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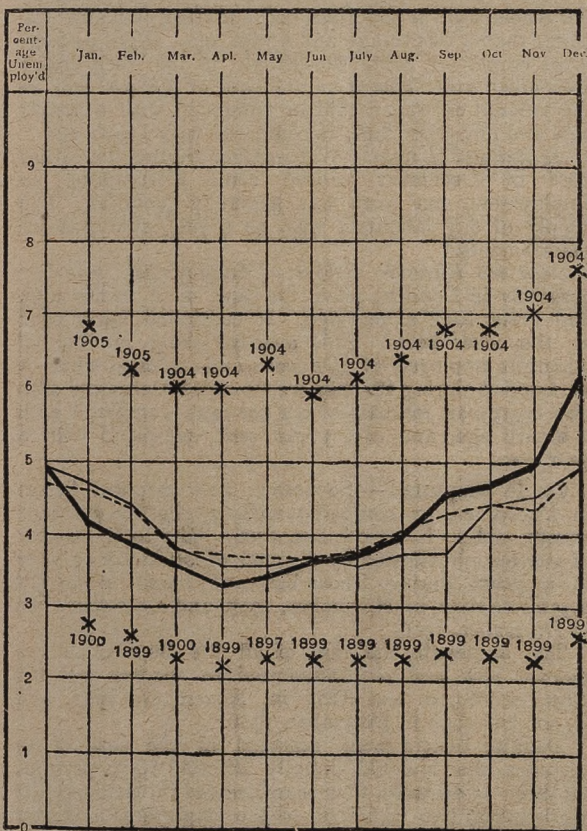
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve—1907. ——— Thin Curve—1906.
..... Dotted Curve—Mean of 1897-1906.

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



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For December, 1907, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 644,298 members in the following trades:—

Building... ..	64,145	Printing & Bookbinding	56,524
Coal Mining	120,234	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering	103,158	nishing	34,873
Shipbuilding	60,481	Miscellaneous	22,039
Other Metal Trades ...	31,704		
Textiles	95,140	Total	644,298

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[In addition to the 2,679 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,716 were received from employers relating to 1,084,775 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,395 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in December was on the whole not as good as in the previous month. This was chiefly due to a decline in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, and in the building and furnishing trades. Employment improved in the iron and steel and boot and shoe trades, and it continued very brisk in coal mining. The holidays affected employment generally to some extent.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in the metal, engineering, shipbuilding, building and furnishing trades, and an improvement in the wool and worsted trades, and in the boot and shoe trade.

There was a net rise in wages during the month of £26,000 per week.

In the 272 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 644,298, making Returns, 39,343 (or 6.1 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, 1907, as compared with 5.0 per cent. at the end of November, and 4.9 per cent. at the end of December, 1906.

Coal Mining.—Employment continued very good, and showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended December 21st was 5.63, as compared with 5.60 days in November, 1907, and in December, 1906.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good, but was not quite so good as in December, 1906. The average number of days worked at the mines during the four weeks ended December 21st was 5.82, as compared with 5.78 in the previous month and 5.92 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during December was fair on the whole. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing nearly 23,000 workpeople showed 315 furnaces in blast at the end of December, as compared with 329 in November, 1907, and 340 in December, 1906.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended December 21st, 1907, at the 200 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 2.4 per cent. greater than in the week ended November 23rd, 1907, but 4.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during December continued good. It showed some decline as compared with November, especially at sheet mills, and was, on the whole, about the same as in

December, 1906. At the works covered by the Returns 440 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of December, 1907, as compared with 447 a month ago and 441 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued to decline, and was only moderate on the whole. It was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 6.4, as compared with 4.7 a month ago, and 4.1 a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 14.2, as compared with 12.8 in November, and 11.3 in December, 1906.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* branch continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; in the *Weaving* branch it was fair, and not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 125,727 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was good, and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 27,388 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was good, and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,193 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment on the whole was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,459 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed a decrease of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,736 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued fairly good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,401 workpeople in the week ended December 21st, 1907, showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 3.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was moderate in England, fair in Scotland, and worse on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,059 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 12.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment continued fair in England and good in Scotland; on the whole it was better than a year ago. Firms employing 15,092 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed a decrease of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the provinces it was slack. In the *ready-made* branch it was fair, and on the whole showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment in the *Silk Hat* branch was bad; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was fair.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued fair on the whole, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,423 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase

of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was quiet generally. It was worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,653 had 7.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 5.8 per cent. in November, and 7.1 per cent. a year ago.

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

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was fairly good, except towards the end of the month, when a seasonal decline occurred. Compared with December, 1906, little change was shown. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 4.9, as compared with 3.3 at the end of November, and 4.7 in December, 1906. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 2.6, 2.7, and 3.2 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in December was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment during December was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.5 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of December, 1907, as compared with 6.4 per cent. a month ago, and 6.0 per cent. a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Pottery* trade showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued fairly good on the whole, and in the glass bottle-making industry was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,774 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 9.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Wet weather during the earlier part of December caused some interruption to employment, but work was generally plentiful. The supply of day labourers was, as a rule, sufficient for requirements.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment was fair generally in London, about the same as a month ago, and better than a year ago. It continued fairly good at the other ports. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended December 28th was 13,939, an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Seventeen new disputes began in December, as compared with 23 in the previous month, and 20 in December, 1906. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during December, 1907, was 10,834, or 2,376 less than in November, 1907, and 1,196 less than in December, 1906.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 160,800 working days, or 66,600 less than in November, 1907, and 40,500 less than in December, 1906.

Definite results were reported in the case of 15 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 6,459 persons. Of these 15 disputes, four were decided in favour of the workpeople, two in favour of the employers, and nine were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in December affected 492,900 workpeople, of whom 486,000 received advances and 6,900 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 464,000 coal miners in England and Scotland, and 5,000 cotton operatives in Oldham and district; amongst those whose wages were decreased were 1,250 blast-furnacemen and 5,000 iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net advance of about £26,000 per week.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES AND PRICES IN 1907.

Employment.

The general state of employment in the first half of 1907 showed some improvement as compared with the corresponding period of 1906, but in the second half of the year there was a decline, which was most marked in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and in the furnishing and woodworking trades, so that on the whole employment in the year 1907 was much about the same as in 1906. Employment in a number of industries, however, is still fairly good and in some very good.

Coal mining, which had shown a noticeable improvement in 1906 over the three previous years, still further improved, and was very brisk throughout the year, the average weekly number of days worked by the pits (5.51) being the highest recorded in any year since the statistics commenced in 1894. Employment in the textile trades generally was good, although the weaving branch of the cotton trade has been somewhat affected by the scarcity and high prices of yarn. Employment in the engineering trade was fairly good throughout the greater portion of the year, but there was a marked decline towards the close, and employment was not on the whole so good as in 1906. At iron and steel works employment continued very brisk throughout the greater part of the year. The tinplate industry maintained throughout the year a high level of employment, and the average number of tinplate and sheet mills in operation during the year (445) was higher than in any year since the statistics have been recorded. The shipbuilding trade was dull throughout the first half of the year, and declined to bad during the second half; employment, however, though worse than in 1906, was better than in any of the three preceding years. The building trade remained very dull, and although, judging by the percentage of Trade Union carpenters and plumbers unemployed, it was rather better than in the three preceding years, yet the state of employment continued unsatisfactory throughout 1907.

Returns relating to over 600,000 members of Trade Unions show that the mean percentage of members unemployed at the end of each month of 1907 was 4.2, as compared with 4.1 in 1906, 5.4 in 1905, and 6.5 in 1904. The fluctuations in the percentages of unemployed in the period 1897-1907 are shown below:—

1897	...	3.5	1903	...	5.1
1898	...	3.0	1904	...	6.5
1899	...	2.4	1905	...	5.4
1900	...	2.9	1906	...	4.1
1901	...	3.8	1907	...	4.2
1902	...	4.4			

The mean monthly percentage unemployed in 1907 (4.2) was therefore about equal to the average for the preceding 10 years (4.1), and, excepting 1906, lower than in any year since 1901.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed at the end of each month in the years 1904-7 with the increases or decreases in 1907 as compared with the three previous years.

Month.	Percentage unemployed at the end of each month in				Increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1907 as compared with		
	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1906.	1905.	1904.
January	4.2	4.7	6.8	6.6	-0.5	-2.6	-2.4
February	3.9	4.4	6.2	6.1	-0.5	-2.3	-2.2
March	3.6	3.9	5.6	6.0	-0.3	-2.0	-2.4
April	3.3	3.7	5.6	6.0	-0.4	-2.3	-2.7
May	3.4	3.6	5.1	6.3	-0.2	-1.7	-2.9
June	3.6	3.7	5.2	5.9	-0.1	-1.6	-2.3
July	3.7	3.6	5.2	6.1	+0.1	-1.5	-2.4
August	4.0	3.8	5.4	6.4	+0.2	-1.4	-2.4
September	4.6	3.8	5.3	6.8	+0.8	-0.7	-2.2
October	4.7	4.4	5.0	6.8	+0.3	-0.3	-2.1
November	5.0	4.5	4.7	7.0	+0.5	+0.3	-2.0
December	6.1	4.9	4.9	7.6	+1.2	+1.2	-1.5
Mean	4.2	4.1	5.4	6.5	+0.1	-1.2	-2.3

Changes in Rates of Wages.

The upward movement in wages which began in the second half of 1905 and continued throughout 1906, still continued during 1907, and at the end of the year wages stood at a higher level than at the end of any

year since these statistics were first recorded (1893). The total number of workpeople whose rates of wages were changed during 1907 exceeded that of any previous year, but the net amount of advance fell slightly short of that in 1900. In both years the large rise in wages was mainly due to the increases in the coal-mining industry.

The number of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages during 1907 was 1,240,000, of whom 1,239,000 received advances amounting to £199,700 per week, while about 1,000 sustained decreases amounting to £100 per week. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £199,600. The figures are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police, and Government employees. The changes taken into account are only changes in rates of wages, and not fluctuations in the total amount of wages paid owing to changes in the amount of employment available, or altered conditions of work, or increments automatically accruing under scales of pay.

Summarised by groups of trades, the number of workpeople affected by changes in 1906 and 1907, and the net results on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades	Number of Workpeople whose rates of wages were changed in		Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Weekly Wages of those affected as compared with preceding year.	
	1906.	1907.*	1906.	1907.*
Building	3,265	9,863	-£ 157	+£ 248
Coal Mining	427,156	804,497	+ 27,138	+172,812
Other Mining (Iron, &c.)	12,403	15,540	+ 1,183	+ 2,589
Quarrying	4,297	3,021	- 63	+ 62
Fig Iron Manufacture	17,402	16,668	- 1,198	+ 1,675
Iron and Steel Manufacture	55,025	53,100	- 4,208	+ 4,985
Engineering and Shipbuilding	152,161	45,106	+ 8,740	+ 2,520
Other Metal Trades	1,998	3,064	+ 146	+ 169
Textile Trades	492,497	254,472	+ 12,943	+ 11,646
Clothing Trades	2,572	5,687	+ 280	+ 968
Printing, &c., Trades	1,684	10,542	+ 204	+ 590
Other Trades	1,481	4,378	+ 116	+ 355
Employees of Local Authorities	8,731	6,833	+ 460	+ 552
Total†	1,095,601	1,239,738	+ 56,728	+199,605

The Table shows that while the changes in 1907 resulted in net increases in every group of trades, the amount gained in most of the groups was comparatively small, the large total being attributable almost entirely to the coal-mining industry. This industry accounted for nearly two-thirds of the workpeople affected and nearly seven-eighths of the amount of advance. Miners in every coalfield participated in the advances, the net increases ranging from 15 per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire and the Midlands, to 43½ per cent. in Scotland.

In the five years previous to 1906, the changes in wages recorded for all trades resulted in net reductions, while in the preceding five years wages rose. The number of workpeople affected, and the net amount of change, in each of these years are shown in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages.	Computed amount of change in weekly wages as compared with each preceding year.	
		Net Increase per week.	Net Decrease per week.
1896	598,865	£ 26,152	£ —
1897	582,333	30,494	—
1898	1,010,057	80,372	—
1899	1,165,478	89,816	—
1900	1,110,031	206,772	—
1901	907,199	—	77,302
1902	839,101	—	72,865
1903	892,922	—	38,557
1904	799,959	—	39,378
1905	664,777	—	4,087
1906	1,095,601	56,728	—
1907*	1,239,738	199,605	—
Total for twelve years, 1896-1907	—	690,139	232,689

* The figures for 1907 are preliminary and subject to revision.
† Exclusive of employees of Government Departments, Police, Agricultural Labourers, Seamen and Railway Servants.
‡ It will be understood that although the same workpeople are counted once only in each year many of them appear in several years, and therefore no total can be made for the twelve years, 1896-1907.

It will be seen that the gain in wages during 1906 and 1907 has more than counterbalanced the loss in 1901-1905, and that the aggregate of the net increase since the end of 1895 amounts to about £457,000 per week.

Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in the weekly hours of labour reported during 1907 affected only 34,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net reduction in their working time of 71,000 hours per week.

Trade Disputes.

The number of disputes causing stoppage of work recorded in 1907 was 550, involving 143,784 workpeople, with an aggregate duration of 2,160,700 working days. As compared with other recent years there was in 1907 a considerable increase in the number of disputes. Few of these, however, were of a general character, and the number of workpeople affected by disputes in 1907 showed a great decrease as compared with 1906, and was well below the average for the ten years 1897-1906 (180,453). As regards aggregate duration, the best test of the amount of industrial disturbance, the figures for 1907 were below those of any of the previous ten years, except 1904.

A comparison of 1907 with the preceding ten years is given in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	Total No. of Workpeople affected by Disputes beginning in each year.	Aggregate Duration in working days of all Disputes in each year.
1897	864	230,267	10,345,523
1898	711	253,507	15,289,478
1899	719	180,417	2,516,416
1900	648	188,538	2,159,504
1901	643	179,546	4,747,287
1902	442	256,667	3,479,255
1903	387	116,901	2,338,668
1904	354	87,208	1,484,220
1905	358	93,503	2,470,189
1906	486	217,773	3,028,816
1907	550	143,784	2,160,700

Compared with the total industrial population of the United Kingdom the number affected by the disputes of the year is small, amounting to less than 1½ per cent. Spread over this same industrial population the amount of time lost in 1907 by stoppages of work was only a little more than one-fifth of a working day per head.

In the textile industry the number of disputes and aggregate duration were higher than for any other group of trades. Although, however, the number of disputes in this industry was higher than in the previous year, the number of workpeople affected and the aggregate duration show a considerable decrease, due to the absence of any general dispute such as occurred in 1905. The mining and quarrying industry was responsible for the largest number of workpeople involved in disputes, but the figures for 1907 show a falling off of 39 per cent. as compared with 1906, while the aggregate duration of the disputes in this group was 40 per cent. less than in the previous year.

In the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, the number of disputes showed little change from the previous year, but there was a great decrease in both numbers involved and duration. The figures for the clothing trades show a considerable increase over those of 1906, due largely to a dispute in the felt hat trade at Denton and Stockport, involving over 4,000 workpeople. The increase in the transport trades, both in numbers involved and aggregate duration, is mainly attributable to disputes affecting dock labourers at Manchester and at Belfast. The building trades were remarkably free from disputes causing a stoppage of work, and the figures for this industry are insignificant as compared with the numbers employed. An analysis of the figures for 1906 and 1907 by groups of trades is given on p. 27.

Wholesale Prices.

The general level of prices in 1907 as measured by the Board of Trade Index Number,* showed a rise of over 5 per cent. as compared with the previous year, and was higher than in any year since 1891; and, excluding 1891, was higher than in any year since 1885.

* For the method of construction of this Index number, and the prices of the 45 articles comprising it, see Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902 (H.C. 321 of 1903). The Index Number has, however, now been recalculated with the year 1900 as its base year instead of 1871.

The Table below gives the Index Numbers indicating the percentage rise or fall in wholesale prices during the period 1871-1907, each year of the period being compared with 1900, which is taken as the base year. The figure for 1907 is, however, subject to revision.

1900 = 100.

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1871	136.0	1883	126.8	1895	91.0
1872	145.8	1884	124.7	1896	88.2
1873	152.7	1885	107.7	1897	90.1
1874	148.1	1886	101.6	1898	93.2
1875	141.4	1887	99.6	1899	92.3
1876	138.0	1888	102.7	1900	100.0
1877	141.6	1889	104.0	1901	96.9
1878	132.6	1890	104.0	1902	96.5
1879	126.6	1891	107.4	1903	95.9
1880	129.6	1892	101.8	1904	98.3
1881	127.3	1893	100.0	1905	97.6
1882	128.4	1894	94.2	1906	100.5
				1907	105.8

Compared with 1906 there was a rise more or less considerable in the price of 37 out of the 45 articles comprising the Index Number, and a decline in the price of 7 of the articles; the price of mutton was the same in both years. The articles which showed the greatest proportionate rises in price were cocoa (43.2 per cent.), imported barley (17.4 per cent.), coal (16.8 per cent.), tobacco (16.1 per cent.), caoutchouc (16.0 per cent.), rice (15.7 per cent.), olive oil (15.6 per cent.). The price of coal was higher than in any year since 1901, and with the exception of that year, and also the years 1900 and 1872-75, was higher than at any time during the period 1871-1907. The advances in the prices of copper and lead were 10.0 per cent. and 13.8 per cent. respectively, but the prices of these metals at the end of 1907 were very much lower than at the beginning, copper touching £110 per ton in March, 1907, and being worth only £62 per ton at the end of December. The price of British wool exported continued to advance, and showed a rise of over 10 per cent. as compared with 1906; in 1907 the price was more than double that obtaining in 1901 and 1902.

The prices of British and foreign wheat were 8 and 9 per cent. respectively above the prices in 1906, and higher than in any year since 1898, the year of the Leiter-corner.

Of the articles showing a decline in price the most important were coffee (12.4 per cent.), flax (8.8 per cent.), zinc (6.6 per cent.) and tin (3.3 per cent.). The prices of zinc and tin, like those of the other metals (iron, copper and lead), fell considerably during the latter half of the year.

CHECKWEIGHING IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

THE Departmental Committee appointed by the Home Secretary "to consider and report what would be the best method of securing to workmen in the iron and steel trades, who are paid by weight, the means of checking the correctness of the wages they receive," have presented their report.*

Checkweighing has been compulsory in the coal-mining industry since the passing of the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1860. The extension of this system to the iron and steel trades has been advocated since 1893, and the Committee satisfied themselves that there was a real and widespread demand on the part of the workpeople for the introduction of the checkweighing system in these trades. The principal objections raised against the proposal by the employers were (i) that the requirement of weighing all products would seriously interrupt their business, and diminish their output; and (ii) that the presence about their works of a person, or persons, not in their own employ, would be objectionable, especially where they were engaged in the manufacture of products of a special character, or produced by a secret process.

The first objection, on account of interruption to business, was most strongly pressed in the case of steel works. In such works, accordingly, the Committee recommended that, where ingots are weighed, the men should have the right to appoint a checkweighman to

check the weighings; but that, where ingots are not weighed, and where large numbers of ingots are cast from standard moulds, the average capacity of the moulds should be tested at intervals, at the demand of either employer or workmen. In exceptional cases, where such test-weighing is impossible or undesirable, special arrangements should be made between employers and workpeople for testing the weights on which wages are based.

In all other descriptions of iron and steel works (*i.e.*, at blast furnaces and puddling furnaces, and in "finishing" departments and tinplate works), the men should be given the right to appoint a representative to check the weights (or the calculated weights) on which their wages are based. In the case of tinplate works, where a deficiency is found in the weight of the standard "box" of tinplates, the checkweighman is further to have the power to ascertain the weight of the steel bars used in making the tinplates, as the deficiency in the weight of tinplates is sometimes due to the inferior quality of the material supplied.

As regards the second objection, to the presence in the works of a person not in the employ of the manufacturer, the Committee recommend that the checkweighman should be prohibited from impeding or interrupting the work, or interfering with the management of the men, and that any divulgence by a checkweighman of a trade secret should be treated as a criminal offence.

TRADE UNIONS IN FRANCE.*

ON January 1st, 1907, there were 5,322 Trade Unions in France, with a total membership of 896,012, as compared with 4,857, with a membership of 836,134, on the corresponding date of 1906. Thus, compared with the previous year, the number of Unions and their membership showed respective increases of 9.6 per cent. and 7.2 per cent. From the following Table it will be seen that during the period 1898-1907 both the number of Unions and their membership have more than doubled.

At 1st January.	Number of Trade Unions.	Membership of Trade Unions.
1898	2,324	437,793
1899	2,361	419,761
1900	2,635	491,647
1901	3,287	588,832
1902	3,659	614,173
1903	3,934	643,757
1904	4,227	745,576
1905	4,625	781,344
1906	4,857	836,134
1907	5,322	896,012

The following Table classifies the number of Trade Unions at 1st January, 1907, and their membership, by groups of trades, and shows the extent to which the workpeople in the various trades are organised:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Trade Unions.	Membership of Trade Unions.	Proportion of Members on Jan. 1st, 1907, to total employed in the trade according to the 1901 census.
Building Trades...	753	66,678	12.51
Mining	88	64,194	35.46
Quarrying	64	8,932	14.84
Metal Trades	579	103,835	18.70
Textile Trades	385	78,854	13.15
Clothing and Cleaning Trades (excluding Boot and Shoemaking and Glovemaking)	262	26,871	6.11
Transport, Warehousing and Commercial Employment	880	260,869	23.40
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing...	476	51,467	1.76
Printing, Paper and Allied Trades...	318	26,706	20.91
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades ...	369	56,124	15.29
Chemical Trades	128	35,558	31.25
Glass, Pottery, &c. Trades, and Stone Cutting and Polishing	198	19,591	13.05
Food Preparation Trades	350	48,353	7.92
Skins and Leather Trades (including Boot and Shoemaking and Glovemaking)	245	50,877	20.60
Domestic Service	112	16,603	1.63
Other Trades	115	20,560	12.62
	5,322	896,012	—

The trades most largely represented in the membership on January 1st, 1907, were thus the transport,

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

warehousing and commercial employment group, with 29.1 per cent. of the total membership, the metal trades (11.6 per cent.), the textile trades (8.8 per cent.), the building trades (7.4 per cent.), and mining (7.2 per cent.). Those groups in which the greatest proportion of workpeople were organised were mining, the chemical trades, the transport, warehousing and commercial employment group, the printing trades, and the skin and leather trades.

The number of Federations of Trade Unions on January 1st, 1907, was 187, to which were affiliated 3,675 Unions with a membership of 752,362, as compared with 167 on January 1st, 1906, to which were affiliated 3,572 Unions with a membership of 757,344.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Kettering and Rothwell.

In July, 1907, the lasters and finishers in the boot trade of Kettering and Rothwell made a claim upon their employers for an advance in their minimum wage from 28s. to 30s. per week. The matter was referred to the Kettering Boot and Shoe Trade No. 1 (lasters and finishers) Conciliation Board, but the Board were unable to agree as to the rate to be paid, or as to the selection of an Umpire to decide the matter.

On December 11th, in accordance with the rules of the Conciliation Board, application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an Umpire. The Board of Trade on December 18th appointed His Honour Judge Austin to act in that capacity.

Judge Austin issued his award on January 10th, deciding that the operatives had not shown sufficient reason for the advance claimed. The minimum rate is therefore to remain at 28s. per week.

Music Hall Artistes.

In accordance with the terms of his award in the Music Hall dispute (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, 1907, p. 163), Mr. G. R. Askwith, the arbitrator in that dispute, was called upon to decide two questions submitted to him arising out of disagreements at music halls in Portsmouth, and one question arising at Paisley and Hamilton.

The dispute in each case related to whether an established practice or custom for matinées existed at the respective music halls, and whether additional payment for matinées was accordingly required in certain contracts. In all the cases Mr. Askwith found as a fact that the custom alleged did not exist at the time the contracts were made.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

BELOW are copies of the schemes which have been prepared, in accordance with the Agreement arrived at on November 6th, by the Great Eastern, London and North-Western, Midland, and Great Central Railway Companies. Nomination papers have already been issued by the first three companies, and are now being returned to the Board of Trade.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

The scheme to relate to all the Company's servants engaged in the manipulation of traffic who are registered on the books of the Company, and paid on the weekly wages sheet. These servants to be classified in four sections, according to the departments under which they come, as follows:—

1. Locomotive Department, *i.e.*, drivers, firemen, cleaners, and other servants under the control of the Locomotive Superintendent, exclusive of the men employed in shops.
2. Goods Department, *i.e.*, goods porters, checkers, vanmen, stablemen, &c., and also inclusive of the railway section of the Continental Department.
3. Way and Works Department, *i.e.*, permanent way men, and including men employed in the Telegraph and Electrical Departments, but exclusive of the men employed in shops.
4. Department of Superintendent of the Line, *i.e.*, guards, signalmen, shunters, porters, and other men in the same Department.

Each section to have one Board for the whole line, and the Railway to be divided into four electoral districts, viz., those described as the London, Norwich, Ipswich and Cambridge districts.

Each district to choose two members of each sectional Board, so that each Board would include eight employees.

The Central Board to include eight employees, two from each section, to be elected by the men on the Sectional Board.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Electoral District.—The London and North-Western Company have decided to divide their line into six electoral districts, which have been numbered 1 to 6, and are shown in colours on a map supplied by the Company to the Board of Trade.

GRADE SECTIONS.

The various grades which come under the operation of the scheme—numbering nearly 130—have been grouped into seven sections, forming seven Sectional Boards, of which detailed particulars are given below.

Board "A" (Loco. Drivers, Firemen, &c.) representing:—Loco. engine drivers, loco. engine firemen, loco. engine cleaners, (including all in these grades in and out of the works, and in the Carriage, Permanent Way, and Wagon Departments). Loco. Out-door Staff:—Coal tippers, crane-men (hydraulic), crane-men (steam), hoist attendants, pointsmen, pulley-men.

Board "B" (Signalmen and Pointsmen) representing:—Gatekeepers (excluding women), ground pointsmen, pointsmen, porter signalmen, and in signal boxes:—Signalmen, signal lads, telephone lads, train boys, train recorders.

Board "C" (Brakesmen and Shunters) representing:—Brakesmen (including those in wagon department), pilot brakesmen, pilotmen, porter brakesmen, shunters—goods and traffic (including these in the carriage, loco., permanent way, permanent way stores, wagon and general stores departments), tariff-men, tariff guards, transhipmen.

Board "D" (Guards and Coaching Staff, &c.) representing:—Coachworkers, coaching shunters, conductors, corridor attendants, guards, lamp-lads, lamp-men, motor conductors, parcels porters, pilot guards, point cleaners, point oilers, porter guards, porter shunters (coaching), porters (adult), porters (junior), shunt horse drivers (coaching), telephone lads (other than in signal boxes), train reporters, ticket collectors and examiners. Carriage Department (Out-door Staff):—Couplers, electric light men, examiners, footwarmer attendants, gas fitters, lamp-men, oilers, washers and cleaners (excluding women). Wagon Department (Out-door Staff):—Examiners, greasers. General Stores Department:—Stores train attendants.

Board "E" (Permanent Way and Electrical and Signal Departments) representing:—Assistants to permanent way inspectors, ballast flagmen, ballast guards, relaying and ballast gangs, platelayers, time-keepers on permanent way staff. Electrical and Signal:—Chargemen, chargemen assistants, fitters' assistants, labourers (signal section), labourers (electrical section), labourers (telegraph section), liremen, linemen assistants, point oilers.

Board "F" (Goods Staff) representing:—Bookers, callers-off, capstan-lads, capstan-men, checkers, crane attendants, deliverers, gasmen, hookers-on, iron counters, labellers, loaders, number-takers, porters (adult), porters (junior), receivers, scalesmen, searchers, sheeters, shippers, shunt horse drivers (goods), slate counters, slip boys, timber loaders, timber measurers, van washers, wagon berthers, warehousemen, weighers, winchmen, yardsmen.

Board "G" (Cartage Staff) representing:—Book carriers, busmen, bus drivers, bus conductors, carmen, cart boys, cart-drivers, carters, chain boys, chainmen, draymen, grooms, horsekeepers, liverymen, parcels van-drivers, stablemen, vanmen, van lads, van setters, wagoners.

NUMBER OF MEN'S REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH DISTRICT FOR EACH SECTIONAL BOARD.

As the areas of the districts and the number of electors in each will vary considerably, it has been decided to allow two representatives in the larger districts and one representative in the smaller districts for the various Sectional Boards.

The number from each district for each Board will be as follows:—

DISTRICT.	No.						Total.
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	
Board "A" ...	1	2	2	2	2	2	11
" " "B" ...	1	1	1	2	1	1	7
" " "C" ...	1	1	1	2	2	1	8
" " "D" ...	1	1	1	2	2	1	8
" " "E" ...	1	2	2	2	2	2	11
" " "F" ...	2	1	2	2	2	1	10
" " "G" ...	2	1	2	1	2	1	9

Total Number of Men's Representatives 64

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

SECTIONS OF GRADES.

Section 1.—Locomotive drivers, firemen and cleaners. This heading applies to the following:—Drivers, passed firemen, firemen, passed cleaners, and cleaners.

Section 2.—Signalmen and pointsmen. This heading applies to the following:—Foremen signalmen, relief signalmen, signalmen (all classes), porter signalmen, train recorders.

Section 3.—Goods guards and shunters. This heading applies to the following:—Goods guards, emergency guards, pilot guards, branchmen, brakesmen, sidings porters, goods yard and sidings foremen, goods shunters, sidings reliefmen, train receivers, wagon sorters and distributors, point-holders, horse drivers, tunnelmen.

Section 4.—Passenger department guards, ticket examiners, shunters and porters.

This heading applies to the following:—Ordinary foremen (all classes), passenger guards (all classes), empty carriage guards, branch porter guards, passenger shunters (including foremen), porter-shunters, porter-guards, porters (all classes, including those partially employed at goods and passenger department duties), signal lampmen, brake lamp cleaners, ticket collectors, ticket examiners, corridor train collectors, sleeping car attendants, policemen (excess, cab, hall, &c.), luggage liftmen, gatemen, omnibus drivers and conductors, parcels vanmen (including cartage foremen).

Section 5.—Permanent way and telegraph. This heading applies to the following:—Regular platelayers (including gangers, point oilers, road and yard cleaners, and watchmen); relayers, ballast men, and fencing slip and drainage men 12 months in the service; telegraph linemen.

Section 6.—Goods foremen, checkers, loaders, porters, capstan-men, number-takers, carters, horse drivers, stablemen.

This heading applies to the following:—Goods foremen (engaged in the manipulation of traffic, and actually performing the same class of work as the men they supervise), checkers, warehousemen, searchers, bonus recorders, receivers, yardmen, wharfmen, loaders, callers-off, crane-men, tariff men, platform bookers, scalesmen, porters, sheetmen, scotchmen, lampmen, gatemen, cellar-men, ticketers, cattlemen, capstan-men, train receivers, train setters, number takers, stock takers, carters, light float drivers, book carriers, dray shunters, horse drivers, stablemen, horsekeepers, dray washers, harness cleaners.

For electoral purposes the Midland system is divided into five districts, which are described as the Northern, East Central, West Central, South Eastern, and South Western districts, each district to elect two representatives on each Sectional Board.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

The company's servants to be classified in six sections as follows:—

1. Locomotive drivers, firemen and cleaners.
2. Signalmen, porter-signalmen and pointsmen.
3. Passenger guards, goods guards and shunters.
4. Joint passenger and goods porters, passenger porters, ticket examiners and collectors, carriage and wagon examiners, cleaners, washers, greasers, electric light men, telegraph men and gasmen.
5. Checkers, hydraulic men, capstan-men, callers-off, loaders, horse shunters, sheeters, vanmen and draymen, number takers, stablemen and goods porters.
6. Permanent way gangers, labourers and platelayers.

For electoral purposes the representation to be divided as under:—

District No. 1	Western ...	One
" " 2	Manchester ...	Two
" " 3	London ...	One
" " 4	Northern ...	One
" " 5	Eastern ...	One

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

No person should emigrate to Canada during the winter season, except under very special circumstances. The supply of labour is quite sufficient, and in several places, as at Toronto (Ontario) and Victoria (British Columbia) many men have been unable to obtain employment. By a new regulation all emigrants landing in Canada until 15th February, 1908, must possess 50 dollars at the time of landing, and all arriving between 15th February and 1st April, 1908, must possess 25 dollars. They must, in addition, in every case, have money for their inland railway fares, unless they can satisfy the Emigration Officers at the time of landing that they are going to already assured employment immediately on arrival, or will be cared for by friends.

Commonwealth of Australia.

The chief demand throughout Australia is for female servants and for men who can work on the land, such as farmers, fruit growers, farm labourers, dairy-men, orchardists, vignerons, and men on sheep and cattle stations. Competent men of this class should not linger in the towns, but should go up country at once, where they will find work at good wages. After experience of the country for a year or two they will have opportunities of acquiring land for themselves, either by payment of rent, or by working on the "shares" system. In Tasmania the only demand is for female servants. The dispute between the mine-owners and miners at the Newcastle coal mines in New South Wales has been referred to a special tribunal, and is stated to be settled. In no part of Australia is there any pressing demand for mechanics, unless they are specially skilled; the best chances are for carpenters, masons, and blacksmiths. Clerks, shop assistants, warehousemen, and professional persons are advised not to go to Australia, unless they have situations awaiting them. The cost of living has somewhat increased of late throughout Australia.

New South Wales grants assisted passages to approved agriculturists and female servants on application to the Agent-General at 123, Cannon Street, E.C. The Queensland Government has just reduced the rates of their nominated passages which are open to those who have friends or relations in the State, and is also now granting assisted passages at £5 to persons with a little money, and free passages to agricultural labourers introduced under contract, and to wives and children of approved emigrants, and to domestic servants. Western Australia also has just increased its assistance to emigrants; it now grants assisted passages at £6 to £7 10s. per adult to men of agricultural experience who have £50, and at £5 to £7 to single farm labourers who can deposit £10 in addition to their fares, and to domestic servants depositing £5; the deposits are returned to the emigrant on arrival in the State.

New Zealand.

Farmers and agricultural labourers with a capital of £25, and female servants with £2, are eligible for reduced passages at £10 to £12 a head. There is a good demand for these classes, especially for experienced milkers, round New Plymouth and Wanganui, in Taranaki, and in other dairy districts. The local supply of general labourers is sufficient, but good bushmen are wanted in some places. Mechanics in the various trades are as a rule well employed, but the local supply is sufficient, except that carpenters, painters, and tailors are wanted in some places, and at Christchurch leather bag makers. In many places, as Auckland, Gisborne, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch, and Inver-

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

cargill there is a long continued demand for female machinists and workers in the boot and clothing factories, for tailoresses, and for dressmakers.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—The supply of labour in Cape Colony largely exceeds the demand. There is a steady diminution in the number of men employed in the building trades, and clerical work is quite unobtainable. All mechanics and labourers, therefore, are warned against going there now, unless they go out to situations engaged for them, or have sufficient means to keep them for some months.

Natal.—The supply of white labour in Natal is in considerable excess of the demand.

Transvaal.—No one should go to the Transvaal now in search of work. Large numbers of men are out of employment, and as the cost of living remains very high, there is a great amount of distress. There is some opening for female servants.

Orange River Colony.—There is no demand for more labour, and many skilled workmen and labourers are out of employment. All assistance to emigrants has been stopped except as regards a few female servants.

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

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 1 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in November.—Employment in the building and allied trades showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. The metal trades also showed some decline, more especially in the automobile branch. Employment in the textile trades was satisfactory in Normandy and the Ardennes, but the demand for labour in some centres of the Nord and in the smaller centres of the Ouest was not so great as in October. There was still considerable unemployment among silk weavers in the Loire, but in the Lyons district they were busy except in the hand-loom workshops near the town. Printers and bookbinders were busy. Owing to rains and floods unemployment increased amongst vineyard workers in the South of France. In the majority of the forestry centres the woodcutting season had not yet commenced, and there was still much unemployment.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in November were received by the French Labour Department from 1,042 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 206,063. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 9.4 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 8.0 per cent. in the preceding month, and 7.9 per cent. in November, 1906.

Coal Mining in November.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during November was 6.01, as compared with 5.98 in the previous month, and 6.02 in November, 1906. Taking surface and underground workers together, 97.41 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 2.56 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 87.85 and 11.61, and in November, 1906, 97.45 and 2.55.

Labour Disputes in November.—Eighty disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having

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

begun in November, compared with 68 in the previous month, and 58 in November, 1906. In 77 of the new disputes 7,529 workpeople took part, as compared with 5,909 who took part in 66 of the October disputes, and 4,170 who took part in 54 of the disputes in November, 1906. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the textile (20), transport and warehousing (13), building (12), metal (8), and woodworking (7). Of 72 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 14 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 32 in favour of the employers, while 26 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.—Three instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred in November. In all three cases committees of conciliation were formed, and in two of the cases they succeeded in settling the dispute.

GERMANY.*

Employment in November.—The unfavourable change noticed in October as having set in for a number of industries became more marked in November, especially in the building and in the metal and engineering trades, with the exception of branches of the latter engaged in the construction of railway rolling stock, &c., which will have a sufficiency of Government orders to keep them employed for some time to come. Miners continued well employed. In the chemical trades employment continued good on the whole, but in the electrical trades there was a slight decline. In the textile trades, except with silk workers at Crefeld and cloth workers at Aachen, employment was good.

A symptom of decline in the general level of employment is noted in the fact that for the first time in the last four years the membership of the sickness insurance funds (which is accepted as a rough measure of persons actually employed in industrial occupations) shows a decrease instead of an increase in comparison with the previous year.

BELGIUM.

Employment in November.—According to Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 3.0 per cent. of the 45,894 members of 188 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.5 per cent. in the previous month, and 1.9 per cent. in November, 1906. These figures do not include particulars relating to miners, home workers, or agricultural labourers. (See also note under "Labour Abroad," p. 7.)

Labour Disputes in November.—Ten strikes, involving approximately 1,500 workpeople (900 directly and 600 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in November. In addition to these, 7 strikes, which commenced in previous months and affected about 950 persons, were also in progress during part or the whole of the month. The bulk of the workpeople affected by these 17 disputes were employed in mining and in the textile, leather and tobacco trades. The termination of 15 disputes was reported. Of these, one (involving 23 strikers) terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 11 (involving about 1,190 strikers) terminated in favour of the employers, while 3 (involving 300 strikers) were compromised. One lock-out of textile workers began in November, and was not reported to have terminated.

Municipal Assistance to Unemployed Benefit Funds.—The first municipal fund for the assistance of the unemployed in Belgium was established at Ghent in 1901. By 1904 twelve were in existence; three more were added in the following year; and a further four in 1906. Among the

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

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

methods adopted the principal one is that under which grants out of public moneys form a supplement to the sums paid to the workpeople by the unemployed benefit funds of their Trade Unions. In 1901 such grants amounted to £250; in 1902, to £1,167; in 1903, to £1,461; in 1904, to £1,854; in 1905, to £1,420; and in 1906, to £1,867. In each of the four years 1903-6 these sums were more than one-half of the corresponding amounts paid by the Unions. In comparison with the method just described the others have attained little importance.

Conditions of Labour at Antwerp Docks.—The special commission appointed after the termination of the strike of dock labourers at Antwerp (see GAZETTE, November 1907, p. 329) has now made its report on the points submitted. The general increase of 50 centimes (4½d.) a day demanded by all dock labourers has been refused, but certain concessions have been made. One hour will be allowed for fetching tools from the storehouse and taking them back when work is over, and for this the men will be paid. They will also receive payment when, being regularly engaged, they are unable to work owing to delay in a ship's arrival, or to any other unavoidable cause. Grain workers (who have already received an increase of 50 centimes per day) will be granted a further 50 centimes per day when required to discharge cargoes which are particularly injurious to health. These new arrangements came into force on December 1st, 1907.

HOLLAND.

Employment in November.—The number of persons out of work in the building trades increased in November, and, except in a few districts, employment was unsatisfactory. In the larger metal and engineering establishments employment continued satisfactory on the whole, though in some cases a decline was noticeable. There was decreased employment for shipbuilders, and the slackness in the textile trades continued. Employment was also slack in the garment making and boot and shoe trades, and in the former was worse than in previous years. In the woodworking trades employment was moderate generally, but slack with furniture makers. The usual seasonal revival took place in the printing trades, and in only a few districts was any slackness noticeable. Workpeople engaged for the season in the bulb-growing industry were discharged, but otherwise employment was good. In the diamond industry employment, which had improved in September and October, showed a marked decline (see below). In food preparation the cocoa and chocolate trades were busy, and brewing slack; while employment in distilling and in the tobacco and margarine trades varied with locality.

A report on employment in Amsterdam during the fourth quarter of 1907 states that the diamond industry was in a depressed condition; in the first week of December there were 4,028 unemployed members of the Diamond Workers' Federation. In other trades 2,804 persons were registered as out of work on December 19th by the Amsterdam Committee of relief.

Labour Disputes in November.—Fifteen strikes, 9 of which directly affected 629 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in November. Four of the strikes were in the diamond industry, 3 in brickmaking, 2 in the textile trades, and 2 amongst dock labourers. One lock-out (of cigarmakers) also commenced in November. Eight of the above strikes came to an end during the month, and in addition, 5 which began in previous months. The results of 11 disputes which ended in November were known; of these 4 terminated in favour of the employers, and 7 were compromised.

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

† Based on Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office), and on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Amsterdam.

‡ Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN DECEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 482 Returns—430 from Employers, 38 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during December, and showed a slight improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,349 pits employing 614,950 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended December 21st, 1907, was 5.63, as compared with 5.60 in the previous month and in December, 1906.

Of the 614,950 workpeople covered by the Returns, 573,320 (or 93.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended December 21st, 1907, and of these 487,023 (or 79.2 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in December was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.93), and the lowest in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire (5.16).

Compared with a month ago there were no marked changes. In West Yorkshire and in the Midland Counties (except Derbyshire) there were slight declines. Compared with a year ago the greatest increase was in Derbyshire (0.31 of a day per week). There were decreases in Cumberland (0.19), West Scotland (0.30), The Lothians (0.43), and Fife (0.13).

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

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with	
		Dec. 21st, 1907.	Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Dec. 22nd, 1906.	A m'th ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	45,270	5.48	5.46	5.46	+ .02	+ .02
Durham ...	115,478	5.59	5.52	5.61	+ .07	- .02
Cumberland ...	7,799	5.50	5.47	5.69	+ .03	- .19
South Yorkshire ...	61,993	5.90	5.85	5.87	+ .05	+ .03
West Yorkshire ...	21,933	5.25	5.36	5.30	- .11	- .05
Lancashire and Cheshire	56,985	5.38	5.51	5.48	+ .07	+ .10
Derbyshire ...	59,055	5.57	5.50	5.26	+ .07	+ .31
Nottingham and Leicester	31,950	5.16	5.29	5.06	- .13	+ .10
Staffordshire ...	28,394	5.45	5.48	5.56	- .03	+ .09
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	12,048	5.55	5.60	5.57	- .05	- .02
Gloucester and Somerset	8,149	5.59	5.60	5.53	- .02	+ .05
North Wales ...	11,125	5.81	5.80	5.83	+ .01	- .02
South Wales and Mon. ...	124,815	5.93	5.88	5.87	+ .05	+ .06
ENGLAND AND WALES	664,904	5.66	5.63	5.60	+ .03	+ .06
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	26,106	5.17	5.14	5.47	+ .03	- .30
The Lothians ...	4,662	5.46	5.46	5.89	...	- .43
Fife ...	18,605	5.49	5.44	5.62	+ .05	- .13
SCOTLAND	49,373	5.32	5.29	5.88	+ .03	- .26
IRELAND	673	5.45	5.01	5.34	+ .44	+ .11
United Kingdom	614,950	5.63	5.60	5.60	+ .03	+ .03

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were employed. At pits employing 206,812 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." Compared with a month ago there was an increase of

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

*Strike of Grain Weighers and Measurers at Rotterdam.**—A partial strike of grain weighers and measurers and dock labourers at Rotterdam, which had lasted the greater part of the year, and which was due to the introduction of grain elevators, came to an end on November 21st. From January 1st, 1908, the rate for discharging grain is to be increased to 2d. per last (2½ tons) per man, conditional on no opposition being made to the employment of elevators. Wages are to remain at 5d. an hour as heretofore.

NORWAY.†

Employment in November.—Of 18,469 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 453, or 2.5 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of November. The figures for November and October, 1907, and for November, 1906, for certain Unions which made returns for each of these months are given for comparison. (As regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 7.)

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.
Metal Workers and Moulders	6,061	5,946	5,144	0.8	0.8	0.8
Carpenters, &c. ...	785	786	819	5.0	1.8	6.3
Cabinet Makers ...	336	335	507	0.6	0.6	...
Painters and Macons ...	877	850	584	25.8	11.8	25.3
Printers ...	1,250	1,242	1,228	0.7	1.8	1.4
Wood Pulp and Paper Makers	1,041	1,057	976	...	...	...
Sawyers and Planers ...	724	743	573	13.3	1.3	2.4
Bakers ...	170	185	185	11.8	9.2	27.0
Tinned Goods (Food Preparation)	272	277	224	1.5	0.4	10.3
Boot and Shoe Makers	397	369	260	...	0.8	...
Timber-boom Labourers ...	113	113	94	...	...	...
Total	12,026	11,993	10,591	3.7	1.8	3.3

ITALY.‡

Statistics of Italian Cotton Industry.—According to a return published in the Milan journal, *Bollettino della Cotoniara*, in its issue of November last, the total number of cotton mills in Italy at the beginning of 1905 was 669, in which 149,127 operatives were employed. In addition to mill workers 3,841 other persons were engaged in this industry (most of whom were females working in their homes), giving a total of 152,968. The provinces of Italy in which the largest number of cotton mills and operatives are found are Lombardy (320 mills and 65,465 operatives), Piedmont (149 and 36,974), Tuscany (74 and 15,926) and Venetia (34 and 10,595). The report adds that a number of mills were erected in 1906 and 1907, and that it is estimated that in November, 1907, there were approximately 730 mills and 170,000 operatives.

The total number of spindles in the Italian cotton industry (including those to be added in 1908) is estimated by the Italian Cotton Association at Milan at 4,060,000, and the number of looms at 144,000.

Strike of Tramway Employees at Milan.—On November 23rd a dispute involving nearly 3,000 persons employed by an electric tramway company began at Milan, the men demanding higher wages on the ground of increased cost of living. After the failure and subsequent resumption of negotiations before the mayor the strike terminated on December 1st, work being resumed next day. Wages are to be increased by 11 per cent. for all classes of workpeople, except one which is to receive 15 per cent., from January 1st, 1908; all are to receive a further increase of 5 per cent. from January 1st, 1911.

UNITED STATES.

Unemployment at Philadelphia.—Despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, dated January 9th and 11th, report that 4,000 workpeople have been discharged by one of the principal firms of locomotive builders in that locality, and that the hours of labour have been reduced from 10 to 8 per day.

* Despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Rotterdam.

† Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

‡ Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Milan.

0.14 of a day per week at pits producing coking coal, and little change at pits producing other classes of coal. Compared with a year ago there were slight declines at pits producing anthracite and coking coal, and slight improvements at other pits.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with	
		Dec. 21st, 1907.	Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Dec. 22nd, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.	
Anthracite ...	7,423	5.73	5.78	5.86	- .05	- .13	
Coking ...	31,926	5.73	5.59	5.76	+ .14	+ .03	
Gas ...	39,239	5.54	5.52	5.46	+ .02	+ .08	
House ...	79,108	5.35	5.34	5.33	+ .01	+ .02	
Manufacturing and Steam	250,442	5.71	5.69	5.68	+ .02	+ .03	
Mixed ...	206,812	5.63	5.61	5.61	+ .02	+ .02	
All Descriptions ...	614,960	5.63	5.60	5.60	+ .03	+ .03	

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in December, 1907, amounted to 5,418,941 tons, or 409,186 tons less than in November, 1907, but 777,147 tons more than in December, 1906.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 82 Returns—67 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines, but was not quite so good as a year ago. In shale mines it was good, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago.

Employment continued good in tin, copper, and lead mines. It was dull generally in quarries, and worse than a month ago, partly owing to interruptions on account of bad weather.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended December 21st the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.78 a month ago and 5.92 a year ago.

Districts.	No. employed in Dec., 1907, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with	
		Dec., 21st, 1907.	Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Dec. 22nd, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.	
Cleveland...	7,578	5.90	5.86	5.95	+ 0.04	- 0.05	
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,131	5.78	5.92	5.93	- 0.14	- 0.21	
Scotland ...	879	5.70	4.33	6.00	+ 1.37	- 0.30	
Other Districts ...	2,622	5.71	5.87	5.71	- 0.16	...	
All Districts ...	16,210	5.82	5.78	5.92	+ 0.04	- 0.10	

Of the 16,210 workpeople covered by the Returns 15,495 (or 95.6 per cent.) worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended December 21st, 1907, as compared with 89.3 per cent. a month ago, and 97.4 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,240 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended December 21st, as compared with 3,220 in the previous month, and 3,231 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended December 21st was 5.80, as compared with 5.75 a month ago and 5.62 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued good in Cornwall.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good with lead miners in North Wales and in Weardale.

Quarrying.

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

Granite.—Employment continued dull in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire it was brisk in the macadam branch. It was dull on Dartmoor; fair in the Penryn district.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Weardale. In Cleveland it was moderate, and in the Buxton district slack. In North Wales it was fair. In the Plymouth district it was dull. In Cumberland and in the Somerset blue lias quarries it continued bad.

Other Stone.—In Forfarshire employment continued bad, with short time. It was moderate with grindstone makers in the Sheffield and Barnsley district, and in the Rowsley district. It was good in the Clee Hill road-material quarries. Employment was bad in the Bath stone quarries and worse than a month ago; it was fair in the Forest of Dean. In the Gateshead district it continued moderate. In the Bakewell chert quarries it was good.

Settling.—Employment continued bad in Aberdeenshire. In the Glasgow district it was slack. In Leicestershire it was dull, and short time was worked. In the Clee Hill district it was quiet.

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

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during December, 1907, was fair on the whole. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing nearly 23,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of December was 315, as compared with 329 in November, 1907, and 340 in December, 1906. During December 4 furnaces were re-lit (2 in Cumberland, and 2 in Lanarkshire), and 18 were either damped down or blown out (7 in Cleveland, 4 in Cumberland, 4 in Lanarkshire, 2 in Staffordshire and 1 in South Yorkshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with	
	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	78	85	89	- 7	- 11
Cumberland & Lancs.	28	30	38	- 2	- 10
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	14	15	15	- 1	- 1
Derby & Nottingham	42	42	40	...	+ 2
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	26	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	34	36	35	- 2	- 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	17	17	16	...	+ 1
Other districts ...	7	7*	7	...	...
England & Wales	246	258	266	- 12	- 20
Scotland ...	69	71	74	- 2	- 5
Total ...	315	329*	340	- 14	- 25

The Imports of iron ore in December, 1907, amounted to 520,365 tons, or 28,898 tons less than in November, 1907, and 96,042 tons less than in December, 1906.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in December, 1907, amounted to 93,560 tons, or 43,299 tons less than in November, 1907, and 72,880 tons less than in December, 1906.

* Revised figures.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 213 Returns—200 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 2 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended December 21st, 1907, at the 200 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 2.4 per cent. greater than in the week ended November 23rd, 1907, but 4.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended December 21st, 1907, by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 517,100, as compared with 505,100 a month ago, and 538,700 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns,		Average Number of Shifts worked per man,	
	In week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.
IRON:				
Puddling Forges ...	10,448	- 325	4.96	+ 0.07
Rolling Mills ...	4,482	- 21	4.98	+ 0.22
Forging ...	560	+ 13	5.94	- 0.01
Founding ...	1,862	- 74	5.97	+ 0.05
Other Departments ...	699	+ 13	5.87	+ 0.05
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,701	+ 16	5.59	+ 0.01
Total, Iron ...	19,692	- 378	5.16	+ 0.05
STEEL:				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,236	- 131	5.88	+ 0.02
Crucible Furnaces ...	595	+ 2	5.80	+ 0.38
Bessemer Converters ...	1,937	+ 611	5.99	+ 0.10
Rolling Mills ...	15,250	+ 1,350	5.84	+ 0.10
Forging and Pressing ...	2,862	+ 49	5.71	+ 0.03
Founding ...	7,408	- 240	5.90	+ 0.02
Other Departments ...	5,622	+ 4	5.86	+ 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	8,236	+ 147	5.94	- 0.01
Total, Steel ...	81,197	+ 1,801	5.69	+ 0.03
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills ...	11,490	+ 153	5.18	+ 0.06
Forging and Pressing ...	861	+ 103	5.61	+ 0.04
Founding ...	763	+ 10	5.95	+ 0.05
Other Departments ...	3,279	+ 48	5.62	+ 0.16
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,456	- 424	5.71	+ 0.08
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	22,851	- 110	5.44	+ 0.08
Grand Total ...	93,740	+ 1,313	5.82	+ 0.06
Districts.				
Northumberland & Durham	11,241	- 428	5.39	- 0.04
Cleveland ...	7,830	+ 1,217	5.85	- 0.12
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,620	- 190	5.72	+ 0.08
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,629	+ 21	5.66	+ 0.13
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	10,916	+ 345	5.49	+ 0.36
Staffordshire ...	10,485	- 75	5.43	- 0.02
Other Midland Counties ...	5,318	+ 53	5.54	+ 0.08
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,554	+ 138	5.57	+ 0.04
Total, England and Wales	77,623	+ 1,081	5.56	+ 0.07
Scotland ...	16,117	+ 232	5.31	- 0.04
Total ...	93,740	+ 1,313	5.82	+ 0.06

As compared with a month ago there was a marked increase in the number of workpeople employed in the Cleveland district. There were also increases in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire district, in Scotland, and in Wales and Monmouth; but in Northumberland and Durham there was a decrease. As compared with a year ago there were decreases in Scotland, in the Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire district, and in Northumberland and Durham. In the remaining districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Sheffield and Rotherham districts, and in Wales and Monmouth.

The increase in the number of workpeople, as compared with a month ago, was mainly at steel rolling mills and Bessemer converters. Both these departments, however, showed decreases as compared with a year ago, while at puddling forges, open hearth melting

furnaces and steel foundries, the number employed was less than both a month ago and a year ago.

The average number of shifts worked showed, on the whole, little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. At crucible furnaces, however, the average number of shifts worked was 0.38 of a shift greater than a month ago, and 0.85 of a shift greater than a year ago, while at Bessemer converters the average number of shifts worked increased by 0.40, but was still 0.20 of a shift lower than a year ago.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during December, 1907, amounted to 100,670 tons, or 9,634 tons more than in November, 1907, and 26,744 tons more than in December, 1906.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during December, 1907, amounted to 194,824 tons, or 16,405 tons less than in November, 1907, and 12,918 tons less than in December, 1906.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

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

EMPLOYMENT during December continued good. It was better than a year ago at tin plate mills, but not so good at sheet mills. As compared with November, 1907, there was a decline, due partly to mills being stopped for repairs.

At the works covered by the Returns, 388 tinplate and 52 sheet mills were working at the end of December, as compared with 392 and 55 respectively a month ago and 381 and 60 respectively a year ago. The supply of, and demand for, labour continued fairly equal.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of November and December, 1907, and December, 1906. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople:—

	December, 1907.		November, 1907.		December, 1906.	
	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	75	388	75	392	74	381
Sheet Mills ...	8	52	8	55	10	60
Total ...	83	440	83	447	84	441

Exports.—The Table below shows the exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, for the months stated:—

	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States ...	3,442	2,490	6,783	+ 952	- 3,341
British East Indies ...	4,003	6,861	1,899	- 2,858	+ 2,104
Germany ...	2,877	3,959	3,595	- 1,122	+ 218
France ...	2,532	1,704	1,664	+ 828	+ 868
Netherlands ...	2,398	2,737	2,958	- 339	- 560
Other Countries ...	16,943	17,436	14,462	- 493	+ 2,481
Total ...	32,195	38,227	31,161	- 3,032	+ 1,034
Black Plates for Tinning.					
Total ...	8,848	5,229	5,341	+ 619	+ 507

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

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,000 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 948 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 42 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued to decline, and was only moderate on the whole. It was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 163,158, show that at the end of December the percentage unemployed was 6.4 per cent., as compared with 4.7 per cent. a month ago and 4.1 per cent. a year ago. As compared with a month ago all districts showed an increase in the percentage unemployed, while, compared with a year ago, only two districts—the South Coast and the South Wales and Bristol—showed an improvement. The most marked decline in employment, compared with both a month ago and a year ago, was in the North-East Coast, West Riding, East of Scotland, and Belfast and Dublin districts.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Dec., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,709	14.7	9.9	8.2	+ 4.8	+ 6.5
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	19,439	5.0	4.4	3.2	+ 0.6	+ 1.8
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District ...	13,260	3.8	3.3	2.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.1
West Riding Towns ...	13,221	10.1	5.8	4.4	+ 4.3	+ 5.7
Hull and Lincolnshire District ...	3,778	4.5	2.7	1.8	+ 1.8	+ 2.7
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District ...	7,633	5.5	4.9	2.8	+ 0.6	+ 2.7
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District ...	4,297	6.2	4.3	4.5	+ 1.9	+ 1.7
London and Neighbouring District ...	12,058	6.0	5.3	4.8	+ 0.7	+ 1.2
South Coast ...	3,942	2.0	1.7	3.5	+ 0.3	- 1.5
South Wales and Bristol District ...	6,267	3.2	2.3	4.5	+ 0.9	- 1.3
Glasgow and District ...	15,556	8.2	6.1	5.5	+ 2.1	+ 2.7
East of Scotland ...	3,990	9.0	5.9	5.5	+ 3.1	+ 3.5
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,337	13.6	7.9	6.0	+ 5.7	+ 7.6
Other Districts ...	6,263	4.0	3.3	3.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.8
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	163,158	6.4	4.7	4.1	+ 1.7	+ 2.3

On the North-East Coast employment continued to decline, but was affected somewhat by holiday suspensions. On the Tyne generally employment continued dull with engineers, and was worse than a month ago. In the railway works it continued fair; at Wallsend, Jarrow, and Howdon it was fairly good, but declining; overtime, however, was worked in the turbine shops. At Gateshead short time was worked. On the Wear employment was worse than a month ago; and large numbers of men were out of work at Sunderland. It continued good with engineers at Darlington, and bad at Hartlepool. With ironfounders at South Shields, Stockton and Hartlepool and on the Wear employment was bad. With patternmakers, brassmoulders and brassturners it was dull generally, and worse than a month ago.

In Lancashire employment with textile machinery engineers continued good, and overtime was still being worked. At Liverpool and Manchester employment was fair, but a further decline was reported. Ironfounders reported a decline compared with a month ago, but employment was good at Oldham, Bury, Rochdale, Stockport and Warrington; with brassfounders at Manchester and Liverpool it was bad. With boiler-makers employment was dull.

In the West Riding employment generally declined. With engineers it was fairly good at Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Halifax and Keighley. With ironfounders employment was bad at Sheffield. It declined at Halifax, Leeds and Bradford. With boiler-makers it was slack generally; with pattern makers it was bad. With brassfounders at Hull it was bad, and worse than a month ago.

In the Birmingham district employment was generally fair, but declining. With ironfounders, toolmakers and pattern makers it was quiet. In the cycle and motor industries employment was slack.

At Derby employment continued quiet in general engineering shops, but in the railway shops it was good, much overtime being worked. It continued good with lace-machinery builders at Nottingham. It was bad with ironfounders, and worse than a month ago. At Leicester it was bad with ironfounders; with shoemachinery builders employment continued good.

In London employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago.

At the Royal Dockyards employment continued fairly good. At Southampton it continued good with marine engine makers, and moderate on boilerwork. At Bristol and Swindon it continued good with engineers; with boiler-makers it was fair at Bristol and slack at Swindon. In the South Wales district employment continued fair on the whole.

In the Glasgow district employment was good with brassfinishers, and better than a month ago, except at Greenock, where it was bad. It was fair with iron, steel, and brass dressers; with ironmoulders there was a decline. At Edinburgh employment continued bad, and at Falkirk it was dull, and short time continued. At Dundee employment continued good; but with ironmoulders and pattern makers it was worse than a month ago. At Aberdeen it was fair with engineers and boiler-makers; in other branches it was dull.

At Belfast employment generally continued dull. At Dublin it continued dull; at Cork it was fair and better than a month ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of the Imports and Exports of machinery for the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Steam Engines ...	£ 6,130	£ 4,756	£ 7,259	+ 3,374	+ 371
Other Machinery (including Electrical) ...	394,781	390,545	365,712	+ 4,236	+ 29,069
Exports:					
Steam Engines ...	622,038	663,976	626,087	- 41,938	- 4,049
Other Machinery (including Electrical) ...	2,129,921	2,140,423	1,706,525	- 10,502	+ 443,396

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 368 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 343 from Trade Unions and their Branches, 18 and from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 60,481 members had 8,613 (or 14.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 12.8 per cent. at the end of November and 11.3 per cent. at the end of December, 1906.

Compared with a month ago a decline was shown in the Wear, Tees, Bristol Channel, Mersey, and Clyde districts. In the Tyne, Thames, and East of Scotland districts an improvement was shown.

Compared with a year ago the principal changes were a large decline on the Wear, and a smaller decline on the Tyne, the Mersey, and the Clyde. The remaining

districts showed an improvement compared with a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Dec., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	10,321	13.1	16.4	9.3	- 3.3	+ 3.8
Wear ...	5,301	39.0	31.7	5.9	+ 7.3	+ 33.1
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,107	19.7	14.4	21.5†	- 1.2	- 1.8
Humber ...	2,771	9.9	11.1	13.4	- 1.2	- 3.5
Thames and Medway ...	4,398	9.3	12.2	10.8	- 2.9	- 1.5
South Coast ...	4,116	2.1	2.7	5.7	- 0.6	- 3.6
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,645	14.2	6.7	21.0	+ 7.5	- 6.8
Mersey ...	3,859	15.1	5.0	10.7	+ 10.1	+ 4.4
Clyde ...	13,553	14.7	12.7	11.6	+ 2.0	+ 3.1
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	2,495	7.2	12.6	13.7	- 5.4	- 6.5
Belfast ...	2,902	2.8	3.7	7.0	- 0.9	- 4.2
Other Districts ...	3,023	6.9	4.8	8.7	+ 2.1	+ 1.8
United Kingdom ...	60,481	14.2	12.8	11.3	+ 1.4	+ 2.9

On the Tyne employment was slack generally, but it was fairly good at Newcastle, and also with shipwrights at North Shields and with steel and iron shipbuilders at Walker. On the Wear employment was bad, but three yards that had been closed have now re-opened. On the Tees it was dull, except with shipwrights at Hartlepool, who were fairly well employed. On the Humber employment was dull generally, but moderate with shipwrights.

On the Thames employment remained slack. At Southampton it was fair on the whole. At the Royal Dockyards it continued good. At the Bristol Channel ports it was dull on the whole. On the Mersey employment was dull, and worse than a month ago.

On the Clyde employment was slack generally, but fair at Renfrew. At Leith it was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago; at Dundee it was good; at Aberdeen dull.

At Belfast employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. At Barrow it was moderate. With shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft it remained fairly good. At Dublin it was reported as bad.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's Returns for the quarter ended December, 1907, there was a decrease in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 131,257 tons gross (or 12.2 per cent.) as compared with September, 1907, and of 218,159 tons gross (or 17.8 per cent.) as compared with December, 1906. With regard to war vessels the figures show an increase of 4,180 tons displacement as compared with the September quarter, and of 62,859 tons as compared with a year ago.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	Dec., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Dec., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Dec., 1906.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ...	311,157	365,356	410,240	37,935	51,523	51,000
Belfast ...	194,507	169,424	174,770	...	...	...
Tyne ...	204,871	211,390	245,026	82,759	82,726	49,042
Wear ...	61,075	126,327	178,475	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	37,930	50,005	36,470	...	...	...
Middlesbro' and Stockton ...	61,263	81,400	57,314	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington ...	12,880	11,100	3,700	37,200	37,120	36,323
Other Districts... Royal Dockyards	65,147	64,085	60,094	6,893	7,228	7,693
	...	...	...	103,930	84,930	61,800
Total ...	948,530	1,080,087	1,166,989	268,717	264,537	205,858

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with September, 1907, there were increases in the Belfast and Barrow districts, but in the other principal districts there were decreases. The decrease on the Wear amounted to over 50.0 per cent.

As compared with December, 1906, there were increases

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.
† Exclusive of Members on strike.

in the Belfast, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Barrow districts. In the Clyde, Tyne and Wear districts there were decreases, the decrease in the last-named district amounting to over 65.0 per cent.

War Vessels.—Compared with September, 1907, there was an increase at the Royal Dockyards, but on the Clyde there was a decrease. Little change was shown at other districts in which warships were under construction. Compared with December, 1906, there were considerable increases on the Tyne and at the Royal Dockyards. On the Clyde there was a decrease.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 101 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 73 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December was fair generally, though slightly worse than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 16,204 had 3.1 per cent. out of work at the end of December, as compared with 2.5 per cent. in November, and 2.8 per cent. a year ago.

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

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

Wire.—Employment continued good generally, overtime being worked in some districts.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Employment in the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton and Willenhall continued bad, short time being worked. In the hollow-ware trades employment continued fair at Wolverhampton, moderate at West Bromwich. In the galvanized hollow-ware trade in the Midland towns employment was fair, and better than a month ago.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Rotherham and at Leeds employment continued quiet, with short time; at Falkirk it was fair, and slightly better than a month ago; at Glasgow it was quiet, and worse than a month ago. At Bury and Bolton it continued good.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield district employment was good with saw and edge tool grinders, table blade forgers and strikers, sawmakers and filemakers and hardeners. It was moderate with pen and pocket blade forgers and grinders, and fair with other trades. At Birmingham employment was fair in the edge tool trade. At Redditch it was fair in the needle trade, but worse than a month ago; in the fish-hook trade it was good.

Tubes.—Employment in South Wales was good, and better than a month ago; it was slack in South Staffordshire, where short time was worked. At Birmingham it continued fair.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was fair with factory chain-makers, slack with cable chain-makers and strikers, and bad with block chain-makers. With anchor-smiths it was better than a month ago. At Dudley it was fair with anvil and vice men, and worse than a month ago. At Sheffield it continued quiet with railway spring fitters and vicemen; at Birmingham it was fair with spring makers and moderate with axle makers. At Wednesbury it was moderate with makers of railway axles, wheels, tyres and springs. With anchor-smiths on the Wear it was slack, and worse than a month ago.

Sheet Metal, etc.—With sheet metal workers (including braziers and tinsplate workers) employment continued fair generally. It was good in Lancashire, and at Wolverhampton, Bilston and Dudley. In the Lye district it was

worse than a month ago. In South Wales it was fair, and better than a month ago. In Glasgow and the West of Scotland it was dull; at Edinburgh it was bad. In London it was fair, but showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

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

Ferriers.—Employment was fair generally.

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

Description.	Dec., 1907.		Nov., 1907.		Dec., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery	13,063	16,886	6,841	— 2,923	+ 7,122			
Hardware	93,151	95,591	78,198	— 2,440	+ 14,953			
Exports:—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery	57,848	66,308	54,717	— 8,460	+ 3,131			
Hardware	195,957	208,211	159,834	— 12,554	+ 3,977			
Implements and Tools ...	178,180	188,662	178,820	— 10,482	+ 640			

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 472 Returns—378 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 85 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *Spinning* branch continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; in the *Weaving* branch it was fair, and not so good as a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended December 21st was 125,727, being 0.2 per cent. less than a month ago, and 0.4 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Description.	Workpeople.		Earnings.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
	No. paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	13,643	+ 0.1 + 0.8	12,844	+ 0.4 + 5.9		
Spinning	24,459	+ 0.2 + 1.3	24,136	+ 0.3 + 6.0		
Weaving	59,435	+ 0.3 + 0.1	53,705	+ 1.6 + 2.7		
Other	10,582	+ 0.6 + 0.3	12,007	+ 0.6 + 2.5		
Departments not specified	17,608	+ 0.1 + 0.9	19,200	+ 2.8 + 2.4		
Total	125,727	+ 0.2 + 0.4	121,892	+ 1.3 + 1.1		
Districts.						
Ashton District	8,181	+ 0.1 + 0.9	8,131	+ 0.6 + 4.5		
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	7,700	+ 0.3 + 1.0	7,461	+ 0.6 + 1.8		
Oldham District	12,622	+ 0.0 + 0.4	13,654	+ 0.6 + 4.6		
Bolton and Leigh	15,624	+ 0.3 + 2.8	14,558	+ 0.6 + 6.2		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	9,965	+ 0.0 + 0.0	9,525	+ 1.6 + 2.9		
Manchester District ...	7,364	+ 0.0 + 0.5	5,343	+ 0.5 + 3.8		
Preston and Chorley ...	12,979	+ 0.0 + 0.0	11,712	+ 5.0 + 1.7		
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	17,389	+ 0.4 + 0.1	17,697	+ 2.0 + 3.6		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	15,595	+ 0.8 + 0.9	18,124	+ 0.8 + 3.3		
Other Lancashire Towns	6,588	+ 0.4 + 0.3	5,729	+ 4.2 + 1.6		
Yorkshire Towns	5,787	+ 0.6 + 0.9	5,510	+ 0.7 + 2.6		
Other Districts	5,933	+ 0.2 + 0.8	4,448	+ 1.5 + 3.9		
Total	125,727	+ 0.2 + 0.4	121,892	+ 1.3 + 1.1		

In the preparing and spinning departments employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; the increase in both departments in the amount of wages paid, compared with a year ago, was mainly owing to the recent advance in the rates of wages. In the weaving branch it was fair on the whole, but not so good as a year ago; many firms extended the Christmas holidays and stopped for a full week during December.

Compared with a month ago, there were increases in the amount of wages paid in ten districts, the greatest increases being in the Preston district (5.0 per cent.) and in the miscellaneous group of Lancashire towns (4.2 per cent.). Compared with a year ago, the principal increases were in the Ashton and Oldham districts (4.5 per cent. and 4.6 per cent. respectively). There were decreases in four districts, the most marked being in the Bolton district (6.2 per cent.)

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of December the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.24d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.42d. per lb., and the lowest 6.04d. The price for November was 5.96d. per lb., and for December, 1906, 5.84d. per lb. For the period from January 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "middling American" was 6.11d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during December averaged 9.64d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.11d., and the lowest 9.3d. per lb. The price for November was 9.61d., and for December, 1906, 9.58d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th January, 1908, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.20d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on January 10th, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,109,080 bales, as compared with 1,061,280 bales on January 11th, 1907.

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

Description of Cotton.	Dec., 1907.		Nov., 1907.		Dec., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
American	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Brazilian	287,171	284,321	294,133	+ 2,850	— 6,962			
East Indian	7,357	9,147	13,670	+ 1,790	+ 6,313			
Egyptian	3,667	3,378	2,989	+ 289	+ 678			
Miscellaneous	49,494	60,957	53,958	+ 11,493	+ 4,404			
Total	6,597	6,412	8,093	+ 185	+ 1,499			
Total	354,286	364,215	372,843	+ 9,929	+ 18,557			

Exports of Cotton Goods.

The following Table shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1907.		Nov., 1907.		Dec., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with	
	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Grey	16,601	19,708	13,547	+ 3,107	+ 3,054			
Bleached and Dyed ...	2,437	2,799	2,787	+ 362	+ 350			
Total	19,038	23,507	16,334	+ 3,469	+ 2,704			
Cotton Piece Goods—	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Grey or Unbleached ...	162,377	175,712	175,564	+ 13,335	+ 13,187			
Bleached	138,420	147,012	138,724	+ 8,592	+ 304			
Printed	83,033	95,511	90,813	+ 12,478	+ 7,720			
Dyed or Manufactured of	93,608	98,140	95,511	+ 4,528	+ 1,903			
Total	477,438	516,375	500,612	+ 38,937	+ 23,174			

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 402 Returns—376 received from Employers, 14 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was good, and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 27,388 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district employment was still good, and better than a year ago. In the Leeds district it was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a year ago. In the heavy woollen district a slight decline was shown, but employment was on the whole good, and many firms were still working overtime. Employment at Hawick was reported as fairly good; at Selkirk and Galashiels there was a slight decline.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	722	+ 0.8 + 1.5	674	+ 4.9 + 4.3		
Spinning	5,395	+ 1.1 + 1.0	4,823	+ 2.0 + 0.8		
Weaving	11,691	+ 0.5 + 0.4	10,119	+ 0.7 + 2.7		
Other Departments ...	7,960	+ 0.1 + 4.0	8,142	+ 0.1 + 3.3		
Unspecified	1,620	+ 1.6 + 3.3	1,508	+ 2.1 + 1.3		
Total	27,388	+ 0.2 + 0.9	25,268	+ 0.3 + 2.3		
Districts.						
Huddersfield District ...	4,577	+ 0.2 + 6.3	5,171	+ 0.4 + 4.7		
Leeds District	3,979	+ 0.9 + 2.4	3,593	+ 3.8 + 2.0		
Dewsbury & Batley District...	3,828	+ 0.9 + 4.1	3,825	+ 0.8 + 0.3		
Other Parts of West Riding...	2,476	+ 1.7 + 5.0	2,207	+ 5.1 + 4.5		
Total, West Riding ...	14,860	+ 0.2 + 0.9	14,796	+ 0.0 + 1.7		
Scotland	7,198	+ 0.6 + 1.0	6,356	+ 2.4 + 1.1		
Other Districts	5,330	+ 0.7 + 3.7	4,116	+ 1.9 + 6.7		
Total, Woollen	27,388	+ 0.2 + 0.9	25,268	+ 0.3 + 2.3		

Worsted Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was good, and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 47,459 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

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

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,423	+ 1.2 + 2.9	5,277	+ 2.0 + 3.0		
Spinning	26,622	+ 0.0 + 1.8	14,874	+ 0.8 + 6.3		
Weaving	10,999	+ 0.0 + 3.0	9,548	+ 2.2 + 6.1		
Other Departments ...	5,004	+ 0.8 + 3.9	5,143	+ 0.3 + 3.9		
Unspecified	1,545	+ 1.4 + 12.6	1,126	+ 0.6 + 17.8		
Total	49,193	+ 0.1 + 2.7	35,968	+ 1.1 + 5.7		
Districts.						
Bradford District	25,079	+ 0.0 + 1.4	18,086	+ 1.2 + 4.0		
Keighley District	7,060	+ 0.1 + 6.1	5,422	+ 0.7 + 10.6		
Halifax District	5,374	+ 0.9 + 0.4	3,440	+ 1.1 + 4.1		
Huddersfield District ...	5,590	+ 0.4 + 3.1	5,238	+ 2.0 + 6.9		
Other Parts of West Riding ..	3,031	+ 0.5 + 1.6	1,911	+ 1.3 + 2.7		
Total, West Riding ...	46,134	+ 0.2 + 2.1	34,077	+ 1.1 + 5.4		
Other Districts	3,059	+ 0.9 + 12.3	1,891	+ 2.1 + 12.6		
Total, Worsted	49,193	+ 0.1 + 2.7	35,968	+ 1.1 + 5.7		

Returns from firms employing 49,193 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a

month ago; compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Bradford district employment with wool-combers before Christmas showed an improvement, and was better than a year ago; in the other branches of the trade it continued good. In the Keighley, Halifax, and Huddersfield districts it continued good.

Prices of Raw Material.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Year ago.
Average Prices:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.		
Lincoln Hogs	11	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		
40's Crossbred tops ...	13	15	17 $\frac{1}{2}$		
60's Super Botany tops ...	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Course of Prices:					
Lincoln Hogs	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14		
40's Crossbred tops ...	14-12	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$		
60's Super Botany tops ...	27 $\frac{1}{2}$ -26 $\frac{1}{2}$	30-28	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ -26 $\frac{1}{2}$		

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish Exports of yarns and piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1907.		Nov., 1907.		Dec., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	42,367	45,325	25,189	+ 2,958	+ 17,137 ^c			
British Exports " "	901	2,681	2,467	+ 1,780	+ 1,566			
Yarn:								
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	187	187	172	+ ...	+ 15			
Worsted	3,811	4,553	4,432	+ 742	+ 611			
Alpaca & Mohair " "	1,228	1,490	1,343	+ 262	+ 115			
Total, Yarn	5,226	6,230	5,947	+ 1,004	+ 721			
Piece Goods:								
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	6,722	5,806	6,564	+ 916	+ 138			
Worsted	8,082	6,722	9,158	+ 1,360	+ 1,056			
Total, Piece Goods ...	14,804	12,528	15,722	+ 2,276	+ 918			

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 112 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 47,459 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.		Per cent.
				Per cent.	Per cent.	
Belfast ...	17,086	+ 0.5	9,731	+ 0.6	- 6.1	
Other Places in Ireland ...	15,617	- 0.3	8,444	- 0.5	- 3.4	
Total, Ireland...	32,703	- 0.4	18,175	- 0.7	- 4.9	
Fifeshire ...	6,357	- 1.7	3,684	- 3.2	- 10.3	
Other Places in Scotland ...	6,613	+ 0.5	4,092	- 0.6	+ 1.9	
Total, Scotland ...	12,970	- 1.1	7,776	- 1.9	- 4.3	
England ...	1,786	- 4.9	1,155	+ 1.3	+ 6.2	
United Kingdom ...	47,459	- 0.8	27,106	- 0.9	- 4.3	

Employment in Belfast and district was slack, and short time was general; in Fifeshire employment on the whole was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in the other parts of Scotland it was fairly good, and slightly better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Cordilla) ... Tons	4,356	3,643	10,527	+ 693	- 6,191
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	13,472	12,516	13,022	+ 956	+ 450
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	139,438	135,402	179,411	+ 4,036	- 39,973

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 35 Returns—33 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 18,736 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,736 workpeople covered by the Returns, 16,275 (or 87 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with a month ago, the preparing department showed a slight decline in the number employed and the amount of wages paid, and the spinning and weaving departments showed a slight improvement. Compared with a year ago every department showed an increase in numbers employed and wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.		Per cent.
				Per cent.	Per cent.	
Preparing ...	4,195	- 2.3	2,795	+ 3.4	+ 7.7	
Spinning ...	5,279	+ 2.1	3,254	+ 5.1	+ 10.4	
Weaving ...	6,232	+ 0.7	4,572	+ 0.5	+ 7.1	
Other ...	2,131	+ 2.3	2,091	- 2.2	+ 6.9	
Not specified ...	899	+ 0.4	657	- 0.8	+ 12.5	
Total ...	18,736	+ 0.6	13,369	+ 0.1	+ 8.2	

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the months stated.

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	60,902	47,074	72,266	+ 13,828	- 11,364
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	62,763	64,351	63,022	- 1,588	- 259
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	111,085	155,575	125,914	- 44,490	- 14,859

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 55 Returns—51 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,401 workpeople, and paying £5,696 in wages on pay-day in the week ended December 21st, 1907, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 3.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.		Per cent.
				Per cent.	Per cent.	
Throwing ...	992	- 3.5	451	- 2.6	- 3.6	
Spinning ...	2,732	+ 0.1	2,039	+ 1.0	+ 7.1	
Weaving ...	3,365	- 0.8	2,189	+ 0.8	+ 3.4	
Other ...	1,057	- 0.8	868	+ 2.6	+ 0.5	
Not Specified ...	255	+ 0.4	149	+ 3.5	+ 12.9	
Total ...	8,401	- 0.8	5,696	+ 0.9	+ 3.8	
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,096	+ 0.2	2,400	+ 1.7	+ 6.2	
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	802	- 3.5	550	- 6.1	- 4.3	
Eastern Counties ...	2,506	- 0.6	1,451	+ 3.1	+ 4.0	
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,997	- 1.4	1,795	+ 0.4	+ 3.1	
Total ...	8,401	- 0.8	5,696	+ 0.9	+ 3.8	

At Macclesfield and Congleton employment continued good with spinners and throwsters. At Macclesfield it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, with both handloom and powerloom weavers. At Congleton it was moderate with trimming weavers. At Leek employment was good with spinners, but bad with trimming weavers. In the Bradford district employment was fairly good on the whole. In the Eastern Counties it continued fair generally.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Raw Silk ... Lbs	96,785	69,115	82,103	- 2,336	+ 14,682
Thrown Silk ... "	37,357	43,028	50,122	- 5,671	- 12,765
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	23,734	17,651	41,477	+ 6,083	- 17,743
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,078,393	4,987,010	5,830,463	+ 91,383	- 752,070
Exports:					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs	3,326	3,718	432	- 392	+ 2,894
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	59,994	81,929	85,003	- 21,935	+ 25,009
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	320,934	329,142	572,824	- 8,208	- 251,890

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 92 Returns—86 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England, on the whole, was moderate, and showed a further decline in the levers branch compared with a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland it continued fair, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,059 workpeople in the week ended December 21st, and paying £7,745 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.		Per cent.
				Per cent.	Per cent.	
Levers ...	2,650	- 1.6	2,954	- 7.6	- 27.5	
Curtain ...	2,837	+ 0.4	2,822	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	
Plain Net ...	1,705	- 0.4	1,376	+ 1.0	+ 2.8	
Others ...	561	+ 1.3	424	- 1.6	+ 1.4	
Not specified ...	306	- 1.3	169	- 18.8	- 14.2	
Total ...	8,059	- 0.6	7,745	- 3.4	- 12.1	
Districts.						
Nottingham City ...	1,690	- 1.1	1,539	- 3.2	- 15.9	
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,745	- 1.2	2,043	- 8.5	- 18.8	
Other English districts ...	2,544	+ 0.7	2,211	- 1.1	- 12.7	
Scotland ...	2,080	+ 0.2	1,952	- 0.4	+ 0.9	
Total ...	8,059	- 0.6	7,745	- 3.4	- 12.1	

At Nottingham employment was fair in the curtain branch, good in the plain net branch; in the levers branch it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the Long Eaton district and in the West of England employment was slack, and considerably worse than a year ago. In Scotland employment, on the whole, continued fair, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Silk Lace ...	15,614	15,448	30,653	+ £ 166	- £ 15,039
Exports:					
Cotton Lace ...	411,286	396,018	466,077	+ 15,268	- 54,791
Silk Lace ...	7,937	7,495	8,541	+ 442	- 604

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 98 Returns—86 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England was fair; in Scotland it was good. On the whole it was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 15,092 workpeople, and paying £11,287 in wages in the week ended December 21st, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.7 per cent. both in numbers employed and in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.		Per cent.
				Per cent.	Per cent.	
Leicester ...	5,687	- 2.3	4,441	- 3.3	- 0.6	
Leicester Country District ...	2,859	- 1.1	2,251	+ 2.5	+ 6.4	
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	4,101	- 0.4	3,013	- 0.7	- 1.2	
Scotland ...	1,744	- 1.9	1,171	- 1.5	+ 6.3	
Other Districts ...	701	+ 1.3	411	- 5.5	+ 14.2	
Total, United Kingdom	15,092	- 1.3	11,287	- 1.4	+ 1.7	

At Leicester employment showed a decline, but was on the whole fairly good, and about the same as a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough it was moderate. Employment at Nottingham was slack with power framework knitters. In Derbyshire a further decline was shown. With hand framework knitters generally it was fairly good in most branches. In Scotland it was good, and better than a year ago.

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in December, 1907, amounted to £35,999 and £106,176 respectively, as compared with £35,467 and £98,199 in November, 1907, and £27,018 and £60,635 in December, 1906.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in December, 1907, amounted to £113,634 and £41,040 respectively, as compared with £97,641 and £41,025 in November, 1907, and £104,823 and £36,613 in December, 1906.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 30 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 15 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was about the same as a month ago, and slightly better than a year ago. About one-sixth of the Trade Union dyers worked overtime, and about one-third worked short time.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment on the whole continued moderate.

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

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

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Loughborough a decline was reported as compared with a month ago. With dyers at Nottingham employment continued slack; at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate with bleachers, fair with hosiery trimmers; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was worse than a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment was good and about the same as a year ago. At Dundee it was fair with calender workers, and moderate with bleachfield workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 126 Returns—90 from Employers, 11 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and, on the whole, showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during December was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

Firms paying £9,644 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended December 21st showed a decrease of 12.6 per cent. on the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

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

Leeds.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and slightly better than a year ago. Firms employing 7,276 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. The

Jewish operatives reported a decline as compared with a month ago.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester and Norwich was moderate, and worse than a month ago. At Bristol it was slack, and worse than a month ago. At Glasgow it was good, and better than a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in December, 1907, were valued at £183,913, as compared with £190,086 in November, 1907, and £205,090 in December, 1906; and the **Exports** for the same months at £404,392, £413,759, and £393,033 respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 497 Returns—483 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 6 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, and was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 62,423 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was fair, and better than a month ago; it showed a slight decline compared with a year ago. At Northampton it was fair, better than a month ago, and decidedly better than a year ago; with army bootmakers employment was reported as good, with some overtime. At Kettering there was an increase in the amount of wages paid, but a decline in the number employed compared with a month ago. At Bristol employment continued slack. In the heavy boot trade employment was good at Kingswood, and moderate at Leeds. At Glasgow employment was fair; at Maybole it continued good.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. employed during week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.			£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
London	2,070	+ 0.9	2,374	+ 7.9	- 1.1	
Leicester	13,099	+ 1.1	13,883	+ 5.7	- 2.5	
Leicester Country District	3,286	+ 0.9	3,164	+ 3.2	+ 0.5	
Northampton	9,211	+ 0.5	8,981	+ 2.8	+ 9.9	
Northampton Country District	8,991	+ 0.7	8,738	+ 2.4	+ 3.2	
Kettering	3,915	- 1.0	3,968	+ 8.1	+ 2.3	
Stafford & District	2,595	+ 0.3	2,499	+ 8.2	+ 3.9	
Norwich & District	3,351	+ 0.1	2,877	- 0.9	+ 2.2	
Bristol & District	1,562	+ 2.0	1,413	- 1.6	- 1.1	
Kingswood	1,803	+ 0.7	1,966	+ 3.4	- 5.4	
Leeds & District	2,430	- 0.4	2,183	+ 2.2	- 0.3	
Manchester & District	2,492	- 0.6	2,056	- 6.9	- 6.2	
Birmingham & District	1,020	- 1.1	857	+ 8.8	+ 1.4	
Other parts of England and Wales	2,556	+ 1.1	2,539	+ 4.4	+ 3.9	
ENGLAND & WALES	58,301	+ 0.5	57,092	+ 3.7	+ 1.3	
SCOTLAND	3,854	+ 0.7	3,787	+ 1.4	+ 11.2	
IRELAND	263	- 5.6	195	+ 1.0	- 12.6	
UNITED KINGDOM	62,423	+ 0.5	61,074	+ 3.5	+ 1.9	

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

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity	11,242	15,400	13,012	- 4,158	- 1,770
Value	£ 44,710	£ 61,679	£ 49,025	- 16,959	- 4,385
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity	65,558	70,012	61,701	+ 4,424	+ 2,887
Value	£ 166,691	£ 182,400	£ 154,069	- 15,709	+ 12,622

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 15 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 12 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

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

The dispute in the Stockport and Denton districts is now over, but it affected employment during the first three weeks of the month.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 17.4, compared with 16.0 a month ago, and 11.6 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 3.1, compared with 5.1 a year ago. In Warwickshire employment was fair, in the Hyde district it was fairly good.

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

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds	27,845	30,071	41,210	- 2,226	- 13,365
Exports:					
Felt	26,739	31,897	41,269	- 5,158	- 14,530
Straw	35,075	42,542	37,279	- 7,467	- 2,804
Other Sorts	4,597	4,531	5,951	+ 66	- 1,354
Total	66,411	78,970	84,499	- 12,559	- 18,088

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 174 Returns—170 from Employers, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade was moderate with retail firms, and slightly better than a year ago; with Court dressmakers it was slack, and worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades in London, employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was fair; in the corset trade moderate.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,741 workpeople in the week ended December 21st, showed a decrease of 4.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. Court dressmakers, employing 999 workpeople in the week ended December 21st, showed a decrease of 8.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 5.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was slack.

Employment with milliners in the West-End was moderate, worse than a month ago and better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 2,710 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed a decrease of 7.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 5.9 per cent. compared with a year ago: employment during the month was slack.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed an increase in the demand for, and a slight decrease in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair, and better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was fair; firms employing 1,514 workpeople in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland

employing 6,715 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 21st showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 2,926 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 21st, showed a decrease of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 40 Returns—24 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet generally. It was worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,653 had 7.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 5.8 per cent. in November, and 7.1 per cent. a year ago.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with skinners was bad at Birmingham and in London; quiet at Leeds. With curriers it was bad on the whole, but fair at Glasgow and Leeds. At Manchester, Bolton, Bury and Wigan, employment was good with leather workers generally.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was quiet generally, but fair in Glasgow and Dublin.

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

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	20,843	28,321	33,254	- 7,479	- 14,411
Ditto, wet	47,054	69,745	44,852	- 22,681	+ 2,212
Total, hides, dry and wet	67,897	98,067	80,106	- 30,160	- 12,199
Goat skins, undressed (No. value)	545,669	751,763	1,029,947	- 266,100	- 484,278
Sheep skins	216,324	188,474	154,676	+ 28,050	+ 61,848
Leather*	762,213	940,237	984,782	- 3,569	- 4,373
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value)	£ 44,876	£ 49,990	£ 46,767	- £ 5,114	- £ 1,891

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 418 Returns—140 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 258 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 22,677 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was no change in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade, with 1,894 members, had 1.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 1.7 per cent. in November, and 1.6 per cent. in December, 1906.

In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 598 members had 5.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 5.8 per cent. a month ago and 4.9 per cent. a year ago.

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

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

Description.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Dec., 1907, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	7,003	+ 0.0	+ 3.9
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	2,011	+ 0.4	+ 5.0
Southern Counties	7,007	- 0.2	+ 4.2
Scotland	5,790	+ 0.1	+ 1.9
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,868	...	+ 3.2
Hand-made Paper	869	+ 2.0	+ 0.8
Total	22,677	+ 0.0	+ 3.1

The **Imports** of paper in December, 1907, amounted to £521,755, as compared with £486,101 in November, 1907, and £475,078 in December, 1906, and the **Exports** for the same periods amounted to £189,561, £192,582, and £166,291 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was fairly good, but declined towards the end of the month. Trade Unions with 48,971 members had 4.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.3 per cent. at the end of November, and 4.7 per cent. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	20,362	6.0	3.6	5.7	+ 2.4	+ 0.3
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,238	4.4	2.0	4.8	+ 2.4	- 0.4
Lanes. and Cheshire	6,610	4.1	4.2	3.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,268	3.7	1.8	3.0	+ 1.9	+ 0.7
West Midlands	2,508	3.9	3.6	4.0	+ 0.3	- 0.1
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,987	2.6	2.5	2.9	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Scotland	5,554	3.3	2.3	3.4	+ 1.0	- 0.1
Ireland	2,444	8.8	6.1	6.9	+ 2.7	+ 1.9
United Kingdom	48,971	4.9	3.3	4.7	+ 1.6	+ 0.2

London.—Employment was fairly good, except in the last week of the month. At the end of the month 6.0 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 3.6 per cent. at the end of November, 1907, and 5.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1906.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers continued good generally, overtime being worked. It was better on the whole than in November, but in some cases a decline was reported towards the end of the month. At Edinburgh few men were out of employment, but at Glasgow employment at the end of the month was reported as bad. At Manchester it was good; at Liverpool better than usual; at Leeds brisk during the first part of the month. At Bradford extra men were engaged in the Christmas card trade. At Dublin employment was dull, some short time being reported. With lithographic printers employment was fair on the whole.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was fairly good. In London it showed a decline compared with a month ago and an improvement compared with a year ago; but in the provinces the reverse was the case.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	4,187	2.9	2.2	4.5	+ 0.7	- 1.6
Other Districts	3,566	2.1	3.2	1.6	- 1.1	+ 0.5
United Kingdom	7,553	2.6	2.7	3.2	- 0.1	- 0.6

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,744 Returns—777 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 927 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 50 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in December was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from 718 firms employing 42,497 workpeople at the end of December are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease of 4.4 per cent., and compared with a year ago a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed. In London the decrease amounted to 5.5 per cent. compared with November, and 13.8 per cent. compared with December, 1906. In the provinces there was a decrease of 3.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 4.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	Dec. 1907.	Nov. 1907.	Dec. 1906.	Dec. 1907.	Nov. 1907.	Dec. 1906.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London	6,624	7,093	7,860	4,941	5,152	5,590
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,343	2,489	2,336	1,830	1,920	2,337
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,609	3,840	3,491	2,654	2,928	2,542
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,732	2,736	2,433	3,529	3,680	2,605
	2,648	2,649	2,381	1,653	1,744	1,850
England and Wales ...	17,961	18,805	18,491	11,607	12,474	14,914
Scotland	2,747	2,822	2,948	1,821	1,906	1,812
Ireland	831	889	512	840	813	603
United Kingdom ...	21,539	22,517	21,951	17,263	18,193	17,339
	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
London	508	551	553	12,073	12,776	14,003
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	536	559	602	4,714	4,968	5,275
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	961	952	992	7,324	7,770	7,013
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	344	361	365	6,605	6,777	5,403
	500	470	470	4,801	4,862	4,701
England and Wales ...	2,849	2,873	2,980	35,417	37,153	36,395
Scotland	748	770	838	5,316	5,498	5,508
Ireland	93	91	81	1,764	1,794	1,196
United Kingdom ...	3,690	3,735	3,891	42,497	44,445	43,189

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of December was 10.7, as compared with 8.2 a month ago and 8.6 a year ago; and for plumbers, for the same dates, 9.0, 8.9, and 7.5 respectively.

London.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, except that with plumbers it was better than in November. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 13.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 13.6 per cent. a month ago and 9.8 per cent. in December, 1906. The percentages for plumbers were 14.9, 18.1 and 12.5 respectively.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago. With plumbers at Bradford and bricklayers at Middlesbrough it continued moderate.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Manchester, Liverpool and Blackburn employment was slack, and worse than a month ago. At Oldham, Bolton, Burnley and Ashton-under-Lyne it remained moderate on the whole.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than in November. Plumbers at Birmingham, however, were moderately well employed.

Southern and South Western Counties and Wales.—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago. Plumbers at Cardiff reported it as moderate.

Scotland.—Employment was slack generally, except at Dundee, where masons reported it as fair and plumbers as moderate.

Ireland.—Employment was slack generally.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 165 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 133 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was dull. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,873 reported 8.5 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of December, 1907, as compared with 6.4 per cent. a month ago and 6.0 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 11.5 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of December, 1907, as compared with 8.0 per cent. a month ago, and 7.8 per cent. in December, 1906. In London employment was bad generally. At Manchester and Liverpool it was fair with cabinet makers; at other centres it was slack. Employment with french-polishers and upholsterers was quiet; at Liverpool, however, it was fair with french-polishers, and at Belfast it was fair with upholsterers.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in December, 1907, were valued at £47,735, as compared with £63,500 in November, 1907, and £43,583 in December, 1906; and the Exports were valued at £62,840, £79,241, and £68,523 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued dull. It was about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with the same percentage for both a month ago and a year ago. Employment in London was slack. At Hull it was fair, at Birmingham it was moderate.

Imports.

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	62,458	76,223	66,588	- 13,765	- 4,130
" sawn	362,803	505,653	367,541	- 142,844	- 4,732
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	15,251	19,134	19,148	- 3,883	+ 3,897

Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued fair on the whole. It was dull at Burton-on-Trent and at Manchester. At Birmingham it was moderate.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachbuilders was bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 7.1 per cent. a month ago, and 5.1 per cent. at the end of December, 1906. Employment in London was bad. It was fair at Glasgow and bad elsewhere.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was quiet. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 2.8 per cent. a month ago, and 5.2 per cent. at the end of December, 1906.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment declined and was bad generally. Employment with basket-makers was fair generally, but bad in London. At Leicester it was better than a month ago.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in December, 1907, were valued at £31,850, as compared with £28,749 in November, 1907, and £30,889 in December, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £16,879, £17,940, and £13,806 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 84 Returns—55 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 18 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good on the whole, and in the glass bottle-making industry was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,774 workpeople in the week ended December 21st, and paying £10,935 in wages, showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago, the increases being entirely in the glass bottle-making branch.

As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 7.9 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 9.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the improvement being mainly in the glass bottle-making branch.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 21st 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle ...	5,767	+ 2.0	+ 13.2	7,594	+ 7.0	+ 16.6
Plate Glass ...	172	..	+ 3.6	175	- 4.4	+ 4.2
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	2,493	- 0.2	- 1.1	2,783	- 2.8	- 4.2
Other Branches ...	342	- 0.6	- 2.0	383	- 1.3	+ 5.8
Total ...	8,774	+ 1.2	+ 7.9	10,935	+ 3.8	+ 9.9
Districts.						
North of England	1,097	- 1.8	..	1,267	- 9.7	- 4.8
Yorkshire ...	4,565	+ 3.0	+ 16.0	5,999	+ 9.6	+ 21.0
Lancashire ...	765	- 0.3	+ 1.6	860	+ 2.9	- 0.1
Worcester and Warwick	1,165	+ 0.3	- 2.4	1,397	..	- 2.6
Scotland ...	861	- 0.5	+ 4.4	1,082	- 0.8	+ 7.8
Other parts of United Kingdom	383	- 1.5	- 1.5	330	- 0.6	- 8.3
Total ...	8,774	+ 1.2	+ 7.9	10,935	+ 3.8	+ 9.9

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire showed considerable improvement as compared with the previous month, but it continued dull at Mexborough and Barnsley; at St. Helens and Bristol it was good; it was fair in the North of England, and dull at Dublin. With medical glass bottle makers employment continued good at Rotherham, but was only moderate at Leeds. With flint glass makers employment was fairly good. With cutters it was very fair; at Wordsley, it was good. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was moderate, and showed a slight decline. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens employment was affected by a dispute, which caused much short time to be worked. Employment was fairly good with London glass blowers. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was moderate, and the improvement recorded last month was not maintained. With decorative glass workers at Manchester employment was fair.

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

Description.	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	111,968	120,972	121,887	- 9,004	- 9,919
Plate	31,592	27,660	25,930	+ 3,932	+ 5,662
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	70,663	71,506	69,969	- 843	+ 694
Manufactures, other sorts...	952	1,154	1,441	- 192	- 479
Bottles	136,322	127,674	125,813	+ 8,648	+ 10,509
Exports:					
Plate	12,143	16,265	9,711	- 4,122	+ 2,432
Flint	4,863	5,706	6,054	- 843	- 1,191
Manufactures, other sorts ...	31,834	36,458	30,319	- 4,624	+ 1,515
Bottles	61,737	66,472	61,833	- 4,735	- 96

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 29 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was not so good as a month ago and was affected to some extent towards the end of the month by extended holidays; in Devonshire, however, it was fairly good; it was fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Bristol and Swadlincote; in Scotland it was moderate, some short time being worked. With makers of china at Longton employment was moderate. With stoneware throwers in Scotland it was fair; it was bad with insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries. Packers reported employment as fair. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was good at Manchester, very fair at Glasgow, and moderate at Gateshead.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was bad a Peterborough, Bristol, Market Harborough and Sheffield; it was also slack in Devonshire and in Scotland; at Nottingham it was dull, much short time being worked; it was also quiet at Stourbridge and Birmingham, and in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Shropshire. It was moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and fair at Oldham, in South Staffordshire, and in North Wales. In South Wales and Monmouthshire employment was not as good as in the previous month.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in December, 1907, were valued at £93,759, as compared with £100,657 in November, 1907, and £87,453 in December, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £206,082, £234,700, and £198,836 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 215 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL work was somewhat interrupted in the earlier part of December by wet weather, and by frost and snow in some districts in the latter part of the month. Work was generally plentiful, and the supply of day labourers was, as a rule, sufficient for requirements.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Northumberland and Durham state that employment was fairly regular on the whole, although turnip-pulling was somewhat hindered by rain and snow. In Cumberland some irregularity of employment was caused by wet weather in the early part of December, and by snow and frost at the end of the month. Casual labour was plentiful, the supply of men offering at the Martinmas hirings having been greater than the demand. In Westmorland and Lancashire employment was interrupted to some extent by wet weather in the early part of December, but at the end of the month, when the frost began, they were fully employed in threshing and manure carting, and attending to fences and ditches. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. Very little irregularity of employment is reported from Yorkshire, the weather, though showery, having been fairly open. In some of the Unions it is stated that men for permanent situations were plentiful, but lads were scarce.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Cheshire and Derbyshire state that the weather was mild during December, and outdoor work was not seriously affected. Day labourers were in some demand for storing roots, carting and spreading manure and repairing fences. In Nottinghamshire threshing was somewhat interrupted by rain, but employment was plentiful. The supply of

men, both day labourers and for permanent situations, was about equal to the demand. Employment in *Leicestershire* suffered some interruption through the wet weather, and some labourers lost time in consequence. In *Staffordshire* snow storms towards the end of December caused some irregularity of employment. The supply of day labourers was quite sufficient in most districts, but a correspondent in the *Tamworth Union* writes: "We are very short of extra men for potato lifting and root cutting." According to reports from *Shropshire* day labourers were well employed, work being plentiful, owing to the late season and heavy root crop. A demand for skilled men for horses and stock is mentioned in the *Wellington Union*. Farm labourers in *Worcestershire* were somewhat irregularly employed in the early part of December, but were fully engaged in manure carting when frosty weather set in. Employment in *Warwickshire* was a little irregular through heavy rain, and some casual labourers following threshing machines lost a day or two. Men for permanent situations were in request, particularly carters, cowmen and shepherds. Day labourers in *Northamptonshire* were not in much demand. In *Oxfordshire* threshing, ploughing and manure carting were greatly hindered by rain. Casual labour was plentiful, but was in little demand except for an occasional day's threshing. Agricultural labourers in *Buckinghamshire* were well employed, except on a few wet days. The supply of extra men was quite equal to the demand. In *Hertfordshire* outdoor work was fairly regular, but in *Bedfordshire* some odd men lost time on very wet days. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, but men for permanent situations were in some demand.

Eastern Counties.—Outdoor work in *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* was somewhat hindered by the rainy weather. Owing to the wet condition of the land ploughing and sowing were in arrear. There was, however, a good deal of work in threshing. In *Lincolnshire* day labourers were mostly in regular employment, and they were in demand for threshing when the weather permitted. The supply was, however, generally sufficient. According to correspondents in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* the heavy rainfall in the early part of December interrupted employment for several days, and day labourers lost time. In *Essex* threshing and other work was a good deal interfered with by the weather in several districts. The supply of casual labour in all three counties was rather in excess of requirements.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Agricultural labourers in *Kent* were generally regularly employed, though day labourers were somewhat affected by the wet weather in the beginning of December. The supply of such labour was in excess of the demand in most districts. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* employment was somewhat irregular, through the unsettled weather. Men for permanent situations are said to be more plentiful, the supply being generally sufficient for requirements. In most districts of *Hampshire* and *Berkshire* outdoor work was a good deal hindered by the wet weather, and a few day labourers lost time. The supply of such men was, generally speaking, in excess of the demand, and less difficulty is reported in finding men for permanent situations. In *Wiltshire* the weather during a great part of the month was unfavourable, and there was a lessened demand for casual labour in consequence. Employment, however, was fairly regular on the whole. In *Dorsetshire* the wet weather caused threshing to be almost at a standstill. The supply of odd men was quite sufficient as a rule. Employment was a good deal interfered with in *Somersetshire* by the wet weather during December, and difficulty was experienced in finding work for the regular labourers. The supply of casual labour was quite sufficient. Heavy rains at the beginning of December caused some interruption to outdoor work in *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire*. Employment, however, was plentiful, threshing being carried on when the weather permitted. Agricultural work in *Devon* and *Cornwall* was hindered by rain and snow, and some extra men lost time. Men for permanent situations were in demand in most districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

EMPLOYMENT was fair generally in London, about the same as a month ago and better than a year ago. It continued fairly good at the other ports.

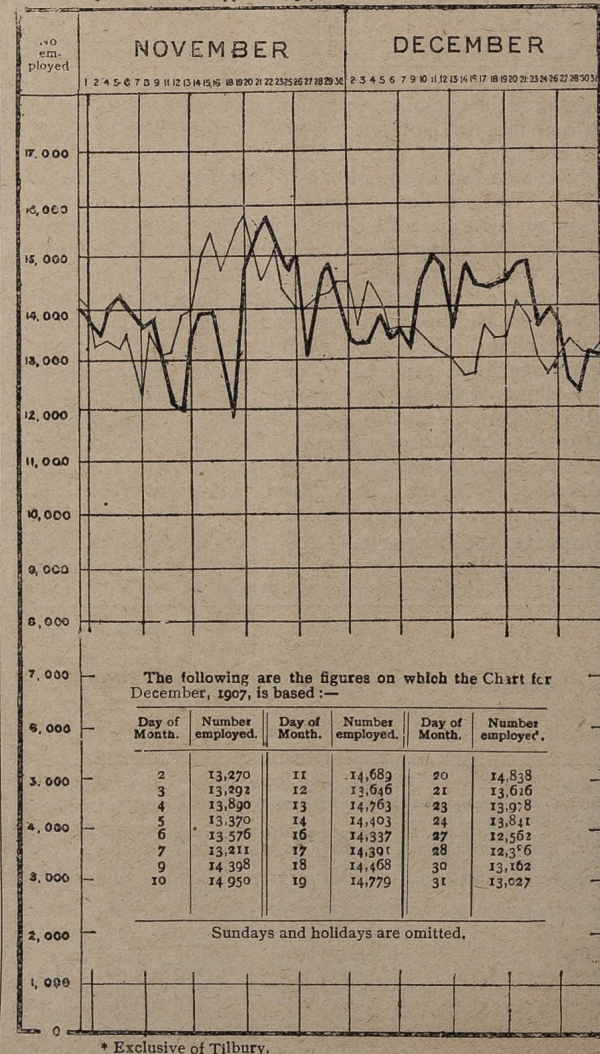
London.*—Employment generally was fair during December, about the same as a month ago, and rather better than a year ago. It was better during the earlier part of the month on account of the wool sales. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended December 28th was 13,939, an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The daily numbers in December ranged from 14,950 on the 10th to 12,386 on the 28th. During the corresponding period of 1906 the numbers ranged from 14,484 on the 1st to 11,969 on the 27th.

Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.

Period.	In Docks*			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Dec. 7th	5,226	1,926	7,152	6,283	13,435
" " " 14th	5,117	2,857	7,974	6,501	14,475
" " " 21st	4,980	2,879	7,859	6,548	14,407
" " " 28th	4,224	2,958	7,182	6,010	13,192
Average for 4 weeks ended Dec. 28th, 1907	4,947	2,628	7,575	6,364	13,939
Average for Nov., 1907	5,230	2,231	7,461	6,445	13,906
Average for Dec., 1906	4,666	2,860	7,086	6,389	13,355

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of November, 1907, and December, 1907. The corresponding curve for November, 1906, and December, 1906, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1907, and the thin curve to 1906.]



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,427 in December, as compared with 1,295 in the previous month, and 1,448 in December, 1906.

Liverpool.—Employment declined generally; it was slack with dockers and moderate with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports.—Employment for dock and riverside labour was fairly good on the Tyne and Wear. It was slack with dockers at *Sunderland*, fair at *Middlesbrough* and moderate at the *Hartlepoons*, but a general decline was reported. Dockers and coal porters were well employed at *Hull*, *Grimsby* and *Goole*. Employment was fairly good at *Yarmouth*, *Lowestoft* and *Ipswich*, fair at *Southampton*, and dull generally at *Plymouth* and the *South-Western ports*. At *Bristol*, *Newport*, and the *South Wales ports*, employment was fair. It was fair at *Leith* and *Glasgow*, good at *Dundee*, and moderate at *Aberdeen*. At *Dublin*, *Limerick* and *Cork* employment was fair, and at *Belfast* quiet.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

THE fish landed in December, 1907, showed an increase in both quantity and value as compared with December, 1906.

Employment during December at the principal ports continued fairly good on the whole. At *Yarmouth* employment, though still good, showed some decline as compared with a month ago. At *Grimsby* it was moderate, and worse than a month ago. At *Lowestoft* it was fair generally, and at *Hull* it continued good. Employment at *Aberdeen* with fishermen was good, and moderate with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At *Macduff* and *Peterhead* it was fair generally, and better than a month ago at the former port. At *Fraserburgh* it was good with fishermen; fair with fish curers; bad with fish dock labourers. Off the south-western coast of England stormy weather interfered with fishing operations; towards the end of the month, however, there was some improvement.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of the fish landed in December, 1907 and 1906, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Dec., 1907.	Dec., 1906.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales ...	948,635	870,982	628,233	598,724
Scotland ...	259,703	234,463	120,352	128,482
Ireland ...	34,653	58,738	14,036	26,030
Total ...	1,242,991	1,104,183	762,621	753,236
Shell Fish ...	—	—	34,983	31,620
Total Value ...	—	—	797,604	784,856

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in December, 1907, were valued at £354,436, as compared with £534,020 in November, 1907, and £210,010 in December, 1906.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during December 35,951* seamen, of whom 4,306 (or 12.0 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. The greatest increases as compared with December, 1906, occurred at *Liverpool* and *Southampton*, and the most marked decrease at *Bristol*, the net result of all the increases and decreases being an increase of 4,073.

For the twelve months ended December, 1907, the total number of seamen shipped was 490,426,* or 25,009 more

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements and not of separate individuals.

than during the corresponding period of 1906, chiefly accounted for by large increases at *Southampton*, *Liverpool* and *Cardiff*. The *Tyne Ports* showed a considerable decrease.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	December,			Twelve months ended December,		
	1906.	1907.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1907.	1906.	1907.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1907.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	2,056	2,504	+ 448	32,900	30,485	- 2,415
Sunderland ...	287	369	+ 82	4,916	4,590	- 326
Middlesbrough ...	300	360	+ 60	3,539	4,795	+ 1,256
Hull ...	977	1,087	+ 110	15,161	14,623	- 538
Grimsby ...	52	37	- 15	1,383	1,315	- 73
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	681	524	- 157	7,794	7,422	- 372
Newport, Mon. ...	745	724	- 21	11,496	11,000	- 496
Cardiff ...	4,662	4,784	+ 122	58,009	61,235	+ 3,226
Swansea ...	424	437	+ 13	5,202	5,902	+ 700
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	11,528	13,127	+ 1,599	174,602	181,613	+ 7,021
London ...	4,765	5,340	+ 575	74,242	72,659	- 1,583
Southampton ...	1,941	3,186	+ 1,245	26,277	41,575	+ 15,298
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	356	313	- 43	5,148	4,953	- 195
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	178	503	+ 325	2,833	2,915	+ 82
Glasgow ...	2,612	2,566	- 46	41,114	42,137	+ 1,023
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	104	42	- 62	1,083	693	- 390
Belfast ...	220	246	+ 26	2,693	2,502	- 191
Total ...	31,878	35,951	+ 4,073	465,417	490,426	+ 25,009

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

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

District.	1st Jan., 1908.			2nd Dec., 1907.			1st Jan., 1907.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5	4	4½
E. & N.E. ...	6	4½	5½	5½	5	5½	5	4	4½
S.E. ...	6	5	5½	6	5	5½	5	4	4½
S.W. ...	6	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5	4½	4½
W. & W.C. ...	6	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5	5	5½
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6½	7	5½	6½	6	4½	5½
Midlands ...	6½	5	5½	6½	5	5½	5	4	4½
Eastern Counties ...	6½	5	5½	6½	5	5½	5	4	4½
Southern Counties	7	5	6	7	5	6	6	5	5½
S. Western Counties and Wales	6½	5	5½	6½	5	5½	6	4	5
Scotland ...	7	5½	6½	7	5½	6½	6	4½	5½
Great Britain ...	7	4½	5½	7	5	6	6	4	4½

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices shows no change. As compared with a year ago, rises of 1d. are shown in the Northern and Eastern Counties and in Scotland. The mean of the prices shows an increase of 9d.

PRICE OF BREAD IN 28 LARGE TOWNS.

The following Table shows that compared with a month ago the price of the 4 lb. loaf has risen ½d. in *Middlesbro'* and fallen ½d. in *Dundee*. As compared with a year ago, each of the towns except *Huddersfield* shows an increase. In *Manchester*, *Middlesbro'* and *Aberdeen* the increase amounts to 1½d. per 4 lbs., and in most of the other towns to 1d.

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

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

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).		(Average Declared Value.)		
	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1906.	6 1	6 9	9 6½	8 8½	
December 1907.	8 2	8 11½	11 3½	12 6	
December	8 0	8 11	11 1½	12 0	

The imports of wheat during September-December, 1907, amounted to 30,405,600 cwts., or 2,432,300 cwts. more than during the corresponding period of 1906. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-December, 1907, amounted to 5,132,340 cwts., or 76,640 cwts. more than in September-December, 1906.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: TRAIN RUN BY EMPLOYERS FOR USE OF WORKMEN.

A workman injured by accident is only entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, in case the accident was one arising out of and in the course of the employment.

A colliery company agreed with a railway company to run a train from a town to a pit (some six miles distant) to carry the colliery company's workmen from the town to their work at the pit. The coaches in which the men travelled were the property of the colliery company, but the railway company supplied the engine and brake van, and the railway company's servants worked and controlled the train. Some few hundred yards from the pit, upon the railway company's premises, was a platform erected and kept in repair by the colliery company for the use of their men travelling to and from their work by this train. The train was run to the pit in the morning and back in the evening, and carried usually from 700 to 800 men. No charge was made to the men for travelling by this train; if any man did not use it that fact made no difference in the amount of his wages.

A man employed in the colliery company as a repairer at the pit was killed on his way home from work, by being accidentally pushed off the platform in front of the incoming train in a rush by the men to secure seats.

The deceased man's widow claimed compensation, but the claim was resisted on the ground that the accident had not arisen in the course of the employment. The County Court judge found that it was an implied term of the contract between the deceased and his employers that these trains should be provided, and that he should have the right to travel to and fro by them without charge. He decided therefore that the accident had arisen in the course of the

employment, and awarded compensation. The colliery company appealed. The Court of Appeal held that in the circumstances the employment of the miners began in the morning when they entered the train, and ceased when they left the train in the evening, and that the employers were liable for accidents arising from using the train to the same extent as they would be for accidents happening at the pit. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Cremins v. Guest, Keen & Nettlefold, Court of Appeal, December 14th, 1907.*

SEAMEN: REMUNERATION BY SHARE OF PROFITS.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, applies to seamen on British ships, but not to such members of the crew of a fishing vessel as are remunerated by shares in the profits, or the gross earnings of the working of such vessel.

A mate on board a steam trawler was injured on board the vessel when fishing, by a lump of ice falling upon him in the ice room. He claimed compensation from the owners of the trawler, but they resisted the claim on the ground that he was excluded from the benefits of the Act by the fact that he was remunerated by a share of the profits of the fishing. Evidence was given that the claimant received wages when in harbour, and when at sea was remunerated according to a scale based upon the catch of fish. The Sheriff-Substitute thereupon made an award in his favour, holding that he was not remunerated by a share in the profits within the meaning of the Act.

The employers appealed, and the Court of Session reversed the decision of the lower court, holding that the fact that wages were paid in harbour should not be taken into account, and that as the claimant's remuneration depended upon the catch of fish he was not entitled to the benefits of the Act.—*Gill v. Aberdeen Steam Trawling Fishery Company, Ltd., Court of Session, December 14th, 1907.*

WHAT ARE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS? "GRADE" OF EMPLOYMENT: CASUAL EMPLOYMENT: BASIS OF CALCULATION.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, that the amount of the compensation payable to the dependants of a workman killed by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, or to a workman injured by such an accident, depends primarily upon the "average weekly earnings" of the workman during a period preceding the accident. It is further provided that, "average weekly earnings shall be computed in such manner as is best calculated to give the rate per week at which the workman was being remunerated." Provided that where by reason of the shortness of the time during which the workman has been in the employment of his employer, or the casual nature of the employment, or the terms of the employment, it is impracticable at the date of the accident to compute the rate of remuneration, regard may be had to the average weekly amount which, during the twelve months previous to the accident, was being earned by a person in the same grade employed at the same work by the same employer, or, if there is no person so employed, by a person in the same grade, employed in the same class of employment and in the same district; employment by the same employer shall be taken to mean employment by the same employer in the grade in which the workman was employed at the time of the accident, uninterrupted by absence from work due to illness or any other unavoidable cause.

A casual dock labourer was injured by an accident in circumstances entitling him to compensation. He had no regular employment, and had only worked for his employer for two days at the time of the accident. He claimed compensation, and the County Court judge decided that it was "impracticable" to compute the rate of remuneration; that there were no definite grades among casual dock labourers, but that the men form themselves into grades of good and bad, the former earning on the average about 30s., and the latter about 15s. a week; that the injured man was a bad workman, and belonged to the grade earning 15s. a week, and that he was entitled to compensation on that basis.

The injured man appealed, and the Court of Appeal held that the word "grade," as used in the Act, refers to the particular rank in the industrial hierarchy occupied by the workman, such as shepherd, carter, or common labourer on a farm, or mason, bricklayer, or bricklayer's labourer in the building trade, and not to the workman's greater or less excellence in that rank. But there is no obligation upon the Court to adopt the average earnings of any grade as necessarily the basis of compensation, for the personal element must be considered, and the injured workman may be shown to be either above or below the standard of the average man of his grade. In this case, therefore, the County Court judge was wrong in deciding that the good and the bad dock labourers were different grades. The case would therefore have to go back to him to decide whether casual dock labourers form a distinct grade in the hierarchy of labour, and, if so, what are the average earnings in that grade. He might have regard to such average earnings, but would not be bound to take them as a basis of his award, as he was satisfied that the appellant was not earning the full average. If, however, the Judge decided that casual dock labourers do not form a distinct grade, it would then be necessary to estimate the compensation as best he could.—*Perry v. Wright, Court of Appeal, December 14th, 1907.*

In a second case, a casual shipwright met with a fatal accident which entitled his dependants to compensation. He had only begun work for the employers on the morning of the accident. The dependants claimed compensation, and the County Court judge found that there were two grades of shipwrights in the district—casual and regular; that the wages for shipwrights of either grade was at the rate of 7s. a day, but that the average earnings of the casual workers was much less than that of the regular. He also found that the average weekly earnings of a casual shipwright amounted to 30s. a week; and as there was no evidence to show that the deceased man was in personal capacity

either above or below the average of his grade, compensation was awarded on the footing that his earnings were 30s. a week.

On appeal, the Court of Appeal held that the decision of the County Court judge could not be disturbed, as he had decided correctly in principle, and as to the facts he was sole judge. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Cain v. Leyland & Co., Court of Appeal, December 14th, 1907.*

In a third case, a workman employed in a cotton mill met with an accident entitling him to compensation, and duly preferred his claim before a County Court judge. The judge found as a fact that the claimant's actual receipts during the 12 months previous to the accident amounted to £83 2s. 1d. This sum he divided by 52, and awarded half the resulting sum, i.e., 15s. 11½d., as the weekly compensation to be paid during incapacity to the claimant. In the course of the year preceding the accident, the working of the mill had been stopped (a) by reason of a canal having burst its banks; (b) during the annual holiday week observed in the district; (c) by reason of accidents to boilers and machinery; (d) by Bank Holidays.

On appeal by the claimant against the amount of the award, the Court of Appeal held that, as it was not the appellant's fault that the mill was shut down during any of the periods (a), (b), (c) or (d), the judge was wrong in dividing his gross earnings by 52; that days during which no work was done ought not to be taken into account in arriving at the average wage; and that the gross amount earned in the year should be divided, not by 52, but by the number of weeks or portions of weeks in which work had actually been done. The award would have to be varied by inserting the proper figure on the above basis altering the amount awarded on this basis.—*Baily v. Kenworthy, Court of Appeal, December 14th, 1907.*

In a fourth case, a miner in the employ of a colliery company was injured by an accident which occurred in March, 1906. The company paid him compensation at the rate of 15s. 8d. a week. He got better, and became able to do light work, though not to return to his former work as a miner. The company offered him light work which he accepted, and an agreement was entered into and registered, to the effect that the company would pay 15s. 8d. a week as compensation during incapacity to follow a light employment, and that the 15s. 8d. should be reduced to one-half the difference between £1 11s. 4d. per week and the average amount the workman should earn by light work. The man was then employed to carry batteries in the pit; and whilst so employed he met with a second accident, which proved fatal.

On the hearing of a claim for compensation by the deceased man's dependants, the County Court judge held that the man was not working as a miner at the time of his death, but as a battery carrier, and that battery carrying is a distinct grade of work, and must be treated as such. On this basis he assessed the compensation.

On appeal, the Court of Appeal affirmed the decision of the County Court judge, and further held that the compensation paid on account of the first accident could not be taken into account in computing the workman's earnings.—*Gough v. Crawshaw Brothers, Limited, Court of Appeal, December 14th, 1907.*

RECORDING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: DISPUTE AS TO GENUINENESS: DECISION OF JUDGE: RIGHT OF APPEAL.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, that where the amount of compensation is ascertained by agreement between the parties, a memorandum of the agreement shall be sent to the registrar of the local County Court, who shall, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, record such memorandum in a special register, and thereupon the memorandum shall be enforceable as a County Court judgment. The judge, however, may at any time rectify the register. It is also provided by the rules under the Act that where any party disputes the genuineness, the memorandum can only be recorded by the consent of such party, or by order of the judge, who, for the purpose of settling such dispute, may hold an enquiry and hear witnesses, as at the trial of an action.

A workman injured by accident sent a memorandum of agreement to the registrar to be recorded. Its genuineness was disputed by the employers, and the matter was referred to the judge according to the Rules. The judge having heard witnesses at considerable length decided that there had been an implied agreement between the parties, and ordered the memorandum to be recorded. The employers appealed to the High Court. At the hearing it was contended for the workman that the order of the judge was not subject to appeal. The High Court held that an appeal did lie; and on the main question decided that there was no evidence on which the judge could properly find that there had been an implied agreement, and that therefore there was no memorandum which could be recorded. The appeal was accordingly allowed.

The workman appealed to the Court of Appeal, but that court affirmed the decision of the High Court and dismissed the appeal.—*Johnston v. Mew, Langton & Co., Court of Appeal, December 11th, 1907.*

(2) Miscellaneous.

WAGES EARNED DAILY: PAYMENT FORTNIGHTLY: EMPLOYMENT SUBJECT TO FORTNIGHT'S NOTICE: STRIKE: FORFEITURE OF WAGES EARNED.

A putter in the employment of a colliery company was paid according to the amount of work done by him, which was ascertained daily. There was no written contract of service. The employment was terminable at any time by either party by 14 days' notice. Wages were payable fortnightly on alternate Fridays. On a certain day, owing to a dispute with the employers, the putters in the employ of the company, including the man in question, struck work without notice. Two days later this man returned to the pit and offered to resume work. He was told he

had broken his contract of service, and forfeited any wages he had earned, and that he would not be again employed unless he signed a fresh contract of service. When he refused to work he had earned four days' wages since the last pay day. This sum, amounting to £1 5s. 2d., he claimed in an action against the company in the County Court.

The defendants contended that by refusing to work, and so breaking his contract of service, he had forfeited any wages earned since the last fortnightly settlement. The judge, however, found that the wages in respect of each shift worked at the pit became due as they were earned on the completion of successive shifts, though not actually payable except once a fortnight. He accordingly gave judgment for the plaintiff.

The defendants appealed successively to the High Court and to the Court of Appeal, but both Courts affirmed the decision of the County Court judge, holding that the wages earned became due daily, and that the plaintiff was entitled to recover wages for the days he had worked.—*Parkin v. South Hetton Coal Co., Court of Appeal, December 16th, 1907.*

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901: Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries.—Where the Home Secretary is satisfied that any manufacture, process or description of manual labour, used in factories or workshops is dangerous or injurious to health, or dangerous to life or limb, he may certify the same to be dangerous and thereupon he may make such regulations as appear to him to be reasonably practicable and to meet the necessity of the case.

Horsehair.—The Home Secretary has certified processes involving the use of horsehair from China, Siberia, or Russia to be dangerous; and by Order dated December 24th, 1907, he has made Regulations, to come into force on April 1st, 1908, and to apply to all factories and workshops in which these processes are carried on.

In the Regulations "material" and "disinfection" are defined as follows:—

"Material" means tail or mane horsehair from China, Siberia, or Russia, whether in the raw state or partially or wholly prepared, notwithstanding that such preparation may have taken place in some country other than those named.

"Disinfection" means—

(a) Exposure to steam at a temperature not less than 212 degrees F., for at least half an hour, of material so loosened, spread out or exposed as to allow the steam to penetrate throughout; or

(b) Exposure of material to such disinfectant, under such conditions of concentration and temperature of the disinfectant, and duration and manner of exposure of the material to it, and otherwise, as are certified to secure the destruction of anthrax spores in all parts of all horsehair subjected to the process. Provided that such a certificate shall have no force unless and until (1) a copy of it has been submitted to the Secretary of State; and (2) a copy of it is kept in the Register required under Regulation 1. Provided, further, that any such certificate may at any time be disallowed by the Secretary of State, either generally or with regard to a factory or workshop in which anthrax has occurred.

"Certified" means certified by the director of a bacteriological laboratory recognised by a corporation in the United Kingdom having power to grant diplomas registrable under the Medical Acts, 1858 to 1905.

The Regulations provide that:—(1) A register shall be kept containing the prescribed particulars of the disinfection of all materials; (2) no material shall be subjected to any manipulation until it has been disinfected (other than for such opening and sorting as is preliminary to it); (3) the storing, opening, or sorting of material which has not been disinfected shall not be carried on except in a special room containing no other horsehair; (4) the opening and sorting of material shall not be carried on except over an efficient screen, with exhaust draught so arranged that at every point of the screen within 18 inches of the centre the velocity of the exhaust draught shall be at least 300 linear feet per minute; (5) every willowing and dust extracting machine (i.e., of material both before and after disinfection) shall be covered over and provided with efficient exhaust draught; (6) dust collected from the opening and sorting screens shall be burnt.

Other Regulations for the use of the persons employed on material which has not undergone disinfection include the provision of overalls, a meal room, a cloak room, requisites for treating cuts and scratches, and suitable washing accommodation.

Persons under 18 years of age, and persons having open cuts or sores, are forbidden to be employed on material which has not been disinfected.

A cautionary notice as to anthrax is to be affixed to the Regulations.

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907, No. 984. Wyman and Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1907, was 277, a decrease of 3 as compared with the previous month, but an increase of 21 as compared with December, 1906.

The mean number for December in the years 1902-1906 was 243, the maximum year being 1906 with 260 deaths, and the minimum year 1903 with 223 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in December, 1907, was 112, as compared with 135 in November, and 109 a year ago. At factories and workshops the total number was 112 in December, as compared with 95 in the previous month, and 92 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 47, 42, and 53 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during December, 1907, was 115, as compared with 93 in November, 1907, and 109 in December, 1906. The mean for the five years 1902-1906 was 122, the highest number being 137 in 1903, and the lowest 109 in 1906.

During the twelve months ended December, 1907, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 3,028, as compared with 2,869 in 1906. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 1,363 in 1907 and 1,200 in 1906.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1907, as compared with a	
	Dec., 1907.	Nov., 1907.	Dec., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	5	6	- 2	- 3
Engine Drivers	2	3	1	- 1	+ 1
Firemen	2	2	2	- 2	...
Guards (Passenger)	...	2	...	...	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	16	8	10	+ 8	+ 6
Porters	4	1	10	+ 3	- 6
Shunters	2	3	3	- 1	- 1
Miscellaneous	18	17	18	+ 1	...
Contractors' Servants	...	1	3	- 1	- 3
Total, Railway Service	47	42	53	+ 5	- 6
Mines—					
Underground	97	114	87	- 17	+ 10
Surface	12	16	15	- 4	- 3
Total, Mines	109	130	102	- 21	+ 7
Quarries over 20 feet deep	3	5	7	- 2	- 4
Factories (including Workshops)					
Textile—					
Cotton	5	3	2	+ 2	+ 3
Wool and Worsted	3	4	3	- 1	...
Other Textiles	...	1	...	...	...
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	10	5	12	- 6	- 4
Founding and Conversion of Metals	8	7	12	- 1	- 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	2	3	3	- 1	- 1
Ship and Boat Building	12	9	6	+ 3	+ 6
Wood	3	3	1	- 3	- 2
Chemicals	4	4	2	- 3	- 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	35	20	34	+ 15	+ 1
Total, Factories	79	66	64	+ 13	+ 15
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	16	15	11	+ 1	+ 5
Warehouses	6	1	3	+ 5	+ 3
Buildings to which Act applies	11	12	14	- 1	- 3
Laundries	...	1	...	...	...
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	33	29	28	+ 4	+ 5
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	6	8	2	- 2	+ 4
Total, exclusive of Seamen	277	280	256	- 3	+ 21
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	44	32	19	+ 12	+ 25
Steam	53	50	77	+ 3	- 24
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	3	3	2	...	+ 1
Steam	15	8	11	+ 7	+ 4
Total, Seamen	115	93	109	+ 22	+ 6
Total, including Seamen	392	373	365	+ 19	+ 27

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during December was 60, there being 56 cases of lead poisoning, 2 of mercurial poisoning, 1 of arsenic poisoning, and 1 of anthrax. There were also 2 deaths, both due to lead poisoning. In addition to the above, 16 cases of lead poisoning (including 5 deaths) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the twelve months ended December, 1907, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 653, as compared with 708 in 1906. The total number of deaths was 40 in 1907 and 55 in 1906. In addition there were 174 cases of lead poisoning (including 39 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during 1907, as compared with 181 cases (including 36 deaths) in 1906.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Dec., 1907.	Twelve Months ended Dec., 1907.	Month of Dec., 1907.	Twelve Months ended Dec., 1907.
	1907.	1906.	1907.	1906.
Lead Poisoning.				
Smelting of Metals	5	28	38	—
Brass Works	2	9	11	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	1	6	7	—
Plumbing and Soldering	5	20	16	—
Printing	3	26	16	—
File Cutting	—	10	15	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	2	25	18	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	7	71	108	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	7	6	—
China and Earthenware	8*	103	107	—
Litho-Transfer Works	—	10	5	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	4	4	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	1	6	4	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	4	21	26	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	35	37	—
Coach Making	5	70	85	—
Shipbuilding	1	22	26	—
Paint used in other Industries	5	49	37	—
Other Industries	6	56	66	—
Total in Factories and Workshops	66	578	632	2
House Painting and Plumbing	16	174	181	5
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	3	17	9	—
Other Forms of Poisoning.				
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	—	1	—
Furriers' Processes	2	6	—	—
Other Industries	—	1	3	—
Total	2	7	4	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Luxifer Match Works	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	4	2	—
Other Industries	1	5	3	—
Total	1	9	5	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	3	17	9	—
Anthrax.				
Wool	—	23	24	—
Handling of Horsehair	—	17	10	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1†	12	19	—
Other Industries	—	6	14	—
Total, Anthrax	1	58	67	—

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

* Including 6 females. † The person affected is a dock labourer.

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Seventeen new disputes began in December, 1907, as compared with 23 in November, 1907, and 20 in December, 1906. By the 17 disputes, 3,824 workpeople were directly and 399 indirectly affected; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 10,834 workpeople involved in trade disputes during December, 1907, compared with 13,210 in November, 1907, and 12,030 in December, 1906.

New Disputes in December, 1907.—In the following Table the new disputes in December are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal and Iron Mining	2	550	...	550
Metal and Engineering	6	784	365	1,149
Textile	6	1,967	34	2,001
Other Trades	3	533	...	533
Total, December, 1907	17	3,824	399	4,223
Total, November, 1907	23	8,084	904	8,988
Total, December, 1906	20	5,827	820	6,647

Causes.—Of the 17 new disputes, 4 arose on demands for increased wages, 4 on objections to reduction in wages, 3 on other wages questions, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 on details of working arrangements, and 1 on a question of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 10 new disputes, directly affecting 1,150 persons, and 5 old disputes, directly affecting 5,309 persons. Of these 15 new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 388 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 2, directly involving 436 persons, were decided in

favour of the employers; and 9, directly involving 5,635 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in December of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 133,300 working days. In addition, 27,500 working days were lost during December owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the beginning of the month. Thus the total duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 160,800 working days, as compared with 227,400 in the previous month, and 201,300 in the corresponding month of 1906.

Summary for the Years 1906 and 1907.—The following Table summarises by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the years 1906 and 1907 respectively. Other particulars of the disputes of 1907 are given on p. 3.

Groups of Trades.	1906.			1907 †		
	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	19	1,441	56,201	21	1,019	22,900
Mining and Quarrying	95	83,833	912,102	103	51,288	549,100
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	125	42,049	1,118,282	114	18,051	437,200
Textile	121	75,114	762,999	145	45,788	639,800
Clothing	42	8,912	91,159	57	13,003	313,400
Transport	19	1,888	10,021	29	8,709	95,300
Other Trades	61	4,536	67,072	81	5,925	98,000
Total	486	217,773	3,028,816	550	143,784	2,160,700

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1907.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.†				
Pig Iron Manufacturers—							
Coke Fillers, Helpers, Chargers, Labourers, &c., Enginemmen, Jetty Labourers, &c.	Jarrow-on-Tyne	215	215	7 Dec.	...	Claim of workmen of longer standing to preference of employment when discharging or re-engaging staff	No settlement reported.
Cotton Spinning—							
Ring Spinners and Cardroom Operatives	Oldham (near)	1,450	...	5 Dec.	...	For advance in piece prices...	No settlement reported.
Hat Trade—							
Felt Hat Makers	Denton and Stockport	4,525	...	26 Oct.	46	Strike against boy labour on certain machines, followed by lock-out	Amicable settlement effected.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days. † 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 disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons. § The figures for 1907 are preliminary only, and are subject to revision.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GERMANY AND HOLLAND ON ACCIDENT INSURANCE*

AN agreement drawn up on August 27th last between representatives of the German Empire and the Netherlands on the subject of accident insurance has been ratified by the latter country by a law dated November 29th. The agreement only concerns persons employed by firms which have their headquarters in one country and also carry on work in the other, and are engaged in occupations subject to insurance in both countries. Such persons are subject exclusively to the

laws of the country in which they are working. Thus, in the case of a firm having its headquarters in Germany, and a branch works in Holland, the insurance of the workpeople in the Dutch branch will be effected in accordance with the Dutch law, and vice-versa. In regard to transport undertakings, however, the travelling staffs of the undertaking are subject to the laws of the country in which the headquarters of the undertakings are situated. In the case, therefore, of a Dutch railway, the lines of which cross the German frontier, the travelling staff will be insured in accordance with the Dutch law, and vice-versa.

*Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at The Hague.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in December.—The net effect of all the changes reported in December was an increase of £26,281 per week, as compared with an increase of £10,665 in November, 1907, and one of £8,387 per week in December, 1906. The number of workpeople affected was 492,875, of whom 486,005 received advances amounting to £26,397 per week, and 6,870 sustained decreases amounting to £116 per week. Of the workpeople whose wages were increased, 464,000 were in the coal-mining industry.

Three changes, affecting 382,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; three changes affecting 6,870 workpeople, took effect under sliding

scales; and one change, affecting 30 workpeople, was settled by arbitration. The remaining changes, affecting 103,975 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; one of these changes, affecting 40 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during December, 1907, affected 2,155 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 2,557 hours per week.

Summary of Changes in 1907.

See article on p. 3.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
I.—RATES OF WAGES.						
Building	Llanely	1908 1st Jan.	Stonemasons	153	...	Advance of 1/4d. per hour (8d. to 8 1/4d.)
			Federated Districts†	Underground Workers	280,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent. making wages of Hewers 60 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Coal Mining	South Staffs. and East Worcester (parts of)	1908 1st making-up day in Jan.	Hewers, and other	12,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent., making wages of Hewers 60 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
			Underground Workers	90,000	...	Advance of 6 1/4 per cent., making wages 87 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Shale Mining	Scotland	1907 2 Dec.	Surface Workers, Mechanics and Firemen	18,000	...	Advance of 1d. per shift.
			Enginemn	4,000	...	Advance of 1 1/4d. per shift.
Pig Iron Manufacture	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1908 1 Jan.	Shale Miners	4,000	...	Advance of 6 1/2 per cent.
			Oncostmen, Boys and Enginemn	1,250	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., leaving wages 27 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1895.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Barrow-in-Furness	1907 Dec.	Blastfurnacemen	620	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4 per cent., leaving wages 47 per cent. above the standard.
			Rail, Wire and Hoop Millmen	657	...	Advance of 1s. per week (20s. to 21s.).
Engineering	Sheffield	1908 1 Jan.	Labourers in Steel Foundry	5,000	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., leaving wages 27 1/2 per cent. above the standard.
			Iron and Steel Workers and Mechanics	4,500	...	Advance of 2 1/2 per cent.
Textile	Accrington	1907 7 Dec.	Textile Machine Makers	866	...	Advance of 2 1/2 per cent. on piece rates and of 1s. per week on time rates.
			Bury and District	3,500	...	Advance of 2 1/2 per cent. on piece rates and of 1s. per week on time rates.
Clothing	Oldham	1907 1st pay Jan.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths, &c.	5,200	...	Modification of quick speed clause of Oldham Piece Price List, stated to have resulted in an average advance of about 3s. per week.
			Mule Spinners (Fine Counts)	450	...	Advance of from 5 per cent. to 25 per cent.
Printing, &c.	Macclesfield	1907 1 Nov.	Power Loom Weavers (Silk)	156	...	Advance of 2 1/2 per cent. on piece rates.
			Cloggers: Solemakers and Seamen	184	...	Advance of 7 1/2 per cent. on piece rates.
Other	Bolton	1908 1st pay Jan.	Compositors and Machinemen	300	...	Advance of 6d. per week (34s. 6d. to 35s.)
			Bristol	246	...	Advance of 1s. per week (31s. to 32s.)
Other	Dublin	1907 1 Dec.	Bookbinders and Machine Rulers	650	...	Advance of 2s. per week in minimum rates of wages.
			Swansea	650	...	Advance of 7 1/2 per cent.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Trade.	Locality.	Date	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.
Building	Liverpool	1907 1 Nov.	Builders' and Bricklayers' Labourers	2,000	Re-arrangement of winter working hours, resulting in an average decrease of about 1 hour per week. Winter hours after change: 44 for 6 1/2 weeks, 41 1/2 for 6 1/2 weeks, and 46 1/2 for 4 weeks.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. 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 following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

† Including Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, and North Wales.

‡ Some of these men also received an advance in their rates of wages of 1d. per hour.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for December.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

	December,			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Dec., 1907, compared with	
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	20,339,819	19,222,209	20,747,434	+1,525,225	+ 497,615
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	20,121,280	22,921,471	23,173,165	+ 251,694	+ 3,051,885
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	12,494,137	12,351,529	11,904,362	- 447,167	- 587,775
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	165,314	176,293	177,435	+ 1,142	+ 12,121
Total value of Imports	53,118,550	54,671,502	56,002,396	+1,330,894	+ 2,883,846

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	December,			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Dec., 1907, compared with	
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,659,097	1,726,455	1,862,767	+ 156,312	+ 203,670
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	3,058,805	3,531,234	4,491,681	+ 960,447	+ 1,432,876
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	23,319,719	25,566,716	25,846,462	+ 279,746	+ 2,526,743
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	614,573	584,770	540,826	- 43,944	- 73,747
Total value of Exports of British Produce.	28,652,194	31,403,175	32,741,736	+1,338,561	+ 4,089,542

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,093,109 in December, 1905; £7,746,072 in December, 1906; and £6,719,972 in December, 1907.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended December 28th amounted to £4,232,605, an increase of £120,291 (or 2.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

The corresponding receipts for the 52 weeks ended December 28th, 1907, were £56,525,921, an increase of £2,247,875 (or 4.2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

	4 weeks ended December 28th, 1907.		52 weeks ended December 28th, 1907.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) as compared with 1906.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) as compared with 1906.
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.	1,550,611	+ 56,176	21,265,226	+1,016,162
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	468,938	+ 12,886	6,078,649	+ 201,922
Lancs. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	836,742	+ 16,288	10,641,650	+ 553,810
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	590,500	+ 29,900	8,256,200	+ 343,600
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	145,068	- 2,049	1,980,425	- 17,845
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	533,192	+ 3,916	6,771,011	+ 102,924
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	107,954	+ 3,174	1,532,760	+ 47,302
Total	4,232,605	+120,291	56,525,921	+ 2,247,875

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.

† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.

‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c., hides and skins.

Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in December, 1907, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 223 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with November, 1907, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 13,566 (3.6 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 7. The number of indoor paupers showed an increase of 7,054 (4.1 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers an increase of 6,512 (3.1 per cent.). In every district there was an increase, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (35 per 10,000).

Compared with December, 1906, the rate per 10,000 decreased by 1. The number of indoor paupers increased by 4,011 (2.3 per cent.), but the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 1,230 (0.6 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 20 districts, the most marked being in the Leicester district (43 per 10,000). In 14 districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (25 per 10,000). In the Manchester district there was no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Dec., 1907.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with		
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	Rate per 10,000 of Esti-mated Population.	A month ago.	
					A year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	12,254	3,972	16,226	192	+ 7	- 4
North District	16,832	10,879	27,711	266	+ 7	+ 10
Central District	7,208	2,621	9,829	520	+ 12	- 20
East District	16,019	7,905	23,924	331	+ 10	+ 15
South District	27,368	21,007	48,375	287	+ 12	+ 11
Total, Metropolis	79,681	46,384	126,065	267	+ 10	+ 7
West Ham	4,302	12,450	16,752	287	+ 12	- 14
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,582	5,947	8,529	191	+ 8	+ 13
Stockton & Tees District	1,337	4,988	6,325	288	+ 35	+ 25
Belton, Oldham, &c.	4,389	5,816	10,205	132	+ 5	- 10
Wigan District	2,265	6,046	8,311	206	+ 2	- 10
Manchester District	10,732	8,668	19,400	202	+ 10	...
Liverpool District	12,714	10,885	23,599	215	+ 5	+ 3
Bradford District	1,979	2,641	4,620	128	+ 4	- 15
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,506	4,013	5,519	148	+ 1	- 5
Leeds District	2,942	5,241	8,183	167	+ 5	- 23
Barnsley District	782	2,893	3,675	147	+ 3	- 9
Sheffield District	3,320	3,619	6,939	155	+ 6	+ 1
Hull District	1,680	5,361	7,041	281	+ 8	- 1
North Staffordshire	2,383	7,474	9,857	258	+ 4	- 20
Nottingham District	2,271	6,081	8,352	199	+ 7	- 8
Leicester District	1,727	4,705	6,432	275	+ 18	- 43
Wolverhampton District	3,332	11,948	15,280	289	+ 5	-
Birmingham District	5,455	3,799	9,254	187	+ 7	+ 10
Bristol District	3,065	6,464	9,529	241	+ 3	- 8
Cardiff & Swansea	2,319	7,687	10,006	260	+ 3	+ 5
Total, "Other Districts"	67,080	114,306	181,386	199	+ 7	- 4
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	5,901	17,349	23,250	233	+ 8	+ 4
Paisley & Greenock District	891	2,588	3,479	194	+ 10	+ 4
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,886	5,466	7,352	178	+ 2	- 9
Dundee & Dunfermline	996	2,652	3,648	182	+ 6	- 6
Aberdeen	735	3,154	3,889	227	+ 4	- 12
Coatbridge & Airdrie	441	1,505	1,946	201	+ 1	- 5
Total for the above Scottish Districts	10,850	32,714	43,564	212	+ 6	- 1
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	7,479	5,200	12,679	319	+ 3	- 4
Belfast District	4,036	637	4,673	113	+ 12	+ 8
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,602	4,992	9,594	393	+ 6	+ 16
Galway District	385	359	744	212	+ 3	+ 12
Total for the above Irish Districts	16,502	11,188	27,690	254	+ 8	+ 5
Total for above 35 Districts in December, 1907	178,416	217,082	395,497	223	+ 7	- 1

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 50 Labour Bureaux during December; of these Bureaux 28 were in London (including West Ham), and 22 in the provinces. Of the 28 London Bureaux, 25 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 13,564, of which 9,400 were in London, and 4,164 in the provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 4,796, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 3,750, or 27·6 per cent. of the applications received, and 78·2 per cent. of the situations offered. The London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange do not distinguish between permanent and temporary situations found; but the remaining 25 Bureaux give 348 (or 13·0 per cent.) permanent to 2,322 (or 87·0 per cent.) temporary situations. The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades

as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 97; wood-working trades, 18; metal and engineering trades, 58; other skilled trades, 36; "transport and general," 352; other trades, men and boys, 284; women and girls, 235. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 64; metal and engineering trades, 75; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 349; general labourers, 136; bill distributors, 1,120; employees of local authorities, 369; charwomen and domestic servants, 235; other occupations, 169. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 153 men.

The number of applicants registered at the 47 Bureaux for which figures for 1907 and 1906 can be given was 12,919 in December, 1907, as compared with 9,085 in December, 1906. Employers offered 4,541 situations during December, 1907, of which 3,581 were filled. In December, 1906, 4,061 situations were offered, and 3,288 filled. The number of workpeople on the Registers at the end of December, 1907, was 18,096 as compared with 16,123 in December, 1906.

WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING DECEMBER, 1907.*

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

* The figures for the 26 affiliated London Bureaux relate to the four weeks ended December 27th.

† For Bureaux exclusively concerned with women, see next page.

‡ In addition 187 applicants were engaged to commence work on January 3

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 564 fresh applications (280 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 477 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 176 persons, of whom 102 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 176 situations found for applicants, 118 were of a more or less permanent character, while 58 were temporary only.

The work done by the Bureaux during December is shown in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during, Situations offered by Employers during, Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily). Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

FEDERATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS AND TRADES COUNCILS.

THE number of federations of Trade Unions in the United Kingdom in existence at the end of 1906 was 94, with a membership of 2,116,612. This is the gross membership, in which some individuals are counted more than once owing to the Unions to which they belong being affiliated to more than one federation. The principal individual federations were the General Federation of Trade Unions, which increased in membership from 478,000 in 1905 to 623,000 in 1906; the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, with 333,000 members; and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades of the United Kingdom, with 283,000 members. The first two of these Federations provide benefit to affiliated Unions in cases of approved disputes. At the end of 1906 there were 240 Trades Councils in existence, as compared with 236 in 1905 and 169 in 1897. The affiliated membership in 1906 was 938,000, as compared with 906,000 in 1905, and 714,000 in 1897.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901 and 1907: Laundries: Separation of Departments.—It is provided by the Act of 1901, that the Home Secretary may by special order direct, with respect to any class of factories or workshops, that different branches or departments of work carried on in the same factory or workshop shall, for all or any of the purposes of the Act, be treated as if they were different factories or workshops. The Act of 1901 is extended to laundries by the Act of 1907, which came into operation on January 1st, 1908. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary, by an Order* dated December 26th, 1907, which came into force on January 1st, 1908, has directed that, with regard to the period of employment of women, young persons and child in laundries, different departments of work carried on in the same laundry may be treated as if they were different factories or workshops, subject to certain conditions, amongst which it is provided that there shall not be more than one such department dealing with the same class of work; and that every such department must be carried on under separate and distinct management, and no person who is employed in one department may be employed in any other department. The Inspector of the district must certify his approval of the arrangements made for carrying out the conditions before the Order can affect any particular laundry.

Special Exception: Substitution of another day for Saturday.—It is provided by the Act of 1901 that where it is proved to the

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907. No. 1010. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

satisfaction of the Home Secretary that the customs or exigencies of the trade carried on in any class of non-textile factories or workshops, require some other day in the week to be substituted for Saturday as regards the hour at which the period of employment for women, young persons and children is required to end on Saturday, he may by special order grant to that class of factories or workshops a special exception authorizing such substitution. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order,* dated December 26th, 1907, which came into force on January 1st, 1908, extending the special exception to laundries.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.) Return of the Number, Ages, Ratings and Nationalities of the Seamen employed on the 4th day of April, 1906, on vessels registered under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in the British Islands. Fourth quinquennial census of seamen. Board of Trade. [Cd. 3841: pp. xviii. + 26: price 5½d.] Building Accidents Committee. Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the dangers attending on Building Operations. With Draft for Regulations, Minutes of Evidence and Appendices. [Cd. 3848: pp. xxvi. + 196: price rs. 9d.] Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the Year ended December 31st, 1906. Part A.—Appendix (O). Particulars of Valuation Returns received during the year 1906 of Friendly Societies (not including Societies with Branches). [H.C. 49-xi.: pp. 66: price 7d.]

Building Societies.—Twelfth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1906. Part II. Abstract of the Annual Accounts and Statements of Societies. [H.C. 50-1: pp. 165: price 1s. 4d.]

Report of the Departmental Committee on Checkweighing in the Iron and Steel Trades. Committee to consider and report what would be the best method of securing to workmen in the Iron and Steel Trades, who are paid by weight, the means of checking the correctness of the wages they receive. Home Office. [Cd. 3846: pp. 16: price 2d.] Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Agricultural Statistics, 1906. Vol. XLI. Part IV. Colonial and Foreign Statistics (Acreage under Crops, Produce, and Live Stock), with Index to Vol. XLI. [Cd. 3832: pp. 333-444: price 5½d.]

Pauperism (England and Wales). Half-yearly Statement for July 1st, 1907. [H.C. 108-1: pp. 22: price 4d.] Report by the Local Government Board for Scotland as to the Proceedings of Distress Committees in Scotland for the Year ended May 15th, 1907. [Cd. 3830: pp. 21: price 2½d.] Report of the Departmental Committee on House-Letting in Scotland. Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence and Appendices. Scottish Office. [Cd. 3792: pp. xii. + 286: price 2s. 5d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Statistical Tables relating to British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates. Part XXX., 1905. Includes tables of production, prices, emigration and immigration, wages, &c. Board of Trade. [Cd. 3706: pp. xxii. + 814: price 6s. 7d.] Colonial Office Reports—Annual No. 549. Jamaica. Report for 1906-7. Statistics of Industries, &c. [Cd. 3729-13: pp. 46: price 2½d.]

No. 550. British Guiana. Report for 1906-7. Statistics of mines, fisheries, manufactures, immigration, &c. [Cd. 3729-14: pp. 35: price 2½d.]

(The above Reports relating to the Colonies may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Victoria. Determinations of Wages Boards. New Determination. Paper bag trade board. Amended Determinations. Coopers, bread, furniture, wood mantelpiece or overmantel, tanners, woodworkers, pastrycooks and plate glass boards. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Acting Government Printer.]

New Zealand. The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act: Its Past, Present and Future. An Address delivered at the Annual Conference of the New Zealand Employers' Federation, by the Secretary of the Otago Employers' Association, August 28th, 1907. [Wellington: Turnbull, Hickson & Goeder, printers: pp. 16.]

New Zealand Department of Labour: Its Organization and Work. Prepared under the direction of the Minister of Labour. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer; pp. 32, with photographs and map.]

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, November 6th, 1907. Condition of employment and trade; awards under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act. [Price 2d.]

Canada. The Labour Gazette, November, 1907. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during October; Alberta, Saskatchewan and Dominion legislation affecting labour; establishment of Department of Industries and Immigration in Nova Scotia.

Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Saskatchewan, 1905. [Regina: John A. Reid, Government printer: pp. 68.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States. Massachusetts. Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour for 1907. Part III. Industrial Opportunities not yet utilised in Massachusetts. (pp. 61.) Part IV. Annual Statistics of Manufactures. Comparisons for 1905 and 1906. (pp. 95.) [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907. No. 1008. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

United States—(continued).

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No. 54. November, 1907.

The Journal of Political Economy (Chicago). November, 1907. Contains "Municipal Employment of Unemployed Women in London," by Edith Abbott. December, 1907. Contains "The Factory System as related to Industrial Combinations," C. C. Arbuthnot; "Women in Manufactures: a supplementary note," Edith Abbott.

Wage-Earners' Budgets. A Study of Standards and Cost of Living in New York City. Louise Bolard More. 1907. [New York: Henry Holt & Co.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, November, 1907. Contains statistics of trade unions and co-operative credit societies on January 1st, 1907. [Paris; Berger-Levrault & Cie: price 2d.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, December, 1907. Contains statistics of wages of Prussian miners in third quarter of 1907 and in 1906, and wages of workpeople employed by co-operative societies. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: price 1d.]

Quarterly Journal of Statistics of the German Empire, Part 4, 1907. Contains statistics of prices in 1907 and previous years, and preliminary figures of the German Industrial Census of June 12th, 1907. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: price 2s.]

Statistical Yearbook of Bavaria, 1907. Statistics of population, prices, insurance, &c. Statistical Office of Bavaria. [Munich: J. Lindauer: pp. 329: price 1s. 6d.]

Yearbook of the Central Federation of German Co-operative Societies for Distribution, 1907. 2 vols. [Hamburg: Heinrich Kaufmann & Co.: pp. xvi. + 736 + viii. + 631.]

Journal of the Statistical Office of Saxony, Part 1, 1907. Contains housing statistics of various towns in Saxony, December 1st, 1905. [Dresden: Zahn und Jaensch: price 1s. 6d.]

Report on State Railways of Saxony, 1906. Ministry of Finance of Saxony. [Dresden: C. Heinrich: pp. 167.]

Yearbook of Christian Trade Unions, 1908. [Cologne: Christlicher Gewerkschaftsverlag (A. Stegerwald), Palmstrasse 14: pp. 192: price 1s. 6d.]

Austria-Hungary.

Report on Austrian Mining Inspection, 1905: Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, 1907. [Vienna: Verlag der Manzschek u.k. Hof-Verlagsund Universitäts-Buchhandlung I., Kohlmarkt 20: pp. 489.]

Proceedings of the 35th Congress of German Co-operative Societies in Austria. (Innsbruck, August 31st-September 2nd, 1907). [Vienna: Selbst Verlag des Verbandes: pp. 126.]

Monthly Statistical Journal of Hungary, January, 1906 to October, 1907. Contains statistics of Trade Unions, strikes and lock-outs, industrial accidents, co-operation, &c., in Hungary, Hungarian Ministry of Commerce. [Vienna: A. Hölder, I., Rotenturmstrasse, 13.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, November, 1907. Contains statistics of strikes in September. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Statistical Yearbook of Italy, 1905-7. Part I. Contains statistics of population, persons engaged in agriculture and industry, prices, &c. Italian Statistical Department. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero e C., Via Umbria: pp. 645: price 3s. 2d.]

Journal of the Italian Emigration Department, Nos. 12-18, 1907. No. 14 contains statistics of emigration for various countries from 1880-1906, and article on the methods adopted by various countries in collecting emigration statistics. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero e C.: price 3d. per part.]

Proceedings of the Higher Council of Labour, Ninth Session, June, 1907. Italian Labour Department. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana, Via della Guardiola 22: pp. 209.]

Inquiry relating to Mine Workers, 1905. Part I, Ages, civil state, wages, and annual earnings, &c. Italian Labour Department, 1907. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: pp. xxviii. + 258: price 2s. 5d.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, November 30th and December 15th, 1907. Former contains statistics of municipal and provincial grants for encouragement of provision against unemployment, 1901-6. [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price of each part 1d.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, November, 1907. Employment and disputes in October. [The Hague: Gebrueder Belinfante: price 2d.]

Statistical Year-book of Amsterdam, 1903 and 1904, with certain figures for 1905 and 1906. Part II.—Contains statistics of industrial accidents, daily wages in 1903, &c. Statistical Office of Amsterdam, 1907. [Amsterdam: Johannes Müller: pp. 243: price 2s. 8d.]

Statistics of Savings and Loan Banks in Holland, 1905. Dutch Central Statistical Office, 1907. [The Hague: Gebrueder Belinfante: pp. xxxi. + 319.]

Third Supplement to the Report of the Central Office for Social Information on regulations relating to wages and hours of labour in the building trades. [December, 1907: pp. 31.]

Switzerland.

Swiss Statistical Journal, 1907. Vol. 2, Part 8. Contains statistics of prices of cereals, meat, &c., 1885-1906. [Berne: A. Francke.]

Swiss Industrial Census of August 9th, 1905. Vol. 1. Number of establishments and workpeople. Part 5. Cantons of St. Gall, Graubünden, Aargau and Thurgau. Federal Statistical Office. [1907: Berne; A. Francke: pp. x. + 394: price 2s.]

Denmark.

Statistical Yearbook of Denmark, 1907. Statistics of population, persons engaged in industry, prices, insurance, co-operation, disputes, &c. Danish Statistical Office. [Copenhagen: H. H. Thiele Bogtrykkeri (Gyldendalske Boghandel - Nordisk Forlag): pp. 206 and map.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, November and December, 1907. Latter contains statistics of prices in third quarter of 1907. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: price 2½d. each part.]

Portugal.

Journal of the Portuguese Labour Department, Nos. 6, 7 & 8, 1907. [Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional.]

Russia.

Statistical Yearbook of Russia, 1905. Contains statistics of population, persons engaged in mines and factories, prices, &c. Central Statistical Committee of the Ministry of the Interior. 1906. [St. Petersburg: N. L. Nirkeena: pp. cxvii. + 749.]

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING DECEMBER.
(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in December was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 10; under the Friendly Societies Act, 44 (including 22 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 7; in all, 65.

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

Trade Unions.—*England.*—3, viz., National Federation of Colliery Mechanics Associations, The Avenue, Durham; Leeds Jewish Riveters, Slippermakers, Finishers and Upper Machinists Trade Soc., Labour Hall, Gower Street, Leeds; Amalgamated Soc. of Machine Makers, 168A, High Street, Lincoln. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—1, viz., Ulster Weavers and Winders, Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Winisor Avenue, Lurgan.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England.*—9, viz., Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (2) National Poultry Organization Soc., Ltd., 12, Hanover Square, W.; Carrington Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., House of Mr. T. Willis, Drayton Parslow, Blethley. Co-operative Distributive Societies: (2) Westhoughton and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Church Street, Westhoughton; Dartmouth Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Co-operative Stores, Victoria Road, Dartmouth. *Working Men's Club:* (1) Buckingham Conservative and Unionist Working Men's Club, Ltd., Market Hill, Buckingham. *Miscellaneous:* (4). *Scotland.*—(1) Co-op. Agric. Soc.; Orphir Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., West Quay, Orphir, Orkney. *Ireland.*—Nil.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—21, viz., Hazelrigg and Dist. Working Men's Social Club, Hazelrigg, Dudley, North'd.; Fell'em Doon Workmen's Social Club, Ashington, Morpeth; Brookwood and Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst. Brookwood, Woking; Camberley Working Men's Club and Inst.; Camberley; West Bowling Labour Club and Inst.; Bradford; "314" Mutual Help Soc., Caledonian Road, N.; Bulwell Liberal £5 Money Club, Bulwell, Nottingham; Landore, Plasmal and Dist. Perm. Money Soc., Landore, S.O., Glam.; Beckenham Wesleyan Sick Benefit Soc., Beckenham; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) Scheme, Kensington, W.; Haggerstonian Sick and Provident Soc., Kingsland Road, N.E.; South London Friends of Humanity Benefit Soc., Walworth Road, S.E.; Royal Borough of Kensington Servants Sick Benefit Soc., Kensington, W.; Ancient Order of Zion Friendly Soc., Deal Street, E.; Bevington Provident Sick and Benefit Soc., N. Kensington, W.; National United Collecting Soc., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Premier Assurance Collecting Soc., Nottingham; Lion of Tipton Sick and Dividend Soc., Tipton, Staffs; F. J. Zellar Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Eclipse Sick and Funeral Benefit Collecting Soc., Bradford; Barwick-in-Elmet Friendly Soc., Barwick-in-Elmet, Leeds. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—1, viz., Knight of Hibernia Friendly Soc., Dublin.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in Dec. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions ... ..	...	4	1
Industrial and Provident Societies	...	18	11
Friendly Societies...	34	...
Building " " " " " "	2	6	...

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