

LABOUR GAZETTE

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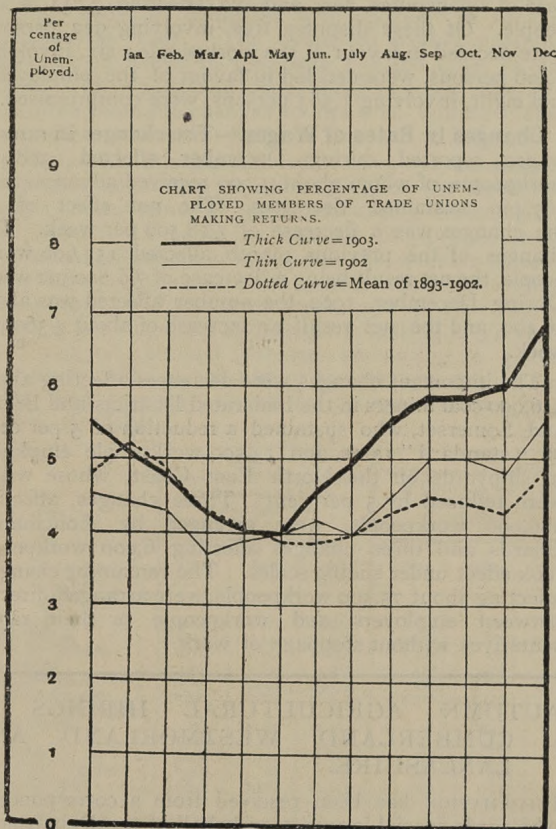
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PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[Based on 3,950 returns, viz.: 2,533 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,332 from Trade Unions, and 85 from other sources.]

GENERALLY speaking, employment continued to decline during December. In the coal mining industry, however, there has been the usual seasonal improvement, and cotton operatives were somewhat more fully employed in December than in the previous month.

As compared with a year ago, the state of employment shows a general decline, and the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is above the mean percentage for the corresponding month in the past ten years.

A comparison of the returns for the end of December with those of the previous month is, to some extent, affected by Christmas and New Year holidays, and allowance must therefore be made for this disturbing influence when considering the figures given below.

In the 228 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 559,897, making returns, 37,501 (or 6.7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 6.0 per cent. in November, and with 5.5 per cent. in the 224 Trade Unions, with a membership of 552,415, from which returns were received

for December, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of December during the ten years 1893-1902 was 4.8.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment during December showed a seasonal improvement, but was not so good as in December, 1902. At collieries employing 504,984 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 5.40 days per week during the four weeks ended December 19th, as compared with 5.24 in November, and 5.51 in December, 1902. The number of workpeople employed at pits for which returns were received for both periods was 2.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry was good. In the 137 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, and employing about 15,800 workpeople, the average weekly number of days worked by the mines was 5.77, as compared with 5.74 in November, and 5.76 in December, 1902.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry shows a decline, and is considerably worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 295 furnaces, employing about 20,900 workpeople, were in blast at the end of December, as compared with 314 at the end of November, and 317 in December, 1902.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment shows little change as compared with November, and is rather worse than a year ago. At 200 works covered by the returns received from employers, 72,780 workpeople were employed during the week ended December 19th, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. compared with December, 1902.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in the tinplate industry has declined somewhat, and is not so good as a year ago. At the end of December 353 mills were working, as compared with 360 at the end of November, and 386 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 353 mills was 17,600.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally is worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of December was 7.7, as compared with 6.0 in November, and 6.6 in December, 1902.

Shipbuilding Trades.—On the whole employment is slightly better than a month ago, but is still bad, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 16.7 at the end of December, as compared with 17.1 in November, and 14.0 in December, 1902.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades shows a seasonal decline as compared with November, and is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 7.9 at the end of December, compared with 6.1 at the end of November, and 5.9 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 7.7 at the end of December, compared with 7.2 in November, and 5.6 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in these trades is worse than a month and a year ago. The

percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of December was 8.2, as compared with 5.9 in November, and 6.1 in December, 1902.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment during December was good with letterpress printers and bookbinders, and moderate with lithographic printers. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of December was 3.5, as compared with 3.0 in November, and 3.6 in December, 1902.

Employment in the **Papermaking** trade was good in Scotland and Lancashire; elsewhere it was moderate on the whole. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 3.1, against 2.4 in November, and 2.2 in December, 1902.

Employment in the **Glass** trades remains bad in the bottle branch, and is moderate in the flint-glass trade. In the **Pottery** trades employment is moderate. In the **Brick** trade it remains moderate on the whole.

Employment in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade maintained the improvement shown in November and is fair. In the **Weaving** branch it has improved, but is still very slack. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 103,000 women and girls show that 77 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 75 per cent. in November, and 94 per cent. in December, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 47 during December, compared with 44 per cent. in November and 78 per cent. in December, 1902.

Employment in the **Woollen** and **Worsted** trades shows a general decline, and is especially slack in the worsted trade. Returns from firms employing 78,801 workpeople show a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the **Hosiery** trade continues bad, and worse than a year ago. In the **Jute** and **Flax** trades it is fair.

Leather Trades.—The general state of employment continues slack, and much the same as a month ago, but is worse than a year ago, short time being prevalent in most districts. The percentage of Trade Union members shown to be unemployed at the end of December was 8.3, as compared with 8.3 in November, and 6.5 in December, 1902.

Employment in the **Boot** and **Shoe** trade is slack. Returns from firms employing 74,679 workpeople show a decrease of 1.6 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of November, and an increase of 1.6 per cent. compared with the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives reported on, 57 per cent. were employed in firms working full time throughout December, compared with 58 per cent. in November.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade is dull and worse than a month ago, but much the same as a year ago. In the ready-made branch employment continues bad, and is much worse than a year ago.

Employment in the **Hat-making** trade has been dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of December was 5.3, as compared with 4.5 per cent. at the end of November, and 3.2 per cent. a year ago.

Agricultural Labourers were, generally speaking, well employed during December, though outdoor work was hindered to some extent by rain in the early part of the month. Casual labourers were not in much demand, and the supply in most districts is said to have been sufficient.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during December was fair generally, and showed little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended December 26th was 14,638, a

decrease of 3.3 per cent. on the average for November, 1903, and of 0.4 per cent. on the average for December, 1902. The average daily number employed in December during the six years, 1897-1902 was 16,952.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during December, 1903, was 7,304, compared with 13,763 in November, 1903, and 15,830 in December, 1902.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 125,000 working days, compared with 108,400 in the previous month, and 309,000 in the corresponding month of 1902.

Ten disputes began in December, involving 2,627 workpeople, compared with 30 in November, 1903, and 15 in December, 1902.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, affecting 3,751 workpeople. Of these disputes, five, involving 922 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; six, involving 1,466 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and eight, involving 1,363 persons, were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during December affected 368,400 workpeople, of whom about 1,000 received advances and 367,400 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of £18,500 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 153,600 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £6,800 per week. During December, 1902, the number affected was about 20,400, and the net result an increase of about £360 per week.

The important changes were decreases affecting about 346,000 coal miners in the Federated Districts, and Bristol and Somerset, who sustained a reduction of 5 per cent. on "standard" rates, and 13,500 workpeople employed in shipyards on the North East Coast, whose wages were reduced by 5 per cent. Three changes, affecting 286,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and three changes affecting 6,900 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting about 75,500 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives without stoppage of work.

AUTUMN AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN CUMBERLAND, WESTMORLAND AND LANCASHIRE.

INFORMATION has been received from a correspondent, who made special inquiries on behalf of the Department, as to the rates of wages agreed upon at the half-yearly hiring fairs held at Martinmas (November) in Cumberland, Westmorland and North Lancashire. Little hiring was done at the first fairs, as both men and women held out for the old rates of wages, while employers were not willing to engage servants on these terms. At the second week's hiring more business was done and the rates agreed upon were generally lower than those obtained for the corresponding period of 1902-3, except in the case of certain of the best men and women, who can always command high wages. Owing to the numbers seeking employment a third hiring was held at Ulverston, but many remained unhired.

The following are the rates of wages generally agreed upon:—Best men, £16 to £20; second-class men, £12 to £15; youths and boys, £4 to £12; best women, £10 to £15; second-class women and girls, £4 to £11. In addition board and lodging is provided.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

THE free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on January 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages, and cost of living.

Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the various colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to emigrants. Copies of the circulars can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

WAGES AND DISPUTES IN 1903.*

I.—CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Changes in Rates of Wages.

THE net result of the changes of wages in 1903 was a decline, but the amount of the fall measured in weekly loss of wages was comparatively slight, being considerably less than in either of the two preceding years, though spread over a larger number of trades.

The fall in wages in 1901 and 1902 was mainly confined to the coal mining, iron and steel and shipbuilding trades. In 1903, wages continued to fall in these industries, and the downward tendency spread to a number of other trades not affected in 1901 and 1902, such as the engineering, glass and clothing trades. In all, 892,000† workpeople were affected by changes in wages reported during 1903, as compared with 890,000† in 1902, and 932,000† in 1901. The estimated weekly amount of decrease in wages in 1903 was £38,400 only, as compared with £72,700 in 1902, and £77,300 in 1901. In all three years the changes in the coal mining industry were the predominant factor.

Of the total number affected in 1903, 872,000 sustained decreases amounting to about £39,800 per week, while only 19,000 obtained increases, amounting to about £1,400 per week. In 1902 the number of workpeople who sustained reductions was 793,000, the amount of reduction being £78,000, while 91,800 obtained increases amounting to £5,300 per week; and in 1901, 492,500 workpeople sustained decreases amounting to £118,100, and 429,700 obtained increases amounting to £40,800 per week. The net results of the changes during 1901, 1902 and 1903 are shown by groups of trades in the following Table:

Trade.	Number of Workpeople whose wages were changed in			Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the weekly wages of those affected.		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
	Building	4,638	15,575	39,687	+ 304	+ 926	+ 1,043
Coal Mining	753,000	735,574	704,681	-32,488	+ 73,872	-57,681
Iron, &c., Mining ...	9,310	7,121	16,098	- 426	+ 250	- 5,755
Quarrying	3,492	6,733	4,971	- 170	+ 306	- 298
Iron and Steel	22,624	53,493	70,009	- 971	+ 749	-20,344
Engineering and Shipbuilding	74,927	34,822	21,244	-4,326	- 2,419	+ 342
Other Metals	534	15,357	11,963	- 27	+ 145	- 1,120
Textile	1,219	2,107	3,098	+ 12	+ 142	+ 290
Clothing	3,476	3,112	5,409	- 89	+ 291	+ 691
Glass, &c., Trades ...	6,886	86	1,833	+ 600	+ 10	+ 9
Other Trades†	11,944	18,426	53,133	+ 385	+ 791	+ 3,480
Total	891,550	890,356	932,126	-38,395	-72,701	-77,343

From the above Table it will be seen that in the building trades little change took place during the year. In the coal mining industry, while the number affected is not greatly different from that of a year ago, the amount of decrease was much less. In Northumberland, coal miners' wages fell 2½ per cent. compared with 12½ per cent. in 1902; in Durham 1½ per cent. compared with 6½ per cent. a year ago; in the Federated Districts 5 per cent. as compared with 10 per cent.; in South Wales 5 per cent., as compared with 17½ per cent. In the iron and steel trades the wages of blastfurnacemen in the principal centres of the pig iron industry were reduced, but no change occurred in the wages of the puddlers and millmen employed in the manufactured iron trades of the Midlands, North of England or Scotland. General reductions in wages took place in the engineering trade on the North East Coast and at Barrow, and in the engineering and shipbuilding trades on the Clyde and at Belfast. Glass bottle makers in Yorkshire, Lancashire, the North of England and Scotland also sustained decreases. Reductions affecting tailors took place in Glasgow and other towns in the west of Scotland. In the remaining trades the changes reported were comparatively unimportant.

* Preliminary figures only.
† Including workpeople affected by changes during the year, but whose wages stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning.
‡ Exclusive of Agricultural Labourers, Seamen and Fishermen and Railway Servants.

Changes in hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during 1903. Such changes as did occur were nearly all reductions and resulted in a net decrease averaging about 2½ hours per week in the usual weekly working time of about 7,000 workpeople.

II.—TRADE DISPUTES.

Greater freedom from industrial disputes was experienced in 1903 than in any of the previous ten years. During the year 360 disputes began, affecting 113,873 workpeople, while the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during the year was 2,316,792 working days. The average annual duration of disputes in the period 1893-1902 was 8,839,347 working days, and the average annual numbers of disputes and of workpeople affected were 724 and 271,000 respectively.

The coal mining industry was responsible in 1903 for 51 per cent. of all the persons affected, and 52 per cent. of the aggregate duration of all the disputes of the year. Next come the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades with 81 disputes, affecting 32,110 workpeople, and of an aggregate duration of 474,102 working days. The remaining industries together affected 21 per cent. of the total number of workpeople involved, and 28 per cent. of the aggregate duration of all the disputes of 1903. This may be seen from the following Table:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1903.	Number of Workpeople affected.			Aggregate duration in working days of all Disputes in 1903.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
Building	43	3,303	346	3,649	114,203
Coal Mining	203	45,195	12,806	57,911	1,198,935
Other Mining & Quarrying	12	3,337	212	3,549	182,448*
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	81	27,520	4,590	32,110	474,102
Textile	51	5,310	3,960	9,270	115,126
Clothing	24	2,201	270	2,471	136,127
Transport	15	2,122	40	2,162	33,159
Miscellaneous and Local Authorities	31	2,202	549	2,751	62,692
Total	360	91,100	22,773	113,873	2,316,792

Questions of remuneration were, as is generally the case, the most frequent causes of disputes. The number of disputes that arose under this head was 214, involving 52 per cent. of all the workpeople directly affected by the disputes of the year. Refusals to work with non-unionists, and other questions affecting trade unions, were responsible for 25 disputes directly involving 17,602 workpeople, while 54 disputes directly involving 13,471 workpeople arose out of questions of working arrangements. The following Table classifies the disputes of 1903 by causes:—

	Principal Causes of Disputes in 1903.					
	Wages.	Hours of Labour.	Employment of Particular Classes or Persons.	Working Arrangements.	Trade Unionism.	Other Causes.
Number of Disputes	214	15	49	54	25	3
Number of Workpeople affected:						
Directly	47,638	3,972	7,600	13,471	17,602	817
Indirectly	15,404	364	4,514	2,154	269	68

As regards the results of the disputes of 1903, it is found that 83 disputes, directly affecting 28,241 persons, terminated in favour of the workpeople, 156 disputes, directly involving 25,699 persons, in favour of the employers, while 92 disputes, directly affecting 17,380 persons, were compromised. Taking the percentages based on the number of workpeople directly involved the balance of success would appear to have been in favour of the workpeople, as is shown in the Table on the next page. If however, disputes between classes of workpeople, e.g., unionists and non-unionists, are excluded the balance of gain is in favour of the employers.

* Including days lost in 1903 owing to the Penrhyn dispute.

In the following Table the results of the disputes in 1903 are set out:—

Results.	Number of Disputes.		Number of Workpeople directly affected.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
In favour of Workpeople ...	83	23.1	28,241	31.0
In favour of Employers ...	156	43.3	25,699	28.2
Compromised ...	92	25.6	17,380	19.1
Indefinite and Unsettled ...	29	8.0	19,780	21.7

The high figure shown for indefinite and unsettled disputes is largely accounted for by the dispute in the South Wales tinplate trade, affecting 14,000 workpeople, which is now the subject of arbitration under the Conciliation Act.

SPINDLES AND LOOMS IN COTTON FACTORIES.

A RETURN* has just been issued by the Home Office of the number of spindles and looms used in the cotton spinning and weaving factories of the United Kingdom. It relates to the week ended 30th May, 1903, and gives particulars of the spinning and doubling spindles and power looms in ordinary use in the cotton spinning and weaving factories under inspection by the Factory Department.

The number of spindles in the Kingdom at the date mentioned was about 48 millions, made up of 37½ million mule, 6½ million ring, throstle, &c., and 4 million doubling spindles. Power looms numbered 684,000.

The following Table compiled from the present and some of the previous returns, gives the total number of spindles and power looms in the Kingdom during the period 1870-1903. It shows that spinning spindles, which totalled about 34 millions in 1870, had increased in 1903 to 44 millions. The total number of doubling spindles in use, increased between 1870 and 1878, declined in the period of 1878 to 1890, and shows little change in 1903. Power looms which in 1870 numbered 440,676, had increased in 1903 to 683,620.

Number of Spindles and Looms in the United Kingdom.

Year.	Spinning Spindles.	Doubling Spindles.	Total Spindles.	Power Looms.
1870	33,995,221†	3,723,537†	37,718,758†	440,676†
1874	37,515,772	4,365,017	41,880,789	463,118
1878	39,527,920	4,678,770	44,206,690	514,911
1885	40,120,451	4,228,470	44,348,921	560,955
1890	40,511,934	3,992,885	44,504,819	615,714
1903	43,995,232†	3,952,424	47,947,656	683,620

In the following Table a similar comparison is given for Lancashire only, the chief seat of the Cotton Industry, from which it appears that since 1870, spinning spindles have increased 43 per cent., while doubling spindles have declined. Power looms show a marked increase, namely from 349,000 to 578,000, or over 65 per cent.

Number of Spindles and Looms in Lancashire.

Year.	Spinning Spindles.	Doubling Spindles.	Total Spindles.	Power Looms.
1870	25,353,806	1,900,518	27,254,324	348,764
1874	28,237,300	2,064,328	30,301,628	373,061
1878	30,562,781	2,185,614	32,748,395	424,147
1885	31,453,607	1,749,041	33,202,648	466,075
1890	31,967,098	1,552,682	33,519,780	514,098
1903	36,365,093	1,451,568	37,816,661	577,816

A comparison of the different kinds of mills and factories reveals a distinct tendency on the part of employers to specialise either as spinners or manufacturers. From the following Table it will be seen that factories engaged

* [H.C. 289 of 1903.] Eyre & Spottiswoode, Price 1d. Similar returns have been issued at varying intervals by the Home Office, the previous returns being for 1850 [H.C. 328] and the earliest for 1850 [H.C. 745]. Returns were also made in 1857 [H.C. 7], 1871 [H.C. 446], 1875 [H.C. 393], 1879 [H.C. 324] and 1885 [H.C. 340].

† Including spindles and looms returned as standing.

in both spinning and weaving show a marked decline in spindles and some decline in looms. Consequently, factories devoted exclusively to spinning or weaving more than account for all the increase in spindles and looms shown in the previous Tables.

Year.	Factories engaged in Spinning only.		Factories engaged in Weaving only.		Factories engaged in both Spinning and Weaving.	
	No.	No. of Spindles.	No.	No. of Looms.	No.	No. of Spindles.
1870	761	14,628,603	550	160,222	392	13,225,721
1874	767	18,209,501	523	157,534	316	12,092,127
1878	753	20,621,204	646	203,909	490	12,127,191
1885	699	22,572,544	702	249,578	424	10,640,104
1890	596	23,016,386	793	315,407	357	10,593,394
1903	633	29,068,948	882	393,487	337	8,747,713

In Scotland the number of spinning spindles has fallen from 639,600 to 558,500; that of doubling spindles shows a decline from 564,500 to 540,600; the number of power looms has fallen from 28,100 to 17,700.

It should be noted, however, that all comparisons of this kind over a long period must be considerably affected by changes in the relative efficiency of the units of machinery in the different years.

The towns using the largest number of spinning spindles in 1903 are Oldham (5,108,478), Bolton (4,838,399), Rochdale (1,776,134), Preston (1,211,056), and Blackburn (1,109,415). Of these, Rochdale returns the largest number of ring and throstle spindles (569,176). Of doubling spindles, the largest number is to be found in Paisley (425,722), Oldham (287,948), Bolton (256,838), and Manchester (211,502). The towns using the largest number of power looms are Blackburn (68,004), Burnley (63,503) and Preston (34,661).

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1902.

INFORMATION relating to production during 1902, by workmen's co-operative societies and agricultural and dairy societies in the United Kingdom, has been obtained by the Department respecting 1,116 societies, compared with 1,022 societies in 1901. Of the 1,116 societies, 726 were in England and Wales, 201 in Scotland, and 189 in Ireland.

Co-operative Production by all classes of Societies.

The 1,116 societies employed a total of 41,411 persons in production at the end of 1902, and paid in productive wages during the year, £2,153,479. Of the total employees 27,913, or 67.4 per cent., were in England and Wales, 12,131, or 29.3 per cent., in Scotland, and 1,367, or 3.3 per cent., in Ireland.

The total value of productions sold, or transferred* to distributive departments of societies, was £14,422,744, as compared with £13,201,709 in 1901, an increase of £1,221,035, or 9.2 per cent.

Of the total production, £9,543,824, or 66.2 per cent., was produced by societies in England and Wales, £3,865,202, or 26.8 per cent., by societies in Scotland, and £1,013,718, or 7.0 per cent., by societies in Ireland.

Production by Various Classes of Societies.

Of the total production 71.9 per cent. was produced by the productive departments of the wholesale and retail distributive societies, which paid a total of £1,631,063 in productive wages during the year; 9.0 per cent. by the corn mill societies, which paid £33,112 in wages, and 19.1 per cent. by societies for other forms of production, paying wages amounting to £489,304.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, and the amount of sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments by the various classes of co-operative societies in 1902:—

* In the case of the wholesale and retail distributive societies, the goods produced are not usually sold by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

Classes of Societies.	No. of Societies to which the Returns relate.	No. of Persons employed in Production at end of 1902.	Value of Goods sold by Productive Societies or transferred from Productive to Distributive Departments in 1902.	
			Amount.	Percentage of Total.
Societies for retail distribution ...	774	17,473	5,262,083	36.5
Societies for wholesale distribution ...	2	13,919	5,099,565	35.4
Total: Societies established primarily for distribution	776	31,392	10,361,648	71.9
Societies for corn milling ...	8	406	1,303,682	9.0
Societies for other forms of production ...	332	9,613	2,757,414	19.1
Total: Societies established primarily for production	340	10,019	4,061,096	28.1
Total: All Societies	1,116	41,411	14,422,744	100.0

Production Classified by Industries.

In the following Table the total production (£14,422,744) of all classes of societies in 1902, is split up so as to show the nature and extent of the industries carried on. 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. Of the total employees (41,411) engaged in production, 9,599, or 23.2 per cent., were engaged in boot and shoe making; 7,575, or 18.3 per cent., in tailoring, mantle and shirt making, and 6,560, or 15.8 per cent., in bread, etc., making, the remaining 42.7 per cent. being spread over 15 other groups of industries. Of the total employees 57.8 per cent. were men, 26.8 per cent. women, and 15.4 per cent. young persons under 18 years of age.

Industries carried on by Co-operative Societies of all Classes.	No. of Societies to which the particulars relate.†	Number of Persons employed in Production at end of 1902.	Value of Goods sold by Productive Societies or transferred from Productive to Distributive Departments in 1902.
Building ...	71	2,844	458,776
Quarrying and Brick Making ...	2	75	11,438
Metal, Engineering and Ship-building ...	36	1,017	153,773
Textiles ...	41	2,565	503,588
Clothing—			
Boots and Shoes ...	458	9,599	1,441,279
Tailoring, Mantles and Shirtmaking ...	280	7,575	854,818
Dressmaking and Millinery ...	276	3,838	273,093
Farming, Dairying and Fishing ...	237	1,884	1,509,112
Printing and allied Trades ...	19	1,343	244,608
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	24	878	137,766
Soap and Candle Making ...	2	424	388,273
Food Preparation—			
Bread Making, Preserves, Pickles and Confectionery ...	608	6,560	3,817,955
Corn Milling ...	25	1,041	3,495,194
Other Foods ...	70	674	570,238
Tobacco ...	5	626	523,162
Leather Trades ...	4	38	6,296
Hass-dressing, Brush and Mat Making ...	7	132	24,727
Other Industries ...	5	96	8,648
Total 1902—All Societies...	1,116*	41,411	14,422,744

Production by Retail Distributive Societies.

Of the total value (£14,422,744) of productions in 1902, £5,262,083, or 36.5 per cent., represents the value of goods produced by 774 retail distributive societies, who employed 17,473, or 42.2 per cent., of the total employees engaged in production, and paid in wages for production during 1902, £956,075, or 44.2 per cent., of the total wages paid for production by all classes of societies. Of the 774 societies, 592 with production to the value of £3,679,216 were in England and Wales; 179 with production to the value of £1,580,601 in Scotland, and 3 with £2,266 in Ireland.

Breadmaking and confectionery accounted for 52.8 per cent. of the value of productions by these societies; boot and shoemaking and tailoring for 17.6 per cent.; and corn milling for 12.4 per cent.

The following Table shows the number of societies and employees engaged in production in groups of trades, together with the value of the productions. In a few cases it has been necessary to estimate the value of the productions:—

Groups of Industries.	No. of Societies making Returns.*	No. of Persons employed in Production at end of 1902.	Total Value of own Productions sold or transferred from Productive to Distributive Departments in 1902.
Building ...	52	1,548	£ 243,559
Metal ...	13	81	11,516
Textile ...	18	69	5,309
Clothing—			
Boots and Shoes ...	435	3,243	418,245
Tailoring ...	270	3,775	506,956
Dressmaking and Millinery ...	274	3,526	247,275
Shirtmaking ...	3	29	3,813
Farming ...	45	294	89,722
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	18	212	39,238
Food Preparation—			
Corn Milling ...	15	202	652,131
Breadmaking and Confectionery ...	585	4,127	2,778,747
Other Foods ...	63	273	218,154
Tobacco ...	3	53	48,158
Brush and Mat Making ...	1	6	2,300
Miscellaneous ...	4	35	5,960
Total United Kingdom, 1902	774*	17,473	5,262,083

Profit allotted to Productive Employees.

Of the 1,116 societies of all classes making returns, 173 stated that they had allotted to or for the benefit of their employees the sum of £31,823 out of the profits of the year. The number of persons thus benefiting was 13,263, and the amount of wages paid to them was £662,345. Thus the profit allotted amounted to about £2 8s. per head, and to 4.8 per cent. on the wages paid.

The following Table shows the number of societies of each class which made returns of the amount of profit allotted to their productive employees, together with the number of employees, amount of wages paid, and of profit allotted in 1902:—

Classes of Societies.	No. of Societies.	No. of Productive Employees.	Productive Wages Paid.	Profit Allotted to Productive Employees in 1902.	
				Amount.	Percentage on Wages.
England and Wales—					
Productive Societies ...	53	4,613	£ 232,617	£ 11,673	5.0
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies ...	83	1,289	69,111	2,842	4.1
Corn Milling Society ...	1	32	2,244	90	4.0
Total—England & Wales...	137	5,934	303,972	14,605	4.8
Scotland—					
Productive Societies ...	4	1,531	85,669	6,695	7.8
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies ...	16	635	33,547	2,591	7.7
Productive Departments of the Scottish Wholesale Society ...	1	5,001	235,248	7,824	3.3
Total—Scotland ...	21	7,167	384,464	17,110	4.8
Ireland—					
Lace Society ...	1	80	130	20	15.4
Agricultural and Dairying Societies ...	12	70	3,119	78	2.5
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies ...	2	12	660	10	1.5
Total—Ireland ...	15	162	3,909	108	2.8
Total—United Kingdom	173	13,263	662,345	31,823	4.8

AMENDED SPECIAL RULES FOR MANUFACTURE AND DECORATION OF EARTHENWARE AND CHINA.

In accordance with the awards of Lord James of Hereford, dated 30th December, 1901, and 28th November, 1903, made after Arbitration, amended special rules under the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1891, 1895 and 1901, for the Manufacture and Decoration of Earthenware and China have been made. These rules relate to the duties of occupiers and the duties of persons employed; and also contain the conditions of compensation when a workman is suspended from working by a certifying surgeon on the ground that such person by continued working in lead will incur special danger from the effects of plumbism, and while he is suffering from plumbism arising out of his employment.

* Some societies carry on two or more industries, and are entered under several heads, consequently this column does not add up.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The returns as to the price of bread, furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of January and of each of the twelve preceding months. 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. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

Table with columns for Place, Present Price, 1st Jan. 1904, and monthly prices for 1903 (1st Dec, 2nd Nov, 1st Oct, 1st Sept, 1st Aug, 1st July, 1st Jan).

As compared with a month ago, the price remains the same at all the towns given in the Table.

Wheat and Flour.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies in 1903 from 1st September to 31st December amounted to 32,361,100 cwts. (7,550,923 quarters), compared with 29,353,267 cwts. (6,849,099 quarters) in the corresponding four months of 1902. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in September-December of 1903 amounted to 8,644,545 cwts., compared with 7,223,028 cwts. from 1st September to 31st December, 1902.

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 of the months September, 1902, to December, 1903:—

Table with columns for Month, British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price), and Imports (Wheat, Wheat-meal and Flour) with sub-columns for Average Declared Value and Per cwt.

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 2nd February, 2nd March, 1st April, 1st May, or at 1st June, 1903, except at Aberdeen, where the price per 4 lbs. was advanced 1d. (5d. to 5½d.) on 5th March, 1903.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Employment of Women on Overtime.

By Section 49 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, women may be employed overtime in certain non-textile factories and workshops, or parts thereof, and warehouses, subject to certain conditions. The Secretary of State has power to extend this exception to other non-textile factories and workshops where it is proved to his satisfaction that it is necessary, by reason of the material which is the subject of the manufacturing process or handicraft therein being liable to be spoiled by the weather, or by reason of press of work arising at certain recurring seasons of the year, or by reason of the liability of the business to a sudden press of orders arising from unforeseen events, to employ women overtime.

In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has by an Order,* dated 29th December, 1903, directed that the exception shall extend to non-textile factories and workshops, or parts thereof, in which the following processes, or any of them are carried on, viz. :—

- 1. The making of cardboard and millboard.
2. The colouring and enamelling of paper, other than wall-papers.
3. The stamping in relief on paper and envelopes.
4. The making of postage stamps, stamped post cards, and stamped envelopes.
5. The making of Christmas and New Year cards, and of cosques.
6. The making of meat pies, of mincemeat, and of Christmas puddings.
7. The bottling of beer.
8. The making of boxes for aerated water bottles.
9. The washing of bottles for use in the preserving of fruit.
10. The making and mixing of butter and the making of cheese.
11. The making of fireworks.
12. The calendering, finishing, hooking, lapping, or making up and packing of any yarn or cloth.
13. The warping, winding, or filling of yarn, without the aid of mechanical power, as incidental to the weaving of ribbons.

Provided that it shall be a condition of the employment of any woman in pursuance of 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.

The Orders of 20th December, 1882, 22nd November, 1883, 12th March, 1884, 27th August, 1884, 26th April, 1887, 16th September, 1889, 13th October, 1890, 7th September, 1896, 30th June, 1897, 28th June, 1899, 27th June, 1902, and 18th June, 1903, extending the said exception, are revoked.

Health: Over-crowding of Factory or Workshop: Bakehouses.

By Section 3 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, it is provided that a factory or workshop shall be deemed to be so overcrowded as to be dangerous or injurious to health if the number of cubic feet of space in any room therein bears to the number of persons employed at one time in the room a proportion less than 250, or, during any period of overtime, 400 cubic feet of space to every person. The Secretary of State has, however, power to modify this proportion for any period during which artificial light other than electric light is used for illuminating purposes.

In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order† dated 30th December, 1903, directing that the proportion of cubic feet of space to each person employed shall be modified:

- (1) as regards Underground Bakehouses by substituting "500 cubic feet of space to every person" for "250 cubic feet of space to every person"; and
(2) as regards Bakehouses (other than such as are underground) where work is carried on at night by artificial light other than electric light by substituting in respect of the period between 9 in the evening and 6 in the succeeding morning "400 cubic feet of space to every person" for "200 cubic feet of space to every person."

The Order came into force on 1st January, 1904.

* Statutory Rules and Order, No. 1196. (Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d.)
† Statutory Rules and Order, No. 1197. (Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d.)

CENSUS OF SCOTLAND, 1901.

The third and final volume* of the Census of Scotland dealing with the occupations of the people has been published. From this it appears that the number of men and boys returned as engaged in specified occupations was 1,391,188 or 84.00 per cent. of males 10 years of age and upwards compared with 83.25 per cent. in 1891. The number of women and girls returned as occupied was 591,624 or 33.05 per cent. of females of 10 years and upwards, compared with 34.00 per cent. in 1891.

The occupation returns are classified in 22 groups. The following Table gives the number per 1,000 males and per 1,000 females of and above 10 years of age returned in each group.

Table with columns for Occupation Group, Number engaged in occupations aged 10 years and upwards (M, F), No per 1,000 of and above 10 years of age (M, F), and Increase or Decrease per 1,000 compared with 1891 (M, F).

The number of men and boys returned as occupied, therefore, shows an increase of 8 per 1,000 of and above 10 years of age in Scotland, to be compared with an increase of 6 per 1,000 in England and Wales, and an increase of 5 per 1,000 in Ireland. The slight increase in the employment of men and boys has taken place notwithstanding a substantial decrease in the employment of boys of 10 and under 15 years.

The number of women and girls returned as occupied shows a decline of 10 per 1,000 of and above 10 years of age, to be compared with a decline of 28 per 1,000 in England and Wales, and of 10 per 1,000 in Ireland. Three-fifths of the decline in Scotland is due to the decline in employment of girls under 15.

The following Table shows the number of boys and girls of 10 and under 15 years of age who were returned as occupied in 1901, the number occupied per 1,000, and the decrease in the number occupied per 1,000 as compared with 1891:—

Table with columns for Boys Occupied (Number, Per 1,000 boys, Decrease per 1,000 boys compared with 1891) and Girls Occupied (Number, Per 1,000 girls, Decrease per 1,000 girls compared with 1891).

* [Cd. 1798]. Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 6s. 6d.

PAUPERISM IN 1902.

The annual report of the Local Government Board for 1902-3 has been published.* It is divided into five parts relating to (1) The Local Government Act, 1888, and County Councils; (2) the Local Government Act, 1894; (3) the Relief of the Poor; (4) the Public Health and Local Administration; and (5) Local Taxation and Valuation.

The following Table shows the number of paupers (exclusive of lunatics in County and Borough Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses, and of vagrants), in receipt of relief in England and Wales on the last day of the last week of each month in 1902, and also the rate per 10,000 of the estimated population thus relieved in that year and in 1901, and in the corresponding years of the previous decade, 1892 and 1891.

Table with columns for Month, Number relieved on last day of last week in each month, 1902, and Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population for 1902, 1901, 1892, and 1891.

It will be seen from the above Table that the proportion of the estimated population relieved in the last day of the month was, with two exceptions, higher in each month of 1902 than in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and lower in every month than in the corresponding month ten years ago. The rate in each month was in fact lower than that recorded in any of the 42 years previous to 1899.

It appears from the Report that the number of children relieved with their parents or otherwise have considerably decreased. Thus the average or mean number (excluding vagrants and insane) was 261,289 in 1882-83, 230,585 in 1892-93, and 213,631 in 1902-03. This decrease is mainly in the number of children receiving out-door relief.

The mean number of vagrants relieved on July 1st, 1902, and January 1st, 1903, was 12,596, a larger number than is recorded for any previous year.

The cost of relief during the year ended at Lady-day, 1902, amounted to £12,261,192, representing an average charge of 7s. 6½d. per head on the estimated population. As compared with the previous year this represented an increase in the average charge amounting to 4½d. per head. The rate per head of the estimated population of the expenditure on relief of the poor ranged from 15s. 0½d. in London (excluding the estimated expenditure of the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District in connection with their hospitals), and 9s. 3d. in Herefordshire to 4s. 5½d. in Northumberland.

The volume includes reports of the general inspectors on Poor Law administration, of the inspectors of Poor Law schools on the education of children under the Poor Law, of the inspectors of the boarding-out of pauper children, and of the inspector under the Canal Boats Acts (1877 and 1884).

REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES, VICTORIA.

The report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Work-rooms and Shops of Victoria for 1902 shows that during that year the number of the workpeople employed in registered factories increased from 56,945 to 59,440.

With respect to Special Boards appointed under the laws of Victoria to determine the lowest rate of wages which may be paid in particular trades, the Report states that on the prorogation of Parliament on September 10th, 1902, the laws in question (which had force only until the end of that session) ceased to be in operation. All the determinations of Special Boards ceased to have any legal effect at the same time. Practically the whole factory

* [Cd. 1700]. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 4s. 8d.

and shop legislation came to an end. . . . For a period of nearly three months there was practically no factories and shops legislation in force in the State of Victoria." However, when Parliament met again, an Act to revive and continue in force (subject to certain exceptions and modifications) the provisions of the Factories and Shops Acts, and the regulations, by-laws, and determinations of Special Boards, was passed, and came into force on December 5th, 1902. This Act was to remain in operation until October 31st, 1903. In the meantime a Royal Commission appointed to report upon the operation of the Factories and Shops Acts in Victoria, and their effects on trade, manufacture, labour, and commerce, had presented its Report (see LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1903, p. 123).

It is stated that minimum wages affecting about 30,000 operatives were legally fixed by the determinations of the 29 Special Boards in force at the date of the Report. In reply to the statement frequently made "that the Special Board system is very hard on the old and infirm worker," the Chief Inspector remarks, "I do not believe there is the slightest foundation for such a view. On the contrary, my experience goes to show that the old and infirm worker benefits by the fact that a minimum wage exists. He obtains a licence to work at less than the minimum wage, and obtains the work without the fear that advantage will be taken of his age or infirmity, and without the danger of being merely used as an instrument to lower the wages of the skilled and capable worker. There are at present in existence 227 licences issued by me to old and infirm workers in the 29 trades subject to Determinations as stated above. I have reason to believe that these workers obtain better wages than they would if the rates of pay were not fixed by Special Boards, and that they have less difficulty in obtaining employment than old and infirm workers in trades not under the Board system."

Referring to the furniture trade, the Chief Inspector states that he is unable to get any reliable information from the Chinese workmen as to the wages which they receive, and that he knows of no way of compelling the employers to pay the legal rates. The law requires that all furniture sold in the State of Victoria shall be stamped, so that the purchaser can easily ascertain whether the furniture is imported, and if it is manufactured in Victoria, the stamp must show the maker's name and address, and must indicate whether the goods were made by Chinese or European labour. The Chief Inspector says: "The Department has not, I am afraid, been very successful in enforcing these provisions. The Chinese evade the law by sending out the furniture unstamped, and some retailers are not at all anxious to ascertain if the law is complied with before receiving such furniture into their shops." One of the Inspectors observes that complaints are continually made "that the Chinese-made furniture is completely out of the market the articles manufactured by European labour. From the remarks made to me by retail dealers, I learn that customers do not seem to care who manufactures the furniture, or in what way it is made, as long as they can get a cheap article"; while another remarks, "I am told that the country storekeepers now deal direct with the Chinese, whose address is procured from the stamp exposed in the various showrooms."

CANADIAN LEGISLATION AFFECTING LABOUR.

The Canadian *Labour Gazette* of November, 1903 contains an account of legislation affecting labour recently enacted in the Dominion and in Nova Scotia.

The Railway Act, 1903, consolidates and amends the existing legislation in relation to railways. "The section of the Act which relates to the operation of railways contains a number of new provisions expressly framed for the protection and regulation of employment. Under the heading of 'Equipment, apparatus and appliances' of trains it is provided that all trains should have efficient apparatus to permit of immediate communication between the conductor and the engine driver, brakes of a kind to permit of bringing the train to a standstill as expeditiously as possible, including a power drive-wheel brake and appliances for operating the train brake system upon the locomotive, the brake in the case of passenger trains to be instantaneous in action and self-applying in the event of any failure in the continuity of its action. Automatic car couplers, capable of being uncoupled without the necessity of men going in between the ends of the cars, are also ordered, the railway companies being given until January 1st, 1906, to equip all trains with the brake appliances and couplers above mentioned. It is further provided that all box freight cars built in Canada in future shall be provided with outside ladders projecting below the frame of the car on two of the diagonally

opposite ends and sides of each car, with hand-grips placed anglewise for the ladders on each car. Cars without these appliances, built prior to the passing of the Act, must be fitted with the attachments in question on or before December 1st, 1905, unless improved attachments are recommended by the board in the meantime. The height of draw-boards is also fixed and a penalty not exceeding 200 dols. (£41 13s. 4d.) imposed for violation of the above provisions."

With respect to the wages to be paid to workmen employed on railway contracts, it is stated that "the provision compelling the payment of fair wages to working men engaged on work being performed under any contract for the Dominion Government or being carried out under subsidy of the Government has been previously a matter for insertion in the specifications and conditions relating to the contracts in question in accordance with the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution passed by the (Dominion) House of Commons in March, 1900. Provision, however, is now made for the universal application of the resolution in so far as railway contracts are concerned by its incorporation in the consolidated Act as part of the law of the land."

Nova Scotia has passed "an Act to make better provision for the prevention and settlement of trade disputes," which is in the main an adaptation of the Dominion Conciliation Act, 1900 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1900, p. 262). A Board of Conciliation constituted under the Act is to consist of three members nominated by the employers and three by workmen, each party being required to send to the other within a week from the opening of the year the names of six persons from whom the three shall be selected to act as their representatives on the Board of Conciliation for the current year. It is expressly stated that the number of representatives of employers and workmen on a Board of Conciliation always must be equal and must be so maintained during all sittings. "Such a Board is to have jurisdiction in all trade disputes arising from any cause whatever and including not only disputes arising between employers and workmen, but also questions between different trades as regards demarcation of labour, &c., arrangements being made in the latter case that each trade may receive equal representation on the Board. In case such a Board cannot agree, application is to be made to the Provincial Secretary for the appointment of an arbitrator whose decision is to be final and binding on both parties. The Board must be summoned within seven days, and if practicable must give its decision within the next six working days."

ILLINOIS FREE EMPLOYMENT REGISTRIES.

The fourth annual report of the operations of the Free Employment Registries of Illinois has now been issued,* together with the text of a law amending the Act of April 11th, 1899, under which these registries were established. (See GAZETTE, June, 1900, p. 165.)

The new law places all private employment registries under the supervision and control of the Commissioners of Labour, and prescribes regulations governing their operations. Under the previous law such offices had to pay a license fee of £40 per annum, but only in cities where the Act required public (free) registries to be established. Under the new law all private employment registries must be licensed, but the annual fee has been reduced to £10 8s. in cities of 50,000 inhabitants or upwards, and to £5 4s. in cities of less than 50,000 inhabitants. A new clause makes it illegal for private registry offices to charge more than 8s. 4d. for receiving or filing an application for employment or help; a receipt must be given for every such fee, and the applicant may claim that the amount be refunded in the event of failure to secure employment through the registry within a month of registration.

A clause in the old law, under which free employment registries were prohibited from supplying workmen to employers, whose workpeople were on strike or locked out, has been rescinded.

The operations of the four Free Employment Regis-

* As part of the "Twenty-first Annual Coal Report of the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1902" (see p. 32).

tries (three in Chicago and one in Peoria) established under the law are summarised in the following Table:—

Year.	Number of Situations		
	Applied for.	Offered.	Procured.
1899 (nine weeks)	13,097	10,370	6,497
1900	37,285	35,542	31,218
1901	27,605	28,124	23,996
1902	44,900	47,497	40,181
Total	122,887	121,533	101,892

From the above it appears that during the 3 years and 9 weeks since these offices were established, 101,892, or 83 per cent. of those seeking employment through their agency were placed in situations, and that the places so filled represent 84 per cent. of the total number offered.

The total cost to the State during the same period was £11,953, or 2s. 4d. per situation procured.

Of the total of 46,570 situations applied for at the four registries in 1902, 31,319 (67 per cent.) were for males and 15,151 (33 per cent.) for females. The situations procured through the offices in that year numbered 40,181 (26,661 for males and 13,520 for females) or 86 per cent. of the number applied for. About half of the males (13,225 out of a total of 26,661) for whom situations were found in 1902 are described as "labourers," while 5,385 of the 13,520 situations procured for females were for "general housework," or as cooks

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF, AND IN THE COURSE OF, THE EMPLOYMENT.

Compensation is payable to an injured workman under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, only when the injury was caused by an accident arising out of, and in the course of, his employment.

A bricklayer in the employment of a builder was engaged in building a house more than 30 feet in height. He was engaged by the hour, and the dinner hour was not included in computing the time for which he was to be paid. During the dinner hour he might, at his option, either go away or stay upon the premises. On October 15th, 1902, the bricklayer, when the dinner hour came, sat down under a wall to eat his dinner. He had been employed during the morning in building that same wall. As he sat the wall fell, and he was seriously injured.

He claimed compensation under the Act; but the County Court Judge decided that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of his employment, and dismissed the claim. On appeal the Court of Appeal overruled this decision. The Master of the Rolls said that: "It seemed to him that *prima facie* the applicant was in the employment of the respondent during the whole of each working day from the time when he went to his work to the time when he came away from his work, and just as much so during the dinner hour as during any other part of the day. He thought the time of employment embraced all the time occupied in coming, going, and stopping for any purpose ancillary to the applicant's work. It had, however, been stated to them that the applicant was not paid by the week or by the day, but by the hour, and that the dinner hour was excluded in the computation of the time for which he received payment, as being an hour during which he was not supposed to work. That, no doubt, created some difficulty, or at any rate afforded ground for some consideration. It seemed to him that if the dinner hour could be counted as part of the time to be used by the applicant for purposes ancillary to his work, as, for example, for eating necessary food, it would be taking a strained view to say that the pause in the work for dinner was a break in the employment. He thought that, notwithstanding the fact that the applicant was paid by the hour and the dinner hour was excluded, the Court ought to take a broad view of the matter and treat the dinner hour as part of the time of employment. For the master to allow his workmen to have their dinner on the premises might very well be a matter of mutual convenience. He could not say as a matter of law that the applicant during the dinner hour ceased to be in the employment of the respondent. The accident did, therefore, arise out of, and in the course of, his employment, and he was entitled to compensation.—*Blovelt v. Sawyer, Court of Appeal, 12th December, 1903.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF, AND IN THE COURSE OF, THE EMPLOYMENT.

An engine driver in the employ of a railway company lived about a quarter of a mile from an engine-shed belonging to the company, to which it was his duty to come every morning at 7.45 a.m. to sign on for the day's work. Having been late in the running of a train

on a particular occasion, he had been called upon by the company to make a report of the matter. The next morning he left home much earlier than was necessary, so far as his duties were concerned, in order to go to a signal-box to get from the signalman some information which would be useful to him in making the report required by the company. It was no part of his duty to obtain this information from the signalman, but he went to make the inquiries for his own purposes. After making the inquiries he left the signal-box at about 6.45 a.m. to go to the engine-shed where it was his duty to sign on. On both sides of the signal-box there were railway lines, which he had to cross in order to get to the engine-shed; and about 300 yards from the signal-box, half-way between the box and the shed, he was knocked down by a pilot engine. From the injuries he then received he shortly afterwards died. If he had gone direct from his home to the engine-shed, it would not have been necessary for him to have gone at all on to the railway lines. The deceased man's widow claimed compensation from the company under the Act, and the County Court Judge allowed her claim and awarded her compensation.

On appeal however, the Court of Appeal overruled the County Court Judge, on the ground that the deceased man's employment could not be said to have begun on the day in which he was killed, merely because he was on the company's premises and had left the signal-box to go to the engine-shed. The accident therefore did not arise out of, and in the course of, his employment, and the company was not liable to pay compensation.—*Benson v. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, Court of Appeal, December 19th, 1903.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF THE EMPLOYMENT.

A man in the employ of a firm of shipbuilders was engaged in oiling a machine. For this purpose he was using a brush which did not belong to the machine at which he was working but had been obtained by him from another workman. The owner returned carrying a slip of newly-cut iron, and tried to get his brush back by force. In attempting this he cut the other man's hand with the sharp edge of the slip of iron he was carrying. The injured man claimed compensation under the Act; but the Sheriff-Substitute held that the accident was not one "arising out of" his employment, and refused to award compensation. The man appealed, and the Court of Session overruled the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute. The Court were of opinion that the two men were at the time engaged in their employers' work. The one who by mischance caused the injury was anxious to get to his work, and was preparing to continue his work when the accident took place. The accident therefore was one arising out of the employment, and the employers were liable.—*M'Intyre v. A. Rodger and Co. Court of Session, December 1st, 1903.*

DEATH ACCELERATED BY ACCIDENT: ALCOHOLISM.

A rivetter employed by a firm of shipbuilders, while at work upon a ship, overbalanced and fell a distance of 12 feet. He was somewhat severely injured, and was in hospital for three weeks. He then returned home, but became gradually weaker, and died five months after the accident. His dependants claimed compensation under the Act.

A post-mortem examination showed that the man's brain, liver, and stomach were in a diseased state due to alcoholism. The evidence was to the effect that if the man had not fallen he would probably have lived and been able to work for some time longer. The accident, however, caused a severe shock to his nervous system, and so in all probability brought about his death earlier than it would have occurred otherwise. On these facts the Sheriff-Substitute held that the man's death was due to an injury caused by an accident arising out of, and in the course of, his employment; and he awarded the dependants £188 as compensation. On appeal the Court of Session upheld the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute.—*Barr v. Charles Connell and Co., Court of Session, December 1st, 1903.*

WHAT IS AN "ACCIDENT"? ANTHRAX.

In the first of two cases, the facts of which were almost precisely analogous, a workman in the employment of a wool-combing company had in the course of his employment to handle a quantity of Persian wool which proved to be infected with anthrax. He happened to have a small pimple on his neck which had been scratched. Through this slight abrasion the bacillus from the infected wool got into the man's system; he contracted the disease of anthrax, but recovered after a severe illness. He claimed compensation under the Act but the County Court Judge at Bradford held that the injury was not caused by an "accident" within the meaning of the Act, and disallowed the claim.

In the second case, a workman in the employment of another similar company contracted anthrax in the same way. In this case however it was not proved that he had any abrasion of the skin, and the man died of the disease. The County Court Judge at Kidderminster held that the contracting of the disease was an "accident" within the meaning of the Act and awarded compensation to the man's dependants.

In the first case the workman appealed, and in the second case the employers appealed, and the two cases were heard together. The Court of Appeal decided that in each case the employment was the direct cause of the injury. The Court expressed approval of the words used by the County Court Judge in the second case, when he said that the anthrax which was the cause of death was caused by the accidental alighting of a bacillus from the infected wool on a part of the deceased's body which afforded a harbour in which it could multiply and grow, and so cause disease and death. That he could see no distinction in principle between the accidental entry of a spark from an anvil, or the accidental squirting of scalding water or poisonous liquid into the eye. The only difference is that in these cases the foreign substance would be so large as to be visible, while in this case the

foreign substance was microscopic. The Court then commented upon the definition of "accident" adopted by the House of Lords, in the case of *Fenton v. Thorley & Co.* (1903, Appellants' Case), when it was said that the word "accident" is used in the Act in its popular and ordinary sense, and means an unlooked-for mishap or an untoward event which is not expected or designed. According to this definition the contracting of anthrax in each case was an "accident" within the Act, and compensation was payable under the Act in each case. In the second case the Court granted a stay of execution on terms pending an appeal to the House of Lords.—*Higgins v. Campbell and Harrison (Ltd.)*. *Turney v. Brintons (Ltd.)*, Court of Appeal, December 17th, 1903.

WHO ARE "UNDERTAKERS"? SUBCONTRACTORS: INDEMNITY.

The Act provides that where "undertakers," as defined in the Act, 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 to these workmen under the Act in respect of any accident, the undertakers shall be liable to pay to any workmen employed in the execution of the work any compensation which is payable to the workman under the Act by such contractor, or which would be so payable if such contractor were an employer to whom the Act applies. Provided that the undertakers shall be entitled to be indemnified by any other person who would have been liable independently of this provision. The provision, however, does not apply to any contract with any person for the execution of work which is merely ancillary or incidental to, and is no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by the undertakers. In the case of a building, "undertakers" is defined to mean the persons undertaking the construction, repair, or demolition.

A builder entered into a contract to paint the outside of two houses, of over 30 feet in height, for the sum of £150. For the purpose of carrying out that contract he contracted with a company which erected and let out travelling cradles for the supply, fixing, and removal of four travelling cradles for the sum of £23. The cradles were fixed to the houses, and worked by means of substantial structures of wood and wire ropes, which were moved from one part of the buildings to another by the company as the work proceeded. The structures admittedly were a "scaffolding" within the meaning of the Act. The cradles were used by the painters in the employment of the builder. The painting of the houses had been finished, and the cradles and scaffolding were being removed by five men in the employment of the company, when one of them fell, and was killed. The widow of the deceased man claimed compensation against the builder and against the company, and the claim came before the Judge of the City of London Court. The Judge made an award in favour of the claimant against the builder, and made an order that the company should indemnify the builder under the provisions of the Act. The company appealed. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. The Court held that the process of removing the scaffolding and cradles was part of the process of repairing the buildings; that the scaffolding having been fixed, the work of painting (i.e., of repairing) was not completed till the scaffolding was removed; that the company were "undertakers" within the meaning of the Act, and would have been liable to pay compensation; and that, therefore, the builder was entitled to be indemnified by the company.—*McCabe v. Jopling and Palmer's Travelling Cradles, Ltd.*, Court of Appeal, December 15th and 16th, 1903.

FACTORY: FOREIGN SHIP: UNDERTAKERS.

The persons liable to pay compensation under the Act to an injured workman are the "undertakers." In the case of a factory, "undertakers" means the occupier of the factory within the meaning of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. By the last-mentioned Act all machinery or plant used in loading or unloading any ship in any dock, is with respect to accidents to be included in the word "factory."

A stevedore's labourer was engaged to work at loading a ship in the Port of London. Whilst so working on board the ship, he was injured through accident. He accordingly claimed compensation under the Act against the agents. The County Court Judge dismissed his claim on the grounds that, although the ship might be a "factory" for the purposes of the Act; and although the persons in possession of the ship might be "undertakers" within the meaning of the Act; still, the agents of the injured man were not liable to pay compensation, for they never had possession of the ship or any control over it, the foreign crew retaining possession during all the time of loading. On appeal the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court Judge, holding that it was clear that the agents were not undertakers within the meaning of the Act.—*Shea v. Drolemaux*. Court of Appeal, December 12th, 1903.

WHAT IS A "WAREHOUSE"?

The Act applies to employment on or in or about a factory, and "factory" is defined to include a "warehouse." A workman in the employ of a firm which dealt in glass was engaged in unloading cases of glass at a railway arch used by the firm, when three cases fell on him and injured him. The business of the firm was chiefly a wholesale one, but was also to a small extent retail. It was carried on in a shop and two railway arches. A passage led from the shop to one arch, and there was a communication between the two arches. One arch was used as a workshop; the other arch, where the accident happened, being used for storing the goods sold by the defendants. Orders for goods were obtained by them either by means of travellers or from customers in the shop, and the goods were then either sent away from the arch in vans or brought into the shop. There was no buying or selling in the arch. The injured man took proceedings in the Southwark

County Court to obtain compensation under the Act, contending that the arch where the accident happened was a "warehouse" within the meaning of the Act. The County Court Judge dismissed the application, being of opinion that the arch was merely ancillary to the business carried on in the shop, and that it was not, therefore, a "warehouse" so as to be a "factory" within the meaning of the Act.

On appeal the Court of Appeal overruled the County Court Judge, holding that the word "warehouse" in the Act involves the idea of a place, usually of considerable size, used mainly for the storage of goods in large quantities, and in which, therefore, the dangers incident to the handling of goods in bulk might be expected. Here the business was mainly a wholesale one, and the arch being ancillary to that business was a warehouse. The workman was therefore entitled to compensation.—*Green v. Britten and Another*. Court of Appeal, December 15th, 1903.

REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION: "SUSPENSION" OF WEEKLY PAYMENTS.

A workman receiving weekly payments under the Act must submit himself for examination by the medical man provided by his employers from time to time as required. If, however, he objects to an examination by that medical man, or is dissatisfied with his certificate when he has been examined, he may submit himself for examination to one of the medical practitioners appointed under the Act, whose certificate as to the condition of the workman at the time of his examination shall be conclusive evidence of the condition. If the workman refuses to submit himself to such examination, the Act provides that his right to such weekly payment shall be suspended until such examination has taken place.

A miner in the employ of an iron company was injured by an accident on May 22nd, 1902. By agreement he received compensation at the rate of 19s. 6d. a week. In compliance with his employers' request he submitted himself to examination by their medical man on September 26th, 1902, who reported that he was fit to return to work. The man was dissatisfied with this opinion, and would not return to work; but he refused to go before the official medical referee. His employers accordingly stopped the weekly payments as from the 30th September. The man then applied to the Sheriff for arbitration under the Act, as if there had been no agreement. The Sheriff refused to award compensation, and on appeal his decision was upheld by the Court of Session. On the 18th June, 1903, the man submitted himself to examination by the official medical referee, who certified that he was not fit to resume work. On June 29th, 1903, the agreement was recorded. The man then claimed arrears of weekly payments from September 30th, 1902, to July 14th, 1903. The employers admitted liability from June 18th, 1903, to July 14th, 1903; but denied that they were liable to pay for the period from September 30th, 1902, to June 18th, 1903, on the ground that under the Act the man's right to be paid was "suspended" during that time, as he had refused to submit to examination by the medical referee. The employers brought an action in the Court of Session to suspend the charge.

It was decided, however, that the man was entitled to the full amount he claimed; for that the word "suspended" does not mean forfeited (as interpreted by the employers), but that the right to payment was in suspense until the result of the examination was ascertained. The result of the examination being favourable to the workman, it would be opposed to the whole spirit of the Act if he were deprived of a substantial part of the compensation to which the Act entitled him, as a punishment for refusing to submit himself to examination.

—*Summerlee and Mossend Iron and Steel Co. (Ltd.) v. Davidson*. Court of Session, December 2nd, 1903.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

The demand for labour has declined. "This is largely owing to the advent of the winter season, which by practically closing navigation and by terminating operations in the agricultural industry, in railway construction, in the outside building trades and in out-of-door work generally, threw a number of men out of immediate employment." A considerable amount of work, however, is still going on in various industries, and general dullness is reported from a few towns only. Printers and lumbermen have been generally busy. Work is slack at the large steel works at Sydney, N.S., and many hands have been discharged. Many unskilled labourers and some mechanics have been out of work in Toronto; but female hands have been in demand in the clothing factories. In British Columbia, there is a good demand at Vancouver for female servants and seamstresses, carpenters, and stone cutters and masons. Work for gold miners at Rossland, B.C. has improved, and for coal miners at Fernie, but not at Nanaimo.

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

Australia.

New South Wales.—Reports from Cooma, Orange, Yerilderie, Queanbeyan, Bulli, Young, and Hay, state that there is practically no demand for any kind of labour except female servants, and occasionally for a few carpenters and bricklayers. Coal mining at Newcastle is dull, and short time is being worked. The selling price of coal has been reduced 1s. a ton, with a corresponding reduction of 4d. in the hewing rate. Harvesting prospects are very good, which should increase the demand for labour in country districts.

Victoria.—Reports from Melbourne state that there is a good demand for female servants, but none for general labourers, miners, station hands or mechanics. In agricultural and pastoral districts there has been more work owing to the fine season, and at Horsham there is a fair demand for farm labourers and mechanics.

South Australia.—A report states: "The harvest is unusually good, and feed for stock more abundant than for years past. Consequently the demand for farm and station hands has improved, and the improvement is likely to be sustained for some time at least. The demand for female servants is good, but that for mechanics is limited. Farmers, where the rainfall is good, are very prosperous."

Queensland.—There is a demand for agricultural labourers in the south, and for general labourers and a few mechanics both in the south and the north. There is no demand for miners.

Western Australia.—There is a demand for female servants and agricultural labourers, and for a few mechanics in the building trades; but there is no demand for miners.

New Zealand.

A report from Auckland states that boilermakers and female servants are wanted, and tailors, especially coat hands; in other trades the supply is sufficient. In country districts throughout New Zealand farm labourers are now well employed. Good mechanics have no difficulty in finding employment. Female servants are in demand, and skilled miners are wanted in one or two places.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one is allowed to land in Cape Colony, unless he has secured definite employment and possesses £20 on arrival. A large number of official reports received in Cape Town last November from all parts of Cape Colony show that there was then a considerable demand for European labour in several places, such as Aliwal North, Bredasdorp, Cradock, Fort Beaufort, King William's Town, Mossel Bay and Simonstown. More recent reports, however, received here from Kimberley, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London and other places, all state that the building trades are slack, and that the supply of labour exceeds the demand; and there is a similar excess of labour in other trades. Owing to the present condition of the skilled labour market the Cape Government is being strongly appealed to for relief works for the unemployed. Emigrants are therefore warned against going to Cape Colony at the present time. Male and female domestic servants under 35 years of age may, under certain conditions, obtain aided passages to the Cape at £3 a head on application to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 96a, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Artisans, mechanics and agricultural labourers residing in the Colony may obtain aided passages at £3 a head for their wives and children on application to the Under-Secretary for Agriculture, Cape Town only.

Natal.—Recent reports from Durban and Pietermaritzburg state that trade is very bad, and that large numbers of carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and other labourers are out of work. The plasterers are still on strike, and their wages have been reduced from 17s. a day to 16s. Carpenters' wages have also been reduced to 14s. and 15s. a day. The Durban Corporation is establishing a labour bureau, with the object of helping the unemployed. Emigrants—other than those going out under nomination—

are warned against going to Natal on the chance of work at the present time, and against unofficial agents promising them employment.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. Many persons in all branches of labour are out of work at Johannesburg, and emigrants are warned against going there at the present time on the chance of work; wages are being reduced by 2s. 6d. a day. Labour in all branches of the building trades at Pretoria is excessive, except in the case of plasterers, and wages are being reduced to 20s. a day from 22s. 6d. The cost of living throughout the Transvaal is two or three times as high as in England. The employment of white labourers upon railway construction is being discontinued, and many of these men are leaving the country. Unskilled white surface workers on the mines earn about 9s. 6d. a day, and white helpers on rock drill machines—practically unskilled—earn 10s. to 11s. per shift. Advanced passages may be procured by female servants through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on their undertaking to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. A recent report states that there was no demand for miners, farm labourers, general labourers or mechanics, but a fair demand for female servants. There were a good many men out of work. The cost of living is very high. Advanced passages may now be procured by female servants through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on their undertaking to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in November.**—As usual at the beginning of winter, there was a considerable increase of unemployment in the building and dependent trades. Quarrying, however, was still actively carried on. On the whole there was no marked change in employment in the metal trades; the Paris automobile industry, however, showed a revival. There was a decided improvement in the textile trades, more particularly in the northern and eastern districts, and in Normandy. Considerable scarcity of employment still existed, however, in the ribbon industry in St. Etienne, among hand-loom weavers in Lyons and district, and in the hosiery industry. The garment making and hat making trades were in their busy season. The printing and bookbinding trades were fully employed. Less activity was reported in coachbuilding. Employment for agricultural labourers was scarce, autumn work having terminated in most districts by the beginning of the month. This scarcity of work was all the more severely felt in many districts owing to the lateness of the wood-cutting and vine-cutting season. Fishing was bad on the whole, both on the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts.

Out of 162,046 members of trade unions (exclusive of the miners' unions of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made returns to the French Labour Department, 19,437, or 12 per cent., were out of work during November, as compared with 11.3 per cent. in the previous month, and 11 per cent. in November, 1902.

*Coal Mining in November.**—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in November was 5.91, as compared with 5.92 in the previous month, and 4.5 in November, 1902 (the average in this month having been affected by the general mining strike). Taking surface and underground workers together, 84 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 11 per cent. 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 81 and 18 respectively.

The above particulars were furnished to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 1,511,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

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

Labour Disputes in November.*—Fifty-three disputes (including one lock-out) were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, the number of workpeople taking part in 50 of these being 9,112. In the previous month there were 49 disputes, with 4,571 workpeople taking part in 46 of them, while in November, 1902, 34 disputes were reported, in which 9,244 workpeople participated. Two of the new disputes were in the building trades, 2 in mining and quarrying, 6 in the metal trades, 27 in the textile trades, 6 in transport and warehousing, 4 in hide and skin-working trades, and 1 each in the tailoring, woodworking, chemical, food preparation, lime burning and printing trades respectively. Of 41 disputes which came to an end in November, 7 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 13 in favour of the employers, and 21 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.*—The number of cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law reported to the French Labour Department in November was 16, the initiative being taken in 9 cases by the workpeople, and in 7 cases by the Justice of the Peace. In 8 cases Committees of Conciliation were formed, resulting in the settlement of 3 disputes (3 out of the remaining 5 being afterwards settled by compromise). In 7 of the 8 cases in which no Committee of Conciliation was formed, this negative result was due to the rejection of the proposals for mediation (in 6 cases by the employers). In 1 case a settlement was brought about by a personal visit made by the Justice of the Peace to the factory concerned.

Strike of Dock Labourers in Bordeaux.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated December 17th, Mr. R. D. G. Macdonald, H.M. Consul at Bordeaux, reported the termination on December 16th of a strike of dock labourers, by which work at that port had been partially paralysed.

The men, who had been on strike since November 30th, failed to attain their object (a working day of 8 hours), work at the docks having been carried on by non-Union men under police protection.

Strike of Silk Finishers and Dyers at Lyons.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated December 30th, Mr. L. C. Liddell, H.M. Consul at Lyons, reported the termination of a general strike of silk finishers and dyers, involving about 10,000 workmen, which had begun on December 8th.

The power-loom weavers, who subsequently joined the movement, were still out at the date of reporting. This strike, however, is of secondary importance, the greater part of the weaving now being done in the country towns, where there has been no cessation of work.

[A newspaper report states that the above strike had its origin in the apprenticeship question and that the formulated demands of the workpeople were:—The working day to consist of ten hours, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours for meals. Minimum daily wages for dyers, 4s. 4½d.; for labourers, 3s. 7½d.; for women and girls, 2s. 9½d. Wages of apprentices—first half-year, 1s. 7½d. per day, second half-year, 2s., second year 2s. 4½d., third year, 3s. 2½d. The term of apprenticeship to be three years. The number of apprentices not to exceed 10 per cent. of the total number of employees. Wages to be paid weekly, on Saturdays. Overtime to be paid at the rate of 7½d. per hour to everyone engaged, including women and apprentices.]

Law granting Amnesty to Strikers.—The *Journal Officiel* of December 31st last contains the text of a law, dated December 30th, by which a full and complete pardon is granted for all crimes and contraventions which may have been committed in connection with industrial disputes before the promulgation of the said law.

Law granting Subvention to Co-operative Societies and Trade Unions for St. Louis Exhibition.—The same journal for December 29th last contains the text of a law, dated December 23rd, by which the Minister of Commerce is empowered to apply a special credit, not exceeding 200,000 francs (£8,000), as a subvention to the workmen's productive societies and Trade Unions which are to take part in the forthcoming International Exhibition at St. Louis.

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

GERMANY.

Employment in November.*—The state of the labour market, although changed somewhat for the worse in comparison with October, on account of the more advanced season, was on the whole, satisfactory, and considerably better than in November, 1902, so far as the principal trades were concerned. While the mildness of the weather made it possible for building operations to be carried on all through the month, the same cause operated adversely as regards the ready-made clothing trades, especially the mantle-making branch. The coal mining industry continued very well employed. In the metal and engineering trades employment was, on the whole, satisfactory, while most branches of the textile trades were well supplied with orders. Employment continued satisfactory in the chemical and electrical trades.

BELGIUM.†

Employment: August-October.—The proportion of the total membership reported to the Belgian Labour Department as unemployed by the Trade Unions making returns on this subject for October was 3.6 per cent., as compared with 3.3 per cent. in September and 3 per cent. in August. The Unions reporting for October numbered 118, with 28,268 members, as compared with 122 with 30,650 members reporting for September, and 121 with 28,575 members reporting for August. The foregoing particulars do not include miners, agricultural labourers, or home workers.

Labour Disputes: August-October.—Eighteen disputes were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the three months August-October. The number of workpeople affected by 17 of these was approximately 2,092 (viz., 1,537 directly and 555 indirectly). Four of the disputes occurred in the textile trades, 4 in the clothing trades, 2 in the tobacco trades, 2 in the glass trades, and 1 each in the building trades, mining, the metal trades, marble working, diamond-cutting and amongst labourers. Fourteen of the 17 disputes, as to which particulars of the number of workpeople affected are given, came to an end in the same period, 11 (with 555 participants) being decided in favour of the employers, 2 (with 377 participants) in favour of the workpeople, and 1 (with 50 participants) being compromised.

Addition to the List of Trades Classed as Dangerous, &c.—By a Royal Decree dated October 31st, 1903, all works, in which the synthetic manufacture of camphor by the indirect oxidation of essence of turpentine is carried on, have been added to the list of establishments which are classed as dangerous, unhealthy or unpleasant, and accordingly subject to inspection.

NORWAY.

Statistics of Employment: New Official Journal.—A new Department was formed in the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics on April 1st, 1903, for the special purpose of collecting and publishing statistics relative to the state of employment.

The new Department has commenced the issue of a monthly journal of statistics of unemployment, based mainly upon returns furnished by Trade Unions, Employers' Associations, and Municipal Labour Bureaux. Two numbers of this journal have already appeared, and contain the statistics of unemployment for July, August, and September.

There are stated to be about 350 Trade Unions or branches of Trade Unions in Norway, with an aggregate membership of some 15,000. The membership of the Unions from which returns were received was, for July 10, 1903, for August 11,353, and for September 9,775. A comparison between August and September, on the basis of data supplied by 122 Unions who reported for both months, showed a total membership of 8,998 in August, and 9,079 in September, and an increase in the proportion out of work from 2.42 per cent. in the former, to 2.67 per cent. in the latter month. Of the total membership of these 122 Unions, 5,507 in August and 5,534 in September were in the metal and engineering trades, and showed in each month a percentage of 1.7 out of work in these trades.

* *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department).
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
‡ *Arbeidsmarkedet*. Udgivet af det Statistiske Centralbureau. Første Aargang, 1903. Nr. 1. and Nr. 2. Christiania, Steen'ske Bogtrykkeri.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 84 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 100,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 185,000, employment with all branches but masons is bad, and rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. With masons employment is quiet on the whole, and shows no great change as compared with a month or a year ago.

The returns from Employers' Associations show that employment was good with 4.0 per cent. of the workpeople reported on, fair or moderate with 18.4 per cent., and dull or bad with 77.6 per cent. The corresponding percentages were, a month ago, 11.0, 17.6, 71.4; and a year ago, 5.0, 23.0, and 72.0.

Employment with bricklayers is reported as dull generally, and rather worse than a year ago. With masons it is fair in England and moderate in Scotland. With carpenters and joiners, painters and plasterers it is dull generally. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of December last was 7.9, compared with 6.1 at the end of November, and 5.9 at the end of December, 1902. Employment with plumbers continues dull generally. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union plumbers at the end of December was 7.7, as against 7.2 in November, and 5.6 in December, 1902. Slaters and tilers report employment as quiet, slightly worse than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. Some distress continues to be reported among builders' labourers in certain districts.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1903.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Dec., 1903, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	6,727	8.0	7.2	6.9	+ 0.8	+ 1.1
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,610	14.9	11.1	5.6	+ 3.8	+ 9.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,262	7.6	6.0	5.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.7
Yorkshire	5,203	8.0	6.6	7.8	+ 1.4	+ 0.2
East Midlands	2,936	7.3	4.1	4.7	+ 3.2	+ 2.6
West Midlands	4,715	6.1	4.2	5.7	+ 1.9	+ 0.4
Eastern Counties	1,187	8.5	6.1	3.6	+ 2.4	+ 4.9
S. and S.W. Counties	5,681	5.8	4.1	4.4	+ 1.7	+ 1.4
Wales and Monmouth	1,723	6.4	4.4	5.7	+ 2.0	+ 0.7
Other Districts	620	7.4	5.9	4.4	+ 1.5	+ 3.0
SCOTLAND	5,375	7.2	4.2	4.2	+ 3.0	+ 3.0
IRELAND	4,939	5.0	5.9	7.8	- 0.9	- 2.8
UNITED KINGDOM	55,548	7.9	6.1	5.9	+ 1.8	+ 2.0
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	861	10.6	12.2	10.7	- 1.6	- 0.1
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,635	7.3	7.0	4.7	+ 0.3	+ 2.6
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,283	8.3	6.3	6.0	+ 2.0	+ 2.3
Yorkshire	1,246	5.8	4.7	4.0	+ 1.1	+ 1.8
East Midlands	660	3.9	3.5	3.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.9
West Midlands	531	7.2	6.5	3.9	+ 0.7	+ 3.3
Eastern Counties	117	12.8	8.5	4.6	+ 4.3	+ 8.2
S. and S.W. Counties	492	5.7	6.7	5.5	- 1.0	+ 0.2
Wales and Monmouth	278	8.3	5.4	6.2	+ 2.9	+ 2.1
Other Districts	36	16.7	16.7	15.0	...	+ 1.7
SCOTLAND	1,762	8.0	8.1	4.4	- 0.1	+ 3.6
IRELAND	618	10.8	9.8	4.3	+ 1.0	+ 6.5
UNITED KINGDOM	10,519	7.7	7.2	5.6	+ 0.5	+ 2.1

London.—Employment in London is bad, except with masons, who are moderately well employed. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 77 employers show that in the last week of December they paid wages to 15,767 workpeople, as compared with 16,646 in the last week of November, and 13,962 in the corresponding

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

The average duration of unemployment through want of work per member returned as unemployed for all Unions reporting was 14.3 days in July and 14.8 days in August. Information on this point for September has not yet been published.

The operations of the four Municipal Labour Bureaux (Christiania, Bergen, Trondhjem and Stavanger) in each of the months of July, August and September are shown below:—

	July.		August.		September.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Applicants for Work	1,146	437	1,091	442	1,406	684
Situations Offered	571	433	474	549	543	799
Situations Procured	536	414	435	525	495	681
Average Number of Applicants for every 100 Situations Offered	201	101	230	81	259	86

SPAIN.

Royal Decree as to Co-operative Societies.—A Royal Decree, dated November 18th, 1903, and published in the *Gaceta de Madrid* of December 2nd, 1903, prohibits co-operative societies authorised by the law of June 30th, 1887, from selling to non-members, and from engaging in any operations other than those provided for in their bye-laws.

The immediate cause of this Decree is, as stated in the preamble, the action of a certain electrical society, which furnished light and electrical power to persons other than its own members.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied to the Foreign Office by Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, in despatches dated December 14th and 28th, 1903, and January 12th, 1904.

Employment and Wages in the Iron and Steel Trades.—The United States Steel Corporation has announced a 10 per cent. reduction of wages, by which, it is estimated, 100,000 men are affected. On January 12th, 2,000 bridge builders struck against this reduction. Other mining and iron manufacturing companies have announced their intention to reduce wages by 5 to 25 per cent., in which case about 40,000 men in the Chicago Consular District will be affected. On December 28th the Illinois Steel Works at South Chicago, one of the plants of the United States Steel Corporation, had closed all the departments except the cement factory, employing 300 men, and one blast furnace, employing 20 men. This plant generally employs about 7,000 workpeople. The men have been informed that it is hoped to run the plant to its full capacity again by February 1st, but that all work would be suspended until January 15th, and that the men could ascertain from the time-keepers, after January 1st, what reductions would be made in wages.

The strike at the Inland Steel Company at Indiana came to an end on December 28th, after lasting six weeks. The furnace men, known as rollers, have had their wages reduced 17 per cent., the shearsmiths, and also the heaters, 11 per cent. (See December GAZETTE, p. 333.)

The Deering department of the Harvesting Company, which, when in full work, employs about 6,000 men, after having been closed, was announced to re-open on January 1st. The company is stated to have large stocks on hand.

Several manufacturing enterprises were moved a few years ago to small towns in the Fox river district, a short distance from Chicago, as it was thought that they would not be troubled by Unions or strikes. These works have, however, become more or less unionised, and when the companies recently posted notices that the men would be expected to work ten hours a day instead of nine for the same wages, the latter demanded time and a half for the extra hour over Union time. The employers refused this and locked-out the men. Nearly 1,000 are affected.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—BUILDING TRADES; COAL AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

month a year ago. The weather is stated to have greatly interfered with outside work, and there has been a great deal of lost time. The supply of labour is reported to be abundant.

Northern Counties, Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment is reported as dull or bad generally, and worse than a year ago. Short time is being worked in some centres. Many builders' labourers are unemployed.

Yorkshire.—Employment remains bad generally, and is rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. It is good with masons at Hull, and moderate with carpenters and joiners and plumbers at York.

East Midland Counties.—Employment generally is moderate with plumbers, dull with other branches. Masons at Leicester and bricklayers at Rugby are, however, fairly well employed. Many builders' labourers are out of work.

West Midland Counties.—Employment is reported as fair or moderate in Coventry, Tamworth and Stourbridge, but as dull or bad in the larger centres, short time being worked in many cases. It is rather worse than last year. Some distress is reported among the builders' labourers at Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Eastern Counties.—Employment is slack generally, and is worse than a month ago and a year ago. Some short time is being worked.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment is dull generally. Masons at Portsmouth and Cheltenham are, however, well employed. Many builders' labourers are unemployed, and others are on short time. Some distress is reported at Plymouth.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment is slack generally, except at Swansea, where it is moderate. Carpenters and joiners at Newport are fairly well employed. Distress is reported among builders' labourers at Cardiff.

Scotland.—Employment is quiet on the whole, and rather worse than last year. It is moderate with plumbers at Glasgow and Aberdeen, fair with masons at Aberdeen, plasterers at Edinburgh, and plumbers at Paisley, Ayr, and Falkirk. House carpenters are moderately well employed.

Ireland.—Employment is dull on the whole. With bricklayers and slaters at Dublin, and plasterers, masons and stone cutters at Cork, however, it is fair.

COAL MINING

[NOTE.—The following figures 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.]

DURING December there was a seasonal improvement in employment in most districts, but the general average number of days worked per week by the pits was below the level of December in any of the years 1898-1902.

Returns received relating to 1,313 pits employing 504,984 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries included in the returns, during the four weeks ended 19th December, was 5.40, compared with 5.24 in November, and 5.51 in December, 1902. The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for both periods was 2.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

A comparison of the district averages given in the Table below shows that in December, as compared with November, there was an increase in the number of days worked in the English coalfields, the improvement being most marked in the Salop, Worcester and Warwick district. In Scotland a slight decline is shown. Compared with a year ago, there was a general falling off. The highest averages were in Cumberland (5.93), the Lothians (5.85) and South Wales (5.75), and the lowest in Nottingham and Leicester (4.70). In the remaining districts the weekly average was between 5 and 5½ days.

The following Table gives for the different mining districts a comparison of the average number of days

worked per week by collieries in December, 1903, and 1902, and in November, 1903.

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1903, 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 Dec., 1903, as compared with	
		19th Dec., 1903.	21st Nov., 1903.	20th Dec., 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	39,804	5.32	5.35	5.47	- .03	- .15
Durham ...	95,925	5.53	5.47	5.57	+ .06	- .04
Cumberland ...	6,733	5.93	5.55	5.47	+ .38	+ .46
Yorkshire ...	74,656	5.39	5.11	5.40	+ .28	- .01
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,291	5.36	4.96	5.38	+ .40	- .02
Derbyshire ...	38,999	5.13	4.68	5.63	+ .45	- .50
Nottingham and Leicester	28,494	4.70	4.41	5.17	+ .29	- .47
Staffordshire ...	29,103	5.26	5.22	5.58	+ .04	- .32
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	10,393	5.52	4.71	5.79	+ .81	- .27
Gloucester and Somerset...	8,660	5.52	5.21	5.57	+ .31	- .05
North Wales...	13,007	5.68	5.51	5.68	+ .17	...
South Wales and Mon. ...	67,674	5.75	5.79	5.69	- .04	+ .06
ENGLAND & WALES ...	463,779	5.41	5.22	5.51	+ .19	- .10
SCOTLAND.						
West Lothians ...	19,462	5.17	5.37	5.46	- .20	- .29
The Lothians ...	4,747	5.85	5.61	5.80	+ .24	+ .05
Fife ...	16,373	5.25	5.36	5.52	- .11	- .27
SCOTLAND ...	40,582	5.28	5.40	5.62	- .12	- .24
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	623	5.40	5.32	5.40	+ .08	...
United Kingdom ...	904,984	5.40	5.24	5.51	+ .16	- .11

Of the total number of workpeople included in the returns, 84.8 per cent. were employed in mines working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended 19th December, 1903, as compared with 73.7 per cent. in November, and 89.1 per cent. a year ago.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland steam coal pits worked 5.16, and house coal pits 5.48 days per week. In Durham, manufacturing, house, gas and coking coal pits averaged about 5½ days per week. In the Leeds district employment was fairly good. In the Oldham, Bolton and Wigan districts it was moderate. In the Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham district the weekly average was 5.66 days. In Cannock Chase employment has improved; in the Old Hill, Blackheath, and Halesowen districts an average of 4½ days per week was worked. In Shropshire employment continued fair. It was good in the Bristol coalfield, and moderate in the Forest of Dean. In the Radstock district about 5 days per week were worked. Employment in the North Wales mines was good generally. It was fair in the West of Scotland. In the Mid and East Lothians 90 per cent. of the miners worked full time. In the West Lothians, compared with the previous month, employment was unchanged. It declined slightly in Fifeshire.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during December amounted to 3,831,153 tons, as compared with 3,826,208 tons in November, and 3,746,130 tons in December, 1902.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing about 18,450 workpeople, from 5 Employers' Associations, from a Trade Union and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in iron mines continued good; in lead, tin and copper mines it was dull; and at limestone, granite and other stone quarries it was generally fairly good.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry was good, and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. During the four weeks ended 19th December the average number of days worked by the 137 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.77, as compared with 5.74 in November, and 5.76 in December, 1902.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1903, 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 Dec., 1903, as compared with	
		19th Dec., 1903.	21st Nov., 1903.	20th Dec., 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,776	5.70	5.77	5.89	- .07	- .19
Cleveland ...	7,125	5.86	5.82	5.84	+ .04	+ .02
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	936	5.93	5.91	5.95	+ .02	- .02
Northamptonshire	601	5.84	5.71	5.93	+ .13	- .09
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	979	5.00	4.45	5.42	+ .55	- .04
Other places in England...	126	5.81	5.87	5.76	- .06	+ .05
Total, England	14,543	5.75	5.71	5.73	+ .04	+ .02
SCOTLAND ...	1,097	6.00	6.00	6.00	...	...
IRELAND ...	130	6.00	6.00	6.00	...	...
Total and Averages	18,770	5.77	5.74	5.76	+ .03	+ .01

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,770, as compared with 15,771 a month ago, and 15,708 in November, 1902. During the four weeks ended 19th December, 86 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at mines working 22 or more days, the same as for a month ago; the corresponding percentage for December, 1902, was 83.8.

Shale Mining.—Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in December, 2,669 men were employed, as compared with 2,516 in November and 2,666 a year ago. The average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended December 19th was 5.63 per week, as compared with 4.55 in November and 5.51 in December, 1902.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—In the North Wales lead mines employment continued quiet. With tin and copper miners in Cornwall it was bad, owing mainly to flooded mines. Employment with lead ore miners in Weardale was fair.

Quarrying.

Slate.—With slate quarrymen in North Wales employment continued good; in Cornwall it was fair. The dispute at the Ballachulish Slate Quarries (Argyllshire) terminated on December 16th, and work is reported to have been re-commenced at three quarries.

Limestone.—In Cumberland and Weardale employment was good. In the Derbyshire limestone districts it was fair, but not quite so good as a month ago. In North Wales, Devon and Cornwall it was fair. In the Bristol district it was bad.

Granite.—Employment in Leicestershire showed a slight decline; it was good in North Wales and at Gunnislake, but dull generally in other parts of Devon and Cornwall. It was moderate in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire.

Other Stone.—In the Barnsley district employment was moderate; at Normanton it was fair. In the Rowsley district (Derbyshire) it continued bad, much short time being worked. With sandstone workers in North Wales it was fair. In Gloucestershire and Somerset employment was good.

Settmaking.—Employment was good with flag and settmakers in the Sheffield and Clee Hill districts and in North Wales, in Midlothian, Aberdeenshire and the Airdrie district it was fair.

China Clay.—In Cornwall the china clay workers were well employed.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Employers, a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in the pig iron industry declined during December, and at the end of the month it was considerably worse than a year ago. The falling off was most marked in the Cumberland and Lancashire district.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 295 blast furnaces were in operation at the end of December, as compared with 314 at the end of November and 317 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 295 furnaces at the end of December is estimated to have been about 20,900.

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

Districts.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1903, as compared with	
	December, 1903.	November, 1903.	December, 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	76	80	82	- 4	- 6
Cumberland & Lances.	24	31	41	- 7	- 17
S. and S.W. Yorks...	14	15	17	- 1	- 3
Derby & Nottingham	38	39	39	- 1	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	25	26	26	- 1	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	34	34	33	...	+ 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	13	13	13	...	...
Other districts ...	7	6	7	+ 1	...
Returned from England & Wales	231	244	288	- 13	- 27
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND ...	64	70	59	- 6	+ 5
Total furnaces included in returns ...	295	314	317	- 19	- 22

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

RETURNS furnished by employers respecting 200 works show that they employed 72,780 workpeople during the week ended December 19th, or 612 less than a month ago, and 1,348 less than a year ago.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec. 1903, as compared with	
	Dec. 19th, 1903.	Nov. 28th, 1903.	Dec. 20th, 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ...	60,911	61,842	61,778	- 931	- 867
Scotland ...	11,869	11,550	12,350	+ 319	+ 481
Total ...	72,780	73,392	74,128	- 612	- 1,348

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 89 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed. The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended December 19th was 5.36, as compared with 5.28 in the week ended November 28th, and 5.33 in the week ended December 20th, 1902.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Dec., 1903, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.
Under 5 per week ...	9,728	14.9	17.4	11.9
5 per week ...	20,334	31.3	30.4	33.4
5½ per week ...	711	1.1	1.3	1.5
6 per week ...	33,289	51.2	50.3	52.2
Over 6 per week ...	963	1.5	0.6	0.8
Total ...	65,025	100.0	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (11 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first

* Including iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—IRON, STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

Table may be estimated to have been 389,752, as compared with 387,761 in the week ended November 28th and 394,789 in December, 1902. On this basis the volume of employment at the works included in the returns shows an increase of 0.6 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. as compared with December, 1902.

The following reports relating to the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment with steel smelters has declined, and is only moderate. At steel plate mills full time has been worked, while at angle, bar, cogging and sheet mills there has been some short time. With finished iron and steel workers employment has been fair, with forge and hammermen slack.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—Employment has continued good with iron and steel workers in the Hartlepool district. At rail mills and metal expansion works employment is good; at plate and angle mills it is moderate generally.

South Yorkshire.—In Leeds and district employment has been bad, only three and four days a week being worked. In Sheffield employment at steel works has been slack generally, and worse than a month ago. In Rotherham and district it is dull with steel makers, moderate with ironworkers.

Midlands.—In Derbyshire employment is reported as fairly good at iron rolling mills, but slack in steel shops. It has declined at the South Staffordshire mills and forges, and is stated to be quiet with iron and steel workers at West Bromwich. Employment has been good with steel workers in Shropshire, but not with ironworkers.

South Wales.—In South Wales employment is stated to be fairly good at works that are in operation, but several works or portions of works are closed for repairs or renewals of plant.

Scotland.—Employment has been moderate on the whole, but has declined with malleable iron workers.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry has declined somewhat, and is not so good as a year ago.

At the end of December, 353 mills were working, as compared with 360 at the end of November, and 386 a year ago. Of the 68 works open, 51 had all their mills (262) in operation, while the remaining 17 works had only 91 mills going out of a total of 127. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 353 mills in operation was 17,600.

In the South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire districts 341 mills were in operation at the end of December, as compared with 348 a month ago, and 374 in December, 1902.

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 ...	51	262	—	262
Works giving partial employment ...	17	91	36	127
Total at end of Dec., 1903* ...	68	353	36	389
Corresponding Total for Nov., 1903* ...	70	360	32	392
Corresponding Total for Dec., 1902*† ...	75	386	29	415

* 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, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

† Revised figures.

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).		
	Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.
To United States ...	4,382	3,981	6,972	18	—	2
Other Countries ...	22,032	19,507	24,136	6,343	4,931	4,151
Total ...	26,414	23,488	31,108	6,361	4,931	4,153

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

On the whole employment in December was slightly better than a month ago although still very bad and worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,003 members had 9,690 (or 16.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, compared with 17.1 per cent. at the end of November, and 14.0 per cent. in December, 1902.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Dec., 1903, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,200	20.6	17.8	17.2	+ 2.8	+ 3.4
Wear ...	4,719	22.7	30.0	28.9	- 7.3	- 6.2
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,974	17.1	15.1	30.2	+ 2.0	- 13.1
Humber ...	2,393	19.1	19.5	9.7	- 0.4	+ 9.4
Thames and Medway ...	4,568	2.1	14.2	9.0	- 2.1	+ 3.1
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton ...	3,608	6.4	6.7	5.6	- 0.3	+ 0.8
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,659	15.0	21.8	22.9	- 6.8	- 7.9
Mersey ...	3,922	19.4	18.5	13.4	+ 0.9	+ 6.0
Clyde ...	12,606	15.9	16.0	9.2	- 0.1	+ 6.7
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,182	30.2	33.7	4.1	- 3.5	+ 26.1
Belfast ...	3,199	10.9	6.6	3.7	+ 4.3	+ 7.2
Other Districts ...	3,265	11.1	9.4	3.9	+ 1.7	+ 7.2
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	58,003	16.7	17.1	14.0	- 0.4	+ 2.7

Compared with a month ago most improvement is shown in the Wear and Bristol Channel districts, and the most noticeable decline at Belfast. As compared with a year ago most districts show a decline, which is very great at Dundee. There has, however, been considerable improvement in the Tees, Wear and Bristol Channel districts.

On the Tyne employment is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, especially at Jarrow. Several yards are on short time. With a few branches of shipwrights employment has been fairly good.

On the Wear employment, though remaining bad, is better than a month ago and a year ago. The yards are still working full time.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment with iron shipbuilders remains bad, but is much better than a year ago. Shipwrights report it as fair at Stockton, and on repairs at Hartlepool; very slack at Middlesbrough, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

On the Humber employment is bad, with much short time, and worse than a year ago.

On the Thames employment generally is slack, somewhat better than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. At Chatham, however, it is reported as good, and at Sheerness as moderate.

South Coast.—Employment is reported as good at Portsmouth and Devonport; bad at Southampton and Plymouth. Little change is shown as compared with

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

last month; as compared with last year a decline is shown at Southampton.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment is very slack on the whole, but better than a month ago and a year ago. It is reported as moderate, however, at Newport, and very fair with shipwrights at Pembroke Dock.

On the Mersey employment is bad, with much short time, and worse than a year ago.

On the Clyde employment is very slack, with some short time, about the same on the whole as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. A few branches, however, report it as fair.

On the East Coast of Scotland employment generally is bad. At Dundee it is very bad. At Leith shipwrights report employment as fair on repair work. Employment on the whole is rather better than a month ago, but very much worse than a year ago.

At Belfast employment with iron shipbuilders is slack, and considerably worse than a month ago and a year ago. With shipwrights it is fairly good.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is reported as moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Dublin it is reported as bad; with shipwrights at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Cowes as fair.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 26 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment is bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Employment has been affected by holiday suspensions.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 142,655 members show that 10,932 (or 7.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 6.0 per cent. in November, and 6.6 per cent. in December, 1902.

As compared with a month ago the figures indicate some decline in every district but one, the falling off being greatest in the Belfast and Dublin, and North East Coast districts. Compared with a year ago all districts show a decline, except the North East Coast.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Dec., 1903, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	14,565	12.3	7.5	16.9	+ 4.8	- 4.6
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	17,624	7.2	6.1	5.3	+ 1.1	+ 1.9
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District ...	11,433	8.9	7.8	8.1	+ 1.1	+ 0.8
West Riding Towns ...	11,857	9.9	7.2	6.7	+ 2.7	+ 3.2
Hull and Lincolnshire District ...	3,556	9.3	8.2	6.5	+ 1.1	+ 2.8
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District ...	6,151	4.9	4.1	3.1	+ 0.8	+ 1.8
Notts, Derby and Leicester District ...	3,999	6.2	5.9	4.1	+ 0.3	+ 2.1
London and Neighbouring District ...	12,260	5.1	4.9	4.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
South Coast ...	3,894	2.4	2.6	2.0	- 0.2	+ 0.4
South Wales and Bristol District ...	5,892	5.1	4.0	4.3	+ 1.1	+ 0.8
Glasgow and District ...	13,571	10.6	7.9	8.0	+ 2.7	+ 2.6
East of Scotland ...	2,954	11.8	8.8	10.1	+ 3.0	+ 1.7
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,395	12.8	6.4	4.4	+ 6.4	+ 8.4
Other Districts ...	5,535	8.0	5.2	4.1	+ 2.8	+ 3.9
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	142,655	7.7	6.0	6.6	+ 1.7	+ 1.1

North-East Coast.—Employment generally is bad, especially in marine engineering, and worse than a month ago. Some short time is reported, and holiday suspensions have been longer than usual. With pattern

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

makers employment has improved slightly. In the Newcastle and Gateshead district some improvement is noted with fitters and turners who report employment as moderate. At Middlesbrough employment is reported as moderate with engineers, as good with ironfounders. It is good with bridge builders in the Tees district, and at Darlington with boilermakers, with whom some improvement is also shown in the Tees district.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment generally is slack, and worse than a month and a year ago. With pattern makers it is quiet generally, but good at Openshaw. Machine workers at Manchester report employment as fair. At Liverpool it is reported as fairly good with brass founders and iron dressers, and rather better than a month ago; as moderate with hammermen; bad with engineers. Both new and repair work are reported dull for the time of year. With ironfounders employment is bad generally, but good at Chester and St. Helens; moderate at Warrington.

Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.—Generally employment is bad and rather worse than a month and a year ago. Pattern makers report it as good at Preston, moderate at Blackburn, bad elsewhere. With ironfounders it is good at Burnley and Accrington. With most branches at Bury employment is reported as moderate or fair. At Bolton it is moderate with engineers and iron grinders, fair with roller makers, and spindle and flyer makers, very bad with ironfounders. At Blackburn it is quiet generally, but fairly good in textile machine making departments and with millwrights. At Oldham employment is bad in both general engineering and textile machine-making works. At Preston engineers report it as moderate.

West Riding Towns.—Employment generally is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Sheffield employment has fallen off very much during the month, and an unusually large number of skilled men are unemployed. Pattern makers report employment as fair, all other branches as bad; much short time is reported. At Leeds employment generally is moderate. There has been some improvement due to placing of orders for engines, but the textile machinery and tool-making branches are very slack. At Bradford and Halifax employment is bad; at Huddersfield engineers report it as moderate.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. Short time is reported at Doncaster and Hull. At the latter place engineers report employment as moderate; pattern makers as improving; other branches as bad. Employment is fairly good at Grantham, moderate at Lincoln.

East Midlands.—Employment generally is bad, slightly worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. With lace and hosiery machine builders at Nottingham it is fairly good, but at Long Eaton lace machine builders are not so busy. Employment is fair with boot and shoe machinery makers at Leicester. In the cycle and motor cycle industries it is quiet at Nottingham.

West Midlands.—Employment shows a further slight decline and is worse than a year ago. Generally it is quiet. With ironfounders it is reported as good at Birmingham and Coventry, with engineers as bad at the latter place. In the cycle industry employment is moderate at Birmingham and Coventry, improving at Redditch, slack at Wolverhampton; in the motor section it is fair. With military gun makers it is quiet, but improving; with sporting gun makers it is fair. With electrical engineers it is fair at Birmingham, good at Wolverhampton.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment generally is quiet, and slightly worse than a month and a year ago. With coppersmiths it is reported as fair. It is also fair with scientific instrument makers.

South Coast.—Employment generally is fair, slightly

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—ENGINEERING; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

better than a month ago, and slightly worse than a year ago. With engineers it is fair in the dockyard towns and at Southampton; with ironfounders it is bad at Devonport and Southampton, good at Portsmouth.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally is dull, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Swindon and Bristol it is moderate generally, but ironfounders report it as bad at the latter place. At the Welsh ports employment on the whole is bad, but ironfounders report it as improving at Newport.

Glasgow and District.—Employment on the whole is dull and considerably worse than a year ago. Some short time is reported. Brass finishers, coppermiths and boiler and pipe coverers report employment as fair; brass moulders and iron, steel and brass dressers as moderate.

East of Scotland.—Employment generally is bad and worse than a month and a year ago. It is, however, fair with brass foundries and some sections of iron moulders at Edinburgh, and with blacksmiths at Edinburgh and Leith. At Falkirk it is fair and rather better than a month ago. At Dundee employment is affected by a dispute.

Belfast and Dublin District.—Employment shows a great decline as compared with a month and a year ago. Generally it is bad, but brass foundries and pattern makers report it as good at Belfast.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment generally is moderate and worse than a year ago, with some short time. In Norfolk employment is fairly good. Engineers report it as bad at Ipswich, Colchester, Lancaster, Worcester and York, as moderate at Stafford and Stoke.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, from 22 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—Employment in the Birmingham district, while fair with general brassworkers, is bad with bedstead makers and moderate with fender makers. With brassworkers at Rotherham, London, Manchester, Doncaster, and Nottingham employment is slack.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Birmingham and Smethwick nut and bolt, machine-made rivet, and cut and wire nail makers report employment as quiet, but with a slightly tendency to improve. Makers of spikes, rivets and wrought nails at Blackheath and Halesowen are slack.

Tubes.—In the Staffordshire tube trade employment is reported as moderate but worse than a year ago, and short time is worked in some cases.

Chains, Anvils, Vices, Anchors, etc.—Employment with chain makers at Cradley Heath is reported as moderate with makers of block chains, and slack with makers of cable, dollied and side welded chains. With anchor smiths employment is quiet. Employment with spring makers at West Bromwich is fairly good. Makers of general iron and steel forgings at Wednesbury report employment as moderate, makers of railway axles and springs and coach ironwork as slack. Makers of ironwork for harness and cart gear at Walsall are slack.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Employment in the lock, key and latch trade in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall district is reported as moderate, with a little short time. In the wrought iron and steel hinge trade at Birmingham employment continues good. In the hollow-ware trade employment is good in the Wolverhampton district, moderate at Birmingham, quiet at West Bromwich. In the Wolverhampton district employment is good with makers of electrical castings, Brazil hoes and vermin traps; moderate with makers of iron fences, hurdles and black castings, spade and fork finishers, stampers and piercers and galvanisers and japanners.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—In Sheffield the file trade is quiet in all branches. Filesmiths at Warrington report employment as good; file cutters at Birmingham as fair.

Edge tool makers at Birmingham and Wolverhampton report employment as moderate; at Sheffield as slack.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—In these trades employment is reported as moderate at Birmingham, but as slack at other centres of the trade.

Sheet Metal.—In London the sheet metal workers and gas meter makers report employment as fair, iron plate workers as quiet, zinc workers as fair, canister makers as bad. Tinplate workers at Birmingham are fairly well employed; but ironplate workers in the Lye district and at Birmingham are slack. Metal plate workers and tinsmiths report employment as good at Manchester, Edinburgh, Exeter and Nottingham; as fair at Sheffield, Leeds, Hull, Newcastle, Bristol, Dundee, Aberdeen and Dublin; as quiet at Glasgow and Oldham.

Cutlery, etc.—With the exception of the pen and pocket blade forgers, who report employment as fair, the cutlery trades in Sheffield report employment as slack. At Redditch employment in the needle trade for the Colonies and America has been good, for the home trade quiet; fish hook makers are busy and overtime is worked.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London these trades generally report employment as fair, except the silver fork and spoon makers, goldsmiths and jewellers and diamond workers, who report it as slack. At Sheffield employment is reported as good by silver platers and gilders, but all the other branches report it as bad. At Birmingham silversmiths and electro platers report employment as quiet, britannia metal workers as bad, jewellers as moderate in silver work, quiet in best work. The state of employment in the Coventry watch trade is reported as quiet.

Wirework.—With wire drawers employment is fairly good at Warrington and in Derbyshire, but dull elsewhere. London wire workers report employment as fair. At Glasgow wire weavers and workers report it as dull.

Farriers.—Employment is reported as quiet in London and at Edinburgh and Sheffield; fair at Newcastle, Leicester, Dundee, Aberdeen and Dublin; good at Nottingham.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 225,000. Reports have also been furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to 569 spinning and weaving factories, usually employing about 102,900 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that employment in December has been rather better than in November. It is still, however, worse than a year ago, especially among weavers. A considerable number of factories closed for a longer holiday period than usual and the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners has arranged that short time (40 hours per week) should be worked in January.

In the *Spinning* branch most mills were working full time during the month, but some short time is reported. Of the 27,800 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents, 77 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 75 per cent. in November, and 94 per cent. in December, 1902.

In the *Weaving* branch employment showed an improvement, but there was considerable slackness and time was lost through protracted holidays. Of the 75,100 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents 47 per cent. were employed in factories

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—COTTON, WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 44 per cent. in November, and 78 per cent. in December, 1902.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls, and also gives, for comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full time throughout the Month.*		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
December, 1903	77	9	10	4
November, 1903	75	18	6	1
December, 1902	94	4	—	2
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
December, 1903	47	22	20	11
November, 1903	44	34	18	4
December, 1902	78	20	—	2

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—Employment in Ashton, Stalybridge Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden is reported as moderate. The mills are reported as running full time.

Stockport and Manchester District.—In the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Compstall districts employment is reported as fair, as better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. In the Manchester, Pendlebury and Patricroft districts full time on coarse and fine counts is reported.

Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.—Employment is reported as below the average, and worse than a month ago; two mills are on short time. Card-room operatives report employment as fair at Glossop and Hadfield.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).—Employment has been about the same as a month ago. The mills have been working full time generally, but in several cases the holidays have been prolonged.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).—Employment is reported as fairly good, although slightly worse than a year ago. The mills have worked full time.

Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.—Employment in Bury has been fair, most mills going full time; cardroom operatives have lost time. In Heywood it is stated to be fairly good, all mills running full time, but cases of slackness are reported. In Rochdale mills have run full time, but the holidays have been prolonged.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as fair, and better than a month ago, but in several mills the holidays were extended, and employment was not so good as a year ago.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad, and the holidays have been prolonged.

Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington District.—Employment in Blackburn was better at the beginning of the month, but showed a decline at the end. In Darwen the sheds have run full time, but there has been much waiting for warps. In Accrington employment has been better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago.

Burnley, Nelson and Colne District.—In Burnley employment has been fairly good, full time being worked, but some looms empty of warps. In Nelson full time has been general, but some slackness is reported. In Colne there has been little short time, but an increasing number of looms have been idle.

Other Districts.—In Bury employment has been fair, but is declining; at the end of the month nearly all sheds were on full time, but looms were standing for warps. In Bolton there has been more short time and increased slackness. In Chorley employment has improved, all sheds running full time, but some slackness is reported.

* Excluding usual holidays.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of December the average price of raw cotton (middling American) at Liverpool was 6·87d. per lb., being about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. more than the average for November, and 52 per cent. in advance of December, 1902, when the price was 4·53d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 11th January the average price of middling American was 7·13d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during December averaged 8·47d. per lb. compared with 8·37d. in November, and 7·36d. in December, 1902, a rise of 15 per cent. on the price a year ago. For the period from 1st to 11th January the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8·77d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COTTON.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of December, and also during the twelve completed months of 1903, with comparative figures for 1902 and 1901:—

	Month of December,			Twelve months ended December,		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imported	Bales. 617,720	Bales. 685,190	Bales. 675,693	Bales. 3,670,367	Bales. 3,811,155	Bales. 3,745,844
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	300,052	333,914	296,701	3,006,935	3,237,670	3,092,517
Exported	42,881	44,741	57,709	511,868	463,482	357,799

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns during December in each of the years 1903, 1902 and 1901 respectively are given below:—

Description of Cotton.	Month of December,			Twelve months ended December,		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
American	Bales. 245,318	Bales. 271,517	Bales. 238,811	Bales. 1,480,076	Bales. 1,634,035	Bales. 1,641,584
Brazilian	4,748	9,362	8,213	225,552	177,923	62,262
East Indian	3,275	2,172	1,068	53,174	18,718	33,095
Egyptian	41,403	45,226	38,971	289,402	325,007	271,741
Miscellaneous	5,308	5,637	9,138	57,831	81,987	83,835
Total	300,052	333,914	296,701	3,006,935	3,237,670	3,092,517

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 9th January was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 730,750 bales, compared with 795,840 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 273 firms employing 78,800 workpeople; from women correspondents with regard to factories in Yorkshire usually employing about 30,300 women and girls, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The returns show an increased slackness. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of December was 78,801, compared with 80,313 at the end of November, and 81,119 a year ago, a decrease of 1·9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2·9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 68,007 persons made separate returns of the numbers engaged in the different processes from which the following results are shown:—

In the *Sorting and Combing* branches there was a decline in the number employed at the end of December of 0·8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 11·1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the *Spinning* branch there was a decline of 1·4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2·1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the *Weaving* branch there was a decline of 2·6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1·9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—TEXTILE TRADES.

In the *other departments* there was a decline of 2.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.0 compared with a year ago.

Much short time and slackness are reported.

Of the 30,300 women and girls in the Yorkshire factories reported on by women correspondents, only 50 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, 34 per cent. were employed in factories running full time but giving only partial employment, and 11 per cent. in factories running short time, while firms employing 5 per cent. were closed for prolonged holidays.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various processes in Yorkshire, Scotland and other districts reported on at the end of December with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns.

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at end of		
	Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.
Sorting and Combing—			
Yorkshire	6,123	6,168	6,943
Scotland	168	176	173
Other Districts	196	193	184
Total	6,487	6,537	7,300
Spinning—			
Yorkshire	25,331	25,670	25,819
Scotland	1,524	1,592	1,664
Other Districts	1,521	1,517	1,487
Total	28,376	28,779	28,970
Weaving—			
Yorkshire	15,795	16,149	15,994
Scotland	3,118	3,163	3,270
Other Districts	1,480	1,528	1,519
Total	20,393	20,840	20,693
Other Departments—			
Yorkshire	7,980	8,208	8,212
Scotland	3,952	4,073	4,104
Other Districts	909	948	921
Total	12,841	13,229	13,237
Unspecified—			
Yorkshire	5,223	5,295	5,446
Scotland	4,541	4,594	4,508
Other Districts	1,030	1,038	965
Total	10,794	10,928	10,919
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—			
Yorkshire	60,362	61,491	62,324
Scotland	13,393	13,598	13,719
Other Districts	5,136	5,224	5,076
Total number returned	78,891	80,313	81,119

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

Bradford District.—In the wool sorting and wool-combing branches employment is bad; some firms have not worked at all at night; short time has been prevalent in day work. In spinning there is a decline in numbers employed, and short time has been worked in some firms. In weaving there is a decline in numbers employed, and much slackness is reported. Of the 10,000 women and girls usually employed in the factories reported on by women correspondents only 33 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, 49 per cent. being in factories running full time, and giving only partial employment, and 18 per cent. in factories running short time.

Keighley District.—Employment is not satisfactory; part of the machinery has been either running short time or standing for several days without work. The numbers employed show a decline compared with a month ago, but an increase compared with a year ago.

Halifax District.—Employment is worse than a month and a year ago; short time and slackness are reported.

Huddersfield District.—Employment in the worsted trade has been quieter, and holidays have in some cases

been prolonged. In the woollen trade there is less overtime and night work than has been the case for some time.

Leeds District.—Employment shows a decline, and is especially quiet in the worsted trade. At Wakefield the mills are slack and working short time.

The Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett etc.).—Employment is quieter, and considerable slackness is reported; much of the overtime which has been general in this district, has been stopped.

Scotland.—Employment shows a decline. In the woollen industry in Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels a number of the mills are on short time, and in those running full time there is much slackness with both spinners and weavers.

Other Districts.—In the Wellington cloth factories employment is dull, and short time is being worked. At Stroud employment is fairly brisk. In Rochdale employment is bad.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

According to information received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades in Scotland and the flax trade in Ireland is fair.

In Dundee employment in the flax trade is reported as not quite so good, in the jute trade as fair. Information has been received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 21,300 women and girls. From this it appears that all the spinning mills and weaving factories reported on were running full time throughout the month; in 2 out of 40 spinning mills, and in 10 out of 33 weaving factories, slackness is reported. In Forfar employment continues fair; in Brechin it remains dull.

Employment in Ulster is reported as fair. In Belfast the yarn dressers and linen lappers report it as good; the flax roughers as fair; the flax dressers as moderate; the hackle and gill makers as improving; the power loom tenters as dull; the beetlers and the women workers' Trade Union as bad.

At Barnsley employment in the linen trade is moderate.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents, employment in the hosiery trade continues bad, and is worse than a month or a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received from hosiery manufacturers employing 11,854 workpeople in their factories at the end of December show a decrease of 2.6 per cent. on the number employed at the end of November, and of 1.9 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 86 per cent. were employed in firms reporting short time or general slackness in some departments during the month, the same percentage as in November. In Leicester, Loughborough, and Hinckley employment is bad.

Nottingham and Derby District.—There is an improvement in the hand frame branches in the country districts, but employment generally is bad.

Scotland.—Employment is quiet in Selkirk and bad in Hawick and is much worse than a month or a year ago.

Lace Trade.

According to information from the Employers' Association, from the Trade Union and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham lace trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. It is again reported as bad in the levers and curtain sections, and as fair in the plain net branch.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—TEXTILE TRADES; CLOTHING TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.

Employment with dyers in the West Riding is reported as bad, but the Trade Unions report a slight improvement compared with the month before; in the case of the cotton dyers this is attributed to the improvement in the cotton trade; amongst the woollen and worsted dyers there was much short time, but also some overtime. The cotton dyers report employment as good at Middleton and Burnley, bad at Bury and Colne. In Bolton the dyers and finishers report no improvement. In Manchester the bleachers, dyers and finishers report employment as slack.

In Leicester and Hinckley hosiery dyers and trimmers report employment as bad; at Loughborough short time is being worked. At Nottingham, Bulwell and Basford, employment is bad with dyers and hosiery trimmers, and has further declined with bleachers. With calico printers at Manchester employment is reported as fair; at New Mills as bad; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting as good; with woollen block printers at Rossendale as fair. In the Glasgow district employment is reported as fair with calendermen and with calico printers; as good with block printers. In the Dundee district employment is reported as fair in the finishing branches, but with some short time and as bad with dyers.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see p. 24.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondents of the Department based on information supplied by 646 firms employing 74,679 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment is slack and worse than a month ago. On the whole more short time is being worked than is usual at this season of the year. The number employed by firms making returns at the end of December was 74,679, compared with 75,900 at the end of November, and 73,482 a year ago. The numbers employed do not, however, show the full fluctuation in employment, as manufacturers are sharing out the work over as many men as possible. Of the total number of operatives, only 57 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout December, to be compared with 58 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for November.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the numbers employed in the various districts at the end of December, with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:—

District.	No. of firms making returns	No. employed by these firms at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on	
		Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	91	5,937	6,240	6,112	- 4.5	- 2.5
Leicester	82	14,100	14,362	13,920	- 1.8	+ 1.3
Leicester Country District	37	3,549	3,636	3,263	- 2.4	+ 8.8
Northampton	73	9,271	9,272	8,955	...	+ 3.5
Kettering	35	4,154	4,274	4,169	- 2.8	- 0.4
Northampton Country District	102	10,167	10,290	10,003	- 1.2	+ 1.6
Stafford and District	17	2,579	2,536	2,601	+ 0.9	- 0.8
Norwich and District	40	5,339	5,358	5,375	...	+ 0.7
Bristol	22	2,596	2,706	2,557	- 4.1	+ 1.5
Kingswood	27	2,877	2,952	2,595	- 2.5	+ 10.9
Leeds and District	42	3,666	3,751	3,716	- 2.3	- 1.3
Manchester and District	18	2,686	2,699	2,431	- 0.5	+ 10.5
Birmingham and District	11	1,045	1,057	1,070	- 1.1	- 2.3
Other parts of England & Wales	27	2,184	2,199	2,189	- 0.7	- 0.2
Total, England and Wales	624	70,170	71,352	68,956	- 1.7	+ 1.8
SCOTLAND	21	4,228	4,265	4,298	- 0.9	- 1.6
IRELAND	1	281	283	228	- 0.7	+ 23.2
Total	646	74,679	75,900	73,482	- 1.6	+ 1.6

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

London.—Returns covering 5,957 workpeople show that 52 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 66 per cent. in November. The sewround manufacturers who are

usually busy in December were mostly working short time. Employment amongst the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as very quiet and rather worse than a month and a year ago; the clickers' Trade Union reports it as bad. With handsewn boot makers it is very quiet.

Leicester and District.—Returns covering 14,100 workpeople in Leicester show that 27 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 26 per cent. in November. Employment in Leicester generally is bad.

Of the 3,549 workpeople employed by firms in the Leicester country districts, covered by the returns, 67 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 79 per cent. in November. Employment in Hinckley and district has declined during the month.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—Returns covering 9,271 workpeople in Northampton show that 47 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 36 per cent. in November. Employment is reported as very quiet. The clickers and pressmen's Trade Union reports it as very bad. Of the 10,167 workpeople employed by firms in the Northampton country districts covered by the returns, 61 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 70 per cent. in November. Employment is still very slack with army bootmakers.

Stafford, Stone and Nantwich.—Returns covering 2,579 workpeople show that 76 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 63 per cent. in November. At Stafford, employment is reported as fairly good. At Stone it is worse than last month.

Eastern Counties.—Returns covering 5,339 workpeople show that 53 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 61 per cent. in November. A further decline is reported with lasters and finishers at Norwich.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Returns covering 2,596 workpeople in Bristol show that 42 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 55 per cent. in November. The improvement reported last month has not been maintained. Of the 2,877 workpeople in Kingswood covered by the returns, 95 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 100 per cent. in November. In this district December is a busy month.

Leeds and District.—Returns covering 3,666 workpeople show that 67 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 77 per cent. in November. At Leeds employment is reported as moderate with lasters and finishers, as quiet with clickers and pressmen.

Other Districts in England.—Of the number covered by the returns 41 per cent. were employed in firms working full time in the Birmingham district and 94 per cent. the Manchester district. With lasters and finishers employment is reported as quiet at Wolverhampton, and as very slack at Birmingham and Nottingham.

Scotland.—Of the 4,228 workpeople covered by the returns all were still employed by firms working full time throughout the month, no Christmas holidays intervening. Employment with hand-sewn workers is reported as slack at Edinburgh and Glasgow, as good at Aberdeen. The lasters and finishers' Trade Union reports it as brisk at Maybole and Edinburgh, overtime being the rule.

TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents and Trade Unions.

Employment in the *bespoke trade* is dull and worse than a month ago, but much the same as in December, 1902. In the *ready made* clothing trade employment is distinctly bad in all the principal centres, much worse than a year ago, and also worse than a month ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES;

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 659 workpeople on the premises and 950 outworkers.* According to these returns employment with inworkers was good in firms employing 17 per cent. of the total number, moderate in firms employing 59 per cent., and bad in firms employing 24 per cent. With outworkers* it was good with firms employing 20 per cent. of the total number, moderate with firms employing 45 per cent., and bad with firms employing 35 per cent. The majority of firms report employment as worse than a month ago. The bespoke tailors' Trade Union reports employment as very bad; the military and uniform tailors' Trade Union reports it as fair. In Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow employment is reported as slack; in Dublin as fair.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment is bad, and is worse than a month or a year ago, especially with outworkers. The clothiers' cutters' Trade Union reports employment as very bad, and worse than a year ago.

In Leeds employment continues bad and is much worse than a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 8,700 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during December was fairly good in firms employing 2 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate in firms employing 37 per cent., and bad in firms employing 61 per cent. As compared with November, firms employing 13 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 44 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 43 per cent. as worse. As compared with a year ago, no firms report employment as improved, firms employing 6 per cent. report it as unchanged, and firms employing 94 per cent. as worse. The clothiers' operatives' Trade Union reports employment as bad, short time being common and the number of unemployed abnormal.

In Manchester employment continues dull and is worse than a year ago; the Jewish tailors' Trade Union reports it as slack and as worse than a month ago.

In Bristol employment is bad and much worse than a year ago; at Stroud an improvement is reported.

In Norwich tailoring factories are reported as working full time; at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds and Colchester employment is reported as dull.

In Glasgow employment is reported as bad.

HAT TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from three Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment on the whole shows a decline. Trade Unions with 5,324 members have 280 (or 5.3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.5 per cent. at the end of November, and 3.2 per cent. a year ago.

With silk hatters, employment in London has been about the same as in November, but worse than a year ago; short time has been general. In Denton employment has been quiet, but is better than a month ago, and is only slightly worse than a year ago. In other districts employment has been slack.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton has been bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Stockport it is reported as moderate, and better than a month ago. At Bury and Bredbury employment is reported as bad and worse than a month or a year ago. In Warwickshire employment has been worse than a month or a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

Employment in the dressmaking and millinery trades is quiet; in the mantle making, shirt and collar, and corset trades it is bad.

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

Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,762 dressmakers at the end of December, show a decrease of 7.7 per cent. on the number employed at the end of November, and of 1.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of December, 1902; employment generally is reported as quiet. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades has been slack, and worse than a month or a year ago. With mantle makers in retail firms some slackness and short time are reported, and employment has been only moderate. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons and under-clothing report employment as only moderate, and as worse on the whole than in November and a year ago. In the wholesale millinery trade employment is again reported as quiet; in retail firms there is a marked decline in the number employed compared with a month ago, but practically no change compared with a year ago.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show a decreased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago and a year ago.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade shows a further decline. In the costume and skirt trade employment has slightly improved compared with a month and with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantle makers continues bad, and is worse than a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 7,338 workpeople in their factories at the end of December, show practically no change in the number employed compared with the end of November, but a decrease of 2.1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of December, 1902. Of the total number of operatives 68 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time. With few exceptions employment is reported as quiet or bad.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,646 workpeople in their factories at the end of December, show a decrease of 3.5 per cent. on the number employed at the end of November, and of 10.3 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 66 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time. Employment generally is reported as bad.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been supplied by 18 Employers' Associations, by 30 Employers, by Trade Unions with about 54,500 members, and by Local Correspondents. These returns show that employment is good with Letterpress Printers and Bookbinders and moderate with Lithographic Printers. As compared with a month ago and a year ago little change is shown in the percentages unemployed.

Employment in the Paper Trade is good in Scotland and Lancashire. In other districts it is moderate on the whole.

The following Table shows the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed as compared with a month and a year ago:—

	United Kingdom.			London.				
	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of		No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			
	Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.		
Letterpress Printing	38,994	3.4	2.7	3.7	17,088	3.7	1.8	4.5
Lithographic Printing	6,338	4.9	4.3	4.2	1,954	6.6	6.3	7.1
Bookbinding	6,889	2.6	3.4	2.5	3,756	2.6	3.8	2.4
Total Printing and Bookbinding	52,131	3.5	3.0	3.6	22,798	3.8	2.5	4.3
Paper Manufacture	2,363	3.1	2.4	2.2	...	...	...	...

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PRINTING, &C., TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES; GLASS, POTTERY, &C., TRADES.

The percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* in the principal districts were as follow:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Dec., 1903, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,798	3.8	2.5	4.3	+ 1.3	- 0.5
Northern Counties	1,455	2.3	2.3	2.5	...	- 0.2
Lancs. and Cheshire	6,694	4.9	5.7	4.2	- 0.8	+ 0.7
Yorkshire	4,174	5.5	2.1	2.1	+ 1.4	+ 1.4
East Midlands	2,028	2.0	2.9	3.0	- 0.9	- 1.0
West Midlands	2,499	3.1	3.3	3.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Eastern Counties	374	2.4	2.4	2.1	...	+ 0.3
S. & S. W. Counties	2,570	2.1	1.5	2.4	+ 0.6	- 0.3
Wales and Mon.	795	1.6	1.4	1.9	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Scotland	6,144	1.1	1.9	2.1	- 0.8	- 1.0
Ireland	2,650	6.6	6.2	4.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.9
United Kingdom	52,131	3.5	3.0	3.6	+ 0.5	- 0.1

Percentages unemployed for London are shown in the first Table for the Letterpress and Lithographic Printing and Bookbinding Trades respectively. Employment with letterpress printers, though good, declined during December, but it was rather better than a year ago. The printing machine managers report employment as bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Employment with lithographic printers remained dull, but with bookbinders improved and is now fairly good.

Northern Counties.—Employment is good generally, but at Newcastle a number of letterpress printers remain unemployed.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment at Manchester remains dull with printers and fair with bookbinders. At Liverpool it is fair generally. Employment is good at Bolton, Blackburn, Burnley, Bury, Stockport, Newton-le-Willows, Wigan, Preston, Southport, Lancaster, and Chester; fair at Oldham; moderate at Ashton-under-Lyne and Rochdale.

Yorkshire.—Employment is quiet at Leeds; fairly good at Sheffield. At Bradford it is good with letterpress printers and bookbinders; dull with lithographic printers. Elsewhere employment is fairly good generally.

East Midland Counties.—Employment is good generally, except with lithographic printers, who report it as moderate at Nottingham and fairly good at Leicester and Derby.

West Midland Counties.—Employment is good generally, except with letterpress printers at Birmingham, who are moderately employed.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment is fairly good generally.

Scotland.—Employment is good with letterpress printers. With lithographic printers it is fairly good at Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee; moderate at Glasgow. With bookbinders it is good at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen; dull at Dundee. With stereotypers and electrotypers at Edinburgh and Glasgow employment is quiet.

Ireland.—Employment with letterpress printers is reported as fairly good at Dublin and Belfast, moderate at Cork. With lithographic printers it is dull generally. With bookbinders it is fairly good at Dublin, dull at Belfast.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES

INFORMATION has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, from 35 Trade Unions with 33,481 members, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union Members in the furnishing and wood-working trades at the end of December was 8.2, as compared with 5.9 in November, and 6.1 in December, 1902.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists. Employment with millsawyers is slack, and is worse than a year ago. Three Unions with a membership of 4,710, show 262 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end

of December, as compared with 4.4 per cent. in December, 1902. Employment is reported as bad in Gloucester and Hull; slack in London, Dublin and Nottingham; quiet at Birmingham, Glasgow and Edinburgh; moderate at Sheffield and Hartlepool; fair at Bristol, Aberdeen and Cork; and improving at Belfast.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Of the 12,952 members of 15 Trade Unions making returns, 1,270 (or 9.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 6.9 per cent. at the end of November, and 5.4 per cent. at the end of December, 1902.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers is dull (much short time being worked), and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Hull, Newcastle and Dublin it is fair; dull at Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow; bad at Burton, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Cork; and quiet at Belfast. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,164 report 220 (or 4.3 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 4.5 per cent. at the end of November, and 4.6 per cent. at the end of December, 1902.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, etc., with a membership of 7,710 report 612 (or 7.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 6.6 per cent. at the end of November, and 7.3 per cent. at the end of December, 1902.

In London employment continues bad. At Birmingham it is fair; at Swindon moderate, at Manchester and Sheffield slack; at Nottingham, Liverpool and Leicester bad. At Glasgow it is slack. At Dublin, Belfast and Cork it is bad.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; at Leeds and Dublin it is quiet; at Glasgow it continues bad. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,715 report 333 (or 19.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 6.2 per cent. in November, and 14.1 per cent. in December, 1902.

Other Trades.—Employment in London continues good with stick makers and mounters; bad with basket makers; slack with lathrenders; and dull with packing case makers. At Glasgow, lathrenders report employment as fair. Packing case makers report employment as fair at Belfast and quiet at Glasgow.

GLASS, POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 12 Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions with 5,000 members, Local Correspondents, and Employers.

Employment in the Glass trades remains bad in the bottle branch, and is moderate on the whole in the flint-glass trade. It is rather worse than a year ago. In the Pottery trades it is moderate. In the Brick and Tile trades employment remains moderate on the whole.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass-bottle makers is bad generally, with much short time, and is worse on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. Some distress is reported in certain districts. Makers of medicine bottles, however, report employment as good in the Moxborough district and improved at Glasgow, while glass-bottle makers at Bristol report it as fair. Flint glass makers report employment as fairly good in the Stourbridge district and at Birmingham, slightly improved at Manchester, and slack at Edinburgh. Flint glass cutters report it as quiet generally, with much short time. Employment remains good with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed glass makers at Gateshead and glass blowers in London it is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—The Christmas holidays have been of a somewhat prolonged character in some branches of the

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—GLASS, POTTERY, &c., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

pottery industry. Makers of earthenware are, however, fairly busy, there being little change on the whole as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Full time is being worked in some cases on American and better class goods. Makers of encaustic tiles are fairly well employed. Employment in the cheap china and earthenware trade at Longton is bad.

In the South Yorkshire and River Aire districts and in Scotland employment is reported as moderate with some short time; about the same as a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. Tobacco pipe makers in Glasgow report employment as dull; tobacco pipe finishers as good.

Brickmaking.—At Birmingham employment in the brick trade is reported as bad. Employment is fair at Nottingham, Oldham, Middlesbrough and Glasgow; slack in the Leicester district. In the Bristol district it is dull and rather worse than a year ago.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 21.)

RETURNS have been received from 4 Employers' Associations, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show that the general state of employment remains slack, and much the same as a month ago but worse than a year ago. Short time is prevalent in most districts. The percentage of Trade Union members shown to be unemployed at the end of December was 8.3, compared with 8.3 at the end of November, and 6.5 at the end of December, 1902.

Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—In these branches slackness is reported as general. There is a little overtime worked in exceptional cases, but a large number of operatives are only working short time. The districts which are exceptions are Bolton, Bury, Wigan, Bristol, Eastern Counties, Glasgow and Dundee, where employment is reported as moderate or fair.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—In these branches the state of employment is reported generally as bad, and is mostly described as worse than both a month and a year ago. In the London trade employment is worse than a month ago, and there is more short time worked than there was a year ago. In the Walsall trade employment is reported as bad, short time being general, with a large proportion of operatives entirely unemployed. Glasgow and Aberdeen, which report employment as fair, are the only exceptions. The horse collar branch also reports employment as bad, the extension of electric haulage being referred to as a cause of depression.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Portmanteau and leather bag workers in London and Manchester report employment as worse and short time is worked. With fancy leather workers and pocket-book makers in London employment is slack.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in Agriculture in December was received from 203 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that farm labourers were, generally speaking, well employed during the month. There was some interruption of outdoor work by wet weather in the first two weeks, but the finer weather which succeeded enabled a good deal of ploughing, threshing and carting to be done. Casual labourers were more regularly employed in December than in November, but there was, on the whole, no great demand for extra men, and the supply was generally sufficient.

Northern Counties.—Agricultural labourers in *Durham* and *Westmorland* are reported to have been regularly employed in most parts, but in *Cumberland* there were some men seeking work, chiefly owing to depression in other industries. Potato digging was not finished at the end of the month. Employment in *Lancashire* was fairly regular, and the supply of labour was about equal to the demand.

The finer weather enabled a good deal of ploughing to be done. In *Yorkshire* there was some demand for extra labour, agricultural work being backward. Men for threshing were in request in some districts, but the supply was generally ample. A report from the Scarborough Union states that plough-lads are scarce and demand high wages.

Midland Counties.—Reports from *Cheshire* and *Derbyshire* state that the weather in December was, on the whole, favourable for outdoor work, and a good deal of ploughing was done. Casual labourers were fairly well employed, the supply in most districts being about equal to the demand. In *Nottinghamshire* and *Leicestershire* farm labourers have been, generally speaking, regularly employed, but men on piece-work have been somewhat affected by bad weather. Extra men have not been in much demand, and the supply in some districts was rather in excess. Farm work in *Staffordshire* and *Shropshire* was slightly interrupted by wet weather. Casual labourers were not in much demand, except for threshing. In *Worcestershire* agricultural employment was generally regular in December. The supply of casual labourers was about equal to the demand, but men for permanent situations were in request. Fairly open weather permitted a certain number of odd-men in *Warwickshire* to find employment in digging in the fruit plantations, threshing, root-cleaning, &c. There was not, however, much demand for extra labour, and the supply was somewhat in excess. Good men for permanent situations continue to be scarce. In *Northamptonshire* outdoor work is stated to be still in arrear, although the weather has been more favourable. Casual labourers have not been in much demand except for threshing, and the supply in some parts of the county has been more than sufficient. Farm labourers in *Oxfordshire* and *Buckinghamshire* were generally well employed until the latter part of the month, when there was some interruption through frost. In *Herefordshire* and *Bedfordshire* outdoor work was fairly regular, and the supply of extra men for threshing, &c., was generally sufficient.

Eastern Counties.—Employment for farm labourers in *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* was fairly regular and the supply of casual labourers was equal to the demand. Threshing and other work are somewhat in arrear. In *Lincolnshire* outdoor work was behindhand, and the open weather during December enabled men as a rule to be fully employed. Reports from *Norfolk* show that farm labourers were for the most part regularly employed during December in ploughing, threshing, pulling and storing roots, and stock-tending. The supply of casual labourers was, generally speaking, quite equal to the demand. In *Suffolk* farming operations were delayed by the sodden condition of the land. Some interruption to field work was also caused by wet weather in the early part of the month, but the weather was favourable on the whole. The supply of extra labour was in excess of the demand in several districts. Agricultural employment was generally regular in *Essex*. The supply of casual labour is said to have been usually sufficient, but a scarcity is reported from some parts of the county. A correspondent in the Ongar Union writes:—"The demand is greater than the supply just now, as many men follow the threshing machines rather than do land work. Men for permanent situations are more plentiful than for some time, but thoroughly reliable men are very scarce."

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Correspondents in *Kent* state that agricultural employment was generally regular in December, owing to the more favourable weather. The supply of casual labourers has been more plentiful of late, and has been rather in excess of the demand in certain districts. There is, however, a scarcity of skilled men for permanent situations. Agricultural work in *Surrey* and *Sussex* was interrupted by wet weather in the early part of December, causing loss of time to casual labourers. Later, however, dry, frosty

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR

weather enabled good progress to be made with threshing. The supply of odd-men was in excess of requirements in some districts. A report from the Petworth Union mentions a scarcity of good men for wood-cutting and coppice work. According to correspondents in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire*, the weather was, on the whole, favourable during December, and all classes of farm labourers were well employed for the time of year. Outdoor work in *Wiltshire* was somewhat interrupted by rainy weather, and manure carting was hindered by the wet condition of the land. There was but little demand for casual labour, and the supply was more than sufficient in some districts. A correspondent in the Amesbury Union states that many men become casuals on account of their objection to the necessary Sunday labour. Employment in *Dorsetshire* was somewhat irregular, owing to wet weather. Casual labourers were in little demand, except for threshing, and the supply was quite sufficient. In *Somersetshire* work on the land was interrupted by rainy days in the early part of December, but the frosty weather towards the end of the month was favourable for carting. Farm labourers in *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire* were fully employed during the latter part of the month in threshing, turnip-pulling and manure-carting. The supply of extra labour was, generally speaking, about equal to the demand. Men for permanent situations are reported to be scarce, especially men for tending stock and milking. A correspondent in the Ledbury Union writes:—"No boys will learn to milk, because of having to milk on Sundays." In most districts of *Devon* and *Cornwall* agricultural work was a good deal interrupted by wet weather, especially in the case of men attending on threshing machines. The supply of labour, though still short of the demand, is reported to be somewhat better than a year ago.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. Information regarding other principal ports has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Local Correspondents of the Department, and Trade Unions.

Employment during December was fair generally, showing little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended December 26th was 14,638, a decrease of 3.3 per cent. on the average for November, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. on the average for December, 1902. The average number employed in December during the six years, 1897-1902, was 16,052.

(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 December 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 Dec. 5th	6,164	2,071	8,235	6,312	14,547
" " " 12th	6,084	2,209	8,293	6,461	14,754
" " " 19th	6,154	2,031	8,185	6,307	14,492
" " " 26th	6,263	2,515	8,778	6,033	14,811
Average for 4 weeks ended Dec. 26th	6,158	2,179	8,337	6,301	14,638
Average for Nov., 1903	6,346	2,336	8,682	6,462	15,144
Average for Dec., 1902	6,304	2,336	8,640	6,053	14,693

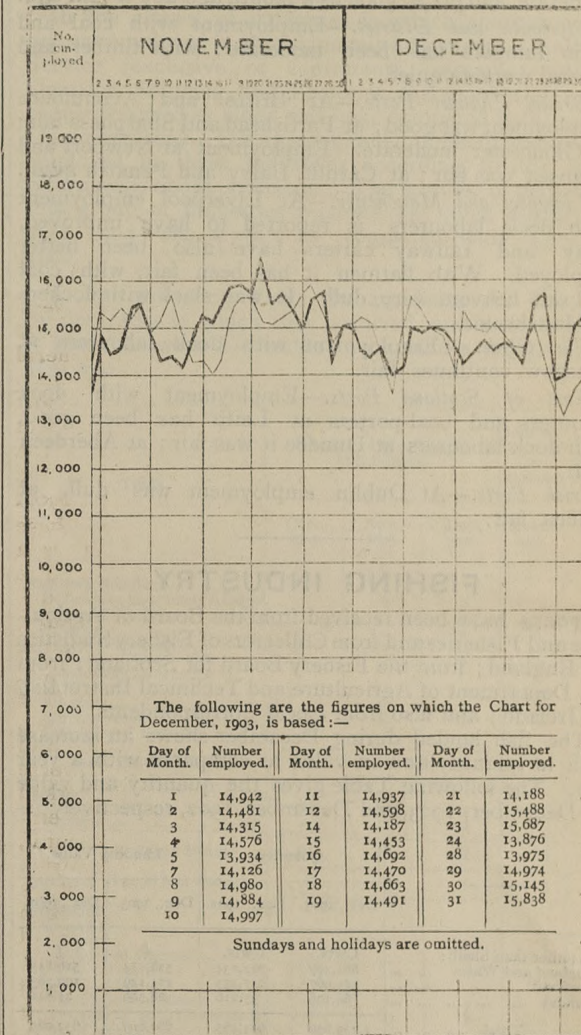
(2) *Daily Fluctuation.*—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is

shown on the chart below. The numbers in December ranged from 13,876 on the 24th to 15,838 on the 31st.

During December, 1902, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 15,618 on the 9th to 11,907 on the 27th.

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 November and December, 1903. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1902, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1903, and the thin curve to 1902.]



Employment was fair with workers in mid-stream, coal porters, winchmen, deal porters, stevedores, lumpers and lightermen. With corn porters it was moderate. With fruit porters in Thames-street it was good, the average daily number employed being 320, as compared with 298 in November, and 320 a year ago.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London, during December, 59 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the ship-owners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 64 per cent. in November, and 59 per cent. a year ago.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—In the Tyne, Blyth and Wear district employment with coal porters and shippers was good. With trimmers and teemers it was fair, with dock and quayside labourers also fair, and about the same as a month ago. On the Tyne employment with watermen was bad. On the Wear it was generally dull with steam packet men. With dockers at Middlesbrough it was good; at Hartlepool bad; with riverside labourers on the Tees it was moderate, showing an improvement compared with a month ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING; SEAMEN.

Hull and Grimsby.—With Hull timber and grain dischargers employment was fair; with dock labourers and coal porters moderate; and with lightermen bad. At Goole and Grimsby with dock labourers it was good. With coal workers employment was good at Goole, slack at Grimsby.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Employment with dock labourers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft was slack. It was good at Ipswich and Parkeston; dull at Harwich.

Southampton.—Employment with dock labourers was moderate, and not so good as a month ago and a year ago.

Plymouth and District.—Employment with coal and grain lumpers has been moderate; with timber and general workers quiet.

Bristol Channel Ports.—At Bristol and Avonmouth employment was good; at Portishead and Sharpness fair; at Gloucester moderate. Employment at Newport and Swansea was fair; at Cardiff, Barry and Penarth quiet.

Liverpool and Manchester.—At Liverpool employment with dock labourers is reported to have improved, quay and railway carters have also been better employed. With flatmen it has been fair, with coal and salt heavers very dull. It was slack with dockers at Manchester.

The Clyde.—Employment with dock labourers at Glasgow continues fair.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment with dock labourers and coal-porters at Leith has been good, with dock labourers at Dundee it was fair; at Aberdeen dull.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin employment was dull, at Belfast fair.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and from Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; and also from Local Correspondents.

The fish landed during December shows an increase both in quantity and in value as compared with a year ago. The following Table gives the quantity and value for December, 1903, and December, 1902, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Landing Value.	
	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1902.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	Cwts. 861,487	Cwts. 722,134	£ 528,114	£ 516,845
Scotland ...	311,967	217,135	124,129	109,383
Ireland ...	66,196	35,216	28,566	25,841
Total ...	1,239,650	974,485	680,809	652,069
Shell Fish ...	—	—	31,205	28,791
Total Value ...	—	—	712,074	680,860

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that good supplies of white fish were landed during the month by the trawl boats.

At Hull, Grimsby and Yarmouth employment has been good on the whole, and better than a year ago. Employment at Lowestoft was fair among fishermen and moderate with fish dock labourers. With both classes it was better than a year ago.

Off Plymouth and the South-western coast fishing was much interfered with by stormy weather, especially about the middle of the month. Employment with fish packers and carters was very irregular.

Employment at Aberdeen was fair with fishermen, and good in other branches. At Peterhead and Macduff it was fair in all branches, and at Fraserburgh it was moderate with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and bad with persons employed in fish curing. At Aberdeen and Peterhead it was rather worse than a month or a year ago, and at Macduff and Fraserburgh it was, on the whole, better. Employment with line fishermen at Arbroath and Montrose was fair.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during December, 32,095 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 981 on the number shipped during December, 1902. 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 year 1903, 431,192* seamen were shipped, of whom 66,835 (or 15.5 per cent.) were foreigners. During the year 1902, 419,345* seamen were shipped, of whom 68,078 (or 16.2 per cent.) were foreigners.

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

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in December, 1903 and 1902, respectively, together with the number* shipped in the year ended December in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in Dec., 1903.*			Total in Dec., 1902.*	Total number* shipped in year ended December,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Dec., 1903.		1903.	1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	54	2,235	2,289	2,892	33,884	34,721
Sunderland ...	...	262	262	307	4,648	4,717
Middlesbrough ...	...	134	134	310	2,261	3,226
Hull ...	...	1,030	1,030	916	13,279	18,312
Grimsby ...	...	41	41	14	1,151	918
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	...	736	736	619	8,671	6,728
Newport, Mon. ...	...	759	759	706	9,534	9,599
Cardiff ...	...	4,156	4,160	3,889	53,662	54,835
Swansea ...	...	471	471	354	6,465	6,277
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	134	11,111	11,245	10,691	154,028	140,285
London ...	155	5,544	5,699	5,661	74,912	76,159
Southampton ...	...	2,125	2,125	2,379	24,188	29,796
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ...	...	462	462	321	6,454	6,248
Glasgow ...	...	2,283	2,339	2,806	33,466	30,008
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	...	126	126	69	1,561	1,657
Belfast ...	...	190	190	230	3,098	2,549
Total, December, 1903	430	31,665	32,095	31,114	431,192	419,345
Ditto, December, 1902	448	30,666	31,114	31,114	419,345	419,345

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Particulars of Piecework Wages (Wearing Apparel).

By Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, it is provided that in any textile factory the occupier shall, for the purpose of enabling each worker who is paid by the piece to compute the total amount of wages payable to him in respect of his work, cause to be published particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work to be done and also particulars of the work to which that rate is to be applied. The Secretary of State has power to apply the provisions of this section to any class of non-textile factories or to any class of workshops, subject to modifications. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order dated December 17th, 1903, to come into force on January 1st, 1904, applying the provisions of the section to factories and workshops in which the making, altering, ornamenting, finishing, and repairing of wearing apparel (other than boots and shoes), and any work incidental thereto, is carried on; and applying them also to outworkers employed in those processes and to the occupiers and contractors by whom they are employed. The section is to be modified so as to read as follows:—

The occupier or contractor shall for the purpose of enabling each worker who is paid by the piece to compute the total amount of wages payable to him in respect of his work, cause to be published particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work to be done, and also particulars of the work to which that rate is to be applied, as follows:—

* 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.
 § Statutory Rules and Orders, 1903, No. 1086 Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1903, was 360, as compared with 366 in the corresponding month of 1902, 461 in 1901, 412 in 1900, and 287 in 1899. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of December in these five years was thus 389, so that the total for the past month was below the average.

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, and Factories, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 325, compared with 338 in December, 1902. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,700,000. The number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed during the year 1903 was 3,732,* as compared with 3,974 in 1902.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between December, 1903, and a month and a year ago.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1903, as compared with	
	Dec., 1903.	Nov., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	2	7	+ 1	- 4
Engine Drivers	...	...	1	...	- 1
Firemen	...	...	2	...	- 2
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	...	...	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	8	10	10	- 2	- 2
Porters	3	5	3	- 2	...
Shunters	4	2	1	+ 2	+ 3
Miscellaneous	15	19	16	+ 4	- 1
Contractors' Servants	1	5	...	- 4	+ 1
Total Railway Service	34	43	40	- 9	- 6
Mines—					
Underground	82	77	72	+ 5	+ 10
Surface	12	11	12	+ 1	...
Total Mines	94	88	84	+ 6	+ 10
Quarries over 20 feet deep	8	7	8	+ 1	...
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	1	5	3	- 4	- 2
Wool and Worsted	1	...	3	+ 1	- 2
Other Textiles	...	...	1	...	- 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	2	1	9	+ 1	- 7
Founding and Conversion of Metals	8	3	7	+ 5	+ 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	1	...	...	+ 1	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building	9	2	15	+ 7	- 6
Wood	4	2	1	+ 2	+ 3
Chemicals, &c.	2	2	11	...	- 9
Other Non-Textile Industries	25	30	36	- 5	- 11
Total Factories	53	48	86	+ 8	- 33
Workshops—					
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	54	65	35	- 11	+ 19
Steam	68	80	75	- 12	- 7
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	3	5	1	- 2	+ 2
Steam	12	5	9	+ 7	+ 3
Total Seamen	137	155	120	- 18	+ 17
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	12	10	14	+ 2	- 2
Warehouses	...	1	3	- 1	- 3
Buildings to which Act applies	15	9	7	+ 6	+ 8
Laundries	1	1	...	...	...
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6	28	21	24	+ 7	+ 4
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	6	9	4	- 3	+ 2
Grand Total	360	368	366	- 8	- 6

* Preliminary figures subject to revision in annual returns.

(a) He shall furnish every worker with particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work done by him either, (i.) by furnishing him with a written or printed statement of such particulars when the work is given out to him; or (ii.) in the case of persons employed in a factory or workshop, by exhibiting such particulars in the factory or workshop on a placard containing no other matter than the rates of wages applicable to the work done in the factory or workshop, and posted in a position where it is easily legible by the workers.

(b) Such particulars of the work to be done by each worker as affect the amount of wages payable to him shall be furnished to him in writing at the time when the work is given out to him.

(c) The particulars, either as to rate of wages or as to work, shall not be expressed by means of symbols. Penalties are provided for failing to comply with the Order; also for disclosing particulars for the purpose of divulging trade secrets, and for soliciting such disclosure. The Order is not to apply to any work to which the Wholesale Tailoring Particulars Order of January 5th, 1903, or the Felt Hat Particulars Order of April 22nd, 1903, apply. The Order dated April 22nd, 1897, relating to Handkerchiefs, Aprons, Pinafores and Blouses is repealed.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE following Table shows the number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus, and arsenic poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act, during the undermentioned periods:—

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.	
	Dec. 1903.	Year ended Dec. 1903.	Dec. 1903.	Year ended Dec. 1903.
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals	5	37	28	—
Brass Works	2	15	5	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	1	11	12	—
Plumbing and Soldering	4	26	23	—
Printing	...	13	19	1
File Cutting	...	24	27	2
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	1	14	11	—
Hollow-ware	...	...	...	...
White Lead Works	7	109	143	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	...	6	13	—
China and Earthenware*	3	97	87	—
Litho-transfer Works	...	3	2	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	...	4	3	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	1	4	3	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	...	2	16	—
Paint and Colour Works	...	7	39	46
Coach Making	...	6	74	63
Shipbuilding	...	1	24	15
Paint used in other Industries	...	3	46	44
Other Industries	...	3	40	64
Total Lead Poisoning†	46	614	629	1
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	...	3	1	—
Furriers' processes	...	1	2	—
Other Industries	...	4	5	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	...	8	8	...
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Lucifer Match Works	...	...	1	—
Other Industries	...	...	...	2
Total Phosphorus Poisoning	...	...	1	2
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	...	3	5	—
Other Industries	...	2	...	...
Total Arsenic Poisoning	...	5	5	...
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting	...	1	5	3
Wool Combing	...	...	15	9
Handling of Horsehair	...	1	6	10
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	...	3	13	11
Other Industries	...	...	8	5
Total Anthrax	...	5	47	38

* The 3 cases in the china and earthenware industry in December, 1903, include one affecting a female.
 † House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 16 cases of lead poisoning (including 3 deaths) were reported during December among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the year 1903 was 201 (including 29 deaths), and for the year 1902, 179 (including 32 deaths).

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Ten new disputes began in December, 1903, compared with 30 in November, and 15 in the corresponding month of last year. By the 10 disputes 2,401 workpeople were directly and 226 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 7,304 workpeople involved in trade disputes during December, 1903, compared with 13,763 in November, 1903, and 15,830 in December, 1902.

New Disputes in December, 1903.—In the following Table the new disputes in December are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining	4	1,991	...	1,991
Metal and Shipbuilding... ..	2	111	10	121
Textile	4	299	216	515
Total, December, 1903	10	2,401	226	2,627
<i>Ditto, November, 1903</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>6,845</i>	<i>3,370</i>	<i>10,215</i>
<i>Ditto, December, 1902</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>2,215</i>	<i>1,713</i>	<i>3,928</i>

Causes.—Of the ten new disputes, five arose on demands for increased wages, one on objection to

reduction, one on other wages questions, and three from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in December in the case of eight new disputes, affecting 2,458 workpeople, and eleven old disputes, affecting 1,293 workpeople.

Of these nineteen new and old disputes, five, involving 922 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; six, involving 1,466 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and eight, involving 1,363 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in December of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 30,000 working days. In addition, 95,000 working days were lost in December, owing to disputes that began before that month and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 125,000 working days, which compares with 108,400 in the previous month, and 309,000 in the corresponding month of 1902.

Summary for the Year 1903.—See article on page 3.

Principal Disputes.—Particulars of the two principal disputes which began or were settled during December are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during December 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 1903.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.†
		Directly.	Indirectly.†				
Colliers and Daymen ...	Risca	1,186	...	3 Dec.	12	Because notice of dismissal had been given to a timberman	Notice to take effect.
Cardroom Operatives and Other Workpeople	Dukinfield ...	90	210	3 Dec.	3	For payment by list recognised in the district	Compromise effected.

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

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during December was 16,623, as compared with 19,655 in December, 1902. During the year 1903* the number of passengers was 448,739, being 61,960 (or 16.0 per cent.) more than in 1902.

British and Irish.—Of the 16,623 passengers in December, 8,963 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 28 compared with a year ago. For the year 1903* the total number was 261,365, as compared with 205,662 in the year 1902, an increase of 55,703 (or 27.1 per cent.) which is more than accounted for by an increase of 35,002 passengers to British North America, of 15,034 to the United States, and of 6,866 to British South Africa.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Year ended	
			Dec., 1903.*	Dec., 1902.
British Empire:				
British North America	1,237	888	61,295	26,293
Australia and New Zealand	917	976	12,428	14,345
British South Africa	2,017	2,619	50,072	43,206
India (including Ceylon)	408	325	4,497	4,291
Other British Colonies and Possessions	317	345	4,171	4,058
Total, British Empire	4,896	5,153	132,463	92,223
Foreign Countries:				
United States	3,625	3,400	123,537	108,498
Other Foreign Countries	442	382	5,370	4,941
Total, Foreign Countries	4,067	3,782	128,907	113,439
Grand Total	8,963	8,935	261,365	205,662

Foreign.—The remainder of the 16,623 passengers in December, viz., 7,660, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 3,060 less than in December, 1902. For the year 1903* the number of such passengers was 187,374, of whom 128,144 were bound for the United States, 38,418 for British North America, and 12,571 for British South Africa. In 1902 the number was 181,117, of whom 123,601 were bound for the United States, 41,307 for British North America, and 8,680 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During December, 8,919 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 3,127 were stated in the Alien Lists to be *en route* to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 2,472 as compared with December, 1902. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,887 (exclusive of seamen), or 192 more than a year ago. For the year 1903* the number of aliens *en route* to America or elsewhere was 124,545, and the number not so stated 69,162 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 118,478 and 66,471 respectively in 1902. The figures for December, 1903 and 1902, and also for each of the years 1903 and 1902, are as follows:—

	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1902.	Total for year ended	
			Dec., 1903.*	Dec., 1902.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be <i>en route</i> to other countries	905	830	13,410	15,062
Seamen	4,887	4,695	69,162	66,471
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be <i>en route</i> to other countries	3,127	5,599	124,545	118,478
Gross Total	8,919	11,124	207,117	200,011

* The figures for the year 1903 are subject to correction in the annual returns.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

Changes Reported in December.

The net effect of all the changes reported in December was a decrease of £18,515 per week, as compared with a decrease of £6,803 per week in November, and an increase of £363 per week in December 1902. The number of workpeople affected was 368,440, of whom 1,025 received advances amounting to £51 per week, and 367,415 sustained decreases amounting to £18,566 per week. The total number affected in November was 153,585, and in December, 1902, 20,448.

The important changes were decreases affecting 345,590 coal miners in the Federated Districts and Bristol and Somerset, who sustained a reduction of 5 per cent on

"standard" rates, and 13,550 workpeople employed in shipyards on the North East Coast, whose wages were reduced by 5 per cent.

Three changes affecting 286,090 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and three changes affecting 6,900 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 75,450 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary of Changes in 1903.

See Article on p. 3.

DETAILS OF CHANGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1903.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	
<i>Increases—Nil.</i> MINING. <i>7 Decreases—345,789 Workpeople.</i>					
Federated Districts†	Coal Hewers and other underground workers	1903 Dec.	...	270,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving Hewers' wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
South Staffs. and East Worcester (parts of)	Surface workers	Dec.	...	57,000	Decrease of from 2½ to 5 per cent. on standard rates.
	Coal Hewers and other underground and surface workers	Dec.	...	12,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Bristol District ...	Coal Hewers and other underground and surface workers	Dec.	...	2,500	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving Hewers' wages 35 per cent. above the standard.†
Somerset (Radstock District)	Coal Hewers and other underground workers	Dec.	...	4,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	Banksmen and Screenmen	Dec.	...	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Cumberland (one firm)	Enginemen and Stokers	Dec.	...	90	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	Iron-ore miners	19 Dec.	...	149	Decrease of 3d. per day:—Miners (5s. to 4s. 9d.), underground labourers (4s. 6d. to 4s. 3d.).

<i>Increases—Nil.</i> IRON AND STEEL TRADES. <i>4 Decreases—7,031 Workpeople.</i>					
Barrow-in-Furness	Rail, Wire and Hoop Millmen	Dec.	...	650	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 11½ per cent. above the standard.
Leeds	Blastfurnacemen	19 Dec. 1904	...	131	Decrease of 5 per cent.
South Wales and Mon.	Blastfurnacemen	1 Jan.	...	1,250	Decrease of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 8 per cent. above the standard
	Iron and Steel Workers	1 Jan.	...	5,000	Decrease of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 8 per cent. above the standard of March 1895.

<i>Increases—Nil.</i> SHIPBUILDING. <i>4 Decreases—13,550 Workpeople.</i>					
North-East Coast	Angle-iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers and Holders-up	1904 6 Jan.	...	10,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Ship-smiths	6 Jan.	...	800	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Drillers and Hole Cutters	6 Jan.	...	1,750	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Shipyard Labourers	6 Jan.	...	1,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.

<i>Increases—Nil.</i> TEXTILE TRADES. <i>1 Decrease—68 Workpeople.</i>					
Littleborough ...	Hosiery Workers	1903 17 Nov.	...	65	Reduction in piece rates stated to be equal to a decrease of from 5 to 6 per cent. in weekly wages.

<i>2 Increases—389 Workpeople.</i> OTHER TRADES. <i>2 Decreases—1,080 Workpeople.</i>					
St. Helens	Sheet Glass Makers	Nov.	...	890	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Ayr	Tailors	7 Dec.	...	140	Decrease of 3d. per hour in "log" rates (5d., 5½d. and 5¾d. to 4½d., 5d. and 5½d.).
Coatbridge	Bakers	23 Nov.	...	44	Advance of 1s. per week (3s. to 3s. 4s.) in minimum weekly wages.
Dundee	Bakers	28 Dec.	...	345	Advance of 1s. per week in minimum wage. Minimum wage, after change, for loaf bread bakers, 31s. per week.

<i>1 Increase—636 Workpeople.</i> EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. <i>Decreases—Nil.</i>					
Leeds	Scavengers, Channellers, Ashpit Cleaners, &c.	11 Dec.	...	636	Advance of 1s. per week.

Note.—Seamen.—At Cardiff, Barry and Penarth, the average monthly rates at which able seamen and firemen and trimmers were shipped during December, showed a further decline, but they were still higher than those prevailing before the recent advance. See LABOUR GAZETTE, for October (p. 293).
* 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.
† Includes Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, parts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire, Shropshire and North Wales.
‡ At certain collieries the percentage above standard after change was 30.

No changes in Hours of Labour were reported during December.

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 December.

The trade returns for December, 1903, show an increase in the value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1902, of the Imports into the United Kingdom, of the Exports of British produce, and also of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in December, 1903, was £52,319,618, an increase of £4,148,990 or 8.6 per cent., as compared with those in December, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £30,433,004, showing an increase of £750,029. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £403,970, or 1.7 per cent., as compared with December, 1902, and those of foreign and Colonial merchandise an increase of £346,059, or 6.3 per cent.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for December, 1903, as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month ended 31st December			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with	
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1901.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco	19,701,240	19,062,590	20,968,847	+1,906,257	+1,267,607
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	17,133,545	18,360,134	20,028,752	+1,668,618	+2,895,207
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	9,755,201	10,590,872	11,186,294	+595,422	+1,431,093
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	180,111	157,032	135,725	-21,307	-44,386
Total value of Imports	46,770,097	48,170,628	52,319,618	+4,148,990	+5,549,521

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of December, 1903, as compared with the corresponding period of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month ended 31st December			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with	
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1901.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,316,764	1,480,337	1,357,787	-122,550	-41,023
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	2,841,354	2,989,525	2,935,790	-53,735	-94,436
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	19,751,448	19,309,066	19,812,313	+503,247	+60,865
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	404,211	429,605	506,613	+77,008	+102,402
Total value of Exports of British produce	24,313,777	24,208,533	24,612,503	+403,970	+298,726

The Year's Trade—1903.

The total aggregate value of the trade of the United Kingdom for the year 1903, as compared with 1902 and 1901, was as follows:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.
Imports*	£ 46,770,097	£ 48,170,628	£ 52,319,618
Exports†	£ 24,313,777	£ 24,208,533	£ 24,612,503
Total Exports	£ 34,786,400	£ 34,923,000	£ 36,447,000

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 ended December, 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.

amounted to 3,434,198 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,840,481 tons, as against 3,220,357 tons entered and 3,684,640 tons cleared in the month of December, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during December, 1903, amounted to 2,577,729 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,546,471 tons, as against 2,543,402 tons entered, and 2,533,643 tons cleared in December, 1902.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended January 2nd amounted to £6,734,999, an increase of £41,362 (or 0.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,994,763, an increase of £15,980, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,740,236, an increase of £25,382. For the 52 weeks ended 26th December, 1903, the total receipts amounted to £93,723,419, an increase of £299,357 (or 0.3 per cent.) as compared with 1902. The receipts from passenger traffic amounted to £42,810,598, an increase of £301,178, and those from goods and mineral traffic to £50,912,821, a decrease of £1,821.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 400, being 78 more than in December, 1902, 64 more than in December, 1901, 71 less than in December, 1900, and 54 less than in December, 1899. The total number for the year was 4,258 in 1903, 4,196 in 1902, 4,232 in 1901, 4,386 in 1900, and 4,121 in 1899.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 515 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 459 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 164 persons, of whom 74 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 420 to 320, and the number of servants applying fell from 398 to 240; the number permanently engaged fell from 77 to 50. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., fell from 53 to 21, and the number requiring such situations fell from 92 to 56; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 18, compared with 49 in November.

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 seven Bureaux during December compared with a month and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN DECEMBER.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C. ...	56	87	26	3
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 21, Berners-street, W. ...	22	20	7	22
Y.W.C.A.— 26, George-street (1) ...	316	262	43	19
Handover-square, W. (2) ...	28	81	13	12
Other Bureaux ...	37	64	13	6
Total of 7 Bureaux ...	459	515	102	62
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc. ...	16	40	4	—
Shop Assistants ...	1	11	1	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ...	21	56	7	11
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ...	33	54	14	23
Apprentices and Learners ...	15	9	9	—
Domestic Servants ...	320	240	50	24
Miscellaneous ...	53	105	17	4
Total Number in Dec., 1903 ...	459	515	102	62
Total Number in Nov., 1903 ...	589	779	135	70
Total Number in Dec., 1902 ...	517	532	101	79

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

At six Bureaux, which were in operation in 1902 and 1903, 2,694 fresh applications for work were registered during December, 1903, as compared with 1,987 during December, 1902. These Bureaux found work for 1,811 persons during December, 1903, of whom 1,797 were engaged by private employers. In December, 1902, work was found for 842 persons, 836 of whom were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of December, 1903, was 1,024, as compared with 1,015 a year ago.

Seven other Bureaux, not in operation a year ago, furnished returns.

Altogether, at the thirteen Bureaux included in the Table below, 3,748 fresh applications for work were registered during December, 1903, and work was found for 2,234 persons. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 2,877, composed of 2,250 men and boys, and 627 women and girls.

(I.) Work done in December.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau.		Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
	Dec. 1903.	Dec. 1902.	Dec. 1903.	Dec. 1902.	Dec. 1903.	Dec. 1902.	Dec. 1903.	Dec. 1902.	Dec. 1903.	
	London.									
Battersea ... (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	118	139	31	26	30	26	1	...	...
Salvation Army ... (Whitechapel Rd., E.)	1,790	1,131	1,528	540	1,473	424	53*	116*	...	
Provincial.										
Ipswich ... (Fore Street)	70	39	39	33	21	18	...	...	...
Plymouth ... (Basket Street)	144	155	80	90	76	87	...	...	...
Liverpool ... (Dale Street)	132	140	...	4	...	1	...	...	...
Glasgow ... (158, George Street)	431	383	637	549	142	164	13	6	...	
Total of 6 Bureaux ...	2,694	1,987	2,315	1,242	1,744	720	53*	116*	14	
London.										
St. Pancras ... (Crowndale Rd., N.W.)	144	...	28	...	34	...	18	...	...
Finsbury ... (Rosebery Av., E.C.)	215	...	120	...	23	...	...	...	...
Southwark ... (Borough Rd., S.E.)	151	...	304	...	104	...	...	...	...
Westminster ... (Caxton Hall, S.W.)	195	...	51	...	28	...	...	...	...
Hammersmith ... (St. George Lane, W.)	31	...	10	...	9	...	...	...	...
Kensington ... (Lancaster Rd., W.)	193	...	16	...	49	...	...	...	...
Provincial.										
Southampton ... (23, High Street)	125	...	174	...	25	...	133	...	...
Total of 13 Bureaux	3,748	...	3,018	...	2,016	...	53*	...	165	

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during December.

	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men:—			
Building Trades ...	22	28	50
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	24	16	40
Porters and Messengers ...	31	34	65
Bill Distributors, &c. ...	...	1,562	1,562
General Labourers ...	12	...	12
Other Occupations ...	32	26	58
Lads and Boys ...	44	17	61
Women and Girls:—			
Domestic Servants ...	55	24	79
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ...	15	63	78
Other Occupations ...	7	4	11
Total engaged by Private Employers ...	242	1,774	2,016
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads and Boys ...	3	152	155
Women and Girls ...	10	...	10
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.			
Men ...	...	53	53
Grand Total for 13 Bureaux ...	255	1,979	2,234

* Engaged by Salvation Army. † Bureau was not in operation in December, 1902.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in December was 370,469, corresponding to a rate of 219 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with November, there was an increase of 11,180 in the number relieved, and of 7 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Every district shows an increased rate. The greatest increases occur in the Leicester district (27 per 10,000), and in the West Ham district (13).

Compared with December, 1902, the number of persons relieved has increased by 9,407, and the rate per 10,000 by 4. Increases are shown in twenty-three districts, the rate of increase being greatest in Leicester (41 per 10,000), North Staffordshire (23), Nottingham (17), East London and Newcastle (14 each), and Bolton (12). Decreases are shown in eleven districts, the most marked falling off being in the Cork, Waterford and Limerick, and Stockton and Tees districts (25 per 10,000 each), Central London (17), Galway (15), and Hull (12).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of December, 1903.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	11,740	3,536	15,276	187	+ 8	+ 6
North District ...	15,783	9,012	24,795	233	+ 9	...
Central District ...	7,229	2,988	10,217	501	+ 5	- 17
East District ...	14,566	5,955	20,521	286	+ 8	+ 14
South District ...	24,287	19,469	43,756	244	+ 6	- 6
Total Metropolis ...	73,605	40,970	114,575	249	+ 7	...
West Ham ...	3,291	10,389	13,680	219	+ 13	- 7
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	2,034	4,811	6,845	164	+ 5	+ 14
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,198	3,845	5,043	239	+ 4	- 25
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,232	8,844	13,076	174	+ 5	+ 12
Wigan District ...	2,025	6,176	8,201	210	+ 1	- 2
Manchester District	9,889	8,882	18,771	204	+ 8	+ 7
Liverpool District ...	11,610	8,721	20,331	203	+ 5	+ 6
Bradford District ...	1,708	4,950	6,658	129	+ 8	+ 7
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,267	3,780	5,047	139	+ 3	+ 2
Leeds District ...	2,275	6,199	8,474	183	+ 4	+ 3
Barnsley District ...	706	2,873	3,579	153	+ 2	- 1
Sheffield District ...	3,211	3,660	6,871	163	+ 7	+ 9
Hull District ...	1,555	5,078	6,633	251	+ 4	- 12
North Staffordshire	2,157	7,514	9,671	265	+ 7	+ 23
Nottingham District	2,069	5,439	7,508	189	+ 4	+ 17
Leicester District ...	4,398	4,955	9,353	249	+ 27	+ 41
Wolverhampton District ...	3,553	12,070	15,623	262	+ 7	- 3
Birmingham District	5,052	3,389	8,441	149	+ 7	+ 4
Bristol District ...	2,819	6,905	9,724	257	+ 6	+ 4
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,877	7,741	9,618	267	+ 6	+ 3
Total "Other Districts" ...	60,638	113,812	174,450	200	+ 6	+ 6
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	4,021	17,179	21,200	235	+ 8	+ 8
Paisley & Greenock District ...	724	2,471	3,195	186	+ 1	+ 3
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,816	5,597	7,413	187	+ 4	+ 3
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	1,081	2,882	3,963	201	+ 5	+ 3
Aberdeen ...	625	2,875	3,500	219	+ 5	+ 8
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	372	1,304	1,676	182	+ 6	+ 1
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,539	32,218	41,757	214	+ 6	+ 6
IRELAND.†						
Belfast District ...	7,195	4,908	12,103	314	+ 7	- 2
Belfast District ...	3,646	215	3,861	101	+ 5	+ 6
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,551	4,797	9,348	380	+ 4	- 25
Galway District ...	387	368	755	193	+ 5	- 15
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	15,779	10,228	26,007	247	+ 5	- 6

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in December was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 23; under the Friendly Societies Act, 64 (including 28 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 1; in all 92.

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

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—4, viz., Old and New Baston and Wood Pits Miners' Trade Union and Checkweigh Fund Branch of the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation, Ram's Head Hotel, Haydock, St. Helens; United Bakers' Protection Society, Assize Courts Hotel, Great Ducie-street, Manchester; Tyne Watermen's Association, 15, Baltic-buildings, Broad Chare, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Congleton Association of Trimming Weavers, Kinsey-street Schoolroom, Congleton. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—*Co-operative Societies, mainly for Distribution.*—5, viz., Cobham and District Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Anyards-road, Cobham; Fleet and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Maiwand, Reading-road, Fleet, Hants; Rochdale and District Potato Chippers' Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Watts-street, Rochdale; Ottery St. Mary and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, Ottery St. Mary; Kemble and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, Kemble, Cirencester. *Co-operative Societies, mainly for Production.*—3, viz., Mosaic Workers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 33, Gough-street, Mount Pleasant London, W.C.; Garden City Press Limited, Bancroft, Hitchin; Northants Clubs Productive Society Limited, Gosham-road, Irthlingborough, Higham Ferrers. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—2, Tiverton and District Poultry Soc., Ltd., Higher Railway Yard, Tiverton; Bungay and District Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Abbey Farm, Aldburgh, Harleston. *Miscellaneous Societies.*—Working Men's Clubs, 2; Banks, 1; others, 1.—*Scotland.*—*Miscellaneous Societies.* 2. *Ireland.*—*Co-operative Society for Distribution.*—1, viz., Irish Provincial Co-op., 10, Newtownards-road, Belfast. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—6, Tyhollan and Middletown Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Tyhollan, co. Monaghan; Courtown Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Courtown, Kells, co. Meath; Newport Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Newport, co. Tipperary; Macosquin Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Macosquin, co. Londonderry; Annaclone Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Annaclone, co. Down; Curlough Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Curlough, co. Cavan.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—27, viz., Maescywmmer Pub. Library and Inst., Maescywmmer, Cardiff; Norton Canes Social Working Men's Club and Institute, Norton Canes, Stafford; Cannock Working Men's Social Club and Institute, Cannock, Stafford; Thorne Excelsior Temperance Brass Band Club, Thorne, Doncaster; Llanbradach Workmen's Social Club and Institute, Llanbradach, Cardiff; Chesterfield and District Permanent Money Society, Chesterfield; City of Liverpool Permanent Money Society, Liverpool; Derby Road Loan Society, Loughborough; Borough of Leicester Permanent Money Society, Leicester; Bethnal Green P.S.A. Mutual Investment and Loan Society, Bethnal Green Road, E.; Coventry and District Permanent Money Society, Coventry; Upper Grounds Permanent Money Society, Aston, Birmingham; Loyal Permanent Money Soc., Birmingham; Pentre Brass Band Musical Inst., Pentre, Glam.; North Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil, Dowlais and District Permanent Money Soc., Merthyr Tydfil; Loyal Victory Juvenile Oddfellows M.U. Friendly Soc., Luton; Welcome Traveller of the Peak Juvenile Oddfellows Friendly Soc., Bradwell, Sheffield; South Lancashire Tramways Company Provident Soc., Howe Bridge, Atherton; North Finchley Juvenile Society of Oddfellows, North Finchley, N.; Waldo Sick and Benefit Soc., Willesden, N.W.; Graham Bros. & Co.'s Collieries (near Tredegar) Sick and Accidental Fund, Tredegar; Why Not United Order of Oddfellows Friendly Soc., Perry Barr, Birmingham; Pleasure Gardens Sick and Dividend Soc., Winson Green, Birmingham; New Hope Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Willis United Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Denbigh Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Arthur Baldwin Juvenile Oddfellows Friendly Soc., Ombersley, Droitwich. *Scotland.*—1, viz., State Collecting Soc., Glasgow. *Ireland.*—8, viz., Pembroke Mutual Benefit, Ballsbridge; Irish National Theatre Soc., Dublin; Langfield Agric. Bank, Drumquin, co. Tyrone; Ballinlohane Agric. Bank, Ballinlohane, co. Limerick; Louisbury Agric. Bank, Louisbury, co. Mayo; Courtown Agric. Bank, Courtown, Kells, co. Meath; Dysart Agric. Bank, Ballymartin N.S., Dysart, co. Roscommon; Ballinaglera Agric. Bank, Tullyvacan, co. Leitrim.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in December was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 13; under the Industrial

and Provident Societies Acts, 5; under the Friendly Societies Act, 57 (including 12 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 19; in all 94.

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.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Building Societies. Eighth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies on Building Societies, 1902. Part II., Abstract of Accounts. Contains Abstract of Annual Accounts and Balance Sheets, Special Reports of Auditors, Lists of Societies Dissolved, &c., of Incorporated and Unincorporated Societies in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland. [H.C. 65-I, pp. 186, price 1s. 7d.]

Alien Immigration, Royal Commission on. Volume III. Appendix to Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 1741-I; pp. 98, price 1s.]

Census of England and Wales (1901). Index to Population Tables in the County Volumes. [Cd. 1826, pp. 285, price 2s. 5d.]

Deaths from Starvation or Privation (London). Return for 1902. [H.C. 279, 1903, pp. 11, price 1½d.]

Railway Accidents. Returns for the six months ended June, 1903. [Cd. 1733, pp. 285, price 1s. 3d.]

Arsenical Poisoning from the Consumption of Beer and Other Articles of Food or Drink, Royal Commission on. Final Report, [Cd. 1848, pp. 52, price 5½d.] Minutes of Evidence and Appendices, Volumes I. and II. [Cd. 1845 and 1869, pp. 379 and 377, price 4s. and 3s. 11d.]

Special Reports on Educational Subjects. Supplement to Volume VIII. Report on the School Training and Early Employment of Lancashire Children. [Cd. 1867, pp. 51, price 3d.]

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.

Queensland.

Eighteenth Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, Building Societies and Trade Unions, 1902-3. [Brisbane: pp. 34.]

Australia and New Zealand.

Statistics of the Six States of Australia and New Zealand, 1861 to 1902. [T. A. Coghlan, Sydney, N.S.W.: pp. 94.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

German Empire.

Report on the Municipal Administration of Stuttgart, 1899-1901. (Stuttgart Statistical Office), pp. 275. Stuttgart: Hoffmannsche Buchdruckerei Felix Kraus, 1903. Contains reports as to the working of the Industrial Court, the Municipal Labour Registry, Poor Law Administration, Workmen's Insurance and Savings Banks in Stuttgart for the three years 1899-1901.

Report of Proceedings of Council for Labour Statistics, November 10th, 1903, pp. 80. Berlin, 1903.

Austria.

Statistics of Styria, Part III. (Provincial Statistical Department), pp. x. + 114. Price 1s. 8d. Graz: Leuschner und Lubenskys Universitäts-Buchhandlung, 1903. Includes information relating to wages of agricultural labourers and farm servants in Styria.

Italy.

Proceedings of the Higher Council of Labour, 1st Session, 1903. (Italian Labour Department), pp. 101. Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero & Co., via Umbria, 1903.

Report of Proceedings of Council for Thrift, 2nd Session, 1902. (Ministry of Agriculture, &c.), pp. 462. Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero & Co., via Umbria, 1903.

Holland.

Report upon Social Condition of Commercial and Shop Employees in Amsterdam. Part I., pp. 46. Price 6d. Amsterdam: Johannes Müller, 1903.

Statistical Abstract of Holland, 1902. (Central Statistical Bureau), pp. xxxi. + 302. The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante, 1903. Includes statistics of Factory Inspection, Chambers of Labour, Prices of Commodities, Poor Law Administration and Savings Banks.

Norway.

Official Statistics of Norway: Report on Census of December 3rd, 1900, Part II., pp. 224. Christiania, 1903.

Sweden.

Official Statistics of Sweden. Statistics of Savings Banks, 1902. pp. xxxvii. + 35. Stockholm: K. L. Beckmans Boktryckeri, 1903.

Russian Empire (Finland).

Official Statistics of Finland: Statistics of Savings Banks, 1902, pp. xxxvi. + 36. Helsingfors: Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri, 1903.

United States of America.

Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics. 21st Annual Coal Report for year ended 1st July, 1902. Contains statistics of the number employed, output, days worked, accidents, rates of wages, and earnings. With this is incorporated the 4th Annual Report on Illinois Free Employment Offices, for year ended 1st October, 1902. (See notice of latter on page 8). pp. 319 + 75. Springfield, Illinois: Philipps Brothers, 1903.

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, Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Norway, Sweden, United States of America (Federal Government), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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