53,794	26,638	200,619	42,227	4,226
1895	52,345	68,046	192,305	49,111	2,991
1896	25,099	42,896	113,032	34,747	2,400
1897	21,216	24,877	194,610	40,638	1,995
1898	22,249	13,735	107,610	34,238	2,121
1899	24,277	10,247	81,512	26,909	1,379
1900	46,355	4,419	93,822	60,030	1,636
1901	67,228	17,727	134,743	44,114	1,741
1902	73,804	18,876	204,725	55,521	1,357
1903	80,502	18,020	224,043	112,510	1,516

Year	Transport.	Printing & Allied Trades.	Woodworking and Furnishing.	Miscellaneous Trades.	Total Amount.	Amount per Member.*
1891	6,097	25,598	9,244	7,265	324,869	7 2½
1892	5,907	26,514	12,140	8,615	457,846	10 1
1893	3,472	34,717	11,808	9,917	447,248	9 8½
1894	3,272	30,474	9,808	7,149	415,533	9 1½
1895	3,505	27,835	5,734	6,553	261,387	5 5½
1896	3,091	27,835	6,736	6,308	327,732	6 2½
1897	5,357	24,095	6,773	7,790	237,469	4 7
1898	17,779	25,668	7,050	4,631	187,332	3 4½
1899	3,017	28,310	7,050	4,631	187,332	3 4½
1900	3,612	35,410	9,985	5,384	260,655	4 6½
1901	3,480	36,205	13,892	5,662	324,863	5 7½
1902	3,385	37,214	16,014	9,415	420,311	7 4
1903	3,590	38,407	17,045	8,281	504,214	8 10½

The expenditure on unemployed benefit shows a constant increase since 1899. The total amount for 1903 (£504,214) is higher than for any previous year. The amount per head of total membership (8s. 10½d.) is not, however, as high as in 1893-5. As compared with 1902, more than half of the increased outlay on this benefit was incurred in the textile trades, where the expenditure was more than double the usual amount, owing to causes already referred to, but the group which expands most under this head is that of the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades.

Trades Councils and Federations.

The number of Trades Councils in existence at the end of 1903 was 204, and the total number of Trade Unionists represented on them was 839,110. In 1902 the number of Councils was 193, and the membership 818,910. The number of Federations of Trade Unions fell from 95 in 1902 to 90 in 1903, and the membership from 1,806,000 to 1,727,000. These, however, are gross totals, several Unions being affiliated to more than one Federation. The General Federation had a membership of 403,000, against 414,000 in 1902; the Miners' Federation 340,000, against 343,000; and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades 240,000, against 238,000 in 1902. The importance of the General Federation may be judged from the fact that it had an income in 1903 of £31,311, an expenditure of £10,723, and a total fund of £98,883.

* Based on the total membership of the 100 Unions.

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION.

SUMMARY, 1894-1903.

The societies engaged in co-operative production in the United Kingdom may be classified into two groups, viz.:—(1) Societies established primarily for distribution, consisting entirely of associations of consumers; and (2) Societies established primarily for production, consisting of societies of various types, some being associations of consumers, a few being associations of producers, but the main body being associations with a mixed membership of consumers, employees, and other individuals.

The total annual value of the production of all these societies shows a continuous increase, having reached £15,302,062 in 1903, as compared with a total of £4,966,252 in 1894, an increase of 208 per cent. during the ten years. This rapid growth is mainly due to the increased activity in production of the societies formed primarily for distribution. In 1903 these societies produced goods to the value of £11,034,494, or 72·1 per cent. of the total production of all societies, as compared with £2,619,603, or 52·7 per cent. of the total in 1894. The increase in the value of goods produced by this group during the ten years is thus shown to be over 321 per cent.

The increase in the total production is also partly due to the growth of the co-operative dairying movement in Ireland, the value of production by co-operative societies in that country having increased sevenfold during the ten years, being £1,117,973 in 1903, as compared with £158,300 in 1894.

The following Table shows the growth in the value of production by the principal classes of societies in each of the ten years, 1894-1903:—

Year.	Value of Production by Societies established primarily for				Total Production by all Classes of Societies.
	Distribution.		Production.		
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn Mills.	Other Productive Societies.	
1894	£ 1,514,529	£ 1,105,074	£ 916,510	£ 1,400,139	£ 4,966,252
1895	2,356,401	1,570,598	957,906	1,393,928	6,278,837
1896	2,650,183	2,119,225	1,070,543	1,597,825	7,437,779
1897	3,297,816	2,995,197	1,254,402	1,703,970	9,251,381
1898	3,653,529	3,190,399	1,408,516	1,916,227	10,200,598
1899	3,995,385	3,558,181	1,181,835	2,191,785	10,841,239
1900	4,352,816	4,165,030	1,248,418	2,438,418	12,183,279
1901	4,729,716	4,680,922	1,231,311	2,556,740	13,201,709
1902	5,241,603	5,238,838	1,303,632	2,757,414	14,543,536
1903	5,598,509	5,525,985	1,377,793	2,859,865	15,302,062

It will be seen by the above Table that in 1903 the Wholesale Societies for the first time take first place so far as the value of production is concerned.

DETAILS FOR 1903.

Particulars obtained by the Department relating to the year 1903, showed that 1,202 societies of all classes were engaged in the production of goods amounting in value to £15,302,062.

Of these societies, 769 were in England and Wales, 209 in Scotland and 224 in Ireland, the latter being nearly all dairying societies.

Of the total production, £10,126,024, or 66·2 per cent., was produced by societies in England and Wales; £4,058,085, or 26·5 per cent., by societies in Scotland, and £1,117,953, or 7·3 per cent., by societies in Ireland.

Of the total employees 29,281, or 67·4 per cent., were in England and Wales, 12,667, or 29·2 per cent., in Scotland, and 1,479, or 3·4 per cent., in Ireland.

The total production of £15,302,062 is an increase of 5·2 per cent. upon the value of goods produced in 1902 and 15·9 per cent. increase upon 1901.

Value of Production Classified by Industries.

In the following Table the total production (£15,302,062) of all classes of societies in 1903 is split up so as to show the nature and extent of the industries carried on by each class of society separately. It will be seen that corn-milling and bread-making, etc., each account for about one-fourth of the total production, followed by farming, etc., with one-tenth.

Industries carried on by Societies of all Classes.	Associations for Distribution.		Associations for Production, including Corn Mills.	Totals.
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.		
Building	£ 252,472	£ 174,036	£ 116,978	£ 543,486
Quarrying and Brickmaking ... ..	...	...	15,898	15,898
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	8,577	38,508	99,452	146,537
Textiles	4,980	161,834	315,261	482,075
Clothing:—				
Boots and Shoes	431,194	742,414	301,890	1,475,498
Tailoring, Mantles, and Shirts	499,702	268,950	68,244	836,896
Dressmaking and Millinery	232,788	13,639	21,115	267,542
Farming, Dairying, and Fishing	91,282	336,312	1,136,803	1,564,397
Printing and allied Trades ... ..	...	128,668	133,454	262,122
Woodworking and Furnishing	27,726	68,623	34,307	130,656
Soap and Candle Making ... ..	...	430,799	...	430,799
Food Preparations:—				
Corn and Meal Milling	610,541	1,650,609	1,377,793	3,638,943
Bread-making, Preserves, Pickles, and Confectionery	3,055,682	768,776	585,505	4,399,963
Other Foods	259,324	271,601	41,995	572,920
Tobacco	46,729	516,539	...	563,268
Leather Trades	836	2,802	2,592	6,230
Bassdrumming, Brushmaking, &c.	2,071	11,886	11,599	25,456
Other Trades	5,205	...	4,862	10,067
Totals for 1903	5,598,509	5,525,985	4,267,568	15,302,062
Percentages of Grand Total... ..	36·0	36·1	27·9	100·0

Compared with 1902, decreases are shown of about £21,000 in the output of textile goods and of £18,000 in tailoring, mantle and shirt making, while metal and engineering and the woodworking trades each show a decrease of about £7,000, and dressmaking and millinery of £5,500. With one exception, all the other industries show increases, the most important being in bread, preserves, and confectionery making which shows an increase of about £380,000, corn milling of about £143,000, building trades of £85,000, and farming and dairying of about £49,000, this last being attributable almost entirely to the Irish dairies.

Employees and Wages.

The following Table shows the number of employees and productive wages paid in each industry by the various classes of societies:—

Industries.	Associations for Distribution.		Associations for Production, including Corn Mills.		Totals.		
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	No. of Employees.	Productive Wages Paid.	
	No. of Employees.	Productive Wages Paid.	No. of Employees.	Productive Wages Paid.	No. of Employees.	Productive Wages Paid.	
Building	1,542	119,415	1,006	78,847	514	44,138	
Quarrying and Brick-making	324	9,519	324	9,519
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	66	4,123	153	9,362	796	37,464	
Textiles	59	1,350	982	33,750	1,724	71,195	
Clothing:—							
Boots and Shoes	3,276	198,819	4,552	225,996	1,834	94,358	
Tailoring, Mantles and Shirts	3,944	226,415	2,993	115,653	593	20,112	
Dressmaking and Millinery	3,556	82,608	130	4,072	230	6,515	
Farming, Dairying, and Fishing	332	16,377	475	22,366	1,172	49,388	
Printing and allied Trades ... ..	...	940	41,959	760	50,377	1,700
Woodworking and Furnishing	202	12,377	433	27,831	249	15,797	
Soap and Candle Making ... ..	...	475	23,598	...	475	23,598
Food Preparation:—							
Corn and Meal Milling	219	15,453	485	39,010	424	34,793	
Bread-making, Preserves, Pickles and Confectionery	4,417	300,169	1,418	57,778	1,445	84,059	
Other Foods	282	16,251	287	13,117	135	7,538	
Tobacco	61	2,386	669	22,976	...	670	
Leather Trades	12	383	15	753	...	45	
Bassdrumming, Brushmaking, &c.	7	378	61	3,964	86	3,879	
Other Trades	58	1,226	...	...	81	2,506
Totals for 1903	18,036	997,760	15,016	721,032	10,375	532,977	
Percentage of Grand Totals	41·5	44·3	34·6	32·0	23·9	23·7	

Of the total employees (43,427) engaged in production, 9,662, or 22·2 per cent., were engaged in boot and shoe making; 7,520, or 17·3 per cent. in tailoring, mantle and shirt making, and 7,280, or 16·8 per cent. in bread, &c., making, the remaining 43·7 per cent. being spread over 15 other groups of industries. Of the total employees, 58·2 per cent. were men, 26·8 per cent. women, and 15·0 per cent. young persons under 18 years of age.

Profit allotted to Productive Employees.

Of the 1,202 societies of all classes 169 only made return, showing that they had allotted sums to their

employees out of the profits of the year 1903. The total amount thus allotted was £33,473 among 13,548 employees of societies paying £702,368 in wages. Thus the profit allotted amounted to about £2 9s. per head, and to 4·8 per cent. on the wages paid. In 1902 the profit allotted amounted to £2 8s. per head, and in 1901 to £2 14s. per head.

The following Table gives details for 1903:—

Classes of Societies.	No. of Societies.	No. of Productive Employees.	Productive Wages paid.	Profit Allotted to Productive Employees in 1903.	
				Amount.	Percentage on wages.
England and Wales—					
Productive Societies	48	4,147	£ 223,134	£ 10,345	4·6
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies	80	11,587	94,009	3,650	3·9
Corn Milling Society	1	31	2,236	95	4·2
Scotland—					
Productive Societies	4	1,669	89,733	7,899	8·8
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies	17	724	37,211	2,944	7·9
Productive Departments of the Scottish Wholesale Society	1	5,263	251,260	8,352	3·3
Ireland—					
Agricultural and Dairying Societies	17	124	4,617	175	3·8
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies	1	3	168	3	1·8
Totals for 1903	169	13,548	702,368	33,473	4·8

CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Cigar Makers.

Sir William Markby, K.C.I.E., the arbitrator appointed in the dispute between the Imperial Tobacco Co. and the cigar makers in their employ (see GAZETTE for November, p. 322) issued his award on November 17th. The award is as follows:—

A short time ago a dispute arose between the Imperial Tobacco Company and certain men and women employed at their Factory in York Road, St. Luke's, London, as cigar-makers. It appears that there are two systems under which the trade of cigar-making is carried on. Under both systems the employees are paid so much a hundred for making the cigars, but under one of the two systems (which for brevity I will call the "return" system) cigars so badly made as to be unsaleable are returned to the maker and not paid for, whilst under the other system (which for brevity I will call the "discharge" system) the cigars are not returned to the maker, the remedy of the employer being to discharge the person who made them, if he should think fit to do so.

The York Road Factory is a recent combination of several previously existing factories, at some of which the "discharge" system had been in use whilst others had been carried on on the "return" system. The question in dispute is which of the two systems should be adopted in the York Road Factory.

Not being able to agree as to this the parties decided to refer the question in dispute to an arbitrator to be appointed by the Board of Trade, and I was appointed accordingly.

It was in evidence before me that both the "return" system and the "discharge" system were largely in use in different factories, and there was nothing whatever to show that the use of either system had caused any inconvenience to any of the parties concerned, although it was clear that all of them were strongly attached to the system to which they had been accustomed.

Having considered the evidence I do award and determine that at the York Road Factory the employer shall not be entitled to return to the maker cigars which are badly made and are unsaleable and to decline to pay for making them, the remedy of the employer being to discharge the maker if he should think fit to do so.

Leicester Carpenters and Joiners.

On November 22nd a joint application for the appointment of a Conciliator in connexion with certain matters in dispute between the parties was made on behalf of the Leicester Master Builders' Association, and the Leicester branch of the Amalgamated

RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

INQUIRIES were recently addressed by the Labour Department to the Town Clerks of all the London Boroughs and the principal provincial towns and to the Local Correspondents of the Department on the subject of exceptional distress due to unemployment, and the measures taken for the relief of the unemployed. The returns received cover 28 Boroughs and Urban Districts in London and neighbourhood, and 71 provincial towns with a population of 50,000 and over.

Of the 28 districts in the Metropolis and neighbourhood from which returns have been received, exceptional distress is reported in 16, in 6 no definite information is given under this head, and in the remaining 6 the distress is not considered exceptional for the time of year.

Exceptional distress is reported in 52 of the 71 provincial towns from which returns have been received, while in the case of the remaining 19 towns the distress is not considered as exceptional for the time of year. Relief works were reported to be open during November in 22 of these towns, and in addition the Local Authorities in some districts are expediting public work, with a view to increasing the amount of employment available. In many towns, considerable numbers of men were employed for short periods in the latter part of November clearing away snow.

London and Neighbourhood.—Of 22 returns giving information on this head, 16 report exceptional distress. According to the returns received relief works were open during November in West Ham, Tottenham, Stoke Newington, Hackney, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, St. Pancras, Willesden, Bermondsey, Lewisham, and Croydon. According to the press, work for the unemployed was also provided by the Borough Councils of Poplar and Fulham.

In pursuance of the scheme suggested by the President of the Local Government Board at a conference of Metropolitan Guardians, held on October 14th, Joint Committees consisting of representatives of the Borough Council, of the Board of Guardians and of charitable and parochial associations have been formed in nearly all the Metropolitan Boroughs. A Central Committee (consisting principally of representatives of the Joint Committees) has also been formed, and has held meetings on November 26th and December 2nd. The Lord Mayor has issued an appeal for funds.

North-East Coast.—Of 7 returns from large towns in this district 4 report exceptional distress and 3 do not. Shipyard and building labourers appear to be most affected by distress, in which dock labourers and glass workers are also involved. Except at Jarrow no special measures are reported.

Yorksire.—Of returns relating to 9 large towns 7 report exceptional distress. Relief works were open during November at Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Sheffield, and York.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Returns have been received from 16 large towns. In 11 of these the distress is reported as exceptional, in the remainder it is reported as not so for the time of year. The distress mainly affects labourers employed in the building and engineering trades. In the cotton trade employment is good. Relief works were open in November at Preston, Bolton, Manchester, Salford, Birkenhead and Barrow-in-Furness.

Midlands.—Exceptional distress is reported in 12 out of the 15 important towns for which returns have been received. The trades in which most unemployment is reported are building, some of the metal trades, and the boot and shoe and leather trades. Relief works (under municipal authorities) were open during November at Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Burslem, Stoke, Coventry, Leicester and Northampton.

Rest of England and Wales.—Of returns from 14 towns, 9 describe the distress as exceptional. During November municipal relief works were open at Reading.

Scotland.—Returns have been received from 7 large

towns. In 6 of these exceptional distress is reported. House and shipbuilding are the trades chiefly affected by unemployment. Relief works were opened by the Glasgow Corporation in the last week of November.

Ireland.—Exceptional distress is reported in 3 large towns, but no relief works were open in November.

WAGES OF SEAMEN, 1880-1903.

THE Annual Return issued by the Board of Trade showing the progress of merchant shipping in the United Kingdom and the principal maritime countries* contains Tables stating the entrances and clearances of vessels, the tonnage of merchant navies (British and foreign) and the wages, numbers employed and conditions of employment of Seamen in the United Kingdom. Under the last head are shown the wages paid to seamen at the principal ports in the United Kingdom over a long series of years. All the principal classes are dealt with from the first mates and first engineers to the A.B.'s and firemen. The rates paid on steam vessels are distinguished from those paid on sailing vessels, and they are further classified by being grouped according to voyage, and, for most of the classes, according to tonnage of vessel. The information as to seamen's wages has been furnished to the Board of Trade by the Superintendents of Mercantile Marine.

Monthly Rates of A.B.'s.

Steam Vessels.—From this return and from previous issues the following Table has been compiled. It shows the changes in the rates of wages paid to A.B.'s shipped on steam vessels at London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Newcastle and Shields for four of the principal foreign voyages for each year from 1880 to 1903. The voyages selected are the Mediterranean, East Indies and China, East Coast of North America, and South America and the West Indies, and the rates shown are the means (stated to the nearest 6d.) of the predominant rates paid on those voyages at the ports named above.

The seamen are provided with food in addition to the rates of wages stated in the Table.

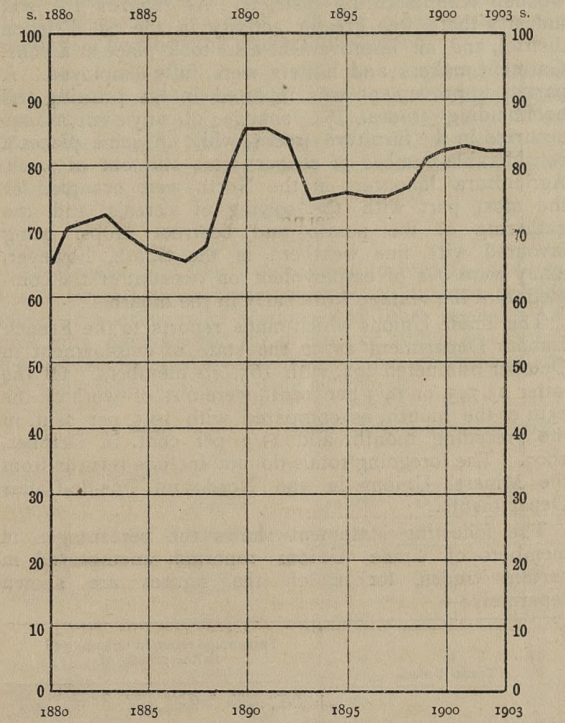
Year.	Mediterranean.	East Indies and China.	North America, East Coast.	South America and West Indies.	Mean of foregoing Rates.
1880	s. d. 65 0	s. d. 59 0	s. d. 70 6	s. d. 64 0	s. d. 64 6
1881	69 0	65 0	77 6	70 0	70 6
1882	74 0	64 0	79 6	68 6	71 6
1883	72 0	66 6	79 6	71 0	72 6
1884	68 0	65 0	77 0	68 6	69 6
1885	66 6	64 0	72 6	66 0	67 6
1886	63 0	64 0	72 0	66 0	66 6
1887	64 6	64 0	67 6	66 0	65 6
1888	66 6	64 0	74 0	67 6	68 0
1889	79 6	76 6	82 0	80 0	79 6
1890	84 6	81 6	91 6	85 0	85 6
1891	87 0	80 0	91 6	84 0	85 6
1892	81 6	79 0	90 0	84 0	83 6
1893	73 0	70 0	80 0	75 0	74 6
1894	73 0	71 6	81 6	76 0	75 6
1895	74 0	75 0	81 6	73 6	76 0
1896	74 0	72 6	81 6	73 6	75 6
1897	74 0	72 6	81 6	73 6	75 6
1898	75 0	72 6	82 6	76 6	76 6
1899	80 6	77 6	86 6	80 0	81 0
1900	80 6	80 0	86 6	80 0	82 0
1901	80 6	82 6	86 6	80 0	82 6
1902	80 6	80 0	86 6	80 0	82 0
1903	80 6	81 6	86 6	80 0	82 0

On the Mediterranean voyage the monthly rates ranged from 63s. in 1886 to 87s. in 1891; on the East Indies and China voyage from 59s. in 1880 to 82s. 6d. in 1901; on the East Coast of North America voyage from 67s. 6d. in 1887 to 91s. 6d. in 1890 and 1891, and to South America and the West Indies from 64s. in 1880 to 85s. in 1890.

It will be noticed that throughout the period the highest rates have been those paid on the North American voyage, and that they were lowest until the last few years on the East Indies and China voyage.

* H.C. 294. Price 6d. To be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C.

The rates of wages prevailing in 1880 were the lowest rates in a period of falling wages. The Table shows that during the next three years wages rose and then declined until they reached their lowest point in 1887. The highest point attained was in 1890-91, but there was a sharp fall in 1893. A rise followed in 1898-1900; since 1900 the rates have shown little change, except in the case of those for the East Indies and China voyage, where the variations in 1904 and 1903 are due to fluctuations in the rates at London for that voyage. The fluctuations in the rates are clearly brought out in the following chart, which gives in graphic form the mean of the monthly rates quoted for the four voyages in the Table above.



An examination of the figures from which the mean voyage rates are computed shows that not only do the rates differ according to the voyage at some of the ports, but they are different at the various ports for the same voyage. For the first and last years given in the Table (1880 and 1903) the predominant rates for the four voyages are stated as follows:—

Voyage.	London.			Liverpool.		
	1880.	1903.	Increase.	1880.	1903.	Increase.
Mediterranean...	65s. to 75s.	80s. & 85s.	10s. to 15s.	55s.	70s.	15s.
East Indies and China	60s. to 65s.	80s. & 85s.	20s.	55s.	80s.	25s.
North America, East Coast	65s. to 70s.	90s.	20s. to 25s.	70s. to 80s.	80s. & 90s.	10s.
South America and West Indies	65s.	80s.	15s.	55s. to 60s.	70s.	10s. to 15s.
	Newcastle and Shields.			Glasgow.		
	1880.	1903.	Increase.	1880.	1903.	Increase.
Mediterranean...	70s.	90s.	20s.	60s. to 70s.	80s.	10s. to 20s.
North America, East Coast	70s.	90s.	20s.	70s.	80s.	10s.
South America and West Indies	70s.	90s.	20s.	—	—	—

Sailing Vessels.—The predominant rates of wages paid to A.B.'s on sailing vessels are much lower than those paid on steamships. For 1902 and 1903 the predominant rate was 60s. a month at all the principal ports for all voyages, and during the period 1880-1903 the predominant rates most frequently specified were 55s. and 60s. The highest point reached was in 1890 and 1891 when 70s. was the most general rate, and the lowest in 1880 and 1887 when 50s. was frequently paid.

Wages of Other Classes of Seamen.

The predominant rates of wages of firemen engaged in the foreign trade are the same at some of the ports in the United Kingdom as those paid to A.B.'s on steamships; at other ports they are usually a few shillings a month higher. Of other ratings on board steamships wages in 1903 are quoted for those mentioned below, the predominant rates being given for steamships classified according to the tonnage of the vessel.

Rating.	Monthly Rates on Steamers			
	of 500 and under 1,000 tons.	1,000 and under 1,500 tons.	1,500 and under 2,000 tons.	2,000 tons and upwards.
First Mates	s. 170	s. 185	s. 200	s. 235
Second Mates	125	135	140	160
Third Mates	130	105	120	130
Boatswains	95	100	100	110
Carpenters	120	120	120	135
First Engineers	270	295	325	355
Second Engineers	200	210	235	245
Third Engineers	135	145	165	190

It will be seen that the rates vary generally with the size of the vessel. In another Table in the Return it is shown that the rates paid on cargo steamers are generally lower than those paid on passenger steamers, and vary according to the voyage in each case.

Food is provided for all ratings in addition to the wages stated.

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.

Several of the reports of the correspondents to the Dominion *Labour Gazette* show more active conditions in October than during September, owing to the prevalence of open weather. The cities of Hull, Que., London, Ont., and Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., may be particularly instanced in this connection, although improvements in the general industrial situation were shown at Sydney, N.S., Quebec, Que., St. Catherine's, Ont., Windsor, Ont., and Brandon, Man. Toronto, Montreal, and others of the larger cities remain very active. A falling off was shown at St. John, N.B., Belleville, Ont., Brantford, Ont., and St. Thomas, Ont. At Winnipeg, Manitoba, work was active, but the large number of farm helps and others that came into the city looking for work during the winter found some difficulty in placing themselves. In British Columbia, Vancouver showed a slight falling off, and at the Nanaimo coal mines many miners were out of work. New Westminster reported a favourable, and Victoria a fair month. It being now the winter season in Canada, emigrants—especially unskilled labourers and men belonging to outdoor trades—should not go out now, but should wait for the Spring. The cost of living has advanced, the prices of flour, bread, and house-rent having generally risen. Small houses are scarce in Toronto, Montreal, and other places.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—The returns respecting the Sydney factories in 1903, which have been recently issued, show a marked decrease of employees in the iron trades, in meat-preserving works, and in shipbuilding, and a good increase in the following trades—brick, clothing, boots and shoes, shirtmaking and woollen mills. Nearly all the fresh hands in the boot and shoe trade were girls under 18 years of age. Coal mining at the Newcastle collieries is very depressed owing to bad trade and labour disputes, and many men are out of work.

In *Victoria* there is not much demand for anyone except female servants. The lowest wages payable to

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

adult males in the furniture trade have been fixed at 48s. per week of 48 hours, and for females at 24s.

In Queensland there is no demand for more labour, except for female servants in the north; many unemployed persons are being provided by the Government with work in various camps at clearing scrub and prickly pear, roadmaking, drainage works, &c. Emigrants should not therefore go to Queensland at the present time unless they obtain nominated passages through friends in the State.

Western Australia.—The Report of the Government Labour Bureau for the quarter ending September 30th last shows as follows:—The supply of mechanics is sufficient everywhere, except that there is a demand for a few men in the building trades at Northam, Bunbury, Narrogin and Albany. The supply of miners is sufficient everywhere; at a few places only, such as Northam, Narrogin, Guildford, Bridgetown and Dongarra is there any demand for agricultural labour; at Northam, Narrogin, and Bridgetown there is a demand for unskilled labour; in Perth and Fremantle good general female servants and cooks are wanted, and in many other places there is a demand for female servants; some 200 hands have been discharged from timber mills in the South West.

New Zealand.

This is the busy time of the year in New Zealand, and employment is good: skilled mechanics in the building, engineering, boot, clothing, and other trades, farm labourers, and female servants should have little difficulty in securing work, but they should have a few pounds with them on landing. Persons with a small capital may obtain reduced passages by applying to the Agent-General for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Trade is very quiet, and there is no demand for more labour. No person may enter the colony unless he has already secured employment and possesses £20 on arrival.

Natal.—Labour is plentiful, and no one is recommended to go out in search of work unless he goes to friends who will provide him with it.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. There is still a large number of unemployed both in Johannesburg and country districts. Many persons have left Johannesburg, so that houses are somewhat easier to obtain and rents are not quite so high. But, on the other hand, many who have been discharged from railways and public works in country districts have drifted to Johannesburg, and swelled the number of the unemployed, and of those dependent on relief. Female servants may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. Residents in the Colony may obtain assisted passages for their friends under certain conditions. Female servants in this country may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned. There is no demand whatever for more labour, other than female servants, and the cost of living remains very high.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

A NEW Handbook has been issued by the Emigrants' Information Office, containing a summary of the contents of the various consular and commercial reports furnished to the Foreign Office by the British Consuls in North and South America during the years 1901-4, in so far as matters likely to be of interest or profit to intending emigrants are concerned. A list is also given of the reports summarised, with price, &c., and a list of the Consuls and Vice-Consuls in the United States, Central America, and South America.

The Handbook can be obtained for 2d., post free, on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in October.*—There was, as is usual during October, a perceptible decline of employment in the building trades. Scarcely any change was reported in most branches of the metal trades, a decrease of employment among the tin box makers along the Atlantic coast being an exception. Employment in cotton manufacture again rose to the average in the Vosges district. An improvement was also reported in some parts of Normandy, but in the North of France there was no perceptible change. Employment improved in the woollen manufacturing districts. As regards the silk industry there was greater activity in the St. Etienne district, and an improvement also took place at Lyons. Garment makers and hatters were fully employed. A partial improvement was reported in the printing and bookbinding trades. No change of any importance occurred in the furniture trades, while in some places a considerable number of coopers were still out of work. Agricultural labourers in the North were occupied for the most part with the sowing of cereals and the gathering of the potato and beetroot crops, being favoured with fine weather; in the South, however, many were out of employment on account of the completion of the vintage work early in the month.

The Trade Unions which made reports to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment in October numbered 992, with 165,440 members. Of the latter 23,745, or 14.3 per cent., were out of work on the 15th of the month, as compared with 10.5 per cent. in the preceding month, and 11.3 per cent. in October, 1903. The foregoing totals do not include returns from the Miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments.

The following statement shows the percentages of members of Trade Unions reported unemployed in certain trades, for which the figures are shown separately:—

Trade Union.	Percentage reported unemployed in the middle of		
	Oct., 1904.	Sept., 1904.	Oct., 1903.
Building Trades:—			
Carpenters and Joiners ...	12.3	5.7	12.0
Other Branches ...	15.9	10.8	15.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	8.3	5.4	9.0
Textile Trades ...	7.5	9.1	14.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking)	6.5	9.7	7.0
Printing Trades:—			
Paris ...	6.9	9.7	8.0
Provinces ...	7.3	6.2	5.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	37.0	35.0	24.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	10.0	8.9	8.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades	9.4	11.0	13.0
Food Preparation Trades (including Confectionery)	27.0	19.5	13.0

Coal Mining in October.*—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in October was 5.87, as compared with 5.81 in the preceding month and 5.92 in October 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 64.5 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 35.1 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 65.6 and 33.5 respectively. The foregoing figures were furnished to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 148,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in October.*—Sixty-one labour disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in October, as compared with 57 in the preceding month, and 60 in October, 1903. The number of persons taking part in 54 of the new disputes was 11,329, as compared with 16,597 who participated in the disputes of the previous month, and with 5,817 who took part in the disputes of October, 1903. Two of the new disputes occurred in mining and quarrying, 3 in the building trades, 12 in the metal trades, 11 in the textile trades, 1 in the clothing trades, 11 in the transport trades,

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

5 in agriculture and fishing, 4 in the printing and paper trades, 2 in the glass and chemical trades, 5 in the wood-working trades, 2 in the food preparation trades, and 3 in trades not included within these groups. Of the 61 new and old disputes which came to an end in October, 15 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 24 in favour of the employers, and 22 were compromised or were partially successful.

Conciliation and Arbitration in October.*—Eleven cases of recourse to the French Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported during October, the initiative being taken in 7 cases by the Justice of the Peace, and in 4 by the workpeople. Committees of conciliation were formed in 6 cases and resulted in the direct or eventual settlement of the disputes concerned. In the other 5 cases the employers declined the proffered mediation.

Carters.†—On November 14th the carters at Havre stopped work, and demanded an increase in wages from 25s. 7d. to 28s. 10d. per week. They resumed work on November 23rd at the old rate of 25s. 7d. per week, but this rate is now guaranteed to them, and is not to be reduced.

AUSTRIA.†

Employment in October.—According to reports made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, relief stations, and other agencies for procuring employment, the number of situations offered, the number applied for, and the number of applications per 100 situations offered were as follows:—

	Oct. 1904.	Sept. 1904.	Oct. 1903.
Number of Situations:			
Offered ...			
Males ...	20,935	22,829	21,770
Females ...	29,786	27,330	29,359
Both Sexes ...	41,721	50,159	42,129
Applied for ...			
Males ...	42,235	43,501	41,232
Females ...	28,217	30,358	23,074
Both Sexes ...	70,452	73,859	64,306
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered			
Males ...	202	191	189
Females ...	136	111	113
Both Sexes ...	169	147	153

Labour Disputes in October.—Fifteen disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in October, in 14 of which 1,212 workpeople took part. Four of these took place in the metal and engineering trades, 1 in the textile trades, 3 in the clothing trades, 1 in the paper trades, 1 in the woodworking trades, 2 in the pottery, glass and chemical trades, 2 in the food preparation trades, and 1 in the leather, skins, &c., trades. Out of 11 cases in which the results were reported, 3 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 4 in favour of the employers, and 4 were compromised.

GERMANY.

Employment in October.**—The approach of winter brought about the usual decrease of activity in a number of occupations. The busy season in the building trades came to an end in October. A slight revival was reported in coal and iron mining, but in steel making and rolling a slight decrease was observed. The state of employment in the engineering trades was on the whole not unfavourable, while in all branches of the electrical trades it was distinctly satisfactory. Most branches of the textile trades were fully employed, in spite of considerable fluctuations in the price of the raw material. The chemical trades were affected by the war in Eastern Asia, some branches being kept busy, others becoming slacker. The mild weather had a somewhat retarding effect both upon sales and orders in the ready-made clothing trades. In agriculture there was a steady

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

† Based on a series of despatches and telegrams addressed to the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade by and H.M. Consul-General at Havre under various dates from November 18th to 24th.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

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

demand for labour, which could not be supplied from native sources. Taking the time of year into consideration the state of employment in October was, on the whole, fairly satisfactory when compared with a year ago.

NORWAY.*

Employment in September.—Out of 9,521 members of 110 Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 221, or 2.3 per cent., were out of work at the end of September, as compared with 2.5 per cent. reported out of work by the same Trade Unions at the end of the previous month, and 4.1 per cent. at the end of September, 1903.

The following statement shows, by trades, the percentage reported unemployed by the same Unions at the end of each of the three months under review:—

Occupation.	Total Membership of the Unions reporting in Sept., 1904.	Percentage of Membership reported unemployed at the end of		
		Sept., 1904.	August, 1904.	Sept., 1903.
Masons and Bricklayers ...	140	17.1	9.9	35.0
Joiners ...	92	5.4	3.4	3.1
Sawyers and Planers ...	468	1.9	—	0.4
Painters ...	361	3.0	—	5.3
Stonecutters ...	359	—	—	—
Stones, Earth, and Cement Workers ...	96	—	—	6.0
Miners and Smelters ...	94	3.2	5.3	—
Metal Workers ...	4,541	1.3	1.4	1.4
Moulders ...	675	1.2	3.7	4.4
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	171	1.8	2.4	0.4
Tramway Servants ...	294	—	—	—
Printers ...	979	5.3	7.6	11.2
Bookbinders ...	167	5.4	4.2	8.0
Cabinet Makers ...	201	2.5	4.0	2.6
Bakers ...	366	8.5	6.6	11.1
Fish, &c. Preservers ...	106	0.9	1.9	2.3
Others ...	411	0.7	1.4	2.6
Total of above Trades ...	9,321	2.3	2.5	4.1

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC†

Conciliation and Arbitration.—A decree dated October 20th, 1904, has been issued by the Government of the Argentine Republic, with the object of securing a satisfactory settlement, by arbitration, of cases of differences, declared or imminent, between employers and employees, arising out of questions of Sunday rest, or the maximum day's work. It provides that in such cases the Chief of Police of the capital shall offer his friendly mediation. He shall then make an enquiry into the causes of the dispute, and afterwards request the interested parties to grant him an interview in which both parties, or their representatives, may state their view of the motive and origin of the difference. If the mediation offered is accepted, he shall endeavour to conciliate the difference to the satisfaction of both parties, and a special document shall then be drawn up setting forth the arrangement arrived at, and the obligation of either side of complying with it directly, or by means of their representatives. Should this offer of mediation not be accepted, or if it should be found impossible to arrive at an understanding when accepted, the said official is authorized to offer his services as arbitrator, or to appoint an arbitration tribunal composed of one or more persons chosen in common accord by both sides. In either case a document shall be drawn up setting forth the questions which must be submitted to arbitration, and the obligation of both parties of abiding by the award. When formed, the arbitration tribunal shall receive the claims of both parties and shall consider those which they think necessary, so that they may give their award within the period which has been fixed in the agreement. When the award has been made it must be signed by both parties, or their representatives. In case the arbitrator is the Chief of the Police of the capital, he may solicit the services, if necessary, of the Procurator Fiscal to the Federal Courts as assessor.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Statistical Bureau.

† Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office by H.M. Minister at Buenos Ayres dated October 21st.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on Returns from the Trade Correspondent, from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades continued dull during November, and was rather worse than in October. It was much worse than a year ago.

Employment with carpenters and joiners was bad generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 10.1 at the end of November, compared with 8.3 at the end of October, and 6.1 at the end of November, 1903. With plumbers it was bad in England and Ireland, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland it was moderate, rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 10.2 at the end of November, compared with 9.1 at the end of October, and 7.2 at the end of November, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions is shown in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov., 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Nov., 1904, as compared with a	
		Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	7,115	10.3	8.5	7.2	+ 1.8	+ 3.1
Northern Counties† ...	5,740	13.6	11.5	11.1	+ 2.1	+ 2.5
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	10,487	9.7	7.6	6.0	+ 2.1	+ 3.7
Yorkshire	4,942	10.3	8.9	6.6	+ 1.4	+ 3.7
East Midlands	2,828	9.1	6.8	4.1	+ 2.3	+ 5.0
West Midlands	4,646	7.7	5.0	4.2	+ 2.7	+ 3.5
Eastern Counties	1,142	9.8	6.7	6.1	+ 3.1	+ 3.7
S. and S.W. Counties ...	6,018	8.0	5.7	4.1	+ 2.3	+ 3.9
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,862	4.2	3.5	4.4	+ 0.7	- 0.2
Other Districts	639	6.3	6.8	5.9	- 0.5	+ 0.4
SCOTLAND	5,572	10.0	11.0	4.2	- 1.0	+ 4.8
IRELAND	5,001	14.4	11.0	5.9	+ 3.4	+ 8.5
UNITED KINGDOM ...	55,992	10.1	8.3	6.1	+ 1.8	+ 4.0
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,164	12.9	13.0	12.2	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Northern Counties† ...	1,626	9.2	8.4	7.0	+ 0.8	+ 2.2
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	2,686	8.7	8.1	6.3	+ 0.6	+ 2.4
Yorkshire	1,216	9.3	8.2	4.7	+ 1.1	+ 4.6
East Midlands	695	8.5	6.6	3.5	+ 1.9	+ 5.0
West Midlands	513	12.9	11.4	6.5	+ 1.5	+ 6.4
Eastern Counties	113	9.7	4.5	8.5	+ 5.2	+ 1.2
S. and S.W. Counties ...	525	9.5	5.2	6.7	+ 4.3	+ 2.8
Wales and Monmouth ...	288	3.5	3.5	5.4	...	- 1.9
Other Districts	30	13.3	14.3	16.7	- 1.0	- 3.4
SCOTLAND	1,959	11.4	11.6	8.1	- 0.2	+ 3.3
IRELAND	637	15.9	9.0	9.8	+ 6.9	+ 6.1
UNITED KINGDOM ...	11,442	10.2	9.1	7.2	+ 1.1	+ 3.0

With bricklayers employment generally was dull, and about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With masons it was moderate in England, and worse than a month ago, but about the same as a year ago; in Scotland it was very dull and worse than a month ago, but somewhat better than a year ago. With painters employment continued bad generally, and was worse than a year ago. Employment with plasterers was very slack, and worse than a year ago. With slaters and tilers employment was dull generally, being about the same as last month, but rather worse than a year ago. With builders' labourers employment was bad and worse than either a month or a year ago.

The returns received from 70 Employers' Associations show that employment generally was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the various districts:—

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † And Middlesbrough.

London.—Employment generally in London was very slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 80 employers show that in the last week of November they paid wages to 16,413 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 17,189 in the last week of October, and 18,575 in the last week of November, 1903.

Northern Counties.—The general condition of employment continued dull. It was about the same as last month, but it was worse than a year ago.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment continued slack generally.

Yorkshire.—In this district employment generally continued slack, and a large number of builders' labourers were on the unemployed register at Halifax and Bradford. At Hull, however, it was fair with slaters and tilers, and moderate with stonemasons; at Grimsby it was moderate with painters, and rather better than a month ago.

East Midland Counties.—Employment generally continued dull, and was rather worse than last month.

West Midland Counties.—Employment generally throughout the district was dull.

Eastern Counties.—In this district employment generally was bad.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment generally was dull. It was, however, reported fair in some branches at Exeter and Cheltenham, and moderate with painters at Devonport, a large number being employed in the dockyard.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment in the North Wales district was slack generally, except with painters at Wrexham and Oswestry, where it was fair. In South Wales it was fair generally.

Scotland.—Employment generally continued dull, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Edinburgh the number of unemployed is reported to be exceptionally large.

Ireland.—In Dublin and Belfast employment continued bad. At Cork it was dull, though with the plasterers and plumbers it was moderate.

COAL MINING.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal-mining industry during the month of November was moderate and showed little change as compared with October. It was, however, rather worse, on the whole, than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received in each of the three months shown was somewhat larger in November than in October, and in November 1903.

Returns received relating to 1,305 pits, employing 541,071 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries* during the four weeks ended November 26th, 1904, was 5.14, compared with 5.16 in October, and 5.24 in November, 1903. The average weekly number of days worked in November during the 10 years 1895-1904 was 5.35, ranging from 5.08 days during November, 1895, to 5.64 in November, 1899. For November, 1904, the number of days worked was less than in any November since 1895.

Of the 541,071 workpeople covered by the returns, 447,790 or 82.8 per cent. were employed at pits working 20 days or more during the four weeks ended November 26th, and of these, 123,684 (112,376 in South Wales and Monmouthshire) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—COAL AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

In the Table below the average time worked by the pits in the various districts is shown for the three periods specified:—

District.	No. of Workpeople employed in Nov., 1904, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1904, as compared with	
		Nov. 26th, 1904.	Oct. 22nd, 1904.	Nov. 21st, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland	41,074	5.11	5.33	5.35	- .22	- .24
Durham	93,076	5.36	5.38	5.47	- .02	- .11
Cumberland	6,382	5.50	5.34	5.55	+ .16	- .05
South Yorkshire	60,040	5.07	5.23	5.25	- .16	- .18
West Yorkshire	19,924	4.40	4.78	4.62	- .38	- .22
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,366	5.00	4.72	4.96	+ .28	+ .04
Derbyshire	36,957	4.49	4.57	4.68	- .08	- .19
Nottingham and Leicester	26,022	4.40	4.68	4.41	- .28	- .01
Staffordshire	25,926	5.11	4.79	5.22	+ .32	- .11
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick	10,106	5.10	5.31	4.71	- .20	+ .39
Gloucester and Somerset	8,453	5.08	5.18	5.21	- .10	- .13
North Wales	10,378	4.91	5.07	5.51	- .16	- .60
South Wales and Mon. ...	112,376	5.58	5.49	5.79	+ .09	- .21
ENGLAND & WALES ...	801,980	5.12	5.15	5.22	- .03	- .10
SCOTLAND.						
West Lothians	18,384	5.28	5.27	5.37	+ .01	- .09
The Lothians	4,925	5.74	5.75	5.61	- .01	+ .13
Fife	15,109	5.32	5.26	5.36	+ .06	- .04
SCOTLAND	38,419	5.35	5.33	5.40	+ .02	- .05
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	841,071	5.14	5.16	5.24	- .02	- .10

As compared with a year ago a considerable improvement was shown in the Shropshire and Warwickshire district, while there was a considerable falling-off in North Wales, Northumberland, West Yorkshire and South Wales. Altogether decreases in the number of days worked were shown in 13 districts and increases in 3 districts.

As compared with a month ago an improvement was shown in the Lancashire and Cheshire, and Staffordshire districts, and to a smaller extent in Cumberland, South Wales, Fife and West Scotland. The remaining districts in Great Britain showed a decline which was greatest in West Yorkshire, and Notts and Leicester.

In Northumberland and Durham there was a decline in employment both as compared with a month ago and a year ago. With coke yard workers employment continued bad.

Employment in the Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham district showed some decline. Surfacemen were moderately well employed. In the Leeds district employment was fairly good in consequence of a rather better demand for house coal.

In Lancashire employment improved somewhat during the month. In the Bolton and Wigan districts it was fair. In the Burnley district there was considerable short time.

In Nottinghamshire employment was moderate. In Leicestershire it was bad. In Derbyshire employment was not as good as a month or year ago. In the Cannock Chase district 3½ days per week were worked. In Shropshire employment was fair.

In the Bristol coalfields employment was good; in the Radstock district it was fair.

In North Wales employment was fair generally, but work at some collieries was stopped owing to the presence of water. Work has, however, been found for a number of the men at the L. & N.W. Railway Company's Dee embankment works.

In Scotland generally employment was good.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during November, amounted to 4,061,353 tons, as compared with 4,181,274 tons in October, and 3,826,208 tons in November, 1903.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on information from Employers, Employers' Associations, Trade Union and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in November continued good in iron and shale mines; it was fair in tin and copper mines; and fairly good in lead mines. With quarrymen it was fair generally.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good; the average time worked was about the same as in October, and was slightly better than a year ago. During the four weeks ended November 26th the average number of days worked by the 125 mines and open work, covered by the returns received from employers was 5.86 as compared with 5.83 in October, and 5.74 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed showed increases of 1.8 and of 2.2 per cent. respectively as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Nov., 1904, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1904, as compared with	
		Nov. 26th, 1904.	Oct. 22nd, 1904.	Nov. 21st, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,658	5.95	5.89	5.77	+ 0.06	+ 0.18
Cleveland	7,215	5.91	5.94	5.82	- 0.03	+ 0.09
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	946	5.82	5.77	5.91	+ 0.05	- 0.09
Northamptonshire	596	5.83	5.81	5.71	+ 0.02	+ 0.12
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	653	5.34	5.15	4.45	+ 0.19	+ 0.89
Other places in England ...	154	5.75	5.95	5.87	+ 0.20	- 0.12
Total, England ...	14,222	5.88	5.86	5.71	+ 0.02	+ 0.17
SCOTLAND	1,008	5.53	5.53	6.00	...	- 0.47
IRELAND	125	5.94	5.74	6.00	+ 0.20	- 0.06
Total and Averages	15,355	5.86	5.83	5.74	+ 0.03	+ 0.12

Of the 15,355 workpeople covered by the returns 14,365, or 93.6 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended 26th November, 1904, as compared with 89.6 per cent. in October, and 86.0 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners continued good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in November 2,896 men were employed, as compared with 2,854 a month ago, and 2,631 in November, 1903. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended 26th November was 5.76, as compared with 5.67 in October and 4.55 a year ago.

Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.—Employment in the tin and copper mines of Devon and Cornwall continued fair generally. In North Wales employment with lead miners continued good; in the Weardale district about five days per week were worked.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment in the North Wales slate quarries was slack generally. In Argyllshire it was bad, and short time was general.

Granite.—Employment in Leicestershire remained fairly good. In Devon and Cornwall it was on the whole dull, with short time in several quarries. In North Wales employment was fair. In Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire it continued bad.

Limestone.—Employment in the Stanhope district of Durham was fair, and in the Westgate and Upper Weardale quarries full time was worked. In Cumberland employment continued bad. In Derbyshire much

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—QUARRYING; IRON AND STEEL WORKS; TINPLATE WORKS.

short time was worked. In North Wales employment was considerably interrupted by stormy weather. In the Plymouth district it was bad.

Other Stone.—In the Gateshead district employment was unsettled owing to a dispute. In the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Normanton districts it was slack. In Derbyshire chert quarrymen were well employed, and overtime was worked. In the Clee Hill (road material) quarries employment was good. In Devon and Cornwall it was, on the whole, dull. In the Rowsley district employment at the building and grindstone quarries was fair. In Forfarshire it continued bad and worse than in October.

Settling.—Employment in Leicestershire was fairly good, and it was fair in North Wales. In Scotland employment continued fair at Airdrie, and in Aberdeenshire; it was bad in the Edinburgh district.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell and Lee Moor districts employment was on the whole good.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed little change on the whole, as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The volume of employment, as measured by the estimated aggregate number of shifts worked, was 0.2 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 0.5 per cent. less than in November, 1903.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the number of workpeople employed at 194 works in Great Britain which made returns to the Department:—

	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1904, as compared with	
	Nov. 26th 1904.	Oct. 22nd 1904.	Nov. 28th 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales	61,676	61,923	62,686	- 247	- 1,310
Scotland	11,829	11,882	11,651	- 53	+ 178
Total	73,505	73,805	74,337	- 300	- 1,132

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The following Table relates to the number of shifts worked by about 89 per cent. of the workpeople referred to above. The average number of shifts worked by each person was 5.39 in the week ended November 26th, as compared with 5.38 in the corresponding week of the previous month and 5.33 a year ago.

Number of Shifts worked.	Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended		
	Nov. 26th 1904.	Oct. 22nd 1904.	Nov. 28th 1903.
Under 5 per week	12.5	14.5	16.2
5 per week	30.8	29.8	28.7
5½ per week	4.2	2.0	2.0
6 per week	51.7	52.8	52.3
Over 6 per week	0.8	0.9	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the basis of the foregoing Table, the total number of shifts worked by all workpeople included in the returns was approximately 395,940 in the last week of November, 396,720 in the corresponding week of October, and 398,090 a year ago.

The following is a summary of reports received from Local Correspondents in various districts:—

* Includes iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

Tyne and Wear.—Employment with steel smelters was reported as fair at Consett; depressed and worse than in October at Newburn and Jarrow. Steel plate and small bar mills generally worked full time; big bar mills 9 out of a possible 11 shifts. Cogging and sheet mills at Jarrow averaged 8 and 9 shifts per week. Forge and hammermen on the Tyne reported employment as fair; on the Wear as moderate. Finished iron and steel workers at Wolsingham were moderately busy.

Tees and Hartlepoons.—Employment at iron and steel works at Hartlepoons was reported as brisk; in October it was fair, a year ago good. Metal expansion works were fairly well employed, but not so well as either a month or year ago. Workers at rail mills and other iron and steel workers in the district continued in moderate employment, some improvement being reported in certain directions. Employment was fair in pipe foundries.

South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.—Employment continued slack for steel workers, and in some branches was reported as bad, but on the whole showed a slight improvement over October. Steel workers at Parkgate reported employment as fair; at Rotherham and Iccles as improved. At Scunthorpe employment was reported as fair. Ironworkers at Parkgate were slack, at Rotherham and Masbro' fairly well employed.

Midlands.—Employment in South Staffordshire showed some improvement as compared with October. Steel smelters in North Staffordshire were working full time. In Shropshire iron workers were only partially employed, and in Derbyshire about half-time only was worked.

South Wales.—Employment with steel smelters was reported as good.

Scotland.—In the Glasgow district employment was fairly good generally, and about the same as a year ago.

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry in November continued good, and showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and a considerable improvement as compared with November, 1903. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal.

At the end of November 400 mills were working, as compared with 394 at the end of October, and 349 a year ago. At the 76 works open, 64 had all their mills (344) in operation, while the remaining 12 had 56 mills working out of a total of 76. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 400 mills was 20,000.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 390 mills were working as compared with 384 a month ago, and 337 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,* at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	64	344	20	344
Works giving partial employment	12	56	20	76
Total at end of November, 1904* ...	76	400	20	420
Corresponding Total for Oct., 1904* ...	76	394	23	417
Corresponding Total for Nov., 1903* †	69	349	31	380

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate.
† Revised figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—PIG IRON; ENGINEERING TRADES.

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
To United States	Tons. 3,089	Tons. 4,645	Tons. 3,981	Tons. 5	Tons. 54	Tons. —
„ Other Countries	22,218	28,920	19,597	4,539	5,198	4,931
Total	25,307	33,565	23,578	4,544	5,252	4,931

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on Returns from Employers, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed on the whole a further slight improvement. In England generally, however, it was not so good as a year ago. In Scotland it was about the same as a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters show that one new furnace was lit in Lanarkshire, and one furnace in Lancashire was re-lit. At the end of November 304 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 302 in October, and 314 in November, 1903. The number of workpeople employed at works included in the returns is estimated at about 21,400.

The following Table shows by districts the number of furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1904, as compared with	
	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland*	77	77	80	...	- 3
Cumberland & Lancs.	32	31	31	+ 1	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks.	13	13	15	...	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	36	36	38	...	- 2
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	25	25	26	...	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	30	30	34	...	- 4
S. Wales & Monmouth	15	15	13	...	+ 2
Other districts	6	6	7	...	- 1
Returned from England & Wales }	234	233	244	+ 1	- 10
Returned from Scotland	70	69	70	+ 1	...
Total furnaces included in returns	304	302	314	+ 2	- 10

ENGINEERING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued dull. It was slightly better than a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to Trade Unions with 144,056 members show that 11,289 (or 7.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 7.9 per cent. at the end of October, and 6.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed was greatest in the Belfast and Dublin, Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn, Notts, Derby and Leicester, and East of Scotland districts. It was least in the South Coast, South Wales and Bristol, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry, and London Districts.

* Including Northumberland and Durham.

As compared with a month ago an improvement was shown in the Birmingham, South Coast and West Riding districts. The principal districts which showed a decline were the Notts, Derby and Leicester, the North East Coast and the Belfast and Dublin districts.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in all districts except Hull and Lincolnshire and the South Coast, the decline being greatest in the Belfast and Dublin, the Notts, Derby and Leicester and the Oldham, Bolton etc. districts.

The percentages for the various districts are shown in detail in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov., 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Nov., 1904, as compared with a	
		Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	14,205	8.4	7.6	7.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.9
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,436	9.3	9.7	6.1	- 0.4	+ 3.2
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,258	12.1	12.0	7.8	+ 0.1	+ 4.3
West Riding Towns	11,701	9.6	10.4	7.2	- 0.8	+ 2.4
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,454	7.1	7.0	8.2	+ 0.1	- 1.1
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,268	5.1	6.1	4.1	- 1.0	+ 1.0
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,028	11.7	9.9	5.9	+ 1.8	+ 5.8
London and Neighbouring District	12,193	5.3	5.4	4.9	- 0.1	+ 0.4
South Coast	4,029	2.2	3.3	2.6	- 1.1	- 0.4
South Wales and Bristol District	6,482	5.1	5.5	4.0	- 0.4	+ 1.1
Glasgow and District	13,733	9.4	9.2	7.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
East of Scotland	3,604	11.1	11.1	8.5	...	+ 2.3
Belfast and Dublin	3,452	12.6	12.6	6.4	+ 0.4	+ 6.2
Other Districts	5,449	5.5	6.4	5.2	- 0.9	+ 0.3
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	144,056	7.8	7.9	6.0	- 0.1	+ 1.8

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the various districts:—

North-East Coast.—Employment generally declined somewhat, and was also worse than a year ago. It fell off at Newcastle and Gateshead. On the north side of the Tyne it was fairly good, but not with ironfounders. At Jarrow it was still bad, with much short time. Employment also, in repair work in the lower reaches of the river was slack, but was better higher up. On the Wear employment remained fairly steady; at Darlington it was good. On both the Tyne and Wear employment with pattern makers was not good. On the Tees it was dull generally, but fairly good in bridge building and wagon works, and fair with pattern makers.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment in this district was bad. It was, however, rather better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. It was, fair with smiths and strikers at Manchester and slack with machine workers and brassfounders.

Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District.—Employment continued bad in all branches, and was much worse than a year ago. A slight improvement was reported with makers of textile machinery in the northern parts of the district, but some short time was still being worked. At Bolton employment declined during the month.

West Riding.—Employment generally was slack, but improved somewhat during the month. It, however, remained worse than a year ago. At Leeds it continued bad, with much short time. At Sheffield and Rotherham some improvement was reported, but employment at Barnsley was bad.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment generally continued dull and was worse than a year ago. It was fair with pattern makers at Hull. At Doncaster employment was bad generally, with some short time; with coach builders, however, it was fair.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

West Midlands.—Employment was moderate generally. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as in November, 1903. In the motor industry it was good at Wolverhampton. It was fair with electrical engineers at Birmingham; slack at Wolverhampton. In the cycle industry employment was quiet generally, but it improved slightly at Wolverhampton.

East Midlands.—Employment in this district was bad. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. It was good, however, with electrical engineers at Loughborough; fair with shoe machinery makers at Leicester. With lace machinery makers employment declined at Long Eaton, but at Nottingham it was somewhat brisker. In the motor and cycle industry at Nottingham and Beeston employment was bad. Boiler-makers at Derby were fairly well employed; there was a resumption of full time at the railway works.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment continued dull generally, and was rather worse than a year ago, though better than a month ago. With engineers and machinists at Erith some improvement was reported.

South Coast.—Employment generally was good and better than both a month and a year ago. At Devonport it was bad with ironfounders.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment was moderate in most branches. It improved slightly during the month but was worse than a year ago. It was bad with engineers at Cardiff and Gloucester, dull at Bristol with both engineers and pattern makers.

Glasgow and District.—Employment in this district declined slightly and was worse than a year ago. It was bad with copper-smiths and iron and brass dressers, and with iron-moulders there was considerable short time. Brass finishers at Glasgow and Greenock report employment as fair. With pattern makers it was dull at Glasgow and Paisley but was improving on the lower reaches of the river.

East of Scotland.—Employment continued bad and was worse than a year ago. In the machine shops at Dundee, however, employment was fairly good. It was fair with iron moulders at Dundee and brass finishers at Aberdeen. At Falkirk the iron moulders were on short time.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment in all branches continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago.

Other Districts.—Employment at Barrow continued slack. In the Eastern Counties it was slack generally. At Hanley and Stoke it was bad.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during November, slightly worse on the whole than a month ago, but slightly better than in November, 1903, when the percentage of unemployed in this trade was very high. Branches of Trade Unions with 57,601 members had a total of 9,589 (or 16.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 16.1 per cent. at the end of October, and 17.1 per cent. at the end of November, 1903.

As compared with a month ago the figures show a decline in eight districts, and an improvement in four districts. As compared with November, 1903, most districts show an improvement, but in the Tees and Hartlepool and Belfast districts a heavy decline has occurred.

The following Table shows in detail the percentages of unemployed Trade Union members in the various districts:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov., 1904 included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Percentage for Nov., 1904, as compared with	
		Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,382	17.3	16.0	17.8	+ 1.3	— 0.5
Wear	4,792	17.0	12.5	30.0	+ 4.5	— 13.0
Tees and Hartlepool	5,166	28.0	23.9	15.1	+ 2.1	+ 12.9
Humber	2,333	14.9	15.0	19.5	— 0.1	— 4.6
Thames and Medway	4,074	10.5	13.9	14.2	— 3.4	— 3.7
South Coast	3,855	3.5	5.2	6.6	— 1.7	— 3.1
Bristol Channel Ports	2,690	18.9	23.2	21.8	— 6.3	— 2.9
Mersey	4,076	17.1	15.7	18.5	+ 1.4	— 1.4
Clyde	12,373	16.0	15.6	16.0	+ 0.4	—
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	2,204	27.3	26.9	33.7	+ 0.4	— 6.4
Belfast	2,938	19.2	18.7	6.6	+ 0.5	+ 12.6
Other Districts	3,120	11.1	9.5	9.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.2
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	57,601	16.6	16.1	17.1	+ 0.5	— 0.5

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

On the *Tyne* employment was bad generally.

On the *Wear* employment declined as compared with October, but the figures indicate a considerable improvement as compared with a year ago.

In the *Tees and Hartlepool* district employment was bad generally, and was much worse than a year ago.

On the *Humber* employment was slack generally.

On the *Thames and Medway* employment remained slack, but the figures show an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. Shipwrights at Chatham were fairly well employed.

On the *South Coast* employment was fairly good, and better on the whole than both a month and a year ago.

At the *Bristol Channel Ports* employment was bad. There was, however, a reduction in the number of Trade Union members unemployed. At Pembroke Dock employment continued fairly good.

On the *Mersey* employment was bad generally.

On the *Clyde* employment was dull on the whole. It improved, however, with shipwrights. Iron shipbuilders on the lower reaches were reported as busy, and light platers and ship-range makers were well employed, overtime being worked.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment remained bad generally.

Belfast.—Employment remained bad, and was much worse than a year ago.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continued moderate. At Dublin, Yarmouth and Lowestoft it remained bad.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally was slack, but with the brass workers there was an improvement as compared with a month ago. The South Staffordshire tube trade was about the same as a month ago.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—Employment was bad in the brass trade generally, but was better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment with nut and bolt makers was moderate in Birmingham and Smethwick; in South Wales and at Dudley it was dull. In Birmingham employment was moderate with cut nail makers, and quiet with makers of wire nails and machine-made rivets. In the Blackheath district employment with makers of wrought nails and rivets was slack.

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

Tubes.—In this branch employment generally was slack.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—With chainmakers employment at Cradley was slack, at Gateshead it was fair; at Pontypridd it continued very slack. Anchor smiths were slack at Cradley and at Pontypridd. With the anvil and vice makers in the Dudley district employment was slightly better. In Birmingham and West Bromwich employment was fair in the axle trade, and also with the spring makers at West Bromwich; at Wednesbury it was good, and with railway tyre makers had improved. Employment was slack with makers of harness gear at Walsall.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—In the lock, key and latch trade employment continued bad. With the hollow-ware trades, generally it was quiet; it was bad at West Bromwich. With makers of plantation and Brazil hoes at Wednesbury it was good. In the smaller hardware trades it was quiet.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—In these trades employment was moderate to slack.

Cutlery, etc.—In the Sheffield cutlery trades employment generally was slack. In the needle trade at Redditch and Nottingham there was a further improvement. The hosiery needle makers at Leicester showed no improvement. In the fish hook trade at Redditch employment was good.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment in this trade was bad generally, and in the Glasgow and Falkirk districts there was much short time.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London the zinc workers and the tin and iron plate workers were very slack, but slightly better than a month ago. At Birmingham it was fair in the iron plate and rolled metal trades, and moderate in the tin plate branch. At the Lye there was some improvement in the iron plate trade. At Bristol, Exeter, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Hull and Dundee it was fair.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment generally was dull. In Birmingham employment in the Britannia metal trade was fairly good; the improvement in the silver section of the jewellery trade was maintained. In Sheffield employment was slack. At Coventry the watch trade was quiet.

Wirework.—Wire-drawers and wire-weavers generally were fairly employed. With wire workers at Manchester there was a further improvement.

Farriers.—Owing to seasonal causes employment generally was better.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent, and on Returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good and again showed a general improvement in all branches compared with a year ago. Compared with a month ago employment remained good with spinners of American cotton, and showed an improvement with spinners of Egyptian cotton; it also showed an improvement in the weaving branch.

In the *spinning* mills covered by the employers' returns, containing 17,152,988 spindles, 98.6 per cent. of the total spindles were working in the last week of November, compared with 98.2 per cent. at the end of October, and 98.9 per cent. in the corresponding week in November, 1903. The slight decline in the proportion of spindles working compared with a year ago is much more than counterbalanced by the increase in time worked. The percentage of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in mills in which short time was worked in the last week of November was only 2.8, compared with 3.8 per cent. a month ago, and 8.4 per cent. a year ago.

In the *weaving* branch employment showed a further improvement, and was much better than a year ago. Of the 230,525 looms covered by the employers' returns 96.6 per cent. were working in the last week of November compared with 95.7 per cent. a month ago, and 93.6 per cent. a year ago. The proportion of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in weaving sheds in which short time was worked in the last week of November was only 1.9 per cent., compared with 3.9 per cent. a month ago, and 13.3 per cent. a year ago.

It will be seen from the following Table that the number of persons employed by the firms sending returns showed a slight increase in every department compared with a month ago, and a larger one still compared with a year ago; 1,049 more operatives being employed than a month ago, and 3,486 more than a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed in last week of			Percentage Increase in number employed in last week of November, 1904, compared with	
	November, 1904.	October, 1904.	November, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing	22,054	21,901	22,006	0.7	0.2
Spinning	32,394	32,125	31,538	0.8	2.7
Weaving	86,941	86,455	84,711	0.6	2.6
Others	15,854	15,713	15,502	0.9	2.3
Total	157,243	156,194	153,757	0.7	2.3

SPINNING.

Compared with a month ago employment showed a great improvement in the Bolton district, which mainly uses Egyptian cotton. The changes in the other districts were only slight, being most marked in the Blackburn and Darwen district, which showed an increase in the percentage affected by short time.

Compared with a year ago a great improvement was apparent in many districts, and the Blackburn and Darwen district was the only one showing an increase in the number affected by short time. In Bolton there was a marked decline in the percentage of spindles working.

The following Table shows the percentage of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns who were employed in mills working short time during the last week of November and October, 1904, and November, 1903. It also shows the percentage of spindles working during the last week of these months.

District.	Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Preparing and Spinning Departments.			Spindles Working per cent. of Total Number of Spindles.		
	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
Ashton District	1.3	0.8	13.3	98.9	97.2	99.3
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	1.8	0.9	7.9	97.2	97.6	96.8
Oldham District	3.0	3.1	3.2	99.3	98.7	99.2
Bolton District	1.7	10.2	1.8	96.3	96.7	99.5
Wigan and Leigh District ... ..	...	...	...	95.7	96.1	95.7
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden	5.9	5.3	18.4	99.7	98.5	98.3
Preston, Chorley, and Lancaster	1.2	1.2	2.3	99.9	99.9	99.4
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen	7.8	3.7	5.2	99.4	99.3	98.9
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, and Nelson	1.9	1.9	29.0	99.9	99.9	99.9
Manchester District ... ..	...	...	31.9	99.1	99.1	98.7
Total	2.8	3.8	8.4	98.6	98.2	98.9

WEAVING.

The following Table shows the percentage of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns who were employed in weaving and other departments working short time during the last week of November and October, 1904, and November, 1903; it also shows the percentage of looms working during the last week of these months.

Compared with a month ago, the Oldham district was

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—COTTON TRADE.

the only one showing even a slight increase in the percentage affected by short time. The Burnley, etc., district was the only one showing a decline in the percentage of looms running. Employment generally was worst in the Oldham district, where more than one-fifth of the looms were standing, and more than one-seventh of the operatives in the weaving factories were affected by short time. In the Preston, Blackburn and Burnley districts it was good.

Compared with a year ago every district showed an improvement in the percentage affected by short time. The Stockport and Hyde district, in which full time was reported for both periods, showed a decline in the percentage of looms running. The only other districts showing a similar decline were the Bolton, Manchester, and Wigan and Leigh districts, and in these cases it was more than counterbalanced by the diminution of short time.

District.	Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Weaving and other Departments.			Looms Working per cent. of Total Number of Looms.		
	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
	Ashton District	0.4	28.7	89.6	81.5	81.8	81.8
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	...	...	94.7	94.3	97.6	97.6
Oldham District	15.8	15.4	22.0	78.7	74.7	76.3
Bolton District	11.1	23.3	21.5	93.5	93.1	93.7
Wigan and Leigh District ...	...	13.4	23.1	85.2	83.2	87.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden	3.3	3.3	26.8	95.2	93.4	91.2
Preston, Chorley, & Lancaster	...	...	8.6	98.7	96.8	99.6
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen	...	...	2.4	99.9	99.7	96.2
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, & Nelson	0.8	2.1	10.3	98.4	98.7	96.1
Manchester District ... ..	...	8.0	44.1	91.5	88.5	91.9
Total	1.9	3.9	13.3	95.6	95.7	93.6

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported:—

	Month of November.			Eleven months ended November.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Imported	Bales. 501,470	Bales. 574,685	Bales. 550,666	Bales. 3,125,965	Bales. 3,052,795	Bales. 3,194,613
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	309,833	330,730	342,542	2,903,756	2,706,883	2,653,007
Exported	29,764	38,977	29,508	418,741	468,987	344,525

The quantity of all kinds of American cotton forwarded from English ports to inland towns during the eleven months of 1904, was 2,177,291 bales, or 58,367 bales less than in the same period in 1903. The corresponding figures for Egyptian cotton are 275,806 in 1904, and 247,999 in 1903.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of November.			Eleven Months ended November.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	243,509	272,115	295,923	2,362,518	2,235,658	2,177,291
Brazilian	14,370	8,363	7,068	168,561	120,804	74,540
East Indian	1,009	5,001	4,256	16,546	49,899	82,389
Egyptian	46,881	40,385	31,247	279,781	247,999	275,806
Miscellaneous	4,564	4,866	4,048	76,350	52,523	42,981
Total	309,833	330,730	342,542	2,903,756	2,706,883	2,653,007

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 9th December was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 1,003,230 bales, compared with 648,370 bales at December 11th, 1903.

OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF CROP OF 1904-5.

The U.S.A. Agricultural Bureau issued on December 3rd its official forecast of the amount of available supply

of American Cotton for the next year, the estimate being 12,162,000 bales.

The following Table shows the official forecasts, and the actual crops for the past five years (in thousands of bales):—

	Official Forecast.	Actual Crop.
1899-1900	8,900	9,101
1900-1	10,100	10,519
1901-2	9,471	10,552
1902-3	10,417	10,709
1903-4	10,120	10,032
Average 1899-1900 to 1903-4	9,802	10,183
1904-5	12,162	—

It will be seen that the average under-estimate of the official forecast compared with the estimated actual supply has been 381,000 bales, though for 1903-4 the forecast over-estimated the supply by 88,000 bales.

PRICE OF RAW COTTON.

The official estimate was much larger than was generally anticipated, and its announcement caused prices to fall heavily. The price of "Middling American" on the day of the announcement was 4.68d. On the day following the price fell to 4.25d. and the average price since then until 10th December was 4.21d. The price on 10th December was 4.18d. which represents a drop of 3d. per lb. on the price prevailing on the day before the announcement of this large crop. At the corresponding date in 1903 the price was 6.58d.

During the month of November the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.31d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.46d. and the lowest 4.93d. The price for October was 5.50d. and for November, 1903, 6.03d.

The price of Egyptian cotton was on the other hand higher in November than in October but below the level of November 1903. The price of "good fair Egyptian" during November averaged 7.92d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8.8d. and the lowest 7.13d. The price for October was 7.63d., and for November, 1903, 8.37d. For the period from 1st to 10th December the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.72d. per lb.

EXPORTS OF COTTON MANUFACTURES.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in November, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during November averaged 12.28d. per lb., as compared with 13.00d. per lb. in November, 1903, a decrease of about 5.5 per cent. The corresponding value for October, 1904, was 12.63d. per lb. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to 3 per cent., the value being 2.73d. per yard in November, 1904, as compared with 2.65d. in November, 1903. The declared value in October, 1904, was 2.74d. per yard:—

Description.	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Nov., 1902.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1902.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Cotton Yarn & Twist—						
Grey	11,126,800	9,380,200	12,994,600	10.39	13.13	12.25
Bleached and Dyed	4,047,800	2,144,200	2,834,900	11.30	12.43	12.39
Total	15,174,600	11,524,400	15,829,500	10.63	13.00	12.28
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	166,392,200	125,394,600	181,344,400	1.99	2.06	2.25
Fleached	107,423,400	103,504,000	128,659,300	2.53	2.96	2.64
Printed	80,675,400	77,258,900	80,619,500	2.67	2.79	2.86
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	70,442,900	69,209,300	83,517,400	3.45	3.69	3.76
Total	424,933,900	375,367,700	474,171,100	2.50	2.65	2.73

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent and on returns from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

ACCORDING to the amount of wages paid, the best measure of employment in these trades, the November returns show a slight decline (1.6 per cent.) in the Woollen, and a slight improvement (0.9 per cent.) in the Worsted trade as compared with October.

Compared, however, with a year ago, the Woollen trade shows a marked improvement (7.1 per cent.), which is said to be largely accounted for by war orders. The Worsted trade, on the other hand, shows very little improvement (0.9 per cent.).

The number employed by Woollen and Worsted firms making returns at the end of November was 63,224, compared with 63,186 at the end of October, and 63,184 at the end of November, 1903, an increase of 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago and with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed, firms employing 44,417 workpeople have given detailed returns of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in November and October, 1904, and November, 1903. From these returns it appears that, compared with a month ago the number employed showed an increase of 0.3 per cent., while the amount of wages paid showed no change. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed a decline of 0.6 per cent., but the amount of wages earned showed an increase of 3.0 per cent.

The following Table* enables a comparison to be made of the number employed and wages paid in the various processes of manufacture in Yorkshire, Scotland, and other districts reported on at the end of November with a month ago and a year ago so far as covered by the returns. The number of sorters and combers outside Yorkshire is too small for separate classification.

Branch of Woollen and Worsted Trade.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number employed at end of Nov., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay-day in Nov., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Wool Combing and Sorting—	3,637	Per cent. - 1.1	Per cent. - 1.5	£ 3,297	Per cent. + 0.3	Per cent. ...
Spinning—						
Yorkshire	16,488	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	8,744	- 0.4	- 0.4
Scotland	840	+ 1.6	- 3.2	591	+ 1.7	- 0.8
Other Districts	1,057	- 0.4	- 3.8	618	...	+ 2.8
Total	18,385	+ 0.1	...	9,956	- 0.3	- 0.2
Weaving—						
Yorkshire	9,283	+ 1.2	+ 2.3	7,838	- 0.1	+ 7.7
Scotland	2,151	- 0.1	- 3.4	1,805	- 0.3	+ 4.0
Other Districts	657	+ 0.6	- 2.4	496	- 2.4	+ 16.2
Total	12,090	+ 0.9	+ 1.0	10,139	- 0.2	+ 7.4
Other Departments—						
Yorkshire	5,167	+ 1.2	- 0.1	5,499	+ 2.2	+ 7.3
Scotland	1,655	+ 0.6	- 5.3	1,533	+ 3.4	+ 6.4
Other Districts	499	- 0.6	- 3.7	500	- 2.2	- 4.9
Total	7,321	+ 1.0	- 1.7	7,532	+ 2.1	+ 6.2
Unspecified—						
Yorkshire	1,961	- 1.6	- 6.8	1,700	- 6.4	- 6.4
Scotland	502	+ 4.4	- 8.1	453	...	- 1.3
Other Districts	521	+ 0.4	+ 2.2	425	- 2.3	- 2.5
Total	2,984	- 0.3	- 5.5	2,578	- 4.7	- 4.9
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—						
Yorkshire	36,248	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	26,776	- 0.2	+ 3.0
Scotland	5,238	+ 0.8	- 4.5	4,495	+ 1.3	+ 3.5
Other Districts	2,937	+ 0.1	- 2.2	2,531	- 0.8	+ 2.2
Total	44,417	+ 0.3	- 0.6	33,802	...	+ 3.0

In the Sorting and Combing branches there was a decline in numbers employed compared with a month and a year ago, but the amount of wages paid showed practically no change.

In the Spinning branch little change was apparent either in numbers employed or in amount of wages paid.

In the Weaving branch compared with a month ago

there was an increase in numbers employed, but the amount of wages paid showed a slight decline; compared with a year ago there was a slight increase in numbers employed, and a considerable increase in amount of wages paid.

From the following Table* it will be seen that in the Woollen trade, compared with a month ago, an improvement was shown in Scotland, a decline elsewhere; compared with a year ago the figures in the Table show an increase in numbers employed and wages paid in Yorkshire; Scotland and the "other districts" show a decline in the numbers employed, but an increase in the amount of wages paid.

In the Worsted trade compared with a month ago there was a general but slight increase in the numbers employed; in the smaller centres of the West Riding there was an increase in the amount of wages paid, but in Bradford, there was a slight decline. Compared with a year ago, Bradford showed a slight decline; the other West Riding centres showed an improvement in the amount of wages paid.

Trade and District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.			
	No. employed at end of Nov., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Nov., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		
					A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Woollen—						
Yorkshire	6,672	+ 1.5	+ 2.6	6,027	- 3.9	+ 10.7
Scotland	5,238	+ 0.8	- 4.5	4,495	+ 1.3	+ 3.5
Other Districts	2,066	...	- 1.9	1,683	- 1.1	+ 4.5
Total	13,976	- 0.4	- 0.9	12,205	- 1.6	+ 7.1
Worsted—						
Bradford	16,267	+ 0.7	- 0.6	10,785	- 0.4	- 0.5
Other Parts of West Riding	13,309	+ 0.6	- 0.1	9,954	+ 2.4	+ 2.7
Other Districts	865	+ 0.5	- 2.7	548	+ 0.2	- 4.4
Total	30,441	+ 0.7	- 0.4	21,297	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
Total	44,417	+ 0.3	- 0.6	33,502	...	+ 3.0

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

Bradford District.—Firms employing over 16,500 operatives showed a slight increase in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a slight decrease compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment with wool sorters and wool combers was bad. The amount of wages paid in the spinning branch was less than a year ago. In the weaving branch it was greater than a year ago, and about the same as a month ago.

Keighley District.—Firms employing about 5,800 operatives showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was practically no change in the number employed, but compared with a year ago there was a decline of 1.1 per cent. Employment generally was reported as bad.

Halifax District.—Firms employing about 2,700 operatives showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Much short time and slackness were reported.

Huddersfield District.—Firms employing over 5,900 operatives showed much improvement compared with a year ago and a slight one compared with a month ago. There was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid

* The Table refers only to those firms that returned wages paid as well as numbers employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES; OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was an increase of 5·3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 14·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. In the woollen trade employment continued good; and in the Colne Valley overtime and night work were the rule. In the worsted trade employment showed an improvement.

Leeds District.—Firms employing over 2,400 operatives showed an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the number employed and of 0·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 4·2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Employment was reported as fairly good, with overtime in some cases.

Heavy Woollen District.—Firms employing over 2,000 operatives showed a decline of 2·5 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 decline of 3·5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 1·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Employment generally throughout the district was reported as good, overtime and night work being frequent.

Scotland.—Firms employing over 5,200 operatives showed an increase of 0·8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4·5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 3·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. In Selkirk employment continued good in all branches of the woollen industry. In Galashiels and Hawick employment was fairly good.

Other Districts.—Employment was reported as good at the serge mills in West Somerset, and overtime was general; at Trowbridge employment was bad on heavy woollens, but fair on "coverts." In Montgomeryshire employment was normal, but notice of the impending stoppage of some large mills was given. Employment was slack with woollen operatives in Rochdale and Milnrow. In Stockport the woollen mills worked short time.

Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and woollen and worsted piece goods in November, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903.

	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Nov., 1902.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1902.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.
Yarn—						
Woolen	139,600	199,000	220,400	17·73	22·56	20·60
Worsted	4,369,200	4,932,700	4,233,400	15·86	17·79	19·46
Alpaca and Mohair	890,400	1,146,200	1,055,000	31·59	28·98	28·17
Total	5,399,200	6,277,900	5,508,800	18·50	19·98	21·17
Piece Goods—						
Woolen	3,123,400	3,678,900	5,124,500	23·99	23·10	23·80
Worsted	8,374,300	6,732,200	7,056,700	13·60	14·37	15·67
Total	11,497,700	10,411,100	12,181,200	16·42	17·45	19·20

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

(Based on Returns from Employers' Associations, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the jute trade was fairly good. In the flax trade in Scotland it was still slack; in Ulster it was fair in the spinning branch and showed a further slight improvement in the weaving branch.

In Dundee employment was reported as fairly good, rather better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Information received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys, and 21,000 women and girls, showed that out of 39 spinning mills, 34 gave full employment; out of 32 weaving factories, 25 gave full employment. In Forfar employment was fair and better than a month ago. At Arbroath it continued quiet. Short time was reported at Brechin,

and at Johnstone and Kilbirnie. In Dunfermline employment showed no improvement; it was much worse than a year ago.

In Ulster the Employers' Association reported employment in the flax spinning mills as fair. In Belfast there was a further slight improvement; the Trade Unions reported employment as moderate with flax dressers and flax roughers, improving with power loom tenters, bad with beetlers; the women operatives' Trade Union reported it as quiet.

At Barnsley employment in linen factories continued bad.

Hosiery Trade.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Local Correspondent at Leicester, and on Returns from Employers' Associations, a Trade Union and Local Correspondents.)

Employment showed a slight improvement in some districts in England, and continued good in Scotland.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 11,967 workpeople in their factories at the end of November showed a decrease of 1·7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2·1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 59 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 60 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in October. Employment in Leicester continued bad. In Hinckley employment was moderate and showed some improvement compared with a month and a year ago. In Loughborough employment was rather better with shirt and pant hands.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment at Nottingham showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago. Throughout the district employment, on the whole, was a little better than a year ago with steam power workers, but not so good with those engaged on hand wrought goods. Hand frame workers reported employment as very slack at Nottingham, bad at Arnold and Calverton, moderate at Keyworth. At Belper and Heanor employment improved in nearly all branches.

Scotland.—In Selkirk employment continued good. In Hawick the improvement noted last month was maintained; all the mills were fairly busy.

Lace Trade.

(Based on Returns from Employers' Association, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

Employment continued bad and was worse than a year ago. In Nottingham it was bad in the levers and curtain sections, and moderately good in the plain net branch. In the minor branches and in the finishing and making-up departments employment was reported as bad. At Beeston the improvement shown last month was not maintained; at Bulwell and Kimberley employment was bad; at Stapleford and Sandiacre it was only moderate. Lace makers at Glasgow reported employment as good, with some overtime; at Newmilns as fair.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was slack, but was slightly better than a month and a year ago; about two-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time and about one-tenth worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment showed a further improvement, and was much better than a year ago; at Bolton it was moderate and better than a year ago.

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment was fair at Manchester, slack at New Mills, dull at Glasgow; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was not quite so good; at Glasgow it was fair. With block printers at Glasgow it was bad.

Hosiery Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—Employment at Leicester showed a slight improvement compared with a

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—TAILORING TRADE; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

month ago. At Loughborough also a slight improvement was noted. With hosiery bleachers and dyers at Nottingham and Basford employment was slack; with hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Basford it was slightly better than a month ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment was dull and worse than a month ago. In Dundee employment with bleachfield workers continued fair; with calender workers it was dull, and with dyers it showed a decline.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed a decline, and was slightly worse than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 980 workpeople on their premises and 1,915 outworkers.* According to these returns employment was fair with indoor workers, but only moderate with outworkers. Compared with a month ago employment was worse, especially with outworkers. Compared with a year ago it was better with indoor workers; with outworkers* firms employing 37 per cent. reported it as better; firms employing 45 per cent. as worse. The Trade Union tailors reported employment as bad. Employment was reported as slack in Manchester, improved in Liverpool, bad in Glasgow, and dull in Dublin.

Ready-made Branch.—In London, according to returns from wholesale clothiers, employment was moderate; it was about the same as a month ago, and better than a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported employment as bad, with much short time.

In Leeds employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 9,000 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during November was good or fair with firms employing 7 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 31 per cent., and quiet or bad with firms employing 62 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 25 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 26 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 49 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 9 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 17 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 74 per cent. as worse. In Manchester employment was reported as moderate, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. The Jewish Trade Union tailors and machinists reported employment as fair. In Bristol employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago, with much short time. In Staffordshire employment was moderate, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. In Leicestershire it was dull. In Norwich employment was slack; it showed little change compared with a month ago and was worse than a year ago; it was dull in the Suffolk centres. In Glasgow employment was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent, and on Returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued bad and was worse than a month and much worse than a year ago. Of the total number of operatives covered by the returns only 45 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments during the last week in November.

The number employed by the 618 firms making returns at the end of November was 74,608, compared with 75,546 at the end of October, and 77,907 at the end of November, 1903, a decrease of 1·2 per cent. compared

*The numbers may include the same outworkers more than once, and do not include persons employed by outworkers.

with a month ago, and of 4·2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed 494 firms, employing 62,277 workpeople, have given returns of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in November and October, 1904, and November, 1903. The returns from these firms are analysed in the following Table:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both number employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
		No. employed at end of Nov., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day in Nov., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with			
			A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
ENGLAND & WALES.			Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
London	48	2,969	- 1·7	- 10·0	3,495	- 8·1	- 10·4		
Leicester	72	12,375	- 1·1	- 7·8	11,733	- 0·1	- 12·7		
Leicester Country District	31	2,910	- 1·0	- 3·5	2,377	- 7·7	- 6·6		
Northampton ...	54	7,835	- 1·8	- 5·5	6,964	- 5·7	- 7·8		
Kettering	23	2,783	- 1·9	- 3·1	2,370	- 12·4	- 11·7		
Northampton Country District	88	9,142	- 0·7	- 3·3	7,653	- 7·5	- 9·9		
Stafford and District	16	2,725	+ 2·1	+ 5·1	2,192	- 0·3	+ 0·6		
Norwich & District	25	2,700	+ 0·3	+ 0·8	2,853	- 1·6	- 0·9		
Bristol	15	2,032	- 2·2	- 8·4	1,733	- 5·2	- 10·3		
Leeds	22	2,704	+ 1·6	+ 5·7	2,664	- 5·0	- 0·4		
Leeds and District	35	3,001	- 3·5	- 14·4	2,462	- 10·6	- 26·2		
Manchester & District	10	1,859	+ 2·2	+ 8·6	1,572	- 7·8	+ 3·8		
Birmingham & District	7	923	- 1·6	- 0·8	698	- 10·3	- 5·2		
Other parts of England and Wales	21	2,645	+ 1·2	- 3·9	2,114	- 2·4	- 7·6		
Total, England and Wales	467	57,604	- 1·0	- 4·4	50,905	- 5·1	- 9·4		
SCOTLAND ...	23	4,165	- 2·3	- 8·2	4,026	- 2·7	- 8·4		
IRELAND ...	4	508	- 5·2	- 9·3	390	- 3·2	- 5·1		
Total, UNITED KINGDOM ...	494	62,277	- 1·1	- 4·7	55,321	- 4·9	- 9·3		

Compared with a month ago, every district showed a decline in the amount of wages paid, amounting altogether to 4·9 per cent. The decline was greatest in Kettering (12·4 per cent.), Leeds district (10·6 per cent.), and Birmingham district (10·3 per cent.).

Compared with a year ago there was a decline of 9·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Only two districts (Stafford and Manchester) showed an improvement, every other district showing a decline. The decline was greatest in Leeds district (26·2 per cent.), Leicester (12·7 per cent.), Kettering (11·7 per cent.), London (10·4 per cent.), and Bristol (10·3 per cent.).

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Employment showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported it as quiet; the clickers and pressmen as exceptionally bad. One branch of hand-sewn bootmakers reported employment as good, and better than a month ago, another as very quiet.

Leicester and District.—Employment in Leicester showed little change compared with a month ago, but a considerable decline compared with a year ago. In the Leicester country district employment was worse than a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as bad at Leicester, moderate at Hinckley, bad at Anstey, Barwell, Earl Shiiton, and Sibley.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—Employment throughout the district was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Stafford and District.—Employment showed an increase in numbers employed, but a slight decrease in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was a marked improvement in numbers employed, and a slight improvement in the amount of wages paid. Employment at Stafford was reported as quiet; at Stone as bad.

Eastern Counties.—Employment showed a slight decline, but was reported as still fairly good at Norwich; as bad at Ipswich.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—BOOT AND SHOE; OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Employment was worse than a month ago and at Bristol was much worse than a year ago; at Kingswood there was little change in the amount of wages paid, although the number employed showed an increase compared with a year ago. Employment generally was bad.

Luds and District.—Employment was much worse than a month ago, and still worse than a year ago. Throughout the district it was reported as bad.

Other Districts in England.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as bad in Birmingham, Chesterfield, Derby, Kendal, Mansfield, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Wolverhampton; as good at Bishop Auckland.

Scotland.—Employment was slightly worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as bad generally; hand-sewn bootmakers as bad at Edinburgh.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and the values of the boots and shoes imported and exported during the undermentioned periods:—

	Month of November.			Eleven months ended November.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imports						
Dozen pairs... (Value £ ...)	18,618	17,499	15,792	223,007	220,320	191,791
	65,325	65,468	61,304	804,227	877,411	719,246
Re-Exports						
Dozen pairs... (Value £ ...)	2,276	1,803	1,085	18,518	19,097	16,435
	6,250	5,669	3,745	51,648	54,907	47,165
Exports (British and Irish)						
Dozen pairs... (Value £ ...)	92,894	94,550	66,275	703,258	716,070	611,075
	214,047	131,774	156,050	1,690,027	1,710,836	1,427,553

HAT TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT in the hat trade showed a decline compared with a month ago; in the felt hat branch it was better than a year ago; in the silk hat branch it was worse. Trade Unions with 5,373 members had 209 (or 3·9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2·6 per cent. at the end of October, and 4·4 per cent. a year ago. The percentage unemployed remained much higher in the silk than in the felt hat trade.

With *silk* hatters employment in London was worse than a month ago, and a year ago; short time was still worked to the extent of about 1½ hours a day. In Denton employment was very quiet and worse than both a month and a year ago. The Trade Union silk hatters had 13·4 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 11·3 per cent. a month ago, and 10·0 per cent. a year ago.

With *felt* hatters employment in Denton was fairly good, but worse than a month ago; it was slightly better than a year ago. At Stockport employment was quiet and better than last month. Employment was very quiet at Hyde and Failsworth; at Bury it was moderate and worse than both a month and a year ago. In Warwickshire it was fair but worse than a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters had 2·3 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 1·2 per cent. at the end of October, and 3·5 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Local Correspondents, Trade Unions, and Employment Bureaux in London.)

EMPLOYMENT in the London dressmaking trade showed a decline compared with a month ago, but on the whole was slightly better than a year ago. In the mantle trade employment was quiet, and worse than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade employment was quiet, being worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. In the corset trade employment was bad, being worse than a month ago, but slightly better than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London returns received from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district,

employing 1,604 dressmakers at the end of November, showed a decrease of 3·0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6·9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment at the end of the month was moderate. Court dressmakers employing 2,003 workpeople at the end of November showed a decrease of 5·5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2·9 per cent. compared with a year ago; dressmakers employing 49 per cent. of the total number reported employment as good or fair; with the remaining 51 per cent. it was quiet or bad. In the wholesale mantle and costume trades employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With mantle makers in retail firms employment continued fair; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from manufacturers of blouses, aprons and underclothing showed employment to be moderate, and much the same as a month ago and a year ago. The number of milliners employed in retail firms making returns was greater than a year ago, and employment at the end of the month was fair; in the wholesale millinery branch employment was moderate, and better than a year ago.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux showed a marked decrease in the demand for dressmakers compared with a month ago, and a smaller decrease compared with a year ago; the number requiring situations was less than a month ago and a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was very quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 1,762 workpeople at the end of November showed a decrease of 0·9 per cent. in the number employed at the end of October, and of 4·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was very slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing about 8,755 workpeople in their factories at the end of November showed practically no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a slight decrease of 0·5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 46 per cent. of the total number reported employment as good or fair at the end of November, and firms employing 54 per cent. as quiet or bad, to be compared with 68 per cent. and 32 per cent., respectively, at the end of October.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,421 workpeople in their factories at the end of November, showed a decrease of 0·6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1·8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 35 per cent. of the total number included in the returns reported employment as good or fair at the end of November, and firms employing 65 per cent. as quiet or bad, to be compared with 47 per cent. and 53 per cent., respectively, at the end of October.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

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

THE state of employment in November remained bad with much short time, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of November was 11·2, compared with 9·8 in October and 8·3 in November, 1903.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment continued bad generally. At Bolton, Bury and Wigan, however, it was reported as fair.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment remained slack generally, but was fair with brown saddlers in London and saddlers at Dublin.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Fancy and morocco leather finishers and pocket-book and leather case makers reported employment as fair in London; makers of purses, bags, and leggings as good at Walsall. With these exceptions employment was slack generally.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

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

THE returns show that there was a further seasonal improvement in November, though employment was not quite so good as a year ago.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment underwent a further improvement, but was not quite so good on the whole as a year ago. In *letterpress printing* Trade Unions with 39,569 members had 3·1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 4·5 per cent. in October, and 2·7 per cent. in November, 1903. In *lithographic printing* Trade Unions with 6,455 members had 4·8 per cent. unemployed, against 5·8 a month ago and 4·3 a year ago. With *bookbinders* the percentage unemployed of 7,040 Trade Union members was 3·5, compared with 4·5 a month ago, and 3·4 per cent. in November, 1903.

In the following Table are shown the percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* in the principal districts, compared with those for a month ago and a year ago:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov. 1904, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	23,047	3·2	4·4	2·5	- 1·2	+ 0·7
Northern Counties ...	1,467	2·7	3·8	2·3	- 1·1	+ 0·4
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,897	4·8	6·3	5·7	- 1·5	- 0·9
Yorkshire ...	4,292	3·8	4·3	2·1	- 0·5	+ 1·7
East Midlands ...	2,127	2·9	4·6	2·9	- 1·7	...
West Midlands ...	2,456	4·0	5·8	3·3	- 1·8	+ 0·7
Eastern Counties ...	385	1·3	2·6	2·4	- 1·3	- 1·1
S. & S. W. Counties...	2,674	1·0	2·4	1·5	- 1·4	- 0·5
Wales and Mon. ...	815	1·6	1·7	1·4	- 0·1	+ 0·2
Scotland ...	6,506	2·9	3·3	1·9	- 0·4	+ 1·0
Ireland ...	2,598	6·0	9·2	6·2	- 3·2	- 0·2
United Kingdom ...	53,064	3·4	4·7	3·0	- 1·3	+ 0·4

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Employment at the end of November was better than at the end of October with letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders, but was not quite so good on the whole as in November, 1903. Trade Unions of letterpress printers, with 17,302 members, had 2·9 per cent. unemployed, compared with 4·1 per cent. in October, and 1·8 per cent. a year ago. In the lithographic trade employment remained slack with printers and good with artists, the percentage unemployed of 1,964 Trade Union members being 6·0, against 7·6 a month ago, and 6·3 a year ago. With bookbinders employment was fairly good. Of 3,781 Trade Union members in this section, 3·1 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4·2 per cent. in October, and 3·8 per cent. in November, 1903.

Northern Counties.—Employment remained quiet at Newcastle and Sunderland. Elsewhere it remained good.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment at Manchester was slack with letterpress printers, good with lithographic printers, and fair with bookbinders. At Liverpool employment remained quiet generally. At most other towns it was good.

Yorkshire.—Employment was good with letterpress printers and quiet with lithographic printers. With bookbinders it was slack at Leeds; fair at Bradford, Sheffield, and Hull.

East Midland Counties.—With letterpress printers employment was good at Nottingham and Lincoln, improving at Leicester; quiet at Derby and Northampton

With lithographic printers short time was worked at Nottingham; at Leicester employment was good. Bookbinders were well employed.

West Midland Counties.—With letterpress printers at Birmingham employment was moderate; elsewhere it was good. Lithographic printers and bookbinders were moderately well employed.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties, and Wales.—Employment was good generally.

Scotland.—Employment in Edinburgh was reported as fairly good generally, but with little overtime and some short time. In Glasgow it was quiet; in Dundee good with no unemployed; in Aberdeen fair.

Ireland.—Employment was fairly good, except at Belfast, where it was quiet.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in England and Wales remained good in the machine trade, especially in Lancashire. In the hand-made trade it continued slack. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,401 members had 3·1 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, compared with 2·6 in October, and 2·4 in November, 1903. In Scotland returns received from 29 employers showed that 5,068 workpeople were employed by them at the end of November, as compared with 5,064 at the end of October, and 5,007 at the end of November, 1903. Employment in Scotland was fair.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT during November continued slack, and was worse than a month ago, and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades (exclusive of coopers) at the end of November was 8·4, as compared with 7·5 per cent. at the end of October, and 6·5 per cent. at the end of November, 1903.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was slack generally, about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,867 showed 336 (or 6·9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 6·2 per cent. at the end of October, and 4·1 per cent. at the end of November, 1903.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment remained bad, and was worse than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 14,533, showed 1,457 (or 10·0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 8·6 per cent. at the end of October, and 6·9 per cent. a year ago.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers remained dull generally and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, good at Birmingham, Greenock and Peterhead.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment generally remained slack, and was rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. Coach builders in the motor trade in London, and electric tramcar builders at Leicester, were, however, busy. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,927, reported 546 (or 6·9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 6·5 per cent. at the end of October, and 6·6 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers remained bad generally, and worse than a year ago. It was, however, reported as improving at Leeds and Nottingham, and with the ivory and bone brushmakers in London. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,742 reported 139 (or 8·0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of November

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—GLASS, &c., TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

as compared with 8.6 at the end of October and 6.2 a year ago.

Other Trades.—Packing case makers, lathrenders and basket makers reported employment as slack generally. Bobbin makers at Dundee were busy.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the Glass trades continued bad on the whole. It was also bad in the Pottery trades. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued slack.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers continued bad generally, with much short time. It was fair at Dublin, quiet at Castleford, and moderate at Wakefield and Seaham Harbour. With makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham it was bad.

With flint-glass makers employment was bad in the Tyne district, and at Edinburgh; moderate at Barnsley and Stourbridge; and good at Birmingham and Glasgow. Employment with flint-glass cutters was slack generally, with much short time. It was bad at Edinburgh and Glasgow, and improving at Birmingham and Wordsley. Employment with plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was slack. With sheet-glass makers and sheet-glass flatteners at St. Helens it was good. With pressed glass workers it was bad in the Tyne district and dull at Glasgow. Employment with glass blowers in London was fair, and better than a year ago.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment with hollow-ware and sanitary pressers was bad, and worse than a month ago. With printers and transferrers there was a slight improvement. Employment with china potters at Longton was not good, but a little better than a month ago. With packers it was quiet, and with cratenmakers it was moderate and better than a month ago. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) the hollow-ware and sanitary pressers worked only three days per week, as compared with four days per week in October. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment with potters continued fair. In the South Yorkshire district it was moderate. In Devon it was good at Bovey Tracey, fair at Barnstaple, and moderate at Kingskerswell.

Employment continued fair generally in Scotland. In Glasgow it was dull with tobacco-pipe makers, bad with white hollow-ware potters, and fair with stoneware throwers.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was bad at Peterborough, Birmingham, Nottingham and Glasgow; slack in the Market Harbour district, in North Wales, and at Cardiff; quiet at Calstock and Gunnislake; fair in the Tees and Hartlepool district and at Swansea; moderate in the Oldham and Plymouth districts; and good at Exeter, Bovey Tracey, and Neath.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on Reports from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

THE reports received show that agricultural labourers were, for the most part, in regular employment during November. The weather was favourable for outdoor work until the latter part of the month, when there was a fall of snow followed by frost which occasioned some little interruption to field work. The frosty weather, however, though favourable for manure carting and certain other work, caused temporary loss of employment to some of the day labourers. The supply of day labourers was, in most districts, quite sufficient for requirements, and men for permanent situations are becoming less difficult to obtain.

Northern Counties.—Farm labourers were regularly employed during November in ploughing stubbles, sowing wheat, cutting and storing turnips, threshing, hedge trimming and dyke cleaning. The supply of day

labourers was generally sufficient, and in certain districts somewhat in excess of the demand, farm work being well forward. Some men of this class lost time through snow towards the end of the month. Men for permanent situations were more plentiful, and in some districts more than sufficient.

Midland Counties.—In these counties work was plentiful in ploughing, wheat sowing, lifting and storing roots, carting manure and repairing fences. Regularity of employment is reported from some counties, but in others a few men were in irregular work through the snow and frost at the end of the month. Day labourers in Nottinghamshire were more plentiful than for some time. Competent men for permanent situations were scarce. In parts of Staffordshire several odd men found occasional employment on farms when there were only two or three days' work per week in the neighbouring coal pits. Some extra labour was required for fruit picking in parts of Shropshire. Day labourers in Warwickshire were plentiful; men for permanent situations are reported as being scarce. In Northamptonshire competent shepherds, cowmen and waggons are in request. Extra men were not much required in Oxfordshire. Good men for milking were in request. Owing to the fine autumn, farm work in Hertfordshire was well advanced. Day labourers were in little demand in most parts of the county. Reports from Bedfordshire state that extra men were not in much demand; there was a plentiful supply, stated to be owing to the bad trade in the boot factories in Northamptonshire.

Eastern Counties.—Work was generally regular during the greater part of the month, and there was a good deal of employment in pulling, carting and storing mangels, carting manure, feeding stock, ploughing, threshing and attending to fences and ditches. The supply of day labourers was in excess of the demand in most districts, and some men were thrown out of employment temporarily owing to snow and frost during the last ten days of November. Men for permanent situations are somewhat less difficult to obtain. In Lincolnshire extra men were in request in the potato-growing districts.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Day labourers were fairly well employed as a rule, and outdoor work was not much affected by the snow and frost towards the end of the month. A correspondent in the Thanet Union (Kent) states that potato digging and mangel carting were generally completed by the middle of November, and that much of the threshing had been done. In certain districts of Sussex some men were irregularly employed, owing to the autumn work having been finished and wood cutting only commenced at the end of the month. Men for permanent situations were in demand. In certain parts of Dorsetshire employment in threshing and root lifting was plentiful, and hurdle makers were in request. Day labourers in Somersetshire were not in much demand, and the supply was about sufficient. In the Langport Union, however, there was some scarcity of labour on the farms, owing to railway works in progress. Employment was regular in Herefordshire until the frost and snow set in, when many men were out of work. Waggons, shepherds, cowmen and men are stated to be in demand. Most of the farm labourers in Gloucestershire found work during the frosty weather in manure carting, threshing, wood cutting, &c. A scarcity is reported of experienced thatchers, hedgers, cowmen, shepherds and carters. Day labourers were in demand in Devon and Cornwall, but the supply was somewhat better than a year ago.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based, as regards London, on Returns from Dock Companies, the Owners of the principal Wharves, and the Shipping Federation; as regards other principal ports on information supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and Local Correspondents of the Department.)

EMPLOYMENT during November was moderate, about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING.

London.

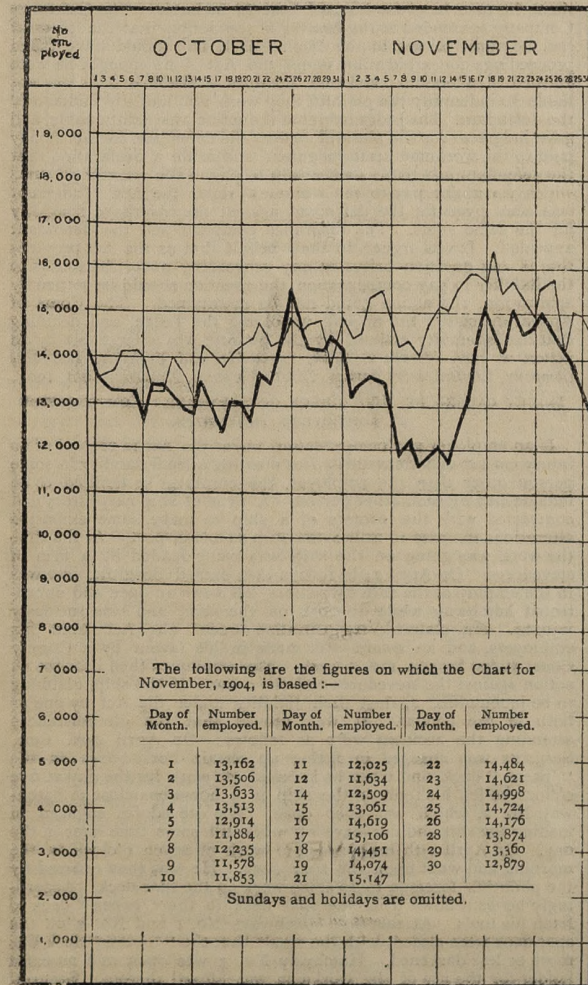
The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended November 26th was 13,503, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. on the average for October and of 10.8 per cent. as compared with November 1903.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended November 26th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Nov. 5th	5,311	1,925	7,236	6,245	13,481
" " " 12th	4,532	1,026	5,558	6,310	11,868
" " " 19th	5,595	2,286	7,881	6,089	13,970
" " " 26th	5,838	2,287	8,125	6,567	14,692
Average for 4 weeks ended Nov. 26th	5,319	1,881	7,200	6,303	13,503
Average for Oct., 1904	5,337	2,104	7,441	6,097	13,538
Average for Nov., 1903	6,346	2,326	8,672	6,468	15,140

(2) **Daily Fluctuations.**—The daily fluctuations in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown in the following Chart. The numbers in November ranged from 11,578 on the 9th to 15,147 on the 21st. During November, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 14,079 on the 11th to 16,439 on the 20th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of October and November, 1904. The corresponding curve for October and November, 1903, is also given for comparison. (The thick curve applies to 1904, and the thin curve to 1903.)



The following are the figures on which the Chart for November, 1904, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	13,162	11	12,025	21	14,484
2	13,506	12	11,634	22	14,621
3	13,633	13	12,509	23	14,998
4	13,513	14	13,051	24	14,724
5	12,914	15	14,619	25	14,176
6	11,884	16	15,106	26	13,874
7	12,235	17	14,451	27	13,360
8	11,578	18	14,074	28	12,879
9	11,853	19	15,147	29	
10		20		30	

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

Employment was moderate with workers in mid-stream during the first week, then improved to fair at the end of the month. With the coal porters, stevedores and lightermen it was fair, but only moderate with the deal porters, lumpers, winchmen, and corn porters. With fruit porters in Thames Street it was fair, the average daily number employed being 270, as compared with 275 in October, and 298 a year ago.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during November, 1904, 44 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 50 per cent. in the previous month, and 64 per cent. in November, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—Employment on the Tyne continued bad generally, though with trimmers and teamers it was moderate; on the Wear it had slightly improved. Employment with dock labourers was bad at Hartlepool and moderate at Middlesbrough, with riverside labourers it was moderate.

Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.—Employment on the whole was bad at Hull, and fair at Goole and Grimsby.

Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.—Dock and riverside labourers were fairly well employed at Lynn, and at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Employment with riverside workers was good at Parkeston, but slack at Ipswich and Harwich.

Southampton and Plymouth.—At Southampton employment was fair. In the Plymouth district it was fair with the coal lumpers, quiet with timber carriers, and moderate with grain carriers.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment was slack at Bristol and Avonmouth, fair at Portishead, and moderate at Gloucester and Sharpness. At the South Wales ports it was slack generally, though at Newport it was fair with dockers, and at Swansea it was good with coal trimmers, and fair with dockers and patent fuel loaders.

Liverpool and Manchester.—Employment at Liverpool for dock labourers, carters and cotton porters was fair; at Manchester it was slack generally.

Glasgow.—With dock labourers employment was bad, short time being worked.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment was good at Dundee, and fair at Leith and Aberdeen.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin and Cork employment was dull, and at Belfast it was bad.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

THE fish landed during November showed a decrease both in quantity and value as compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in November, 1904, and in November, 1903, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 1,569,654	Cwts. 1,611,634	£ 651,668	£ 680,527
Scotland	232,773	241,110	108,635	109,284
Ireland	60,599	70,295	22,564	28,486
Total	1,863,026	1,933,049	782,797	814,297
Shell Fish			29,611	27,725
Total Value			812,408	842,022

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that trawl and line boats landed good supplies of white fish, slightly less than a month, but better than a year ago.

Employment at Hull was good among fishermen and fish dock labourers, and fair with persons engaged in fishing. With fishermen it was better than a month and

the same as a year ago, and in the other branches it was the same as a year ago. At Grimsby it was fair generally, and better than a month and a year ago. Employment generally was good at Yarmouth and fair at Lowestoft, and at both ports it was about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Employment continued slack at Harwich.

Off the South-western coast catches were generally light during the earlier part of the month, and still worse during the latter part. At the more western stations moderate catches of pilchards and herrings were occasionally secured.

At Cardiff, Swansea and Milford trawlers were fully employed, and landed fair catches during the month.

Employment in all branches was moderate at Aberdeen, Peterhead and Macduff, and worse than a month ago. At Fraserburgh it was fair among fishermen and persons employed in fish curing, and bad with fish dock labourers. At Arbroath and Montrose fishing was fair, except during the third week of the month, when the operations were interfered with by bad weather.

Off the South and South-western coasts of Ireland fishing was dull during the month.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN NOVEMBER.

(Based on Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during November, 32,571* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, a decrease of 1,890 on the number shipped during November, 1903.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been either equal to, or in excess of the demand at the ports included in the returns.

During the eleven completed months of the year, 400,853* seamen were shipped, of whom 60,003 (or 15.0 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 397,302* seamen were shipped, of whom 61,484 (or 15.5 per cent.) were foreigners.

Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in November, 1904 and 1903 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the eleven months ended November in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons shipped in Nov., 1904.*			Total in Nov., 1903.*	Total number* shipped in eleven months ended November,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Nov., 1904.		1904.	1903.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	34	2,248	2,282	2,680	31,288	31,595
Sunderland ...	—	411	411	466	4,996	4,386
Middlesbrough ...	—	108	108	157	2,711	2,127
Hull ...	—	857	857	1,019	12,009	12,199
Grimsby ...	—	36	36	46	966	1,110
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	8	540	548	661	7,240	7,935
Newport, Mon ...	—	956	956	683	9,179	8,716
Cardiff ...	76	4,398	4,474	4,089	49,749	49,489
Swansea ...	22	415	437	602	4,776	5,094
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	105	11,070	12,075	12,846	146,408	141,001
London ...	114	5,361	5,475	5,966	66,423	69,215
Southampton ...	—	2,290	2,290	2,140	23,815	22,063
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ...	24	328	352	420	5,060	5,992
Glasgow ...	62	2,038	2,100	2,308	32,038	31,107
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	82	82	184	799	1,435
Belfast ...	—	88	88	334	2,505	2,938
Total, November, 1904 ...	445	32,126	32,571	...	400,853	...
Ditto, November, 1903 ...	432	34,029	...	34,461	...	397,302

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

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

CONTRACTOR AND SUB-CONTRACTOR: INDEMNITY: RIGHT OF ACTION.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, that where the "undertakers" contract with any person for the execution of any work, and the undertakers would, if such work were executed by workmen immediately employed by them, be liable to pay compensation under the Act to those workmen in respect of any accident, the undertakers shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in that work any compensation payable to the workman by the person contracting, or which would be payable if such person were an employer to whom the Act applies. The undertakers, however, are entitled to be indemnified by the person contracting or any other person who would have been liable independently of this provision.

In July, 1904, a contractor was constructing a large building, and he agreed with a sub-contractor to do the whole of the plastering work. On July 9th a workman in the employment of the sub-contractor was seriously injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. Notice of the accident was given both to the contractor and to the sub-contractor. The contractor thereupon agreed with the injured man to pay him 15s. 9d. a week, being half his average weekly earnings, during incapacity. After these payments had been continuously paid for about a year the House of Lords decided, in a somewhat similar case, that a sub-contractor in the case of a building may be an undertaker within the meaning of the Act, and may be himself liable to pay compensation where a man in his employment is injured. On the strength of this decision the contractor demanded from the sub-contractor repayment of the sums he had paid to the injured workman. This demand being refused the contractor brought an action in the High Court against the sub-contractor, claiming all sums he had paid, or might pay to the workman up to judgment, and a declaration that the defendant was liable to indemnify him against all future payments. The defendant, who held a policy of insurance against liability under the Act, brought the Insurance Company into the action as third parties, claiming indemnity from them in case he were himself held to be liable. The Insurance Company contended at the hearing of the action that the plaintiff had no right to sue in the High Court, but should have taken proceedings for arbitration under the Act if he thought he were entitled to indemnity; and that therefore as the defendant was not liable to indemnify the plaintiff they were not liable to indemnify the defendant. The judge held that the action was maintainable, and gave judgment for the plaintiff against the defendant for all money paid to the workman up to judgment, and made a declaration that the defendant was liable thenceforth to pay to the plaintiff all sums which he might pay to the workman under the Act. Judgment was also given for the defendant against the insurance company for the same sums. The insurance company and the defendant appealed. It was argued in their behalf that as the Act provides that if any question arises in any proceeding under the Act as to the liability to pay compensation, the question should be settled by arbitration, the action could not be maintained. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, upholding the judge, and deciding that the indemnity claimed by the plaintiff was enforceable by an action at law.—*Evans v. Cook, Lancashire and Yorkshire Insurance Company, Limited, third parties, Court of Appeal, November 10th, 1904.*

INJURY CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OF STRANGER: COMPENSATION BY EMPLOYER: INDEMNITY.

If an employer pay compensation under the Act in respect of an injury caused under circumstances creating a legal liability in some person other than the employer, the employer is entitled to be indemnified by such other person. A firm of ship carpenters had contracted with the owners of a ship to make some extensive alterations in order to utilise the ship as a transport. At the time the work was going on the ship was being loaded by a firm of stevedores. On April 24th, 1902, a man named Seagrott, who was in the employ of the ship carpenters, fell down an open and unprotected hatchway while at work on the ship, and was seriously injured. He claimed compensation under the Act from his employers, and an award was made in his favour by a County Court Judge for 19s. 11d. a week. The employers then brought an action against the stevedores and the owners of the ship, claiming to be indemnified against their liability under the Act by one or both of the parties. It was proved that the circumstances attending the accident were as follows:—On April 23rd, 1902, Seagrott was engaged in fitting up certain horse-boxes on the "tween" deck, and when he knocked off work for the day at five o'clock he left his tools on the ship in a horse-box close to hatchway No. 2, which was then open. The stevedores engaged in loading the ship did not leave off work till some time later in the day. On April 24th he returned to work at seven o'clock in the morning and went upon the spar deck. He was then ordered by the plaintiffs' foreman to do some work on the spar deck. Accordingly he went down from the spar deck to the "tween" deck to fetch his tools. At this time hatchways No. 1 and No. 2 on the spar deck were closed, with the result that the "tween" deck was more or less darkened. Hatchway No. 3 was open and an extra ladder for the use of the workmen was affixed thereto. Seagrott went down this ladder, and while walking along the "tween" deck

to get his tools caught his foot on the combing of hatchway No. 2 and fell down the hatchway. The plaintiffs alleged that the defendants were negligent, first, in allowing hatchway No. 2 on the "tween" deck to remain uncovered and unprotected, and, secondly, in covering the hatchway on the spar deck without covering or protecting the hatchway of the "tween" deck, so as to lead persons using the ship to believe that both hatchways were covered. The Judge held that in order to succeed against either defendants, the plaintiffs must prove that there was some duty on the part of those defendants towards Seagrott, and negligence as regards that duty. As far as the owners of the ship were concerned, the action could not succeed against them; for at the time of the accident the stevedores, not the owners, were in the occupancy of the ship. As regards the stevedores it was necessary to prove that the danger was one against which it was usual to provide, otherwise there was no duty to provide against it. There was, however, no evidence of any such duty. There was, therefore, no negligence proved against the defendants, though there was negligence proved on the part of Seagrott himself which led to the injury. Judgment was accordingly given for both defendants.—*Clark, Williams & Co. v. Gray, Dawes & Co. and the New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, King's Bench Division, November 30th, 1904.*

ON OR IN OR ABOUT A FACTORY.

The Act applies to employment "on or in or about a factory;" and "factory" includes "warehouse." A man was employed as a carter by a firm of wholesale provision merchants in Glasgow. He was sent to fetch a quantity of goods from a quay to his employers' warehouse. When returning, and while still on the quay, a mile from the warehouse, the horse shied, and the man was thrown from the cart and received injuries which caused his death. The widow of the man claimed compensation under the Act on behalf of herself and her three children. The Sheriff-Substitute held that at the time of the accident the man was employed "about" the factory of his employers, and awarded compensation to the amount of £217 16s. The employers appealed, and the Court of Session allowed the appeal, holding that the accident had not happened on or in or about a factory within the meaning of the Act, and that the point had already been decided by cases binding on the Court.—*M'Intosh v. J. and A. Phillips, Court of Session, November 4th, 1904.*

ACT OF 1900: "FORESTRY."

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1900, was passed in order to extend the benefits of the Act of 1897 to workmen in agriculture. The expression "agriculture" is defined to include "forestry." An owner of sawmills and timber yards purchased a number of standing trees growing on a private estate. He sent some of his workmen to fell the trees, and whilst engaged in this employment one of the men was injured. The workman claimed compensation under the Acts; but for his employer it was argued that the employment in which he was injured did not bring him within the benefit of the Acts. On appeal, however, the Irish Court of Appeal held that the workman was injured whilst engaged in "forestry" within the meaning of the Act of 1900, and that he was entitled to compensation.—*Wall v. Potter, Court of Appeal, Ireland, November 9th, 1904.*

(2) Miscellaneous.

CONTRACT WITH EMPLOYER: NEGLIGENCE OF CONTRACTOR: INJURY TO WORKMAN: RIGHT OF ACTION.

A firm of mineral water manufacturers entered into a contract with a wheelwright to keep their vans in good and substantial repair for a term of three years. The van which a certain carter used to drive was sent to the wheelwright to be repaired. A man in the wheelwright's employment did some repairs, and assured the carter that the van was perfectly safe. Soon afterwards, while the carter was driving the van, the wheel came off, and he was thrown to the ground and injured. It was alleged that the cause of the accident was the negligence of the wheelwright's workman in doing the repairs. The carter accordingly brought an action in the County Court against the wheelwright claiming damages for his injuries.

After hearing evidence, the County Court Judge held that the defendant owed no duty to the plaintiff, the contract being with the plaintiff's employers and not with him; therefore the plaintiff was not entitled to bring the action. Judgment was accordingly entered for the defendant. The plaintiff appealed to the High Court, but his appeal was dismissed. He again appealed to the Court of Appeal, but it was again dismissed and the judgment of the County Court upheld.—*Earl v. Lubbock, Court of Appeal, November 22nd, 1904.*

PRICES OF IRON.

The results of the last ascertainment of the selling price of manufactured iron in the North of England, the Midlands and Scotland, are given in the Table below. It will be seen that as compared with the previous audit prices on the whole show little change, the greatest difference being in the Midlands, where a decrease of 1s. 242d. per ton took place. Compared with a year ago, however, prices show a considerable decline.

In his report on the audit for August, September and October, 1904, relating to the ascertained selling price of Scotch pig iron, the Accountant says: "There have been no transactions reported to me of sales for cash of

Scotch pig iron warrants in the Glasgow market." He is unable therefore to quote a price based on cash transactions, and it is these prices which regulate wages under the sliding scale. He states, however, that the average settlement price during the period as shown in the reports of the Glasgow market was 50s. 761d. This compares with 51s. 1062d. in May, June and July.

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.			Decrease of last Audit as compared with	
		Last Audit.*	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Manufact'd Iron. North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	Sept.-Oct.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
		119 1'03	119 3'69	124 0'77	0 2'66	4 11'74
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips, &c.)	Sept.-Oct.	123 9'11	124 11'53	135 3'81	1 2'42	11 6'70
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)		115 0'43	115 3'89	123 10'33	0 3'46	8 9'90

As a result of the last ascertainment wages in the different districts remain unaltered.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD

RETURNS have been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on December 1st, 1904.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 238 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 130 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

District.	Present Price. (1st Dec., 1904.)			Price last quarter. (1st Sept., 1904.)			Price a year ago. (1st Dec., 1903.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	7½	4½	5'79	7	4½	5'61	6½	4½	5'66
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4½	5'33	6	4	5'24	6	4	5'14
N. Mid. Counties...	6	4	4'80	5½	4	4'64	5½	4	4'63
W. do. do. ...	5½	4½	5'23	5½	4½	5'09	5½	4½	5'05
S. do. do. ...	6	4	5'01	5½	4	4'84	5½	4	4'74
Eastern Counties...	6	5	5'50	6	4½	5'42	6	5	5'38
London ...	6	5½	5'73	5½	5	5'40	5½	5	5'36
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5'71	6	5	5'56	6	5	5'50
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon.)	6	5	5'21	5½	4	5'02	6	4½	5'04
ENGLAND AND WALES ...	7½	4	5'32	7	4	5'20	6½	4	5'11
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6½	5	6'75	6½	5	6'60	6	5	6'46
Eastern Counties†	7	4	6'22	6½	4	6'56	6½	4	6'44
Lanarkshire ...	6½	5½	6'00	6½	5½	5'88	6	5	5'87
Other Southern Counties ...	6½	5½	6'19	6½	5½	6'00	6½	5½	5'84
Scotland ...	7	4	6'07	6½	4	5'72	6½	4	5'67
Great Britain ...	7½	4	5'36	7	4	5'38	6½	4	5'27

From the above Table it will be seen that the mean of the prices at December 1st charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns, shows a slight increase as compared with the mean price at 1st September. The districts showing the largest increase were London and the East of Scotland, where the average prices charged by Co-operative Societies making returns showed a rise of about ½d. per 4 lbs. as compared with the prices at 1st September. The mean rise for England and Wales was about ½d. per

* Under the various sliding scale agreements, changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place one month later than the period to which the audit relates.
† Kincardine, Kinross, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

4 lbs., and for Scotland about 1/4d. per 4 lbs. As compared with a year ago the rise in price was rather greater, being about 1/4d. per 4 lbs. in England and Wales, and 3/8d. in Scotland.

Returns from Local Correspondents.*

From the undermentioned returns furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, it would appear that, as compared with November, there has been no change in the price of bread in London and 25 large provincial towns.

Place.	1904.							Present Price, 1st Dec., 1904.
	1st Dec.	1st March.	1st June.	1st July.	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	1st Nov.	
London ...	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 4 3/4 & 5	d. 4 3/4 & 5	d. 4 3/4 & 5	d. 4 3/4 & 5	d. 4 3/4 & 5
Birmingham ...	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derby ...	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5
Gateshead ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Huddersfield ...	4 to 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5	4 3/4 & 5
Ipswich ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Leicester ...	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
Liverpool ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Manchester ...	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
Middlesbrough ...	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Nottingham ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oldham ...	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
Plymouth ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Potteries ...	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
Wolverpton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Aberdeen ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Dundee ...	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Edinburgh ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Glasgow ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Belfast ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Dublin ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each month from October, 1903:—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.	
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	Average Declared Value.
October 1903.	6 0 1/2	6 0 1/2	9 7 1/2	9 7 1/2
November	6 2 1/2	6 2 1/2	9 9 1/2	9 9 1/2
December	6 2 1/2	6 2 1/2	9 8 1/2	9 8 1/2
January 1904.	6 3 1/2	6 3 1/2	9 9 1/2	9 9 1/2
February	6 3 1/2	6 3 1/2	9 9 1/2	9 9 1/2
March	6 7 1/2	6 7 1/2	10 1 1/2	10 1 1/2
April	6 5 1/2	6 5 1/2	9 11 1/2	9 11 1/2
May	6 3 1/2	6 3 1/2	9 8 1/2	9 8 1/2
June	6 4 1/2	6 4 1/2	9 2	9 2
July	6 4 1/2	6 4 1/2	9 3 1/2	9 3 1/2
August	6 9	6 11 1/2	9 3 1/2	9 3 1/2
September	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	9 9 1/2	9 9 1/2
October	7 1	7 1	10 3 1/2	10 3 1/2
November	7 1	7 1	10 3 1/2	10 3 1/2

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September to 30th November, 1904, amounted to 28,671,800 cwts. (6,690,087 quarters), compared with 25,459,200 cwts. (5,940,480 quarters), in the corresponding months of 1903. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 3,005,070 cwts., compared with 6,250,855 cwts. from 1st September to 30th November, 1903.

* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table below. The prices selected represent, as far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality. † No change was recorded in any of the towns at 1st January, 1st February, 1st April, 2nd May, and 2nd August, 1904, except at Dublin, where the price was reduced 1/4d. at 1st April, and at Norwich, where the price was reduced 3/8d. at 2nd August, 1904.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Making-up of Linen: Overtime Employment of Women.

It is provided by Section 49 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that in certain non-textile factories and workshops the period of employment for women on any day except Saturday (or any day substituted for Saturday) may be between 6.0 a.m. and 8.0 p.m., or between 7.0 a.m. and 9.0 p.m., or between 8.0 a.m. and 10.0 p.m. Such overtime, however, is only permitted on conditions—(a) that every woman is allowed during the period of employment not less than two hours for meals, of which half an hour must be after 5.0 p.m.; (b) a woman must not be so employed for more than three days in any one week; and (c) such overtime must not take place in a factory or workshop more than 30 days in any 12 months, in which period every day on which any woman has been employed overtime is to be taken into account. The Home Secretary has power, where it is proved to him to be necessary for various reasons, to extend this exception to other factories or workshops by special Order. In pursuance of this power, by Order* dated November 15th, 1904, to come into operation December 1st, 1904, the exception has been extended to factories and workshops in which the making-up of any article of table linen, bed linen, or other household linen, and processes incidental thereto, is carried on. Provided that it shall be a condition of the employment of any woman under this Order that—(1) there shall be in each room in which overtime is being worked at least 400 cubic feet of space for each person employed therein; (2) a woman shall not be employed overtime on any process other than a process named in this Order.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left for places out of Europe during November, was 34,278 as compared with 25,585 in November, 1903. During the eleven months ended November, 1904, the number of passengers was 429,649, being 2,749 (or 0.6 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 34,278 passengers in November, 1904, 16,830 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 2,420 compared with a year ago. For the eleven months ended November, 1904, the number was 261,658, as compared with 251,109, an increase of 10,549. The number of passengers to British South Africa shows a decrease of 23,182, while the numbers travelling to the United States and British North America increased by 21,961 and 9,896 respectively.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in the different periods:—

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Eleven months ended	
	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
British Colonies and Possessions:		
British North America ...	2,240	1,580
Australia and New Zealand ...	1,627	1,378
British South Africa ...	2,144	3,637
India (including Ceylon) ...	777	650
Other British Colonies and Possessions	504	489
Total, British Empire ...	7,292	7,764
Foreign Countries:		
United States ...	8,936	6,109
Other Foreign Countries ...	602	537
Total, Foreign Countries ...	9,538	6,646
Grand Total ...	16,830	14,410

Foreign.—The remainder of the 34,278 passengers in November, viz., 17,448, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 6,273 more than in November, 1903. For the eleven months ended November, 1904, the number of such passengers was 167,991, of whom 133,395 were bound for the United States, 20,930 for British North America, and 5,066 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1903, the number was 181,289, of whom 123,708 were bound for the United States, 38,245 for British North America, and 11,755 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During November, 18,323 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 7,824 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,375 as compared with November, 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 9,361 (exclusive of seamen), or 3,507 more than a year ago. For the eleven months ended November, 1904, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or else-

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1904. No. 1696. Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 1d.

where was 94,627, and the number not so stated, 74,144 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 121,452 and 64,280 respectively in 1903.

The figures for November, 1904 and 1903, and also for the eleven months ended November, 1904 and 1903, are as follows:—

	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Total for eleven months ended	
			Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries ...	1,138	1,130	11,827	12,527
Seamen Others ...	9,361	5,854	74,144	64,280
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries ...	7,824	6,449	94,627	121,452
Total ...	18,323	13,433	180,598	198,259

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING November 71 cases of lead poisoning and 2 cases of anthrax were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of phosphorus, mercurial, or arsenic poisoning were reported. Two deaths, due to lead poisoning, were reported.

During the eleven months ended November the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 595 as compared with 623 in the corresponding period of 1903. The number of deaths was 30, being 2 more than in 1903.

[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.]

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	11 months ended		11 months ended	
	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1903.	Nov., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals ...	5	30	32	—
Brass Works ...	1	10	13	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	7	10	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1	20	22	1
Printing ...	—	13	13	—
File Cutting ...	—	18	24	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron ...	—	—	—	3
Hollow-ware ...	1	9	13	—
White Lead Works ...	15	108	102	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	2	11	6	—
China and Earthenware* ...	10	94	94	—
Litho-transfer Works ...	—	3	3	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	3	3	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	1	3	3	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	31	26	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	4	29	32	—
Coach Making ...	7	44	68	—
Shipbuilding ...	11	45	23	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	3	25	43	—
Other Industries ...	8	46	37	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	71	546	568	2
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	1	3	—
Furriers' processes ...	—	—	1	—
Other Industries ...	—	2	4	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning ...	—	3	8	—
Phosphorus Poisoning ...	—	1	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ...	—	3	3	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning ...	—	3	3	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting ...	—	2	4	—
Wool Combing ...	—	8	15	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	1	9	5	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	1	13	10	—
Other Industries ...	—	8	8	—
Total Anthrax ...	2	40	42	—
Grand Total ...	73	595	623	2

* Of the ten persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in November, 1904, seven were females.

† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 26 cases of lead poisoning (including 5 deaths) were reported during November, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the eleven months ended November, 1904, was 208 (including 36 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1903, 185 (including 36 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

(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 November, 1904, was 215, or 6 less than in October, and 2 more than in November, 1903. The mean number for November in the years 1899-1903, was 231, the maximum year in this period being 1902, with 263 deaths, and the minimum year 1903, with 213 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in November, 1904, was 65. The number reported in November of the years 1899-1903 varied from 107 to 207, the mean for the five years being 160.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 245, as compared with 334 in the corresponding period of 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents reported in November are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year.

Trade.	SUMMARY.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1904, as compared with a	
	Number of Workpeople killed during			Month ago.	Year ago.
	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.		
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	4	1	2	+ 3	+ 2
Engine Drivers ...	1	4	—	- 3	+ 1
Firemen ...	3	1	—	+ 2	+ 3
Guards (Passenger) ...	1	—	—	+ 1	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	3	12	10	- 9	- 7
Porters ...	4	8	5	- 4	- 1
Shunters ...	—	—	2	—	- 2
Miscellaneous ...	11	16	19	- 5	- 8
Contractors' Servants ...	2	2	5	—	- 3
Total Railway Service	29	44	43	- 15	- 14
Mines—					
Underground ...	75	64	77	+ 11	- 2
Surface ...	14	9	11	+ 5	+ 3
Total Mines ...	89	73	88	+ 16	+ 1
Quarries over 20 feet deep ...	8	9	7	- 1	+ 1
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton ...	3	5	5	- 2	- 2
Wool and Worsted ...	2	3	—	- 1	+ 2
Other Textiles ...	—	2	—	- 2	—
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals ...	1	—	1	+ 1	—
Founding and Conversion of Metals	10	6	3	+ 4	+ 7
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	1	2	—	- 1	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building ...	11	9	2	+ 2	+ 9
Wood ...	3	5	2	- 2	+ 1
Chemicals, &c. ...	4	2			

TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-five new disputes began in November, 1904, compared with 15 in October, and 30 in November, 1903. By the 25 disputes 4,583 workpeople were directly and 177 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before November, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 7,236 workpeople involved in trade disputes during November, 1904, compared with 7,741 in October, 1904, and 13,763 in November, 1903.

New Disputes in November, 1904.—In the following Table the new disputes in November are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	1	38	—	38
Coal Mining	5	2,453	21	2,474
Engineering and Shipbuilding	6	918	93	1,011
Textile	8	944	65	1,009
Tailoring	1	13	—	13
Dock Labour	1	42	—	42
Other Trades	3	175	—	175
Total, November, 1904	25	4,583	177	4,760
Total, October, 1904	15	3,811	343	4,154
Total, November, 1903	30	6,845	3,370	10,215

Causes.—Of the twenty-five new disputes, six arose on demands for increased wages, four on objections to reduction, and nine on other wages questions, two on questions of hours of labour, two on questions of employment of particular classes or persons, and two on questions of trade unionism.

Results.—Definite results were reported in November in the case of twenty-two new disputes, affecting 4,115 workpeople, and three old disputes, affecting 1,109 workpeople. Of these twenty-five new and old disputes, seven, involving 3,604 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eleven, involving 993 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and seven, involving 627

persons, were compromised. In the case of three other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 645 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in November of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 39,100 working days. In addition, 28,100 working days were lost in November, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration of all disputes, new and old, was 67,200 working days, which compares with 61,100 in the previous month, and 108,400 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Summary for the First Eleven Months of 1903 and 1904.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the eleven months January–November, 1903 and 1904, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January to November.					
	1903.			1904.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	40	3,560	112,100	34	8,623	344,100
Mining and Quarrying... ..	110	59,691	1,282,600	98	43,084	560,700
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	73	31,423	451,700	63	11,221	155,500
Textile	47	8,569	103,600	48	11,896	118,600
Clothing	24	2,470	131,500	23	1,156	11,300
Transport	15	2,162	27,400	9	1,789	37,700
Other Trades	50	2,719	48,300	38	3,824	122,300
Total	339	110,594	2,157,400	313	81,593	1,350,200

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1904.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Coal Miners	Maesteg	1,219	...	1 Nov.	5	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Coal Miners	Ynysybwll	1,120	...	1 Nov.	2	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation or left the colliery.
Shipsmiths and Strikers	N.E. Coast	500	...	30 Nov.	...	Against proposed reduction in wages to smiths of 5 per cent. off piece and 1s. 6d. per week off time rates, and to strikers of 1s. per week off time rates of 2s. and over and 6d. per week off rates under 2s.	No settlement reported.
Cigar Makers and Tobacco Strippers	London, Nottingham, and Ipswich	709	100	9 Sept.	63	Refusal of firm to pay for the making of rejected cigars	Matter referred to arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act. His award is given on p. 357.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
 † In making up the totals for the several months of 1904, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
 ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Annual Report of the Department of Labour and Industry in New South Wales on the working during 1903, of the Factories and Shops Act, has been issued. From this it appears that there were in the Colony 2,907 factories, compared with 2,800 in 1902.

The total number of persons employed was 48,858 compared with 47,904 in 1902. Of these 34,210, or 70 per cent. were males, and 14,648, or 30 per cent. females, 5,578 of the males and 4,744 of the females being under 18 years of age.

The principal industries were the clothing and textile trades employing 14,679 persons, the food and drink trades employing

8,884, metal and machinery works employing 5,914, and the book, paper and printing trades employing 4,093, the remaining 15,287 persons being spread over 15 other groups of industries.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during November numbered 420, being 83 more than in November, 1903. During the eleven months ended November, 1904, the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 4,170, as against 3,858 in the first eleven months of 1903. The 4,170 bankruptcies in 1904 included 284 builders, 259 grocers, 132 bakers, as compared with 282, 272, and 116 respectively in the eleven months ended November, 1903.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

WAGES.

Changes Reported in November.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in November was a decrease of £6,662 per week, as compared with a decrease of £1,401 per week in October, and a decrease of £6,803 per week in November, 1903. The number of workpeople affected was 154,388, of whom 2,668 received advances amounting to £125 per week, and 151,720 sustained decreases amounting to £6,787 per week. The total number affected in October was 116,181, and in November, 1903, 153,585.

The principal change reported was a decrease affecting 150,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Two changes, affecting 150,700 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and one change, affecting 1,020 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 2,668 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for the Eleven Months of 1904.—For the eleven months, January–November, 1904, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) respecting whom wages changes have been reported was 791,538, as compared with 548,601 in the corresponding period of 1903. The changes arranged give 12,166 workpeople a net increase amounting to £909 per week, and 779,372 a net decrease amounting to £40,091 per week. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of

£39,182 per week, as compared with a decrease of £21,286 per week in the corresponding period of 1903.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by changes reported during the eleven months, January–November, 1903 and 1904 respectively, and the net results of the changes on their weekly wages were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January–November.			
	1903.		1904.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	4,430	+ 290	9,120	— 718
Coal Mining	413,300	— 15,512	655,890	— 51,671
Iron Mining	9,151	— 44	10,813	— 51
Quarrying	3,160	— 217	2,731	— 92
Pig Iron Manufacture	13,710	— 595	11,235	— 696
Iron and Steel Manufacture	8,783	— 353	52,019	— 2,938
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	74,650	+ 4,271	31,094	— 2,644
Textile Trades	627	+ 32	2,679	— 59
Glass Trades	6,191	— 484	4,479	— 668
Other Trades	10,561	+ 4	6,519	— 21
Employers of Local Authorities	4,028	+ 234	4,959	+ 390
Total	548,601	— 21,286	791,538	— 39,182

HOURS.

The changes in hours of labour reported during November, 1904, affected 460 workpeople whose working time was reduced by 452 hours per week. During the eleven months, January–November, the total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour was 10,733, the net reduction in their working time being 15,099 hours per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	
				Increase.	Decrease.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN NOVEMBER, 1904.

Bristol District	Coal Hewers and Other Underground and Surface Workers	Last making-up day in Nov.	2,500	...	Advance of 5 per cent., making wages of Hewers 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888.†
South Wales and Monmouth	Coal Miners	1 Dec.	150,000	...	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 38½ per cent. above the standard of December, 1879.
Eston	Steel Workers	6 Nov.	1,020	...	Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 7 per cent. above the standard.
South Staffs. and North Worcs.	Fitting and Socket Makers	13 Oct.	700	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates for 1½ inch and upwards.
Daventry	Boot and Shoe:— Clickers Lasters and Finishers	1 Oct.	40 108	...	Advance of 1s. in weekly minimum wage (26s. to 27s.). Advance of 1s. in weekly minimum wage (27s. to 28s.).
Crewe	Labourers and Scavengers	9 Nov.	20	...	Advance of 2s. per week (18s. to 20s.).

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN NOVEMBER, 1904.

Northumberland, Durham and part of Yorkshire	Slaters	24 Oct.	410	...	Average decrease of 1½ hours per week in winter hours of labour.
Tralee	Carpenters and Joiners .. Plumbers	8 Nov.	40 10	...	Average decrease of about 5½ hours per week. Working hours after change 53½ per week.

NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT, 1900.

A RETURN to an Order of the Legislative Council of New Zealand has been received, which shows the number of cases in each year in which employers or workers have been charged with breaches of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900, and also the numbers and membership of Unions, both of employers and of employees, registered under the Act.

The return states that in 1900 there were 43 Unions of employers, with a membership of 1,016, and that in 1904 (up to March 31st) these had increased to 104 Unions, with 4,114 members. The number of cases in which employers were charged with breaches of awards was,

in 1901, 19, of which 14 resulted in convictions; in 1902, 63, of which 52 resulted in convictions; and in 1903, 74, of which 57 resulted in convictions. The total number of charges against employers for the whole period was 213, of which 171 resulted in convictions 35 were dismissed, and 7 withdrawn. The fines inflicted in the 171 convictions amounted to £512.

The membership of 191 Unions of workers registered in 1900 amounted to 17,989, and these had increased to 260 Unions, with a membership of 27,714 in 1904. Only 4 cases of breaches of awards were charged against them, 3 in 1902 and 1 in 1903, and these cases resulted in 3 convictions and 1 dismissal. Fines to the amount of £32 were inflicted in these three cases.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.
 † Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen, and railway servants. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
 ‡ At certain Collieries the percentage above standard after change was 35.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade:—

Summary for November.

The trade returns for November, 1904, show an increase in the value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1903, of the Imports into the United Kingdom, and the Exports of British produce, and of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in November, 1904, was £50,670,846, an increase of £1,947,255, or 4.0 per cent., as compared with those in November, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £31,826,353, showing a net increase of £3,983,281. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £3,075,495, or 13.3 per cent., as compared with November, 1903, whilst there is an increase of £907,786, or about 19.0 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for November, 1904, as compared with the corresponding months of 1903 and 1902, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table showing the value of imports for November 1904 compared with 1903 and 1902, categorized by goods like Food, Drink and Tobacco, Raw Materials, etc.

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of November, 1904, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1903 and 1902, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table showing the value of exports of British produce for November 1904 compared with 1903 and 1902, categorized by goods like Food, Drink, and Tobacco, Raw Materials, etc.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of November, 1904, amounted to 3,143,856 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,002,738 tons, as against 3,467,771 tons entered, and 3,944,370 tons cleared in the month of November, 1903.

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

PAUPERISM IN NOVEMBER.

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

The number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in November corresponded to a rate of 228 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts. This is higher than the rate for November in any of the previous ten years, the next highest rates in this period being 223 per 10,000 in November, 1894, and 218 per 10,000 in November, 1895. The average of the November figures for the ten years 1894—1903 was 210 per 10,000.

Compared with October the number of persons relieved has increased by 14,851, and the rate per 10,000 by 9. This is due to an increase of 5,352 in the number of indoor paupers, and of 9,499 in the number of outdoor paupers. Increases are shown in 31 and decreases in 2 districts.

Compared with November, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 31,533 and the rate per 10,000 by 16. The number of indoor paupers shows an increase of 9,918 (or 6.3 per cent.), and outdoor paupers of 21,615 (or 10.7 per cent.). Increases are shown in thirty-one districts, the rate of increase being greatest in the Leicester district (85 per 10,000), West Ham (62), East London (45) and Stockton-on-Tees district (35). Decreases occurred in three districts.

Table showing pauperism in November 1904, categorized by region (England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland) and urban districts, including indoor, outdoor, and total paupers.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses. † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN NOVEMBER.

AT twelve Bureaux which furnished returns for both November, 1904 and 1903, 5,655 fresh applications for work were registered during November, 1904, as compared with 3,130 a year ago. During November these Bureaux found work for 1,546 persons, of whom 1,294 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 5,597, as compared with 2,978 a year ago.

Returns relating to November, 1904 were also received from two other Bureaux. At the fourteen Bureaux included in the Table below 5,895 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 1,614 persons. The work procured for 389 of these persons was stated to be more or less of a permanent character, while, in the case of 1,225, temporary employment only was found. Of the 1,614 persons, 1,343 were engaged by private employers, 112 by Local Authorities, and 159 by the Salvation Army. At the end of November, the total number of persons on the registers was 6,558, viz., 5,889 men and boys, and 669 women and girls. In the Borough of Kensington the clearing away of snow furnished employment for a considerable number of men on 3 days during the month.

A return received from the Islington Labour Bureau shows that during the period 21st to 30th November, 1,066 applicants were registered, and that 3 persons were temporarily engaged by private employers.

(I.) Work done in November.

Table showing work done in November by 14 Bureaux, categorized by London, Provincial, and other locations, including number of fresh applications and work found.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during November, 1904, by 14 Bureaux.

Table showing employment found for workpeople during November 1904, categorized by capacity in which employed and type of employment (private, local authorities, Salvation Army).

* In addition to this number the Borough Council engaged men for clearing snow, &c. † Bureau not in operation in November, 1903. ‡ Revised figures.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN NOVEMBER.

DURING November 774 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 598 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 236 persons, of whom 136 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 236 situations found for applicants, 154 were of a more or less permanent character, while 82 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 512 to 440, and the number of servants applying fell from 536 to 448; the number permanently engaged rose from 107 to 113. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., fell from 72 to 36, and the number requiring such situations fell from 84 to 70; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 34, compared with 40 in October.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the Bureaux during November compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN NOVEMBER.

Table showing work done in November by women's employment bureaux, categorized by bureau and occupation, including fresh applications and work found.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE following Table shows for 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom the receipts from Passenger and Goods and Mineral traffic and the total traffic receipts for the four weeks ended 3rd December, 1904, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the corresponding period a year ago:—

Table showing railway traffic receipts for 20 principal railway companies, categorized by goods and mineral traffic and passenger traffic, comparing 1904 with 1903.

It will be seen that there has been a decline of 1.6 per cent. in goods and mineral traffic, and of 1.5 per cent. in passenger traffic. The decline in the goods and mineral traffic was confined to the northern lines of England.

* Opened July 1st 1904. † In operation since November, 1903.

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO
LABOUR RECEIVED DURING NOVEMBER.
UNITED KINGDOM.**

Shops. Return showing the Counties and Boroughs in which Inspectors have been appointed under the Shops Hours Act, 1892 to 1895, and the Seats for Shop Assistants Act, 1899, and number of Inspectors appointed. Home Office. [H.C. 291: pp. 13: price 2d.]

Statistical Tables relating to the British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates. Part xxvii., 1902. Contains tables of prices and wages in certain Colonies. [Cd. 2184: pp. xiii. + 881: price 7s.]

Shipping Casualties. Abstract of, 1902-03. [Cd. 2212: pp. xxix. + 169: price 4s. 7d.]

Irish Land Commission. Return of Proceedings under the "Land Law Acts," Labourers' Acts, &c., during July, 1904. [Cd. 2297: pp. 14: price 2d.] During August, 1904. [Cd. 2301: pp. 14: price 2d.] During September, 1904. [Cd. 2307: pp. 14: price 2d.]

Docks, Wharves, Quays, &c. Report to Home Office upon the Draft Regulations for docks, wharves, quays, &c., by Chester Jones. [Cd. 2284: pp. 30: price 3d.]

Agricultural Returns, 1904. Tables showing the Acreage under Crops and Grass, and the Number of Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Pigs in each County of Great Britain, with Summaries. [pp. v. + 56: price 6d.]

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Journal, October, 1904. Contains articles upon "Agricultural Co-operation in Germany," "The Butter Trade of the Netherlands."

Statistical Abstract relating to British India, from 1893-4 to 1902-3: 38th Number. Contains statistics of persons employed in cotton and jute mills, and other large industries; also factory inspection statistics of India. [Cd. 2299: pp. viii. + 274: price 1s. 2d.]

Technical Education. Returns showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, Local Authorities have applied Funds to the purposes of Technical Education (including Science, Art, Technical and Manual Instruction) during the year 1902-3. [H.C. 280: pp. 135: price 1s. 2d.]

Commons (Inclosure Awards). Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Return of all Inclosure Awards, &c., in each of the Counties of England and Wales, with the parish or township in which each such Common was situated, and the date of the Act of Parliament authorising the Inclosure and the date of the Award. [H.C. 50: pp. 198: price 1s. 7d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any Bookseller.)

BRITISH COLONIES.

New South Wales.

The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records, 1904. Vol. III., Part 4. Report of 6 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. vi. + 23 + xlix.: price 5s.]

Report on the working of the Factories and Shops Act, Early Closing Acts, Seavers' Accommodation Act, &c., during the year 1903. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 31: price 1s. 6d.]

New Zealand.

Awards, Recommendations, Agreements, &c., made under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, New Zealand, from 1st July, 1900, to 30th June, 1901. Vol. II. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. ix. + 305.]

Return showing breaches of Awards, convictions, fines, and number of employers registered under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900, from 1900 to 31st March, 1904. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Twenty-second Annual Coal Report of the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1903. Also the **Fifth Annual Report of the Illinois Free Employment Offices for the year ended 1st October, 1903.** [Springfield, Ill., Phillips Bros., State Printers: pp. xv. + 282 + 81.]

Germany.

Statistical Year Book of the German Empire for 1904. Imperial Statistical Office. Contains statistics of strikes and lock-outs, insurance, co-operation, &c., and supplement of comparative international statistics. [Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht, 1904: pp. xx. + 276 + 39, and charts: price 2s.]

Berlin Statistical Yearbook for 1903, edited by Dr. Hirschberg. Contains sections dealing with prices, pauperism, wages, household budgets, conciliation by industrial courts, &c. [Berlin: Verlag von P. Stankiewicz, 1904: pp. xv. + 98 + 481.]

Italy.

Statistics of Strikes and Lock-outs in 1901. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero & Co., 1904: pp. lvii. + 424: price 1s. 7d.]

Memoranda upon the Organisation of the Industrial Inspectorate of Italy.—Italian Labour Department. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero & Co., 1904: pp. 64: price 7d.]

Holland.

Statistics of the Population of Holland for 1903. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante, 1904: pp. xxiii. + 201: price 8d.]

Norway.

Statistical Yearbook of Christiania for 1903. Statistical Office of Christiania. Contains tables of rents, prices, wages, labour bureaux, pauperism, &c. [Christiania: 1904: pp. xiii. + 230.]

NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, New Zealand, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Sweden and Spain.

**INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES
REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN NOVEMBER.**

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in November was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 14; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 61 (including 27 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 81.

Among the new Societies registered in November are the following:—

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—3, viz., Southampton and Dist. Costermongers' and Street Sellers' Benefit and Protection Soc., Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Southampton; Liverpool United Soc. of Coppersmiths and Braziers, Wellington Vaults, St. Anne Street, Liverpool; United Journeymen Brassfounders, Turners, Fitters and Coppersmiths' Assn. of Gt. Britain and Ireland. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—13, viz., Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution.—2, viz., Axminster and Dist. Co-op. Soc. (Ltd.), The Stores, Lyme Road, Axminster; Downham and Dist. Co-op. Soc. (Ltd.), The Stores, Bridge Street, Downham Market. Co-operative Societies mainly for Production.—2, viz., Colwick Furniture Manufacturers (Ltd.), 33, Bourne Street, Netherfield, Nottingham; Co-operative Pearl Workers' Soc. (Ltd.), 63, Barr Street, Birmingham. Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—3, viz., North Wales Farmers' Assoc. (Ltd.), 25, Old Bank Buildings, Eastgate, Chester; Catchall Poultry Society, Catchall, St. Biryán, Cornwall; Yorkshire County Dairy Farmers' Soc. (Ltd.), 24, Station Parade, Harrogate. Miscellaneous Societies.—Working men's Clubs, 2; others, 4. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Co-operative Society mainly for Distribution.—1, viz., Bray Co-op. Art Furniture Supply Soc. (Ltd.), Bray.

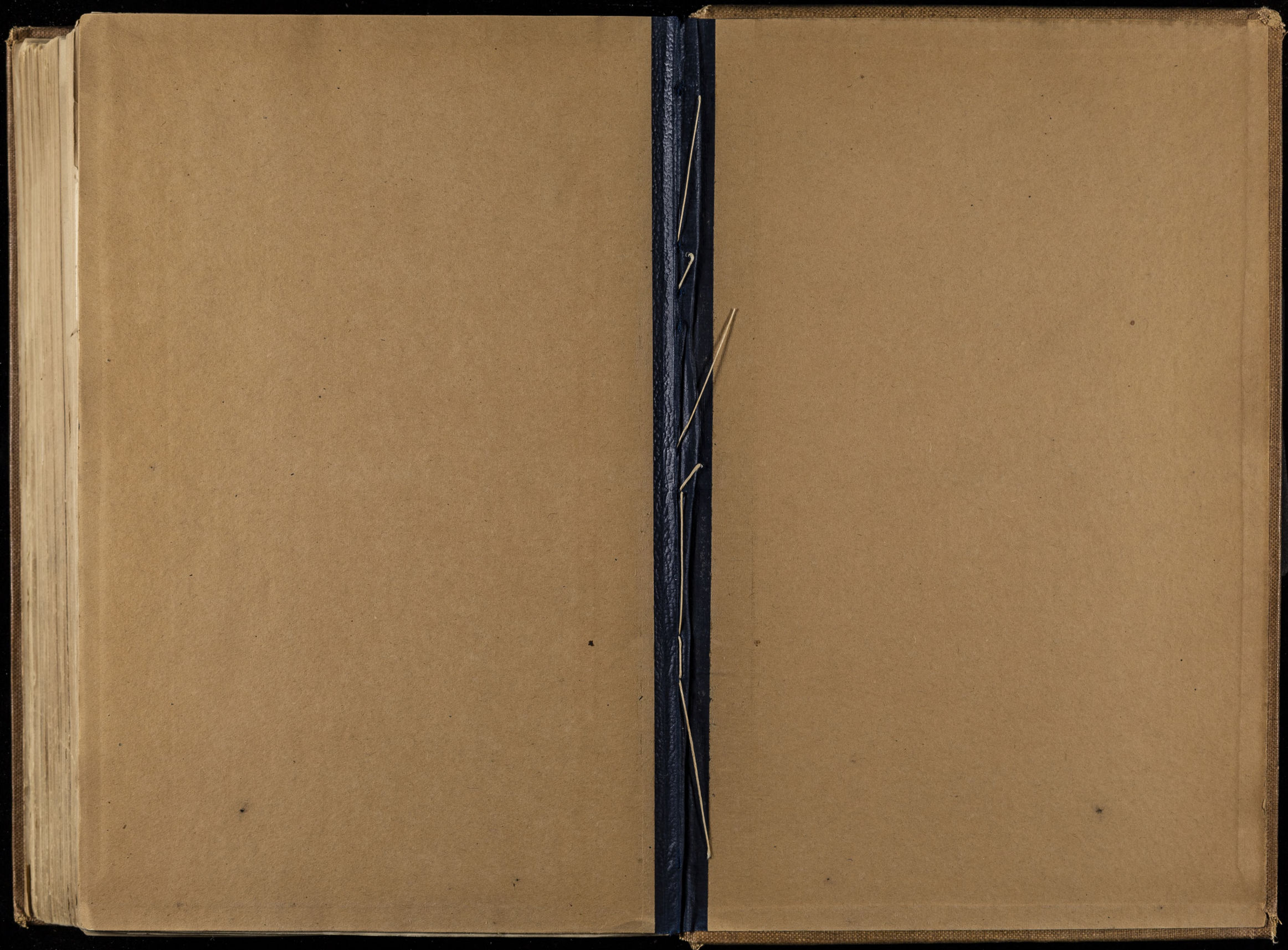
Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—32, viz., Bolton Unity Fidelity Guarantee Soc., Manchester; Hemp Hacklers' Loan Soc., London, E.; Sherwood Inn £5 Money Soc., Nottingham; Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Leeds; Bickley and Widmore Working Men's Club and Inst., Bickley, Kent; Dunstall Park Working Men's Club, Wolverhampton; Ferndale Imperial Conservative Working Men's Club, Ferndale, Glam.; Mardy Conservative Working Men's Club, Mardy, Glam.; Woodside Lairage Butchers' Tontine Sick and Burial Soc., Birkenhead; Robin Hood Helsby Juvenile Foresters' Friendly Soc., Warrington; Gordon's Hope Foresters' Friendly Soc., Newport, I.W.; New Manchester Jewish Workers' Benefit Soc., Manchester; Manchester Cap Makers' Sick and Benefit Soc., Manchester; Bootle P.S.A., Tontine Soc., Bootle; Bayswater and Notting Hill Jewish Sick Benefit Soc., Bayswater, W.; Consolation of Zion Sons of Isbit's Sick Benefit Soc., Spitalfields, E.; London and County Permanent Benefit Soc., London, E.C.; Gotham Old Friendly Soc., Gotham, Derby; Holyhead Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Barlaston Juvenile Foresters' Friendly Soc., Stoke-on-Trent; Old Green Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Latimer Arms Sick and Provident Soc., Birmingham; Brighton Arms Sick, Funeral and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Upper Grounds Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; City of Birmingham and Dist. Butchers' Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Roebuck Inn Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Staunton Sick Benefit Soc., Gloucester; Ferahill Heath Juvenile Odd Fellows Friendly Soc., Worcester; Independent Friendship Lodge of Oddfellows' Friendly Soc., Huddersfield; Zetland Juvenile Free Gardeners' Friendly Soc., Saltburn-by-the-Sea; Woolroad Friendly Sick and Benefit Soc., Woolroad, Saddleworth; Ynysbir Standard Steam Coal Collieries Workmen's Sick, Accident, and Funeral Fund, Porth, Glam. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—2, viz., Newtownsandes Credit Soc., Newtownsandes, Co. Kerry; Cliffoe Credit Soc., Cliffoe, Co. Sligo.

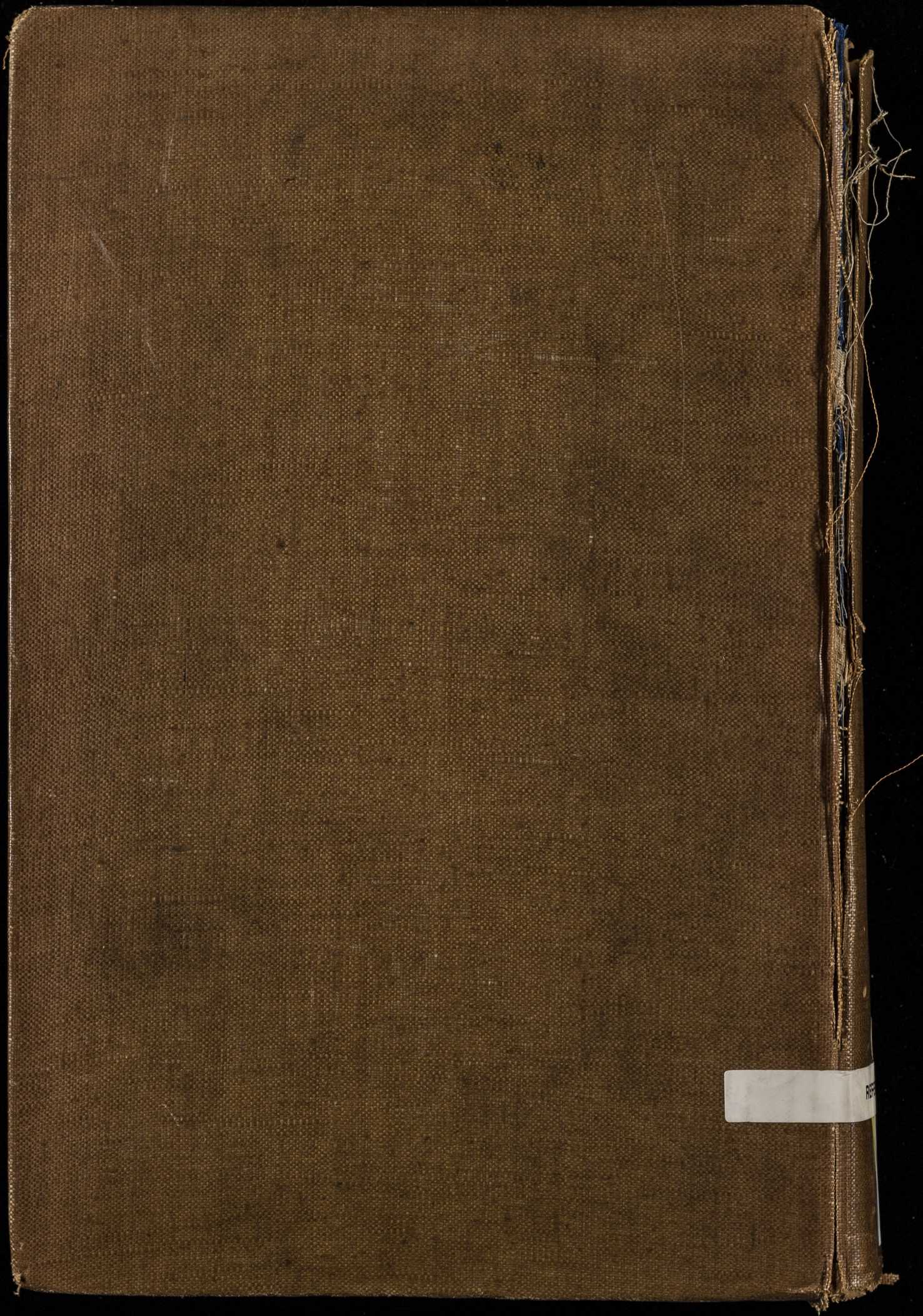
(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as having had registration cancelled in November, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 12; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 32 (including 8 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 18; in all 63.

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.), which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

Printed by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & Co., Ltd., 31 to 37 Cursitor Street, London, E.C., and Published for His Majesty's Stationery Office by HORACE MARSHALL & SON, Temple House, Temple Avenue, London, E.C. Sole Advertising Contractors—RATCLIFFE, DUNBAR & Co., 1, Lombard Court, Lombard Street, E.C.—Dec., 1904.





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