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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

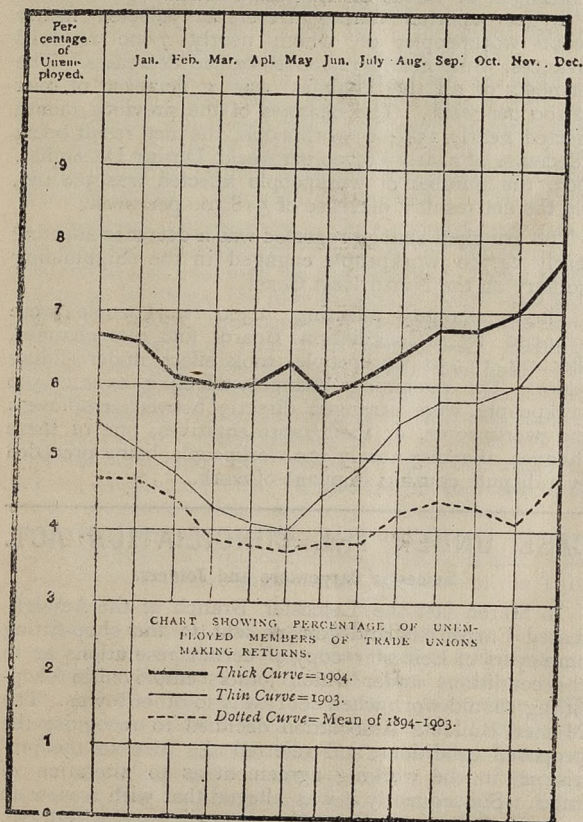


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1904.
— Thin Curve = 1903.
- - - Dotted Curve = Mean of 1894-1903.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[Based on 4,613 returns, viz.: 3,058 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,502 from Trade Unions, and 83 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in December was dull on the whole, and rather worse than a month ago. A further decline took place in the engineering, printing, furnishing and building trades. On the other hand some improvement took place in the coal trade, and also in the iron and steel, shipbuilding and worsted trades.

As compared with a year ago there was some considerable improvement in the cotton, woollen, worsted and tinplate industries, and a decline in the building, engineering, furnishing and printing trades.

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 272 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 573,726 making returns, 43,435 (or 7.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 7.0 per cent. at the end of November, and 6.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1903.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry was fair, and showed some improvement as compared with November. It was

rather worse than a year ago. At collieries employing 529,498 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 5.30 days per week during the four weeks ended December 24th, as compared with 5.14 in November, and 5.40 in December, 1903. At pits for which returns have been received for each of the three months the number employed in December was about the same as in November, but slightly larger than in December, 1903.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good. At the 125 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 24th December was 5.87, as compared with 5.86 in November, and 5.77 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed was 0.9 per cent. greater than in November, and 0.8 per cent. greater than in the corresponding month a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry in December showed little change as compared with the preceding month. There was a slight improvement as compared with December, 1903, in which month the number of furnaces in blast was considerably reduced. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that 303 furnaces, employing about 21,500 workpeople, were in blast at the end of December, compared with 304 in November, and 301 in December, 1903.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment in this industry showed an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. Returns relating to 244 works, employing 84,947 workpeople, showed an increase in the total volume of employment during the week ended December 17th of 5.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding week of December, 1903.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was much better than a year ago. At the end of December 397 mills were working, as compared with 400 at the end of November, and 340 at the end of December, 1903.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in this industry was dull generally; it was slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members who were unemployed at the end of December was 8.3, as compared with 7.8 at the end of November, and 7.7 at the end of December, 1903.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment in this industry continued bad, but was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members who were unemployed at the end of December was 16.4, as compared with 16.6 at the end of November, 1904, and 16.7 at the end of December, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment generally was dull. It was, on the whole, rather worse than in November, and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 11.5 at the end of December, compared with 10.1 at the end of November, and 7.9 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 10.0 at the end of December, compared with 10.2 at the end of November, and 7.7 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members (exclusive of coopers) at the end of December was 10.5, compared with 8.4 in November, and 8.9 a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment in

December was worse than at the end of November, 1904, and December, 1903. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 4.8, as compared with 3.4 in November and 3.5 in December, 1903.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade remained fairly good. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of November was 3.1, the same percentage as a month and year ago.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continued bad on the whole. In the *Pottery, Brick and Tile* trades it was bad.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued good and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,615 workpeople in *preparing and spinning* showed that 3.0 per cent. were in mills working short time during the week before Christmas, compared with 2.5 per cent. during the last week in November, and 22.9 per cent. a year ago. Of the spindles 98.7 per cent. were working, compared with 98.6 in November and 99.2 a year ago. Of the 96,555 workpeople in *weaving and other departments* 2.1 per cent. were in factories working short time, compared with 1.8 per cent. in November, and 16.3 per cent. a year ago. Of the looms 97.7 per cent. were working, compared with 96.8 per cent. in November, and 94.4 per cent. a year ago.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—Employment in the *Woollen* trade continued good, and was much better than a year ago. In the *Worsted* trade employment showed a slight improvement, compared with a month ago, and a greater one compared with a year ago, but was still bad. Returns received from woollen and worsted firms, employing 49,639 workpeople, and paying £37,141 in wages, for the week before Christmas showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in November, and an increase of 10.6 per cent. compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade was quiet in England, and fairly good in Scotland. In the *Jute* trade it was good. In the *Flax* trade it continued slack in Scotland, and moderate in Ireland.

Employment in the *bespoke and ready-made* branches of the *Tailoring* trade was bad and the same as a year ago.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trades was slack, and showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago with silk hatters, and about the same with felt hatters. In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 14.0, compared with 13.4 in November and 10.3 a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade in the corresponding periods the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed were 4.0, 2.3, and 4.4.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued bad. Returns from 453 firms, employing 57,736 workpeople, and paying £53,724 in wages during the week before Christmas showed an increase of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in November, and an increase of 10.2 per cent. compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment in these trades continued bad generally, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of December was 11.9, compared with 11.2 in November, and 8.3 in December, 1903.

Agricultural Labourers were fairly well employed during December, although work on the land was occasionally interrupted by unfavourable weather, causing temporary loss of employment to some day labourers. The supply of these men was generally sufficient, and men for permanent situations were somewhat less difficult to obtain.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during December remained moderate on the whole. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended December 31st was 12,854, a decrease of 4.8 per cent. on the average for November, and of 12.2 per cent. on that for December, 1903. This decline was largely due to the fog in the third week of the month.

* The comparison with a year ago is, however, to some extent affected by Christmas Day falling on Friday in 1903 and on Sunday in 1904.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during December, 1904, was 3,727, compared with 7,236 in November, 1904, and 7,304 in December, 1903. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 46,900 working days, as compared with 67,200 in the previous month, and 125,000 in December, 1903. Six disputes began in December, involving 1,174 workpeople, compared with 25 in November, and 10 in December, 1903. Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 6 disputes, new and old, affecting 1,835 persons. Of these disputes, three, involving 1,096 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; one, involving 200 persons, was settled in favour of the employer, and two, involving 539 persons, were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during December affected nearly 39,600 workpeople, of whom nearly 7,600 received advances, while nearly 32,000 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of over £2,100 per week. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 154,400 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of nearly £6,700 per week. During December, 1903, the number of workpeople affected was 368,400, and the net result a decrease of £18,500 per week.

The principal change reported was a decrease affecting nearly 24,700 workpeople engaged in the shipbuilding industry on the North East Coast.

Three changes affecting 2,300 workpeople were arranged by a Conciliation Board, and five changes, affecting 13,750 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting over 23,500 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting nearly 300 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Leicester Carpenters and Joiners.

In March last the Leicester Branch of the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners sent to the shop-fitting employers of Leicester copy of certain resolutions as to the conditions under which joiners employed in shop-fitting should work when sent away to other towns. The Master Builders' Association declined to recognise the proposed conditions, and referred the men to the provisions in the working agreement as to alteration of rules. Subsequently it was alleged that with a view to enforce the proposed conditions men were withdrawn from certain shops in contravention of the working rules, and a lock-out was threatened by the Master Builders. Ultimately, however, the Master Builders' Association and the Carpenters and Joiners' Branch applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of a Conciliator, and Mr. Askwith was appointed accordingly (see GAZETTE for December, p. 357).

Mr. Askwith heard the parties on December 10th. He suggested, that with a view to an opportunity being afforded for the discussion of new rules as to outside shop-fittings, the employers should, in the circumstances of this case, for this occasion only, waive the conditions of dates of notice for new rules, and that they should allow any proposed new rules, if notice is given of them by the men prior to January 18th, with time for counter proposals up to February 7th, to be discussed at any meetings held in accordance with the rules as if notice had been given as provided in the existing rules.

In his report Mr. Askwith refers to the importance of the question of outside regulations and rules of bodies other than the parties to the working rules, and states that he considers the subject ought to be referred by both parties to the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners and to the National Federation of Master Builders with a view to those bodies conferring together, if they desire to avoid lock-outs and strikes, with the object of establishing some definite understanding upon the subject.

RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

INQUIRIES were recently addressed by the Labour Department to the Town Clerks of all the London Boroughs and the principal Provincial towns, and to the Local Correspondents of the Department, on the subject of exceptional distress due to unemployment, and the measures taken for the relief of the unemployed. The returns received cover 32 Boroughs and Urban Districts in London and neighbourhood, and 89 Provincial towns.*

In the Metropolis and neighbourhood exceptional distress was reported in 20 of the 32 districts from which returns were received. Of the 89 provincial towns, exceptional distress was reported in 64, and relief works were in operation during December in 55 of the towns.

The number of persons for whom some employment was found on the relief works as to which returns have been received was 30,496, including 15,953 in the London district. In the case of those for which the information is available, the average number of days' work which each man received during the month was 7.2. In the London district the average was 5.3 days.

The most usual rates of pay were from 5d. to 7d. per hour. Higher rates were given for skilled work. In a few districts some men were employed on piece work. The hours of labour varied from 4½ per day (in a case where two shifts of men were employed) to 12 on certain tramway works. The usual hours were 8 or 8½ per day.

London and Neighbourhood.—The Central Committee of the London Unemployed Fund in the latter half of December sent 130 men to the Salvation Army labour colony at Hadleigh, the men to receive board and lodging at the colony, and money for the upkeep of the family to be paid weekly by visitors to their homes. Since the end of December the Central Committee have made arrangements with the London County Council and other Bodies for the employment of considerable numbers of men, and at the last meeting of the Committee it was reported that 750 men would be at work under the scheme on January 16th. These are not included in the statistics below, which relate only to December.

During December work for the unemployed was provided by the Local Authorities in 33 Boroughs and Urban Districts as to which some details are given in the Table below.

Northern Counties.—Of 8 returns from large towns in this district 5 reported exceptional distress and 3 did not. Building and shipyard labourers were reported to be most affected by distress. During December relief works were open at Newcastle, Jarrow, and Carlisle.

Yorkshire.—Of returns relating to 12 large towns, 10 reported exceptional distress and 2 not. Outdoor labourers, the building and metal trades, glass bottle makers, clothing trades at Leeds and wool combers at Bradford are stated to be most affected. Relief works were open during December at Hull, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Sheffield, Rotherham, York, Barnsley, and Harrogate.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Returns were received from 17 large towns, in 12 of which the distress was reported as exceptional for the time of year. Labourers chiefly were affected, especially in the building and iron trades. In the cotton trade employment was good. During December relief works opened by Municipal Authorities were in operation at the following towns: Preston, Manchester, Salford, Birkenhead, Lancaster and Barrow.

Midland Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in 16 of the 20 towns from which returns were received. The building, metal, pottery, and boot and shoe trades were most affected by lack of employment. Work for the unemployed was provided during December by the Local Authorities at Nottingham, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, Smethwick, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Dudley, Coventry, Leicester, Northampton, Worcester, and Gloucester.

Eastern Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in 4 out of the 5 towns from which returns were received. Relief works were open during December at Norwich and Yarmouth.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Returns were received from 13 towns, in 9 of which exceptional distress was reported. The lack of employment chiefly affected the building trades and general labourers. Work for the unemployed was provided during December by the Local Authorities at Margate, Dover, Tunbridge Wells, Brighton, Southampton, Portsmouth, Reading, Plymouth, Devonport, Bristol, Swindon, and Bath.

Wales and Monmouth.—Relief works were in operation at Swansea and Newport.

Scotland.—Returns were received from 8 towns, in 6 of which exceptional distress was reported. The house and shipbuilding trades were reported most affected by unemployment. Relief works were open at Dundee, Leith, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Paisley, and Airdrie.

Ireland.—In December work for the unemployed was provided by the Corporations of Dublin and Belfast.

The following Table gives some particulars of the operations during December of the relief works:—

Temporary Relief Works in December, 1904.

Locality.	Date on which Relief Works were opened or other special measures taken.	Individuals employed at some time during Dec.	Amount of Employment Relief in Dec.		
			Aggregate No. of Days worked.	Average per person employed.	
London and Neighbourhood.	1904.	No.	Days.	Days.	
Unemployed Fund Central Committee	Dec.	130	1,008	7.8	
East—					
Bethnal Green	...	672	1,599	2.5	
East Ham	...	123	519	4.2	
Hackney	...	3,439	6,399	1.9	
Leyton	...	508	2,022	4.0	
Poplar	24 Nov. & 22 Dec.	650	15,000	23.1	
Shoreditch	...	278	3,804	13.7	
Stepney	...	200	4,500	22.5	
West Ham	...	3,637	17,111	4.7	
Walthamstow	...	495	...	...
South—					
Battersea*	
Bermondsey	...	15,099	3,068	2.8	
Camberwell	...	558	3,524	6.7	
Croydon	...	25	1,667	2.6	
Deptford	...	5 Dec.	1,627	5.9	
Greenwich	...	13 Dec.	64	4.2	
Lewisham	...	18 Nov.	1201	3,000	
Southwark*	
Wandsworth	...	95	290	3.1	
North—					
Hampstead*	
Islington	...	965	3,744	3.9	
Stoke Newington	...	98	306	3.1	
St. Pancras	...	126	1,512	12.0	
Tottenham	...	304	944	3.1	
Willesden	...	400	2,400	6.0	
West—					
Chelsea	...	104	942	9.1	
Fulham*	
Hammersmith	...	267	436	1.6	
Kensington	...	100	1,900	19.0	
Paddington	...	41	193	4.7	
St. Marylebone	...	75	1,125	15.0	
Central—					
Finsbury	...	14 & 15 Dec.	76	347	4.6
Holborn	...	Dec.	89	267	3
Westminster	...	Dec.	325	2,203	6.7
Provincial Towns.					
Northern Counties—					
Carlisle	...	14 Dec.	240	360	1.5
Jarrow	...	30 Nov.	220	1,080	4.9
Newcastle	...	15 Dec.	160	480	3.0
Yorkshire—					
Barnsley	...	28 Nov.	80	960	12.0
Bradford	...	17 Oct.	488	6,588	13.5
Halifax	...	28 Oct.	445	4,451	10.0
Harrogate	...	24 Oct.	275	3,080	11.2
Hull	...	12 Dec.	152	1,658	10.9
Leeds	...	1 Sept.	420	5,460	13.0
Rotherham	...	12 Dec.	143	580	4.0
Sheffield	...	1 Nov.	6261
York	...	29 Aug.	120	360	3.0
Lancs. and Cheshire—					
Barrow-in-Furness	...	16 Nov.	105	2,430	23.1
Birkenhead	...	18 Nov.	207
Lancaster	...	Dec.	80	2,000	25.0
Manchester	...	18 Nov.	915	5,292	5.8
Preston	...	29 Nov.	290	7,250	25.0
Salford	...	Nov.	700
Midland Counties—					
Burslem	...	20 Sept.	250	799	2.8
Coventry	...	Aug.	80	2,000	25.0
Dudley	...	Dec.	180	1,440	8.0
Gloucester	...	1 Dec.	123	1,003	8.2
Hanley	...	12 Dec.	100	326	3.3
Leicester	...	7 Nov.	540	1,881	3.5
Northampton	...	Nov.	400	1,000	2.5
Nottingham	...	Dec.	150
Smethwick	...	Dec.	106	384	3.7
Stoke-on-Trent	...	1 Nov.	91	1,961	21.5
West Bromwich	...	28 Nov.	316	1,318	4.2
Wolverhampton	...	16 Nov.	764	1,648	2.2
Worcester	...	29 Nov.	100	1,911	19.1

* Particulars of numbers employed, etc., not furnished to the Department.

† Average number per day, not total number of separate individuals.

‡ At end of December.

* Including two Urban E Districts.

Locality	Date on which Relief Works were opened, or other special measures taken.	Indi-viduals em-ployed at some time during Dec.	Amount of Employment Relief in Dec.		
			Aggre-gate No. of Days em-ployed.	Average per person em-ployed.	Days.
Eastern Counties—					
Norwich ... ..	...	424	2,700	6.4	6.4
Yarmouth ... ..	...	81	750	9.3	9.3
S. & S.W. Counties—					
Bath	29 Nov.	110	2,515	22.9	22.9
Brighton	28 Nov.	403	1,218	3.0	3.0
Bristol	29 Nov.	277	7,202	26.0	26.0
Devonport	Dec.	12	81	7.0	7.0
Dover	18 Nov.	92	898	9.8	9.8
Margate	15 Dec.	70	700	10.0	10.0
Plymouth	5 Dec.	1,307	1,307	...	...
Portsmouth	Dec.	378	2,701	7.1	7.1
Reading	17 Sept.	106	2,650	25.0	25.0
Southampton	15 Dec.	487	1,151	2.4	2.4
Swinton	12 Dec.	61	399	6.2	6.2
Tunbridge Wells	5 Dec.	113	231	2.0	2.0
Wales and Mon.—					
Newport	Nov.	67	172	2.6	2.6
Swansea	30 Dec.	5	10	2.0	2.0
Scotland—					
Aberdeen	30 Nov.	257	3,985	15.5	15.5
Airdrie	19 Dec.	12	115	9.6	9.6
Dundee	15 Dec.	230	2,326	10.1	10.1
Glasgow	11 Nov.	1,432	24,284	17.0	17.0
Leith	21 Dec.	16	176	11.0	11.0
Paisley	8 Dec.	139	1,730	12.4	12.4
Ireland—					
Belfast	19 Dec.	350	2,211	6.3	6.3
Dublin	Dec.	560	4,680	13.0	13.0

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS IN 1904.

Changes in Wages.

The downward tendency in wages which began in 1901 continued throughout 1904, the amount of the fall measured in weekly loss of wages being about the same as in 1903, but less than two-thirds of the amount in 1902 or 1901. These four years followed a period of rising wages, and the amount lost since the beginning of 1901 is much less than the amount gained during the preceding years of rising wages, and is not much in excess of the abnormal amount of increase obtained in 1900. This will be seen from the following Table, in which the net amount of increase or decrease in weekly wages is shown for each of the last ten years, together with the number of workpeople affected. It will be seen that during the ten years the gain in wages exceeded the loss by £177,615 per week. The figures are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, fishermen, railway servants, police, and government employees, and the amounts stated are those computed to be due to changes in rates of wages as distinct from changes in earnings caused by fluctuations of employment.

Year.	No. of Workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages.	Compute amount of change in weekly wages as compared with previous year.	
		Net Increase.	Net Decrease.
1895	433,652	£	£28,437
1896	601,115	26,225	—
1897	582,331	30,494	—
1898	1,013,107	80,674	—
1899	1,163,985	90,497	—
1900	1,113,431	207,555	—
1901	910,399	—	78,658
1902	885,341	—	72,971
1903	897,922	—	35,517
1904	795,087	—	39,117
Total for ten years 1895-1904	†	435,355	257,740

The number of workpeople affected by wages changes in 1904, it will be noticed, was less by over 90,000 than in 1903 or 1902, and 115,000 less than in 1901. Of the total number affected in 1904, 781,443 sustained net decreases amounting to about £40,257 per week, and only 13,644 obtained net increases, the amount being £1,140 a week. In all four years the changes in the coal mining industry were the predominant factor both as regards the numbers affected and the amounts of change. The Table below gives separate figures for each of the principal groups of

* In addition 58 other workpeople were employed on certain Corporation work.
† It will be understood that although the same workpeople are counted once only in each year, many of them appear in several years, and therefore no total can be made for the ten years 1895-1904.
‡ Preliminary figures, subject to revision.

trades, the figures for 1903 and 1902 being also given for comparison:—

Trades.*	Number of Workpeople whose wages were changed in			Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the weekly wages of those affected.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.†	1902.	1903.	1904.†
Building	15,575	4,638	10,033	+ 926	+ 304	- 811
Coal Mining	735,524	752,190	655,890	- 73,872	- 52,488	- 31,171
Iron, &c., Mining	7,121	9,361	10,813	+ 250	- 429	- 531
Quarrying	6,733	3,160	2,731	+ 306	- 223	- 94
Pig Iron Manufacture	14,882	13,809	11,295	+ 374	- 607	- 93
Iron & Steel Manufacture	38,611	9,693	52,129	+ 355	- 468	- 2,939
Engineering and Shipbuilding	32,822	74,680	31,094	- 2,419	- 4,281	- 2,614
Other Metal	15,357	1,934	1,373	+ 145	- 178	- 2
Textile	2,107	1,001	3,579	+ 142	+ 18	- 91
Clothing	3,112	3,495	333	+ 291	- 86	+ 27
Glass, Pottery, Brick, Chemical, &c.	86	6,356	5,975	+ 9	- 600	- 705
Other	10,555	7,610	4,758	+ 190	+ 199	- 87
Local Authorities	3,856	4,974	5,984	+ 332	+ 282	+ 514
Total	886,341	892,922	795,087	- 72,971	- 38,557	- 39,117

The Table shows that in 1904 the only groups in which there was a net advance of wages were employees of Local Authorities and clothing operatives. About 80 per cent. of the total decline in wages was in the coal mining industry, and the metal trades accounted for more than half of the remainder. In the textile trades little change is shown, but it should be borne in mind that though rates of wages was unchanged in the cotton industry, earnings were seriously reduced owing to a prolonged period of short time consequent on the high price of raw cotton.

The principal districts in which changes in wages took place in the coal-mining industry in 1904 were Northumberland, where there were two decreases each of 2½ per cent. on standard; Durham, with decreases of 1½, 2½, and 1½ respectively; Cumberland, a decrease of 2½ per cent.; South Wales and the Federated districts and South Yorkshire, a decrease of 5 per cent. In the small districts of Bristol and Radstock there were both advances and reductions during the year, the net effect being an advance of 5 per cent. in the Bristol district and a decrease of 2½ per cent. in the Radstock district. There was no change in coal-mining wages in Scotland or in the Forest of Dean.

The other principal changes were mainly in the iron and steel and shipbuilding industries. The blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, Durham, Cumberland and South Wales sustained reductions, as did also the iron and steel workers in the North of England, the Midlands, South Wales and Scotland. The pieceworkers in the shipbuilding yards on the North-East Coast and the Clyde, and at Belfast and Barrow sustained a reduction of 5 per cent. In other industries a decrease of ¾d. per hour was sustained by the stonemasons and bricklayers at Glasgow; a decrease of 3 per cent. by the ironstone miners in Cleveland; a decrease of from 5 to 10 per cent. by the iron ore miners and labourers in Cumberland and North Lancashire; and a decrease of 3s. off standard weekly rates and of 10 per cent. off overwork rates by the glass bottle makers of Yorkshire.

Changes in wages affecting 612,000 workpeople were arranged by permanent Conciliation Boards or by other agencies for conciliation or arbitration, and changes affecting nearly 30,000 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes affecting about 153,000 workpeople were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives. In the case of 10,400 of the workpeople affected a stoppage of work preceded the settlement.

Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in hours of labour were few, and comparatively unimportant. They were nearly all reductions in hours, and resulted in a net decrease averaging 1½ hours per week in the usual working time of about 16,000 workpeople. The change which affected the largest number was at Manchester, where 4,000 carpenters and joiners had their average working time for the year reduced by one hour per week, owing to a change in the hour worked per week in winter.

* Exclusive of Agricultural Labourers, Seamen and Fishermen, Police, Government Employees, and Railway Servants.
† Including workpeople affected by changes during the year, but whose wages stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning.
‡ The figures for 1904 are preliminary and subject to revision.

CO-OPERATION IN 1903.

In the LABOUR GAZETTE of December, 1904, a statistical account was given of co-operative production. In the following article all classes of distributive and productive societies are dealt with as a whole. Thus all societies are included except co-operative credit banking, and insurance societies.

Summary 1894-1903.

Particulars as to the position in 1903 of Workmen's Co-operative Societies for Distribution and Production in the United Kingdom have been obtained by the Department from information supplied by the societies concerned, the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, the Co-operative Union, and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

The returns, which relate to 2,027 societies, show that the growth of the distributive and productive societies of all classes has been continuous during the past ten years. The total membership in 1903 was 2,085,731, compared with 1,245,066 in 1894, an increase of 67.5 per cent. The total share, loan and reserve capital was £37,065,310, compared with £19,062,164 in 1894, an increase of 94.4 per cent. The total trade was £99,010,145, compared with £49,774,025 in 1894, an increase of 99.0 per cent.

The 2,027 societies may be classified into four groups, viz.:—(1) Retail Distributive Societies; (2) Wholesale Societies; (3) Societies for Production; and (4) Agricultural and Miscellaneous Distributive Societies.

Retail Distributive Societies.

The most important group so far as numbers and volume of trade are concerned is the retail distributive societies, their total trade in 1903 being £57,512,887, as compared with £32,242,394 in 1894, an increase of 78.4 per cent. In England and Wales the trade of these societies has increased about 1½ times, in Scotland more than doubled, and in Ireland more than trebled in amount.

In the following Table the value of goods sold in the distributive departments of the retail societies in each country in each of the 10 years, 1894-1903, is shown, together with the totals for the United Kingdom and the percentage increase in the 10 years:—

Year.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	United Kingdom.
1894	£26,204,824	5,992,395	45,175	£32,242,394
1895	27,315,591	6,531,656	52,427	33,900,674
1896	29,469,048	7,132,932	51,878	36,653,858
1897	31,797,430	8,277,530	53,599	40,128,559
1898	33,591,525	8,939,733	60,245	42,591,503
1899	35,414,557	9,570,933	61,956	45,047,446
1900	39,326,406	10,654,410	72,751	50,053,567
1901	41,543,850	11,126,869	90,452	52,761,171
1902	43,495,094	11,711,028	110,140	55,316,262
1903	45,683,566	12,289,746	139,635	57,972,887
Percentage increase in 1903 over 1894	72.0	105.1	209.1	78.4

Wholesale Societies.

The next in importance are the wholesale societies, which in England and Scotland are federations for the wholesale purchase and manufacture of the goods required by the retail distributive societies dealt with above, but in Ireland are entirely connected with the agricultural industry.

The total trade of these societies in 1903 amounted to £25,980,268, compared with £12,565,379 in 1894, an increase of 106.8 per cent. in the 10 years. It will be seen from the Table below that the English and Scottish societies have each more than doubled their trade during the 10 years, while in Ireland, where the societies are much younger, the trade has been nearly quadrupled.

The following Table shows the growth in the sales of the Distributive Departments of the Wholesale Societies of England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively during each of the ten years 1894-1903.

Year.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	United Kingdom.
1894	£9,443,938	3,056,583	61,888	£12,565,379
1895	10,147,917	3,449,462	77,666	13,668,985
1896	11,115,056	3,822,581	110,725	15,048,363
1897	11,920,143	4,405,854	130,679	16,456,676
1898	12,574,745	4,603,130	173,017	17,440,995
1899	14,212,375	5,024,189	195,906	19,422,470
1900	16,043,889	5,463,651	213,969	21,721,489
1901	17,642,082	5,790,743	213,614	23,556,439
1902	18,397,559	6,059,110	237,779	24,694,437
1903	19,333,142	6,395,488	251,638	25,980,268
Percentage increase in 1903 over 1894	104.7	109.2	289.0	106.8

Productive and Miscellaneous Societies.

The growth during the ten years of the productive societies forming the third group was dealt with in the LABOUR GAZETTE in December last (pp. 356-7) and need not be repeated here, while the agricultural and miscellaneous societies comprising the fourth group are entirely a growth of the ten years under review.

Details for 1903.

The particulars obtained by the Department for 1903 show that the 2,027 societies of all classes for distribution and production had a total membership of 2,085,731 compared with 1,984,546 in 1902, an increase of 5.1 per cent., the total membership in 1903 being equal to 4.9 per cent. of the total population of the United Kingdom, as compared with 3.2 per cent. in 1894.

The total sales and transfers of the 2,027 societies amounted to £99,010,145, compared with £94,729,092 in 1902, an increase of 4.5 per cent. Of this total, £74,622,890, or 75.4 per cent., is attributable to societies in England and Wales; £22,743,319, or 23 per cent., to societies in Scotland; and £1,643,936, or 1.6 per cent., to societies in Ireland. The total profit for the year of the 2,027 societies amounted to £9,811,936, which is equal to 36.9 per cent. upon the total share capital of the societies.

A distributive trade of £83,708,083 was carried on by 1,653 societies, of which 1,455 were retail societies, with a total membership of 1,987,423, a total share, loan and reserve capital of £29,151,334, sales amounting to £57,512,887, and a profit of £8,993,015. The four wholesale societies, with a share, loan, and reserve capital of £3,981,461, sold goods to the value of £25,980,268, upon which a profit of £452,470 was shown, and the remaining 194 societies, consisting of 43 English and 151 Irish societies, mainly connected with agriculture, and having a share, loan, and reserve capital of £42,164, sold goods to the value of £214,928, upon which a profit of £1,115 was made. The total profit of distribution amounted to £9,446,600, which is equal to 36.9 per cent. upon the share capital of the 1,653 societies.

Production, of which some particulars were given in the last issue of the GAZETTE, was carried on by 1,202 societies—of which 825 were retail and 3 wholesale distributive societies—the total value of the sales of their own productions amounting to £15,302,062.

The total number of persons employed by societies of all classes was 98,119, of whom 54,692 were engaged in distribution and 43,427 in production. The total share, loan and reserve capital of all the societies amounted to £37,065,310, made up of £26,596,373 shares, £7,989,443 loans, and £2,479,494 reserve and insurance funds. £16,507,657 of the total was re-invested otherwise than in the business of the individual societies. Of this, £6,128,952 was invested in house property, let or sold to members, and £10,378,705 in other securities, the greater part being invested in other co-operative societies.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM IN CANADA.

THE Department of Labour of Canada reports that a special investigation by the Department as to the supply of working class housing accommodation in Canadian cities shows that there is a pronounced scarcity of dwellings suitable for occupation by working people.

Out of 30 cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants each from which detailed reports were received, only six instances were recorded at which the obtaining of an adequate supply of houses of this class was not a more or less pressing problem.

The Ontario cities, particularly those within a radius

of 70 or 80 miles of Toronto, were those in which the conditions were on the whole most unfavourable.

Accompanying this pronounced and general scarcity of houses there has been a marked upward tendency in rentals during the past five years, the increase having ranged from 15 to 40 per cent., and in the great majority of cases, including Toronto and Montreal and other of the larger industrial centres, rents are still increasing. Winnipeg perhaps furnishes the example of highest rents paid at present for working men's houses, a six-roomed dwelling with water in central location bringing from £5 4s. 2d. to £6 5s. a month, and four-roomed cottages without water in the outskirts being rented at £3 2s. 6d. a month. Rents at Winnipeg are also stated to be out of proportion to the wages that are being earned, and many workmen are obliged to sublet rooms, which if well-furnished and in houses with modern improvements easily bring 10 dollars per room per month.

At Toronto the working class as a rule pay one-fourth of their earnings in rent, and many who are not able to exceed that proportion have been compelled to occupy much smaller dwellings than the size of their families demands.

As evidence of the scarcity of houses, the report states that in some dozen cities many workmen's families are reported as living in boarding houses at the present time, for the specific reason that suitable dwelling houses, at sufficiently low rentals are not available, and also that the practice of "doubling up"—that is of more than one family occupying the same house—is reported as common, especially in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, and London.

In several localities also storage warehousemen report an extensive business in connection with the storing of furniture for workmen who have been unable to obtain dwelling houses.

INDUSTRIAL CENSUS OF ROUMANIA.

THE Statistical Department of Roumania has recently issued the report* of an industrial enquiry held in that country during the latter part of 1901, which is the first investigation of its kind ever undertaken in Roumania.

The enquiry was organised in the first place by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, and Public Lands, who visited each town and village, and explained the nature and aim of the investigation. In the case of rural communes commissions were formed composed of the mayor, the mayor's secretary, the local priest and schoolmaster, who drew up lists of all establishments within their district and arranged for the distribution and collection of the schedules of questions. In urban districts special investigators were appointed to make enquiries from house to house.

An endeavour was made to distinguish between the larger industries (la grande industrie) and the smaller (la moyenne et la petite industrie), taking as a sole criterion the use of power-driven machinery. The result, however, was not satisfactory, and eventually a new selection was made of 625 undertakings to be classed as greater industries, taking three factors into account, viz., the presence or absence of power-driven machinery, the amount of capital invested, and the number of workpeople employed. A group of "special industries" was also formed comprising small undertakings of a primitive nature, such as water and windmills, saw mills and fulling mills, which are separately dealt with in the report.

Different schedules were drawn up for each class of undertaking (whether greater or smaller), but generally they were so framed as to show:—

- (1) The number and nature of industrial establishments, classified by trades.
- (2) The economic and social condition of employers and workpeople.
- (3) The conditions under which the trades were carried on as regards capital, raw material, labour employed.
- (4) The causes which contribute to the rise, development or decay of industries.
- (5) The special needs of industrial organisation, the obstacles to expansion of industry, the means of allevi-

* *Ancheta Industrială din 1901-1902*. 2 vols. Bucarest: Inst. de Arte grafice "Carol Göbl." 1904. Price 8s. per vol.

ating industrial evils, the means for ensuring favourable progress in the future.

No special Department was created for the purpose of this enquiry, but recourse was had to existing administrative organisation; thus the enumerators were selected from among persons employed at the mayor's office, the police force, the inspectors of weights and measures, etc.

The following Table shows the number of persons occupied in the various industries as ascertained by the enquiry:—

Group of Trades.*	Number of Persons Occupied.			
	Em- ployers and persons working on their own account.	Admi- nistrative and Technical Staffs.	Persons working for others.	Total.
Building Trades	1,400	—	372	1,772
Metal Trades	30,256	264	13,130	23,650
Textile Trades	1,485	67	4,040	5,532
Clothing Trades (including boot- making)	19,024	70	26,562	46,056
Chemical, Glass, and Pottery Trades	3,118	281	6,501	9,700
Cement, Plaster, and Stone Trades	1,000	24	1,546	2,570
Printing and Paper Trades ...	479	158	4,552	5,189
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades	12,791	280	13,121	26,195
Food Preparation Trades ...	8,662	563	24,960	34,185
Leather Trades (excluding boot- making)	667	44	2,312	3,023
Basket Work	2,595	—	380	2,975
Other Trades	553	45	1,195	1,793
Total	61,953	1,796	98,881	162,630

It is stated that the persons engaged in industrial occupations form only 2·2 per cent. of the total population of Roumania.

IRISH MIGRATORY LABOURERS IN 1904.

A report† recently issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland deals mainly with the migration of agricultural labourers—the so-called "harvest men"—from Connaught and certain districts of Ulster to Great Britain. The report shows that there were in June, 1904, 17,859 persons (including 815 females), who had either left or intended to leave their homes to seek employment as labourers elsewhere, an increase of 293 as compared with 1903.

More than three-fourths of the entire number for 1904, namely, 13,703, were natives of the Province of Connaught, and of these 9,527 came from the County of Mayo alone, which county furnishes over one-half of all the Irish migratory labourers. The next Province in importance, as regards the supply of these labourers, is Ulster, which furnished 2,950 in 1904, of whom 2,364 (or 80·1 per cent.) were natives of the County of Donegal.

The proportion which the migratory labourers bear to the total population of Ireland is 4·0 per 1,000 only. In the Province of Connaught, however, it amounts to 21·2 per 1,000. Taking the proportion of male migratory labourers to the adult male population it is found that in the County of Mayo no less than 177·4 per 1,000 seek employment at a distance from their homes, the next highest proportion being in Roscommon (51·5 per 1,000).

Of the 17,859 migratory labourers, 2,925 were landholders, and the holdings of 2,509 of these were over five acres in extent. The great majority of these holdings are in Connaught, and in considering the figures, the poor quality of the soil in many parts of this Province must be borne in mind.

The number of labourers who sought work in England was 12,802, or 71·7 of the total number. Of the remainder 3,662 went to Scotland, and 1,395 to the other parts of Ireland.

In addition to the figures given above, which are based on returns made by the enumerators of agricultural statistics, the Report gives Tables furnished by certain railway companies showing the numbers of harvestmen conveyed on their lines, and also a Table showing the number of labourers who left certain ports for temporary employment in England or Scotland. From these railway and port statistics it would appear that 33,470 labourers

* The transport trader, commercial occupations, home industries, the cleaning trades, hair dressing, bathing establishments and laundries were not included within the scope of the enquiry.

† Report on Irish Migratory Labourers. [Cd. 2322. Wyman & Sons. Price 3d.]

travelled as passengers journeying to seek work at a distance from their homes, a number much greater than that compiled from the returns made by the enumerators of agricultural statistics. The Report states that in considering these differences it must be borne in mind that a large number of the agricultural labourers who migrate annually to Great Britain pay two visits, and this is an element which it is impossible accurately to eliminate from the emigration and railway returns.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

There will be a good demand for farm labourers in the spring, but those who are going should not start before March, or early in April, as there will be no opening for employment till after the winter. Reports to the Dominion Department of Labour show that the state of the labour market during November was as follows: Owing to the open weather, building and other outdoor trades, and unskilled labourers were busier than is usual, except in British Columbia where employment declined, but by the end of the month work had slackened off for the winter. Joiners, lathers, plasterers, painters and decorators continue to be fairly well occupied. Lumbering was active in Central and Eastern Canada, and improved in British Columbia. With the closing of navigation in the St. Lawrence River operations in the Nova Scotia collieries were considerably curtailed, and a number of men thrown out of employment. In British Columbia lead and gold mining were active, and coal mining at the Crows Nest Pass, but coal mining on Vancouver Island showed little improvement. The iron and steel industry was very active at Sydney (Nova Scotia), and Sault St. Marie (Ontario). Railway construction was active at some eastern points, but practically ceased for the winter in Western Canada. Electrical workers, carriage and wagon makers, bookbinders, journeymen tailors, garment workers, furriers, confectioners and bakers, cigar makers, and barbers were generally busy. Long-shoremen with the close of the season of navigation were thrown out of work, especially at Montreal and Quebec. There was, however, increased employment for this class of labour at St. John and Halifax, these ports being open through the winter. With the beginning of winter large numbers of unskilled labourers were thrown out of employment, especially at Winnipeg and other western cities. Small houses are scarce in Toronto, Montreal, and other towns; and the price of bread, sugar, and milk has advanced in many places.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—Coal mining at Newcastle is very depressed owing largely to disputes as to wages; a recent strike of the coal trimmers at the docks has added to the depression. There are now large numbers of unemployed in the Newcastle district, and considerable distress prevails. At one of the Bulli collieries in the south many coal miners have been discharged, and coal-cutting machines have been substituted.

Victoria.—The lowest wages of hollow-ware pressers in the pottery trade have been fixed at 45s. per week of 48 hours, and those of females over 18 years old employed in the making of general pottery at 20s., and those of copper-plate engravers at 80s. There is no demand in the State for more labour other than female servants.

Queensland.—There are stated to be many men out of work at Townsville in the north, in spite of the activity in wolfram mining and of the absorption of labour by the sugar harvest. In the southern part of the State there is some demand for good farm labourers.

Western Australia.—According to the Minister for Labour there are at the present time a sufficient number of unemployed in Western Australia to fill every avenue of employment for the next few months without looking for

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

any men out of work in the Eastern States. Some of the unemployed have been given work by the Government on rabbit-proof fencing, on water supply or on railways. Men in the timber trade have difficulty in getting work.

New Zealand.

The last reports from New Zealand show that with some exceptions—such as dressmaking, which was very busy in several places—trade was rather dull. An improvement, however, was expected as the busier summer season of the year was beginning. First-class men were fairly well employed, but many that were less competent were idle. In country districts local men were employed in bush-felling, fencing, scrub-cutting, shearing, &c.; but there appeared to be no special demand for more workers other than milkers.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No person—with some exceptions—may land in the Colony unless he has secured employment and possesses £20 on arrival. Owing to the general depression retrenchment is taking place in the Government railway works at Salt River in common with other Government departments. The building trade at Cape Town is very quiet, and there is scarcely any demand in any of the mechanical trades; many skilled men cannot find work. At Kimberley the state of the building trade remains in the same depressed state. At East London things generally are bad, and several contractors in the building trade have practically nothing in hand. At Port Elizabeth bricklayers are doing fairly, but all other trades are very dull.

Natal.—At Durban and Maritzburg the building trade remains depressed, and labour is plentiful.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. The building trade at Johannesburg is still fairly brisk, but many local men are out of work, so that there is no opening for outside labour. Although white labour has increased on the mines from 11,873 in July, 1903, to 14,944, in November, 1904, there is still a large number of unemployed. All other trades are very dull, and the distress in Johannesburg shows no signs of diminution. The building trade at Pretoria shows very little improvement. There has recently been quite an exodus of artisans from the Transvaal to Australia, which indicates general slackness in trade. The printing trade is particularly dull. Female servants may obtain assisted passages to the Transvaal through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. The building trade at Bloemfontein is slack, and there are a great many men unemployed. Residents in the Colony may obtain reduced passages for their friends under certain conditions. Female servants may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society above-mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in November.**—Owing to the comparatively mild weather, no appreciable falling off in employment was observed in the building trades during November. In the metal trades employment was, on the whole, slightly better, especially at Paris. No change was reported in cotton manufacture in the north of France, in Normandy or in the Vosges district, and in the silk industry employment was good, both at St. Etienne and in the Lyons district. Employment was more plentiful for boot, shoe and glovemakers. An improvement was reported in the printing and bookbinding trades from nearly every district, lithographic printing at Paris being an exception. Among coopers there was considerable scarcity of employment. This was also the case with agricultural labourers in the south of France, owing to the delay in vine-cutting in the majority of districts; in the north, the dry weather during the greater part of the month interfered with the sowings,

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

and the workpeople (who had completed the gathering of the potato and beetroot crops earlier than was expected) were unable to find regular employment. In most centres of forestry work woodcutters were unemployed and were awaiting winter engagements.

Of the 166,875 members of 999 Trade Unions which made reports to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment during November, 19,360, or 11.6 per cent., were out of work on the 15th of the month, as compared with 14.3 in the previous month, and with 12.0 per cent. in November, 1903. The totals on which the foregoing figures are based do not include returns from miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments.

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

Trade Union.	Percentage reported unemployed in the middle of		
	Nov., 1904.	Oct., 1904.	Nov., 1903.
Building Trades:—			
Carpenters and Joiners ...	11.4	12.3	10.0
Other Branches ...	18.4	15.9	22.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	8.0	8.3	10.0
Textile Trades ...	6.6	7.5	8.7
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking)	16.6	6.5	7.0
Printing Trades:—			
Paris ...	5.0	6.9	5.7
Provinces ...	3.9	7.3	3.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	16.5	37.0	37.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	4.4	10.0	22.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades	6.8	9.4	19.0
Food Preparation Trades (including Confectionery)	27.7	27.0	15.0

Coal Mining in November.*—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground during November was 5.86, as compared with 5.87 in the preceding month and 5.91 in November, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 62 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 37 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week, the corresponding percentages in the previous month being 64.5 and 35.1, while in November, 1903, they were 84 and 11 respectively. The foregoing figures were furnished to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 164,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in November.*—Forty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, as compared with 61 in the previous month and 55 in November, 1903. The number of persons taking part in 44 of the new disputes was 20,628, as compared with 11,329 who took part in 54 disputes in October, and with 19,437 who took part in the disputes of November, 1903. Two of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 3 in mining and quarrying, 5 in the metal trades, 8 in the textile trades, 12 in the transport and warehousing trades, 4 in the printing trades, 5 in the food preparation trades, 4 in the hide and leather trades, 3 at arms and ammunition works and 1 amongst diamond workers. Of 46 new and old disputes which came to an end in November, 6 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 16 in favour of the employers, and 24 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.*—Five cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department during November, the workpeople taking the initiative in 2 and the Justice of the Peace in 3 cases. Committees of conciliation met in 3 cases with the result that 1 dispute was settled. In the 2 cases, in which conciliation committees did not meet, the employers declined the proffered mediation.

GERMANY.†

Employment in November.—As always happens in November, employment suffered a considerable decline.

* *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† Based upon *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department) and upon Newspaper reports.

This decline, which, as a rule, is largely due to the conclusion of the busy season in the building trades, was, however, less marked than usual this year owing to the mild weather, so that, on the whole, the state of employment may be described as not less favourable than a year ago. The improvement in coal mining which began in October continued during November, but was not so general as to prevent large numbers of workpeople from being discharged in some districts. In the metal and engineering trades employment was satisfactory, in spite of a slight seasonal decline. The textile and electrical trades were busy, and the chemical trades abnormally active. Taking the time of year into consideration, employment in the building and allied trades was favourable, although in most towns from which reports were received a considerable number of labourers were being discharged. Employment was slack in the clothing trades (ready-made and bespoke branches) and in the cleaning trades. In other trades employment was influenced by the winter season.

Disputes in December.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* the number of disputes which began in Germany during December was 19, as compared with 39 in November. Of these 1 occurred in the building trades, 3 in mining and smelting, 6 in the metal and engineering trades, 3 in the textile trades, 1 in the leather trades, 2 in the printing trades, 2 in the pottery, etc. trades, and 1 in the transport trade.

Strike of Coal Miners in Westphalia.—A strike of coal miners was begun on January 7th, at the Bruchstrasse Mine in Westphalia. Since then the movement has spread to other mines in the Westphalian coal fields, and a large number of men are on strike. The principal demands are that the shifts (of nine hours) should include the time spent in reaching the actual place of work from the pit head, that the practice of not crediting the men with trucks which contain a proportion of stones should be abolished, that foremen should be elected by the miners, and that minimum daily wages should be paid—5s. for hewers, 3s. 9d. for trammers and putters, and 3s. for drivers and brakemen.

AUSTRIA.*

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

	Nov., 1904.	Oct. 1904.	Nov., 1903.
Number of Situations:			
(i.) Offered ...			
Males ...	14,810	20,935	15,363
Females ...	13,195	20,786	12,735
Total ...	28,005	41,721	28,098
(ii.) Applied for ...			
Males ...	39,274	42,235	39,276
Females ...	22,146	28,217	19,681
Total ...	61,420	70,452	58,957
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered			
Males ...	265	202	256
Females ...	168	136	155
Total ...	219	169	210

Labour Disputes in November.—The number of disputes reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in November was 15, in 12 of which 1,728 workpeople took part. Of the total number reported, 1 occurred in the building trades, 3 in the metal trades, 2 in the textile trades, 3 in the printing and paper trades, 1 in the chemical trades, 3 in the food preparation trades, 1 in the hide and skin-working industry, and 1 amongst commercial employees. The results of the disputes were reported in 11 cases; of these 4 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 3 in favour of the employers, and 4 were compromised.

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

BELGIUM.

Employment: August-October.*—The proportion of their total membership reported as unemployed by the Trade Unions which made returns to the Belgian Labour Department for October was 2.7 per cent., as compared with 2.6 per cent. in September, and 4.0 per cent. in August. The Unions reporting numbered 147 (with 25,275 members) in October, 138 (with 25,536 members) in September, and 150 (with 28,650 members) in August. The returns do not include any figures as to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers.

Labour Disputes: August-October.*—Seventeen disputes affecting 3,253 workpeople (2,669 directly and 584 indirectly) were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the period August-October. Of these 4 occurred in mining, 3 in the metal and engineering trades, 4 in the textile trades, 1 in wood-working trades, 1 in the printing trade, and 1 amongst cleaners and dyers; in 3 cases the occupation was not given. During the same period 18 disputes came to an end, terminating in favour of the workpeople in 1 case (with 401 strikers), in favour of the employers in 15 cases (with 2,291 strikers), and being compromised in 2 cases (with 95 strikers). These particulars are exclusive of the dispute in the glass trade at Charleroi mentioned below.

Addition to List of Trades classed as Dangerous, etc.*—By a Royal Decree, dated November 17th, establishments in which the manufacture of embroidery or trimmings is carried on by means of looms, have been added to the list of those classed as dangerous, unhealthy, or objectionable, and accordingly subject to inspection.

Dispute in the Window Glass Industry at Charleroi.†—With reference to the extensive stoppage of work in the window glass industry which was referred to in the GAZETTE for October (p. 297), it is reported that, as the workpeople had not, by September 1st, accepted the proposals of the associated employers with regard to the altered conditions in working (including an all-round reduction in wages), a lock-out was ordered which resulted in the closing of all the establishments which were affiliated to the Employers' Association, except one. The declaration as to the lock-out was withdrawn on October 6th, but the men did not return to work, the number concerned in the dispute being about 10,000. The workers in cold glass refuse to accept the proposed general reduction in wages, and also demand the right to continue to work in twos and threes for one man's pay, thereby giving employment to all men in their union. The workers of hot glass (blowers and their helpers) are reported to be ready to return to work.

HOLLAND.‡

AMSTERDAM CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Glass Bottle Makers.—A general strike among the glass bottle makers of the country was begun on October 10th against the proposal of the Associated employers to introduce new conditions of work involving a reduction of wages. The men also demanded recognition of their Union. The dispute was provisionally settled by a Board of Conciliation on December 24th. The agreement arrived at involves the recognition of the men's Union by the employers. The latter have also made new proposals as to wages, and the men have agreed to work under these for a period of six months as a trial, subject to their right to claim new arrangements after that date, in case the present provisional settlement should prove unsatisfactory. The strikers have all been reinstated.

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

† Based on information contained in a report from the British Vice-Consul at Charleroi, transmitted through the Foreign Office by H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, in a despatch dated December 27th; and on particulars given in the *Revue du Travail*, for October and November, 1904.

‡ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office by H.M. Minister at The Hague, dated January 1st, and on reports in *Sociaal Weekblad*.

ITALY.*

Labour Disputes in November.—Thirty disputes were reported to the Italian Labour Department as having begun in November. The number of workpeople taking part in 27 of these disputes was 5,259, as compared with 12,071 workpeople who took part in 26 of the 28 disputes which occurred in October. Two of the November disputes occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining, 2 in the metal and engineering trades, 6 in the textile trades, 1 in the clothing trades, 3 in agriculture, 3 in the transport trades, 1 in the printing trades, 6 in the pottery, glass and chemical trades, 2 in the food preparation trades, 1 in woodworking, while 1 dispute extended to several trades. Of 23 disputes which came to an end in November, 8 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 6 were compromised.

RUSSIA.†

Strikes at Baku and Batum.—A strike of workmen in Baku and its environs was begun on December 26th, and subsequently extended to the district of Bibi-Eybat. Bands of strikers broke into various establishments calling upon the men to leave their work. Amongst those who were persuaded to do so were the printers, with the result that the publication of newspapers was suspended in Baku until December 30th. By injuring the telephone wires the strikers caused an interruption of telephonic communication between Baku and Balakhani; they also damaged the machinery in a number of factories. On January 4th, it was reported that a strike had begun in the box factories at Batum, in consequence of which the loading of all ships had to be discontinued. On January 13th, it was reported that the gravity of the labour riots in the Caucasus had led to the declaration of martial law.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.‡

BOSTON CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Dock Labourers at Boston.—A strike of dock labourers employed by the Merchants' and Miners' Steamship Company at Boston terminated on December 22nd, after lasting four weeks. The strike was caused by the dismissal of three dock labourers by the company's stevedore, without a hearing, as contrary to the agreement between the men and the company. Dock labourers at other wharves refused to handle cotton and cargo brought from Baltimore and Norfolk by the company's steamers for transshipment to Europe.

As the company refused to deal with the Union, the men ultimately asked to be reinstated, and 60 out of 150 strikers were at once given employment.

Strike of Cotton Operatives at Fall River.—A strike of cotton operatives at Fall River which commenced on July 25th was still in progress on December 23rd last, and affected 25,000 workpeople. The strike is stated to have been due to the employers' proposals to reduce wages by 12½ per cent.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.§

Strikes in Various Trades in Buenos Ayres.—During the ten days prior to November 24th a series of strikes took place in Buenos Ayres, by which almost every trade was affected except the railway service, the carters and the stevedores. The demands of the strikers, which, as a rule, included an eight hours' day, an increase of wages, and the recognition of the Union, are stated to have been conceded in most cases.

* *Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro* (Journal of the Italian Labour Department).

† Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from Sir C. Hardinge, H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg, and upon newspaper reports.

‡ Based on a despatch addressed to the Foreign Office, under date of December 23rd, by Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Boston, and upon newspaper reports.

§ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office by H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres, dated November 24th.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

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

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

Employment with carpenters and joiners was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 11.5 at the end of December, compared with 10.1 in November, and 7.9 in December, 1903. With plumbers employment in December was bad and much the same as in November, but it was worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 10.0 in December, compared with 10.2 in November, and 7.7 in December, 1903.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Dec., 1904, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	6,977	11.3	10.3	8.0	+1.0	+3.3
Northern Counties†	6,211	13.9	13.6	14.9	+0.3	-1.0
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,293	11.2	9.7	7.6	+1.5	+3.6
Yorkshire	5,250	12.7	10.3	8.0	+2.4	+4.7
East Midlands	3,050	12.2	9.1	7.3	+3.1	+4.9
West Midlands	4,673	8.9	7.7	6.1	+1.2	+2.8
Eastern Counties ...	1,129	12.0	9.8	8.5	+2.2	+3.5
S. and S.W. Counties	5,955	9.9	8.0	5.8	+1.9	+4.1
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,877	6.2	4.2	6.4	+2.0	-0.2
Other Districts	635	7.7	6.3	7.4	+1.4	+0.3
SCOTLAND	5,354	11.6	10.0	7.2	+1.6	+4.4
IRELAND	4,787	14.6	14.4	5.0	+0.2	+9.6
UNITED KINGDOM ...	56,191	11.5	10.1	7.0	+1.4	+3.6
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,161	13.6	12.9	10.6	+0.7	+3.0
Northern Counties†	1,610	8.8	9.2	7.3	-0.4	+1.5
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,649	8.4	8.7	8.3	-0.3	+0.1
Yorkshire	1,216	8.2	9.3	5.8	-1.1	+2.4
East Midlands	685	7.7	3.5	3.9	-0.8	+3.8
West Midlands	501	7.0	12.9	7.2	-5.9	-0.2
Eastern Counties ...	110	10.9	9.7	12.8	+1.2	-1.9
S. and S.W. Counties	515	8.3	9.5	5.7	-1.2	+2.6
Wales and Monmouth ...	288	6.6	3.5	8.3	+3.1	-1.7
Other Districts	30	10.0	13.3	16.7	-3.3	-6.7
SCOTLAND	1,775	11.1	11.4	8.0	+0.3	+3.1
IRELAND	637	20.3	15.9	10.8	+4.4	+9.5
UNITED KINGDOM ...	11,177	10.0	10.2	7.7	-0.2	+2.3

With bricklayers employment generally was dull, and about the same as a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. With masons it was dull generally, and worse than a month ago, and a year ago. With painters employment was bad, although slightly better than in November; but it was worse than a year ago. Employment with plasterers was dull, and about the same as last month; it was worse than a year ago. With slaters and tilers employment was dull generally, but slightly better than a month ago; it was rather worse than a year ago.

Returns received from 79 Employers' Associations show that employment was dull, and rather worse than a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago.

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

London.—Employment in London was very slack and was worse than a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 69 employers show that on the last pay day of December they paid

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † And Middlesbrough.

wages to 12,744 workpeople, as compared with 12,459 in November, and 15,162 in December, 1903.

Northern Counties.—The general condition of employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. A slight improvement, however, was reported as regards house painters in the Tyne district, and slaters and tilers in the Wear district.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment continued slack.

Yorkshire.—In this district employment generally was slack. It was fair, however, with slaters and tilers at Hull, and with plumbers at Doncaster; and it was moderate generally at Barnsley.

East Midland Counties.—Employment generally continued dull, though there was a slight improvement with plumbers at Leicester.

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

Eastern Counties.—In this district employment was bad, though at Norwich it was fair with stone masons.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment generally continued dull. It was, however, reported as fair in some branches at Exeter.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment in North and South Wales was slack generally, except with bricklayers at Llandudno, where it was fair.

Scotland.—Employment generally continued dull, though with the slaters at Aberdeen it was fair.

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

COAL MINING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the coal-mining industry during the month of December was fair and showed some improvement as compared with November, except in Northumberland and Fife. It was, however, rather worse than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received in each of the three months shown was about the same in December as in November, but slightly larger than in December, 1903.

Returns received relating to 1,280 pits, employing 529,498 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries* during the four weeks ended December 24th, 1904, was 5.30, compared with 5.14 in November, and 5.40 in December, 1903. The average weekly number of days worked in December during the 10 years 1895-1904 was 5.37, and ranged from 4.88 days per week during December, 1895, to 5.65 days per week in December, 1899.

Of the 529,498 workpeople covered by the returns, 402,785, or 76.1 per cent., were employed at pits working 20 days or more during the four weeks ended December 24th, and of these, 152,151 were employed at pits working 22 to under 23½ days, and 140,046 at pits working 23½ to 24 days. Employment in the three months shown was not affected to any appreciable extent by holidays.

As compared with a month ago some seasonal improvement is shown in nearly all districts, those in which it was greatest being Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Gloucester and Somerset. As compared with a year ago there was an almost uniformly slight decline in England and Wales. In Scotland and Ireland, however, there was an improvement.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON.

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

District.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1904, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1904, as compared with	
		Dec. 24th, 1904.	Nov. 26th, 1904.	Dec. 19th, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	40,020	5.11	5.11	5.32	...	- .21
Durham	93,969	5.41	5.36	5.53	+ .05	- .12
Cumberland	6,805	5.81	5.50	5.93	+ .31	- .12
South Yorkshire ...	56,154	5.41	5.07	5.53	+ .34	- .12
West Yorkshire ...	18,599	4.77	4.40	4.86	+ .37	- .09
Lancashire and Cheshire...	59,560	5.23	5.00	5.36	+ .23	- .13
Derbyshire	41,428	4.88	4.49	5.13	+ .39	- .25
Nottingham and Leicester	26,809	4.44	4.40	4.70	+ .04	- .26
Staffordshire	27,132	5.17	5.11	5.46	+ .06	- .09
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick	9,332	5.44	5.10	5.52	+ .34	- .08
Gloucester and Somerset	8,603	5.49	5.08	5.52	+ .41	- .03
North Wales	10,650	5.05	4.91	5.68	+ .14	- .63
South Wales and Mon. ...	100,281	5.68	5.58	5.75	+ .10	- .07
ENGLAND & WALES...	490,322	5.28	5.12	5.41	+ .16	- .13
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	18,902	5.45	5.28	5.17	+ .17	+ .28
The Lothians	5,011	5.91	5.74	5.85	+ .17	+ .06
Fife	14,601	5.25	5.32	5.25	- .07	...
SCOTLAND	38,514	5.43	5.38	5.28	+ .08	+ .13
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	662	5.52	5.32	5.40	+ .20	+ .12
UNITED KINGDOM ...	629,498	5.30	5.14	5.40	+ .16	- .10

In Northumberland employment continued moderate, and in Durham it improved somewhat. In both districts, however, it was worse than a year ago. With coke yard workers it continued bad. In Cumberland employment was good.

In both South and West Yorkshire employment showed a considerable improvement; work, however, was interrupted to some extent by fog which delayed deliveries, and consequently caused a scarcity of wagons. In the Leeds district employment was good and full time was worked at most collieries.

Employment in Lancashire and Cheshire was fair generally. It was reported as slack in the Oldham district and bad at Burnley with some short time.

In Derbyshire employment showed considerable improvement, but in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire only 4½ days per week were worked.

In Staffordshire employment was fair, but in Cannock Chase district only four days per week were worked.

In Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire employment was good, and considerably better than a month ago. In Gloucester and Somerset it was also good generally, except in the Forest of Dean, where it was moderate only.

In North Wales employment was moderate; in South Wales it was good, but not quite equal to a year ago.

In West Scotland and the Lothians it continued to improve, and was better than a year ago. In Fife it was fair, the same as a year ago.

The **Exports** of coal, coke, and patent fuel during December, amounted to 3,957,513 tons, as compared with 4,061,353 tons in November, and 3,831,153 tons in December, 1903.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in December continued good in iron and shale mines, and fair in tin and copper mines; in lead mines it was good. With quarrymen it was quiet generally.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good; the average time worked was about the same as in November, and was slightly better than a year ago. During the four weeks ended December 24th the average number of days worked by the 125 mines and open works

covered by the returns received from employers was 5.87, as compared with 5.86 in November, and 5.77 a year ago. The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Dec., 1904, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1904, as compared with	
		Dec. 24th, 1904.	Nov. 26th, 1904.	Dec. 19th, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Days.						
Cleveland... ..	7,262	5.89	5.91	5.86	- .02	+ .03
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,664	5.97	5.95	5.70	+ .02	+ .27
Scotland... ..	1,073	5.55	5.53	6.00	+ .02	- .45
Other Districts ...	2,506	5.83	5.70	5.53	+ .13	+ .25
Total and Averages	15,505	5.87	5.86	5.77	+ .01	+ .10

Of the 15,505 workpeople covered by the returns, 14,404, or 92.9 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended 24th December, 1904, as compared with 93.6 per cent. in November, and 86.0 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners continued good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in December 2,968 men were employed, as compared with 2,896 a month ago, and 2,669 in December, 1903. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended 24th December was 5.89, as compared with 5.76 in the previous month, and 5.63 in December, 1903.

Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.—Employment in the tin and copper mines of Devon and Cornwall continued fair generally. In North Wales it continued good with lead miners, and in Weardale full time was worked.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment in the North Wales slate quarries was dull generally. In Argyllshire it continued bad.

Granite.—Employment remained fairly good in Leicestershire; dull on the whole in Devon and Cornwall; fair in North Wales; and bad in Aberdeenshire.

Limestone.—Employment in the Stanhope district of Durham was fair, and in the Westgate and Upper Weardale quarries five days per week were worked. In Cumberland employment continued dull. In Derbyshire it was moderate. Employment in North Wales was considerably interrupted by stormy weather. In the Plymouth district it continued bad.

Other Stone.—In Derbyshire chert quarrymen continued well employed, and overtime was worked. In the Rowsley District employment at the building and grindstone quarries was moderate. It continued good in the Clee Hill (road material) quarries. In Forfarshire it was bad and worse than a year ago.

Sett-making.—Employment continued fairly good in Leicestershire, and fair in North Wales. In Scotland it continued fair generally.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell district china clay workers were well employed. In the Lee Moor district employment was fair, and in the Newton district quiet.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed on the whole little change as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the number of furnaces in blast shows a slight improvement.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters show that one furnace in Lancashire was re-lit, while one in the West Riding of Yorkshire was damped down, and one in Northamptonshire was blown out. At the end of December 303 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 304 in November, and 301 in December, 1903. The number of workpeople employed at works included in the returns is estimated at about 21,500.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PIG IRON; TINPLATE WORKS; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

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

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1904, as compared with	
	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland*	77	77	76	...	+ 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	33	32	24	+ 1	+ 9
S. and S.W. Yorks.	12	13	14	- 1	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	36	36	38	...	- 2
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	24	25	25	- 1	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	30	3	34	...	- 4
S. Wales & Monmouth	15	15	13	...	+ 2
Other districts	6	6	7	...	- 1
Returned from England & Wales }	233	234	231	- 1	+ 2
Returned from Scotland	70	70	70	...	...
Total furnaces included in returns }	303	304	301	- 1	+ 2

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry remained good during December and was much better than a year ago. The demand for labour was quite equal to the supply.

At the end of December 397 mills were working, as compared with 400 at the end of November, and 340 a year ago. One of the works in full employment at the end of November was stopped at the end of December on account of a heavy breakage of main shaft. At the 75 works open, 64 had all their mills (357) in operation, while the remaining 11 had 40 mills working out of a total of 60. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 397 mills was 19,850.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 387 mills were working, as compared with 390 a month ago, and 328 a year ago.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	64	357	—	357
Works giving partial employment	11	40	20	60
Total at end of December, 1904†	75	397	20	417
Corresponding Total for Nov., 1904†	76	407	20	427
Corresponding Total for Dec., 1903†	67	340	38	378

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., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.
To United States	Tons. 7,567	Tons. 3,089	Tons. 4,382	Tons. 28	Tons. 5	Tons. 18
„ Other Countries	35,076	22,218	22,032	5,204	4,539	6,343
Total	42,643	25,307	26,414	5,232	4,544	6,361

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

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

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

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed some improvement as compared with a year ago, the volume of employment (as measured by the estimated aggregate number of shifts worked) being 5.2 per cent. greater than in December, 1903. In those works from which returns for a month ago, as well as a year ago, were furnished the volume of employment in December, 1904, was 3 per cent. greater than in November.

Number Employed and Average Weekly Number of Shifts.

The following Table shows for the periods named the average weekly number of shifts worked and the changes in the number of workpeople employed at 244 works in Great Britain:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended		Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended	
	Dec. 17th, 1904.	Dec. 19th, 1903.	Dec. 17th, 1904.	Dec. 19th, 1903.
	Northumberland and Durham	9,664	9,291	5.46	5.30
Cleveland	6,434	7,301	5.45	5.62
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,254	15,739	5.65	5.62
Leeds, Hull and other Yorks. Towns	3,358	3,157	5.42	5.35
Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire	11,513	10,711	5.17	5.01
Staffordshire	9,678	9,407	5.38	5.27
Other Midland Counties	4,250	4,505	5.12	5.13
Wales and Monmouth	10,269	8,634	5.63	5.66
England and Wales	71,400	68,745	5.47	5.41
Scotland	13,547	13,295	5.52	5.29
Total	84,947	82,041	5.48	5.39

From the above Table it will be seen that in the week ending December 17th, the number of workpeople employed was greater in every district, (except Cleveland and the Other Midland Counties) than in the corresponding week of 1903. The greatest proportionate increase was in South Wales and Monmouthshire, where the numbers employed showed a rise of about 19 per cent. On the average 5.48 shifts were worked by each person during the week ended December 17th, 1904, as compared with 5.39 in the corresponding week of 1903. The district showing the highest average was South Wales and Monmouthshire, where 5.68 shifts per man were worked. On the other hand only 5.12 shifts per man were on the average worked in the Other Midland Counties. The proportionate number of workpeople who worked a certain specified number of shifts per week is shown in the following Table:—

Number of Shifts worked.	Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended	
	Dec. 17th, 1904.	Dec. 19th, 1903.
Under 5 per week	9.5	13.5
5 per week	31.3	30.7
5½ per week	2.2	1.2
6 per week	56.3	53.1
Over 6 per week	0.7	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0

The total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the returns was approximately 465,162 in the week ended December 17th, 1904, and 442,256 in the week ended December 19th, 1903.

The following is a summary of reports received from Local Correspondents in various districts relating to employment during the month of December:—

Northumberland and Durham.—Employment with steel smelters was fair at Consett, bad at Jarrow, moderate to fair at Newburn. At Consett plate mills worked full time (with the exception of two days' holidays), but bar mills were idle for one week. Angle and bar mills at

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—IRON AND STEEL TRADES; ENGINEERING TRADES.

Jarrow were idle nine or twelve days. Finished iron and steel works at Wolsingham were moderately employed. Forges were fairly well employed. Employment in iron and steel works at Hartlepool continued brisk; at metal expansion works it was good.

Cleveland District.—At rail and other mills employment was reported as moderate, but the improvement reported last month continued; in pipe foundries employment was fair. Generally employment was affected by the holidays, which lasted from a week to a fortnight.

Yorkshire.—Steel workers at Sheffield, Rotherham and Iccles reported a slight improvement in employment; at Parkgate they were fairly well employed. Employment with iron workers at Parkgate was quiet, at Rotherham and Masbro' fair. Steel workers at Leeds were quiet, but somewhat better than in November.

Midlands.—Employment in South Staffordshire showed a further and general improvement. In Shropshire also an improvement was reported. In Derbyshire, however, a good deal of short time continued to be worked. At Scunthorpe employment was reported as fair.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment continued fairly good, the average number of shifts worked per man showing little change on the whole.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.—Employment was reported as good or fair by the majority of steel smelters making returns, but some short time was worked. Steel and iron workers were fairly well employed.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was dull generally, and slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to Trade Unions with 141,921 members show that 11,828 (or 8.3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 7.8 at the end of November, and 7.7 at the end of December, 1903.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Dec., 1904, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	13,237	11.2	8.4	12.3	+ 2.8	- 1.1
Manchester and Liverpool District	16,681	9.1	9.3	7.2	- 0.2	+ 1.9
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,478	12.8	12.1	8.9	+ 0.7	+ 3.9
West Riding Towns	11,604	11.2	9.6	9.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.3
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,458	7.4	7.1	9.3	+ 0.3	- 1.9
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,723	5.8	5.1	4.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.9
Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester District	3,743	10.3	11.7	6.2	- 1.4	+ 4.1
London and Neighbouring District	12,321	5.1	5.3	5.1	- 0.2	...
South Coast	3,885	2.4	2.2	2.4	+ 0.2	...
South Wales and Bristol District	6,222	6.2	5.1	5.1	+ 1.1	+ 1.1
Glasgow and District	13,801	9.5	9.4	10.6	+ 0.1	- 1.1
East of Scotland	3,578	12.1	11.1	11.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.3
Belfast and Dublin	3,400	14.7	12.6	12.8	+ 2.1	+ 1.9
Other Districts	5,215	7.1	5.5	8.0	+ 1.6	- 0.9
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	141,921	8.3	7.8	7.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.6

The percentage of unemployed was greatest in the Belfast and Dublin, Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn, East of Scotland, the North-East Coast, the West Riding and the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester districts. It was least in the South Coast, London, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry, and South Wales districts.

As compared with a month ago an improvement was

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

shown in the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester, the Manchester and Liverpool, and the London districts. The principal districts which showed a decline were the North-East Coast, the Belfast and Dublin, the West Riding, the South Wales and Bristol, and the East of Scotland districts.

In comparison with a year ago there was a decline in all districts except the North-East Coast, Hull and Lincolnshire, Glasgow, London and South Coast districts, the decline being greatest in the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester and the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn districts.

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

North-East Coast.—Employment in this district was bad generally and suffered from prolonged holiday suspensions; it was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. At Elswick it was fairly good. At Jarrow it was still bad. Employment in repair work on the lower reaches of the Tyne continued slack. On the Wear employment remained fairly steady; but there was little or no demand for turners or fitters. At Darlington, Hartlepool and Stockton it was bad, except for boiler makers at Darlington, who reported it as good. With pattern makers on the Tyne it was moderate. With bridge builders on the Tees it was moderate, but with wagon makers it was slack.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment in this district was slack generally. It was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. It was fair with boiler makers, smiths and strikers, and machine workers at Manchester. At Liverpool it was bad in all branches.

Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District.—Employment continued bad in this district, and was much worse than a year ago. A slight improvement was reported with makers of textile machinery in the Accrington and Burnley districts.

West Riding.—Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Sheffield the boiler makers had slightly more employment, owing to repair work. At Leeds it continued bad, though there were some signs of improvement; at Huddersfield, Rotherham and Bradford it was moderate.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment generally continued dull, and was worse than a month ago. It was, however, better than a year ago. At Hull it was bad generally, but was fair with machine workers, blacksmiths, and pattern makers, with brass founders and finishers and iron and steel dressers it was moderate. At Doncaster employment was bad generally; with coach builders, however, it was fair.

West Midlands.—Employment was dull generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the motor industry at Wolverhampton it was good; at Birmingham and Coventry it was fair. It was moderate with electrical engineers at Birmingham. In the cycle industry employment was quiet generally, but at Wolverhampton the improvement reported last month was maintained.

East Midlands.—Employment in this district was bad, though better than a month ago, it was much worse than a year ago. At Derby employment was good with boiler-makers, and fair with brass moulders; those engaged in railway works were all well employed. Employment had improved with tool machinists and pattern-makers at Nottingham. At Loughborough it was good with tool makers, and electrical engineers had full employment. At Leicester there were slight signs of improvement in general engineering.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment continued dull generally. It was slightly better than a month ago, though with a comparatively small percentage of unemployed, the figures being highest in the East-end of London. It was the same as a year ago. With brass

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

founders it was moderate; with brass finishers it was slack. With engineers and machinists at Chatham, Erith, Enfield, and Sheerness employment was good.

South Coast.—Employment generally was good, though it was slightly worse than a month ago; it was the same as a year ago. With ironfounders at Devonport it was bad.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally was dull; it was worse than a month ago and a year ago; with ironfounders it was fair; with boiler-makers at Milford it was good; at Ebbw Vale it was fair; at Swindon all branches were fully employed.

Glasgow and District.—Employment in this district was bad, but there were signs of improvement; it was slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago; it was fair with brass finishers at Glasgow and Greenock; with iron and steel and brass dressers it was moderate, and some short time was worked; with pattern makers it was dull at Glasgow, though it had improved; on the lower reaches it was good.

East of Scotland.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. With the iron moulders at Dundee, however, it was good; at Edinburgh and Falkirk it was bad, and a large number were on short time at the latter place. With pattern-makers it was bad generally. At Aberdeen only the brass-finishers report employment as fair.

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

Other Districts.—Employment at Barrow was moderate. In the Eastern Counties it was slack generally. With boiler-makers and engineers at Stoke, and with smiths and wheelwrights at Hanley employment was moderate.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during December, but was slightly better than a month and a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 56,095 members had a total of 9,207 (or 16.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 16.6 per cent. at the end of November, and 16.7 at the end of December, 1903.

As compared with a month ago the figures show an improvement in seven districts, especially in the Belfast and Mersey districts, and a decline in five districts, of which the decline in the Tyne and Blyth district is the most noticeable. As compared with December, 1903, most districts show an improvement, but the Tees and Hartlepool and Belfast districts show a heavy decline.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1904 included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Dec., 1904, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,208	30.4	17.3	20.6	+ 3.1	- 0.2
Wear	4,792	15.9	17.0	22.7	- 1.1	- 6.8
Tees and Hartlepool	4,879	28.9	28.0	17.1	+ 0.9	+ 11.8
Humber	2,461	15.7	14.9	19.1	+ 0.8	- 3.4
Thames and Medway	4,669	11.5	10.5	12.1	+ 1.0	- 0.6
South Coast	4,001	4.1	3.5	6.4	+ 0.6	- 2.3
Bristol Channel Ports	2,593	16.7	18.0	15.0	- 2.2	+ 1.7
Mersey	3,951	14.2	17.1	19.4	- 2.9	- 5.2
Clyde	11,685	15.0	16.0	15.9	- 1.0	- 0.9
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	1,941	25.3	27.3	30.2	- 2.0	- 4.9
Belfast	2,939	16.7	19.2	10.9	- 2.5	+ 5.8
Other Districts	2,856	9.5	11.1	11.1	- 1.6	- 1.6
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	56,095	16.4	16.6	16.7	- 0.2	- 0.3

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

On the *Tyne and Blyth* employment was bad generally, and affected by holiday suspensions; with shipwrights it was moderate. There are, however, signs of improvement.

On the *Wear* employment was quiet generally, though better than a month, and much better than a year ago; with drillers and hole-cutters it was fair.

In the *Tees and Hartlepool* district employment was generally bad, but with iron and steel ship-builders was reported to be improving.

On the *Humber* employment was slack generally, with the exception of Beverley, where it was good, and Selby where it was fair.

On the *Thames and Medway* employment remained slack, but better than a year ago.

On the *South Coast* employment continued fairly good except at Southampton, where it was bad. Generally it was not so good as a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

At the *Bristol Channel Ports* employment continued bad, but showed an improvement as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. At Pembroke Dock employment continued fairly good.

On the *Mersey* employment continued slack, but a general improvement was shown as compared both with a month ago and a year ago.

On the *Clyde* employment was dull, but showed signs of improvement. Iron shipbuilders report an improvement, and light platers and ship-range makers were well employed, a number working overtime.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment remained bad generally, but at Dundee an improvement was shown.

Belfast.—Employment remained bad. It was better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago.

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

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally remained slack, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. A continuance of improvement was, however, reported in the brass trade.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment in the brass-working trade showed a further slight improvement, but was still worse than a year ago. Short time was, however, general in the bedstead making branch.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment was moderate with nut and bolt makers at Birmingham, Smethwick and Cwmbran; dull in the Dudley district. With cut nail makers it was moderate at Birmingham and slack with rivet makers at Birmingham and Blackheath, where wrought nail makers were also slack.

Tubes.—Employment continued slack both in Staffordshire and South Wales, but there was a slight improvement in Birmingham in the copper, bedstead and cased tube trades.

Chains, Anchors, etc.—On chains and anchors at Cradley and at Pontypridd employment was reported as slack; with anvil and vice makers at Dudley it was slack. In the axle trade it was moderate at Birmingham and West Bromwich, good at Wednesbury with railway axles, moderate with road axles. With spring makers it was fair at West Bromwich; good with railway springs, moderate with cart springs, at Wednesbury where employment on wheels and tyres had also improved. Employment at Walsall on harness furniture and cart gear was bad.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Employment continued bad with much short time in the lock, key and latch trade. Employment in the hollow-ware branches was generally bad, except at Wolverhampton, where it was reported as good. It was moderate in builders' ironmongery and in the smaller hardware trades.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield cutlery trades employment generally was slack. File makers generally were slack, except machine file cutters at Sheffield, who reported employment as fair, and file smiths at Wolverhampton as moderate. Edge tool makers generally were slack. Sewing and machine needle makers were slack at Redditch and Nottingham. The fish hook makers at Redditch were well employed.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment generally was bad in these trades and there was much short time in the larger centres.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In these trades employment generally was moderate, but at Bristol, Exeter and Edinburgh employment was reported as good; it was fair at the Lye, Hull, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London these trades generally were slack. In Birmingham the Britannia metal workers reported employment as fair; other branches as quiet. In Sheffield the silver platers and gilders were the only section reporting employment as good. Employment in the watch trade at Coventry was reported as quiet.

Wirework.—Employment in the wire trades was fair generally, though there were some local exceptions.

Farriers.—Employment generally was fair.

COTTON TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT continued good in December and showed a great improvement as compared with a year ago, more particularly in the section of the trade using American cotton. Many spindles have been recently changed from Egyptian to American cotton in consequence of the limited demand for the Egyptian yarns. In the weaving branch almost every available loom is now running.

In the *spinning* mills covered by the employers' returns, containing 15,810,652 spindles, 98.7 per cent. of the total spindles were working in the week before Christmas, compared with 98.6 per cent. at the end of November, and 99.2 per cent. a year ago. The number of spindles owned by the firms making returns was 15,612,668, an increase of 30,134 (or 0.2 per cent.) compared with a month ago, and of 168,732 (or 1.1 per cent.) compared with a year ago. The slight decline in the proportion of spindles working compared with a year ago is unimportant when compared with the great diminution in short time worked. The percentage of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in mills in which short time was worked in the week before Christmas was 3.0, compared with 2.5 per cent. at the end of November, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

In the *weaving* branch employment showed a great improvement compared with a year ago. Of the 213,615 looms covered by the employers' returns for the week before Christmas 97.7 per cent. were working, compared with 96.8 per cent. at the end of November, and 94.4 per cent. a year ago. The number of looms owned by the firms making returns was 208,616 an increase of 1,948 (or 0.9 per cent.) compared with a month ago, and of 9,421 (or 4.7 per cent.) compared with a year ago. The proportion of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in weaving sheds in which short time was worked in the week before Christmas was 2.1 per cent., compared with 1.8 per cent. at the end of November, and 1.3 per cent. a year ago.

It will be seen from the following Table that the number of persons employed by the firms sending returns

showed a slight increase in every department compared with the previous month, and a larger one still compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed in last week of			Percentage Increase in number employed in last week of December, 1904, compared with	
	December, 1904.	November, 1904.	December, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing	19,852	19,820	19,728	0.2	0.6
Spinning	29,763	29,642	28,998	0.4	2.6
Weaving	81,241	81,038	79,495	0.3	2.2
Others	15,314	15,263	14,941	0.3	2.5
Total	146,170	145,763	143,162	0.3	2.1

SPINNING.

Compared with a month ago more operatives were affected by short time in the Oldham, Bolton, and Bury districts. In the Blackburn district fewer were affected by short time, and in the Stockport, Wigan, and Manchester districts no firms reported short time. No district showed a decline in the percentages of spindles working.

Compared with a year ago every district showed a great improvement in time worked. In Bolton the percentage of spindles working declined from 99.3 to 96.6, and in the Manchester district it fell from 98.2 to 97.1, but in no district was the fall of any importance, considering the great decline in the number affected by short time.

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

District.	Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Preparing and Spinning Departments.			Spindles Working per cent. of Total Number of Spindles.		
	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.
Ashton District	0.7	0.7	2.0	99.2	98.8	98.7
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ... ..	...	4.9	16.2	98.3	98.2	98.4
Oldham District	4.7	2.6	7.9	99.3	99.3	99.5
Bolton District	3.0	1.3	4.4	96.6	96.2	99.3
Wigan and Leigh District ... ..	...	2.5	4.4	99.9	99.7	100.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden	6.0	4.4	3.0	99.8	99.7	98.8
Preston, Chorley, and Lancaster	1.3	1.3	7.2	100.0	100.0	99.4
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen	3.5	5.2	21.1	99.2	99.2	99.4
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, and Nelson	2.6	2.6	2.4	99.9	99.9	99.9
Manchester District ... ..	...	2.5	37.5	97.1	96.5	98.2
Total	3.0	2.5	22.9	98.7	98.6	99.2

WEAVING.

Compared with a month ago the percentage affected by short time showed a decline in the Bury, etc., district, and an increase in the Burnley and Manchester districts. In Bolton 10 per cent. were affected by short time, as in the previous month. The percentage of looms working showed an increase in most districts, but a decline was apparent in the Wigan and Leigh district and the Manchester district.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase in time worked and percentage of looms running in every district.

The following Table shows the percentage of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns who were employed in weaving and other departments working short time during the week before Christmas, 1904 and 1903, and November, 1904. It also shows the percentage of looms working during these periods.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—COTTON AND WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

District.	Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Weaving and other Departments.			Looms Working per cent. of Total Number of Looms.		
	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.
Ashton District ...	...	...	56.5	91.7	86.0	70.3
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ...	...	...	2.4	99.3	94.7	95.6
Oldham District ...	...	...	40.8	81.4	79.4	78.8
Bolton District ...	10.4	10.4	23.1	95.9	95.0	93.6
Wigan and Leigh District ...	...	...	55.5	93.6	98.3	94.5
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden ...	3.8	4.2	24.1	96.1	95.7	92.4
Preston, Chorley, & Lancaster ...	...	...	9.5	99.2	95.5	91.2
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen ...	...	...	6.2	99.9	99.9	97.7
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, & Nelson ...	1.9	1.0	8.2	99.1	98.7	96.7
Manchester District ...	6.6	5.2	44.7	91.2	91.4	90.3
Total ...	2.1	1.8	16.3	97.7	96.8	94.4

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of December the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 4.20d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 4.79d., and the lowest 3.63d. The price for November was 5.31d., and for December, 1903, 6.87d. For the period from 1st to 11th January, 1905, the average price of "middling American" was 3.84d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during December averaged 7.41d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8d., and the lowest 6.18d. The price for November was 7.92d., and for December, 1903, 8.47d. For the period from 1st to 11th January, 1905, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 6.58d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

	Month of December.			Twelve months ended December.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imported ...	Bales. 685,160	Bales. 617,720	Bales. 727,845	Bales. 3,811,153	Bales. 3,670,367	Bales. 3,992,458
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns ...	333,914	350,052	334,597	3,237,670	3,006,935	2,987,604
Exported ...	44,741	42,881	44,509	463,482	511,568	388,834

The quantity of all kinds of American cotton forwarded from English ports to inland towns during the twelve completed months of 1904, was 2,461,340 bales, or 19,636 bales less than in the same period in 1903. The corresponding figures for Egyptian cotton are 316,843 in 1904, and 289,402 in 1903.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of December.			Twelve Months ended December.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
American ...	Bales. 271,517	Bales. 245,318	Bales. 284,049	Bales. 2,534,035	Bales. 2,480,976	Bales. 2,461,310
Brazilian ...	9,362	4,748	3,651	179,923	125,532	78,194
East Indian ...	2,172	3,275	2,227	18,718	53,374	81,616
Egyptian ...	45,226	41,403	41,037	325,007	289,402	316,843
Miscellaneous ...	5,637	5,303	3,633	81,987	57,831	46,614
Total ...	333,914	350,052	334,597	3,237,670	3,006,935	2,987,604

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 6th January was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 1,091,980 bales, compared with 730,750 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in December, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during December

averaged 12.43d. per lb., as compared with 12.44d. per lb. in December, 1903, a decrease of about 0.1 per cent. The corresponding value for November, 1904, was 12.28d. per lb. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to 1.1 per cent., the value being 2.72d. per yard in December, 1904, as compared with 2.69d. in December, 1903. The declared value in November, 1904, was 2.73d. per yard:—

Description.	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Dec., 1902.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.	Dec., 1902.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.
Cotton Yarn & Twist—	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Grey ...	10,731,700	12,305,100	14,151,900	10.68	12.47	12.30
Bleached and Dyed ...	2,927,400	5,180,300	2,808,500	11.29	12.33	12.64
Total ...	13,659,100	17,485,400	16,960,400	10.81	12.44	12.43
Cotton Piece Goods—	yds.	yds.	yds.	per yd.	per yd.	per yd.
Grey or Unbleached ...	166,039,300	139,929,300	217,888,700	2.02	2.44	2.22
Bleached ...	116,039,200	113,561,700	155,642,800	2.51	2.65	2.63
Printed ...	86,783,000	84,773,000	81,888,900	2.66	2.77	2.90
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ...	72,573,900	80,314,000	95,297,900	3.42	3.62	3.79
Total ...	441,435,400	418,578,000	560,718,100	2.51	2.69	2.72

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

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

ACCORDING to the amount of wages paid, the December returns showed no change in the *Woollen* trade, and a slight improvement (1.1 per cent.) in the *Worsted* trade as compared with November.

Compared with a year ago, employment in the *Woollen* trade showed a marked improvement (18.4 per cent.). Employment in the *Worsted* trade, although still bad, showed considerable improvement (6.2 per cent.). The increase in wages paid is, however, affected to some extent by the fact that in 1904 the week before Christmas was a full week, whereas in 1903 it was not so.

The number employed by *Woollen* and *Worsted* firms making returns for the pay day before Christmas was 71,045, compared with 70,870 at the end of November, and 70,128 a year ago, an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed, firms employing 49,639 workpeople have given particulars of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in the week before Christmas in 1904 and 1903, and in the last week of November, 1904. From these returns it appears that, compared with the end of November, the number employed showed an increase of 0.1 per cent., while the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 1.0 per cent., and the amount of wages earned showed an increase of 10.6 per cent.

In the *Sorting* and *Combing* branch there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago the number employed showed a decline, but the amount of wages paid showed an improvement.

In the *Spinning* branch little change took place compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago the number employed showed little change, but the amount earned showed an increase.

In the *Weaving* branch there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and a very considerable improvement compared with a year ago.

The following Table* enables a comparison to be made of the number employed and wages paid in the various processes of manufacture in Yorkshire, Scotland, and other districts reported on for the week before Christmas, with the last week in November and the week before Christmas, 1903. The number of sorters and

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

combers outside Yorkshire is too small for separate classification.

Branch of Woollen and Worsted Trade.	Workpeople.				Earnings.*			
	Number employed before Xmas, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay-day before Xmas, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
Wool Combing and Sorting—	3,216	+ 0.4	- 3.4	£ 3,005	+ 2.4	+ 3.1		
Spinning—								
Yorkshire ...	18,574	- 0.4	- 0.6	10,098	+ 0.7	+ 3.3		
Scotland ...	866	+ 0.6	+ 6.0	622	- 4.5	+ 13.7		
Other Districts ...	1,186	- 1.0	- 1.2	681	- 3.4	+ 8.3		
Total ...	20,626	- 0.4	- 0.3	11,401	+ 0.2	+ 4.1		
Weaving—								
Yorkshire ...	10,912	+ 0.7	+ 6.0	9,710	+ 2.8	+ 21.6		
Scotland ...	2,551	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	2,145	- 0.8	+ 23.0		
Other Districts ...	971	+ 0.4	- 4.1	681	- 1.7	+ 6.2		
Total ...	14,434	+ 0.6	+ 4.2	11,937	+ 1.9	+ 20.9		
Other Departments—								
Yorkshire ...	5,190	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	5,442	- 1.7	+ 12.0		
Scotland ...	1,942	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	1,844	+ 0.8	+ 13.1		
Other Districts ...	777	- 1.8	- 3.4	722	+ 3.0	+ 3.6		
Total ...	7,909	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	8,008	- 0.7	+ 12.0		
Unspecified—								
Yorkshire ...	1,751	- 0.2	+ 1.4	1,408	+ 1.0	+ 2.3		
Scotland ...	870	+ 1.3	- 1.7	830	- 1.9	+ 0.9		
Other Districts ...	321	- 0.8	+ 2.9	552	+ 1.1	+ 8.9		
Total ...	3,444	...	+ 1.0	2,790	+ 0.1	+ 3.1		
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—								
Yorkshire ...	39,318	+ 0.1	+ 1.2	28,720	+ 1.1	+ 10.2		
Scotland ...	6,331	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	5,569	- 0.8	+ 14.5		
Other Districts ...	3,980	+ 0.6	- 1.3	2,852	- 0.2	+ 7.0		
Total ...	49,639	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	37,141	+ 0.7	+ 10.6		

From the following Table it will be seen that in the *Woollen* trade, compared with a month ago, there was little change. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 7.2 per cent. in the number employed in Yorkshire and of 25.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid; in Scotland there was little change in numbers, but an increase of 14.5 per cent. in wages; in the other districts, although there was a decline in numbers employed, there was an increase of 5.7 per cent. in wages.

In the *Worsted* trade the improvement in amount of wages earned compared with a year ago was about the same in Bradford and in the other worsted centres of the West Riding.

Trade and District.	Workpeople.				Earnings.*			
	No. employed before Xmas, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay-day before Xmas, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
Woollen—								
Yorkshire ...	7,356	+ 0.7	+ 7.2	6,837	+ 0.6	+ 25.9		
Scotland ...	6,331	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	5,569	- 0.8	+ 14.5		
Other Districts ...	2,378	...	- 1.6	1,861	+ 0.2	+ 5.7		
Total ...	16,045	+ 0.6	+ 5.2	14,267	...	+ 18.4		
Worsted—								
Bradford ...	19,032	- 0.1	- 0.5	12,591	+ 1.8	+ 6.0		
Other Parts of West Riding ...	12,960	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	9,292	+ 0.5	+ 6.2		
Other Districts ...	1,602	- 1.4	- 0.7	991	- 1.0	+ 9.4		
Total ...	33,594	- 0.1	- 0.1	22,874	+ 1.1	+ 6.2		
Total ...	49,639	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	37,141	+ 0.7	+ 10.6		

Firms employing 66,985 workpeople have given particulars of the number employed in the different processes. Of this total 14.4 per cent. were reported as working in departments affected by short time, and 6.3 per cent. in departments working overtime and night-work.

Of operatives in the *sorting* and *combing* branch 15.7

* The comparison of wages paid is affected by the fact that in 1904 Christmas fell on a Sunday, and in 1903 on a Friday.

per cent. were in departments affected by short time; in the *spinning* branch 18.0 per cent.; in the *weaving* branch 10.5 per cent.; in the other departments 11.3 per cent.

In Yorkshire 13.3 per cent. of the operatives were reported as working in departments affected by short time, and 6.8 per cent. in departments affected by overtime and night work; in the other districts of England 34.3 per cent. were in departments affected by short time, and 6.1 per cent. in departments affected by night work. In Scotland 7.2 per cent. were in departments affected by short time, and 3.2 per cent. in departments affected by overtime.

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards employment in the principal districts in the woollen and worsted trades:—

Bradford District.—Firms employing over 19,000 operatives showed a slight improvement (1.7 per cent.) in the amount of wages earned, compared with the end of November, and a greater one (5.7 per cent.) compared with a year ago. Employment, however, was still bad, and the improvement on a year ago was practically confined to the weaving branch.

Keighley District.—Firms employing over 5,600 operatives showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment, although slightly better, was still bad.

Halifax District.—Firms employing over 2,700 operatives showed an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Although employment was still bad, it showed a great improvement compared with a year ago, the number employed showing an increase of 4.1 per cent. and the amount of wages an increase of 13.3 per cent.

Huddersfield District.—Firms employing about 4,900 operatives showed practically no change compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 10.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 35.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Employment was good. Many of the mills in the district worked overtime; in the Colne Valley overtime and night-work continued general. The improvement in the worsted trade is maintained.

Leeds District.—Firms employing about 2,900 operatives showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment, although not brisk, was reported as fair by the Trade Union warp dressers and twisters, and as moderate by the wileys and fettlers.

Heavy Woollen District.—Firms employing about 1,800 operatives showed little change compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 8.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 19.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Employment generally throughout the district continued good, overtime being general.

Scotland.—Firms employing over 6,300 operatives showed little change compared with a month ago, but an increase of 14.5 per cent. in wages compared with a year ago. In Hawick and Galashiels employment continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. In Selkirk employment was not so good as a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Other Districts.—Employment at Trowbridge was reported as slightly better than in November. In Montgomeryshire one mill was closed; operatives in the other mills were fully occupied. Employment was slack with woollen operatives in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—OTHER TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING TRADE.

	Quantities.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Dec., 1902.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.	Dec., 1902.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.
	hs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Raw Wool:—						
Imported ...	42,527,480	44,740,037	54,381,071	8'46	8'48	9'12
Exported ...	5,388,800	3,021,400	6,103,800	6'19	6'27	11'19
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.						
Yarn:—						
Woolen ...	154,100	155,800	272,400	19'39	18'72	19'62
Worsted ...	4,496,000	4,801,500	4,214,400	15'82	17'93	19'45
Alpaca and Mohair ...	1,110,700	1,202,200	1,218,100	28'07	28'89	27'87
Total ...	5,758,800	6,159,500	5,704,900	18'28	20'09	21'25
Woolen Goods:—						
Woolen ...	3,742,800	4,873,600	7,181,200	25'96	25'84	25'61
Worsted ...	9,769,200	10,499,300	10,831,500	15'51	14'93	15'44
Total ...	13,512,000	15,372,900	18,012,700	18'41	18'19	19'49

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the jute trade was good. In the flax trade in Scotland it continued slack; in Ulster it was fair in the spinning branch but continued quiet in the weaving branch.

In Dundee employment was reported as good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Information received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys, and 21,000 women and girls, showed that out of 38 spinning mills, 33 gave full employment; and out of 34 weaving factories, 28 gave full employment. In Forfar employment continued fair and was about the same as a year ago. At Brechin and Arbroath it continued quiet. It was reported as good at Kilbirnie, and flax dressers at Johnstone were fully employed. In Dunfermline employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

In Ulster employment in the spinning mills was fair. In Belfast the Trade Unions reported employment as moderate with flax roughers; as improving with beetlers; as dull with flax dressers, power loom yarn dressers, and hackle and gill makers; as quiet with power loom tenters and women operatives; as fair with linen lappers.

At Barnsley employment in the linen trade was reported as improving.

Hosiery Trade.

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

Employment generally was better than a year ago; in England it was quiet; in Scotland it was fairly good.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 20,823 workpeople in their factories at the end of December showed a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a year ago. Employment generally showed some improvement in Leicester compared with a month ago, but was still bad. In Hinckley employment continued moderate, and was fairly good with workers on cotton and seamless hosiery. In Loughborough employment was moderate in the seamless hose branch, slack with makers of fashioned hose and cashmere underwear, and bad with hand frame work knitters in the country districts.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment at Nottingham showed a further improvement compared with a month ago. Employment generally throughout the district was better than a year ago, although still far from good. Steam power workers reported employment as moderately good at Mansfield and Arnold. Hand frame workers reported employment as slack at Nottingham and moderate at Arnold, bad at Calverton, Woodborough, and Gunthorpe.

Scotland.—In Selkirk employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In Hawick employ-

ment showed a decline compared with a month ago, but it was better than a year ago.

Lace Trade.

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

Employment generally was bad and worse than a year ago. In Nottingham, compared with a month ago, little change was shown, and employment was still bad in the levers and curtain sections; it was fair in the plain net branch. Employment was reported as slack with auxiliary lace workers and in all the minor branches; it was bad with lace menders, winders and female operatives in finishing departments. At Beeston an improvement was reported; at Sandiacre, Stapleford, Kimberley and Bulwell employment was moderate; at Ilkeston and Long Eaton it was bad in nearly all departments. Lace makers at Glasgow and Newmilns reported employment as fair.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

Woolen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding, although still quiet, was better than a month ago and a year ago. About two-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time and about one-fifth worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment was fair at Manchester and New Mills, fairly good at Glasgow; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was fair; at Glasgow it was good. With block printers at Glasgow it continued bad.

Hosiery Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester the improvement noted last month was maintained, but much short time was worked. At Loughborough and Hinckley employment was moderate. With hosiery dyers at Nottingham and Basford employment was moderate; with bleachers an improvement was noted, with hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Nottingham employment was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment was fair and better than a month ago. In Dundee employment with bleachfield workers continued fair; with calender workers it was slack, short time being general; with dyers it was good.

TAILORING TRADE.

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

Employment in the bespoke branch was bad and worse than a month ago; in London, compared with a year ago, it showed an improvement. In the ready-made branch employment continued bad and was much the same as a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 1,035 workpeople on their premises and 1,811 outworkers.* According to these returns employment was moderate with both indoor workers and outworkers. Compared with a month ago employment was worse with firms employing 77 per cent. of the inworkers and with firms employing 63 per cent. of the outworkers. Compared with a year ago employment was reported as better by firms employing 56 per cent. of the inworkers and by firms employing 53 per cent. of the outworkers; as worse by firms employing 24 per cent. of the inworkers and by firms employing 30 per cent. of the outworkers. The Trade Union tailors reported employment as bad. Employment was reported as bad or dull in Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin and Belfast.

Ready-made Branch.—In London, according to returns from wholesale clothiers, employment was moderate; and better than a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported employment as bad.

In Leeds employment continued bad, and was much the same as a year ago. According to returns received

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 9,400 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during December before Christmas was good or fair with firms employing 13 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 57 per cent., and quiet or bad with firms employing 30 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 37 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 22 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 41 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 42 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 19 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 39 per cent. as worse. The Trade Union operatives reported employment as still bad, but as slightly better than a month ago. In Manchester employment was bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Bristol it was bad and slightly worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. In the Wolverhampton district employment was fair. In Leicestershire it showed an improvement. In Norwich employment was bad, many operatives being unemployed, and factories running short time. In Ipswich, Bury, Woodbridge and Haverhill employment was dull; in Colchester it was fair. In Glasgow employment was bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally continued bad, but it was considerably better than a year ago.

Of the total number of operatives covered by the returns 58 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments during the week before Christmas.

The number employed by the 568 firms making returns for the pay day before Christmas was 69,165, compared with 69,434 at the end of November, and 71,120 a year ago, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed 453 firms, employing 57,736 workpeople, have given returns of the amount of wages paid the pay day before Christmas, 1904 and 1903, and on the last pay-day in November, 1904. The returns from these firms are analysed in the following Table:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both number employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.		Earnings.*			
		No. employed before Xmas, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day before Xmas, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		
						A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES							
London ...	43	2,632	- 5.2	- 3.6	3,319	- 1.5	+ 8.5
Leicester ...	65	11,173	+ 1.4	- 4.6	12,582	+ 10.7	+ 18.9
Leicester Country District	20	2,524	- 0.1	+ 2.4	2,131	+ 3.9	+ 25.3
Northampton ...	51	6,333	+ 1.9	- 4.3	5,919	+ 8.7	+ 12.7
Kettering ...	21	2,577	- 2.3	- 1.6	2,337	+ 4.5	+ 9.1
Northampton Country District	78	8,071	- 1.5	- 4.2	6,891	+ 0.1	+ 10.6
Stafford and District	15	2,385	+ 0.2	+ 4.4	2,207	+ 6.5	+ 17.0
Norwich & District	25	3,689	- 0.4	+ 1.8	2,929	+ 2.6	+ 15.0
Bristol ...	15	2,038	- 2.4	- 6.0	1,631	- 8.7	+ 2.4
Kingswood	22	2,618	- 3.0	+ 5.1	2,777	+ 3.8	+ 13.4
Leeds and District	32	2,771	- 0.9	- 11.1	2,356	+ 2.2	- 7.6
Manchester & District	10	1,875	- 0.2	+ 9.1	1,659	+ 4.5	+ 13.1
Birmingham & District	5	845	- 0.5	+ 0.5	790	+ 23.4	+ 19.2
Other parts of England and Wales	20	2,504	- 0.3	- 5.4	1,991	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Total, England and Wales	428	53,256	- 0.4	- 2.7	49,569	+ 4.8	+ 12.3
SCOTLAND ...	22	4,018	+ 0.3	- 7.4	3,806	- 1.0	- 10.4
IRELAND ...	3	462	+ 0.6	- 9.8	349	- 2.0	- 8.4
Total, UNITED KINGDOM	453	57,736	- 0.4	- 3.1	53,724	+ 4.3	+ 10.2

* The comparison of wages paid is affected by the fact that in 1904 Christmas fell on a Sunday and in 1903 on a Friday.

Compared with the last week of November, every district in England and Wales showed an increase in the amount of wages paid, except Bristol, which showed a decrease of 8.7 per cent., and London which showed a decrease of 1.5 per cent.; in Scotland and Ireland a slight decrease was shown. The increase was greatest in Birmingham and district (23.4 per cent.), Leicester (10.7 per cent.), Northampton (8.7 per cent.), Stafford and district (6.5 per cent.) The net result was an increase of 4.3 per cent.

Compared with a year ago every district in England and Wales showed an improvement in the amount of wages paid, except the Leeds district which showed a decrease of 7.6 per cent.; in Scotland and Ireland a considerable decrease was shown. The increase was greatest in Leicester country district (25.3 per cent.), Birmingham and district (19.2 per cent.), Leicester (18.9 per cent.), Stafford and district (17.0 per cent.), Norwich and district (15.0 per cent.) The net result was an increase of 10.2 per cent., but some of this increase may be due to the fact that Christmas day fell on a Friday in 1903 and on Sunday in 1904.

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

London.—Employment continued quiet, showing a decline compared with a month ago, but an improvement compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported it as quiet; the clickers and pressmen as bad; one branch of hand-sewn boot-makers as fair; another branch as quiet.

Leicester and District.—Employment in Leicester showed a marked improvement in wages earned compared with a month ago, and a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported a steady improvement and the clickers and pressers a slight one. In the Leicester country district there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a great improvement compared with a year ago; at Hinckley employment was reported as fair.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—Employment throughout the district continued bad, but in Northampton it was better than at the end of November. Firms making returns showed a decline in numbers employed compared with a year ago, but a considerable increase in wages paid. The army bootmakers reported employment as slightly improved.

Stafford and District.—Employment showed a general improvement in Stafford, but the Trade Union lasters and finishers reported one-third of their number on short time. In Stone employment continued slack. Compared with a year ago employment generally showed a considerable improvement.

Eastern Counties.—Employment in Norwich was reported as fairly good with women machinists but as not quite so good with lasters and finishers as at the end of November; the clickers and pressmen reported employment as fair, but with several shops on short time. Employment was reported as bad in Ipswich and Colchester.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Employment in Bristol was exceptionally bad, and several firms stopped altogether from 7 to 14 days for the Christmas holidays. In Kingswood firms making returns showed a decline in numbers, but an increase in wages compared with the last week in November; compared with a year ago they showed a considerable improvement both in numbers employed and wages paid.

Leeds and District.—Employment was bad throughout the district, and much worse than a year ago.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; HAT TRADE; OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

Scotland.—Firms making returns showed little change compared with a month ago, but a considerable decline compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as slightly improved at Glasgow; as bad at Edinburgh; very slack at Maybole; quiet at Dundee and Aberdeen; fair at Kilmarnock.

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

	Month of December.			Year ended December.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imports						
(Dozen pairs...)	19,744	16,840	14,121	243,705	237,166	207,912
{ Value £ ...	74,585	63,011	55,166	877,814	940,422	774,412
Re-Exports						
(Dozen pairs...)	1,935	1,613	945	20,453	21,610	17,380
{ Value £ ...	6,324	4,449	2,505	57,972	59,356	49,670
Exports						
(Dozen pairs...)	81,802	57,631	64,577	788,838	773,858	675,652
{ Value £ ...	266,205	136,302	153,053	1,896,604	1,845,380	1,590,606

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the London dressmaking trade was dull and showed a decline compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago court dressmakers reported a decline, and retail firms an improvement. In the mantle trade employment was bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade employment was moderate, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the corset trade it was moderate, and much better than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London returns received from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,544 dressmakers in the week before Christmas, showed a decrease of 6.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with the end of November, but an increase of 4.5 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment on the whole was bad. Court dressmakers employing 1,511 workpeople showed a decrease of 9.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with the end of November, and of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; firms employing 13 per cent. of the total number reported employment as good or fair; firms employing 61 per cent. as moderate, and firms employing 26 per cent. as bad. In the wholesale mantle and costume trade employment was bad, being worse than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. With mantle makers in retail firms employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from manufacturers of blouses, aprons and underclothing showed employment to be bad on the whole and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With milliners in retail firms making returns employment was moderate, being worse than a month ago and about the same as a year ago; in the wholesale millinery branch employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux showed a decrease in the demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, and practically no change compared with a year ago; the number applying for situations was greater than the demand but less than a month ago and a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was moderate; it was about the same as a month ago and worse than a year ago. Firms employing 1,749 workpeople in the week before Christmas showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with the end of November and a decrease of 5.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,715 workpeople in their factories in the week before Christmas (in addition to 3,765 outworkers) showed no change in the number employed compared with the end of November, and an increase of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was moderate. Compared with a month ago firms employing 39 per cent. of the factory workers reported employment as improved, firms employing 49 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 12 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago firms employing 67.6 per cent. of those in factories reported employment as improved, firms employed 8.7 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 23.7 per cent. as worse. In Ireland there was a decided general improvement; in Great Britain there was little change on the whole compared with either period. With the 3,765 outworkers (of whom 3,597 were in Ireland) employment generally was bad.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,120 workpeople in their factories in the week before Christmas, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with the end of November, but an increase of 4.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was moderate. Compared with a month ago firms employing 19 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 73 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 8 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago there was a marked improvement, firms employing 68 per cent. returning employment as improved, firms employing 14 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 18 per cent. as worse.

HAT TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the hat trade was slack, and showed a decline compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago it showed little change in the felt hat branch, and was rather worse in the silk hat branch. Trade Unions with 5,388 members had 293 (or 5.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 319 per cent. at the end of November, and 5.2 per cent. a year ago.

With *silk* hatters employment in London was very slack, and rather worse than a year ago. In Denton employment was reported as quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union silk hatters had 14.0 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 13.4 per cent. a month ago, and 10.3 per cent. a year ago.

With *felt* hatters employment in Denton was much worse than a month ago, the ladies' felt hat season coming to an end; it was about the same as a year ago. At Stockport employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Employment was slack at Hyde and Failsworth, and quiet at Bury. In Warwickshire it was moderate, worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters had 4.0 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 2.3 per cent. at the end of November, and 4.4 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

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

THE state of employment in December remained bad with much short time, and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of December was 11.9, compared with 11.2 in November and 8.3 in December, 1903.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment continued bad generally. At Bolton, Bury and Wigan, however, it was again reported as fair; and at Leeds an improvement was reported with curriers and leather shavers.

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

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment remained slack generally, but it was fair at Dundee and Dublin.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Fancy and morocco leather finishers and pocket-book and leather case makers in London reported employment as fair; portmanteau and trunk makers in Manchester as steady. With these exceptions employment was slack generally.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

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

THE returns show that employment at the end of December was worse than at the end of November, 1904, and December, 1903.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT underwent a general decline, and was worse than a year ago. In *letterpress printing* Trade Unions with 39,529 members had 4.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 3.1 per cent. in November, and 3.4 per cent. in December, 1903. In *lithographic printing* the decline was not so marked, Trade Unions with 6,437 members having 5.4 per cent. unemployed, against 4.8 a month ago and 4.9 a year ago. With *bookbinders* the falling off in employment, as compared with a year ago, was very marked; of 7,011 Trade Union members in this section 5.0 per cent. were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 3.5 a month ago and 2.6 per cent. in December, 1903.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec. 1904, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London ...	23,019	5.4	3.2	3.8	+ 2.2	+ 1.6
Northern Counties ...	1,461	1.8	2.7	2.3	- 0.9	- 0.5
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,891	6.2	4.8	4.9	+ 1.4	+ 1.3
Yorkshire ...	4,327	4.7	3.8	3.5	+ 0.9	+ 1.2
East Midlands ...	2,019	3.9	2.9	2.0	+ 1.0	+ 1.9
West Midlands ...	2,470	5.3	4.0	3.1	+ 1.3	+ 2.2
Eastern Counties ...	388	4.1	1.3	2.4	+ 2.8	+ 1.7
S. & S.W. Counties...	2,685	2.6	1.0	2.1	+ 1.6	+ 0.5
Wales and Mon. ...	812	2.3	1.6	1.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
Scotland ...	6,305	2.8	2.9	1.1	- 0.1	+ 1.7
Ireland ...	2,600	5.5	6.0	6.6	- 0.5	- 1.1
United Kingdom ...	52,977	4.8	3.4	3.5	+ 1.4	+ 1.3

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

London.—Employment was worse at the end of December than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 17,311 members had 5.0 per cent. unemployed, compared with 2.9 per cent. in November and 3.7 per cent. a year ago. In the lithographic trade less change is shown, the percentage unemployed of 1,962 Trade Union members being 6.9 against 6.0 a month ago and 6.6 a year ago. With bookbinders a heavy decline is shown. Of 3,746 Trade Union members in this section, 6.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.1 per cent. in November and 2.6 per cent. in December, 1903.

Northern Counties.—Employment at Newcastle was reported as very fair with letterpress printers; fair with bookbinders; with lithographic printers not so good. Elsewhere employment was good generally.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At both Manchester and Liverpool 8 per cent. of Trade Union letterpress printers were out of employment at the end of the month, but a slight improvement was reported at Manchester. Electrotypers, stereotypers and lithographic artists were fairly well employed. Lithographic printers and bookbinders reported employment as fair at Manchester; dull at Liverpool. The trade generally was well employed at most other towns.

Yorkshire, Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment with printers was quiet on the whole at the end of the month. With bookbinders it was fairly good.

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

Scotland.—In Edinburgh employment was reported as fairly good with letterpress printers and bookbinders; bad with lithographic printers. In Glasgow employment was quiet generally; in Dundee and Aberdeen good generally.

Ireland.—Employment remained fairly good, except at Belfast and Cork, where it continued quiet.

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in England and Wales remained good in the machine trade, especially in Lancashire. In the hand-made trade it continued slack. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,379 members had 3.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, the same percentage as in November, 1904, and December, 1903. In Scotland returns received from 30 employers showed that 5,104 workpeople were employed by them at the end of December, as compared with 5,110 at the end of November, and 5,033 at the end of December 1903.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT during December was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades (exclusive of coopers) at the end of December was 10.5, as compared with 8.4 at the end of November, 1904, and 8.9 at the end of December, 1903.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

EMPLOYMENT with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,625 showed 368 (or 8.0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 6.9 per cent. at the end of November, 1904, and 5.6 per cent. at the end of December, 1903.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment remained bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 14,475, showed 1,715 (or 11.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 10.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1904, and 9.4 per cent. at the end of December, 1903.

Coopers.

EMPLOYMENT with coopers remained dull and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, fair at Hull and Birmingham, and good at Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment generally was slack, and was rather worse than a month ago, but about the same as a year ago. Coach builders in the motor trade in London, and electric tramcar builders at Leicester, however, continued busy. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,854, reported 597 (or 7.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, compared with 6.9 per cent. at the end of November, 1904, and 7.9 per cent. at the end of December, 1903.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers remained bad generally, and was worse than a month ago. With ivory and bone brushmakers in London, however, it was good. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,716, reported 355 (or 20.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, compared with 8.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1904, and 19.4 at the end of December, 1903.

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

Other Trades.—Packing case makers and lathrenders reported employment as slack generally. With basket makers at Leicester it was moderate, with some short time. Bobbin makers at Barnsley and Dundee reported employment as fair.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

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

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

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers was slack generally. It was bad at St. Helens, Newton-le-Willows, Mexboro', Barnsley, Seaham Harbour and Bristol; slightly improved but still slack on the Wear; moderate at Wakefield and Castleford; and good at Glasgow, Portobello and Dublin. With makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham it was slack.

Employment with flint-glass makers was bad in the Tyne district, and at Barnsley and Edinburgh; quiet at Glasgow; and good at Wordsley, Stourbridge, and Birmingham. With flint-glass cutters it was bad at Edinburgh; quiet at Birmingham; fair at Glasgow; and good at Wordsley. Employment with plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham continued slack. With sheet-glass makers and sheet-glass flatteners at St. Helens it continued good. With pressed glass workers it was quiet in the Tyne district and at Glasgow. Employment with glass blowers in London was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment generally in the pottery trades was bad, and worse than a month ago; with packers, however, it was quiet. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) the potters worked four days per week, as compared with three days per week in November. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment continued fair. In the South Yorkshire district it continued moderate. Employment with sanitary potters in the Woodville district was slack. In Devon employment with potters was moderate at Bovey Tracey, and fair at Barnstaple.

In Scotland employment generally was moderate, with much short time. At Glasgow it continued dull with tobacco-pipe makers, bad with white hollow-ware potters, and fair with stoneware throwers.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was bad at Peterborough, Woodville, Nottingham, Birmingham and Glasgow, and in North Wales; slack at Neath; dull at Calstock and Gunnislake; moderate at Oldham and Bovey Tracey; and fair at Exeter and in the Tees and Hartlepool district.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

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

ACCORDING to the reports received, agricultural labourers were, generally speaking, in fairly regular employment during December. There was some little interruption of outdoor work through unfavourable weather, but, on the whole, the month was a favourable one for work in the fields. The supply of day labourers was sufficient in most of the districts reported on, and men for permanent situations were somewhat less difficult to obtain.

Northern Counties.—Employment with farm labourers was fairly regular during December. The supply of day labourers was quite equal to the demand. In the Darlington and Bridlington Unions (Yorkshire), there was an excess of casual labour on account of the closing of ironworks and brickyards. Men for permanent situations were rather more plentiful, but there was a scarcity of lads.

Midland Counties.—Some irregularity in employment was caused in certain counties by bad weather. Day

labourers were plentiful, and in most districts in excess of the demand. In *Cheshire* and *Derbyshire* employment was regular, manure carting being carried on during frosty weather, when other work on the land could not be done. According to reports from *Shropshire*, root lifting was finished, and threshing and other work was generally well forward at the end of the month. In *Worcestershire* day labourers and men for permanent situations were more plentiful, but stockmen are stated to be scarce, owing to the objection to work on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. In *Leicestershire* and *Northamptonshire* the supply of casual labour is stated to have been in excess, partly owing to slackness in the boot and shoe industry.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was fairly regular, some interruption, however, being caused by frost, and by wet and stormy days. There was a plentiful supply of day labourers, and men for permanent situations were easier to obtain. In *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* farm work was well forward and, owing to short crops, there was not so much threshing or root lifting as usual. The open weather, however, enabled ploughing to be carried on. In *Norfolk* very little time was lost by farm labourers, there being plenty of work in feeding stock, carting roots, &c. In *Suffolk* and *Essex* farm work is well forward, through the fine weather and early harvest, and some day labourers were not in constant employment during December.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was fairly regular on the whole, and the supply of day labourers was, as a rule, quite equal to the demand. In *Kent* some day labourers were irregularly employed, owing to wet weather. Single men for permanent situations are stated to have been in demand. In *Survey* and *Sussex* woodcutting furnished a good deal of work. Some scarcity of under-shepherds is reported from *Berkshire*, very few young men taking to shepherd's work. In *Wiltshire* hedge-cutting, ditching, threshing, and general work have been proceeded with, and good progress made. Employment was but little affected in *Dorsetshire* by the weather, and work is well forward. Day labourers were not in much request; some found employment, however, in beating coverts for shooting. A correspondent in the Sturminster Union states that several casual labourers are taking permanent situations, as they cannot obtain employment otherwise. A scarcity of shepherds, carters and men for tending stock is reported from *Somersetshire*. Hedge-cutting and threshing furnished a good deal of work in *Gloucestershire*, although a fall of snow caused an interruption for a day or two. Good stockmen are said to be in demand. In *Devon* and *Cornwall* the weather was favourable, and farm work is well forward. The supply of day labourers is rather better than a year ago, but there was a good demand, and very few were in irregular employment.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

EMPLOYMENT during December remained moderate, and showed little general change as compared with a year ago. Considerable loss of work occurred, however, during the third week of the month, owing to the prevalence of fog.

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended December 31st was 12,852, a decrease of 4.8 per cent. on the average for November and of 12.2 per cent. on that for December, 1903. During the third week of the month the numbers employed dropped 3,000 owing to the prevalence of fog.

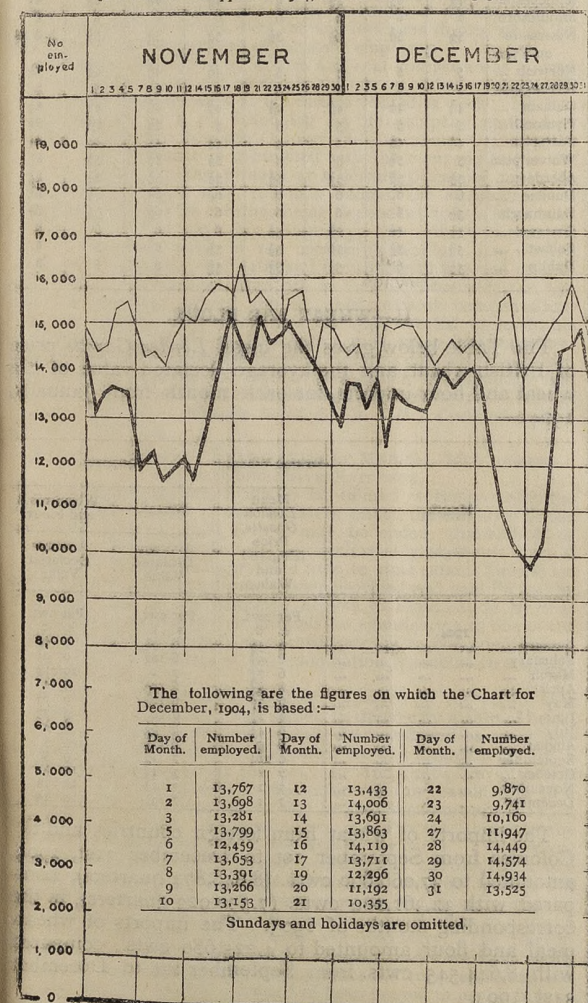
EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING.

(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 31st:—

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. 10th	5,937	1,883	6,920	6,567	13,287
" " " 17th	5,793	2,394	7,687	6,117	13,804
" " " 24th	4,379	821	5,200	5,402	10,602
" " " 31st	5,378	2,825	8,203	5,683	13,886
Average for 4 weeks ended Dec. 31st	5,007	1,944	6,951	5,901	12,852
Average for Nov., 1904	5,319	1,881	7,200	6,203	13,603
Average for Dec., 1903	6,158	2,179	8,337	6,901	14,638

(2) *Daily Fluctuations.*—The daily fluctuations in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers are shown in the following Chart. The numbers in December ranged from 9,741 on the 23rd to 14,934 on the 30th. During December, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 13,876 on the 24th to 15,838 on the 31st.

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, 1904. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1903, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1904, and the thin curve to 1903.]



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

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	13,267	12	13,433	23	9,870
2	13,698	13	14,006	24	9,741
3	13,281	14	13,661	25	10,160
4	13,799	15	13,863	26	11,947
5	12,459	16	14,119	27	14,449
6	13,053	17	13,711	28	14,574
7	13,391	18	12,295	29	14,934
8	13,266	19	11,192	30	14,934
9	13,153	20	10,355	31	13,523
10		21			

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

Employment was fair with coal porters, and moderate with workers in mid-stream, stevedores, lightermen, deal porters, lumpers, winchmen, and corn porters. With fruit porters in Thames Street it was fair, the average daily number employed being 289, as compared with 270 in the previous month, and 320 in December, 1903.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during December, 1904, 45 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 44 per cent. in the previous month, and 59 per cent. in December, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—On the Tyne and Wear employment was fair with trimmers and teamers, and moderate with dock, wharf and quayside labourers. With riverside labourers at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool it was slack; with dock labourers it was fair at Middlesbrough and slack at Hartlepool.

Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.—Employment at Hull and Goole was slack generally. At Grimsby it was fair on the whole.

Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.—Employment with dock and riverside labourers was slack generally, though at Parkeston it was good.

Southampton and Plymouth.—At both these ports employment was moderate during the month.

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

Liverpool and Manchester.—Employment at Liverpool was fairly steady generally, owing to the continued arrival of cotton. With dock labourers at Manchester it was fair.

Glasgow.—Employment with dock labourers was reported as bad, a large percentage of the men being idle.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment was good at Dundee and moderate at Aberdeen. At Leith it was fairly steady, and better than a month ago.

Irish Ports.—Employment with dock labourers was bad at Belfast and Dublin and dull at Cork.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

THE fish landed during December shows an increase in quantity and a decrease in value as compared with a year ago.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Dec., 1904.	Dec., 1903.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 887,549	Cwts. 861,487	£ 521,726	£ 528,114
Scotland	306,340	311,966	108,455	124,129
Ireland	64,282	66,196	21,037	28,566
Total	1,258,171	1,239,649	651,218	680,809
Shell Fish	—	—	26,979	31,265
Total Value	—	—	678,197	712,074

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that trawl boats landed fair supplies of white fish during December.

Employment at Hull was good with fishermen and fish dock labourers, the same as a month and a year ago, and fair with persons engaged in fish curing, the same as a month but worse than a year ago. At Grimsby it was fairly good on the whole. At Yarmouth employment was good in all branches, and about the same as a month and a year ago. It was moderate among fishermen and fish dock labourers at Lowestoft, worse than a month and about the same as a year ago, and bad with persons engaged in fish curing. Employment at Harwich was moderate.

Off the South-western coast the fishing industry was exceptionally dull in the early part of the month. It improved later, but was much below the average for this season of the year. At the more western stations good catches of herrings are reported. Fish curers, packers, and carters were badly employed at Plymouth, but busy at Newlyn and St. Ives.

At Cardiff, Swansea, and Milford employment was not so good as a month ago, the fog having interfered with both fishing and landing operations.

Employment was good in all branches at Aberdeen, and was about the same as a month ago, and rather better than a year ago. At Peterhead it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers and moderate with fish curers. At Macduff it was moderate generally. Employment at Fraserburg was moderate with fishermen and fish curers, and bad with fish dock labourers. Compared with a month ago and a year ago, employment was better at Peterhead, and worse at Fraserburgh and Macduff. At Arbroath and Montrose the unsettled weather was against successful fishing, but average catches were made.

Off the South and South-Western coasts of Ireland deep-sea fishing was dull, with the exception of herring fishing which was moderate.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during December, 30,777* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, a decrease of 1,318 on the number shipped during December, 1903.

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

During the year 1904, 431,630* seamen were shipped, of whom 64,928 (or 15.0 per cent.) were foreigners. During the year 1903, 431,192* seamen were shipped, of whom 66,835 (or 15.5 per cent.) were foreigners.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons shipped in Dec., 1904.*			Total in Dec., 1903.*	Total number* shipped in year ended December,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Dec., 1904.*		1904.	1903.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	75	2,434	2,509	2,289	33,797	33,884
Sunderland ...	—	497	497	969	5,493	4,645
Middlesbrough ...	—	130	130	194	2,841	2,261
Hull ...	21	720	742	1,090	12,751	13,229
Grimsby ...	—	31	31	41	997	1,151
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	3	638	641	796	7,881	8,671
Newport, Mon ...	—	679	679	768	9,849	9,514
Cardiff ...	42	4,417	4,459	4,160	54,208	53,662
Swansea ...	54	493	547	471	5,233	6,465
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	58	10,742	10,800	11,245	137,208	154,028
London ...	109	4,657	4,766	5,687	71,189	74,912
Southampton ...	—	1,995	1,995	2,125	25,720	24,188
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ...	—	441	443	469	6,403	6,454
Glasgow ...	62	2,396	2,448	2,859	34,486	33,466
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	38	38	126	837	1,561
Belfast ...	—	232	232	190	2,737	3,098
Total, December, 1904 ...	425	30,352	30,777	32,095	431,630	431,192
Doitto, December, 1903 ...	490	31,665	32,985	32,095	431,192	431,192

* 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.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.*

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.

From the Table it will be seen that the price remained the same at all the towns given with the exception of Newcastle and Gateshead, where the prevailing prices on 2nd January were 5d. and 5½d. On 1st December the prevailing price in these towns was 5½d.

Place.	1904.							Present Price, 2nd Jan., 1905.
	1st Jan.	1st March.	1st June.	1st July.	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	1st Dec.	
London ...	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 4½ & 5	d. 4½ & 5	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5
Birmingham ...	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derby ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	5 & 5½	5 & 5½
Gateshead ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5 & 5½
Hudders- field ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hull ...	4 to 5	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½	4½ & 5½
Ipswich ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Leicester ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Liverpool ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Manchester ...	4½	4½	4½	4	4½	4½	4½	4½
Middlesbro' ...	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5 & 5½
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	4½	4½	4½	4½
Nottingham ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oldham ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Plymouth ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Potteries ...	4½	4½	4	4	4½	4½	4½	4½
Wolverpton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Aberdeen ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Dundee ...	6	6	6	6	6½	6½	6½	6½
Edinburgh ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Glasgow ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Belfast ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Dublin ...	5½	6	5½	5½	5½	6	6	6

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each month from January, 1904:—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.	
	Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt. s. d.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.
			Average Declared Value.	Average Declared Value.
January ...	6 3½	6 9½	6 10½	9 9½
February ...	6 7½	6 10½	7 1	10 1½
March ...	6 5½	6 11½	6 10½	9 11
April ...	6 3½	6 10½	6 10½	9 8½
May ...	6 2½	6 10	6 10	9 7½
June ...	6 4½	6 9½	6 9½	9 2
July ...	6 11½	6 11½	7 1½	9 3
August ...	6 9	6 11½	7 1	9 9½
September ...	6 11½	7 1½	7 1½	10 3
October ...	7 1	7 2½	7 2½	10 1½
November ...	7 1	7 3½	7 3½	10 4½
December ...	7 1	7 3½	7 3½	10 4½

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st to December 31st, 1904, amounted to 37,066,600 cwts. (8,648,874 quarters), compared with 32,361,100 cwts. (7,550,923 quarters), in the corresponding months of 1903. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 4,225,680 cwts., compared with 8,644,545 cwts. from September 1st to December 31st, 1903.

* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table below. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing price at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

† No change was recorded in any of the towns at January 1st, February 1st, April 1st, May 2nd, and August 2nd, 1904, except at Dublin, where the price was reduced ½d. at April 1st, and at Norwich, where the price was reduced ½d. at August 2nd, 1904.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ON OR IN OR ABOUT A MINE.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, applies to employment on or in or about a mine.

An iron and coal company are the owners of two pits. These pits are, with sidings, &c., connected with a main line of railway. The connecting lines are the property of the company and are worked by them for the purposes of the pits. An engine driver was employed by the company in conveying coal wagons between the pits and the drum house. On the 11th November, 1903, when proceeding to his duty, he was caught by a wire rope as it suddenly became taut with a jerk on the wagons being started. The result was that he was thrown in the air and received such injuries that he died within a few days. The place where the accident occurred was about 800 yards from the nearer of the two pits. The mother and dependant of the deceased man claimed compensation under the Act, but the Sheriff-Substitute refused to make an award in her favour on the ground that the accident had not happened on or in or about a mine.

On appeal the Court of Session reversed this decision and held that the claimant was entitled to an award as the accident had happened on or in or about a mine within the meaning of the Act. —*Anderson v. Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, Court of Session, December 6th, 1904.*

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: CHANGE OF EMPLOYER.

Under the provisions of the Act, the weekly payment to an injured man cannot exceed 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less time during which he has been in the employment of the same employer.

A miner in the employ of an iron and coal company was injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, and claimed compensation at the rate of 16s. 3d. a week. He had been employed at a pit belonging to the company under four different contractors between October 12th, 1902, and October 7th, 1903. These contractors contracted with the company to win the coal and bring it to the pithead at a certain price per ton. On Friday, October, 9th, 1903, the man entered the employment of the company itself, his earnings being dependent upon the amount of coal got. The next day, Saturday, the 10th, was the last day of the trade week in the company's works. He worked again on Monday October 12th, and the accident happened on that day. His total earnings from 9th to 12th inclusive were 11s. 6d., and the company offered him 2s. 10½d. a week compensation. This he refused, contending that he was entitled to have his earnings in the pit before October 7th, 1903, taken into consideration. The Sheriff-Substitute decided that this contention was bad, and awarded only the 2s. 10½d. a week which the company had offered. On appeal, this decision was confirmed by the Court of Session.—*Hunter v. William Baird & Co. (Ltd.), Court of Session, December 16th, 1904.*

REVIEW OF AWARD: EXAMINATION BY MEDICAL MAN AGREED UPON: CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE.

Any weekly payment, made to an injured workman under the Act, may be reviewed at the request of either the employer or the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished or increased. Any workman receiving such weekly payments must, if so required by the employer, from time to time submit himself for examination to a medical practitioner provided and paid for by the employer; but if the workman objects to examination by that medical man, he may submit himself for examination to one of the official medical referees, whose certificate as to the condition of the workman at the time of the examination is conclusive evidence of that condition.

In July, 1903, a mason's labourer employed in the repair of a building over 30 feet high was struck in the eye by a chip of brick. The sight of the eye was almost totally destroyed, and he was wholly incapacitated for work. In December he was awarded 11s. 9d. a week compensation under the Act. In April, 1904, the man was required by his employers to submit himself for examination to a medical man, and it was agreed that he should submit himself to a certain medical man. Application was made to the Sheriff by the employers to diminish or end the weekly payments. The medical man agreed upon by the parties reported that the injured man's incapacity was such that he was unfit for his usual occupation, but that he was fit for any work where he would not have to exercise for the safety of life or limb that nice discrimination as to distance for which the sight of two eyes was necessary. The Sheriff-Substitute took this certificate as conclusive evidence of the man's condition, and refused to hear any other evidence on the subject. He also decided that no grounds had been proved to justify him in ending or diminishing the weekly payments. On appeal the Court of Session upheld the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute.—*Connor v. Bryce & Co., Court of Session, December 6th, 1904.*

REVIEW OF AWARD: INJURED MAN LEAVING UNITED KINGDOM: SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS.

Any workman receiving weekly payments under the Act must, if so required by his employer, from time to time submit himself for examination either by a medical practitioner provided by the employer, or by one of the official medical referees. A miner was injured in July, 1903, by an accident arising out of and in the

course of his employment, and was awarded compensation under the Act to the amount of 10s. 1d. a week. In July, 1904, the weekly payments were, on review, reduced to 5s. a week. In October, 1904, the employers applied for a further review of the weekly payments, on the ground that the injured man had left the country and gone to Australia, so that they had no opportunity of having him medically examined or of ascertaining his bodily condition. The Sheriff-Substitute refused to make any order, on the grounds, 1st, that it was not stated that the man had permanently left the country, or that his employers had taken any steps to have him medically examined; and, 2nd, that it was not alleged that any change had taken place in the state of the man's incapacity since the award of July. On Appeal the Court of Session held that, as the workman had made it impossible for his employers to take advantage of the machinery provided by the Act for their protection, the compensation should be suspended in the meantime.—*Duncan v. Archibald Finnie & Son, Court of Session, December 13th, 1904.*

LIABILITY OF INJURED MAN FOR LEGAL EXPENSES: SET-OFF AGAINST COMPENSATION.

Where weekly payments are made to an injured man under the Act, it is provided that such payment shall not be capable of being assigned, charged or attached, nor shall any claim be set-off against the same. A miner in the employ of a coal company was injured in April, 1902, and claimed compensation under the Act. It was agreed that the company should pay the man 15s. 8d. a week, and a memorandum of the agreement was duly registered.

In May, 1903, an application by the company to review and diminish the compensation was dismissed by the Sheriff-Substitute, and the company were found liable in expenses to the amount of £5 15s. 6d. Later, the company made a second and similar application, and this time they were successful; the Sheriff-Substitute on October 10th, 1903, reducing the weekly payments to 10s. 8d. as from July 3rd, 1903. In these proceedings the company were awarded expenses as against the injured man to the amount of £13 4s. 1d.; so that there was a balance of expenses amounting to £7 8s. 7d. due to the company. The company paid compensation at the rate of 15s. 8d. a week up to July 3rd, 1903; and from that date at the rate of 10s. 8d. a week to October 30th, 1903. They then intimated that they would withhold further payments until they were paid their balance of expenses. Subsequently a sum of £11 15s. 2d., being 10s. 8d. a week from October 30th, 1903, to March 31st, 1904, was paid into Court. At the last-mentioned date the man charged the company for payment, whereupon the company took proceedings asking for suspension of the charge. The Judge, however, decided that the company's claim for expenses could not be set off against the weekly payments due by them to the injured man. He therefore dismissed the company's application. The Court of Session confirmed this decision.—*Rosewell Gas Coal Co., Limited, v. M'Vicar, Court of Session, December 16th, 1904.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

TRADE UNION AND BENEFIT SOCIETY: LIABILITY TO BE SUED FOR BENEFIT.

It is provided by the Trade Union Act, 1871, that the purposes of any trade union shall not, by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade, be deemed to be unlawful, so as to render any member of the union liable to criminal proceedings; but nothing in the Act is to enable any court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the object of directly or indirectly enforcing any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union to provide benefits to members.

An engine fitter met with an accident to his hand, and for some time received compensation from his employers under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, and also drew sick pay from the Steam Engine Makers' Society of which he was a member. It was then discovered that the injury was more serious than was thought at first, and that the man was permanently incapacitated. He gave notice of total disablement to the society, and claimed £100 under its rules, as having been a member for over five years. The society however refused to pay unless he refunded sums which he had received as sick pay. The man accordingly brought an action against the society.

On behalf of the defendants it was argued that as the society was a trade union the court could not entertain the action. For the plaintiff it was argued that the rules of the society were severable, and the benevolent department should be considered as a lawful benefit society.

The judge, after reading the rules, held that one of the main objects of the society was restraint of trade, that it was essentially a trade union, and that the action could not be brought. Judgment accordingly was given for the defendants.—*Asphen v. The Steam Engine Makers' Society. King's Bench Division, December 13th, 1904.*

BUILDING SOCIETIES IN 1903.*

THE total number of societies in 1903 was 2,171, and that of the societies making returns was 2,124 (compared with 2,241 and 2,190 in 1902), with a total membership of 601,204, compared with 595,451, and total receipts for the year of £40,734,866, compared with £38,321,442. The amount advanced on mortgages during the year by 1,665 societies was £9,959,555.

* The Ninth Annual Report upon Building Societies in the United Kingdom by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. P.P. 31-1, of 1904 (Eyre and Spottiswoode), price 1s. 6d.

The liabilities consisted of £38,312,729, due to shareholders, £24,161,484 to depositors and other creditors, and £3,836,273 undivided profit. As against these are assets amounting to a total of £66,310,486 made up of balances due on mortgage securities £51,396,980; investments in other securities and cash £14,800,247 and deficit balances amounting to £113,259.

The returns also show that the aggregate value of large mortgages (over £5,000 each) amounted to £2,067,260, compared with £2,057,853 in 1902; that properties in possession amounted, in value to £2,488,352 compared with £2,629,478 in 1902, and mortgages, upwards of 12 months in arrears to £196,564, compared with £169,107 in 1902.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING December 51 cases of lead poisoning and 10 cases of anthrax were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of phosphorus, mercurial, or arsenic poisoning were reported. Seven deaths, three due to lead poisoning and four to anthrax, were reported.

During the year ended December the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 656 as compared with 674 in 1903. The number of deaths was 37, being 7 more than in 1903. An increase entirely due to lead poisoning.

(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.	
	Year ended December,		Year ended December,	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals ...	3	33	37	1
Brass Works ...	—	10	15	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	21	26	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1	21	13	—
Printing ...	2	15	13	—
File Cutting ...	2	20	24	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	—	—	—	—
Hollow-ware ...	1	10	14	—
White Lead Works ...	8	116	109	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	—	11	6	—
China and Earthenware* ...	12	106	97	—
Litho-transfer Works ...	—	3	3	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	3	4	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	2	33	28	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	3	33	39	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	5	49	74	—
Coach Making ...	3	48	24	—
Shipbuilding ...	2	27	40	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	7	53	49	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	51	597	614	3
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	1	3	—
Furriers' processes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	2	4	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	—	3	8	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	1	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ...	—	3	3	—
Other Industries ...	—	2	2	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	—	5	5	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting ...	—	2	5	—
Wool Combing ...	2	10	15	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	3	12	6	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	5	18	13	—
Other Industries ...	—	8	8	—
Total Anthrax	10	50	47	4
Grand Total	61	656	674	7

* Of the twelve persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in December, 1904, ten were females.
† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 19 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 ended December, 1904, was 227 (including 39 deaths), and for 1903, 207 (including 39 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1904, was 239, or 24 more than in November, and 16 more than in December, 1903. The mean number for December in the years 1899-1903, was 242, the maximum year in this period being 1901, with 278 deaths, and the minimum year 1899, with 219 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in December, 1904, was 113. The number reported in December of the years 1899-1903 varied from 78 to 183, the mean for the five years being 137.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 326, the same number as in December, 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

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

Trade.	SUMMARY.				
	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1904, as compared with	
	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	8	4	3	+ 4	+ 5
Engine Drivers	6	1	—	+ 5	+ 6
Firemen	4	3	—	+ 1	+ 4
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	13	3	8	+ 10	+ 5
Porters	5	4	3	+ 1	+ 2
Shunters	2	—	4	+ 2	+ 2
Miscellaneous	13	11	15	+ 2	+ 2
Contractors' Servants	—	2	1	—	+ 1
Total Railway Service	51	29	34	+ 22	+ 17
Mines—					
Underground	71	75	82	+ 6	+ 11
Surface	20	14	12	+ 8	+ 8
Total Mines	91	89	94	+ 2	+ 3
Quarries over 20 feet deep	8	8	8	—	—
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	2	3	1	+ 1	+ 1
Wool and Worsted	1	2	1	—	—
Other Textiles	—	—	—	—	—
Non Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	5	10	8	+ 5	+ 3
Mining and Locomotive Engineering	3	1	1	+ 2	+ 2
Ship and Boat Building	11	11	9	—	+ 2
Wood	6	3	4	+ 3	+ 2
Chemicals, &c.	5	4	2	+ 1	+ 3
Other Non-Textile Industries	27	21	25	+ 6	+ 2
Total Factories	63	56	53	+ 7	+ 10
Workshops	—	1	—	—	—
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	17	16	12	+ 1	+ 5
Warehouses	—	2	—	—	—
Buildings to which Act applies	7	10	15	+ 3	+ 8
Laundries	—	—	1	—	—
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	24	28	28	+ 4	+ 16
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	2	4	6	+ 2	+ 4
Total, exclusive of Seamen	239	215	223	+ 24	+ 16
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	35	15	54	+ 20	+ 19
Steam	75	42	68	+ 33	+ 7
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	1	3	3	—	+ 2
Steam	2	5	12	+ 3	+ 10
Total Seamen	118	65	137	+ 48	+ 24
Total, including Seamen	357	280	360	+ 77	+ 40

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

The value of the Imports in December, 1904, was £52,845,366, an increase of £525,748, or 1.0 per cent., as compared with those in December, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £34,512,410, showing a net increase of £4,079,406. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £3,459,631, or 14.0 per cent., as compared with December, 1903, whilst there is an increase of £619,775, or about 10.6 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

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

	Month of December.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
	I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	19,064,590	22,968,847	20,412,230	- 556,617	+ 1,349,640
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	18,360,134	20,028,752	21,011,115	+ 982,363	+ 2,650,981
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	10,590,872	11,186,294	11,254,394	+ 68,100	+ 663,522
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	157,052	135,725	167,627	+ 31,902	+ 10,595
Total value of Imports	18,170,628	52,319,618	52,845,366	+ 525,748	+ 4,079,406

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

	Month of December.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
	I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	1,480,337	1,357,787	1,461,202	+ 103,415	- 19,135
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	2,989,525	2,935,790	3,119,489	+ 183,699	+ 129,964
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	19,309,066	19,812,313	23,035,798	+ 3,223,485	+ 3,726,732
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	429,605	506,613	455,645	- 50,968	+ 26,040
Total value of Exports of British produce	24,208,533	24,612,503	28,072,134	+ 3,459,631	+ 3,863,601

The Year's Trade—1904.

The total aggregate value of the trade of the United Kingdom for the year 1904, as compared with 1903 and 1902 was as follows:—

	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Imports*	£528,391,274	£542,600,289	£551,362,124
Exports†—			
British and Irish Produce	283,423,966	290,800,108	300,817,897
Foreign and Colonial Produce	65,814,813	69,573,564	79,321,918
Total Exports	349,238,779	360,373,672	371,139,815

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of December, 1904, amounted to 3,218,638 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,973,710 tons, as against 3,434,198 tons entered, and 3,840,481 tons cleared in the month of 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.

Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of December, 1904, amounted to 3,218,638 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,973,710 tons, as against 3,434,198 tons entered, and 3,840,481 tons cleared in the month of December, 1903. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during December, 1904, amounted to 2,579,672 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,530,038 tons, as against 2,577,729 tons entered, and 2,546,471 tons cleared in December, 1903.

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOUR—EXHIBIT AT ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION

The Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour, No. 54, September 1904, has been received. It consists of a reproduction of the 266 charts and illustrations exhibited by the Bureau at the St. Louis Exhibition, with tables and explanatory matter. The subjects dealt with are Bureaux of Labour in the United States and Foreign Countries, the Value and Influence of Labour Statistics, Wages in the United States and in Europe from 1890 to 1903, Labour conditions in Hawaii and for the United States, Cost of Living, 1890 to 1903, Wholesale Prices, 1890 to 1903, Housing of the Working People by Employers, Public Baths, Trade and Technical Education, Hand and Machine Labour, and Labour Legislation. Being designed to exhibit the scope of the work of the Bureau, it is mainly a collection of the principal results of previous investigations of the Bureau, most of which have been noticed in previous issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.
Returns received from the four Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the third quarter of 1904 show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,518,465, as compared with £6,406,562 in the corresponding period of 1903, an increase of £111,903, or 1.7 per cent., while compared with five years ago (i.e., with the corresponding quarter of the year 1899) the sales show an increase of 36.1 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,294,604, as compared with £1,225,791 in the third quarter of 1903, an increase of £68,813, or 5.6 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1899 an increase of 59.8 per cent. is shown.

The following Table shows separately the particulars returned by each Federation for the third quarter of 1904, together with the figures for the corresponding quarters of 1903 and 1899:—

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales.				
	In 3rd quarter of			Percentage increase of 1904 as compared with	
	1904.	1903.	1899.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY—					
Distributive Departments	4,821,972	4,738,444	3,492,986	1.8	38.0
Manufacturing	808,362	792,391	475,349	2.0	70.1
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY—					
Distributive Departments	1,624,685	1,592,264	1,218,401	2.0	32.3
Manufacturing	486,242	433,400	334,810	12.2	45.2
IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES—					
IRISH AGENCY—Distributive Departments	69,579	73,092	65,955	4.8	5.5
AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY					
Distributive Departments	2,229	2,762	1,543	19.3	44.5
Totals—Distributive Depts.	6,518,465	6,406,562	4,788,885	1.7	36.1
Manufacturing	1,294,604	1,225,791	810,159	5.6	59.8
Grand Total	7,813,069	7,632,353	5,599,044	2.4	39.5

NOTE.—The English and Scottish Wholesale Societies are federations of co-operative societies engaged mainly in retail distribution, the English Society consisting of 1,165 societies, with an aggregate membership of 1,569,621, and the Scottish Society of 279 societies, with an aggregate membership of 312,660. The Irish Wholesale Society is a federation of 29 agricultural distributive societies with a membership of 3,509. The Irish Agency Society is a federation of dairying societies for marketing their produce, but has not supplied particulars as to its membership.

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.
† Figures for butter-making not available.
‡ Decrease.

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Six new disputes began in December, 1904, compared with 25 in November, and 10 in December, 1903. By the 6 disputes 864 workpeople were directly and 310 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 3,727 workpeople involved in trade disputes during December, 1904, compared with 7,236 in November, 1904, and 7,304 in December, 1903.

New Disputes in December, 1904.—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.
Coal Mining	1	35	—	35
Iron and Steel Manufacture	1	46	—	46
Textile	3	548	310	858
Hat Manufacture	1	235	—	235
Total, December, 1904	6	864	310	1,174
Total, November, 1904	25	4,583	177	4,760
Total, December, 1903	10	2,401	286	2,687

Causes.—Of the six new disputes, three arose on objections to reduction in wages, and three on other wages questions.

Results.—Definite results were reported in December in the case of four new disputes, affecting 1,093 workpeople, and two old disputes, affecting 742 workpeople. Of these six new and old disputes, three, involving 1,096 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; one, involving 200 persons, was settled in favour of the employer; and two, involving 539 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in December of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 8,200 working days. In addition, 38,700 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 of all disputes, new and old, was 46,900 working days, which compares with 67,200 in the previous month, and 125,000 in the corresponding month of 1903.

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 1904.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Cotton Weavers, Beavers, Dressers, &c.	Rochdale	318	151	1 Dec.	3	For reduction in prices of 10 per cent. temporarily agreed upon to be altered to one of 5 per cent.	Permanent reduction of 6 per cent. agreed upon.
Felt Hatters	Manchester	235	—	8 Dec.	6	Alleged bad work	Employers agreed to give extra payment for work in dispute.

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

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left for places out of Europe during December, was 23,882 as compared with 16,608 in December, 1903. During the year 1904,* the number of passengers was 453,531, being 4,525 (or 1.0 per cent.) more than in the corresponding period of 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 23,882 passengers in December, 1904, 9,963 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 1,122 compared with a year ago. For the twelve months ended December, 1904,* the number was 271,621, as compared with 259,950 in 1903, an increase of 11,671. The number of passengers to British South Africa shows a decrease of 23,525, while the numbers travelling to the United States and British North America increased by 23,134 and 10,092 respectively.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Dec., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Twelve months ended	
			Dec.,* 1904.	Dec., 1903.
British Colonies and Possessions:				
British North America	1,317	1,121	69,744	59,652
Australia and New Zealand... ..	82	850	13,762	12,375
British South Africa	1,675	2,018	26,681	59,205
India (including Ceylon)	399	423	4,746	4,533
Other British Colonies and Possessions	493	317	4,408	4,186
Total, British Empire	4,686	4,774	119,341	130,952
Foreign Countries:				
United States	4,707	3,624	145,797	123,663
Other Foreign Countries	480	443	5,483	5,335
Total, Foreign Countries	5,277	4,067	152,280	128,998
Grand Total	9,963	8,841	271,621	259,950

Foreign.—The remainder of the 23,882 passengers in December, viz., 13,919, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 6,152 more than in December, 1903

For the year 1904,* the number of such passengers was 181,910, of whom 145,001 were bound for the United States, 21,993 for British North America, and 5,452 for British South Africa. In 1903, the number was 189,056, of whom 128,278 were bound for the United States, 39,930 for British North America, and 12,618 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During December, 14,702 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 4,949 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,810 as compared with December, 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 8,730 (exclusive of seamen), or 3,842 more than a year ago. For the twelve months ended December, 1904,* the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 99,576, and the number not so stated, 82,874 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 124,591 and 69,168 respectively in 1903.

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

	Dec., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Total for twelve months ended	
			Dec.,* 1904.	Dec., 1903.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,023	905	12,850	13,432
Seamen	8,730	4,858	82,874	69,168
Others	4,949	3,739	99,576	124,591
Total	14,702	8,932	195,300	207,191

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 370, being 30 less than in December, 1903. During the year 1904 the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 4,540, as against 4,258 in 1903. The 4,540 bankruptcies in 1904 included 313 builders, 280 grocers, 142 bakers, as compared with 315, 293 and 128 respectively in 1903.

* These figures are preliminary and subject to correction in the annual returns

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Changes reported in December.

Wages.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in December was a decrease of £2,145 per week, as compared with a decrease of £6,662 per week in November, and a decrease of £18,515 per week in December, 1903. The number of workpeople affected was 39,553, of whom 7,570 received advances amounting to £119 per week, and 31,983 sustained decreases amounting to £2,264 per week. The total number affected in November was 154,388, and in December, 1903, 368,440.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 24,667 workpeople engaged in the shipbuilding industry on the North-East Coast.

Three changes, affecting 2,300 workpeople, were arranged by a Conciliation Board; and five changes, affecting 13,750 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 23,503 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 266 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Hours.—The changes in hours of labour reported during December, 1904, affected 4,180 workpeople whose working time was reduced by 4,470 hours per week.

Summary of Changes in 1904.

See article on page 4.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1904.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Edinburgh and District	Stonemasons	14 Nov.	650	Decrease of 3d. per hour (9d. to 8½d.).
IRON AND STEEL TRADES. 2 Decreases—6,950 Workpeople.				
Cleveland and Durham	Blastfurnacemen	31 Dec. 1904.	5,500	Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 14 per cent. above the standard of 1899.
West Cumberland	Blastfurnacemen	Jan. 1904.	1,350	Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 15 per cent. above the standard of 1889.
Barrow-in-Furness	Rail, Wire, and Hoop Millmen	Dec. 1904.	650	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 7½ per cent. above the standard.
South Wales and Monmouth	Blastfurnacemen and Iron and Steel Workers	1905. 1 Jan.	1,250 5,000	Decrease of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages at standard of 1895.
SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 14 Decreases—24,667 Workpeople.				
North-East Coast	Angle-iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters and Caulkers	...	11,100	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. 6d. per week off time rates.
	Holders-up	...	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Ship Smiths†	...	600	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. 6d. per week off time rates.
	Cabinet Makers in Shipyards...	...	135	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week.
	Mill Sawyers and Woodcutting Machinists in Shipyards	...	215	Decrease of 1s. per week.
	Enginemen, Cranemen, Boilermen, &c	First full pay in	750	Decrease of 6d. off rates of 25s. 6d. per week and of 1s. off rates of over 25s. 6d. per week.
	Platers' Helpers, Smiths' Strikers† and General Labourers	...	3,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, of 6d. off rates of between 22s. and 25s. per week, and of 1s. off rates of 25s. per week and above.
The Tyne, Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Shipwrights	Jan. 1903.	3,000	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week.
	Drillers and Hole Cutters	...	1,200	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Ship Joiners†	...	2,050	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week.
	Pattern Makers in Shipyards...	...	17	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week.
The Wear	Shipwrights	...	1,500	Decrease of 1s. per week.
	Shipwrights' Ironworkers	...	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. 6d. per week off time rates.
	Drillers and Hole Cutters	...	550	Decrease of 5 per cent.
	Ship Joiners	...	550	Decrease of 1s. per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Maryport	Dock Labourers	21 Nov. 1904.	266	Tonnage work abolished and day shift wages reduced from 8s. to 7s.; night shift wages from 8s. 6d. to 7s. 20 per cent.
Peterborough, near Dumbarton and Vale of Leven	Brickmakers and Bakers	1 Nov. 5 Dec.	150 64	Average decrease of about 10 per cent. off piece and time rates. Advance of 2s. per week (32s. to 34s.).
Dundee	Lithographic Printers	1905. 7 Jan.	6	Advance of 2s. per week (32s. to 34s.).

II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1904.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.
Manchester	Carpenters and Joiners	1904. 16 Nov.	4,000	Rearrangement of winter working hours and curtailment of winter period. Average after change 42½ hours for 13 weeks.
Loughborough	Engineers and Labourers	22 Nov.	180	Decrease of 1½ hours per week (54 to 52½).

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

A PAMPHLET (price six pence) containing "Notes on the West African Colonies" has been issued by the Emigrants' Information Office, and states that there is no opening whatever for unskilled European labour, and that what skilled labour is required by mining and other companies is engaged in Europe, and not locally. The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office

were issued on January 1st, and contain information for 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.

* 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. † Certain Ship Smiths and Strikers, members of two Trade Unions, are on strike against this reduction. They are not included in the number (60) stated as affected by the reduction. ‡ Including Joiners in Marine Engineering shops on the Tyne.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland. THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in December corresponded to a rate of 245 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts. This is higher than the rate for December in any of the previous ten years, the next highest rates in this period being 229 per 10,000 in December, 1894, and 222 per 10,000 in December, 1895. The average of the December figures for the ten years 1894-1903 was 215 per 10,000.

Compared with November the number of persons relieved has increased by 29,725, and the rate per 10,000 by 17. This was due to an increase of 5,739 in the number of indoor paupers, and of 23,986 in the number of outdoor paupers. With the exception of Bradford (where no change occurred) all districts show an increased rate.

Compared with December, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 50,078 and the rate per 10,000 by 26. The number of indoor paupers shows an increase of 10,213 (or 6.3 per cent.), and outdoor paupers of 39,865 (or 19.2 per cent.). Increases are shown in thirty-two districts, the rate of increase being greatest in the West Ham district (241 per 10,000), Leicester (83), East London (77) and Stockton and Tees district (58). Decreases occurred in the remaining three districts.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of December, 1904 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES* (Metropolis, Other Districts), SCOTLAND*, and IRELAND†.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

At twelve Bureaux which furnished returns for both December, 1904 and 1903, 5,561 fresh applications for work were registered during December, 1904, as compared with 3,623 a year ago. During December these Bureaux found work for 2,387 persons, of whom 1,481 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 5,860, as compared with 2,767 a year ago. It should be noted that the above figures may in some cases include applications for employment on relief works.

Returns relating to December, 1904, were also received from three other Bureaux. At the fifteen Bureaux included in the Table below 5,870 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 2,545 persons. The work procured for 366 of these persons was stated to be more or less of a permanent character, while, in the case of 2,179, temporary employment only was found. Of the 2,545 persons, 1,598 were engaged by private employers, 803 by Local Authorities, and 144 by the Salvation Army. At the end of December, the total number of persons on the registers was 7,434, viz., 6,862 men and boys, and 572 women and girls.

A Bureau was opened on the 19th December at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and a return received relating to the period 19th to 31st December shows that 929 applicants were registered, and 15 persons were permanently and 25 persons temporarily engaged by private employers.

(I.) Work done in December.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Dec. 1904, Dec. 1903), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Dec. 1904, Dec. 1903), No. of Workpeople engaged by Bureau during (Dec. 1904, Dec. 1903). Rows include London (Battersea, Salvation Army, St. Pancras, etc.), Provincial (Ipswich, Plymouth, etc.), and London (Hampstead, Wigan, etc.).

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during December, 1904, by 15 Bureaux.

Table with columns: Capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Rows include Engaged by Private Employers (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Local Authorities (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Salvation Army (Men), and Grand Total of Bureaux.

† Revised figures. ‡ Bureau not in operation in December, 1903.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 501 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 441 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 174 persons, of whom 88 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 174 situations found for applicants, 98 were of a more or less permanent character, while 76 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 440 to 314, and the number of servants applying fell from 448 to 265; the number permanently engaged fell from 113 to 63. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., fell from 36 to 22, and the number requiring such situations fell from 70 to 47; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 18, compared with 34 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 Bureaux during December compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN DECEMBER.

Table with columns: No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanent, Temporary). Rows include Summary by Bureaux (Central Bureau, Y.W.C.A., Other Bureaux) and Summary by Occupations (Superintendents, Forewomen, etc., Shop Assistants, Dressmakers, etc.).

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE following Table shows for 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom the receipts from Passenger and Goods and Mineral traffic and the total traffic receipts for the four weeks ended 31st December, 1904, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the corresponding period a year ago:—

Table with columns: Four Weeks ended 31st Dec., 1904, Four Weeks ended 2nd Jan., 1905, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of Dec., 1904, as compared with Dec., 1903 (Amount, Per cent.). Rows include Goods and Mineral Traffic, Passenger Traffic, and Total Traffic.

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

ILLINOIS FREE EMPLOYMENT REGISTRIES.

IN previous issues of the GAZETTE* accounts have already been given of the laws under which Free Employment Registries have been established in the State of Illinois, and of the operations of those institutions since the date of their first introduction in 1899.

The fifth annual report of the operations of the Registries, which has now been published,† carries the record of their work up to the end of September 30th, 1903. The figures relating to the four existing institutions (three in Chicago and one in Peoria) are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Year, Number of Situations (Applied for, Offered, Procured). Rows include 1899 (nine weeks), 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, and Total.

From the above it appears that during the 4 years and 9 weeks since these offices were established 141,119, or 85 per cent, of those seeking employment through their agency, were placed in situations, and that the places so filled represent 83 per cent. of the total number offered.

To the 43,510 situations applied for at the four registries in 1903, must be added 934 applications which were brought forward from the previous year, making a total of 44,444 applications dealt with. Of this number 30,075 (68 per cent.) were by males and 14,369 (32 per cent.) by females. The situations procured through the offices in that year numbered 39,227 (26,335 for males and 12,892 for females), or 88 per cent. of the number applied for. About half of the males (13,087 out of a total of 26,335) for whom situations were found in 1903 are described as "labourers," while 4,742 out of 12,892 situations procured for females were for "general housework," or as cooks.

The total cost of these registries is defrayed by the State, and, up to the end of September 1903, has amounted to £14,706, or 2s. 1d. per situation procured.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER.

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

(i) REGISTERED. THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in December was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, none; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 18; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 54 (including 27 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 4; in all, 76.

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

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—17, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Distribution; 2, viz., Kingsway Colliery Industrial Soc., Ltd., 137, Attercliffe Road, Sheffield; Worthing Industrial Co-op Soc. Ltd., 28, Portland Road, Worthing. Co-op. Soc. mainly for Production.—1, viz., Grimsby Printers, Ltd., 236 and 238, Victoria Street, Grimsby. Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—4, viz., Market Weighton and Dist. Farmers' Supply Assoc., Ltd., Society's Stores, Market Weighton, Yorks.; Hunmanby and Dist. Collecting Depot, Ltd., Society's Stores, Hunmanby, Yorks.; Herts and Middlesex Border Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Store, White Webbs, Waltham Cross; Tibberton and Dist. Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., British Schoolroom, Tibberton, Gloucester. Miscellaneous Societies.—Working Men's Clubs, 3; others, 7. Scotland.—Co-operative Society mainly for Distribution.—1, viz., Anstruther and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Bridge, High Street, Anstruther. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—19, viz., Stamford Dist. Farmers' Benevolent Soc., Stamford; Penzance Permanent Money Soc., Penzance; Derby and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Derby; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Permanent Money Soc., Newcastle-upon-Tyne; City of Sheffield Permanent Money Soc., Sheffield; Poulton-cum-Seacombe Conservative and

* June, 1900, p. 165; October, 1902, p. 232; June, 1903, p. 161; and January, 1904, pp. 8-9. † As part of the Twenty-Second Annual Coal Report of the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1903. (Springfield, Illinois, Phillips Bros., State Printers, 1904)

Unionist Club, Seacombe, Birkenhead; Willington Social Temperance Club, Willington, Co. Durham; Victor Working Mens' Club and Institute, Whitechapel, E.; Balham Progressive Working Men's Club and Institute, Balham, S.W.; South Ealing Democratic Working Men's Club, Middlesex; Bond's Main Sick and Accident Soc., Chesterfield; Ilkeston Good Templars' Sick and Annual Friendly Soc., Ilkeston; Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Soc., Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Bulwell Sick and Annual Benefit Soc., Nottingham; St. Matthew's Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Acme Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Hipperholme and Dist. Blossom of Friendship Friendly Soc., Halifax; Windsor Collieries' Sick and Accident Fund, Aber. Cardiff; Pellon Ward Conservative Working Men's Club, Halifax. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—8, viz., Oulart Credit Soc., Oulart, Gorey, Co. Wexford; Ballycanew Credit Soc., Ballycanew, Gorey, Co. Wexford; Ballyhabill Credit Soc., Limerick; Foynes Credit Soc., Co. Limerick; Annascaul Credit Soc., Annascaul, Co. Kerry; Killanny Agric. Credit Soc., Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford; Craanford Credit Soc., Gorey, Co. Wexford; Irish Oak Loan Fund Soc., Dublin.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as dissolved, or as having had registration cancelled in December, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 9; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 27 (including 7 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 9; in all 49.

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.

Second Series of Memoranda, Statistical Tables and Charts, prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to various matters bearing on British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions. [Cd. 2337: pp. xiv. + 594: price 3s. 6d.]

Statistical Abstract for the several British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates in each year from 1889 to 1903. Forty-first number. [Cd. 1912: pp. 459: price 1s. 10d.]

Compensation for Injuries to Workmen.—Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the Law relating to. Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence with Index. [Cd. 2334: pp. v. + 404: price 3s. 4d.]

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the three months ended June 30th, 1904, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers, Assistant Inspecting Officers, and Sub-Inspectors upon certain accidents which were inquired into. [Cd. 2306: pp. 165: price 1s. 4d.]

Irish Migratory Labourers, 1904. Report and Tables relating to Irish Migratory Agricultural and other Labourers, showing their distribution in Ireland when at home; their relative proportion to the population; their social position when at home as measured by the extent of their holdings, if any; their destination; their occupation when at home; and the number who left the several ports from January 1st to August 31st, 1904. [Cd. 2322: pp. 45: price 3d.]

Factories and Workshops. Annual Report of the Chief Inspector for 1903. Part II. Tables showing number of Factories and Workshops under Special Rules; accidents; prosecutions; statistics of administration of the Factory Acts, 1893-1903; periods of employment, holidays, &c., in certain Textile Factories in 1901. [Cd. 2324: pp. 45: price 6d.]

Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research, Annual Report by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1903-1904. Colleges and Institutions aided; experiments conducted; agricultural instruction provided by County Councils, and the expenditure on the same. [Cd. 2321: pp. 185: price 10d.]

Pauperism and Death Rate. Return showing certain particulars with respect to the Population, Death Rate, and Pauperism in each Poor Law Union in London, and in the Poor Law Unions of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, and Bristol respectively, in the years 1891-1900. [H.C. 364: pp. 4: price ½d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or ordered through any Bookseller.)

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada.

The Statistical Yearbook of Canada, 1903. Department of Agriculture. [Ottawa: pp. 773.]

Victoria.

Determinations of Special Boards under the Factories and Shops Acts.—Engravers, Furniture, Jam Trade and Pottery Trade Boards, September and October, 1904. *Supplements to, and Extracts from, the Victoria Government Gazette.*

Court of Industrial Appeals. Finding in the case of an Appeal against a Special Board Determination with regard to Artificial Manure manufacture, October, 1904.

Western Australia.

First and Second Annual Reports of the Proceedings of the Registrar of Friendly Societies in connection with Trade Unions, 19th February, 1902, to 31st December, 1903. Contain lists of registered Trade Unions, with their membership, income, expenditure and funds up to the end of 1903. [Perth: W. A. Watson, Government Printer: pp. 10 each.]

Reports of Proceedings before the Boards of Conciliation and the Court of Arbitration. Vol. I., 1901-1903. Contains first Report of Proceedings under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1900 and 1902, and reports of 62 cases. Vol. II., 1903—contains reports of 26 cases. [Perth: W. A. Watson, Government Printer: Vol. I., pp. vii. + 248; Vol. II., pp. iv. + 236.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Eighteenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, Washington, 1903. Cost of Living and Retail Prices of Food. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 865.]

Annual Report of the Secretary of Commerce and Labour, 1904. Functions and Work of the various Bureaux under the Department, personnel, cost, etc. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 46.]

Bulletins of the Bureau of Labour. No. 54, September, 1904. Description of the U.S.A. Bureau of Labour Exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Tables, Charts, Plans, Photographs, &c., pp. 201. + vii. No. 55, November, 1904. Building and Loan Associations in the United States. Revival of Handicrafts in America. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. xiv. + 521.]

France.

Report on Notice to be given as to impending Breach of Contract between Employers and Employed. Report by M. Manoury. Higher Council of Labour. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1904: pp. 51.]

Report on Weekly Rest. Report by Mlle. Blondelu. Higher Council of Labour. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1904: pp. 73.]

Statistical Abstract of France for 1903. Direction du Travail. Contains statistics of poor relief, labour registries, strikes and lock-outs, arbitration and conciliation, factory inspection, friendly societies, savings banks, &c. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1904: pp. xxxix. + 432 + 159.]

Germany.

Census of Unemployed in Munich, taken November 27th, 1904 (Reprint from "Mittheilungen des Statistischen Amtes der Stad München,") [Munich, 1904: pp. 12.]

Austria.

Report of Vienna Workmen's Insurance Institute for 1903. [Vienna: Selbstverlag der Anstalt, 1904: pp. 114.]

Belgium.

Report on Working of Law relating to Trade Unions. Office du Travail. Contains analyses and statistics as to number, membership, income, expenditure and financial situation of unions. [Brussels: J. Lebègue et Cie., Rue de la Madeleine 46, 1904: pp. lxxvi. + 370.]

Report on Factory Inspection in Belgium in 1903. Office du Travail. Brussels: J. Lebègue et Cie., Rue de la Madeleine, 46, 1904: pp. 380: price 3s. 2d.]

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Report on Italian Emigration in 1902 and 1903. Ministero di Agricoltura, Industria e Commercio, Direzione Generale della Statistica. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero e C. 1904: pp. xxiv. + 132, price 1s. 7d.]

Holland.

Report on Chambers of Labour in 1903. [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante, 1904: pp. 550.]

Statistical Yearbook of Holland for 1903. Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek. Includes tables relating to wages, hours of labour, labour disputes, inspection of factories and workshops, prices, poor relief, &c. [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante, 1904: pp. 306.]

Denmark.

Statistical Yearbook of Denmark for 1904. Statens Statistiske Bureau. Includes statistics of prices, savings banks, workmen's insurance, old-age pensions, strikes, poor relief, trade unions, &c. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, 1904: pp. xvi. + 202.]

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Report of Swedish Factory Inspectors for 1903. Kungl. Kommers. Kollegium. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckmans Boktryckeri, 1904: pp. 301.]

Consular Reports. No. 622. Foreign Office Miscellaneous Series. *German Machinery, Import and Export Trade and Industry.* Chief centres of manufacture, number of establishments, number of persons employed, and percentage of scientifically educated persons engaged in the industry. [Cd. 2237-3: pp. 8: price ½d.]

(The Consular Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or ordered through any Bookseller.)

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, United States, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Spain.

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