

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

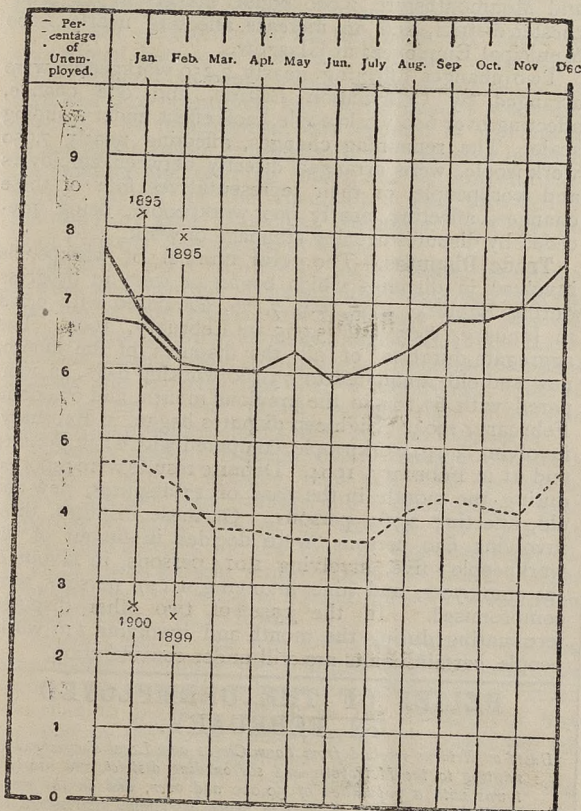


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve=1905.

Thin Curve=1904.

Dotted Curve=Mean of 1895-1904.

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

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 4,611 returns, viz.: 3,224 from Employers or their Associations, 1,296 from Trade Unions, and 91 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in February was better on the whole than in the previous month. The metal, engineering, and shipbuilding groups continued to show some improvement. The cotton industry was very busy.

As compared with a year ago there was improvement in the mining, metal, and textile trades, but the building, furnishing, boot and shoe, and printing trades were still below the level of a year ago.

In the 272 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 578,708, making returns, 35,778 (or 6.2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, 1905,

as compared with 6.8 per cent. at the end of January, and 6.1 at the end of February, 1904.

**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment during the month of February was fair generally, and showed some improvement, on the whole, as compared with a year ago. At collieries employing 534,664 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.31 days per week during the four weeks ended February 25th, compared with 4.95 in January, 1905, and 5.19 in February, 1904. Employment, however, in January, 1905, was affected by holidays to some extent.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. At the 122 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended February 25th was 5.90 as compared with 5.41 in January, and 5.79 in February, 1904. The number for January, however, is reduced by Christmas and New Year holidays.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry continued to improve during February and was considerably better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters show that 311 furnaces, employing about 22,140 workpeople, were in blast at the end of February, 1905, or 5 more than at the end of January, and 10 more than at the end of February, 1904.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment at iron and steel works was considerably better than a year ago. Returns relating to 202 works, employing 88,173 workpeople, show that the volume of employment in the week ended February 25th, 1905, was 4.6 per cent. greater than in the corresponding week of February, 1904.

**Tinplate Trade.**—Employment in this industry continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. At the end of February 405 mills were working, as compared with 403 at the end of January, and 361 at the end of February, 1904.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment in this industry, though still dull, was better than a month ago, and about the same on the whole as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members who were unemployed at the end of February was 6.4, as compared with 7.0 at the end of January, and 6.5 at the end of February, 1904.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment in this industry, though still dull generally, continued to improve and was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 11.5, as compared with 12.4 at the end of January, 1905, and 12.6 at the end of February, 1904.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continued dull during February, and on the whole showed little change as compared with a month ago, but in certain districts a slight improvement was apparent. It was worse than a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment continued brisk and was much better than a year ago in every department. Returns from firms employing 121,640 workpeople on the



last pay day in February showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of weekly wages paid compared with a month ago and an increase of 14.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Firms employing 16,000 workpeople showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in February, as compared with a month ago, and of 11.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment continued bad, and was much the same as a year ago. Firms employing 35,000 workpeople showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in February, as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax Trade.**—Employment generally was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 53,500 workpeople showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment continued moderate and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 24,200 workpeople showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the **Hosiery** trade continued quiet in England, and was fair in Scotland; it was better than a year ago.

**Tailoring.**—Employment in the bespoke branch was dull, but better than a month and a year ago. In the ready-made branch it was moderate, being generally better than a month ago and slightly better than a year ago.

Employment in the **Hat-making** trades was slack and worse than a year ago. In the **Silk** hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 12.7, compared with 15.6 per cent. in January, and 10.6 per cent. a year ago. In the **Felt** hat trade in the corresponding periods the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed were 3.6, 4.3, and 3.9.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment was better than a month ago, but was still bad and worse than a year ago. Returns from 480 firms, employing 62,451 workpeople, and paying £59,377 in wages during the last week of February showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment in these trades continued bad generally, with much short time, but showed some improvement as compared with January. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of the month was 9.3, compared with 10.8 in January and 9.5 in February, 1904.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment in February was slightly better than a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of the month was 4.8, as compared with 5.3 in January and 4.1 in February, 1904.

Employment in the **Papermaking** trade remained fairly good. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 3.2, against 3.3 in January and 2.9 a year ago.

Employment in the **Glass** trades was bad, but slightly better than a month ago. It was, however, worse than a year ago. In the **Pottery** trades and in the **Brick and Tile** trades it continued bad on the whole.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment at the end of February was dull, but better than a month ago. It was slightly worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed (exclusive of coopers) at the end of February was 8.4, as compared with 10.0 at the end of January, 1905, and 7.8 at the end of February, 1904.

**Agricultural Labourers** were, generally speaking, in regular employment, the weather having been favourable for outdoor work. The supply of day labourers, however, was somewhat in excess of requirements, and some men of this class were in irregular work in certain districts.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment in February

was moderate, but was worse on the whole than a month and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended 25th February was 11,948, a decrease of 12 per cent. on the average for January, and of 7 per cent. on that for February, 1904.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes in rates of wages reported during February affected nearly 10,800 workpeople, of whom nearly 2,100 received advances, while nearly 8,700 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of nearly £300 per week. The changes of the previous month affected over 63,800 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of over £1,600 per week. During February, 1904, the number of workpeople affected was about 134,900, and the net result a decrease of over £3,200 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 3,600 coal mining deputies, mechanics, &c., in Northumberland, 1,000 blastfurnacemen in South Staffordshire, over 1,200 iron-puddlers, millmen, &c., in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 2,000 boiler makers in the Manchester district, and an increase affecting nearly 1,200 Municipal Employees at Glasgow.

Two changes affecting nearly 2,250 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change, affecting over 600 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting nearly 7,950 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, four of these changes, affecting nearly 900 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

**Trade Disputes.**—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during February, 1905, was 7,176, compared with 6,628 in January, 1905, and 5,965 in February, 1904. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 73,500 working days, as compared with 67,100 in the previous month, and 67,000 in February, 1904. Eighteen disputes began in February, involving 3,949 workpeople, compared with 21 in January and 21 in February, 1904. Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 17 disputes, new and old, affecting 2,761 persons. Of these disputes, three involving 630 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; five, involving 1,014 persons, in favour of the employers, and nine, involving 1,117 persons, were compromised. In the case of two other disputes, terminating during the month and involving 117 workpeople, certain points are still under consideration.

**RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN FEBRUARY.**

(Based on Returns received from Town Clerks and Local Correspondents, relating to the Metropolis and surrounding district, and nearly all towns with a population of 50,000 and over, and in the case of smaller towns to most of those in which exceptional distress has been reported.)

ACCORDING to the Returns received exceptional distress continued during February in most districts of London and neighbourhood, and in 65 provincial towns, but, on the whole, the improvement noted in the February GAZETTE was more than maintained.

Work for the unemployed was provided in nearly all of the London districts, and in 71 provincial towns.\* The number of persons for whom employment was found at some time during the month in the relief works, as to which particulars have been received, was 40,081, including 18,528 in London and district. In the case of those works for which the information is available the average number of days' work which each man received was about ten; in the London district the average was about nine.

**London and Neighbourhood.**—Exceptional distress was reported in two-thirds of the districts from which returns have been received. Operatives in the building trade and general labourers were most generally affected, and in particular districts distress was reported among dock and waterside labourers, and boot and shoe operatives. Local work for the unemployed was provided in February by the Local Authorities in nearly all the boroughs and

\* Including two towns in which work was provided by voluntary associations.

urban districts in the Metropolis and surrounding district, 15,675 men receiving employment-relief at some time in the month.

In addition, the Central Committee of the London Unemployed Fund, by arrangement with the Office of Works, the London County Council, the Corporation of the City of London, the Salvation Army, and the Garden City Company, found continuous employment for 2,048 men, nearly all of whom were at work throughout the month. The Middlesex Unemployed Fund also provided 805 men with four days' work each at the Alexandra Palace.

**Northern Counties.**—Exceptional distress was reported in four towns. In two towns the distress was stated to be rather greater than a month ago, but in four towns an improvement was reported. The classes of workpeople most affected by distress were those in the building, shipbuilding, and engineering trades (especially the labourers), dock labourers, and bottle makers. Work for the unemployed was provided by the Municipal Authorities at Newcastle, South Shields, Jarrow, and Carlisle.

**Yorkshire.**—According to the returns received there was exceptional distress in 11 towns. The building and metal trades, general labourers, wool combers and wool sorters, boot and shoe operatives, and bottle makers were most affected. An improvement was reported in five towns. In particular towns employment was reported better in the building and clothing trades, and at iron and steel works. Work for the unemployed was provided in February by nine Municipal Authorities and by the York Citizens' Association at York.

**Lancashire and Cheshire.**—In eight towns exceptional distress was reported. The building trades, labourers at iron works, and general labourers were most affected. In the cotton trade employment was good and in the textile machine making trade it improved. In seven towns the distress was reported less than a month ago, while in three towns it was rather worse. Ten Municipal Authorities provided employment-relief in February.

**Midland Counties.**—Building trade operatives, labourers generally, pottery workers, boot and shoe operatives, hosiery workers, iron workers, and leather workers were reported as most affected by distress. In 19 towns exceptional distress for the time of year was reported. In eight towns a slight improvement was noted. Relief works opened by the Local Authorities were in operation during February at 18 towns.

**Eastern Counties.**—In five towns exceptional distress was reported, affecting the building and boot and shoe trades. At two of these towns the distress was rather less than in January. Work for the unemployed was provided by the Local Authorities at four towns, and by the Town Relief Association at Ipswich.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—According to the returns received there was exceptional distress in February at eight towns. The building trades and general labourers were most affected, dock labourers were also affected at Bristol, and fishermen at Plymouth. In three towns a slight improvement was reported. Relief works opened by Local Authorities were in operation at 11 towns.

**Wales and Monmouth.**—Work for the unemployed was provided in February by the Municipal Authorities at Cardiff, Newport, and Swansea.

**Scotland.**—Reports from seven towns state that there was exceptional distress in February. Operatives in the building trade, general labourers, and shipyard workers were affected. There was some improvement, particularly in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, in six towns. Work for the unemployed was provided during February by the Local Authorities at seven towns, and by a charitable association at Dumbaron.

**Ireland.**—Reports from three towns state that there was some improvement as compared with January. Relief work was provided in February by the Corporations of Belfast and Dublin.

The following Table gives certain particulars of the work for the unemployed provided during February in nearly all cases by Local Authorities either directly or, in a few instances, in conjunction with funds raised by voluntary subscription:—

Employment-Relief in February, 1905.				
Locality.	No. of days in February during which works were open.	No. of Men Employed.		No. of days worked.
		Total.	Average per day during period works were open.	
<b>London and Neighbourhood.</b>				
<i>London Unemployed Fund Central Committee—</i>				
City Markets	23	43	43	989
Green City, Hitchen	24	135	41	980
Hadleigh Colony	24	200	83	4,800
L.C.C. Asylum, Epsom	23	900	85	18,975
L.C.C. Parks	23	620	620	14,260
Royal Parks	24	150	150	3,600
<i>Middlesex Unemployed Fund—</i>				
Alexandra Palace and Park	16	805	201	3,220
<i>East—</i>				
Bethnal Green	24	505	97	2,333
East Ham	24	153	33	800
Hackney	24	2,378	181	4,350
Leyton	24	130	30	713
Poplar	24	600	500	2,114
Shoreditch	24	156	88	12,000
Stepney	20	345	186	3,725
Walthamstow	23	...	248*	5,635
West Ham	24	1,987	220	5,284
<i>South—</i>				
Bermundsey	24	2,279	403	9,666
Camberwell	24	1,795	1,664	39,928
Croydon	24	787	121	2,908
Deptford	24	329	123	2,961
Greenwich	24	220	144	2,304
Lewisham	24	821	251	6,020
Southwell	24	250	179	4,290
Wandsworth	24	136	122	2,916
Wimbledon	24	143	35	845
Woolwich	24	292	277	6,650
<i>North—</i>				
Islington	24	†	79	1,903
Stoke Newington	24	57	9	213
Tottenham	24	357	45	1,072
Willesden	24	347	80	1,929
<i>West—</i>				
Chelsea	24	94	94	2,256
Hammersmith	24	360	31	768
Kensington	24	1	140	1,200
Paddington	24	446	134	3,206
St. Marylebone	24	152	152	3,648
<i>Central—</i>				
City of London	24	35	33	794
Finsbury	24	101	34	827
City of Westminster	24	420	124	2,954
<b>Provincial Towns.</b>				
<i>Northern Counties—</i>				
Carlisle	24	217	36	868
Jarrow	24	178	16	620
Newcastle	24	555	63	1,509
S. Shields	10	15	10	103
<i>Yorkshire—</i>				
Bradford	24	759	337	8,081
Doncaster	23	180	180	4,140
Halifax	24	345	99	2,363
Harrogate	24	591	185	4,440
Hull	21	126	103	2,160
Leeds	24	851	421	10,114
Sheffield	24	127	21	508
Scarborough	24	176	22	528
Sheffield	24	872	...	...
York	24	120	51	1,224
<i>Lancs. and Cheshire—</i>				
Barnoldswick	23	69	23	526
Birkenhead	24	451	320	7,834
Bolton	24	50	50	1,075
Manchester	24	848	113	2,710
Preston	24	310	161	3,853
St. Helen's	24	33	25	604
Salisbury	24	599	448	10,762
Stockport	24	879	205	4,930
Warrington	22	20	20	440
<i>Midland Counties—</i>				
Bedford	24	130	16	390
Bilston	24	310	55	1,308
Burslem	24	27	7	162
Coventry	24	240	240	5,760
Gloucester	24	147	70	1,682
Hanley	24	101	30	720
Leamington	24	122	43	1,023
Letchworth	24	556	77	1,853
Newark	24	17	40	...
Northampton	20	326	150	3,006
Nottingham	24	200	150	3,600
Oldbury	24	40	17	492
Oswestry	24	17	8	188
Stafford	24	125	123	859
Smethwick	24	93	44	1,062
Stoke-on-Trent	24	30	12	255
West Bromwich	24	312	48	1,152
Wolverhampton	24	666	42	1,013
<i>Eastern Counties—</i>				
Colchester	10	240	113	1,128
Ipswich	24	130	103	2,450
Norwich	24	196	140	3,355
Romford	24	52	12	289
Yarmouth	24	400	400	9,600
<i>S. &amp; S.W. Counties—</i>				
Bath	14	118	94	1,320
Brighton	24	1,074	199	4,784
Bristol	24	1,160	533	12,780
Devonport	24	22	22	528
Dover	24	36	15	350
Folkestone	24	166	56	1,338
Plymouth	24	20	20	480

\* Average number employed in addition to ordinary permanent staff.  
† No record kept. ‡ Cannot be stated.  
§ Number at work at end of February.  
|| Work provided by Charitable Association.



Locality	No. of days in February during which works were open.	No. of Men Employed.		No. of days worked.	
		Total.	Average per day during period works were open.	Aggregate.	Average per Man.
<i>S. &amp; S.W. Counties—(continued)</i>					
Reading	24	190	150	3,605	19.0
Southampton	24	342	36	858	2.5
Swindon	24	75	33	789	10.5
Tunbridge Wells	24	244	34	819	3.4
<i>Wales and Mon.—</i>					
Cardiff	24	96	82	1,972	20.5
Newport	24	105	33	333	3.3
Swansea	24	190	40	950	5.0
<i>Scotland—</i>					
Aberdeen	23	349	236	5,542	15.9
Ayr	24	90	20	2,160	24.0
Dumbarston	24	23	6	145	6.3
Dunfermline	24	187	150	3,600	19.3
Edinburgh	24	1,000	577	13,851	13.9
Glasgow	24	1,610	1,543	37,030	23.0
Hamilton	24	35	18	424	12.1
Paisley	24	139	93	2,228	16.0
<i>Ireland—</i>					
Belfast	24	110	98	2,342	21.3
Dublin	11	26	11	117	4.5

NOTE.—In addition to the numbers employed as given in the above table, for whom the number of days worked is stated, 1,275 men were employed on piece work for whom the number of days worked cannot be stated, viz., at Bath, 2; Birkenhead, 320; Burslem, 108; Harrogate, 1; Hull, 228; Norwich, 450; St. Helens, 23; Stoke, 30; Tunbridge Wells, 1; Westminster, 18, and York, 88.

**FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1904.**

THE numbers of workpeople reported killed by accidents connected with their employment are given in the following Table for each of the past five years. The figures show on the whole, a steady decline year by year.

Industry.	Total number of Deaths from Industrial Accidents in					Mean for the five years, 1900-1904.
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	
Shipping†	1,889	1,722	1,494	1,380	1,049	1,507
Mines:						
Underground	931	978	933	938	937	943
Surface	119	153	120	159	147	140
Total Mines	1,050	1,131	1,053	1,097	1,084	1,083
Quarries (over 20 feet deep):						
Inside	115	86	103	84	96	97
Outside	12	12	16	11	16	13
Total Quarries	127	98	119	95	112	110
Railway Service:						
Company's Servants	612	539	468	470	416	501
Contractors' Servants	19	26	17	27	21	21
Factories	802	769	840	742	721	775
Workshops	11	13	10	6	5	9
Works under Secs. 103-5 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901	234	253	260	296	292	267
Under Notice of Accidents Act	70	75	62	56	58	64
Total	4,812	4,646	4,323	4,169	3,758	4,338

The number of deaths from industrial accidents reported in 1904 was 3,758, or 411 less than that for 1903, and 580 less than the mean yearly number taken over the five years 1900-1904.

The shipping industry shows the greatest decline in the number killed in 1904, as compared with 1903, the number of seamen reported killed having fallen from 1,380 to 1,049. Accidents to seamen may be divided into two main classes, (1) those arising from wrecks or from other casualties to vessels, and (2) all other accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours. The fluctuations in the number of deaths year by year naturally occur chiefly in the first of these classes of accidents as will be evident from the following statement:

Year	Deaths by wrecks or casualties to vessels.	Deaths by other accidents.
1900	1,054	835
1901	992	730
1902	775	710
1903	622	758
1904	361	688

\* Relief provided by Social Union.  
† The figures relate to Seamen who were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. (This includes all trading vessels and about half of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards.)  
‡ Up to and including 1901 these works came under Sections 22 and 23 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.

The deaths of 1,084 miners were reported in 1904, the corresponding number for 1903 being 1,097, and the mean of the five years 1900-04 being 1,083. Falls of ground continue to be the most frequent cause of death, the number killed by such accidents being 517, or nearly half the total of 1,084. Underground haulage, accounted for 214 deaths in 1904. On the other hand, deaths from explosions of fire damp and coal dust numbered 22 only.

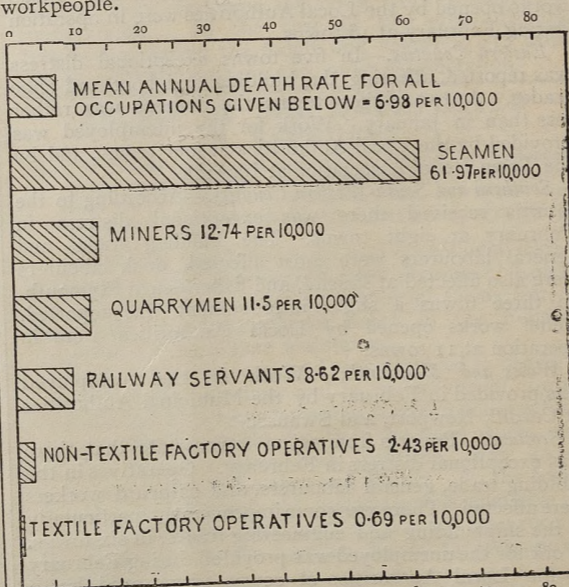
The total number of factory operatives reported as killed during the year was 721 (710 males and 11 females), or 21 less than during 1903, and 54 less than the mean number for the five years 1900-04. Textile factories, which employ about a quarter of the total factory population, account for less than a tenth of the 721 reported deaths. The metal, shipbuilding and engineering trades, however, with nearly one-third of the total number employed in factories, show more than half of the deaths.

Among accidents other than those in factories, but reportable under the Factory and Workshop Act, may be noted the deaths of 138 workers on docks, wharves and quays, and 118 engaged in the construction and repairs of certain classes of buildings. The number of fatal accidents in workshops reported continues to be very low—5 only being reported in 1904, while the mean for the five years 1900-04 was 9.

During the year 1904, 416 railway servants were reported as killed by accidents. This number is lower by 54 than that for 1903, and is well below the mean for the five years ended 1904. The great majority (388) of the deaths were by accidents connected with the movement of railway vehicles, and in this class of accidents 101 permanent way men lost their lives.

In considering the figures in the Table given above, it is important to bear in mind the numbers of workpeople engaged in the various industries.

The accompanying Chart shows the mean annual death rate from accidents (taken over the five years 1900-04), in industries for which the number of workpeople employed is known. It will be understood that these death rates are only approximately correct, as accurate figures, respecting the numbers employed are not available for each of the years covered. The industries included in the Chart employed 5½ millions of workpeople.



The Chart shows that out of every 10,000 workpeople about 7 are killed in the year by industrial accidents. In the case of seamen the number killed per 10,000 is about 62. In steamships the rate is much lower than in sailing vessels, the figures being 48 and 125 per 10,000 respectively.

The lowest rate shown in the Chart is that for textile factory operatives, of whom .69 per 10,000, or, say, two persons out of every 30,000 are killed in the year.

**EARNINGS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.**

THE Labour Department of the Board of Trade has issued a Second Report by Mr. Wilson Fox on the Wages, Earnings and Conditions of Employment of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom.\*

This Report deals mainly with the rates of wages paid to agricultural labourers in the United Kingdom, and also with their total yearly earnings. Besides these subjects, which were also dealt with in the Report published in 1900, the present Report contains particulars as to the cost of living of farm labourers in the United Kingdom; information as to their hours of work and general conditions of labour, in the form of detailed statements furnished by employers; and a number of additional records of the rates of wages paid for a long series of years on farms in certain counties.

Although a good deal of information as to wages and earnings in 1903 will be found in the Report, the average earnings for the whole country are given for 1902. The figures now published for 1902, however, substantially apply to the years 1903 and 1904, as there has been comparatively little movement in the wages of the agricultural classes during the past two years.

It is shown in the Report that although time-payments in cash form the main part of the agricultural labourers earnings, the method of remuneration greatly varies in different parts of the United Kingdom. Where the system of long engagements prevails, extra cash payments for piecework, hay and corn harvest, overtime, &c. are few, if any, while allowances in kind, such as board and lodging for unmarried men, and free cottage, potatoes, fuel, &c., for married men, are frequent. On the other hand, where the engagements are shorter and the rates of time wages are lower, as in the arable districts of the Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Counties of England, more piecework is done, and extra payments in cash at hay and corn harvests, and for overtime, can be earned, while men in charge of animals often receive lamb money, journey money, &c., free cottages, and other allowances in kind.

The Report gives a statement of the average weekly cash wages and of the average weekly earnings (including all payments in cash and the value of allowances in kind) of the different classes of agricultural labourers in the various counties in the United Kingdom in 1902. The following are the final averages obtained for the earnings in 1902 of:—

- (1) Ordinary agricultural labourers in England (*i.e.*, men who are not specially occupied in the charge of animals), and for the classes of labourers most nearly corresponding to them in other parts of the United Kingdom.
- (2) All classes of agricultural labourers (including ordinary labourers and also men specially engaged in the charge of animals, such as shepherds, cattlemen, and horsekeepers.)

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER WEEK IN 1902 (INCLUDING THE VALUE OF ALL ALLOWANCES IN KIND).

Note.—The averages here shown relate to able-bodied male adults. They do not include the earnings of stewards, bailiffs, foremen, or casual labourers.

Country.	Ordinary Agricultural Labourers.	All classes of Agricultural Labourers (including Ordinary Labourers and men in charge of animals).
England ...	s. d. 17 5	s. d. 18 3
Wales ...	17 7	17 3
Scotland ...	19 5	19 3
Ireland ...	10 9	10 11

The inclusion of the earnings of men in charge of animals with those of ordinary labourers makes no material difference in the general averages, except in England, where it increases the amount by 10d. a week. Included among the men in charge of animals are young unmarried men, whose earnings are, as a rule, lower than those of married men. In Scotland and Wales a num-

\*Cd. 2376. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 2s. 6d.

ber of these unmarried men are boarded and lodged in the farm houses, and the general average is slightly reduced on this account.

The Report contains a Map showing the average weekly earnings throughout the year 1902 of ordinary agricultural labourers in the various counties of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, including the value of all allowances in kind. A copy of this map is included in this number of the GAZETTE.

**SPINDLES AND LOOMS IN WOOLLEN AND WORSTED FACTORIES.**

Woolen and Shoddy Factories.

The following Table compiled from a return issued by the Home Office\* shows the number of spindles and of power looms in ordinary use in various centres of the woollen industry in July, 1904. The few factories returned under the heading "shoddy" are included.

District.	Spindles.		Power Looms.			
	Spinning.	Doubl- ing.	Not ex- ceeding 40-inch reed space.	Over 40 and under 60-inch reed space.	60-inch reed space and over.	Total.
Huddersfield	188,201	17,434	137	257	2,424	2,818
Leeds	148,835	5,808	14	40	3,006	3,060
Rest of West Riding	1,193,853	94,208	276	713	21,562	25,551
Rochdale	104,614	1,650	2	—	2,454	2,456
Rest of Lancashire	159,247	2,719	169	119	3,634	3,922
Gloucestershire	53,993	5,929	15	7	933	955
Wiltshire	48,890	5,710	27	126	425	578
Rest of England & Wales	230,814	18,490	808	1,135	2,017	3,960
England and Wales	2,125,447	151,948	1,446	2,397	39,455	43,298
Galashiels	83,446	9,742	4	31	751	789
Selkirk	50,983	4,770	—	8	381	389
Hawick	48,694	9,387	—	33	549	582
Rest of Scotland	310,633	28,743	652	1,791	3,097	5,540
Scotland	493,756	52,582	656	1,863	4,781	7,500
Ireland	68,374	9,343	106	73	1,012	1,191
United Kingdom	2,687,577	213,873	2,208	4,333	45,248	51,789

From this Table it will be seen that in England and Wales ten-elevenths of the looms are of 60-inch reed space or over; in Scotland nearly four-elevenths of the looms are of less than 60-inch reed space. In England and Wales more than half of the narrow looms and medium sized looms are found in the miscellaneous group of small seats of the woollen industry. In all the important centres of the industry, including Galashiels, Selkirk and Hawick wide looms are the rule.

Of the spinning spindles 79 per cent. are in England and Wales, 57 per cent. being found in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Of the doubling spindles 71 per cent. are in England and Wales, 55 per cent. being found in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The following Table shows the number of spindles and looms returned for 1870, 1874, 1878, 1885, 1890 and 1904 in the United Kingdom.

In any comparison with previous returns it must be remembered that the productive efficiency of a unit of machinery has tended to increase.

In many cases the speed of spindles and looms has been increased, and in the majority of cases broad looms have taken the place of narrow looms, the quantity of material produced per loom being proportionately increased. As previous returns did not distinguish the size of the looms no accurate comparison is possible.

Year.	Spinning Spindles.†	Doubling Spindles.†	Total Spindles.†	Power Looms.†
1870†	2,541,501	161,155	2,702,656	48,218
1874†	3,191,164	159,138	3,350,302	57,323
1878	3,361,692	322,908	3,684,600	57,788
1885	3,126,968	232,611	3,359,579	59,710
1890	3,148,076	299,984	3,448,060	62,880
1904	2,687,577	213,873	2,901,450	51,789

\* [H.C. 293 of 1904.] Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 2d. Similar returns have been issued at varying intervals by the Home Office, the previous return being for 1890 [H.C. 328] and the earliest for 1850 [H.C. 745]. Returns were also made in 1837 [H.C. 7], 1871 [H.C. 440], 1875 [H.C. 393], 1879 [H.C. 324] and 1885 [H.C. 340].

† Excluding Shoddy Factories (cotton waste) in Lancashire and Cheshire.  
‡ Including spindles and looms returned as standing.



**Worsteds Factories.**

The following Table shows the number of spindles and of power looms of different sizes in the chief centres of the worsted trade:—

District.	Spindles.		Power Looms.			Total.
	Spinning	Doubl- ing.	Not ex- ceeding 40-inch reed space.	Over 40 and under 60-inch reed space.	60-inch reed space and over.	
Bradford ... ..	906,563	227,959	854	8,973	11,109	20,946
Halifax ... ..	270,004	97,032	1,099	574	1,305	2,978
Huddersfield ... ..	75,076	33,884	2	32	1,620	1,654
Leeds ... ..	36,734	11,088	22	2	1,685	1,712
Rest of West Riding ... ..	1,396,708	399,381	2,868	8,420	10,352	21,640
Worcestershire ... ..	58,570	15,922	1,371	124	68	1,563
Leicester ... ..	45,691	12,096	15	—	—	15
Rest of England and Wales ... ..	95,074	22,338	411	166	425	1,002
England and Wales ... ..	2,884,418	819,700	6,652	18,291	26,567	51,510
Scotland ... ..	53,482	25,466	596	219	388	1,203
Ireland ... ..	—	—	—	—	12	12
United Kingdom ... ..	2,937,900	845,166	7,248	18,510	26,967	52,725

From this Table it is apparent that the worsted industry has its centre in the West Riding, which returns 91 per cent. of the total spinning spindles, and also of the total doubling spindles, and 93 per cent. of the total looms. Bradford contains nearly one-third of the total spinning spindles, and more than one-fourth of the doubling spindles; it contains less than one-eighth of the narrow looms, but includes nearly one-half the medium sized looms, and two-fifths of the broad looms in the United Kingdom.

The following Table shows the number of spindles and looms returned for 1870, 1874, 1878, 1885, 1890 and 1904 in the United Kingdom. As already stated with regard to the returns for the wool and shoddy factories, it must be remembered that in many cases the speed of spindles and looms has been increased, and that, prior to 1904, the size of the looms included in the returns was not shown.

Year.	Spinning Spindles.	Doubling Spindles.	Total Spindles.	Looms.
1870*	1,821,144	310,308	2,131,452	64,654
1874*	2,182,792	399,658	2,582,450	81,747
1878	2,036,820	456,114	2,552,934	87,393
1885	2,227,192	536,329	2,763,521	79,937
1890	2,402,922	609,328	3,072,250	67,391
1904	2,937,900	845,166	3,783,066	52,725

**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, and those who are going should arrive at the end of March or early in April. The principal demand is for capable men and boys who understand farm work, milking cows, looking after cattle, horses, sheep, or pigs, killing and dressing animals, etc. Even inexperienced hands may get places in the Spring, provided they are willing to learn, and are strong and able: their wages at first will be nominal, but board and lodging will be supplied free. The February number of the Labour Journal of the Dominion Department of Labour states as follows:— "Outside employment in the building trades was practically at a standstill except in a few localities. Masons, bricklayers, builders' labourers, and lathers, accordingly had on the whole a dull month. Plasterers were somewhat better employed, though quietness was the prevailing condition. In the inside branches much more favourable conditions were reported. Carpenters and joiners were generally active, and painters and decorators had a fair month's employment. Plumbers, gas and steamfitters ranged from active to busy in the larger cities. Stonecutters were generally quiet. In the metal and engineering branches conditions varied considerably, according to locality. Iron workers and machinists had,

\* Including spindles and looms returned as standing.  
† Handbooks with maps on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

generally speaking, a fair month, except in connection with shipbuilding. Blacksmiths and horseshoers were well employed, and electrical workers and linemen were active. Stove mounters and others engaged in the iron manufacturing establishments reported a marked improvement in conditions during the month, especially in the closing weeks.

Saw millers and others of the woodworking branches engaged in the rough lumber trade were generally in idleness, and will continue so until the arrival of the winter cut of logs.

Establishments manufacturing building supplies, however, were busy.

Carriage and wagon makers, car builders and pattern makers were other classes reporting a good month's employment. Gilders, upholsterers and varnishers were less actively employed. In the clothing trades, journeymen tailors were generally dull; garment workers had on the other hand an active month, as had also glove and hat makers. In the boot and shoe trade little change was reported, conditions remaining on the whole fair and active, though some localities reported quietness. In the leather trades normal conditions prevailed, most branches reporting a fair month. For unskilled labour, a better month than December was on the whole reported. The work of snow removal and ice harvesting occupied large numbers of men, though considerable bodies of unemployed were reported in the majority of the cities.

Agricultural operations were generally confined to wood cutting and hauling, stock feeding and the marketing of produce, the latter being on a considerably diminished scale as compared with December and previous month.

Very favourable reports were received from the logging camps of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces during the past month. This was very largely the result of weather conditions, the snow fall having been of sufficient depth to facilitate the hauling of the logs to the streams without unduly hampering employment in the woods. In British Columbia, the mills were reported as inactive in several sections, though in other localities operations were being resumed after the depression which prevailed during the closing months of 1904. The Cape Breton collieries in Nova Scotia have begun to work full time again.

**Commonwealth of Australia.**

*New South Wales.*—There was a considerable increase in the number of men employed in 1904 at the silver mines in the Broken Hill district; at the end of the year 7,000 were being employed, or over 1,200 more than in 1903. At the Bulli Coal Mines in the South there is no demand for more labour, and some men are out of work. At the Newcastle Coal Mines work is now proceeding. Owing to the wheelers' strike, which has just ended (the wheelers agreeing to the reduction of 10 per cent. from their wages), 4,000 miners were thrown out of employment, and shop-keepers and others dependent on them suffered materially. The industry is still in an unsettled condition; the total output in 1904 was nearly three million tons, or nearly half a million tons less than in 1903. At Young and Queanbeyan there is a fair demand for female and agricultural labour, but at Lithgow some of the coal mines are working short time.

*Victoria.*—There is no demand for more labour in Victoria. The lowest wages payable to makers, finishers and clickers in the boot trade have been fixed at 7s. 6d. per day of eight hours, and to females with four years' experience, at 20s. per week of 48 hours.

*Queensland.*—A report from Brisbane states that there is "no demand for workers of any description at present, although good openings exist for experienced farmers to take up selections on favourable terms." Owing to the strike at the Newcastle coalmines in New South Wales, the Ipswich mines in Queensland have been busy, and the men have begun to work full time again. There is still a considerable number of unemployed persons in Queensland, though the number is less than it was: work is being found for them, as far as possible, in the north,

central and southern districts at railway construction and the opening up of Government land.

*Western Australia.* The report of the Western Australia Government Labour Bureau for 1904, states:— "Generally speaking, work has been plentiful during the past twelve months. Good, reliable and capable men have not had much difficulty in procuring work. At many places, as at Coolgardie, Cue, Mount Magnet, Peak Hill, owing to the closing of some of the mines and from other causes many persons were at times out of employment, and in the south several of the timber mills closed down. In other places, as Perth and Northam, men were well employed. At the present time there seem to be no great number of unemployed in the State, but there is little demand for more mechanics or labourers from this country unless they can keep themselves for a while. There has been a steady demand for agricultural workers throughout the year, but it is for the most part limited to a few districts of the south-west, and to men who understand machinery, or are otherwise specially competent. At the present time harvesting is over, and the extra demand occasioned by it has therefore ceased. The demand for female servants continues. There is no demand for coal or gold miners; at the Collie Coal Mines coal-cutting machinery is beginning to take the place of manual labour.

**New Zealand.**

Generally speaking work has been plentiful in New Zealand during the last few weeks, as is usual in the summer season. Men in the building and to a less extent the engineering trades, coach-builders, saddlers, plumbers, blacksmiths, saw millers, flax millers, wheelwrights, and others have been well employed, except at Christchurch and one or two other places. Dressmakers have been busy, and at Christchurch women were wanted in the boot trade. In country districts, competent men were busy at shearing, fencing, dairying, ditching, and other farm work. "Good shearers and good ploughmen are scarce" at Timaru; at Wellington, "really good milkers are in demand, and difficult to get"; and at Gisborne, "experienced fencers are in demand." At Auckland, "there are a good many new arrivals from the Old Country, who are unacquainted with farm or dairy work, and they consequently are rather difficult to place."

**South Africa.**

*Cape Colony.*—No one is allowed to land in Cape Colony unless he has secured employment or possesses £20 on arrival. Considerable numbers of persons are out of work at Cape Town, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, and elsewhere, so that emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony at the present time. A report just received from East London states as follows, in words which are fairly applicable to the other towns also in the Colony:— "At present it is entirely inadvisable for any one to come here unless a situation has been already secured. Larger firms have reduced their staffs of clerks. The clerks are now very much recruited from the sons of colonists. The girls are engaging themselves as typists. Owing to the depressed state of business a large number of mechanics have left the town during the past year, more particularly during the past six months. Many of them had saved a little money, and after being without work for some time used part of the balance to pay their fares to other parts. Many returned to England and some went to Australia. In the town "relief" works have been begun by the municipality, giving employment to about 100 men."

*Natal.*—Labour is plentiful both in Durban and Maritzburg, and no one should go out in search of work, unless he obtains a nominated passage through friends in the colony.

*Transvaal.*—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit, which should be applied for at least a week before sailing. Though the output of gold is very large, and more white men are being employed about the mines than was the case last year, and though the building trade has slightly improved of late, the supply of labour at Johannesburg is still considerably in excess of the demand. The men who have suffered most are carpenters, bricklayers, stonemasons, printers, bookbinders, ironfounders, engineers, painters and plumbers. Wages

have fallen among wagonmakers, coachbuilders, tailors and shoemakers. In Pretoria and in country districts also the supply of white labour is ample. Men are therefore warned against going to the Transvaal at the present time, unless they have secured work beforehand. There is a demand for female servants, especially house parlourmaids, cooks and cook-generals, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The cost of house rent, and of living generally, remains very high, and lodgings for female emigrants going by themselves are difficult to obtain.

**Orange River Colony.**

No one may enter the Colony without a permit, which should be applied for at least a week before sailing. There is no improvement in the demand for labour, and persons are warned against going to the Colony at the present time in search of work. Female servants may procure assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

**LABOUR ABROAD.****FRANCE.\***

*Employment in January.*—A further decline in employment was reported in the building and allied trades. In the metal trades a revival of activity was reported in many centres. Short time was still being worked by textile operatives in Seine Inférieure, the Ardennes, and in the Roanne district. In the Vosges and the western cotton districts, and in the woollen centres of Roubaix and Rheims, however, there was continued activity. Silk weavers of the Loire and Rhone continued well employed. Employment declined in the furniture trades. In several departments in the south of France the cutting of the vines was much hindered by the rains; in the north forestry work was in full progress, but for other classes of agricultural labour employment was scarce.

Out of a total of 180,036 members of 1,020 Trade Unions which made returns as to employment in January 24,913, or 13.8 per cent. (exclusive of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais), were out of work on the 15th of the month, as compared with 11.8 per cent. in the previous month, and with 11.0 per cent. in January, 1904.

The following statement shows the percentages of members of Trade Unions reported unemployed in certain trades:—

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at the end of		
	Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.
<b>Building Trades:—</b>	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..	17.0	15.0	19.0
Other Branches ... ..	40.4	36.6	35.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ... ..	6.4	6.7	10.0
Textile Trades ... ..	8.7	5.3	9.5
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking) ... ..	17.1	9.6	14.0
<b>Printing Trades:—</b>			
Paris ... ..	6.5	6.4	5.1
Provinces ... ..	3.9	2.9	3.4
<b>Leather and Fur Trades:—</b>			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ... ..	28.9	27.6	38.0
Boot and Shoemaking ... ..	22.4	4.8	14.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades ... ..	18.0	7.5	5.0
Food Preparation Trades (including Confectionery) ... ..	20.6	23.1	13.0

*Coal Mining in January.*—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground during January was 5.81, as compared with 5.82 in the previous month, and 5.70 in January, 1904. Taking surface and underground workers together, 34.8 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 64 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week, the corresponding percentages in the previous month being 48.6 and 50.8 respectively, while in January, 1904, they were 68 and 31 respectively. The foregoing figures were furnished to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to nearly 160,000 workpeople.

*Labour Disputes in January.*—Forty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, as compared with 22 in the previous month and 73 in January, 1904. The number of persons

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



taking part in 41 of the disputes of January last was 5,518, as compared with 2,766 in 20 disputes in the previous month, and 14,856 in 63 disputes in January, 1904.

## BELGIUM.

*Strike of Coalminers.*—The main points in the progress of the Belgian coal strike up to February 13th were noted in last month's *Gazette* (p. 41). On February 14th a deputation of the National Committee of Miners waited on the Minister of Industry and Labour, urging his interference in favour of the strikers. He, however, declined to interfere in any way in the conflict.

By February 21st the strike had come to an end in the Liège coalfields, and the situation in the Mons and central districts had become less acute. In the Charleroi district, however, where there were 33,254 miners on strike, and only 6,188 at work, the position had become more serious. The total number of coal miners on strike in Belgium on February 21st, exceeded 70,000.

On February 26th it was decided by the National Miners' Congress to continue the strike in the Mons and Charleroi coalfields. On March 14th the strike had ceased to have an organised character in the Charleroi district, and had terminated completely elsewhere. The men's demands were not conceded.

## AUSTRIA.†

*Employment in January.*—Reports furnished to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, relief stations and other agencies for procuring employment, show that the number of situations offered, the number applied for, and the number of applications per 100 situations offered were as follows:—

	Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.
Number of Situations:			
(i.) Offered			
Males ...	10,663	10,202	11,575
Females ...	25,271	10,242	21,459
Total ...	35,934	20,444	33,034
(ii.) Applied for			
Males ...	37,174	35,924	37,711
Females ...	25,700	14,739	19,828
Total ...	62,874	50,663	57,539
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered			
Males ...	349	352	326
Females ...	102	144	92
Total ...	175	248	174

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.‡

In most trades the skilled men are fairly well employed, but there are great numbers of labourers out of work. The outlook in the building trades is good, the bricklayers have made an agreement for the coming year, by which they get 2s. 6d. per hour, while fireproof tile setters get 1½d. more. The plumbers, gasfitters and mantel tile setters have also signed agreements, and the lathers, who struck on the morning of March 1st, had before night signed agreements with forty employers—practically all except those who belonged to the Employers' Association.

*Strike of Electric Railway Employees in New York.*—According to press notices, a strike of motor men and guards employed on the elevated and underground electric railways took place at New York on the 7th inst. The strike affected approximately 5,000 employees. The motor men demanded a 9-hour day with fewer journeys (6 or 7 instead of 8 as at present), and 14s. 7d. wages per day (instead of 12s. 6d.); the guards demanded the same hours with proportionate pay. Some dislocation of the passenger traffic took place, but by the 10th inst. many of the strikers' places had been filled and trains were running as usual. It is stated that several hundreds of the men applied for re-employment.

\* Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Brussels and H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, dated February 21st to March 14th.  
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.  
‡ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated March 2nd, from H.M. Consul in Chicago.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES  
IN FEBRUARY.

## BUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades continued dull during February. On the whole it showed little change as compared with a month ago, but in certain districts a slight improvement was apparent. It was worse than a year ago.

Employment with carpenters and joiners continued bad, it was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 9.6 at the end of February, as compared with 11.6 in January, and 6.9 in February, 1904. With plumbers employment was bad in England and Ireland, and worse than either a month or a year ago. In Scotland it was moderate and rather better than in January. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 12.5 at the end of February, compared with 11.5 in January, and 9.6 in February, 1904.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1905.*	Percentage of Members returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Feb., 1905, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	6,936	10.1	10.3	8.1	-0.2	+ 2.0
Northern Counties†	6,185	10.7	12.3	7.8	-1.6	+ 2.9
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,181	9.3	11.6	7.9	-2.3	+ 1.4
Yorkshire ...	5,275	11.1	12.5	8.0	-1.4	+ 3.0
East Midlands ...	3,077	8.5	13.7	8.0	-5.2	+ 0.5
West Midlands ...	4,718	9.4	11.7	8.4	-2.3	+ 1.0
Eastern Counties ...	1,082	7.5	10.6	8.1	-3.1	- 0.6
S. and S.W. Counties ...	5,955	7.5	9.2	3.8	-1.7	+ 3.7
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,866	6.4	6.3	7.0	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Other Districts ...	645	7.3	10.8	8.6	-3.5	- 1.3
SCOTLAND ...	5,169	7.6	11.0	4.0	-3.4	+ 3.6
IRELAND ...	4,348	14.7	17.2	5.0	-2.5	+ 9.7
UNITED KINGDOM ...	55,467	9.6	11.6	6.9	-2.0	+ 2.7
PLUMBERS.‡						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	1,133	16.0	11.0	9.8	+ 5.0	+ 6.2
Northern Counties†	1,283	10.1	11.6	7.7	-1.5	+ 2.4
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,635	12.7	9.6	10.0	+ 3.1	+ 2.7
Yorkshire ...	1,159	12.3	9.9	9.7	+ 2.4	+ 2.6
East Midlands ...	617	8.5	8.8	14.0	- 0.3	- 5.5
West Midlands ...	456	12.1	9.2	9.6	+ 2.9	+ 2.5
Eastern Counties ...	110	5.5	7.3	13.2	- 1.8	- 7.7
S. and S.W. Counties ...	495	11.1	11.1	6.0	...	+ 5.1
Wales and Monmouth ...	284	7.7	7.4	10.0	+ 0.3	- 2.3
Other Districts ...	35	3.7	2.9	6.7	+ 2.8	- 1.0
SCOTLAND ...	1,845	13.0	14.6	8.7	-1.6	+ 4.3
IRELAND ...	621	19.3	21.7	11.8	-2.4	+ 7.5
UNITED KINGDOM ...	10,703	12.5	11.5	9.6	+ 1.0	+ 2.9

With bricklayers employment generally was dull, and about the same as a month ago. With masons it was moderate and showed little change as compared with a month ago in England; it was very dull in Scotland, and worse than a month ago. With painters it was rather better than in January. With plasterers it was bad in England and very quiet in Scotland. Employment with slaters and tilers was bad, and much the same as a month ago in England and Ireland, but worse, if anything, in Scotland. With builders' labourers employment was slack generally.

The returns received from 72 Employers' Associations show that employment generally was dull, but rather

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † And Middlesbrough.  
‡ Revised figures for Jan. 1905 and Feb. 1904.

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

better, on the whole, than a month ago. It continued worse than a year ago.

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

*London.*—Employment generally was slack, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 65 employers show that in the last week of February they paid wages to 12,978 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 12,755 in the last week of January, and 14,609 in February, 1904.

*Northern Counties.*—Employment continued dull generally. With painters it was a little better than a month ago in some places, as also with labourers in the Hartlepool district.

*Yorkshire.*—In the Leeds district employment improved, especially with joiners, but with plasterers, slaters, and plumbers it continued slack. In other districts employment continued dull.

*Lancashire.*—Employment continued slack generally during February.

*Midland Counties.*—On the whole employment in the principal towns in these districts continued dull. With carpenters and joiners, however, employment improved; with builders' labourers and painters at Leicester and Northampton, and bricklayers at Walsall some improvement also took place.

*Eastern Counties.*—Employment generally was bad and large numbers were unemployed.

*Southern and South-Western Counties.*—At Exeter employment on the whole continued fair; at Plymouth it improved during the month; elsewhere it was bad.

*South Wales and Monmouthshire.*—Employment generally was slack.

*Scotland.*—Employment continued dull generally. At Edinburgh, however, it was rather better than a month ago.

*Ireland.*—Employment continued dull. There was some improvement with bricklayers and painters in the Belfast district.

## COAL MINING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the coal-mining industry during the month of February was fair generally, and showed some improvement on the whole as compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,273 pits, employing 534,664 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries during the four weeks ended February 25th, 1905, was 5.31, compared with 4.95 in January, 1905, and 5.19 in February, 1904. Employment, however, in January was affected to some extent by holidays.

The average weekly number of days worked in February during the 10 years 1895-1904 was 5.29, and ranged from 4.91 days in 1896 to 5.69 in 1900.

Of the 534,664 workpeople covered by the returns, 420,049 (or 78.6 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 days or more during the four weeks ended February 25th, and of these 126,237 worked 23½ days to 24 days, and 156,753 worked 22 and under 23½ days.

As compared with a month ago, a considerable decline was shown in Cumberland and Warwickshire, and when the time lost by holidays in January is taken into account, few districts showed any improvement except Northumberland, West Scotland, and Fifeshire.

As compared with a year ago, an improvement took place in Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, West Scotland, and Fifeshire. In the other districts a decline was shown, which was greatest in the Cumberland coalfield.

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

District.	No. of Workpeople employed in Feb., 1905, 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 Feb., 1905, as compared with	
		Feb., 25th, 1905.	Jan., 21st, 1905.*	Feb., 20th, 1904.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	39,897	5.31	4.75	4.94	+ .56	+ .37
Durham ...	95,858	5.42	5.20	5.26	+ .22	+ .16
Cumberland ...	6,796	4.69	4.91	5.42	- .22	- .73
South Yorkshire ...	58,890	5.42	5.00	5.15	+ .42	+ .27
West Yorkshire ...	18,607	4.76	4.50	4.87	+ .26	- .11
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,226	5.33	4.90	5.16	+ .43	+ .17
Derbyshire ...	40,780	4.87	4.75	4.82	+ .12	+ .05
Nottingham and Leicester	26,917	4.54	4.40	4.68	+ .14	- .14
Staffordshire ...	20,775	5.04	4.76	5.11	+ .28	- .07
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick ...	14,210	5.00	5.10	5.20	- .10	- .20
Gloucester and Somerset	7,898	4.93	5.09	5.28	- .16	- .35
North Wales ...	10,223	5.09	4.79	5.54	+ .30	- .45
South Wales and Mon. ...	104,580	5.70	5.20	5.82	+ .50	- .12
ENGLAND & WALES...	498,667	5.30	4.97	5.19	+ .33	+ .11
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	18,695	5.37	4.75	5.24	+ .62	+ .13
The Lothians ...	4,964	5.60	4.96	5.70	+ .64	- .10
Fife ...	14,618	5.51	4.46	4.93	+ 1.05	+ .58
SCOTLAND ...	38,277	5.45	4.67	5.16	+ .78	+ .29
IRELAND. ...	730	5.58	4.75	5.65	+ .83	- .07
United Kingdom ...	534,664	5.31	4.95	5.19	+ .36	+ .12

In Northumberland employment was good and better than a month and a year ago. There was an increased demand for coal on account of the Westphalian miners' strike. In Durham also employment continued good and was better than a year ago. With cokemen it remained dull.

There was a considerable decline in employment in Cumberland both as compared with a month and a year ago.

Employment in South Yorkshire continued good; in West Yorkshire it was moderate. Surfacemen generally were fairly well employed.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was fair generally, and rather better than a year ago.

In Derbyshire employment was fairly good in the steam coal and manufacturing coal trades and moderate in the house-coal trade.

In Nottinghamshire employment was moderate; in Leicestershire dull. In both counties it was worse than a year ago.

In Staffordshire employment generally was fair. It was moderate in North Staffordshire, and in the Cannock Chase district only about 4 days per week were worked.

In Warwickshire employment was moderate, and worse than a month and a year ago. In Shropshire it was fairly good, and better than a month ago.

In the Bristol coalfield employment was fairly good, but in the Forest of Dean only about 4 days per week were worked.

In South Wales employment remained good, though not quite up to the level of a year ago. It was dull with anthracite miners, who worked under 5 days per week. In North Wales it was moderate.

In the Lothians employment continued good; in Lanarkshire it was fair generally; it was moderate in Ayrshire.

In Fifeshire employment was good, and much better than a year ago.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during February amounted to 3,906,128 tons, as compared with 3,627,030 tons in January, and 3,359,135 tons in February, 1904.

\* This period includes the Christmas and New Year holidays.



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; TINPLATE WORKS.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in February continued good in iron and shale mines, and was better than a year ago. It continued good also in lead mines and fair in tin and copper mines, showing little change compared with a year ago. With quarrymen employment remained quiet generally, and was worse than a year ago.

Mining.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. During the four weeks ended February 25th, the average weekly number of days worked by the 122 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers was 5'90, as compared with 5'41 in January and 5'79 in February, 1904. The number for January, however, is reduced by Christmas and New Year holidays.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Feb., 1905, 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 Feb., 1905, as compared with	
		Feb. 25th, 1905.	Jan. 21st, 1905.*	Feb. 20th, 1904.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,245	5'97	5'40	5'90	+ 0'57	+ 0'07
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,667	5'94	5'49	5'76	+ 0'45	+ 0'18
Scotland...	1,044	5'54	4'89	6'00	+ 0'65	- 0'46
Other Districts...	2,488	5'74	5'51	5'50	+ 0'23	+ 0'24
<b>Total and Averages</b>	<b>15,444</b>	<b>5'90</b>	<b>5'41</b>	<b>5'79</b>	<b>+ 0'49</b>	<b>+ 0'11</b>

Of the 15,444 workpeople covered by the returns, 14,309, or 92'7 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended February 25th, as compared with 56'0 per cent. in January (this figure being affected by holidays as stated above), and 87'3 per cent. in February, 1904.

**Shale Mining.**—Employment with shale miners continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in February 2,968 men were employed, as compared with 2,954 a month ago, and 2,676 in February, 1904. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended February 25th was 5'90, as compared with 5'45 in the previous month, and 5'65 in February, 1904. In January, however, the number was affected by holidays to the extent of 0'55 days per week.

**Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.**—Employment continued fair generally with tin and copper miners in Devon and Cornwall; it was dull in the Calstock and Liskeard districts, but there was an increase in the number of hands employed. Work was improving in the Marazion and Hayle districts. Lead miners in Weardale were reported as fully employed.

Quarrying.

**Slate.**—Employment was bad on the whole in North Wales and also in Argyllshire, where short time was general.

**Granite.**—Employment was bad in Aberdeenshire, with some short time, and bad also at Dartmoor and neighbouring quarries; some improvement was shown in the Penryn quarries. It was slack in Leicestershire.

**Limestone.**—Employment continued fair in the Stanhope district of Durham; it was moderate in the Westgate and Upper Weardale quarries, where only four and five days a week were worked. In Cumberland employment

continued fairly good. It was dull in Derbyshire, owing to bad weather, and in the Plymouth district.

**Other Stone.**—Employment was good in the Clee Hill (road material) quarries, and with chert quarrymen in Derbyshire. In the Gateshead district it was moderate, some short time being worked. It was moderate also at Barnsley and Normanton, and slack in the Sheffield district. In Forfarshire and in the Rowsley (Derbyshire) grindstone and building stone quarries employment continued bad, and much short time was worked in Forfarshire. Employment was fair in the Bristol and Forest of Dean districts and fair generally in Devon, though it was still bad at Princetown and De Lank, and dull at Gunnislake.

**Sett-making.**—Employment continued good in the Clee Hill district, fair in the Edinburgh, Airdrie, and Aberdeen districts. It was quiet at Rowley Regis (Staffs).

**China Clay.**—In this industry employment was moderate in the St. Austell district and at Lee Moor.

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued to show an improvement, and was much better than a year ago. The number of mills in operation is now larger than at any time since June, 1900. The demand for and supply of labour remain about equal.

At the end of February 405 mills were working, as compared with 403 at the end of January, and 361\* a year ago. At the 77 works open, 64 had all their mills (363) in operation, while the remaining 13 had 42 mills working out of a total of 64. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 405 mills was 20,250.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 394 mills were working, as compared with 392 a month ago, and 359 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	363	—	363
Works giving partial employment	13	42	22	64
<b>Total at end of February, 1905†</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>427</b>
<i>Corresponding Total for Jan., 1905†</i>	77	403	21	424
<i>Corresponding Total for Feb., 1904*</i>	73	361	39	400

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).		
	Feb. 1905.	Jan. 1905.	Feb. 1904.	Feb. 1905.	Jan. 1905.	Feb. 1904.
To United States	6,390	6,443	2,998	39	19	—
„ Other Countries	22,571	23,480	21,359	3,721	4,609	3,981
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,961</b>	<b>29,923</b>	<b>24,357</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>4,628</b>	<b>3,981</b>

\* Revised figures.

† 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.

\* This period includes the Christmas and New Year holidays.  
† Revised figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—IRON AND STEEL WORKS; PIG IRON.

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.)

ACCORDING to returns from 202 Iron and Steel works, employment showed considerable improvement compared with a year ago. There was an increase both in the numbers employed and in the average number of shifts worked per head, the total volume of employment during the week ended February 25th, 1905 being 4'6 per cent. greater than in the corresponding week of February, 1904.

The proportionate number of workpeople who worked the undermentioned 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	
	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 27th, 1904.
Under 5 per week	8'8	14'8
5 per week	32'4	27'7
5½ per week	1'1	0'9
6 per week	57'3	55'6
Over 6 per week	0'4	1'0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100'0</b>	<b>100'0</b>

The aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the returns was approximately 483,900 in the week ended February 25th, 1905, and 462,500 in the corresponding week of last year.

Analysis by Departments.

Taking the numbers employed according to the departments specified in the next Table, it will be seen that there has been an increase in all branches except in the Bessemer converting department, where a slight decrease is shown. The average number of shifts worked likewise shows an increase in all departments except one (founding) and is greatest in puddling forges, where it amounts to 5 per cent.

Department.	Numbers employed in week ended		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905.	Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended	
	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 27th, 1904.		Feb. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 27th, 1904.
Open-Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,777	7,631	+ 146	5'89	5'86
Bessemer Converters	2,238	2,318	- 80	5'04	4'95
Puddling Forges	9,517	9,487	+ 40	4'80	4'57
Rolling Mills	28,672	28,112	+ 560	5'23	5'16
Forging and Pressing	3,453	3,424	+ 29	5'49	5'42
Founding	9,279	9,145	+ 134	5'78	5'80
Other Departments	9,398	8,900	+ 498	5'81	5'72
Mechanics and General Labourers	17,529	16,458	+ 1,071	5'74	5'70
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,173</b>	<b>85,475</b>	<b>+ 2,698</b>	<b>5'49</b>	<b>5'41</b>

Analysis by Districts.

The following Table shows by districts for the periods named the changes in the number of workpeople employed, and the average weekly number of shifts worked:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905.	Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended	
	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 27th, 1904.		Feb. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 27th, 1904.
Northumberland and Durham	11,306	11,074	+ 232	5'55	5'44
Cleveland	6,412	7,188	- 776	5'46	5'36
Sheffield and Rotherham	18,336	16,548	+ 1,788	5'68	5'59
Leeds, Hull and other Yorkshire Towns	3,792	3,841	- 49	5'12	5'07
Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire	11,986	11,723	+ 263	5'29	5'25
Staffordshire	8,925	8,668	+ 257	5'33	5'21
Other Midland Counties	3,671	3,619	+ 52	4'30	5'07
Wales and Monmouth	7,584	7,288	+ 296	5'66	5'66
England and Wales	72,012	69,949	+ 2,063	5'47	5'40
Scotland	16,161	15,526	+ 635	5'37	5'46
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,173</b>	<b>85,475</b>	<b>+ 2,698</b>	<b>5'49</b>	<b>5'41</b>

From the above Table it will be seen that as compared with a year ago there was an increase in the total number of workpeople employed of 2,698, or nearly 3'1 per cent. There were increases in seven districts and decreases in two, viz., in Cleveland and the Leeds and Hull districts. The decrease in the Cleveland district amounted to 10'8 per cent., but was counterbalanced to some extent by an increase of about 2 per cent. in the average number of shifts worked. In the Sheffield and Rotherham district the increase in the numbers employed amounted to 10 per cent., and the increase in the weekly number of shifts worked to 1'6 per cent. The increase in the average number of shifts worked per week, as compared with a year ago, was 0'8, or about 1'5 per cent. The highest average number of shifts worked (5'68) was in the Sheffield and Rotherham district, and the lowest (4'89) in the Midland Counties other than Staffordshire, this latter district being the only one to show a decrease as compared with a year ago.

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

**Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland.**—Employment with steel smelters was generally fair. At Consett and Newburn workers in steel plate mills were fully employed. In bar and cogging mills at Jarrow employment was fairly good, but work was suspended at one large bar mill in the district for practically the whole month on account of a breakdown. Forge and hammermen on the Tyne have been fairly well employed. On the Wear employment was reported as good. With finished iron and steel workers employment generally was only moderate. In iron and steel works at Hartlepool it was good. At metal expansion works it was brisk, and at plate and rail mills some improvement was reported. Employment in pipe foundries continued fair, and in chair foundries moderate.

**Sheffield and Rotherham.**—In this district employment was good generally, except with Bessemer steel workers and makers of hoop iron, with whom it was slack. Railway spring, &c., makers at Rotherham and Iccles were fairly busy.

**Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire.**—Employment in this district was fair and showed some improvement on last year.

**Other Yorkshire Towns.**—In the Leeds district employment was slack and rather worse than a year ago.

**Midlands.**—In Staffordshire employment, on the whole, continued good; at Smethwick and West Bromwich, however, it was reported as quiet. In Shropshire steel workers were fully employed, and with ironworkers some improvement was reported. In Derbyshire employment showed some improvement on the previous month, but much short time was worked. Steel smelters at Scunthorpe were well employed.

**Wales and Monmouthshire.**—Employment in South Wales was good generally.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**—Employment was fairly good on the whole, being about the same as last month and slightly better than a year ago, but smelters at Parkhead worked some short time.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued to improve during February, and was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received from 108 ironmasters show that 6 furnaces were re-lit during the month and one blown out.



## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—PIG IRON; ENGINEERING TRADES.

At the end of February, 311 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 306 at the end of January, and 301 at the end of February, 1904. The number of workpeople employed at works included in the returns, is estimated at about 22,140.

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 Feb., 1905, as compared with	
	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cumberland ...	79	77	77	+ 2	+ 2
Lancs. ...	35	35	29	...	+ 6
S. and S.W. Yorks.	13	12	13	+ 1	...
Derby & Nottingham	37	36	37	+ 1	...
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	26	25	25	+ 1	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	30	30	32	...	- 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	14	14	12	...	+ 2
Other districts ...	7	7	6	...	+ 1
Returned from England & Wales }	241	236	231	+ 5	+ 10
Returned from Scotland ...	70	70	70	...	...
Total furnaces included in returns	311	306	301	+ 5	+ 10

## ENGINEERING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries, though still dull, was better than a month ago, and about the same, on the whole, as a year ago.

Returns relating to Trade Unions with 143,934 members show that 9,355 (or 6.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 70 at the end of January, and 6.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1904.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1905, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Feb., 1905, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	12,993	5.7	5.4	5.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,912	8.5	8.1	6.9	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,555	10.5	11.8	11.1	- 1.3	- 0.6
West Riding Towns ...	11,691	9.0	9.2	8.2	- 0.2	+ 0.8
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,491	4.6	6.2	8.4	- 1.6	- 3.8
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,363	4.0	4.7	4.3	- 0.7	- 0.3
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,052	11.0	11.1	5.6	- 0.1	+ 5.4
London and Neighbouring District	12,014	4.6	4.4	4.6	+ 0.2	...
South Coast ...	4,090	3.1	2.2	2.1	+ 0.9	+ 1.0
South Wales and Bristol District	6,492	3.5	2.9	3.6	+ 0.6	- 0.1
Glasgow and District ...	13,919	7.3	8.5	9.3	- 1.2	- 2.0
East of Scotland ...	3,617	10.5	12.1	10.1	- 1.6	+ 0.4
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,458	9.8	13.2	8.1	- 3.4	+ 1.7
Other Districts ...	5,575	5.1	5.1	5.0	...	+ 0.1
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	143,934	6.4	7.0	6.5	- 0.6	- 0.1

The percentage of unemployed was greatest in the Notts, Derby and Leicester, Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn, East of Scotland, Belfast and Dublin, West Riding, and Manchester and Liverpool districts.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

It was least in the South Coast and South Wales districts (which include three Royal Dockyards and the Swindon railway works), and in the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry, London, and Hull and Lincolnshire districts.

As compared with a month ago, an improvement was shown in eight districts, the improvement being greatest in the Belfast and Dublin, East of Scotland, and Hull and Lincolnshire districts. In five districts some decline was shown.

In comparison with a year ago employment was worse in eight districts, the difference being greatest in the Notts, Derby, and Leicester district. Five districts showed an improvement, the most marked decrease in the percentage unemployed being shown in the Hull and Lincolnshire, and Glasgow 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 moderate generally. There was, on the whole, a little improvement among marine engineers, but with general and electrical engineers employment somewhat declined. It remained good at Elswick. In the Gateshead engine shops employment was fuller than a month ago, except at the railway engineering works. At Jarrow employment still remained bad. On repair work at Shields employment was fairly good. On the Wear employment with fitters was moderate; with machine men it was steady though quiet. On the Tees employment generally was moderate, but showed an improvement over last month and last year. Pattern makers reported employment as improving generally. Brass finishers on the Tyne and Wear remained moderately well employed. With ironfounders employment was reported as improving at Newcastle and Stockton; at Hartlepool and Darlington it continued good; at Middlesbrough and Shields, moderate; at Sunderland, bad. Those sections of smiths not affected by the dispute reported employment as bad, but improving.

**Manchester and Liverpool District.**—Employment in this district remained slack generally, and worse than a year ago. Machine workers in the Manchester district, however, reported it as fairly good, with some overtime. At Liverpool there was reported to be no sign of improvement.

**Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District.**—Employment continued bad in this district, but again showed an improvement on the previous month, and was somewhat better on the whole than a year ago. There was more activity in some departments of the textile machine-making industry at Oldham; and at Blackburn this industry was reported to be well employed. At Bolton a large number of men were still out of employment. Iron grinders generally were fairly employed, and spindle and flyer makers reported improvement.

**West Riding.**—Employment remained bad generally. In Leeds some of the largest works were still working much below the full complement of men. In the textile machinery branch at Leeds employment was good, but in Bradford and other textile centres employment was bad. Ironfounders and pattern makers reported some improvement on last month. At Sheffield the engineers reported employment as moderate generally; the ironfounders as slack, but improved; the boiler-makers as quiet, but improving.

**Hull and Lincolnshire District.**—Employment again improved in this district, and was considerably better than a month ago and a year ago.

**West Midlands.**—Employment, though moderate on the whole, showed an improvement compared with a month and year ago. At Birmingham and Coventry employment in the cycle industry was reported as moderate; the motor section, as fairly good. Toolmakers at

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

Birmingham reported employment as improving; electrical engineers as fair. In the Wolverhampton district, safe and general engineers and cycle makers reported it as improving; makers of best gunlocks as fair; motor-makers as good. Boiler-makers reported a general improvement throughout the district.

**East Midlands.**—Employment in this district remained bad, and much worse than a year ago. At Nottingham there was a slight improvement compared with January, but a large number of men were still unemployed; with motor car builders and tool machinists employment was, however, fairly good. In Derbyshire a good deal of short time was worked, but at Derby railway engineering works were busy, and boiler-makers fairly well employed, and at Ilkeston pipe moulders reported employment as fair. In the Leicester district employment was moderate on the whole, but good with general engineers at Leicester.

**London and Neighbouring District.**—Employment remained dull generally, and showed little general change as compared with a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed continued, however, to be considerably less than the general average of the Kingdom. An improvement was reported with smiths and hammermen, brass founders and finishers, and copper-smiths. Tool makers were fairly employed.

**South Coast.**—Employment generally continued good, though some falling off is shown as compared with a month and year ago.

**South Wales and District.**—Employment in this district showed some decline. At Swindon, and with boiler-makers at Bristol, it was fairly good. With engineers in South Wales and Bristol it was slack. Smiths' hammermen and ironfounders in South Wales, however, were fairly well employed.

**Glasgow and District.**—Employment in this district continued to improve, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. With engineers, blacksmiths, brass-finishers, brassmoulders, and iron, steel, and brass dressers it was reported as fair; with copper-smiths and boiler and pipe coverers as good; with ironmoulders as quiet, but improved; with pattern makers as good, and much better than a year ago.

**East of Scotland.**—Employment continued bad generally, but somewhat better than a month ago. In Edinburgh there was more short time than a month and a year ago. At Dundee employment was fair on the whole, overtime being worked by some men. At Aberdeen employment was worse than a year ago. At Falkirk pattern makers reported employment as fair; ironmoulders also as fair, but with 1,500 men on short time.

**Belfast and Dublin.**—Employment generally, though bad, showed a considerable improvement compared with last month. It was still worse than a year ago. At Belfast pattern makers reported employment as fair and ironfounders as moderate.

**Other Districts.**—Employment at Barrow was fair, and slightly better than a month and a year ago. In the Eastern Counties it was moderate generally. At Stoke and Worcester it was moderate; at Hanley, Lancaster, York, and Cork it was bad.

## SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued to improve and was better than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 57,856 members had 6,671 (or 11.5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, 1905, compared with 12.4 per cent. at the end of January, 1905, and 12.6 per cent. at the end of February, 1904.

As compared with January the figures showed an improvement in eight districts, of which that in the

Tees and Hartlepool district was the most marked, while four districts showed a decline, the greatest of which was that at the Bristol Channel Ports. As compared with February, 1904, seven districts showed an improvement, that in the Humber district being very noticeable, while five districts showed a decline.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1905, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Feb., 1905, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,224	13.8	15.4	12.5	- 1.6	+ 1.3
Wear ...	4,821	11.9	11.4	12.6	+ 0.5	- 0.7
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,976	10.0	20.5	20.8	- 4.5	- 4.8
Humber ...	2,495	12.3	13.7	23.3	- 1.4	- 11.0
Thames and Medway ...	4,333	8.0	7.7	9.1	+ 0.3	- 1.1
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton ...	4,002	5.2	5.4	2.0	- 0.2	+ 3.2
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,729	13.2	6.9	12.1	+ 6.3	+ 1.1
Mersey ...	4,057	14.1	10.8	6.1	+ 3.3	+ 8.0
Clyde ...	12,350	10.5	12.0	15.2	- 1.5	- 4.7
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,244	14.7	17.7	18.0	- 3.0	- 3.3
Belfast ...	2,918	11.4	14.4	9.4	- 3.0	+ 2.0
Other Districts ...	3,059	6.8	8.8	6.9	- 2.0	- 0.1
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	57,856	11.5	12.4	12.6	- 0.9	- 1.1

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

On the *Tyne* and *Blyth* employment generally maintained the improvement reported last month, but was still dull. There was a better demand for riveters and caulkers, especially at Wallsend and Hebburn. Employment at Jarrow remained slack, but on repair work in the middle reaches of the Tyne it was generally good.

On the *Wear*, the centre chiefly affected by the shipsmiths' dispute, employment remained about the same as a month ago and a year ago. With drillers and holecutters it was good on new work and moderate on repairs. Employment with sailmakers was bad.

In the *Tees* and *Hartlepool* district employment showed considerable improvement as compared both with a month ago and a year ago, but with iron and steel shipbuilders it was still moderate; with shipwrights it was fair at Middlesbrough, slack at Hartlepool and moderate at Stockton. The shipsmiths' dispute on the North East coast is affecting most of the shipyard trades in the districts covered by the dispute.

In the *Humber* district employment remained about the same as last month, but was much better than in February 1904. It was generally slack at Hull and Grimsby, and fair at Goole. At Beverley and Selby it was good with shipwrights, and moderate with other trades.

On the *Thames* and *Medway* employment remained slack, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. There was a falling off on repair work during the month.

**South Coast.**—Employment continued moderate, but was not so good as a year ago. At Southampton it was bad with yacht builders, and fair in other departments. The percentage of unemployed in the dockyard towns was very small.

At the *Bristol Channel Ports* employment generally was bad, and showed a marked decline compared with the previous month. With shipwrights at Newport, Cardiff, and Pembroke Dock, and with shipbuilders at Newport, it was fair.

On the *Mersey* employment was bad, and was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago.

On the *Clyde* employment continued to improve and was much better than a year ago. Shipbuilders on the



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—SHIPBUILDING; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

lower reaches of the Clyde were busy, on the upper reaches slack. Shipwrights in particular report improvement.

**Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.**—Employment continued to improve at Dundee and Leith, but remained bad at Aberdeen.

**Belfast.**—Employment showed considerable improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

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

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally in these trades continued slack, and much short time was worked; but in some branches an improvement was reported.

**Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.**—With brassworkers employment was bad and about the same as a year ago, though improving at Birmingham. With bedstead makers and with fender and fire-brass makers it was no better.

**Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.**—At Birmingham and Smethwick employment was moderate in the nut and bolt, machine-made rivet and cut nail trades; quiet on wire nails. At Blackheath it was slack on rivets and wrought nails. At Darlaston there was an improvement in the machine nut and bolt trade. At Dudley employment in the nut and bolt trade was quiet; in South Wales it was fair.

**Tubes.**—Employment with copper cased tube and brazed tube makers was moderate. In the South Staffordshire and South Wales tube trades employment was slack.

**Chains, Anchors, etc.**—At Cradley employment was slack with block chain makers, moderate in other branches of the chain trade. At Pontypridd it was good; at Gateshead chain makers were not so well employed as a month ago, and on small work were slack. In the anchor trade employment was slack; with anvil and vice makers it was fair and better than a month ago. Employment was very bad at Walsall in the case hame, buckle, bit and stirrup trades. In the axle, spring, and tyre trades employment was fairly good.

**Locks, Keys and General Hardware.**—In the lock and latch trade employment continued bad and worse than a year ago: short time was general. With hollow-ware makers at Birmingham and Wolverhampton employment was moderate, at West Bromwich quiet but improving. It was good with hoe makers at Wednesbury, spade and fork finishers at Stourbridge, and shovel makers at Leeds. At Wolverhampton it was good with makers of iron fences and hurdles, improved with enamellers, slack with galvanisers and with makers of builders' ironmongery and vermin traps.

**Cutlery, Tools, etc.**—In the cutlery trades employment continued slack, except with sheep-shear makers. With edge-tool makers it was quiet at Sheffield and Birmingham, good at Wolverhampton. In the file trade it was slack at Sheffield, except with the hand forgers, who were moderately employed; at Birmingham and Wolverhampton it was moderate. At Redditch employment with needle makers was reported as improving, and the fish-hook trade was busy, overtime being worked.

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

**Sheet Metal, etc.**—Employment was slack on the whole, with some short time. An improvement was reported with tinsplate workers at Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Nottingham. At Manchester braziers were busy and overtime was worked. Employment was fair at Hull and Exeter, moderate at Oldham.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—In London employment was bad in the silver trades, moderate with electroplaters; fair, and rather better, with goldsmiths and jewellers. At Sheffield employment was bad, except with silver platers and gilders. At Birmingham it was dull. In the Coventry watch trade it was quiet.

**Wire.**—With wire drawers employment was fairly good, and rather better than a month and a year ago. With wire weavers it was good at London, Glasgow, and Norwich, bad at Birmingham. With wireworkers it was very bad in London, quiet at Manchester, and fairly good at Glasgow.

**Farriers.**—Employment was fair on the whole, though quiet in some of the large towns.

COTTON TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the cotton trade in February continued to be very brisk, and showed a great improvement as compared with a year ago, when much short time was worked. Some improvement was also shown even as compared with January.

The average price of raw cotton, "middling" American, during February was 4.13d. per lb. as compared with 3.80d. per lb. in January and 7.61d. in February 1904. The prices of "good fair Egyptian" during the same three periods averaged 6.55d., 6.48d. and 9.21d. per lb. respectively.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last pay day in February was 149,349, practically the same number as at the end of January, and an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed by them a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 121,640 operatives have stated the amount of weekly wages paid on the last pay day in February and January, and in February, 1904. From these returns it appears that, compared with a month ago, the number employed showed practically no change, and the amount of wages earned showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 2.6 per cent., and the amount of wages earned an increase of 14.5 per cent.

Analysis by Departments.

In the *Preparing* department there was an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages earned compared with a month ago, and of 19.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the *Spinning* department there was an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages earned compared with a month ago, and of 12.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Preparing ... ..	13,106	+ 1.0	+ 2.6	11,546	+ 1.5	+ 19.5		
Spinning ... ..	20,102	+ 1.2	+ 4.7	19,548	+ 2.2	+ 12.1		
Weaving ... ..	59,516	- 0.0	+ 2.1	50,978	+ 3.5	+ 17.0		
Other ... ..	9,459	- 4.0	- 0.5	11,425	+ 1.1	+ 9.9		
Departments not specified	19,457	+ 0.2	+ 3.8	19,721	+ 1.2	+ 10.7		
Total ... ..	121,640	- 0.0	+ 2.6	113,218	+ 2.4	+ 14.5		

In the *Spinning and Preparing* branch the percentage employed in mills working short time was only 2.6, compared with 3.3 per cent. a month ago and 40.0 per cent. a year ago.

In the *Weaving* department there was an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages earned compared

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—COTTON AND WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

with a month ago, and of 17.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The percentage of the total number employed in mills working short time in the *Weaving* department was 1.5, compared with 4.3 per cent. a month ago and 24.2 per cent. a year ago.

Analysis by Districts.

From the following Table it is seen that compared with a month ago there was a slight increase in wages earned in every district, the greatest increase being apparent in the Manchester district (5.4 per cent.) and in the Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde district.

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day in Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Ashton District ... ..	9,001	+ 0.5	+ 3.4	8,413	+ 1.1	+ 18.8
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	7,280	+ 0.7	+ 3.7	6,416	+ 4.1	+ 37.1
Oldham District ... ..	14,756	- 0.6	+ 2.2	14,798	+ 1.2	+ 15.0
Bolton and Leigh ... ..	15,951	+ 1.0	+ 1.2	13,448	+ 2.8	+ 7.8
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	11,045	- 0.1	+ 5.3	9,776	+ 0.9	+ 15.3
Manchester District ... ..	9,970	- 1.4	+ 1.3	7,875	+ 5.4	+ 19.4
Preston and Chorley ... ..	10,462	- 0.6	+ 1.0	8,728	+ 2.3	+ 11.4
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	21,957	+ 0.1	+ 1.8	21,191	+ 1.9	+ 14.0
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	20,418	+ 0.1	+ 3.7	21,861	+ 3.3	+ 10.8
Other Districts ... ..	800	- 0.2	+ 5.0	711	+ 2.6	+ 37.5
Total ... ..	121,640	- 0.0	+ 2.6	113,218	+ 2.4	+ 14.5

Compared with a year ago there was a great increase in wages paid in every district, the Bolton and Leigh district being the only one showing an increase of less than 10 per cent. In the Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde district it amounted to 37.1 per cent., in the Manchester district to 19.4 per cent., and the Ashton district to 18.8 per cent.

Short Time.

From the following Table it is seen that, compared with a year ago the diminution in the percentage affected by short time in the *Spinning and Preparing* branch was greatest in the Burnley district (including few spinners) and in the Oldham district where only 2.2 per cent. were in mills working short time compared with 62.7 per cent. a year ago; improvement was also very marked in the Stockport, Ashton, and Blackburn districts. In the Blackburn district 6.7 per cent. were still affected by short time, in the Ashton district 5.7 per cent., and in the Bury, Rochdale, etc. district 5.5 per cent.

District.	Preparing and Spinning Departments.				Weaving Departments.			
	Total number employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Percentage of total number employed who were in Mills working short time at end of			Total number employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Percentage of total number employed who were in Mills working short time at end of		
		Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.		Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
Ashton District ... ..	6,561	5.7	0.8	40.9	3,860	...	...	48.2
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	5,379	2.6	3.2	54.5	5,640	...	...	42.2
Oldham District ... ..	16,153	2.2	0.7	62.7	2,804	...	...	65.0
Bolton and Leigh ... ..	10,019	...	3.3	5.0	7,727	...	...	8.3
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	5,619	5.5	1.9	25.7	9,005	3.9	...	25.8
Manchester District ... ..	3,937	...	19.5	26.8	7,747	5.3	31.0	43.7
Preston & Chorley ... ..	2,174	1.2	6.8	16.2	9,239	6.1	...	14.1
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen	3,457	6.7	3.1	40.2	23,410	...	...	15.2
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	1,455	1.7	2.8	70.3	21,499	0.4	0.7	12.3
Other Districts ... ..	1,856	...	2.3	62.3	1,715	...	...	62.5
Total ... ..	96,613	2.6	3.3	40.0	92,756	1.5	4.3	24.2

In the *Weaving* branch short time was reported in only four districts, the Preston district showing the highest percentage affected; in Manchester, compared with a month ago, there was a considerable improvement, the percentage affected falling from 31.0 to 5.3; in Stockport and Bolton also there was an improvement in this respect; in the Preston and Bury, etc., districts, where full time was reported at the end of the previous month, some short time was reported at the end of February. Compared with a year ago every district showed a great improvement.

RAW COTTON.

**American Cotton.**—During the month of February the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 4.13d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 4.29d., and the lowest 3.83d. The price for January was 3.80d., and for February, 1904, 7.61d.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" in February averaged 6.55d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.18d., and the lowest 6.18d. The price for January was 6.48d., and for February, 1904, 9.21d.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of February.			Two Months ended February.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American ... ..	261,563	193,469	265,881	566,020	395,029	544,751
Brazilian ... ..	10,585	8,528	1,472	21,352	14,132	4,556
East Indian ... ..	4,181	7,394	2,276	7,333	11,534	7,403
Egyptian ... ..	39,738	34,023	31,596	74,586	73,390	64,181
Miscellaneous ... ..	5,476	4,007	3,441	10,568	9,597	5,956
Total	312,543	245,421	304,666	679,859	503,592	626,847

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 10th March was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 942,480 bales, compared with 610,350 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

EXPORTS OF COTTON GOODS.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in February, 1905, and in the corresponding months of 1903 and 1904.

Description.	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Cotton Yarn & Twist—						
Grey ... ..	10,759,600	12,181,400	12,323,000	10.54	12.93	12.12
Bleached and Dyed	3,086,400	2,696,000	3,051,600	11.53	12.75	12.83
Total ... ..	13,846,000	14,877,400	15,374,600	10.76	12.90	12.26
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	183,270,600	171,258,800	183,827,100	1.95	2.17	2.26
Bleached ... ..	118,917,800	134,862,300	155,334,600	2.54	2.56	2.69
Printed ... ..	85,552,300	94,487,200	77,138,500	2.73	2.90	2.97
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	76,175,800	82,929,900	91,689,300	3.45	3.72	3.84
Total ... ..	463,016,500	481,478,200	512,989,500	2.48	2.69	2.78

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.)

Returns have been received from firms employing 72,799 workpeople on the last pay day in February, and of this number 51,042 are included in returns from firms supplying particulars of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day of the month.

Woollen Trade.

Employment in the Woollen trade was good. It showed little change as compared with a month ago, but as compared with a year ago there was a marked improvement. Overtime and night work were again reported in Huddersfield and the heavy woollen district.



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 16,067 workpeople, at the end of February, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 3.1 per cent., and the amount of wages earned an increase of 11.0 per cent.

In the *Sorting* branch, there was some decline in number compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago employment showed an improvement.

In the *Spinning* branch there was an improvement on the previous month, and a greater one as compared with a year ago.

In the *Weaving* branch and other departments, the numbers employed showed no change as compared with a month ago, but the wages earned were greater; compared with a year ago, a considerable improvement was shown.

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 end of February, 1905 and 1904, and January, 1905:—

Branch.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Wool Sorting ...	513	- 3.0	+ 0.2	483	- 0.4	+ 2.9
Spinning ...	3,023	+ 1.6	+ 2.9	2,476	+ 5.4	+ 7.1
Weaving ...	6,551	...	+ 3.8	5,344	- 2.0	+ 12.8
Other Departments ...	4,753	...	+ 3.3	4,657	+ 3.1	+ 13.1
Unspecified ...	1,227	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	1,092	+ 2.3	+ 0.7
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>16,067</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 3.1</b>	<b>14,088</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>+ 11.0</b>

The proportion of workpeople affected by short time was very slightly less than a month ago, but considerably less than a year ago. Of the 24,201 operatives covered by the returns, 13.3 per cent. were working in departments of mills in which short time was reported in the last week of February, compared with 13.6 per cent. in January, and 21.0 per cent. in February, 1904.

From the following Table it will be seen that, compared with a month ago, there was a slight improvement in the Huddersfield, Leeds, and Dewsbury and Batley districts, and little change in Scotland.

Compared with a year ago employment showed a great improvement in the Huddersfield district and a considerable improvement in the rest of the West Riding (except Leeds), and in Scotland; in the other districts there was a decline.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.		Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
Huddersfield District ...	2,134	+ 3.4	+ 18.8	2,178	+ 4.3	+ 34.0
Leeds District ...	1,519	+ 2.3	+ 0.6	1,233	+ 2.5	+ 1.7
Dewsbury & Batley District ...	3,096	+ 1.4	+ 7.0	2,918	+ 1.5	+ 14.7
Other Parts of West Riding ...	1,093	- 0.5	+ 4.5	981	+ 0.4	+ 10.2
Total West Riding ...	7,842	+ 1.9	+ 8.2	7,270	+ 2.4	+ 15.8
Scotland ...	6,232	- 1.7	- 0.7	5,214	+ 0.1	+ 9.8
Other Districts ...	1,993	- 0.2	- 3.0	1,574	+ 2.6	- 4.1
<b>Total Woollen ...</b>	<b>16,067</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 3.1</b>	<b>14,058</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>+ 11.0</b>

Worsted Trade.

In the Worsted Trade employment was bad. It showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, and little change compared with a year ago.

There was a slight fall in the prices of Lincoln Hogs and of "cross-bred tops" as compared with a month ago, but the prices were still much higher than a year ago. The price of "botany tops" was slightly higher than both a month and a year ago. The course of prices at Bradford is shown below:—

	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
Lincoln Hogs ...	d. 12 to 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	d. 12 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> to 12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	d. 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> to 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
40's Crossbred tops ...	15 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> to 14	16 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> to 15 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	12 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
60's Botany tops ...	24 to 23 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	23 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> to 23 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	23 to 23 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

Returns from firms employing 34,975 workpeople at the end of February, showed no change in the number employed, and a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages earned compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. and the amount of wages earned showed an increase of 0.9 per cent.

In the *Sorting* and *Combing* branch there was a slight decline in numbers employed, but an improvement in wages earned compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago employment showed an improvement.

In the *Spinning* branch there was a slight increase in the number employed, but a decline in wages earned compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was a considerable decline.

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

In the other departments there was a decline compared with both a month and 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 at the end of February, 1905 and 1904, and January, 1905. Ninety-seven per cent. of both numbers employed and wages paid were accounted for by Yorkshire firms.

Branch.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Wool Combing and Sorting ...	3,777	- 0.5	+ 1.8	3,526	+ 3.4	+ 4.3
Spinning ...	17,956	+ 0.4	- 3.5	8,951	- 2.8	- 7.5
Weaving ...	7,793	+ 0.2	+ 7.6	6,554	+ 0.4	+ 12.9
Other Departments ...	4,008	- 1.1	- 2.8	3,781	- 5.4	- 0.4
Unspecified ...	1,741	- 0.9	+ 1.7	1,193	+ 1.0	+ 5.7
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>34,975</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>24,105</b>	<b>- 1.3</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>

The proportion of workpeople affected by short time was slightly greater than in January, and considerably greater than a year ago. Of the 47,031 operatives covered by the returns, 22.2 per cent. were working in departments of mills in which short time was reported in the last week of February, as compared with 21.7 per cent. in January, and 14.0 per cent. in February, 1904.

Compared with a month ago, employment remained much the same in Bradford and Halifax, but showed a decided decline in Huddersfield and a slight decline in Keighley. In Huddersfield employment was still fairly good; in the rest of the West Riding it was generally bad.

Compared with a year ago Bradford and Huddersfield showed a slight improvement; in other parts of the West Riding there was a decline which was especially marked in the Halifax district. These facts are brought out in the following district Table:—

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES; FLAX AND JUTE TRADES.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.		Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
Bradford District ...	18,968	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	12,940	+ 0.6	+ 2.2
Keighley District ...	5,759	- 0.8	+ 1.3	3,944	- 2.8	- 0.5
Halifax District ...	2,884	+ 1.7	- 1.8	1,667	- 0.3	- 6.0
Huddersfield District ...	3,905	- 2.0	- 1.9	3,385	- 7.0	+ 4.3
Other Parts of West Riding ...	2,323	+ 0.8	- 4.2	1,515	+ 0.9	- 3.6
Total West Riding ...	33,841	...	- 0.2	23,451	- 1.2	+ 1.0
Other Districts ...	1,134	+ 0.1	- 3.1	654	- 3.7	- 2.8
<b>Total Worsted ...</b>	<b>34,975</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>24,105</b>	<b>- 1.3</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>

Imports and Exports.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of imported and exported raw wool, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and woollen and worsted piece goods in February, 1905, and in the corresponding months of 1903 and 1904.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on last pay day in February, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Departments working Short Time in the last week in		
		A month ago.	A year ago.	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
		Belfast ...	21,484	- 0.3	- 1.4	3.6
Other Places in Ireland ...	18,244	+ 0.6	+ 1.0	2.3	2.3	2.2
Fifeshire ...	7,788	- 0.3	- 2.7	20.2	20.2	...
Other Places in Scotland ...	5,939	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	24.9	...	4.8
<b>Total Ireland and Scotland ...</b>	<b>53,455</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>

District.	Quantities.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
<b>Raw Wool.</b>						
Imported ...	73,662,095	72,605,406	101,957,182	8.21	9.17	9.06
Exported ...	4,139,400	2,849,000	1,586,300	6.33	8.97	11.81
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>						
Woolen ...	148,300	131,900	192,400	19.32	20.12	21.45
Worsted ...	4,255,000	4,672,300	3,273,800	16.19	17.77	19.82
Alpaca and Mohair ...	932,300	994,000	963,600	27.89	27.49	26.97
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>5,335,600</b>	<b>5,798,200</b>	<b>4,429,800</b>	<b>18.13</b>	<b>19.49</b>	<b>21.44</b>
<b>Piece Goods:—</b>						
Woolen ...	4,267,500	5,029,600	6,849,800	32.60	31.10	33.95
Worsted ...	10,377,500	9,544,500	9,571,500	15.04	14.53	15.74
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>14,645,000</b>	<b>14,574,100</b>	<b>16,421,300</b>	<b>20.15</b>	<b>20.69</b>	<b>23.33</b>

FLAX AND JUTE TRADES.

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

Flax Trade.

The number employed by the firms making returns for the last pay day in February was 53,455, an increase of 0.1 per cent. on the number employed a month ago and a decrease of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the following Table the numbers employed in the different departments of the industry, with the percentage increase or decrease compared with a month ago and a year ago are shown for Ireland and Scotland respectively:—

Process.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in the last pay-day in February, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Percentage of total number employed who were in departments working short time in last week of		
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
		Ireland—				
Preparing ...	6,247	...	- 2.9	...	...	
Spinning ...	11,726	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	...	...	
Weaving ...	16,592	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	2.9	3.1	
Other ...	5,163	+ 0.4	...	13.6	13.7	
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>39,728</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Scotland—						
Preparing ...	1,793	+ 0.3	+ 1.3	23.7	1.2	7.4
Spinning ...	1,799	+ 0.6	+ 3.7	22.3	...	2.6
Weaving ...	8,622	...	- 2.4	24.4	15.5	1.4
Other ...	2,013	+ 0.8	- 3.1	1.3	...	1.5
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>13,227</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>- 1.4</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Total Scotland and Ireland ...</b>	<b>53,455</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>

It will be seen that, compared with a month ago, little change took place in the numbers employed in any department. Compared with a year ago the numbers showed little change in Ireland, except in the *Preparing* department, which showed a decline of 2.9 per cent. In Scotland the small number returned in the *Preparing* and *Spinning* departments showed an increase, but the number employed in the *Weaving* and *Other* departments showed a decline, and there was a net decline of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed.

In Ireland in the preparing and spinning departments no short time was reported; a small percentage were affected in the weaving branch, and a rather high one in the miscellaneous group.

In Scotland employment showed a great decline in this respect in the *Preparing* and *Spinning* departments compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the *Weaving* department in which employment was bad in January it was worse in February, and it was much worse than a year ago.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on last pay day in February, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Departments working Short Time in the last week in		
		A month ago.	A year ago.	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
		Belfast ...	21,484	- 0.3	- 1.4	3.6
Other Places in Ireland ...	18,244	+ 0.6	+ 1.0	2.3	2.3	2.2
Fifeshire ...	7,788	- 0.3	- 2.7	20.2	20.2	...
Other Places in Scotland ...	5,939	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	24.9	...	4.8
<b>Total Ireland and Scotland ...</b>	<b>53,455</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>

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

At Brechin and Forfar employment was slack; in Dumfermline it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago. At Kilbernie it was good, and flax dressers at Johnstone were fairly busy.

Jute Trade.

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

The number employed by firms making returns for the last pay day in February was 24,232, an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed a month ago, and of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Of the total number, 20,259 were employed in Dundee, an increase of 0.6 as compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the other parts of Scotland the numbers employed show a falling off both as compared with a month and year ago.

The following Table shows the numbers employed in the different departments of the industry and the percentage employed in departments of mills working short time, compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Department	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on last pay day in February, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Percentage of Total Number employed in Departments working Short Time in last week in		
		A month ago.	A year ago.	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
		Preparing ...	4,896	+ 0.7	- 1.7	3.6
Spinning ...	7,125	+ 2.0	+ 1.5	2.2	2.2	...
Weaving ...	8,810	- 1.0	- 0.2	7.2	4.4	6.9
Other ...	3,401	- 0.3	+ 1.5	5.1	0.5	5.6
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>24,232</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>

A considerable number of mills which ran full time were reported as giving only partial employment. At Dundee employment was fairly steady.



## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—JUTE AND OTHER TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax and jute, and of British and Irish exports, of linen and jute yarn and manufactured goods in February, 1905, and in the corresponding months of 1903 and 1904:—

Description.	Quantities.		
	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.
<b>Imports:</b>			
Flax (Dressed and Undressed Tow and Codilla) ... .. Tons	9,297	10,126	6,985
Jute ... .. "	17,072	38,751	29,789
<b>Exports (British and Irish):</b>			
Linen Yarn ... .. Lbs.	1,014,000	1,332,200	952,400
Linen Manufactures ... .. Yds.	12,689,800	14,331,100	15,555,500
Jute Yarn ... .. Lbs.	3,134,300	3,201,200	3,733,300
Jute Manufactures ... .. Yds.	17,024,700	17,080,200	12,523,200

## OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

## Hosiery Trade.

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

Employment in England continued quiet, but was better than a year ago; in Scotland it was fair, and better than a year ago.

**Leicester District.**—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 12,546 workpeople in their factories at the end of February showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 38 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 5.7 per cent. in January. Employment generally showed little change at Leicester compared with last month, but was better than a year ago; it was slack in the plain hosiery and cardigan jacket branches, but showed a slight improvement with makers of cashmere underwear and fancy gloves. At Hinckley employment was fairly good in the shirt and pant branches, but bad with makers of cotton ribbed goods. At Loughborough employment continued slack.

**Nottingham and Derby District.**—Employment at Nottingham showed little change compared with last month, but was better than a year ago. Employment with power frame workers continued moderate; in the circular and rib top branch it showed a decline; at Sutton and Mansfield employment was moderate. With hand frame workers employment was bad at Arnold, Calverton and Nottingham, moderate at Woodborough, and not so good at Keyworth. Employment at Belper and Ilkeston was reported as bad, and short time was general.

**Scotland.**—In Selkirk employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In Hawick it continued dull, but was better than a year ago.

## Lace Trade.

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

Employment generally showed a slight improvement compared with last month, but was worse than a year ago. In Nottingham, employment was reported as bad in the levers branch, fair in the plain net branch, and in the curtain branch as slightly improved, but still quiet; it was worse than a year ago. Employment showed an improvement at Beeston, and continued moderate at Stapleford, Sandiacre, Kimberley and Bulwell. It was reported as very quiet at Long Eaton and bad at Ilkeston, short time being the rule. With lace makers at Glasgow it was reported as fairly good, and at Newmills as dull.

## Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

**Woollen and Worsted Dyers.**—Employment in the West Riding was quiet, but better than a month ago. About three-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-third worked overtime. Employment was worse than a year ago.

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

**Calico Printers, etc.**—Employment was reported as fair at Manchester, slack at New Mills, and dull at Glasgow; with calico printers' engravers employment was quiet at Dinting, and fair at Glasgow. With block printers at Glasgow it was very quiet.

**Hosiery Dyers, Trimmers, &c.**—At Leicester the improvement reported last month was not maintained. At Hinckley employment continued fair, although some firms were on short time. At Loughborough a further improvement was reported. Employment was reported as moderate with dyers at Nottingham, and with dyers and bleachers at Basford; with hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Basford it showed an improvement, and was better than a year ago.

**Calenderers, etc.**—In Glasgow employment was fair, and some overtime was reported. In Dundee employment was fair with bleachfield workers, but some short time was reported; with calender workers it was slack, and rather worse than a month ago; with dyers it was fairly good.

## TAILORING TRADE.

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

Employment in the *bespoke* branch was dull, but better than a month ago and a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment was moderate, and generally better than a month ago; it was slightly better than a year ago.

## Bespoke Branch.

**London.**—Employment, although slack, as usual in February, was better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms paying £11,508 in wages to their workpeople during the four weeks ended 25th February, showed an increase of 5.9 per cent. on the amount paid in the preceding four weeks, and of 7.0 per cent. on the amount paid in the corresponding period a year ago. The Trade Union tailors reported employment as bad.

**Other Centres.**—Employment was reported as very dull in Liverpool, quiet in Glasgow, bad in Edinburgh, quiet in Dublin, bad in Belfast.

## Ready-made Branch.

**London.**—Employment generally was fairly good, although only moderate in the measure work branch. It was better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Leeds.**—Employment was fair. According to returns received from firms employing about 10,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during February was good with firms employing 59 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 40 per cent., and bad with firms employing 1 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 72 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 19 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 9 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 48 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 21 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 31 per cent. as worse. Jewish operatives reported employment as improved.

**Other Centres.**—In Manchester employment was only moderate, but it was better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In Bristol employment was dull, although better than a month ago; it was reported as worse than a year ago. In Leicestershire employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Norwich and Yarmouth employment continued slack; it remained dull in Ipswich, Colchester and Bury St. Edmunds. In Glasgow, employment, although still quiet, was better than a month ago, and much the same as 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 again showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

Of the total number of operatives covered by the

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—BOOT AND SHOE TRADE; OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

returns 67 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments during the last week in February.

The number employed by the 601 firms making returns for the last pay day in February was 74,618, an increase of 0.8 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, but a decrease of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed, 480 firms, employing 62,451 workpeople, have given returns of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in February, 1905 and 1904, and January, 1905. The returns from these firms are analysed in the following Table:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both number employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.		Earnings.			
		No. employed at end of Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago. A year ago.	Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day in Feb., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago. A year ago.		
						Per cent.	Per cent.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>							
London ... ..	49	3,363	+ 2.9	- 2.3	4,223	+ 5.0	- 2.3
Leicester ... ..	68	13,269	+ 2.4	- 3.3	14,231	+ 6.1	- 4.2
Leicester Country District	27	3,014	+ 1.1	- 0.5	2,697	+ 2.7	- 1.5
Northampton ...	53	7,034	+ 1.6	- 4.8	6,975	+ 6.2	- 3.2
Northampton Country District	85	9,110	+ 0.1	- 2.9	8,194	+ 0.7	- 3.3
Kettering ... ..	23	2,842	+ 1.3	- 1.3	2,666	+ 2.4	- 3.2
Stafford and District	14	2,726	+ 1.6	+ 6.8	2,409	+ 4.8	+ 9.3
Norwich & District	26	3,809	- 0.5	- 1.2	3,072	+ 1.3	+ 0.6
Bristol ... ..	15	2,046	+ 1.2	- 5.4	1,884	+ 6.1	- 8.1
Kingswood ... ..	22	2,538	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	2,188	- 0.8	- 8.9
Leeds and District	35	2,820	- 2.9	- 14.1	2,684	- 11.2	- 21.0
Manchester & District	9	1,766	- 0.3	+ 7.9	1,643	+ 2.8	+ 13.9
Birmingham & District	7	950	- 1.0	...	782	+ 3.9	+ 0.6
Other parts of England and Wales	21	2,640	+ 3.8	- 6.6	1,988	- 5.2	- 15.7
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>57,907</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>55,236</b>	<b>+ 2.9</b>	<b>- 3.9</b>
<b>SCOTLAND</b> ... ..	<b>22</b>	<b>4,041</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>- 9.9</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>- 6.8</b>
<b>IRELAND</b> ... ..	<b>4</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>- 7.7</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>+ 3.7</b>	<b>- 6.9</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> ...	<b>480</b>	<b>62,451</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>- 3.3</b>	<b>59,377</b>	<b>+ 2.8</b>	<b>- 4.1</b>

Compared with a month ago, the only districts which did not show an increase in the amount of wages paid were the Leeds district, which showed a decline of 11.2 per cent., Kingswood and the miscellaneous group. The increase in the other districts was highest in Northampton (6.2 per cent.), Leicester and Bristol (6.1 per cent.), and London (5.0 per cent.). The net result was an increase of 2.8 per cent.

Compared with a year ago only four districts showed an increase, Manchester district (13.9 per cent.), Stafford district (9.3 per cent.), and the Norwich and Birmingham districts (0.6 per cent.). The decline in the other districts was greatest in the Leeds district (21.0 per cent.), the miscellaneous group (15.7 per cent.), Kingswood (8.9 per cent.), and Bristol district (8.1 per cent.). The net result was a decrease of 4.1 per cent.

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

**London.**—Employment continued quiet, but was better than a month ago; it was slightly worse than a year ago. With hand-sewn bootmakers an improvement was reported.

**Leicester and District.**—Employment showed a further improvement, compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

**Northampton, Kettering and District.**—There was a further improvement throughout the district, but employment was still quiet, and was worse than a year ago.

**Stafford and District.**—Employment was reported as good at Stafford and as improving at Stone; it was better than a month ago, and decidedly better than a year ago.

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment generally was fairly good, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

**Bristol and Kingswood.**—Employment in Bristol, although still slack, was considerably better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. In Kingswood

employment showed no improvement, and was much worse than a year ago.

**Leeds and District.**—Employment was bad and considerably worse than a month ago; it was much worse than a year ago.

**Other Districts in England.**—The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as bad at Nottingham, Birmingham, and Bishop Auckland; as very quiet at Newcastle-on-Tyne; as fair at Kendal.

**Scotland.**—Employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as slack at Maybole and Glasgow; as slightly improved at Edinburgh and Dundee; as bad at Kilmarnock; and as very quiet at Aberdeen.

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table gives the quantities and the values of the boots and shoes imported and exported in February, 1903, 1904, and 1905:—

	Month of February.			Two months ended February.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
<b>Imports</b>						
{ Dozen pairs ...	19,413	13,902	20,707	39,263	33,288	36,584
{ Value £ ...	70,103	51,171	80,408	149,038	112,413	142,497
<b>Re-Exports</b>						
{ Dozen pairs ...	2,802	2,183	1,707	5,162	4,958	3,009
{ Value £ ...	6,678	4,734	3,509	12,733	11,509	7,247
<b>Exports</b>						
{ Dozen pairs ...	76,217	56,694	64,488	155,857	108,404	126,594
{ Value £ ...	177,568	128,277	151,589	365,316	246,723	289,254

## OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the London dressmaking trade was only moderate, but was better than a month ago and slightly better than a year ago. In the mantle trade employment was moderate and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the corset trade it was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—In London returns received from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,383 dressmakers in the last week in February showed an increase of 5.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 9.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally although only moderate was better than a month ago and a year ago. Court dressmakers, employing 1,785 workpeople, showed an increase of 8.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment was moderate and about the same as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle and costume trade employment was moderate and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Employment with makers of blouses and underclothing was fair and better than a month ago or a year ago. Firms employing 1,000 milliners showed an increase of 10.9 per cent. on the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 9.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a slight increase in the demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago and a year ago; the number applying for situations was greater than the demand.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was only moderate, but was better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade, employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago, but it was worse than a year ago; firms employing 1,906 workpeople, showed an increase of 5.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was moderate and better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.



## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; HAT TRADE; OTHER LEATHER TRADES; AND PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,764 workpeople in their factories (in addition to 3,641 outworkers) showed practically no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and employment was reported as improved; in London it was good, in Manchester fair, in Glasgow only moderate, in Belfast good, in Londonderry moderate. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed, but firms employing 74 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 11 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 15 per cent. as worse. With the outworkers (of whom, 3,434 were in Ireland) employment was fairly good.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,966 workpeople in their factories at the end of February showed practically no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 59 per cent. of the total number reported employment as better, firms employing 37 per cent. as unchanged; and firms employing only 4 per cent. as worse.

## HAT TRADE.

*(Based on Returns from Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.)*  
EMPLOYMENT in the hat trade was slack, and worse than a year ago; it was slightly better than a month ago. Trade Unions with 5,387 members had 264 (or 4.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 5.9 per cent. in January, and 4.8 per cent. a year ago.

With *silk* hatters employment in London and Denton was quiet, but better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. The Trade Union silk hatters had 12.7 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 15.6 per cent. in January, and 10.6 per cent. a year ago.

With *felt* hatters in Denton employment showed an improvement, but about 50 per cent. of the Trade Union members were working short time; employment was worse than a year ago. At Stockport it was reported as moderate, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Bury, Hyde, and Failsworth it was moderate in the stiff hat branch, but bad in the soft hat branch. Employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. In Warwickshire employment was bad, and worse than a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters had 3.6 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 4.3 per cent. a month ago, and 3.9 per cent. a year ago.

## OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

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

THE state of employment in February remained bad with much short time, but showed some improvement as compared with January. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of the month was 9.3, compared with 10.8 in January and 9.5 in February, 1904.

**Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.**—Employment continued bad generally, but an improvement was reported with curriers in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Northampton, Wellingborough and Glasgow. Skinners, and fancy and morocco leather finishers in London also reported an improvement. Beltmakers were well employed; lace-cutters fairly well employed.

**Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.**—Employment remained bad in all branches. A slight improvement was reported, however, with gig saddlers at Walsall.

**Miscellaneous Leather Workers.**—Employment remained bad 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 February remained quiet, but rather better on the whole than in

January. The improvement, however, was confined to letterpress printing. As compared with a year ago employment was worse.

## PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was rather worse than a year ago. In *letterpress printing* it was better than a month ago, Trade Unions with 39,548 members having 4.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 5.2 per cent. in January, and 3.9 per cent. in February, 1904. In *lithographic printing* the percentage unemployed of 6,487 Trade Union members was 6.3, the same percentage as in January, compared with 4.7 a year ago. With *bookbinders* a slight decline is shown compared with a month ago, and a considerable decline compared with a year ago. Of 7,022 Trade Union members in this section 5.3 per cent. were unemployed at the end of February, against 4.8 in January, and 4.3 in February, 1904.

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 Feb., 1905, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	22,938	4.4	5.0	4.1	- 0.6	+ 0.3
Northern Counties ...	1,479	7.6	4.1	3.0	- 0.5	+ 0.6
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,915	7.0	6.4	5.1	+ 0.6	+ 1.9
Yorkshire ...	4,310	4.5	5.8	3.8	- 1.3	+ 0.7
East Midlands ...	2,130	3.7	5.7	3.8	- 2.0	- 0.1
West Midlands ...	2,452	5.7	4.8	4.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.8
Eastern Counties ...	391	3.8	3.1	2.0	+ 0.7	- 3.2
S. & S.W. Counties...	2,744	2.1	2.7	2.1	- 0.6	...
Wales and Mon. ...	840	3.6	5.2	0.9	- 1.6	+ 2.7
Scotland ...	6,251	4.7	5.2	2.2	- 0.5	+ 2.5
Ireland ...	2,607	6.6	7.0	8.4	- 0.4	- 1.8
United Kingdom ...	53,957	4.8	5.3	4.1	- 0.5	+ 0.7

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

**London.**—Employment with letterpress printers improved, Trade Unions with 17,222 members having 3.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.6 per cent. a month ago, and 3.7 a year ago. In the lithographic trade employment was bad generally, with some short time; the percentage unemployed of 1,989 Trade Union members being 8.0, against 8.7 a month and 6.2 a year ago. Lithographic artists, however, were well employed. Employment with bookbinders was quiet, with some short time, Trade Unions with 3,727 members had 5.7 per cent. unemployed, against 5.3 in January, and 4.7 in February, 1904.

**Northern Counties.**—Employment was fairly good generally. At Sunderland, however, it remained dull.

**Lancashire and Cheshire.**—At Manchester employment was reported as slack generally. At Liverpool letterpress printers reported it as good, but with 7 per cent. of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month; employment with lithographic printers and bookbinders continued bad. At other towns employment was moderate on the whole.

**Yorkshire.**—Printers, though still quiet, were better employed than a month ago. Bookbinders continued fairly well employed.

**East Midland Counties.**—Employment was good, except at Nottingham, where it remained slack, 7 per cent. of Trade Union members being unemployed at the end of the month.

**West Midland Counties.**—Employment was quiet on the whole.

**Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Counties and Wales.**—Employment continued fairly good generally.

**Scotland.**—In Edinburgh compositors reported employment as fair; other branches as bad. There was no improvement as compared with a month ago, and short time was frequent. In Glasgow employment remained

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—PAPER, FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING, AND GLASS, &amp;C., TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

bad generally, 6 per cent. of Trade Union members being unemployed at the end of the month. Employment at Aberdeen and Dundee continued fairly good.

**Ireland.**—Letterpress printers and bookbinders at Dublin remained fairly well employed; elsewhere employment remained slack.

## PAPER TRADES.

Employment in England and Wales remained good in the machine trade. In the hand-made trade it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,367 members had 3.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 3.3 in January, and 2.9 in February, 1904. In Scotland returns received from 34 employers showed that 5,374 workpeople were employed by them at the end of February, as compared with 5,383 at the end of January, and 5,296 at the end of February, 1904, but that employment, though fairly good, was not so good as a year ago.

## FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT during February, though still dull generally, was better than a month ago, but slightly worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades (exclusive of coopers) at the end of February was 8.4, as compared with 10.0 at the end of January, 1905, and 7.8 at the end of February, 1904.

## Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued slack. It was rather better than a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,938 showed 287 (or 5.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1905, and 5.3 per cent. at the end of February, 1904.

## Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment was dull. It was better than a month ago, but not quite so good as a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 13,871, showed 1,541 (or 11.1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 13.5 per cent. at the end of January, 1905, and 10.1 per cent. at the end of February, 1904.

## Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued dull and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, fair at Hull, and good at Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

## Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment generally was dull, but was better than a month ago and a year ago. In the Midlands, however, and in London employment was moderate. Electric tramcar builders at Loughborough, and coachbuilders in the London motor trade continued busy. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,861, reported 455 (or 5.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.7 per cent. at the end of January, 1905, and 6.1 per cent. at the end of February, 1904.

## Miscellaneous.

**Brushmakers.**—Employment with brushmakers remained quiet and about the same as a month ago. It was not so good as a year ago. With ivory and bone brushmakers in London it was good. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,734, reported 104 (or 6.0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1905, and 5.3 per cent. at the end of February, 1904.

**Other Trades.**—Packing case makers reported employment as slack generally, but fair at Glasgow and Bolton. With basket makers at Leicester it was moderate and bad in London. Bobbin makers at Barnsley were well employed.

## GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

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

Employment in the *Glass* trades was bad, but slightly better than a month ago. It was, however, worse than a year ago. In the *Pottery* trades, and in the *Brick and Tile* trades employment continued bad on the whole.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment with glass bottle-makers was bad at St. Helens, Newton-le-Willows, in the Mexboro' district, and at Belfast; slightly improved at Leeds; moderate at Seaham Harbour and in the Wear district; fair at Bristol; and good at Castleford, Wakefield, Portobello, Glasgow, and Dublin.

Employment with flint-glass makers was bad at Manchester and Edinburgh; fair at Wolverhampton and Glasgow; and fairly good at Birmingham and Stourbridge. With flint-glass cutters it was bad at Edinburgh; quiet at Birmingham and Wolverhampton; and fair at Glasgow. Employment with plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was fair. It was good with sheet-glass makers and fair with sheet-glass flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed-glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was bad. Employment with glass blowers in London was fair, and better than a year ago.

**Pottery Trades.**—In Staffordshire employment in the pottery trades continued bad, with much short time. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) the potters again worked four days per week. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment continued fair. In the Woodville district it is reported as improving with makers of sanitary ware and drain pipes, and good with conduit pipe makers. It continued fair at Barnstaple, and moderate in South Devon.

In Scotland employment generally was moderate, and some short time was worked. At Glasgow it was dull with tobacco-pipe makers, quiet with white hollow-ware potters, and good with stoneware throwers.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment continued bad at Peterborough, Nottingham, Birmingham, and Glasgow, and was also bad generally in Staffordshire. In the Oldham district there was a slight improvement, but short time was general. At Norwich, Wroxham, and Cambridge, and in Suffolk and Essex employment was slack. It was also slack at Glyn Neath. It was moderate in the Plymouth and other districts of South Devon; quiet at Calstock and Gunnislake; fairly good in the Stourbridge district; and good in the Tees and Hartlepool district and at Gateshead.

## AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

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

ACCORDING to the reports received, the weather during February was very favourable for outdoor work, and agricultural labourers in England were, generally speaking, in full employment throughout the month. Owing to the advanced state of agricultural operations, however, there was some falling off in the demand for extra men, and some day labourers were in irregular work in consequence.

**Northern Counties.**—Correspondents in *Northumberland, Westmorland and Cumberland*, state that employment was fairly regular, farm labourers having been well employed in ploughing, tending stock, repairing fences and threshing. The supply of farm servants is said to be more plentiful than a year ago, and some men have not succeeded in finding situations. Regularity of employment is reported from *Lancashire*. The supply of labour was equal to the demand, and in the Lancaster district an excess is reported. In *Yorkshire*, farm work was well forward, and employment was consequently somewhat less plentiful. The supply of day labourers was, on the whole, greater than the demand in this county.

**Midland Counties.**—In *Cheshire and Derbyshire* the fine weather was favourable for manure carting and other work on the land. The demand for extra men was less



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

than usual and several were in irregular employment. Reports from Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire state that farm labourers were, for the most part, regularly employed. There was a plentiful supply of day labourers, but there was some difficulty in obtaining skilled men for permanent situations. Agricultural work in Shropshire and Staffordshire was well advanced, and there was not much demand for extra men; the supply was quite sufficient. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire employment was regular, except with some day labourers in certain districts. Skilled men for permanent situations, though still somewhat scarce, were more easily met with. Similar reports come from Northamptonshire. In Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire the regular farm labourers were fully employed, but there was only a small demand for extra men, and some day labourers were not in constant work. Men for permanent situations were in request, particularly cowmen, shepherds and carters. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire the supply of extra labour was quite equal to the demand, and a few men were in irregular employment.

**Eastern Counties.**—In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, field work was well forward. There was not much threshing to be done, and some day labourers were in irregular work. A scarcity of boys for ploughing is mentioned. Farm labourers in Lincolnshire were, generally speaking, in regular employment. A report from the Lincoln Poor Law Union states that at the hirings for yearly men held in February, wages were much the same as a year ago, and there were rather more applicants for vacancies. Agricultural employment in Norfolk was very slightly affected by unfavourable weather. There was but little demand for extra men, and several day labourers were not in constant employment. Similar reports come from Suffolk and Essex.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Farm labourers in Kent were, for the most part, regularly employed during February. The supply of day labourers was quite equal to the demand. Shepherds, stockmen, and young men for working with horses and milking, are said to be in request in certain districts. There was not much demand by farmers for extra men in Surrey, and the supply was quite sufficient. Regularity of employment was reported in Sussex. There was some work for extra men in wood-cutting and hurdle-making. Field work in Hampshire and Berkshire was well advanced, and a few day labourers were in irregular work. There was a better supply of men for permanent situations, except where Sunday work was required. Farm labourers in Wiltshire were, generally speaking, regularly employed. A few day labourers, however, were in irregular employment, owing to the forward state of farm work. Extra men were in some demand in some parts of Dorsetshire, the weather being very favourable for farming operations. It is reported that at the Dorchester hiring fair on February 14th, the number of men offering was greater than a year ago. In Somersetshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire the weather was fine and good progress was made with work in the fields. There was a fairly plentiful supply of day labourers, and most of them found constant employment during the month. Farm labourers in Devonshire and Cornwall were well employed during February, and extra men, although more plentiful, were in some demand for attending to fences, hedges and drains, and for woodcutting.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

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

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks

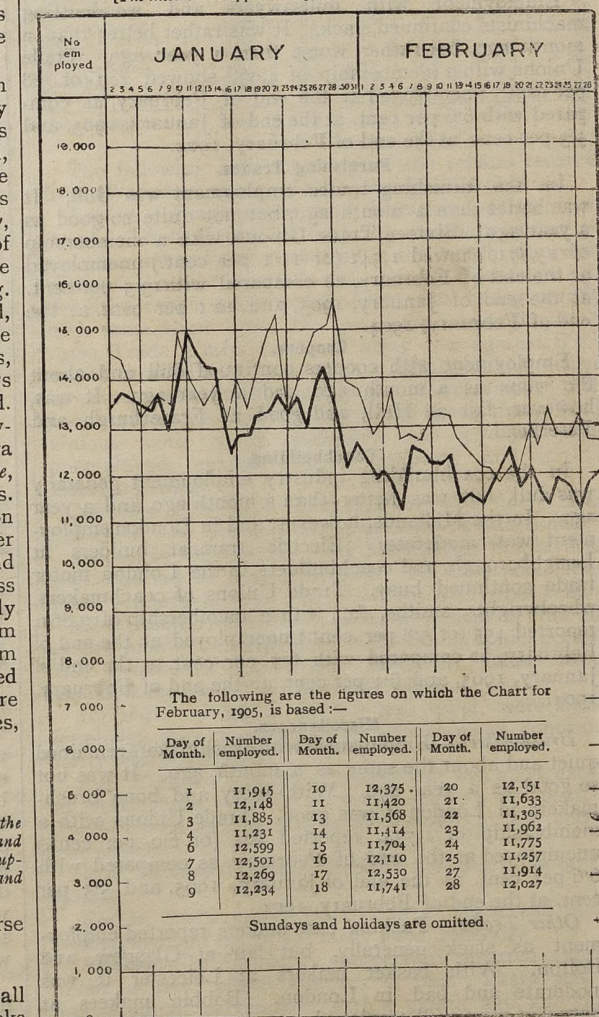
ended February 25th was 11,948, a decrease of 12 per cent. on the average for January and of 7 per cent. on that for February, 1904.

(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 February 25th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks		Total.	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.			
Week ended Feb. 4th	4,689	1,518	6,207	5,828	12,035
" " 11th	4,379	2,183	6,562	5,671	12,233
" " 18th	4,103	2,044	6,147	5,697	11,844
" " 25th	3,908	2,363	6,271	5,410	11,681
Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 25th	4,270	2,027	6,297	5,651	11,948
Average for Jan., 1905	5,243	2,328	7,571	5,982	13,553
Average for Feb., 1904	4,794	2,365	7,159	5,688	12,847

(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 February ranged from 11,231 on the 4th to 12,599 on the 6th. During February 1904, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 13,846 on the 1st to 11,882 on the 18th.

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 January and February, 1905. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1904, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1905, and the thin curve to 1904.]



Day of Month	Number employed	Day of Month	Number employed	Day of Month	Number employed
1	11,945	10	12,375	20	12,151
2	12,148	11	11,420	21	11,633
3	11,885	12	11,568	22	11,305
4	11,231	13	11,414	23	11,961
5	12,599	14	11,704	24	11,775
6	12,599	15	12,110	25	11,257
7	12,501	16	12,530	26	11,914
8	12,260	17	11,741	27	12,027
9	12,234	18	12,027		

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

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

Employment generally was moderate. It was moderate with workers in mid-stream, lumpers, deal porters, corn porters, stevedores and lightermen. With coal porters and winchmen employment was fair. It was fair also with fruit porters in Thames Street, the average daily number employed being 267, as compared with 269 in the previous month, and 274 in February, 1904.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during February, 45 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 52 per cent. in January, and 64 per cent. in February, 1904.

Other Ports.

**North-East Coast.**—On the Tyne and Wear employment was quiet generally, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Middlesbrough and Hartlepool it was fair with riverside labourers. Dock labourers were well employed at Middlesbrough, but were slack at Hartlepool.

**Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.**—Employment at Hull and Grimsby was slack. At Goole it was fair.

**Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.**—Employment remained slack generally with dock and riverside labourers, but it was good at Parkeston and fair at Lynn.

**Southampton and Plymouth.**—Employment on the whole continued fair at these ports.

**Bristol Channel Ports.**—Employment at Bristol was bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. At the South Wales ports it continued fair generally.

**Liverpool and Manchester.**—Employment was slack at both these ports, and worse than a month ago.

**Glasgow.**—Employment improved from last month and was fair.

**East of Scotland Ports.**—At Leith employment was quiet generally, but coal porters were fairly well employed. At Dundee it was dull with casual labourers; fair with weekly men. At Aberdeen employment was moderate.

**Irish Ports.**—Employment was dull at Dublin; fair at Belfast; bad at Cork.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

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

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in February, 1905, and in February, 1904, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	530,009	531,886	493,447	483,674
Scotland	436,274	484,599	162,661	173,880
Ireland	15,884	17,894	11,485	11,252
Total	982,167	1,034,379	667,593	668,806
Shell Fish	—	23,692	24,767	—
Total Value	—	—	692,360	668,806

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that trawlers only landed poor catches, owing to the interruption caused by bad weather.

Employment at Hull was fair with fishermen, and fish dock labourers, and bad with persons employed in fish curing. With fish dock labourers it was better than a month ago, and in the other branches it was the same. In all branches it was worse than a year ago. At Grimsby it was bad generally, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Yarmouth employment was fair with fishermen, better than a month ago and the same as a year ago. It was bad with fish dock labourers and persons employed in fish curing, the same as a month and a year ago. At Lowestoft it was fair with trawl fishermen, moderate with fish dock labourers, and bad with persons engaged in fish curing; in all branches

it was the same as a month and a year ago. At Harwich employment was poor.

Off the South-western coast the fishing was slack during the whole month, and employment with fish-packers, carters, and curers was quiet.

At Cardiff, Swansea, and Milford, the catches were not good, owing to rough weather.

Employment was fair in all branches at Aberdeen, better than a month and a year ago. At Peterhead it was fair with fishermen, and fish curers, and bad with fish dock labourers. With fishermen it was better than a month ago and a year ago, and with fish dock labourers and fish curers it was worse. It was fair generally at Macduff and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. At Fraserburgh employment was moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers, similar to a month and a year ago. With fish curers it was good and better than a month and a year ago. At Arbroath the catches were poor during the first week of the month, but improved later. At Montrose the catches were fair.

Off the South and South-Western coasts of Ireland deep sea fishing was very dull during the month.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN FEBRUARY.

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

In February 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.

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 February, 30,547\* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, a decrease of 909 on the number shipped during February, 1904. The decreases being most marked at London and Cardiff.

During the two completed months of 1905, 67,438\* seamen were shipped, of whom 10,665 (or 15.8 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 65,692\* seamen were shipped, of whom 10,898 (or 16.6 per cent.) were foreigners. There was an increase of 1,701 in the number shipped at Liverpool, but, on the other hand, a decrease of 999 in the number shipped at London.

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 February, 1905 and 1904 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the two months ended February in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons* shipped.					
	In February.		In-crease (+) or De-crease (-)	In two months ended Feb.		
	1904.	1905.		1904.	1905.	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports	2,233	2,001	- 232	5,092	4,986	- 106
Sunderland	480	313	- 167	938	844	- 94
Middlesbrough	151	219	+ 68	410	418	+ 8
Hull	1,014	802	- 212	2,216	2,065	- 151
Grimsby	5	34	+ 29	58	77	+ 19
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol	661	598	- 63	1,381	1,281	- 100
Newport Mon.	534	775	+ 241	1,398	1,943	+ 545
Cardiff	4,551	4,041	- 510	9,439	9,481	+ 42
Swansea	275	589	+ 314	635	1,250	+ 615
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool	10,727	10,950	+ 223	22,019	23,720	+ 1,701
London	5,897	5,250	- 647	12,082	11,083	- 999
Southampton	2,229	1,932	- 297	3,997	3,877	- 120
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth	355	524	+ 169	830	1,256	+ 426
Glasgow	2,108	2,280	+ 172	4,365	4,512	+ 147
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin	102	77	- 25	202	166	- 36
Belfast	134	142	+ 8	630	439	- 191
Total	31,456	30,547	- 909	65,692	67,438	+ 1,746

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



**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

**(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.**

**WHAT IS AN "ACCIDENT"?**

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

A workman was employed by a stevedore in the discharging of a ship which lay alongside a quay. It was no part of his duty to go upon the vessel itself, all his work being on the quay. Another man in the same employment became unconscious in the hold from the effects of inhaling carbonic acid gas generated from a consignment of artificial manure. The first mentioned man went on board, tied a handkerchief round his mouth, and was lowered into the hold to the rescue of his comrade. Unfortunately, he too was overcome by the fumes, and both men died. The widow of the man who made this brave attempt to save the other claimed compensation under the Act. It was argued for the employers that there had been no accident, as the man had voluntarily incurred the risk, and that if there was an accident it had not arisen out of or in the course of his employment.

The Sheriff-Substitute overruled the employers' contention on both points, and made an award in favour of the widow. On appeal the Court of Session upheld this decision.—*Brown v. The London & Edinburgh Shipping Co., Court of Session, reported February 1st, 1905.*

**CLAIM MADE IN ERROR: NO BAR TO RIGHT OF ACTION.**

Where the injury is caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, it is provided that nothing in the Act is to affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the workman may, at his option, either claim compensation under the Act, or take the same proceedings as were open to him before the Act. Where the injury results in death, and the injured workman would have had a right to compensation under the Act if he had lived, his dependants have a right to compensation.

A miner was killed by accident, and his mother claimed compensation under the Act. Her claim was disallowed on the ground that she had not been dependent on her son's earnings at the time of his death. She then brought an action at common law for damages, and alternatively, under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, alleging that her son's death was due to the negligence of the employers. The employers contended that having elected to claim under the Compensation Act, she was debarred from bringing an action.

The Court of Session decided that she was not debarred from suing either at common law or under the Employers' Liability Act; as the provision did not apply to a person who was entitled to no benefit under the Act and who only made a claim in error.—*M'Vey v. Dunlop & Co. (Ltd.), Court of Session, February 25th, 1905.*

**SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: ACCIDENT NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE.**

Where injury to a workman is proved to be attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of a workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury, must be disallowed.

It was a special rule in a coal pit that no workman should ride upon the travelling hutches. A miner, at the close of his day's work, got on the top of a loaded hutch forming part of a train drawn by a pony, to be carried to the pit bottom. As the hutches were being drawn along, a large stone, weighing several tons, fell from the roof upon the man and killed him. His widow and children claimed compensation under the Act, and were awarded £222 19s. 0d. by the Sheriff-Substitute.

On appeal the Court of Session agreed with the Sheriff-Substitute that the man had been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct, but that his death was not attributable to such misconduct, and that the accident arose out of and in the course of his employment. His dependants were therefore entitled to compensation, and the Sheriff-Substitute was right.—*Sneddon v. The Glasgow Coal Company (Ltd.), Court of Session, February 14th, 1905.*

**WHAT IS A "SCAFFOLDING"?: LADDER USED AS SUPPORT.**

The Act applies to employment on or about a building which exceeds 30 feet in height and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding.

A workman employed upon a building over 30 feet in height stood upon a ladder in order to do some work necessary in the building. The ladder had been used at other times for a similar purpose. While thus employed the man met with an accident and was injured. He claimed compensation and a County Court Judge made an award in his favour. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that there was evidence to justify the County Court Judge in coming to the conclusion that in this case the ladder was in fact being used as a scaffolding, because it was being used as a sort of platform for doing work.—*O'Brien v. Dobbie & Sons, Court of Appeal, reported February 4th, 1905.*

**(2) Trade Union Acts.**

**CONSPIRACY: ATTEMPTING TO FORCE PERSONS TO JOIN UNION: RESPONSIBILITY OF UNION.**

A stonemason on becoming a foreman had left the Friendly Society of Operative Stonemasons, and joined a foremen's union. Subsequently, on March 15th, 1904, he entered the employment of

a builder. This employment was subject to termination by one hour's notice on either side. On the day he began work he was asked by one of the other men in the same employment to rejoin the society. This he refused to do. On March 21st a meeting of the local branch or lodge of the society was held. The next day, March 22nd, the man was again asked to join the union, but again refused. Thereupon the other men, who were all members of the branch, gave an hour's notice to leave their employment. The builder asked the reason for such notice and was told that the man was not a member of the union and refused to join. The result was that the builder gave the man an hour's pay in lieu of notice and discharged him. His wages had been at the rate of £8 a month, and he remained out of work for a month. He then brought an action against the trustees of the society, the president and secretary of the district branch, and several members of the branch who had been working for the builder at the time he was dismissed. He alleged that the defendants, other than the trustees, had conspired to induce, and had in fact induced his employer not to continue to employ him. He claimed damages against the trustees and the president and secretary, as representing all the members of the society, against the two last mentioned on their own behalf also, and against the other defendants personally. He also claimed an injunction to restrain the society or its agents from interfering with any persons to induce them to cease from employing him or to break their contracts with him. The trustees of the society and the secretary of the lodge appeared to the action; but no appearance was entered for any of the other defendants. There was a dispute as to what took place at the meeting of the lodge on March 21st. The secretary stated in evidence that the lodge had passed a resolution forbidding the men to strike in order to procure the dismissal of the plaintiff, but no minutes of the meeting were produced. The truth of this statement was denied. The jury found that the men had sent in their notices in order to compel the plaintiff's employer to get rid of him; that they did so in order to force the plaintiff to join their society; that they had acted as they did with the approval of the lodge; but that they had no malicious intent to injure the plaintiff apart from forcing him to join the union. The damages were assessed at £8, and a judgment for that amount was entered against the trustees and the secretary of the lodge.

On appeal the Court of Appeal set aside the judgment, on the ground that there was no evidence to justify the jury in finding that the union was responsible for the acts of its members whether those acts were illegal or otherwise.—*Airey v. Weighill and others, Court of Appeal, February 10th, 1905.*

**CONSPIRACY TO PROCURE DISMISSAL: COERCION: EVIDENCE AGAINST UNION.**

One of the objects of a trade union was to provide allowances for members who had met with accidents which incapacitated them for work. In the year 1902 two members made a complaint to the union that certain members had been receiving sick pay without proper investigation into their cases. As the result of an enquiry the executive council decided that the complaint was unfounded. Then, in accordance with the rules of the society, fines were imposed upon the two members for preferring untrue charges. They refused to pay, and also let their ordinary contributions fall into arrear, and were expelled from the union. One of these men was dismissed on February 24th, 1903, from shipbuilding works where he was employed, and alleged that his dismissal was due to the action of the union. The two men brought an action against the union and its trustees and general secretary, in which they claimed damages for slander, said to have been uttered of both of them at a meeting of a branch of the society; the man who had been dismissed from the shipbuilding yard also claimed damages from the defendants for unlawfully conspiring to injure and molest him in his trade and business by coercing his employers by threats and intimidation to cease from employing him. The claim for slander broke down for want of evidence, and the claim for conspiracy by the one plaintiff was proceeded with. Evidence was given on behalf of this plaintiff, that at a meeting of the branch in October, 1902, the secretary, on being asked whether he could procure the dismissal of the plaintiff, said, "I may or I may not, but leave that to me"; and that at a later meeting he had used abusive language to both plaintiffs. Also, that the secretary subsequently spoke to the foreman under whom the plaintiff was working, and endeavoured by threats to persuade him to dismiss the plaintiff. In consequence of this he alleged that he was dismissed.

On the other side evidence was given that this plaintiff was only dismissed on the completion of the job on which he was employed; that he was paid off like other men, and that he was only out of work a very short time. The foreman of the yard admitted that he was afraid of friction if he continued to employ non-union men, but did not admit that he had been coerced in any way.

The jury found that the society were guilty of the conspiracy alleged, and that the secretary had molested and injured this plaintiff and had coerced his employers by threats and intimidation to cease from employing him. A verdict and judgment for £125 damages were accordingly entered for this plaintiff.

On appeal, the Court of Appeal set aside this judgment and entered judgment for the defendants, on the ground that there was no evidence implicating the union itself, and no evidence that the secretary had coerced the employers.—*McElrea and another v. The United Society of Drillers and others, Court of Appeal, February 16th, 1905.*

**(3) Miscellaneous.**

**DUTY OF EMPLOYER TO SECURE SAFETY: DELEGATION OF DUTY BY COMPANY: COMMON EMPLOYMENT.**

A man employed as an iron-turner by a company carrying on business as electrical manufacturers, while in the act of going along

a certain passage in the course of his employment, accidentally fell against a switchboard used for regulating the electric light. The switchboard was about 5 feet from the floor, and unfortunately the man's head supplied the contact between two live points necessary to start the electric current. The result was that he was very seriously injured. He subsequently brought an action for damages in respect of his injuries against the company, alleging that the company were guilty of a breach of their statutory duty under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in negligently failing to fence securely all the dangerous parts of the machinery in their factory. The defence set up was in the first place, that the switchboard was not machinery within the meaning of the Act; and secondly, that if it was machinery, and if it was in an unsafe or dangerous condition, the company was not liable for negligence, as any negligence was on the part of their manager or their foreman, who were skilled men, whose duty it was to see that the switchboard was safe and who were fellow-servants in a common employment with the plaintiff.

At the trial before a judge and jury the points of law were decided against the company; and a verdict and judgment for £850 damages were entered for the plaintiff. The company appealed, asking for judgment or a new trial on the ground of misdirection by the judge.

The Court of Appeal said that the evidence given at the trial showed that the directors of the company had had it brought to their notice that this switchboard was dangerous. They therefore, as representing the company, were negligent in not seeing that their manager put the premises in a safe condition. It was the duty of every employer to take reasonable care to provide proper appliances and to maintain them in a proper condition, so as to carry on his operations without exposing the employed to unnecessary risk. This principle applies to all employers whether they are individuals or companies. The defendants had failed in this duty. Therefore the doctrine of common employment did not apply to the case; it was unnecessary to decide whether the switchboard was machinery within the meaning of the Factory and Workshop Act; and the judgment in the case was right and the appeal must be dismissed.—*Kay v. The British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, (Ltd.), Court of Appeal, February 17th, 1905.*

**PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.**

**I.—BREAD.**

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on March 1st, 1905.

**Returns from Co-operative Societies.**

The figures in the following Table are based on 237 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 129 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

District.	Present Price. (1st Mar., 1905.)			Price last quarter. (1st Dec., 1904.)			Price a year ago. (1st Mar., 1904.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	6½	4½	5·66	6½	4½	5·63*	6½	4½	5·61*
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4	5·28	6	4½	5·33	6½	4	5·19
N. Mid. Counties...	5½	4	4·72	6	4	4·80	5½	4	4·83
W. do. do. ...	5½	4½	5·19	5½	4½	5·23	5½	4½	5·02
S. do. do. ...	6	4	5·01	6	4	5·01	5½	4	4·78
Eastern Counties...	6	4½	5·47	6	5	5·50	6	5	5·36
London ...	6	5½	5·68	6	5½	5·73	5½	5	5·45
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5·70	6	5	5·71	6	5	5·54
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	6	5	5·18	6	5	5·21	6	4½	5·07
England and Wales ...	6½	4	5·27	6½	4	5·30*	6½	4	5·13*
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6½	5	5·85	6½	5	5·76*	6	5	5·50*
Eastern Counties†	6½	4	5·89	6½	4	5·90	6½	4	5·46
Lanarkshire ...	6½	5½	6·04	6½	5½	6·00	6	5½	5·61
Other Southern Counties ...	6½	5½	6·22	6½	5½	6·10	6½	5½	5·90
Scotland ...	6½	4	6·00	6½	4	5·97*	6½	4	5·61*
Great Britain ...	6½	4	5·23	6½	4	5·28*	6½	4	5·30*

From the above Table it will be seen that the mean of the prices at March 1st charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns, shows a slight decrease as compared with the mean of the prices at December 1st. The mean of the prices in Scotland alone shows an increase, being 6·00d. per 4 lbs. at March 1st, and 5·97d.

\* Revised figures.

† Kincairdine, Kinross, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

at December 1st. As compared with a year ago the mean price shows an increase of nearly ¼d. per 4 lbs., the increase in England and Wales being equal to ¼d., and in Scotland 39d. per 4 lbs. The increase in London was about ¼d. per 4 lbs., and in the Eastern Counties of Scotland about 3d.

**Returns from Local Correspondents.\***

From the returns furnished by the Local Correspondents for the towns given in the following Table it appears that, compared with February, there was a decrease of ½d. per 4 lbs. in the price of bread at Manchester, Derby, and Plymouth, and an increase of ¼d. per 4 lbs. in London, where the shops selling at 5½d. are now about equal in number to those selling at 5d. As compared with a year ago, there have been increases of ¼d. per 4 lbs. at Bristol, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast, and decreases of ¼d. per 4 lbs. at Birmingham, Manchester, and Norwich.

Place.	Present Price (1st Mar., 1905.)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't. per 4 lb.
London ...	d. 5 & 5½	d. + ½	d. ...	Feb. '05	d. + ½
Birmingham ...	d. 4½ & 5½	d. - ½	d. ...	Sep. '04	d. - ½
Bolton ...	d. 5	d. ...	d. ...	Nov. '04	d. + ½
Bristol ...	d. 5½	d. ...	d. + ½	Feb. '05	d. - ½
Derby ...	d. 4½ & 5	d. - ½	d. ...	Jan. '05	d. + ½
Gateshead ...	d. 5	d. ...	d. ...	...	d. ...
Huddersfield ...	d. 5	d. ...	d. ...	...	d. ...
Hull ...	d. 4½ & 5½	d. ...	d. ...	Feb. '05	d. + ½
Ipswich ...	d. 5½	d. ...	d. ...	Sep. '04	d. + ½
Leicester ...	d. 4½	d. ...	d. ...	...	d. ...
Liverpool ...	d. 5	d. ...	d. ...	July, '03	d. + 1
Manchester ...	d. 4	d. - ½	d. - ½	Feb. '05	d. - ½
Middlesbro' ...	d. 6	d. ...	d. ...	Sep. '05	d. + ½
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	d. 5½	d. ...	d. ...	Jan. '05	d. + ½
Norwich ...	d. 4½	d. ...	d. - ½	Aug. '04	d. - ½
Nottingham ...	d. 5	d. ...	d. ...	...	d. ...
Oldham ...	d. 4½	d. ...	d. ...	Oct. '03	d. + ½
Plymouth ...	d. 5	d. - ½	d. ...	Feb. '05	d. - ½
Potteries ...	d. 4½	d. ...	d. ...	Sep. '04	d. + ½
Wolverhampton ...	d. 5½	d. ...	d. ...	Sep. '04	d. + ½
Aberdeen ...	d. 5½	d. ...	d. ...	Apr. '03	d. + ½
Dundee ...	d. 6	d. ...	d. + ½	Sep. '04	d. + ½
Edinburgh ...	d. 6	d. ...	d. + ½	Oct. '04	d. + ½
Glasgow ...	d. 6	d. ...	d. + ½	Sep. '04	d. + ½
Belfast ...	d. 6	d. ...	d. + ½	Oct. '04	d. + ½
Dublin ...	d. 6	d. ...	d. ...	Oct. '04	d. + ½

**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 September, 1904, together with the market price of London flour (Town Households):—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Average Declared Value.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
September 1904 ...	Per cwt. s. d. 6 11½	Per cwt. s. d. 7 1½	Per cwt. s. d. 9 9½	Per cwt. s. d. 10 0½	10 0½
October ...	7 1	7 1½	10 3	10 8½	10 8½
November ...	7 1	7 2½	10 1½	10 8½	10 8½
December ...	7 1	7 3½	10 4½	10 8½	10 8½
January 1905 ...	7 1	7 2½	10 5½	10 6	10 6
February ...	7 1½	7 2½	10 2½	10 8½	10 8½

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1904, to February 28th, 1905, amounted to 49,712,900 cwts. (11,599,677 quarters), compared with 44,083,900 cwts. (10,286,243 quarters), in the corresponding six months of 1903-4. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the six months September to February of 1904-5 amounted to 5,935,161 cwts., compared with 12,416,523 cwts. from September 1st to February 29th, 1903-4.

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



DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING February 52 cases of lead poisoning, 1 case of mercurial poisoning, and 10 cases of anthrax were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of phosphorus or arsenic poisoning were reported. Five deaths, one due to lead poisoning and four to anthrax were reported.

During the two months ended February the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 105 as compared with 100 in 1904. The number of deaths was 7, being 6 more than in 1904, an increase mainly due to anthrax.

[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.	
	Two Months ended February,		Two Months ended February,	
	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>				
Smelting of Metals ...	3	5	1	—
Brass Works ...	—	3	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	6	4	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	2	2	5	1
Printing ...	—	—	8	—
File Cutting ...	—	—	—	1
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron				
Hollow-ware ...	1	4	—	—
White Lead Works ...	11	16	13	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	—	—	2	—
China and Earthenware* ...	8	15	21	1
Litho-transfer Works ...	2	2	1	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	5	—	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	4	9	1	—
Coach Making ...	6	10	8	1
Shipbuilding ...	5	7	6	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	3	4	2	—
Other Industries ...	3	6	10	—
<b>Total Lead Poisoning†</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	—	—	—
Furriers' processes ...	1	1	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Mercurial Poisoning</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of	—	—	1	—
Arsenic ...	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Arsenic Poisoning</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Anthrax—</b>				
Wool Sorting ...	2	2	1	1
Wool Combing ...	4	5	2	2
Handling of Horsehair ...	3	3	2	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and	—	—	—	—
Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	1	1	3	1
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Anthrax</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>

Queensland Labour Bureau.

The report of the Officer-in-Charge of the Government Labour Bureau in 1903, and Relief for 1903-4, shows that 10,095 unemployed registered their names during 1903 compared with 7,388 in 1902, and that 3,218 either obtained employment or were assisted to localities where work was procurable, compared with 3,375 in 1902. There has been an "absolute dearth of any sort of employment in connection with pastoral pursuits," but it is hoped "that the ordinary channels through which labour is absorbed in the interior will re-open shortly."

\* Of the eight persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in February, 1905, five were females.  
† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 11 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during February, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the 2 months ended February, 1905, was 20 (including 3 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1904, 22 (including 4 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(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 February, 1905, was 189, being 50 less than in January, 1905, and 36 less than in February, 1904. The mean number for February in the years 1900-1904, was 217, the maximum year in this period being 1900, with 231 deaths, and the minimum year 1901, with 201 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in February, 1905, was 103. The number reported in February of the years 1900-1904 varied from 79 to 144, the mean for the five years being 118.

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 265, as compared with 296 in the corresponding period of 1904. 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 February 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.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1905, as compared with a	
	Number of Workpeople killed during			Month ago.	Year ago.
	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.		
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	5	7	4	- 2	+ 1
Engine Drivers ...	2	2	2	—	—
Firemen ...	—	2	3	- 2	- 3
Guards (Passenger) ...	—	2	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	9	6	- 3	—
Porters ...	3	3	1	+ 1	+ 2
Shunters ...	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Miscellaneous ...	7	10	16	- 3	- 9
Contractors' Servants ...	—	1	1	- 1	- 1
<b>Total Railway Service</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>- 12</b>	<b>- 9</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground ...	58	84	83	- 26	- 25
Surface ...	11	14	14	- 3	- 3
<b>Total Mines</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>- 29</b>	<b>- 28</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>+ 9</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
<b>Factories—</b>					
<b>Textile—</b>					
Cotton ...	—	5	—	- 5	+ 2
Wool and Worsted ...	4	—	—	+ 4	- 3
Other Textiles ...	—	—	3	—	—
<b>Non Textile—</b>					
Extraction of Metals ...	—	3	2	- 3	- 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	8	16	9	- 8	- 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	3	3	—	—
Ship and Boat Building ...	11	6	6	+ 5	+ 5
Wood ...	4	2	2	+ 2	+ 2
Chemicals, &c. ...	2	4	2	- 2	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	22	32	26	- 10	- 4
<b>Total Factories</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>- 17</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>Workshops</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—</b>					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays...	13	13	8	—	+ 5
Warehouses ...	—	2	6	- 2	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	9	8	14	+ 1	- 5
Laundries ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>- 6</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>+ 4</b>
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>- 50</b>	<b>- 36</b>
<b>Seamen—</b>					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing ...	40	37	46	+ 3	- 6
Steam ...	53	113	54	- 60	+ 1
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing ...	—	3	—	- 3	—
Steam ...	10	10	4	—	+ 6
<b>Total Seamen</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>- 60</b>	<b>+ 1</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>- 110</b>	<b>- 35</b>

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Eighteen new disputes began in February, 1905, compared with 21 in January, and 21 in February, 1904. By the 18 disputes, 2,273 workpeople were directly and 1,676 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 7,176 workpeople involved in trade disputes during February, 1905, compared with 6,628 in January, 1905, and 5,965 in February, 1904.

**New Disputes in February, 1905.**—In the following Table the new disputes in February are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying ...	3	1,267	562	1,829
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	4	292	—	292
Flax and Jute Manufacture ...	3	176	—	1,245
Other Textile Trades ...	3	89	45	134
Boot and Shoe ...	2	59	—	59
Other Trades ...	3	390	—	390
<b>Total, February, 1905</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>3,949</b>
<b>Total, January, 1905</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4,614</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>5,138</b>
<b>Total, February, 1904</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>3,497</b>

**Causes.**—Of the eighteen new disputes, five arose on demands for increased wages, two on objection to reduction, six on other wages questions, one against re-arrangement of hours of labour, two on account of employment of particular classes or persons, and two from other causes.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in February in the case of ten new disputes, affecting 1,776 workpeople, and seven old disputes, affecting 985 workpeople. Of these seventeen new and old disputes, three, involving 630 persons, was decided in favour of the workpeople; five, involving 1,014 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and nine, involving 1,117 persons, were compromised. In the case of two other disputes

terminating during the month, and involving 117 workpeople, certain points are still under consideration.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in February of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 43,500 working days. In addition, 30,000 working days were lost in February, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in February of all disputes, new and old, was 73,500 working days, which compares with 67,100 in the previous month, and 67,000 in the corresponding month of 1904.

**Summary for the First Two Months of 1904 and 1905.**—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the two months January-February, 1904 and 1905, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January and February.					
	1904.			1905.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ...	4	58	1,000	2	22	900
Mining and Quarrying ...	10	6,510	90,200	12	4,819	77,600
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	13	2,305	45,400	10	1,187	33,100
Textile ...	6	781	10,200	9	2,355	29,000
Clothing ...	—	—	100	7	326	4,600
Transport ...	1	400	16,100	1	100	1,500
Other Trades ...	9	712	9,000	5	696	11,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10,766</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>9,505</b>	<b>158,300</b>

**Principal Disputes.**—Particulars of the five principal disputes which began or were settled during February are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during February 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 1905.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. †	Result. ‡
		Directly.	Indirectly. †				
Colliers, Drawers, Dattlers, Underground Labourers, Screeners and Surfacedmen	Wigan (near)	793	562	8 Feb	—	Dissatisfaction with working conditions ...	No settlement reported.
Quarrymen, Labourers, Enginemen and Cranemen	Newcastle-on-Tyne	392	174	1904. 29 Oct.	84	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. an hour.	Reduction of ½d. an hour agreed upon.
Sett Makers, Getters and Blockers	Leicester (near)	399	—	1905. 24 Feb	—	Dissatisfaction with proposed rule that piece-workers should conform to the hours of time-workers.	No settlement reported.
Spinners and Other Jute Workers	Dundee	100	540	10 Feb.	8	Dissatisfaction with existing working conditions	Work resumed on existing conditions.
Reelers, Flax and Tow Spinners, &c.	Armagh	33	426	2 Feb.	3	For advance of wages ...	Wages advanced ½d. per reel.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly 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.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Wire Drawing: Male Young Persons.

Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Home Secretary that, in any class of non-textile factories and workshops or parts thereof, it is necessary, by reason of the nature of the business requiring the process to be carried on throughout the night, to employ male young persons of 16 years of age and upwards at night, and that such employment will not injure the health of such young persons employed, he has power under the provisions of Section 54 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, by special Order to extend the exception contained in that section to those factories and workshops or parts thereof. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has by Order\* dated February 18th,

1905, directed that the special exception shall extend to male young persons of 16 years and upwards employed in the process of continuous wire drawing carried on in non-textile factories, subject to the conditions contained in sub-section 1 of the said section.

Explosives in Coal Mines

Under the powers conferred on the Home Secretary by section 6 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, he has made an Order\* directing that the Explosives in Coal Mines Order of the 20th December, 1902, shall be amended, and shall take effect as if the explosives named and defined in the Schedule to this new order were named and defined in the Schedule to the old order and in all respects as if the Schedule to the new order formed part of the Schedule to the old order. The Schedule to the new order contains the definitions of *Abbcite*, *Minite*, *Monobel Powder*, and *Russelite*.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1905, No. 108. Price 1d.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1905. No. 78. Price 1d.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

Wages.

Changes reported in February.—The net effect of all the changes reported in February was a decrease of £261 per week, as compared with a decrease of £1,636 per week in January, and a decrease of £3,234 per week in February, 1904. The number of workpeople affected was 10,775 of whom 2,076 received advances amounting to £104 per week, and 8,699 sustained decreases amounting to £365 per week. The total number affected in January was 63,823, and in February 1904, 134,910.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 3,600 coal mining deputies, mechanics, etc. in Northumberland, 1,000 blastfurnacemen in South Staffordshire, 1,231 iron puddlers, millmen, etc. in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 2,000 boilermakers in the Manchester district, and an increase affecting 1,193 municipal employees at Glasgow.

Two changes, affecting 2,231 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change, affecting 620 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 7,924 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, four of these changes, affecting 857 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Two Completed Months of 1905.—For the two months, January and February, 1905, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) respecting whom wages changes have been reported was 74,598, as compared with 230,475 in the corresponding period of 1904. The changes arranged give 5,133 workpeople a net increase amounting to £209 per week, and 69,465 a net decrease

amounting to £2,106 per week. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £1,897 per week, as compared with a decrease of £6,987 per week in the corresponding period of 1904.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by changes reported during January and February, 1904 and 1905, respectively, and the net results of the changes on their weekly wages were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—February.			
	1904.		1905.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building ... ..	...	...	180	20
Coal Mining ... ..	152,690	- 2,106	38,600	- 955
Iron Mining ... ..	10,542	- 518	...	...
Quarrying ... ..	1,964	- 49	392	- 38
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	10,024	- 259	2,469	- 827
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	21,281	- 1,588	27,611	- 152
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	24,551	- 2,172	2,400	- 5
Textile Trades ... ..	2,400	- 68	305	- 634
Glass Trades ... ..	4,206	- 634	1,640	+ 42
Other Trades ... ..	1,559	+ 23	1,601	+ 81
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	1,458	+ 84	1,601	+ 82
Total ... ..	230,475	- 6,987	74,598	- 1,897

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during February, 1905, affected 113 workpeople whose aggregate working time was increased by 32 hours per week. During the two months, January and February, the total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour was 213, the net decrease in their working time being 68 hours per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1905.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1905.

Increases—Nil.		MINING AND QUARRYING.		Decreases—3,998 Workpeople.	
Northumberland	Coal Mining:—	6 and 13 Feb.	Deputies ... ..	1,050	Decrease of 1d. per day (5s. 9d. to 5s. 8d.).
	Engineers ... ..		700	Decrease of 1d. per day. Wages after change—Winding Enginem., 4s. 9d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginem., 4s. 8d.	
	Mechanics ... ..		1,600	Decrease of 1d. per day (4s. 7d. to 4s. 6d.).	
	Firemen ... ..		250	Decrease of 2 per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 13 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.	
Newcastle-on-Tyne and District	Quarrymen ... ..	1 Feb.	392	Decrease of 3d. per hour.	

2 Increases—660 Workpeople.		METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.		7 Decreases—4,685 Workpeople.	
Stockton-on-Tees	Steel Millmen ... ..	6 Feb.	64	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages at standard.	
	Hull ... ..	24 Jan.	150	Decrease of 2s. 3d. per week. Wages after change—New Work, 29s.; Old Work, 31s. 3d.	
Barrow-in-Furness	Rail, Wire, and Hoop Millmen ... ..	6 Feb.	620	Advance of 1 per cent., making wages 8½ per cent. above the standard.	
	Manchester and District	1st pay-day after 29 Mar.	2,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates.	
South Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	1st making-up day in Feb.	1,000	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	
Walsall and District	Bit and Stirrup Workers ... ..	2 Jan.	100	Decrease of 12½ to 17½ per cent. off piece rates.	
South Wales and Mon.	Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen, Enginem., Cranemen, Labourers, &c. ... ..	6 Feb.	1,231	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	
Swansea (one firm)	Engineers! ... ..	Jan.	40	Advance to district rate, viz. 41s. per week.	
Dundee ... ..	Drillers and Hole Cutters ... ..	3 Feb.	40	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.	

1 Increase—83 Workpeople.		TEXTILE TRADES.		1 Decrease—272 Workpeople.	
Dundee ... ..	Jute Spinners, Weavers, &c., and Mechanics ... ..	20 Jan.	272	Decreases of 2½, 5 and 3½ per cent. respectively.	
Armagh ... ..	Flax and Tow Reelers ... ..	6 Feb.	33	Advances of about 8 per cent.	

3 Increases—190 Workpeople.		OTHER TRADES.		Decrease—Nil.	
Plymouth ... ..	Coal Lumpers ... ..	18 Feb.	30	Advance of 6d. per day (3s. 6d. to 4s.).	
Glasgow and Grangemouth	Canal Boatmen ... ..	1 Jan.	100	Advance of 1½ per cent.	
	Labourers ... ..		60	Advance of 5 per cent.	

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1905—continued.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	
			Increase.	Decrease.		
Glasgow ...	2 Increases—1,193 Workpeople.					
	Tramway Department:—					
	Motor-men* ... ..	...	...	530	Advance of 1s. per week in maximum weekly wage; maximum rates of wages after change:—Motor-men and Conductors, 31s.; ordinary Car Cleaners, 26s.; leading Car Cleaners, 27s. per week.	
	Conductors* ... ..	...	...	269		
	Car Cleaners, ordinary* ... ..	...	...	74		
Police Department:—	Stairlighters ... ..				24 Feb. 311	Advance of 1s. per week; rates of wages after change, 15s. to 18s. per week.

II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1905.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Newcastle-on-Tyne and District.	Quarry Labourers ... ..	1 Feb.	21	Decrease of 4 hours per week (50 to 46).
Nottingham ...	Corporation Workpeople:—			
Swansea (one firm)	Carters and Labourers! ... ..	17 Feb.	52	Increase of 3 hours per week (56 to 59).†
	Engineers † ... ..	Jan.	40	

\* The numbers stated are the numbers of men whose rates have been advanced. The total number of motormen is 1,120, of conductors 1,120, and of car cleaners 260. † The men received an equivalent advance in wages. ‡ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left for places out of Europe during February, was 25,373 as compared with 17,279 in February, 1904. During the two months ended February, 1905, the number of passengers was 48,127, being 14,896 (or 44.8 per cent) more, than in the corresponding period of 1904. British and Irish.—Of 25,373 passengers in February, 1905, 12,173 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 1,969 as compared with a year ago. For the two months ended February, 1905, the number was 22,395 as compared with 19,607 in 1904, an increase of 2,788. The number of passengers to British South Africa shows a decrease of 622, while the numbers travelling to the United States and British North America increased by 1,748 and 1,809 respectively.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Two months ended	
	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
British Colonies and Possessions:		
British North America ... ..	2,908	2,124
Australia and New Zealand ... ..	879	810
British South Africa ... ..	1,777	1,760
India (including Ceylon) ... ..	251	305
Other British Colonies and Possessions ... ..	488	410
Total, British Empire ... ..	6,393	5,439
Foreign Countries:		
United States ... ..	5,310	4,223
Other Foreign Countries ... ..	560	542
Total, Foreign Countries ... ..	5,870	4,765
Grand Total ... ..	12,173	10,204

Foreign.—The remainder of the 25,373 passengers in February, viz., 13,200, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 6,125 more than in February, 1904. For the two months ended February, 1905, the number of such passengers was 25,732, of whom 21,285 were bound for the United States, 1,571 for British North America, and 689 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1904, the number was 13,624, of whom 9,157 were bound for the United States, 1,936 for British North America, and 1,111 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During February, 15,621 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 9,133 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 3,998 as compared with February, 1904. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,484 (exclusive of seamen), or 1,235 more than a year ago. For the two months ended February, 1905, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 14,605, and the number not so stated, 11,570 (exclusive of seamen) compared with 7,675 and 7,925 respectively in 1904. The figures for February, 1905 and 1904, and also for the two months ended February, 1905 and 1904, are as follows:—

	Total for two months ended	
	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,004	924
Seamen	5,484	4,219
Others	1,997	1,949
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	9,133	5,135
Total ... ..	15,621	10,308

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for February.

	Month of February.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£ 15,058,610	£ 17,327,256	£ 16,454,983	- 872,273	+ 796,363
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	14,100,484	16,074,040	15,137,498	- 936,542	+ 1,037,014
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	10,601,147	10,528,729	11,061,630	+ 532,901	+ 460,483
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	200,334	180,491	190,826	+ 10,332	- 9,508
Total value of Imports	40,560,585	44,110,519	42,844,937	- 1,265,582	+ 2,284,352

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.

	Month of February.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£ 1,040,186	£ 1,052,524	£ 1,147,122	+ 94,598	+ 106,936
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	2,654,775	2,634,957	2,787,679	+ 152,722	+ 132,904
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	18,790,166	19,939,645	20,998,243	+ 1,058,598	+ 2,208,077
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	290,309	267,687	336,019	+ 68,332	+ 45,710
Total value of Exports of British produce	22,775,436	23,894,813	25,269,063	+ 1,374,250	+ 2,493,627

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £6,138,328 in February, 1905; £7,405,341 in February, 1904; and £7,619,723 in February, 1903.

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 two months ended February, 1905, amounted to 5,631,509 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 7,413,859 tons, as against 5,869,961 tons entered, and 7,178,132 tons cleared during the corresponding period of 1904. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during the first two months of 1905, amounted to 5,109,170 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 5,057,542 tons, as against 5,201,140 tons entered, and 5,093,969 tons cleared during the corresponding period of 1904.

\* 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. † Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c. ‡ Yarns and Textile fabrics, manufactures of leather, chemicals, &c. § 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. ¶ Coal, wool, oilseeds, hides and skins, &c. †† Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, textile machinery, chemicals, &c.



RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE total receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended February 25th, 1905, amounted to £6,631,709, an increase of £110,489 (or 1·7 per cent.) on the total for the corresponding period of 1904. The passenger receipts show an increase of £38,246 (or 1·5 per cent.) and the goods and mineral receipts an increase of £72,243 (or 1·8 per cent.).

During the eight weeks ended February 25th, 1905, the total receipts amounted to £13,011,311, an increase of 0·1 per cent. on the total for the corresponding period of 1904. Of this total the £5,167,390 were derived from passenger traffic, and £7,843,921 from goods and minerals. In the passenger receipts the chief increases occurred on the Southern and Western lines of England, and the decreases were on the Northern and Midland lines. As regards the goods and mineral receipts the most marked increase occurred on the Midland and North Western lines: and the principal decreases were on those lines serving the Eastern and North-Eastern parts of England.

The following Table summarises the receipts of the railways grouped according to the districts they serve:—

	4 weeks ended Feb. 25th, 1905.		8 weeks ended Feb. 25th, 1905.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.
<b>Passenger Traffic.</b>	£	£	£	£
<i>English Lines:—</i>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	678,300	+ 10,059	1,337,940	- 19,702
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	355,242	+ 3,470	711,495	- 5,339
Lancs. & Yorks, N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	323,869	+ 3,449	646,797	- 7,661
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	530,700	+ 19,400	1,080,900	+ 28,000
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	352,083	+ 325	722,517	+ 10,613
<i>Scottish Lines:—</i>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	234,975	+ 180	498,504	+ 8,081
<i>Irish Lines:—</i>				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland, G. W., & Gt. Northern	82,502	+ 1,393	169,237	+ 3,417
Total ... ..	2,557,771	+ 38,246	5,167,390	+ 17,409
<b>Goods and Mineral Traffic.</b>				
<i>English Lines:—</i>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	1,466,313	+ 30,676	2,877,055	+ 27,820
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	449,953	- 7,369	877,591	- 31,725
Lancs. & Yorks, N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	791,495	+ 20,914	1,484,074	- 4,169
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	595,600	+ 12,700	1,165,800	+ 10,600
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	150,444	+ 2,742	292,255	+ 3,795
<i>Scottish Lines:—</i>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	514,147	+ 15,820	949,707	+ 7,153
<i>Irish Lines:—</i>				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland, G. W., & Gt. Northern	104,986	- 3,240	197,439	- 11,515
Total ... ..	4,073,938	+ 72,243	7,843,921	+ 7,949
<b>Grand Total ... ..</b>	<b>6,631,709</b>	<b>+110,489</b>	<b>13,011,311</b>	<b>+ 19,358</b>

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES IN 1903.

THE Annual Report upon Industrial and Provident Societies in the United Kingdom for the year 1903\* has been issued by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and contains the names and addresses of all the societies upon the register, together with abstracts of the returns made by them for the year 1903, and also lists of new societies registered and of societies dissolved or otherwise removed from the register during the year.

The societies have been divided into the following three groups, viz:—(1) Societies for carrying on Industries and Trades, the returns from 2,086 of which show an aggregate membership of 2,091,978, sales during the year amounting to £89,581,987 and a balance of profit on the year of £9,179,482, of which £77,627 was devoted to educational purposes. Group (2) consists of 245 societies for carrying on businesses, with an aggregate membership of 62,531, receipts during the year amounting to £2,135,062 and a balance profit on the year of £15,849. Group (3) consists of 129 Land Societies with an aggregate membership of 17,133, receipts during the year of £362,872, and a balance profit on the year of £16,548.

The total membership of the three groups was 2,171,642, as compared with 2,054,835 in the societies making returns for 1902, and the total assets £45,369,891 compared with £43,328,078 in 1902, an increase of 4·7 per cent.

\* Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending Decr 31, 1903 Part B. Appendix L. (H.C. 55 L.) Price 1s. 11d.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

(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 February corresponded to a rate of 240 per 10,000 of the estimated population. This rate is higher than that for February in any year since 1895, when the rate was 265. During the decennial period 1895 to 1904 in February, the average rate per 10,000 was 221.

Compared with January, 1905, the number of persons relieved increased by 1,244 (0·3 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 1. This increase was confined to the outdoor paupers, as the number of indoor paupers showed practically no change. Increases were shown in 19 districts, decreases in 11, while 5 districts showed no change.

Compared with February, 1904, the number of persons relieved increased by 28,980 (7·5 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 14. The number of indoor paupers increased by 5,657 (3·4 per cent.), and of outdoor paupers by 23,323 (10·7 per cent.). Increases occurred in thirty-two districts, the rate of increase being most marked in the Leicester district (60 per 10,000), East London (57), West Ham (38), and Wolverhampton (34). In the remaining three districts decreases were shown.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of February, 1905.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<b>Metropolis.</b>						
West District ... ..	12,212	3,876	16,088	194	- 3 + 6	
North District ... ..	16,488	11,093	27,581	287	+ 2 + 17	
Central District ... ..	7,438	3,094	10,532	538	+ 4 + 17	
East District ... ..	15,645	9,526	25,171	380	- 6 + 57	
South District ... ..	25,530	22,273	47,803	260	+ 5 + 13	
<b>Total Metropolis ... ..</b>	<b>77,313</b>	<b>49,807</b>	<b>127,120</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>+ 1 + 19</b>	
<b>West Ham ... ..</b>	<b>4,292</b>	<b>19,237</b>	<b>23,529</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>- 13 + 38</b>	
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District ... ..	2,263	5,343	7,606	176	+ 12	
Stockton & Tees District ... ..	1,399	4,660	6,059	281	- 17 + 25	
Bolton, Oldham, & Co. ... ..	4,426	8,983	13,409	176	- 3 - 5	
Wigan District ... ..	2,101	6,489	8,590	217	- 2 + 1	
Manchester District ... ..	10,528	10,865	21,393	227	+ 1 + 15	
Liverpool District ... ..	12,610	10,782	23,392	228	+ 10 + 19	
Bradford District ... ..	1,872	3,075	4,947	135	- 2 + 8	
Halifax & Huddersfield ... ..	1,329	4,053	5,382	143	+ 1 + 2	
Leeds District ... ..	2,579	7,375	9,954	209	+ 12 + 24	
Barnsley District ... ..	775	2,962	3,737	155	+ 3	
Sheffield District ... ..	3,361	3,920	7,281	167	- 2 + 3	
Hull District ... ..	1,638	5,669	7,307	268	+ 6 + 13	
North Staffordshire ... ..	2,468	8,322	10,790	289	+ 1 + 17	
Nottingham District ... ..	2,209	5,896	8,105	198	- 1 + 10	
Leicester District ... ..	1,588	5,395	6,983	308	- 10 + 60	
Wolverhampton District ... ..	3,913	15,238	19,151	297	+ 2 + 34	
Birmingham District ... ..	5,425	3,771	9,196	159	+ 4 + 7	
Bristol District ... ..	2,951	7,172	10,123	262	+ 4 + 1	
Cardiff & Swansea ... ..	2,116	7,537	9,653	259	- 1 - 9	
<b>Total "Other Districts" ... ..</b>	<b>65,551</b>	<b>127,503</b>	<b>193,058</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>+ 1 + 12</b>	
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District ... ..	5,777	17,936	23,713	245	+ 8	
Paisley & Greenock District ... ..	806	2,557	3,363	192	+ 1 + 2	
Edinburgh & Leith District ... ..	1,952	5,799	7,751	193	+ 1 + 5	
Dundee & Dunfermline ... ..	1,164	3,022	4,186	210	+ 2 + 5	
Aberdeen ... ..	725	3,283	4,008	242	+ 7 + 22	
Coatbridge & Airdrie ... ..	397	1,490	1,887	199	+ 7 + 17	
<b>Total for the above Scottish Districts ... ..</b>	<b>10,821</b>	<b>34,087</b>	<b>44,908</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>+ 1 + 8</b>	
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District ... ..	7,370	5,746	13,116	338	+ 4 + 13	
Belfast District ... ..	3,976	292	4,268	107	+ 2 + 8	
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District ... ..	4,454	4,968	9,422	384	+ 4 - 6	
Galway District ... ..	379	329	708	199	+ 12 + 1	
<b>Total for the above Irish Districts ... ..</b>	<b>16,179</b>	<b>11,335</b>	<b>27,514</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>+ 4 + 6</b>	
<b>Total for above 35 Districts in February, 1905. †</b>	<b>174,156</b>	<b>241,973</b>	<b>416,129</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>+ 1 + 14</b>	

\* 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 FEBRUARY.

AT twelve Bureaux which furnished returns for both February, 1905 and 1904, 4,179 fresh applications were registered during February, 1905, as compared with 2,976 a year ago. During February these Bureaux found work for 1,695 persons, of whom 1,110 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 4,592, as compared with 2,721 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 February, 1905, were also received from six other Bureaux. At the eighteen Bureaux included in the Table below 5,220 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 2,021 persons. The work procured for 566 of these persons was stated to be more or less of a permanent character, while, in the case of 1,455, temporary employment only was found. Of the 2,021 persons, 1,264 were engaged by private employers, 619 by Local Authorities, and 138 by the Salvation Army. At the end of February, the total number of persons on registers was 7,536, viz., 7,032 men and boys, and 504 women and girls.

(I.) Work done in February.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau during	
	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
<b>London.</b>						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.) ...	269	172	9	31	9	31
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd., E.)	1,789	631	565	185	696	301
St. Pancras (Crownale Rd., N.W.) ...	379	384	57	54	111	43
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.) ...	5	160	2	13	2	8
Hammersmith (Brook Green Rd., W.)	185	26	33	12	393	10
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.) ...	392	265	201	63	144	53
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	214	347	57	87	36	60
Kensington (Lancaster Road, W.)	187	195	15	28	73	45
<b>Provincial.</b>						
Ipswich (Fore Street) ... ..	37	50	22	25	14	15
Plymouth (Basket Street) ... ..	111	133	66	73	64	70
Liverpool (Dale Street) ... ..	268	174	8	...	7	...
Glasgow (158, George Street) ... ..	393	439	509	557	146	153
<b>Total of 12 Bureaux ... ..</b>	<b>4,179</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>789</b>
<b>London.</b>						
Hampstead (Finchley Road, N.W.) †	99	...	35	...	27	...
<b>Provincial.</b>						
Wigan (Library Street) ... ..	20	...	20	...	20	...
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Pilgrim St.) †	504	...	76	...	62	...
Leith (Junction Street) ... ..	267	...	...	...	138*	...
Coventry (3, Market Hall Arcade) †	144	...	66	...	66	...
Eastbourne (Public Library) ... ..	7	...	7	...	13	...
<b>Total of 18 Bureaux ... ..</b>	<b>5,220</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>...</b>

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during February, 1905, by 18 Bureaux.

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
<b>Engaged by Private Employers.</b>			
Men:—			
Building Trades ... ..	30	80	110
Carmen, Stabblers, Horsemen, &c. ...	21	10	31
Porters and Messengers ... ..	23	58	81
Bill Distributors ... ..	...	544	544
Other Occupations ... ..	105	77	182
Lads and Boys ... ..	108	8	116
Women and Girls:—			
Domestic Servants ... ..	58	12	70
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ... ..	11	61	72
Other Occupations ... ..	53	5	58
<b>Total engaged by Private Employers ...</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>1,264</b>
<b>Engaged by Local Authorities.</b>			
Men, Lads, and Boys ... ..	157	462	619
<b>Engaged by Salvation Army.</b>			
Men ... ..	...	138	138
<b>Grand Total of Bureaux ... ..</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>2,021</b>

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during February, 1905, numbered 398, being 8 more than in February, 1904. This number included 12 bakers, 22 builders, 27 farmers, 21 grocers, and 28 publicans, the corresponding numbers for last year being 8, 28, 27, 21, and 22 respectively.

\* All engaged by the Local Authority on Tramway Work.  
† Bureau either not in operation or information not available for a year ago.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February 719 fresh applications for work were registered by six Bureaux furnishing returns, and 613 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 166 persons, of whom 108 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working house keepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 166 situations found for applicants, 135 were of a more or less permanent character, while 31 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 589 to 477, and the number of servants applying fell from 440 to 428; the number permanently engaged rose from 84 to 93. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 47 to 52 and the number requiring such situations fell from 95 to 83; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 29, compared with 31 in January.

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 February compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN FEBRUARY.

Name of Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau during	
	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
<b>Summary by Bureaux.</b>						
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C. ...	57	75	16	2	16	2
Y.W.C.A.— 25, George-street (1) ... ..	430	448	71	14	71	14
Hanover-square, W. (2) ... ..	81	127	24	9	24	9
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, and Edinburgh)	45	69	24	6	24	6
<b>Total of 6 Bureaux ... ..</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Summary by Occupations.</b>						
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc. ...	13	27	4	1	4	1
Shop Assistants ... ..	—	19	—	—	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ... ..	52	83	21	8	21	8</



## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

### UNITED KINGDOM.

*Earnings of Agricultural Labourers. Second Report by Mr. Wilson Fox on the Wages, Earnings and Conditions of Employment of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom, with Statistical Tables, Charts and Map.* [Cd. 2376: pp. xiii. + 264: price 2s. 9d.]

*Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the three months ending September 30th, 1904, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers, Assistant Inspecting Officers and Sub-Inspectors upon certain accidents which were inquired into.* [Cd. 2369: pp. 139: price 1s. 7d.]

*Irish Land Commission. (Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891.) Return of Advances under the Act during the year ended March 31st, 1904. Contains Return showing by Counties, the amounts applied under the Act toward the cost of providing labourers' cottages during the year.* [H.C. 329: pp. 204: price 1s. 9d.]

*Sixty-sixth Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England and Wales, 1903. Contains Table showing the number of Deaths from Accident and Negligence at different periods of life during 1903, with groups of Trades and Occupations in which they occurred.* [Cd. 2197: pp. ccvii. + 329: price 2s. 2d.]

### BRITISH COLONIES.

#### Canada.

*Report of the Department of Labour for year ending June 30th, 1904.* [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, Government Printer: pp. 107: price 5 cents.]

#### Queensland.

*Report of the Officer in Charge, Government Labour Bureau, 1903, and Relief for 1903-4.* [Pp. 10: price 6d.]

*Nineteenth Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, Building Societies and Trade Unions. Lists of Societies to September 30th, 1904, and Financial and Numerical Statements for the year 1903.* [Brisbane: G. A. Vaughan, Government Printer: pp. 36: price 1s.]

#### South Africa.

*Transvaal Mines Department. Annual Report of the Government Mining Engineer for the Year ending June 30th, 1904. Number of Europeans and Natives Employed, Average Wages, &c.* [Pretoria: Government Printing Office: pp. 61, with Tables.]

### FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

#### United States.

*Fourth Biennial Report of the Indiana Labour Commission, for the years 1903-4. Reports upon the Proceedings of the permanent Commission for the settlement of Industrial Disputes.* [Indianapolis, W. B. Burford, State Printer: pp. 132.]

*Seventeenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Industrial Statistics of Rhode Island for 1903. Statistics of Textile Manufactures, Strikes, &c.; retail prices.* [Providence, R. I.; Freeman & Sons, State Printers: pp. VII. + 223.]

*Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labour Statistics for the State of Maine, 1904. Strikes in Maine, 1881-1900; membership, &c. of trade unions of the State, 1903-04; revised labour laws of Maine; factory inspection statistics.* [Augusta, Kennebec Journal Print: pp. 239.]

*Fourth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour of the State of Washington, 1903-04.* [pp. 299.] Arbitration and conciliation reports: statistics of accidents, trade unions, wage earners: rail-ways, statistics showing wages earned and hours worked. *Report of the State Inspector of Coal Mines, 1903-04.* [Olympia: Blankenship Satterlee Company. pp. 58.]

#### Massachusetts.

*Report of Committee on Relations between Employers and Employed, January, 1904. Report of a Committee appointed, pursuant to a resolution of June 5th, 1903, to examine and consider the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with regard to compensation for injuries to workpeople, conduct of strikes and lock-outs, &c.* [Boston: Wright Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 118.]

*Bureau of the Census. Bulletin 17. Telephones and Telegraphs, 1902. Gives the average number of wage-earners and total wages earned in each State in the telephone and telegraphic industries.* [Washington Government Printing Office. pp. 49.]

*Industrial Belterment Institutions in New Jersey Manufacturing Establishments, 1904. Prepared for the St. Louis Exhibition by the Bureau of Statistics of New Jersey. With photographs.* [pp. 153.]

*Monographs prepared for the St. Louis Exhibition by the New York Department of Labour.*

No. 1. Typical Employers' Welfare Institutions in New York. [pp. 30.]

No. 2. Labour Legislation in New York. [pp. 30.]

No. 4. The growth of Industry in New York. [pp. 60.]

#### Germany.

*Report on Sickness Insurance in Germany during 1902.* [Imperial Statistical Office; Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht, 1904: pp. XII + 52 + 192: price 5s.]

*Report as to Advisability of establishing a Fund for Insurance against Unemployment at Munich.* By Dr. K. Singer. [Munich, 1905: pamphlet, 22 pp.]

#### Austria.

*Salt-Works and Salt-Mines of Austria. Reports for 1901 and 1902.* [Austrian Ministry of Finance. Contains information as to condition of workpeople employed. Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei, 1904: pp. XIII. + 653 (1901 vol.), and XI + 541 (1902 vol.); both vols. have a number of diagrams.]

#### Italy.

*Proceedings of Higher Council of Labour. Third Session. May, 1904.* [Italian Labour Department. Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero & Co., 1904: pp. 153: price 1s. 7d.]

*Consular Reports. No. 627. Miscellaneous Series. United States Railways. Number of persons employed, accidents, safety legislation, &c.* [Cd. 2237-8: pp. 45: price 2d.]

*Italy. Strikes, industrial future and labour conditions of Naples district, etc.* [Cd. 2236-67: pp. 21: price 1d.]

(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, State of New York, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Belgium.

## INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

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

### (1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in February was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 18; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 51 (including 28 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, none; in all, 71.

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

**Trade Unions.**—2, viz., Bolton Wholesale Fruit and Potato Merchants' Association, 10, Howell Croft, Bolton; Rhymney Engineers' Society, 13, Cross Street, Rhymney.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—England and Wales.—10, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Production; 1, viz., National Co-operative Quarries, Ltd., 31, Temple House, Tallis Street, E.C.—Co-op. Agric. Socs.—7, viz., Lingfield, Crowhurst and District Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Lingfield, Surrey; Farnham Poultry and Small Produce Assoc., Ltd., 74, Castle Street, Farnham; Clynderwen and Dist. Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Piasybedw, Clynderwen, Pembrokeshire; Wadhurst and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Assoc., Ltd., School House, Wadhurst, Sussex; Dymock Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Callow Farm, Dymock, Gloucester; Beaminster and Dist. Collecting Depot, Ltd., Beaminster, Dorset; Bridport and District Collecting Depot, Ltd., Claremont, Bridport. **Miscellaneous Societies.**—2.

**Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—8, viz., Co-op. Agric. Socs.—7, viz., Fohenagh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Fohenagh, Co. Limerick; Kildimo Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kildimo, Co. Limerick; Bruckless Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Bruckless, Co. Donegal; Urney Co-op. Flax Soc., Ltd., Urney, Co. Tyrone; Rattoo Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballyduff, Co. Kerry; Adamstown Co-op. Threshing Soc., Ltd., Adamstown, Co. Wexford; Ashford Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ashford, Co. Wicklow. **Miscellaneous Societies.**—1.

**Friendly Societies.**—England and Wales.—18, viz., Anstey and Dist. Conservative and Unionist Club, Anstey, Leicester; Tufnell Social Working Men's Club and Institute, Holloway, N.; Coventry Social Democratic Working Men's Club and Institute, Coventry; Milford Junction Working Men's Silver and String Band, South Milford, Yorks.; Bentley Working Men's Club and Institute, Bentley, Doncaster; Clophill Credit Soc., Clophill, Amptill; Brockley and Dist. Mutual Loan and Investment Soc., Brockley, S.E.; Nottingham Ancient Imperial United Order of Odd Fellows' Guarantee Assoc., Nottingham; Astonia Permanent Money Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Tylorstown Band Musical Institute, Tylorstown, Pontygraith, Glam.; Birkenhead Tramway Employees' Permanent Friendly Soc., Birkenhead; Popular Slate Club, Walthamstow; Walton P.S.A. Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Derby Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Sydenham, Forest Hill and Dist. Tradesmen's Benefit Soc., Sydenham, S.E.; Sydenham Sick and Dividend Soc., Small Heath, Birmingham; Barr Street Sick and Dividend Soc., Hockley, Birmingham; St David's Independent Friendly Soc., Brynamman, Carm.—**Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—5, viz., Billis Live Stock Insurance Soc., Billis, Virginia, Co. Cavan; Board of Erin Order of Hibernians Friendly Soc., Dublin; Drom Credit Soc., Drom, Templemore, Co. Tipperary; Moyne Credit Soc., Moyne, Ballinglen, Co. Wicklow; Corduff Credit Soc., Corduff, Co. Monaghan.

### (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 February, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, none; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 5; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 40 (including 24 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 12; in all 57.

*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.

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