

THE

Board of Trade

LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

Vol. XIII.—No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1905.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

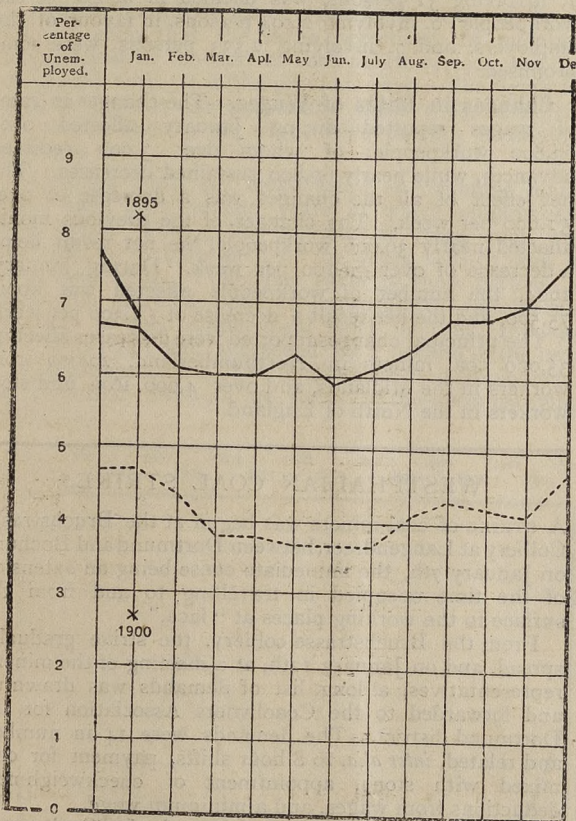


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve=1905.
Thin Curve=1904.
Dotted Curve=Mean of 1895-1904.

X The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed in January during the past ten years, with the dates thereof. In 1895 the percentage was 8.2, in 1900 it was 2.7.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JANUARY.

[Based on 4,422 returns, viz.: 3,060 from Employers or their Associations, 1,294 from Trade Unions, and 68 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in January was better than in December. There was some improvement in the shipbuilding industry, the engineering trades (especially in the shipbuilding centres), and the pig iron, coal mining and boot and shoe trades. The cotton and tinsplate trades continue to be fully employed.

As compared with a year ago employment in most trades showed some improvement, especially the cotton, woollen, pig-iron, tinsplate and iron and steel industries. In the building, printing and furnishing trades there has, however, been no recovery.

In the 270 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 578,910, making returns, 39,315 (or 6.8 per cent.)

were reported as unemployed at the end of January, 1905, as compared with 7.6 per cent. in December, 1904, and 6.7 per cent. at the end of January, 1904.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment during January was fairly good on the whole, and slightly better than a month and a year ago. At collieries employing 544,090 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 4.95 days per week during the four weeks ended January 21st, 1905, as compared with 5.10 in the corresponding period of 1904. The time worked was, however, reduced on account of holidays to the extent of half a day per week in January, 1905, and only a quarter of a day in January, 1904.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was better than a year ago. At the 124 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended January 21st was 5.50, as compared with 5.87 in December, and 5.37 a year ago. The comparison with the December period is affected by Christmas and New Year holidays to the extent of 0.45 days per week in January, 1905, and by New Year holidays to the extent of 0.25 days in January, 1904.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry showed some improvement as compared with a month ago and was considerably better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters show that 306 furnaces, employing about 22,000 workpeople, were in blast at the end of January, or 4 more than at the end of December and 14 more than at the end of January, 1904.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment in this industry was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to 224 works, employing 84,214 workpeople, showed an increase in the total volume of employment during the week ended January 28th, 1905, of 6.3 per cent. as compared with the corresponding week of January, 1904.

Tinsplate Trade.—Employment in this industry was good, and was better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago. At the end of January 403 mills were working, as compared with 397 at the end of December, 1904, and 347 at the end of January, 1904.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in this industry, though still dull generally, was better than a month ago, especially in some of the shipbuilding centres. It is now only slightly worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members who were unemployed at the end of January was 7.0, as compared with 8.4 at the end of December, 1904, and 6.7 at the end of January, 1904.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment in this industry was much better than a month ago, and is now better than a year ago. The percentage unemployed at the end of January was 12.4, as compared with 16.4 at the end of December, 1904, and 14.4 at the end of January, 1904.

Building Trades.—Employment continued dull during January, being much the same as in December, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 11.6 at the end of January, as compared with 11.5 in December, and 7.7 in January, 1904. The percentage

for Plumbers was 10.9 at the end of January, compared with 10.0 in December, and 9.3 a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued brisk and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 50,595 workpeople in preparing and spinning showed that 3.8 per cent. only were in mills working less than full time during the last week in January compared with 35.3 per cent. a year ago; 14,913,000 spindles were running, an increase of 0.4 per cent. compared with the week before Christmas, and of 3.2 per cent., compared with a year ago. Of the 96,261 workpeople in weaving and other departments 3.7 per cent. were in factories working less than full time, compared with 21.8 per cent. a year ago; 205,900 looms were running, an increase of 0.3 per cent. compared with a year ago, and of 6.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—Employment in the Woollen trade although still good showed a decline compared with a month ago; it was, however, much better than a year ago. Woollen firms employing 13,000 workpeople show a decrease in weekly wages of 4.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 12.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Employment in the Worsted trade showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Returns received from worsted firms, employing 34,600 workpeople, showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of weekly wages paid compared with a month ago, but an increase of 3.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the Hosiery trade was quiet in England, and about the same as a year ago; in Scotland it was fair, and better than a year ago. In the Jute trade it showed a decline, and was only moderate. In the Flax trade it was slack in Scotland, and moderate in Ireland.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the Tailoring trade continued dull and was about the same as a year ago. In the ready-made branch it was better than a month and a year ago, but it was still very slack.

Employment in the Hat-making trades was slack, and worse than a year ago. In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 15.6, compared with 14.0 in December and 13.4 a year ago. In the Felt hat trade in the corresponding periods the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed were 4.3, 4.0, and 5.1.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was better than a month ago, but was still bad and worse than a year ago. Returns from 485 firms, employing 63,403 workpeople, and paying £59,435 in wages during the last week of January showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the week before Christmas, but a decrease of 4.4 per cent. compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment in these trades continued bad generally, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of January was 10.8, compared with 11.9 in December and 9.4 in January, 1904.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. It was slightly better than a month ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed (exclusive of coopers) at the end of January was 10.0, compared with 10.5 at the end of December, 1904, and 8.8 a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment at the end of January was quiet and worse than a month and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of the month was 5.3, as compared with 4.8 in December and 4.2 in January, 1904.

Employment in the Papermaking trade remained fairly good. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 3.3, as against 3.1 in December and 3.3 a year ago.

Employment in the Glass trades was bad, worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. In the Pottery, and Brick and Tile trades it continued bad.

Agricultural Labourers were, on the whole, fairly regularly employed during January, the weather being favourable during the greater part of the month. The supply of day labourers was rather in excess of requirements.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment remained moderate in January. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended 28th January was 13,553, an increase of 5.5 per cent. on the average for December, when fog interrupted employment, and a decrease of 5.1 per cent. on that for January, 1904.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during January, 1905, was 6,628, compared with 3,727 in December, 1904, and 10,175 in January, 1904. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 67,100 working days, as compared with 46,900 in the previous month, and 98,900 in January, 1904. Twenty-one disputes began in January, involving 5,138 workpeople, compared with six in December and 17 in January, 1904. Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 17 disputes, new and old, affecting 5,058 persons. Of these disputes, 1, involving 31 persons, was decided in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 2,494 persons, in favour of the employers, and 7, involving 2,533 persons, were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during January affected over 63,800 workpeople, of whom over 3,000 received advances, while nearly 60,800 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of over £1,600 per week. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 39,600 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of over £2,100 per week. During January, 1904, the number of workpeople affected was about 75,500, and the net result a decrease of £2,300 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 35,000 coal miners in Northumberland, 20,000 ironworkers in the Midlands, and over 4,000 iron and steel workers in the North of England.

WESTPHALIAN COAL STRIKE.*

A STRIKE of coal-miners was begun at the Bruchstrasse Colliery at Langendreer, between Dortmund and Bochum, on January 7th, the immediate cause being an extension of the time occupied in travelling to and from the surface to the working places at "face."

From the Bruchstrasse colliery, the strike gradually spread, and on January 12th, at a meeting of the miners' representatives, a long list of demands was drawn up and forwarded to the Coalowners' Association for the Dortmund district. The demands were 14 in number, and related, *inter alia*, to 8 hour shifts, payment for coal mixed with stone, appointment of checkweighmen, deductions from wages, and a minimum wage.

In consequence of the decision of the Coalowners' Association to reject all the men's demands and their refusal to negotiate with the miners' delegates, a general strike of coal miners in the Rhenish Provinces was declared on January 16th.

On that day a commission was appointed by the Prussian Minister of Commerce to investigate the case in the district, and to seek to bring about negotiations between the delegates of the strikers and the Board of the Coalowners' Association at Essen, but the latter refused to appear before the Commission with the delegates of the strikers.

On February 6th the Committee of the miners submitted amended demands, but the coalowners replied that they could not recognise the authority of the committee to act in the men's behalf.

At a conference of the delegates of the miners from all parts of the Ruhr district, held at Essen on February 9th, it was resolved that work should be resumed throughout the district at noon the following day. This resolution was stated to be in reliance upon assurances of the Prussian Government that the miners' grievances would receive attention in a special Government Bill which was shortly to be introduced in the Prussian Diet.

* Based on despatches to the Foreign Office by H.M. Consul-General at Dusseldorf, dated January 20th to February 1st, and on newspaper reports.

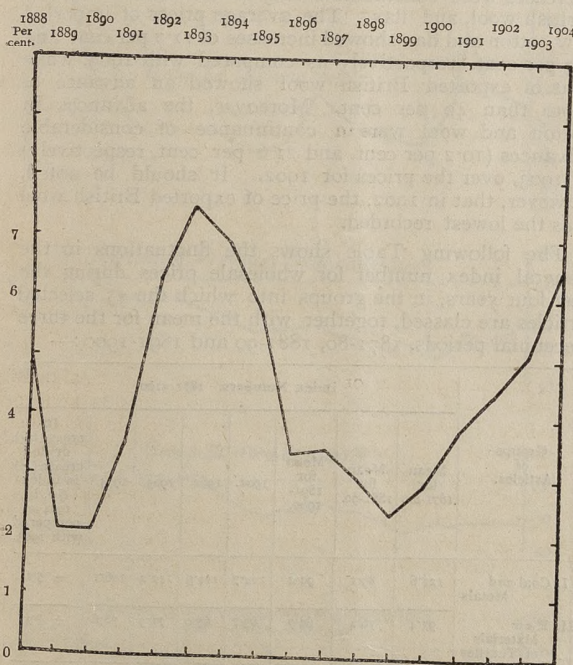
EMPLOYMENT IN 1904.

Summary.

THE downward movement in employment which commenced about the middle of 1900, continued during 1904. Employment was good and better than in 1903 in tinplate manufacture; it showed little change in coal and iron mining, being moderate in the former and good in the latter; but in most other industries it was dull and showed a decline as compared with 1903, especially in the metal, engineering, shipbuilding, building, and boot and shoe industries. In the cotton trade employment was bad for the greater part of the year, much short time being worked owing to the exceptionally high price of raw cotton, but since the fall in the price of cotton full time has been resumed and nearly all departments have been fully employed. In the woollen trade employment improved during the year, but in the worsted trade it remained slack.

Returns relating to about 570,000 members of Trade Unions show that the mean percentage of members unemployed at the end of each month of 1904 was 6.5, compared with 5.1 in the previous year. The figure for 1904 is the highest percentage since 1894, when the proportion was 6.9 per cent., while in 1893 it was 7.5 per cent.

Although 1904 was much below an "average year," there have been several years in which employment was worse. Taking the previous 25 years, such was the case in 1879, in each of the years 1884-87, and in 1893 and 1894. Following each of these periods of depression there has been an improvement, culminating in years of good employment (such as 1882, 1889-90, and 1899-1900) and succeeded by a decline to the next period of depression. The fluctuations in unemployment in the period 1888-1904 are shown in the accompanying chart:—



Details for Principal Trades.

Building Trades.—Employment was considerably worse than in the previous year. Generally it was bad throughout 1904, except with masons in England, with whom it was reported moderate. The mean percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners and plumbers unemployed at the end of each month was 7.6, the highest figure in the period (commencing in 1888) for which these percentages have been recorded. In 1888 the percentage was 5.5; it fell to 2.2 in 1890, rose to 4.1 in 1894, and fell to 1.3 in 1898, since which date it has risen steadily to 4.3 in 1902, 4.9 in 1903, and 7.6 in 1904.

Coal Mining.—On the whole employment was moderate in 1904, and showed practically no change as compared with the previous year. The average number of days worked by pits employing over half a million workpeople, as to which returns were received, was 5.07 per week. As will be seen from the following summary, this is the lowest figure since 1896, but is not as low as in that year or in 1895:—

1895	... 4.74	1900	... 5.47
1896	... 4.92	1901	... 5.12
1897	... 5.13	1902	... 5.22
1898	... 5.25	1903	... 5.09
1899	... 5.46	1904	... 5.07

As compared with 1903, the decline in the number of days worked was most marked in Derbyshire, Notts and Leicester, and Fife. In other districts the falling off was very slight, while in Staffordshire, and South Wales and Monmouth slight increases were shown. The average number of miners employed continued to increase and at the pits for which comparative figures were furnished was 1.2 per cent. greater than in 1903.

Iron Mines and Open Works.—In this industry, employment was good throughout 1904. Monthly returns relating to mines and open works employing some 15,500 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked by the mines in 1904 was 5.77 per week, compared with 5.72 in the previous year. The most marked improvement in 1904 was in the Staffordshire and Shropshire district, which recovered from the appreciable decline noted in 1903. In the Cleveland district the average number of days worked reached 5.88 per week. In the remaining districts some decline was shown, especially in Scotland. The total number employed at the mines covered by the returns showed a slight falling off in 1904, compared with the previous year.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment in this industry in 1904 was bad, except in Scotland. From 1896 onwards monthly returns have been received relating to the works of 117 ironmasters, and covering nearly all the blastfurnaces in the United Kingdom. The average number of furnaces in blast at these works rose from 346 in 1896 to 379 in 1899, and then fell to 368 in 1900, with a further marked decline to 310 in 1901. In the two following years there was some recovery, the average number of furnaces in blast being 322 in 1902, and 321 in 1903, but in 1904 the average fell to 302, the lowest recorded.

Iron and Steel Works.—The Department receives monthly returns from employers, and in the case of 177 works these returns have been furnished throughout the seven years 1898-1904. The returns show that the number of workpeople employed increased in the three years, 1898-1900, and fell off in the next three years, 1901-1903, to nearly the level of 1898. In 1904 there was a very slight increase on the previous year, but the number employed remained less than in 1902. The average number of shifts worked in 1904 was 5.34 per week, compared with 5.38 in 1903 and 5.36 in 1902. Taking account of both the number of shifts worked and the number of persons employed, it is found that the volume of employment was 0.3 per cent. less in 1904 than in 1903 and 2.0 per cent. less than in 1902.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry, which had fallen off towards the end of the previous year, improved greatly and was good in 1904. The mean number of mills in operation at the end of each month of 1904 was 374, compared with 359 in 1903. The figure for 1904 was not as high as those for the years 1899, 1900 and 1902, in which the mean number of mills working ranged from 381 to 387, but was considerably above the average (354) for the nine years 1896-1904 for which the returns have been collected.

Engineering.—Employment showed a downward movement during the year, and on the whole was very dull and worse than in 1903, or in any year since 1894. On the North East Coast there was a slight revival in the early months of the year, and the mean of the

percentages of Trade Union members unemployed in that district at the end of each month of 1904 was thus rather less than the mean for 1903. In every other district there was some decline, the falling off being greatest in Lancashire and in the Notts., Derby, and Leicester district. The mean percentage unemployed varied considerably in the different districts. In the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn district it was 11.4, in the East of Scotland 10.9, in Glasgow and district 9.4, in the West Riding towns 9.1, and in Belfast and Dublin 9.0, while in the London district it was 4.6. For the United Kingdom as a whole the mean percentage unemployed was 7.0, compared with 4.9 in 1903. For the eleven years 1894-1904, the mean percentage unemployed was 4.7.

Shipbuilding. — In this industry employment continued to decline. At the end of the year there were signs of improvement but generally employment was bad and worse than in any year since 1894. Compared with the previous year an improvement was shown on the Wear, and to some extent on the Tyne and South Coast, but all other districts showed a decline which was greatest at Belfast, on the Humber and in Scotland. The mean percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 14.0. In the previous ten years the percentage fell steadily from 15.6 in 1894 to 2.3 in 1899, rising to 12.0 in 1903, the average for the period being 7.7.

Cotton Trade. — Employment in the cotton industry, which had declined in 1903 owing to the high price of the raw material, showed a further decline in the early months of 1904 and continued bad generally for the first half of the year. Organised short time prevailed in mills spinning American cotton, only 40 hours per week being worked, instead of the usual 55½, but at mills using Egyptian cotton employment was fairly good and full time general. In June a considerable improvement took place, and the amount of short time was reduced, mills spinning American cotton generally working 47½ hours a week. During August some of the mills spinning American cotton worked only 40 hours, others 47½, but organised short time ceased at such mills at the end of the month. It was then commenced at mills using Egyptian cotton, but continued only during September. In the latter month a decided improvement took place, which was maintained to the end of the year. The average price of "Middling American" declined to 5.50d. in October. At the beginning of December following the announcement of the official forecast of the American cotton crop a sharp fall took place, and the average price of "Middling American" for the month was 4.20d. In the last three months of the year full time was general at mills using both American and Egyptian cotton, and employment was good.

Woollen and Worsted Trades. — In the Woollen trade employment was rather quiet at the beginning of the year, but improved and was good in the later months. In the Worsted trade employment remained slack, though showing a slight improvement towards the end of the year.

Boot and Shoe Trades. — Employment was generally bad and worse than in the previous year. Monthly returns relating to over 600 firms employing on an average about 75,000 workpeople, showed a decrease every month in the number of workpeople employed as compared with a year ago. The percentage of the workpeople covered by the returns who were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, ranged from 74 in May to 45 in November.

Agricultural Labourers. — Employment for agricultural labourers in England was good in 1904 and more regular than in the previous year, which was abnormally wet. In 1904 the weather was very favourable for agricultural work. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient. Labour was reported to be somewhat more abundant than in recent years, but men to take charge of animals were still difficult to obtain in a number of districts.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN 1904.

MEASURED by the Board of Trade Index Number* for Wholesale Prices, the general level of prices in 1904 showed very little change as compared with 1903.

As compared, however, with 1900 a decline of 5.4 per cent. is shown, but in 1900 the general level of prices was higher than in any year since 1884, with the exception of 1891, and over 19 per cent. in excess of that for 1896, the lowest year of the period for which the index number has been calculated.

The following Table gives the index number representing the percentage rise or fall in wholesale prices in each year of the period 1871-1904. The figure for 1904 is, however, subject to revision on the issue of the Annual Statement of Trade for that year:—

1871=100.			
Year.	Index Number.	Year.	Index Number.
1871	100.0	1888	79.3
1872	110.6	1889	80.8
1873	118.8	1890	82.8
1874	113.6	1891	84.1
1875	107.8	1892	80.1
1876	104.2	1893	78.7
1877	105.3	1894	75.1
1878	99.3	1895	72.2
1879	94.9	1896	69.8
1880	97.4	1897	71.3
1881	93.7	1898	73.6
1882	97.3	1899	74.5
1883	95.5	1900	83.2
1884	88.3	1901	79.2
1885	83.0	1902	78.8
1886	78.5	1903	78.6
1887	76.7	1904	78.7

The most noticeable feature of the year was the marked rise in prices of the group of raw materials of textiles. All of the articles composing the group, with the exception of silk, showed an increase in price, but the increases were considerable only in the cases of cotton, British wool, and flax. The average prices of imported raw cotton and flax showed increases of 11.7 per cent. and 9.3 per cent. respectively as compared with 1903, while that of exported British wool showed an advance of more than 40 per cent. Moreover, the advances in cotton and wool were a continuance of considerable advances (10.2 per cent. and 21.6 per cent. respectively) in 1903, over the prices for 1902. It should be noted, however, that in 1902, the price of exported British wool was the lowest recorded.

The following Table shows the fluctuations in the general index number for wholesale prices during the last four years, in the groups into which the 45 selected articles are classed, together with the mean for the three decennial periods, 1871-80, 1881-90 and 1891-1900:—

Groups of Articles.	Index Numbers. 1871=100.							Increase (+) or decrease (-) in Index No. in 1904 as compared with 1903.
	Mean for 1871-80.	Mean for 1881-90.	Mean for 1891-1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	
I. Coal and Metals	121.6	89.1	99.2	124.7	114.9	111.2	106.1	- 5.1
II. Raw Materials of Textiles	97.4	76.4	62.7	65.7	65.0	71.3	78.6	+ 7.3
III. A. Corn ...	102.5	80.0	67.0	64.0	63.7	63.8	66.7	+ 2.9
B. Meat, Fish, &c.	109.6	99.3	88.3	89.8	94.4	92.2	89.0	- 3.2
C. Sugar, Tea, &c.	93.6	70.8	58.0	50.1	46.1	47.0	48.2	+ 1.2
Total Group III. (Food and Drink)	104.9	88.3	76.3	75.3	76.7	75.7	75.4	- 0.3
IV. Oil, Seeds, Timber, Bricks, &c.	97.7	78.9	66.6	71.7	69.2	68.4	66.0	- 2.4
General Index No. for 45 Articles	105.2	85.9	76.3	79.2	78.8	78.6	78.7	+ 0.1

* For the method of construction of this index number and the prices of the 45 articles composing it, see Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902, with comparative Statistical Tables for a series of years, H.C. 321 of 1903, and Labour Gazette, February, 1904.

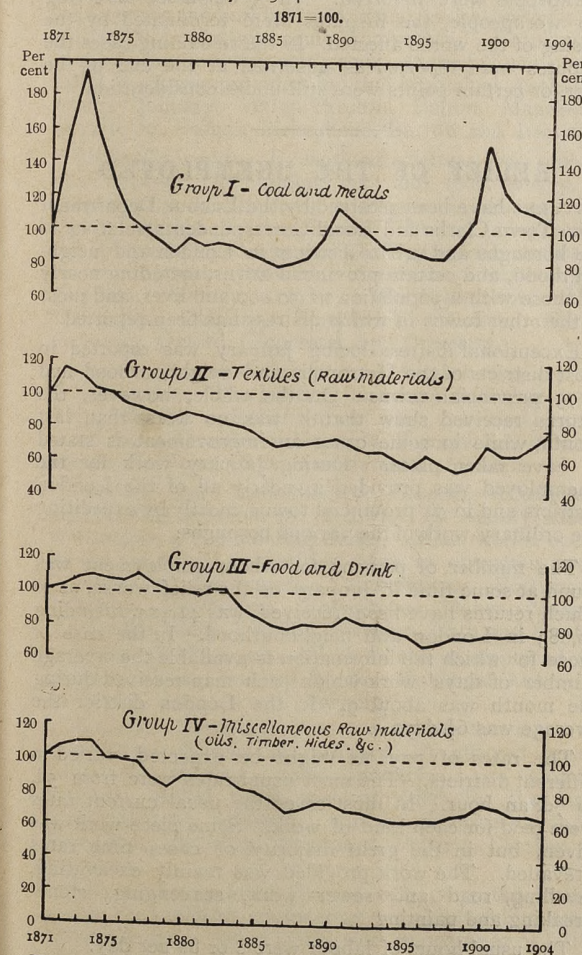
From the above Table it will be seen that the rise in the index number for the group of textile raw materials was practically counterbalanced by declines in the other three groups of articles included in the general index number; the group index numbers for coal and metals, food and drink and miscellaneous raw materials showing declines of 4.6 per cent., 0.4 per cent. and 3.5 per cent. respectively.

The decline in the index number for coal and metals was due entirely to the lower prices of coal and pig iron which obtained throughout the year. As compared with 1903 coal showed a fall of nearly 5 per cent., and pig iron of about 7½ per cent.

The slight fall in the index number for the 23 articles of food and drink arose from the decline in the prices of meat, fish and dairy produce, counter-balanced to a considerable extent by advances in certain cereals and dutiable articles. British wheat was nearly 6 per cent. dearer than in 1903, potatoes 13½ per cent., hops 15.5 per cent., and coffee 12 per cent. On the other hand there was a decline in the price of bacon of 10.9 per cent., and rice 10 per cent., together with less marked decreases in the prices of barley, British oats, maize, beef and milk.

In the group of miscellaneous raw materials there was a marked rise in the price of caoutchouc (12 per cent.) and paraffin (14.8 per cent.) and to a less extent of petroleum (4 per cent.). The other articles of the group declined in price, linseed showing a fall of 15 per cent. and hewn fir of 5.6 per cent.

The following Chart shows the fluctuations in the index numbers representing the four groups of articles over the period of 1871-1904.



From the above Chart it will be seen that over the period 1871-1904 the coal and metals group has fluctuated more violently than any other group, and this is entirely due to the great changes in price of coal and iron. The export value of coal was as high as 20.49s. per ton in 1873, and as low as 8.19s. in 1887.

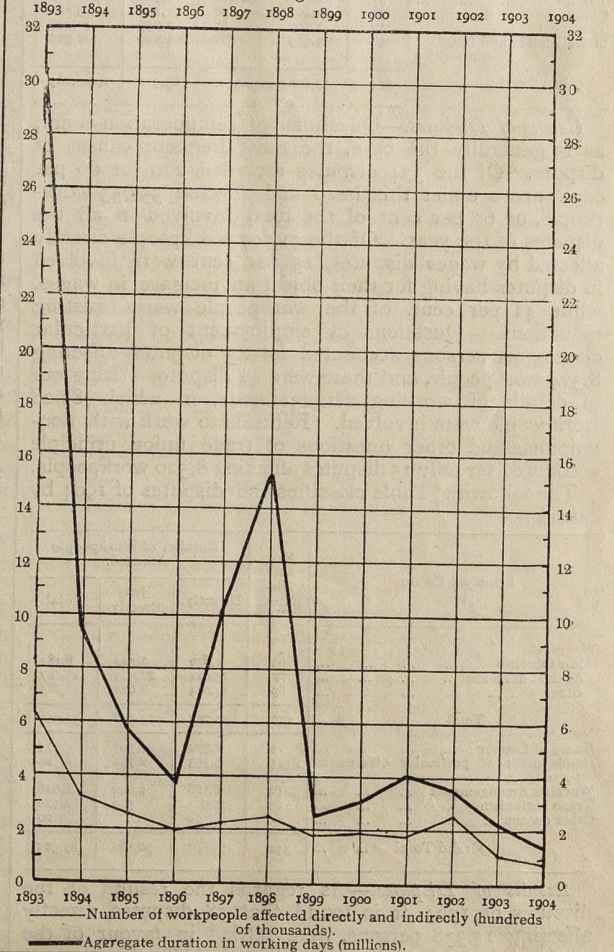
TRADE DISPUTES IN 1904.*

THE year 1904 was singularly free from trade disputes causing a stoppage of work. The numbers of disputes, of workpeople affected, and of working days lost were all the smallest figures on record. The number of workpeople involved was less than one in every hundred of the industrial population; and even this small percentage would be still further reduced if agricultural labourers and seamen were included, as very few strikes or lock-outs occur among these workpeople. Spread over the same industrial population the actual time lost owing to trade disputes was very inconsiderable, being less than one-seventh part of a working day in the year.

The comparative freedom from disputes in 1904 is brought out in the following summary Table:—

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	No. of Workpeople affected by Disputes beginning in each year.			Aggregate duration in working days of all Disputes in each year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1893	615	594,149	40,152	634,301	30,467,765
1894	929	257,314	67,014	324,328	9,529,010
1895	715	207,239	51,884	259,123	5,724,670
1896	920	147,950	50,240	198,190	3,746,368
1897	864	167,453	62,814	230,267	10,345,523
1898	711	200,769	53,138	253,907	15,289,478
1899	719	138,058	42,159	180,217	2,516,416
1900	648	135,145	53,392	188,537	3,152,694
1901	642	111,437	68,109	179,546	4,112,287
1902	442	116,924	139,843	256,767	3,470,255
1903	387	91,515	23,386	114,901	2,338,668
1904	334	53,801	30,121	83,922	1,416,265

As will be seen from the Table the first half of the period covered experienced a considerably greater amount of industrial disturbance than the latter half. The later years were free from large general disputes, while the earlier years included the great coal miners' dispute in the Federated Districts (1893), the Scottish coal miners' dispute (1894), the engineers' dispute (1897), and the Welsh coal miners' dispute (1898). The chart below shows the facts at a glance.



* The figures for 1904 are preliminary only and subject to revision in the Annual Report.

Details for 1904.

Industries Affected.—In 1904 the coal mining industry was, as usual, responsible for the greatest amount of industrial disturbance, nearly one-third of the number of disputes, more than one-half of the total number of workpeople affected, and more than one-third of the aggregate duration being accounted for by this industry.

Table with columns: Trades, No. of Disputes beginning in 1904, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total), Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in 1904.

Causes of Disputes.—Questions of remuneration were, as is generally the case, the most frequent causes of dispute. Of the 334 disputes recorded, 220 (or 66 per cent.) arose under this head and affected 55,955 workpeople, or 67 per cent. of the total involved in all the disputes of the year.

Table with columns: Principal Cause, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total).

Results of Disputes.—As regards the results of the disputes of 1904, it is found that 58 disputes, directly affecting 15,338 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 161 disputes, directly affecting 21,332

persons, were settled in favour of the employers; and 105 disputes, directly affecting 16,229 workpeople, were compromised. Taking the percentages based on the number of workpeople directly affected, the balance of success appears to have been with the employers.

Table with columns: Results, Number of Disputes (Number, Per cent.), Number of Workpeople directly affected (Number, Per cent.).

Methods of Settlement.—As might be expected, most of the disputes were settled by direct negotiation between the parties concerned or their representatives. Of the 334 disputes recorded, 214, affecting 57,043 workpeople, were settled in this way.

RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

RETURNS have been received by the Labour Department from Town Clerks and Local Correspondents relating to the boroughs and urban districts in London and neighbourhood, and certain provincial towns, including nearly all those with a population of 50,000 and over, and most of the other towns in which distress has been reported.

Exceptional distress during January was reported in most districts of the Metropolis and neighbourhood and in 73 provincial towns. On the whole, however, the returns received show that it was no worse than last month, while in some cases an improvement is stated to have taken place.

The number of persons for whom employment was found at some time in January on the relief works, as to which returns have been received, was 41,424, including 20,683 in London and neighbourhood.

The rates of pay, as might be expected, varied in different districts. The most usual rates were from 5d. to 7d. an hour. In most cases the usual current rates were paid for each kind of work.

The usual hours of labour were 8 or 8½ per day.

London and Neighbourhood.—Exceptional distress was reported in nearly every district. The building trades were most generally affected, the other classes being general, and dock and waterside labourers, boot and shoe operatives, and workpeople in the furniture trades.

Local work for the unemployed was provided in January by the local authorities in nearly all boroughs and urban districts in the Metropolis and surrounding districts.

In addition the Central Committee of the London Unemployed Fund have made arrangements for the continuous employment of a number of men with the London County Council, the Office of Works, the Corporation of the City of London, the Salvation Army and the Garden City Company.

Northern Counties.—According to the returns received the classes of workpeople most affected by distress were labourers in the building, shipbuilding and iron and steel trades.

Yorkshire.—Exceptional distress was reported in 10 towns. The classes chiefly affected were building trade operatives, outdoor labourers generally, woolcombers, and the glass bottle, clothing, and boot and shoe trades.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Exceptional distress was reported in 13 towns. The classes chiefly affected were labourers in the building and metal trades, outdoor and general labourers, and some ironworkers.

Midland Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in 17 towns. The building, boot and shoe, pottery, and cycle trades, brickmakers, and general labourers were chiefly affected by the distress.

Eastern Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in four towns. The building and boot and shoe trades were affected. Relief work was provided by the municipal authorities of Norwich, Yarmouth, Colchester, and by the Town Relief Association at Ipswich.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in 11 towns. It mainly affected workpeople in the building trades. Relief works, opened by the municipal authorities, were in operation during January at Devonport, Southampton, Portsmouth, Brighton, Eastbourne, Folkestone, Dover, Margate, Tunbridge Wells, Reading, Swindon, Bath and Bristol.

Wales and Monmouth.—Work for the unemployed was provided during January by the Municipal Authorities at Cardiff, Swansea and Newport.

Scotland.—Reports from 11 towns state that there was exceptional distress in January. It affected general labourers, building trade operatives, and shipyard workers. Relief work was provided by the Local Authorities at Glasgow, Airdrie, Dumbarton, Ayr, Hamilton, Rothesay, Inverness, Paisley, Dundee and Aberdeen.

Ireland.—Exceptional distress was reported in three towns, the building, engineering and shipbuilding trades being affected. Relief works were in operation at Belfast and Cork.

The following Table gives certain particulars of the work for the unemployed provided during January by Local Authorities either directly or, in a few cases, in conjunction with funds raised by voluntary subscription.

Employment-Relief in January, 1905.

Large table with columns: Locality, No. of days in January during which works were open, No. of Men Employed (Total, Average per day), No. of days worked (Aggregate, Average per Man).

* Excluding 169 stonebreakers at Hull and 70 at York. † Number at work at end of January. ‡ Exclusive of time worked by stone breakers, which cannot be stated. § Including 68 days work snow clearing. || Work provided by Town Relief Association and not by Corporation.

Locality	No. of days in January during which works were open.	No. of Men Employed.		No. of days worked.	
		Total.	Average per day during periods works were open.	Aggregate.	Average per Man.
S. & S.W. Counties—(continued)					
Margate	26	50	23	600	12'0
Portsmouth	26	366	72	1,858	5'1
Reading	26	153	116	3,018	19'7
Southampton	26	808	84	2,189	2'7
Swindon	26	75	35	9'0	12'3
Tunbridge Wells	26	311	28	718	2'3
Wales and Mon.—					
Cardiff	18	107	90	1,630	15'1
Newport	26	150	58	1,500	10'0
Swansea	26	287	41	1,053	3'7
Scotland—					
Aberdeen	23	287	258	5,942	20'7
Airdrie	11	11	8	88	8'0
Ayr	25	94	77	1,922	20'4
Dumbarion	20	38	19	380	10'0
Dundee	25	160*	160	4,000	25'0
Glasgow	26	1,621	1,132	37,231	23'0
Hamilton	26	80	49	1,264	15'8
Inverness	26	60	58	1,500	25'0
Paisley	25	223	221	5,575	25'0
Rothesay	24	39	27	648	16'6
Ireland—					
Belfast	26	238	149	3,871	16'3
Cork	12	194	97	1,164	6'0

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.

The January Labour Gazette of the Canadian Department of Labour states: "Falling off in employment occurred during December owing to the setting in of cold weather in the second week of the month, the result of which was an immediate and general curtailment in outside operations. Unskilled labour and the outside branches of the building trades were the leading classes directly affected. In the agricultural industry, also, winter operations were begun, and the closing of navigation on the Great Lakes threw a number of men out of employment. On the other hand the Christmas holiday season had the effect of stimulating employment in a number of branches, including the printing, food and tobacco preparation, clothing and miscellaneous trades. The manufacturing industry also showed an improvement in outlook for the coming year. In Western Canada, though there were numbers of unemployed on the market, and a surplus of retail clerks, work in the woods and on the railways was reported plentiful. In British Columbia alone among the Provinces was anything approaching dulness reported, other than that which usually sets in with the close of the season of active outside operations." There is expected to be a large demand for farm labourers in the spring; they should arrive at the end of March or early in April. The principal demand is for capable men and boys who understand farm work, milking cows, looking after cattle, horses, sheep or pigs, killing and dressing animals, &c. Even inexperienced hands may get places in the spring, provided they are willing to learn and are strong and able; their wages at first will be nominal, but board and lodging will be supplied free. As a rule, single men are preferred everywhere, but married men, with wives competent to take charge of dairy or household duties, and families able to work, are often employed also. The price of bread has declined lately in a few places, but that of sugar continues to advance; workmen's houses are scarce in many towns especially in Toronto.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—The supply of labour at Sydney is more than enough, and a great many persons have no work to do. The strike of wheelers at the Newcastle coalmines has ended, and the men have agreed to a 10 per cent. reduction in wages. At Robertson there is a limited demand for farm labourers and female servants, but no demand for others. At Orange there is no demand

* Average daily number.

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

for anyone except female servants. At Jerilderie there is no demand for anyone. At Cooma there is no demand, there being unemployed persons throughout the district.

Victoria.—There is no demand for more labour at Melbourne. The lowest wages for men employed in making harness and saddlery have been fixed at 48s. per week of 48 hours, and for women 20s. There is very little demand for more labour in country districts, except for farm labourers in some places. Owing to many departures from Victoria, the estimated population on September 30th, 1904, was 1,249 less than that on December 31st, 1903.

Western Australia.—There is little demand for more labour, except in a few places like Northam, where there is a fair demand for skilled farm labourers, general labourers and blacksmiths and carpenters. There is a good demand in most parts for female servants.

Queensland.—Skilled farm labourers can get work in the South, but there is not much demand for mechanics or miners anywhere. Female servants are in demand in the North. Female servants, farm labourers, ploughmen and gardeners, having friends in Queensland, may obtain cheap nominated passages to the State through them.

New Zealand.

There is a good demand for good milkers in nearly all parts of the Colony. The supply of unskilled labourers is sufficient. Manufactories are generally busy, and skilled men have little difficulty in finding work. Boat-builders and shipwrights are busily employed at Auckland.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one is allowed to land in Cape Colony unless he has secured employment and possesses £20 on arrival. All trades are dull at Kimberley; those who are out of employment, are being found work on railway construction at a low wage. There is no demand for anyone at Simonstown. Prospects are slightly better in the building trades at Cape Town and East London, but all emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony in search of work at the present time.

Natal.—There has been no improvement in the building trades at Durban and Maritzburg, and there are still many men out of work, especially unskilled labourers and indifferent workmen.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. The market for skilled artisans both in Johannesburg and in country districts is seriously overcrowded, and there are large numbers of these men who cannot get work at their own trades. At Johannesburg there are permanent relief works. Though the output of gold is very large, the local supply of miners is still more than sufficient. It appears from the above that no one—except female servants obtaining assisted passages—should go to the Transvaal now in search of immediate work, especially as the cost of living is very high, and the expense of waiting there for work for a few months would be very serious.

Orange River Colony.—No one can enter the Colony without a permit. There is no demand for more labour, and many on the spot are out of work. The assisted passages for female servants continue. Farmers are suffering very severely from the drought, and the late pest of locusts.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in December.—Reports as to the state of employment were received by the French Labour Department from 1,023 Trade Unions, having an aggregate membership of 192,154. Of these, 22,660, or 11·8 per cent., were unemployed on December 15th, as compared with 11·6 per cent. in the previous month, and 11·8 per cent. in December, 1903. The totals on which these figures are based do not include returns from the coal miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments.

The following statement shows the percentages of members of Trade Unions reported unemployed in

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

certain trades, for which the figures are given separately:—

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at the end of		
	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.
Building Trades:—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Carpenters and Joiners ...	15'0	11'4	12'0
Other Branches	36'6	18'4	25'0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	6'7	8'0	9'0
Textile Trades	5'3	6'6	8'9
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking) ...	9'6	16'6	15'0
Printing Trades:—			
Paris	6'4	5'0	2'8
Provinces	2'9	3'9	1'5
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	27'6	16'5	35'0
Boot and Shoemaking	4'8	4'4	12'0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades ...	7'5	6'8	7'0
Food Preparation Trades (including Confectionery) ...	23'1	27'7	13'0

Coal Mining in December.—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground during December was 5·82, as compared with 5·86 in the previous month and 5·70 in December, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 48·6 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 50·8 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week, the corresponding percentages in the previous month being 62 and 37 respectively, while in December, 1903, they were 13 and 87 respectively. The foregoing figures were furnished to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 153,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in December.—Twenty-two disputes, of which 20 involved a total of 2,766 workpeople, were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in December. Three of these disputes occurred in the building trades, 2 in quarrying, 5 in the metal trades, 3 in the textile trades, 4 in the transport and warehousing trades, 2 in agriculture, 2 in the paper trades, and 1 in a trade not falling within any of these groups. Of 24 new and old disputes which came to an end in December, 4 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 11 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in December.—Six cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department during December. One of these was a strike of agricultural labourers, which extended to a large number of localities in the south of France, and is referred to separately below. In 2 of the remaining 5 disputes the initiative for mediation came from workpeople, and in 3 from the Justices of the Peace. Committees of conciliation were formed in 3 of these 5 cases, and resulted in the settlement of the respective disputes; the proffered mediation was declined in 1 case by the employers, and in 1 by both employers and workpeople.

In the case of the dispute between the agricultural labourers and their employers in the south of France recourse was had to the conciliation and arbitration law in ten localities, and resulted in the immediate or eventual settlement of the dispute so far as the localities in question were concerned.

GERMANY.

Employment in December.*—Compared with a year ago, employment was rather better on the whole.

Throughout the year coal mining never regained the high level of activity reached in 1903, but the improvement observable during the last few months of the year was maintained in December.† The great majority of establishments in the various branches of the metal industry experienced no lack of employment, and, generally speaking, the engineering and chemical trades were able to report a satisfactory condition of things. The state of the electrical and paper trades was particularly favourable, both in December and throughout 1904, work in those trades being carried on at high pressure.

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

† For particulars of subsequent strike, see p. 34.

Returns relating to the state of employment during the last quarter of 1904 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 641,653, as compared with a membership of 589,928 in the Unions which reported at the end of September, and 429,318 in the Unions which reported at the end of December, 1903. Of the total membership in December last 14,771, or 2·6 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of the month, as compared with 1·8 per cent. at the end of September, and 2·6 per cent. a year ago. The number and percentage of members unemployed in the three principal Federations of unions in these trades at each of the three periods compared were as follows:—

	Metal Workers (Headquarters, Stuttgart).	Engineers and Metal Workers (Headquarters, Berlin).	Printers (Headquarters, Berlin).	Total.
Total Membership:—				
December, 1904	181,328	43,595	38,219	263,142
September, 1904	168,750	37,308	36,943	243,001
December, 1903	158,548	38,175	34,807	231,530
Membership:—				
Unemployed:—				
December, 1904	3,221	374	1,707	5,302
September, 1904	2,480	261	3,039	5,780
December, 1903	3,148	358	1,947	5,453
Percentage of Total Membership				
Unemployed:—				
December, 1904	1'8	1'0	4'5	2'0
September, 1904	1'5	0'7	8'2	2'4
December, 1903	1'7	0'9	4'7	2'4

AUSTRIA.*

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

	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.	Dec., 1903.
Number of Situations:			
(i.) Offered			
Males	10,202	14,810	10,258
Females	10,242	13,195	8,444
Total	20,444	28,005	18,702
(ii.) Applied for			
Males	35,974	39,274	31,328
Females	14,739	22,146	11,836
Total	50,663	61,420	43,164
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered			
Males	352	265	305
Females	144	168	140
Total	248	219	231

Labour Disputes in December.—Twelve disputes, in which a total of 824 workpeople took part, were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in December.

BELGIUM.

Strike of Coal Miners.†—The German coal strike has been followed in Belgium by a similar movement, which, beginning on January 24th by a partial strike in the Borinage district, culminated on February 6th in a vote passed by the National Congress of Miners for a general strike throughout the four Belgian coal districts.

The principal demands of the miners are for an increase of 25 per cent. in wages, reduction in hours of labour, and old age pensions to miners.

On February 13th it was stated that the number on strike in the Charleroi district amounted to 33,000, and in the Borinage district to 28,000.

On February 11th, owing to the orders for coal received from Germany in consequence of the strike of the Westphalian miners (see p. 34), there was hardly any stock of industrial coal left at the Belgian collieries, and on February 13th French coal was stated to be arriving in the Borinage district at the rate of 15 and 20 wagons daily.

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

† Based on despatches to the Foreign Office by H.M. Minister at Brussels and H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, dated February 7th to 13th.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades continued dull during January. It was much the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago.

Employment with carpenters and joiners was bad, being slightly worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 11.6, as compared with 11.5 in December, and 7.7 in January, 1904. With plumbers it was bad in England and Ireland, and worse than both a month and a year ago. In Scotland it was quiet. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 10.9 at the end of January, compared with 10.0 in December, and 9.3 in January, 1904.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1905.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Percentage for	
		Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	2,077	10.3	11.3	8.0	-1.0	+2.3
Northern Counties†	6,091	12.3	13.9	11.0	-1.6	+1.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,348	11.6	11.2	7.8	+0.4	+3.8
Yorkshire	5,238	12.5	12.7	8.7	-0.2	+3.8
East Midlands	2,944	13.7	12.2	8.2	+1.5	+5.5
West Midlands	4,686	11.7	8.9	6.9	+2.8	+4.8
Eastern Counties	1,136	10.6	12.0	10.7	-1.4	-0.1
S. and S.W. Counties	6,003	9.2	9.9	5.6	-0.7	+3.6
Wales and Monmouth	1,894	6.3	6.2	7.6	+0.1	-1.3
Other Districts	638	10.8	7.7	8.3	+3.1	+2.5
Scotland	5,596	11.0	11.6	6.2	-0.6	+4.8
Ireland	4,503	17.2	14.6	6.1	+2.6	+11.1
UNITED KINGDOM	56,157	11.6	11.5	7.7	+0.1	+3.0
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,151	10.9	13.6	11.6	-2.7	-0.7
Northern Counties†	1,643	9.1	8.8	6.3	+0.3	+2.8
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,557	9.9	8.4	10.4	+1.5	+2.0
Yorkshire	1,208	9.5	8.2	8.1	+1.3	+1.4
East Midlands	685	8.3	7.7	10.6	+0.6	-2.3
West Midlands	513	8.2	7.0	8.5	+1.2	-0.3
Eastern Counties	113	7.1	10.9	11.6	-3.8	-4.5
S. and S.W. Counties	496	11.1	8.3	5.6	+2.8	+5.5
Wales and Monmouth	268	7.3	6.6	8.3	+0.7	-1.0
Other Districts	69	14	10.0	...	-8.6	+1.4
Scotland	1,959	13.7	11.1	11.0	+2.6	+2.7
Ireland	637	21.2	20.3	7.3	+0.9	+13.9
UNITED KINGDOM	11,319	10.9	10.0	9.3	+0.9	+1.6

With bricklayers employment generally was dull, and about the same as a month or a year ago. With masons it was generally dull in England; it was bad in Scotland, and worse than a month ago. With painters employment was dull. It was slightly better, however, than a month ago in England, but rather worse in Scotland. Employment with plasterers was bad. With slaters and tilers employment continued dull, and much the same as a month ago in England; in Scotland, however, there was a slight improvement as compared with December, and it was better than a year ago. With builders' labourers employment was slack generally.

The returns received from 72 Employers' Associations show that employment generally was dull, and much the same as a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

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

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † And Middlesbrough.

London.—Employment in London showed a slight improvement in January as compared with December, but it was still slack and worse than a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 66 employers show that in the last week of January they paid wages to 13,740 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 13,430 in the corresponding week of December, 1904, and 15,175 in January, 1904.

Northern Counties.—Employment continued dull, and worse than a year ago. There was some decline, however, in the number of unemployed in the Tees and Hartlepool district as compared with December.

Yorkshire and Lancashire.—Employment was slack generally throughout Yorkshire and Lancashire, and was worse than a year ago.

Midland Counties.—No improvement is reported in the state of employment in the principal towns in these districts as compared with a month ago. It was bad generally, and worse than a year ago.

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

Southern and South-Western Counties.—At Exeter and Portsmouth employment in most branches was fair; elsewhere it was dull generally.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In North Wales employment was bad. In South Wales and Monmouthshire it was slack generally, but fair with plumbers, except at Swansea, where short time was worked.

Scotland.—Employment generally was dull, and much the same as a month ago. Painters at Leith, however, report employment as fair, and better than a month or a year ago.

Ireland.—Employment generally was dull.

COAL MINING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the coal-mining industry during the month of January was fairly good, and if due allowance is made for the Christmas and New Year holidays, was slightly better than a month and a year ago. Employment was considerably better in the second than in the first half of January, 1905.

Returns received relating to 1,301 pits, employing 544,090 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries* during the four weeks ended January 21st, 1905, was 4.95, compared with 5.30 in December, 1904, and 5.10 in January, 1904. The average number of days worked, however, was lowered by holidays to the extent of half a day in January, 1905, and to the extent of a quarter-of-a-day in January, 1904. No allowance has to be made for holidays in the four weeks ended December 24th, 1904.

Of the 544,090 workpeople covered by the returns, 339,258 (or 62.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 and under 23½ days, and 156,386, or 28.8 per cent., at pits working 16 and under 20 days.

As compared with a month ago, an improvement is reported in most districts, with the exception of Northumberland, where, however, employment improved considerably towards the end of the month, especially with those engaged in the getting of coal for export.

As compared with a year ago also the Scottish districts and Lancashire report a considerable improvement. In other districts, excepting Northumberland, Derbyshire, and Warwickshire, employment was about the same.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—COAL AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

worked per week by collieries in January, 1905 and 1904, and in December, 1904:—

District.	No. of Workpeople employed in Jan., 1905, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Jan., 1905, as compared with	
		Jan. 21st, 1905.*	Dec. 24th, 1904.	Jan. 23rd, 1904.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland	40,577	4.75	5.11	5.10	-0.36	-0.35
Durham	96,440	5.20	5.41	5.17	-0.21	+0.03
Cumberland	6,752	4.91	5.81	5.22	-0.90	-0.31
South Yorkshire	57,421	5.00	5.41	5.08	-0.41	-0.08
West Yorkshire	16,804	4.50	4.77	4.84	-0.27	-0.39
Lancashire and Cheshire	59,304	4.90	5.23	4.99	-0.33	-0.09
Derbyshire	41,601	4.75	4.88	4.98	-0.13	-0.23
Nottingham and Leicester	26,712	4.40	4.44	4.42	-0.04	-0.02
Staffordshire	25,977	4.76	5.17	5.19	-0.41	-0.43
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick	9,523	5.10	5.44	5.28	-0.34	-0.18
Gloucester and Somerset	8,651	5.09	5.49	5.52	-0.40	-0.43
North Wales	10,610	4.79	5.05	5.43	-0.26	-0.64
South Wales and Mon.	113,912	5.20	5.68	5.80	-0.48	-0.60
ENGLAND & WALES...	605,284	4.97	5.28	5.17	-0.31	-0.20
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	18,653	4.75	5.45	4.56	-0.70	+0.19
The Lothians	4,973	4.96	5.91	5.07	-0.95	-1.11
Fife	14,512	4.46	5.25	3.96	-0.79	+0.50
SCOTLAND	38,138	4.67	5.43	4.37	-0.76	+0.30
IRELAND.						
	668	4.75	5.52	5.23	-0.77	-0.48
United Kingdom	644,090	4.95	5.30	5.10	-0.35	-0.15

In Northumberland employment was dull during the first part of the month and good during the second half, when practically all the collieries worked full time, the strike of miners in Westphalia causing an increased demand in coal for export. In Durham employment continued good and was about the same as a year ago. In Cumberland some decline was shown.

In Yorkshire miners were well employed throughout the month, and the demand for house coal was good.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was good generally, and better than a month and a year ago. There has been a better demand for all classes of coal. In the Burnley district, however, some short time has been worked.

In Derbyshire employment improved slightly, but was slack in house coal seams and fairly good on gas and steam coal seams. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire also a slight improvement took place, but there was some short time in the latter county.

Miners in Staffordshire were rather better employed than in December and also than a year ago, but in the Cannock Chase district only about 3½ days per week have been worked. In this latter district also some 500 miners have been thrown out of work through the flooding of a colliery.

In Warwickshire and Shropshire employment was fair, but in the former county it was not quite so good as a year ago.

In Bristol coalfield employment continued good, in Somersetshire it declined somewhat, and in the Forest of Dean it was slack.

Miners in North Wales were fairly well employed, and in South Wales employment was good, though not up to the level of a year ago.

In Scotland employment was good on the whole, but was interrupted somewhat in the early part of the month by the New Year holidays. As compared with a year ago a considerable improvement was shown on the whole, especially towards the end of the month.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during January, amounted to 3,627,030 tons, as compared with 3,957,513 tons in December, and 3,425,833 tons in January, 1904.

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

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in January continued good in iron, shale and lead mines, fair in tin and copper mines, and quiet generally with quarrymen.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was better than a year ago. During the four weeks ended January 21st the average weekly number of days worked by the 124 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers was 5.50, as compared with 5.87 in December, and 5.37 in January, 1904. The comparison of the average time worked with the December period is affected by Christmas and New Year holidays to the extent of 0.45 days per week in January, 1905, and by New Year holidays to the extent of 0.25 days per week in January, 1904.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Jan., 1905, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Jan., 1905, as compared with	
		Jan. 21st, 1905.*	Dec. 24th, 1904.	Jan. 23rd, 1904.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland	7,244	5.33	5.89	5.71	-0.56	-0.18
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,638	5.36	5.97	4.95	-0.61	+0.61
Scotland	1,020	4.89	5.55	4.49	-0.66	+0.40
Other Districts	2,473	5.37	5.83	5.54	-0.46	+0.03
Total and Averages	15,375	5.50	5.87	5.37	-0.37	+0.13

Of the 15,375 workpeople covered by the returns, 8,616, or 56.0 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended January 21st, as compared with 92.9 per cent. in December, and 68.1 in January, 1904, the January figures being affected by holidays as stated above.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners continued good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in January 2,954 men were employed, as compared with 2,968 a month ago, and 2,693 in January, 1904. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended January 21st was 5.64, as compared with 5.89 in the previous month, and 5.38 in January, 1904. The comparison with the December period is affected by the holidays, which amounted to 0.55 days per week in January, 1905, and 0.58 days per week in January, 1904.

Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.—In Devon and Cornwall employment remained fair on the whole in tin and copper mining, but it was dull at Calstock. It continued good with the North Wales lead miners, and in Weardale 5 days per week were worked.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was steady at Delabole (Cornwall), slack on the whole in North Wales, and dull in Argyllshire.

Granite.—Employment was rather better in Leicestershire, bad on the whole in Devon and Cornwall, and bad in Aberdeenshire, where short time was general.

Limestone.—Employment in the Stanhope district of Durham continued fair, and in the Westgate and Upper Weardale quarries it was good. In Cumberland it was fairly good. It continued moderate in Derbyshire, slack in North Wales, and bad in the Plymouth district. In the Bath stone quarries in the Bristol district some improvement was shown.

Other Stone.—Employment remained moderate with Derbyshire chert quarrymen, good in the Clee Hill (road material) quarries, and bad in Forfarshire, with much

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

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

short time. In the Sheffield district it was slack, and in the Forest of Dean district moderate. It was fair generally in Devon and Cornwall, but bad at Princetown and De Lank, dull at Gunnislake. In the Rowsley district employment at the building and grindstone quarries was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Setmaking.—Employment continued good in the Cleve Hill district, and fair in North Wales. In Scotland it continued fair in the Airdrie and Aberdeen districts, and quiet at Edinburgh.

China Clay.—China clay workers in the St. Austell district continued well employed, and at Lee Moor work was steady.

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued to improve during January and was considerably better than a year ago. The demand for labour was quite equal to the supply.

At the end of January 403 mills were working, as compared with 397 at the end of December, and 347* a year ago. At the 77 works open, 64 had all their mills (346) in operation, while the remaining 13 had 57 mills working out of a total of 78. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 403 mills was 20,150.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 392 mills were working, as compared with 387 a month ago, and 335 a year ago.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	64	346	—	346
Works giving partial employment ...	13	57	21	78
Total at end of January, 1905† ...	77	403	21	424
<i>Corresponding Total for Dec., 1904†</i> ...	<i>75</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>417</i>
<i>Corresponding Total for Jan., 1904*</i> ...	<i>69</i>	<i>347</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>389</i>

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

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.
To United States ...	Tons. 6,443	Tons. 7,567	Tons. 5,660	Tons. 19	Tons. 28	Tons. —
„ Other Countries	23,480	35,076	22,313	4,609	5,204	5,243
Total ...	29,923	42,643	27,973	4,628	5,232	5,243

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, and a considerable improvement as compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to 108 ironmasters show that ten furnaces were re-lit during the month and six blown out.

* Revised figures.

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

At the end of January 306 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 302 in December, and 292 in January, 1904. The number of workpeople employed at works included in the returns is estimated at about 22,000.

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

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Jan., 1905, as compared with	
	Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland* ...	77	77	76	...	+ 1
Cumberland & Lanes.	35	33	24	+ 2	+ 11
S. and S.W. Yorks.	12	12	13	...	— 1
Derby & Nottingham	36	36	38	...	— 2
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	25	24	25	+ 1	...
Stafford & Worcester	30	30	34	...	— 4
S. Wales & Monmouth	14	14	12	...	+ 2
Other districts ...	7	6	6	+ 1	+ 1
Returned from England & Wales†	238	232	228	+ 4	+ 8
Returned from Scotland ...	70	70	64	...	+ 6
Total furnaces included in returns	306	302	292	+ 4	+ 14

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.†

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

COMPARED with a year ago, employment at iron and steel works showed considerable improvement, the volume of employment (as measured by the estimated aggregate number of shifts worked) being 6.3 per cent. greater than in January, 1904. As compared with the week ended December 17th, 1904, however, a decrease of 2.3 per cent. in the volume of employment is shown in those works from which returns for the three periods have been received. To some extent, however, the comparison with the week just before Christmas may be affected by increased pressure at that time, as the reports for January are generally more favourable than this decline of 2.7 per cent. would indicate.

Number Employed and Average Weekly Number of Shifts.

The following Table shows for the periods named the changes in the number of workpeople employed, and the average weekly number of shifts worked at 224 works in Great Britain :—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended		Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended	
	Jan. 28th, 1905.	Jan. 30th, 1904.	Jan. 28th, 1905.	Jan. 30th, 1904.
	Northumberland and Durham ...	9,712	9,373	5.41	5.28
Cleveland ...	6,359	7,191	5.48	5.60
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	16,990	16,160	5.67	5.56
Leeds, Hull and other Yorks. Towns	3,431	3,547	5.27	5.25
Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire	10,310	8,436	4.82	5.22
Staffordshire ...	9,683	9,213	5.18	4.98
Other Midland Counties ...	4,340	4,201	5.18	5.14
Wales and Monmouth ...	9,693	7,957	5.65	5.50
England and Wales ...	70,398	66,078	5.38	5.36
Scotland ...	13,816	73,379	5.48	5.45
Total ...	84,214	79,457	5.39	5.38

From the above Table it will be seen that the greatest increases in the numbers employed in January, 1905, as compared with a year ago took place in

* Including Northumberland and Durham.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—IRON AND STEEL WORKS; ENGINEERING TRADES.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, though still dull generally, was better than a month ago, especially in some of the shipbuilding centres. It was only slightly worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to Trade Unions with 143,003 members show that 9,997 (or 7.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 8.4 per cent. at the end of December, 1904, and 6.7 per cent. at the end of January, 1904.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1905, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed for Jan., 1905, as compared with a	
		Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	12,910	5.4	11.2	6.6	— 5.8	— 1.2
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,759	8.1	9.1	7.0	— 1.0	+ 1.1
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,485	11.8	12.8	11.0	— 1.0	+ 0.8
West Riding Towns ...	11,756	6.2	11.2	8.9	— 2.0	+ 0.3
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,472	6.2	7.4	6.9	— 1.2	— 0.7
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,197	4.7	6.9†	3.9	— 2.2	+ 0.8
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,072	11.1	10.3	6.4	+ 0.8	+ 4.7
London and Neighbouring District	12,200	4.4	5.1	3.8	— 0.7	+ 0.6
South Coast ...	4,07	2.2	2.4	2.3	— 0.2	— 0.1
South Wales and Bristol District	6,141	2.9	6.2	3.6	— 3.3	— 0.7
Glasgow and District	13,855	8.5	9.5	10.4	— 1.0	— 1.9
East of Scotland ...	3,590	12.1	12.1	11.3	...	+ 0.8
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,348	13.2	14.7	7.0	— 1.5	+ 5.3
Other Districts ...	5,589	5.1	7.1	4.6	— 2.0	+ 0.5
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	143,003	7.0	8.4†	6.7	— 1.4	+ 0.3

The total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the returns was approximately 454,300 in the week ended January 28th, 1905, and 427,200 in the week ended January 30th, 1904.

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

Northumberland and Durham.—Employment with steel smelters improved generally during the month. At Consett and Newburn steel plate and angle mills worked full time (with the exception of two days' holidays). Bar and cogging mills at Jarrow averaged 10 shifts per week. Sheet mills, however, were idle for one week. Forge and hammermen report employment as good on the Tyne, and as fairly good on the Wear. Employment in iron and steel works at Hartlepool continued brisk.

Cleveland District.—At rail mills employment was reported as moderate, and at metal expansion works it was fair. In pipe foundries employment continued fair; in chair foundries it was moderate. As compared with a year ago there was some decline in employment.

Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment was moderate generally, and was rather worse than a month and a year ago. The number of workpeople employed in the works covered by the returns showed a considerable increase, but the number of shifts worked per man declined to the extent of 8 per cent.

Yorkshire, excluding Cleveland.—Employment with steel workers throughout the county showed an improvement, especially in the heavy trades and towards the end of the month. With iron workers at Rotherham and at Masbro' employment continued fair. At Parkgate it remained quiet.

Midlands.—In Shropshire, South Staffordshire and in the Birmingham district the state of employment steadily improved. Employment at iron and steel works in Derbyshire was very slack, a great deal of short time having been worked.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment in South Wales was fair generally, but short time was worked in some branches. At Brymbo iron and steel workers were fully occupied.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.—Employment was fairly good generally, but was hardly up to the level of a month ago. Steel smelters at Parkhead worked some short time.

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

As compared with a month ago an improvement was shown in all districts, except in the East of Scotland district where employment was about the same, and in the Notts, Derby and Leicester district where it was slightly worse. The greatest improvement was shown on the North East Coast and in the South Wales district.

In comparison with a year ago employment was worse in all districts, except in the Glasgow, North East Coast, Hull and Lincolnshire, South Wales, and South Coast districts—the difference being greatest in the Belfast and Dublin, and the Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester districts.

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

North-East Coast.—Employment in this district had on the whole improved. With the engineers generally it was better. It was, however, still bad at Stockton and Darlington. In the Newcastle and Gateshead district employment generally improved, and was much better than a month ago. In the Hebburn district also there was considerable improvement. At Elsworth employment was good. Employment continued bad at Jarrow, and short time was worked in some branches. Employment in repair work on the lower reaches was only moderate. At Blyth it was better than a month ago, with a good demand for fitters. With ironfounders employment was very good at Hartlepool, moderate at Darlington and Middlesbrough, and slack at Stockton; it showed an improvement both on a month ago and a year ago, the number on benefit being largely reduced,

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

† Revised figure

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

especially at Stockton and Hartlepool; on the Tyne and Wear it was moderate generally. With boiler makers at Darlington it was good; at the other towns in the Tees district and at Hartlepool it was reported as improving. With pattern makers on the Tees it was moderate, though better than a month ago. With bridge builders on the Tees it was moderate, but with wagon makers it was slack.

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

Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District.—Employment continued bad in this district. It showed an improvement, however, on a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. The improvement reported last month with makers of textile machinery was well maintained, and with the engineers there was a decrease in the number of men unemployed.

West Riding.—Employment generally was bad. It was better, however, than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. There was a decided improvement in employment with the engineers at Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham. With the pattern makers at Leeds it had improved, and the general outlook was reported as better.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment generally continued to improve, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. The boiler makers had commenced to work full time, in place of 4 days a week.

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

East Midlands.—Employment in this district was bad. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. In the motor industry at Nottingham, however, it was good, and with tool machinists it had improved. With brass moulders and finishers at Derby it was good, and with boiler makers it was fair; it had improved with pattern makers. At Leicester there was an improvement in most branches of general engineering. At Loughborough it was good with electrical engineers, some of whom were working overtime.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment was dull generally, though the percentage of unemployed was well below the general average. It was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With brass founders it was quiet; with brass finishers it was slack, though slightly better than a year ago. With smiths and hammermen it had improved, and with ironfounders it was better than a year ago.

South Coast.—Employment generally was good. It was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago, but with ironfounders at Devonport, and with engineers at Plymouth and Dartmouth it was bad.

South Wales and District.—Employment generally was good. It was much better than a month ago, and slightly better than a year ago. With boiler makers at Milford and Ebbw Vale employment was good, and overtime was worked in the latter district. At Swindon all branches continued fully employed. At Bristol, however, employment generally was slack.

Glasgow and District.—Employment in this district continued to improve, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. With engineers overtime was worked, and with pattern makers in the Clyde district it was good, and showed a great improvement on a month ago and a year ago.

East of Scotland.—Employment generally continued bad, and was slightly worse than a year ago. With the

iron moulders at Dundee, however, it was good; at Edinburgh it was bad, and at Falkirk dull. In the stationary engine and machine shops at Dundee employment was good. With the blacksmiths at Leith it was fair. With pattern makers it was slack generally, though at Aberdeen it had improved.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment generally was bad, though it was slightly better than a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago; with pattern makers and steam engine makers at Belfast, however, it had improved, and with machine workers it was fair.

Other Districts.—Employment at Barrow was moderate, and rather worse than last month. In the Eastern Counties it was slack generally. With boiler makers and engineers at Stoke it was moderate; at Hanley it was bad.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was much better than a month ago, and is also better than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 58,034 members had 7,204 (or 12·4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, 1905, compared with 16·4 at the end of December, and 14·4 a year ago.

As compared with a month ago the figures show an improvement in all districts but one, the most noticeable being in the Bristol Channel, the Tees and Hartlepool, and the East of Scotland districts. As compared with January, 1904, eight districts show an improvement, that in the Wear district being most marked, while four districts show a decline.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1905, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Percentage for Jan., 1905, as compared with a	
		Jan. 1905.	Dec. 1904.	Jan. 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		1905.	1904.	1904.	ago.	ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,354	15·4	20·4	14·7	– 5·0	+ 0·7
Wear	4,853	13·4	15·9	21·4	– 4·5	– 10·0
Tees and Hartlepool	5,025	20·5	28·9	14·9	– 8·4	+ 5·6
Humber	2,492	13·7	15·7	18·3	– 2·0	– 4·6
Thames and Medway	4,336	7·7	11·5	9·2	– 3·8	– 1·5
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton	3,580	5·4	4·1	3·5	+ 1·3	+ 1·9
Bristol Channel Ports	2,599	6·9	16·7	10·9	– 9·8	– 4·0
Mersey	4,952	10·8	14·2	12·4	– 3·4	– 1·6
Clyde	12,267	12·0	15·0	17·6	– 3·0	– 5·6
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	2,224	17·7	25·3	24·2	– 7·6	– 6·5
Belfast	2,911	14·4	16·7	10·6	– 2·3	+ 3·8
Other Districts	3,200	8·8	9·5	10·5	– 0·7	– 1·7
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	58,034	12·4	16·4	14·4	– 4·0	– 2·0

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

On the *Tyne* and *Blyth* employment showed considerable improvement on the previous month. With shipwrights it was moderate, with drillers and hole-cutters it was good.

On the *Wear* employment generally improved. It was much better than a year ago. With drillers and hole-cutters it was good, with shipwrights moderate.

In the *Tees* and *Hartlepool* district employment was bad generally, but there was considerable improvement on the previous month with iron and steel shipbuilders. Ship joiners also report an improvement. In all these north-east coast districts the partial strike of shipsmiths affects employment.

In the *Humber* district employment was bad generally at Hull and Goole, good at Beverley, and fair at Selby.

On the *Thames* and *Medway* employment showed improvement, and was better than a month and a year ago.

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

South Coast. Employment was moderate generally, and showed a decline compared with a month and a year ago.

At the *Bristol Channel Ports* employment was fair, except at Bristol and Newport, where it was slack. A great improvement was shown compared both with a month and a year ago.

On the *Mersey* employment generally continued slack. Platers and riveters, however, have been fairly well employed on repair work.

On the *Clyde* employment continued to improve and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Light platers and ship-range makers were well employed.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment improved generally. At Dundee it was fair with shipwrights, dull with shipbuilders and joiners. At Leith with shipwrights it was good on repair work and fair on new work; at Aberdeen employment was slack generally.

Belfast.—Employment remained dull generally. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. It was improving with shipwrights.

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

According to Lloyd's quarterly return the gross tonnage of merchant vessels, and the tons displacement of war vessels under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts and at the Royal Dockyards, were as follows at the dates mentioned:—

District,	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	Dec. 31, 1904.	Sept. 30, 1904.	Dec. 31, 1903.	Dec. 31, 1904.	Sept. 30, 1904.	Dec. 31, 1903.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde	365,935	362,281	259,250	62,830	79,180	81,000
Belfast	169,510	163,010	200,333	...	...	...
Tyne	202,614	212,779	152,341	47,760	53,667	64,980
Wear	166,362	155,738	105,187	...	...	...
Hartlepool & Whitby	49,617	45,047	55,593	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton	44,610	58,510	61,954	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport, and Workington	8,680	15,842	32,570	38,430	55,080	50,200
Other Districts	42,531	33,681	30,340	24,640	29,503	26,010
Royal Dockyards ... ..	...	...	...	109,150	125,500	87,320
Total (all districts)	1,049,860	1,046,308	898,478	282,810	342,930	309,510

Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 151,000 tons in merchant shipping, and a decrease of 27,000 tons in war vessels. The principal increases were on the Tyne, Clyde, and Wear. At Belfast there was a decline.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally in these trades remained slack, and much short time was worked.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment was bad with brassworkers, though better than a year ago. With bedstead makers it was bad, and short time was general; with fender and fire-brass makers it was quiet.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers employment was moderate at Birmingham and Smethwick and in South Wales, slack at Dudley. It was moderate with cut nail makers and rather quiet with wire nail makers at Birmingham, slack with wrought nail makers at Blackheath. It improved slightly on machine-made rivets at Birmingham, but was bad with rivet makers at Black Heath.

Tubes.—There was an improvement at Birmingham in the copper, cased tube and copper brazed tube trades. The South Wales tube trade was slack. In South Staffordshire employment was better than a month and a year ago.

Chains, Anchors, etc.—In the chain and anchor trades employment was slack at Cradley Heath and Pontypridd, good in the Tyne and Wear district. It was also slack in

the anvil and vice trade. At Birmingham and West Bromwich it was moderate with axle makers, fair with spring makers in the latter town and in South Wales. At Wednesbury it was good with railway axle and spring makers, and wheel and tyre makers; moderate on road axles and springs, iron and steel forgings, and coach iron work. Employment continued bad at Walsall in the harness furniture and cart gear trades.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment continued bad and worse than a year ago in the lock and latch trade; short time was general. With hollow-ware makers employment improved at Birmingham and was quiet at West Bromwich; it was good at Wolverhampton. Employment was good with makers of hoes at Wednesbury, and with spade and fork finishers at Stourbridge. At Wolverhampton it was fair with japanners and with makers of iron fences and hurdles, slack with galvanisers, and vermin trap makers, and on builders' ironmongery.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment was slack in the cutlery trades. In the file trade it was slack generally, but moderate with hand-file forgers at Sheffield, and fair with file smiths at Wolverhampton. With edge tool makers it was quiet at Birmingham and improved at Wednesbury. At Redditch employment was quiet with needle makers but fish hook makers were busy. With hosiery needle makers at Leicester it was good.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment generally was very slack with much short time.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In the Provinces employment in these trades was fair on the whole. It was good at Edinburgh, Bristol, and Exeter; dull at Aberdeen and Dublin. It showed a slight falling off at the Lye. In London employment continued dull and worse than a year ago.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In the London silver and electro-plate trades employment was slack. With goldsmiths and jewellers it was fair, and better than a month and a year ago, though some short time was worked. Employment was very quiet at Birmingham. It was bad at Sheffield, except with the silver platers and gilders, who continued well employed. In the Coventry watch trade it continued quiet.

Wire.—Employment with wire drawers was fairly good. With wire weavers it was good at Glasgow, bad at Norwich. With wireworkers in London it was bad.

Farriers.—Employment generally was moderate. At Glasgow it was reported bad.

COTTON TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT continued brisk in both branches of the cotton trade during January, showing little change compared with a month ago, and a great improvement compared with a year ago. The average price of "middling" American cotton in January was 3·8d. per lb., which is almost exactly half the price in January, 1904. The average price of Egyptian ("good fair") was 9·03d. per lb. in January, 1904, and 6·48d. in January, 1905.

In the *spinning* mills covered by the employers' returns, 14,913,085 spindles were working in the last week in January, an increase of 0·4 per cent. compared with the week before Christmas, and of 3·2 per cent. compared with a year ago. The percentage of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in mills in which less than full time was worked in the last week in January was 3·8, compared with 3·4 per cent. in the week before Christmas, and 35·3 per cent. a year ago.

In the *weaving* factories covered by the employers' returns, 205,901 looms were working in the last week in January, an increase of 0·3 per cent., compared with the week before Christmas and of 6·2 per cent. compared with a year ago. The proportion of the total number of

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—COTTON TRADE.

operatives covered by the returns who were in weaving sheds in which less than full time was worked in the last week in January was 3.7 per cent., compared with 2.3 per cent. in the week before Christmas, and 2.8 per cent. a year ago.

It will be seen from the following Table that the number of persons employed by the firms sending returns showed a slight increase in every department compared with the week before Christmas, and a considerable one compared with a year ago.

Table showing Number of Workpeople employed in last week of January, 1905, compared with December, 1904, and January, 1904, and percentage increase or decrease.

SPINNING.

Compared with the week before Christmas the number of spindles working showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the Bolton and Leigh district and a very slight increase in the Oldham, Stockport and Manchester districts.

Compared with a year ago seven districts showed an increase in the number of spindles running, the percentage increase being greatest in Stockport, Glossop and Hyde (10.1 per cent.), and Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen (6.8 per cent.).

The following Table shows the number of spindles working in the week ending January 28th and the percentage change compared with the week before Christmas and with a year ago, together with the percentage of operatives who were in mills working short time in the preparing and spinning departments during these periods:

Table showing Spindles Working in January, 1905, compared with December, 1904, and January, 1904, and percentage increase or decrease, and percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Preparing and Spinning Departments.

WEAVING.

Compared with the week before Christmas, the number of looms working in the last week in January showed a slight increase in four districts and a slight decrease in six districts, the net result being an increase of 0.3 per cent.

Compared with a year ago there was a great improvement, every district showing an increase in the number of looms running, and a decline in the percentage affected by short time.

The following Table shows the number of looms running in the week ending January 28th, and the percentage change compared with the week before Christmas and with a year ago, together with the percentage of operatives who were in mills working short time in weaving departments during these periods:

Table showing Looms working in Jan., 1905, compared with Dec., 1904, and Jan., 1904, and percentage increase or decrease, and percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Weaving Departments.

RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of January the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 3.80d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 3.90d., and the lowest 3.68d.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during January averaged 6.48d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.1½d., and the lowest 6.1¾d.

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

Table showing Description of Cotton, Month of January, 1905, 1904, 1905, and Bales for 1903, 1904, 1905.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 10th February was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 1,056,850 bales, compared with 687,220 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—COTTON AND WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EXPORTS OF COTTON GOODS.

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

Table showing Description, Quantities Exported (lbs., yds.), and Average Value in Pence for Cotton Yarn & Twist and Cotton Piece Goods.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

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

Compared with a month ago employment in the Woollen trade showed a decline; it was, however, good generally, and overtime and nightwork were reported in the Huddersfield and heavy woollen districts.

Compared with a year ago, employment in the Woollen trade showed a marked improvement. In the Worsted trade a slight improvement was apparent.

The number employed by Woollen and Worsted firms making returns for the last pay day in January was 70,257, compared with 70,475 in the week before Christmas, and 69,617 a year ago, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed, firms employing 47,625 workpeople have given particulars of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in January 1905 and 1904, and in the week before Christmas, 1904.

Analysis by Departments.

In the Sorting and Combing branch there was a further slight improvement compared with a month ago, and a larger one compared with a year ago.

In the Spinning branch there was a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago.

In the Weaving branch there was a decline compared with a month ago, but a great improvement compared with a year ago.

The following Table* enables a comparison to be made of the number employed and wages paid in the various processes of manufacture in Yorkshire, Scotland, and other districts reported on for the end of January, 1905 and 1904, and the week before Christmas, 1904.

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

The number of sorters and combers outside Yorkshire is too small for separate classification.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings for Woollen and Worsted Trades, categorized by District and Department.

Analysis by Districts.

From the following Table it will be seen that in the Woollen trade, compared with a month ago, there was a decline in every district, the amount of wages earned in the West Riding being 6.4 per cent. less and the amount earned in Scotland being 2.7 per cent. less.

Employment generally was however good.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings for Woollen and Worsted Trades, categorized by District.

Compared with a year ago there was a great improvement except in the Leeds district which showed a decline. The improvement was especially marked in the Huddersfield district, which showed an increase of 23.8 per cent. in the amount of wages earned and in Scotland which showed an increase of 17.2 per cent.

In the Worsted trade compared with a month ago all the larger districts showed a decline, amounting in the Huddersfield district to 5.3 per cent. in the amount of

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

wages earned. Compared with a year ago all these districts showed an improvement, the amount of wages earned in the Huddersfield district showing an increase of 14.5 per cent. In this district employment was good, but in the other districts it was generally bad.

Short time.

Firms employing 69,617 workpeople gave particulars of the number employed in the different processes. The following Table shows the percentage reported as working in departments affected by short time in the last week of January, the week before Christmas and the last week in January, 1904.

Department.	Number of Persons employed at end of January, 1905.	Percentage of operatives working in departments of mills in which short time was reported in last week of		
		Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	6,611	21.1	17.4	18.9
Spinning ...	29,066	21.4	19.7	16.7
Weaving ...	20,491	12.1	11.4	20.1
Other Departments ...	13,449	14.2	11.7	20.3
Total Woollen ...	22,533	14.6	15.2	28.0
Total Worsted ...	47,084	18.5	15.7	14.1
Total Woollen and Worsted...	69,617	17.2	15.5	18.6

In the wool sorting and wool combing department there was an increase in the percentage reported in departments working short time compared with a month ago and a year ago, but as previously stated, there was an increase in the number employed and in the wages earned. In the spinning branch short time shows a progressive increase. In the weaving and other branches there is an increase in short time compared with a month ago, but a marked decline compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

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

	Quantities.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Jan., 1903.	Jan., 1904.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1903.	Jan., 1904.	Jan., 1905.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Raw Wool.						
Imported ...	84,945,423	63,827,884	77,554,584	7.94	8.44	9.33
Exported ...	3,307,000	2,676,300	3,054,900	6.80	7.63	11.30
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.						
Yarn:—						
Woolen ...	163,800	148,200	300,600	18.60	20.91	20.73
Worsted ...	4,141,200	4,192,100	3,795,900	16.11	17.89	19.79
Alpaca and Mohair ...	1,043,300	998,500	1,115,000	28.98	27.74	28.19
Total ...	5,353,300	5,338,800	5,211,500	18.70	19.82	21.64
Piece Goods:—						
Woolen ...	4,872,200	6,107,600	7,455,900	29.65	28.33	31.29
Worsted ...	12,215,100	10,994,900	10,403,700	15.12	15.72	15.97
Total ...	17,087,300	17,102,500	17,859,600	19.27	20.27	22.37

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the jute trade was only moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the flax trade in Scotland it was slack; in Ulster it continued fair in the spinning branch and quiet in the weaving branch.

In Dundee owing to the high price of jute, employment showed a considerable decline and was worse than a year ago, but was still reported as moderate. Information received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys, and 21,000 women and girls, showed that out of 38 spinning mills, 9 gave only partial employment and two were closed; and out of 32 weaving factories, 13 gave only partial employment during the month; one spinning and weaving firm suspended

about 500 operatives. In Forfar employment was quiet and notice of short time was given. At Brechin and Arbroath employment was dull. It was reported as good at Johnstone and Kilbirnie. In Dunfermline employment showed a decline compared with last month, and was worse than a year ago; short time was reported.

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

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

Hosiery Trade.

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

Employment in England was quiet, and about the same as a year ago; in Scotland it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 12,531 workpeople in their factories at the end of January showed an increase of 4.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 57 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month. Employment generally showed an improvement at Leicester compared with a month ago, but it continued slack in the plain and seamless hose and glove departments; it was about the same as a year ago. In Hinckley employment was unsatisfactory on the whole; it was regular with makers of cotton and merino goods. In Loughborough makers of seamless hose were well employed; but employment continued slack in the fashioned hose and cashmere underwear branches.

Nottingham and Derby District.—The improvement noted last month at Nottingham was not maintained. Employment was reported as moderate in the circular hosiery branch, and with frame work knitters at Sutton and Mansfield. With hand frame workers it was slack at Nottingham, bad at Arnold and Calverton, moderate at Woodborough, and slightly better at Heyworth. Employment at Belper and Ilkeston was reported as slack, with much short time.

Scotland.—In Selkirk employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In Hawick it showed a decline since last month, but was better than a year ago.

Lace Trade.

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

Employment generally was bad, and worse than a year ago. In Nottingham, employment in the levers and curtain sections continued bad, and showed little change compared with a year ago. Employment in the plain net branch was fair. In the minor and auxiliary branches of the trade it continued slack. The improvement reported at Beeston last month was not maintained. At Stapleford, Sandiacre, Bulwell and Kimberley employment continued moderate; it was bad in all branches at Ilkeston and Long Eaton. With lace makers at Glasgow it was reported as good, and at Newmills as bad.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—OTHER TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING TRADE; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT showed improvement compared with a month ago, but was still bad and worse than a year ago.

Of the total number of operatives covered by the returns 60 per cent. were employed by firms working full time during the last week in January.

The number employed by the 600 firms making returns for the last pay day in January was 74,928, compared with 73,837 on the pay day before Christmas, and 77,629 a year ago, an increase of 1.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed, 485 firms, employing 63,403 workpeople, have given returns of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in January, 1905 and 1904, and on the last pay day before Christmas, 1904. The returns from these firms are analysed in the following Table:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both number employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.		Earnings.		
		No. employed at end of Jan., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day in Jan., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
					A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.			Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
London ...	49	3,645	+ 8.4	- 3.7	4,564	+ 13.3
Leicester ...	69	12,993	+ 4.1	- 5.6	13,318	+ 4.3
Leicester Country ...	28	2,663	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	2,326	+ 2.9
Northampton ...	54	7,818	+ 2.7	- 2.9	7,569	+ 4.6
Kettering ...	23	2,806	+ 1.2	- 1.2	2,799	+ 9.3
Northampton Country District ...	86	9,640	+ 2.1	- 2.4	8,619	+ 6.0
Stafford and District ...	14	2,623	+ 1.2	+ 4.8	2,250	+ 1.3
Norwich & District ...	25	3,327	+ 2.9	+ 0.4	3,029	+ 2.3
Bristol ...	15	2,077	+ 1.9	- 7.5	1,790	+ 9.7
Kingswood ...	23	2,604	- 3.2	+ 2.9	2,318	- 19.2
Leeds and District ...	35	2,093	- 2.7	- 11.9	2,334	- 16.6
Manchester & District ...	11	1,881	- 3.8	+ 5.7	1,696	- 1.8
Birmingham & District ...	7	940	+ 1.4	+ 0.1	755	- 11.9
Other parts of England and Wales ...	20	2,463	- 1.6	- 10.4	2,033	+ 2.1
England and Wales ...	459	58,793	+ 2.0	- 3.2	55,290	+ 2.5
SCOTLAND ...	22	4,108	- 1.5	- 8.4	3,792	- 4.0
IRELAND ...	4	502	- 1.2	- 7.9	353	- 10.2
UNITED KINGDOM ...	485	63,403	+ 1.7	- 3.6	59,435	+ 2.0

Compared with a month ago a decline in the amount of wages earned was shown in six districts and an increase in ten. The decrease was greatest in Kingswood (19.2 per cent.), Leeds district (16.6 per cent.), and Birmingham district (11.9 per cent.). The increase was greatest in London (13.3 per cent.), Bristol (9.7 per cent.), Kettering (9.3 per cent.). The net result was an increase of 2.0 per cent.

Compared with a year ago only five districts showed an improvement in the amount of wages earned. The decrease was greatest in the Leeds district (13.5 per cent.), Scotland (13.0 per cent.), and Bristol (12.8 per cent.). The increase was greatest in the Stafford district (4.2 per cent.), and the Norwich district (3.2 per cent.). The net result was a decrease of 4.4 per cent.

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

London.—Employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago, but better than a month ago. With hand-sewn bootmakers it was reported as worse.

Leicester and District.—Employment showed a steady improvement throughout the district during the month, but in Leicester it was still worse than a year ago.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—Although an improvement was reported throughout the district, employment was still quiet at Northampton, and bad at Kettering, and worse generally than a year ago.

Stafford and District.—The Trade Union operatives reported a great improvement during the month, although at Stone several were out of employment owing to the closing of a factory. The employers' returns showed an improvement compared with a year ago.

TAILORING TRADE.

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

Employment in the bespoke branch continued dull; it was worse than a month ago, and much the same as a year ago. In the ready-made branch an improvement was apparent compared with a month ago and a year ago, but it was still very slack.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Returns have been received from firms employing 883 workpeople on their premises and 1,611 outworkers.* According to these returns employment was dull and worse than a month ago. Compared with a year ago employment was reported as better by firms employing 44 per cent. of the inworkers and by firms employing 35 per cent. of the outworkers; as worse by firms employing 32 per cent. of the inworkers and by firms employing 42 per cent. of the outworkers. The Trade Union tailors reported employment as bad.

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

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was only moderate, but was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment although better was still only moderate. According to returns received from firms employing about 9,400 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during January was good or fair with firms employing 24 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 64 per cent., and quiet or bad with firms employing 12 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 87 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 2 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 11 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 39 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 42 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 19 per cent. as worse. The Trade Union operatives reported employment as improved but still bad.

Other Centres.—In Manchester employment continued bad and was much the same as a year ago, but at the end of the month it began to improve. In Bristol it was still slack; it was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In Leicestershire employment was fair and better than a month ago. In Norwich employment continued bad. In Suffolk generally employment continued dull, but at Ipswich a slight improvement was reported. In Glasgow employment continued dull and showed little change compared with a year ago.

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

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

Eastern Counties.—Employment showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago, and was reported as fairly good.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Employment showed a considerable improvement in Bristol, but was still bad and much worse than a year ago. In Kingswood a great decline was apparent compared with a month ago, and employment was worse than a year ago.

Leeds and District.—Employment continued bad and was much worse than a month and a year ago.

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

Scotland.—Employment showed a decline compared with a month ago, and was much worse than a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as bad at Maybole; as slightly better but still bad at Edinburgh; as declining at Kilmarnock; as very quiet at Dundee and Aberdeen.

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

	Jan., 1903.	Jan., 1904.	Jan., 1905.
Imports	Dozen pairs... 19,850	19,356	15,677
	Value £ ... 78,935	61,242	62,089
Re-Exports	Dozen pairs... 2,360	2,775	1,302
	Value £ ... 6,055	6,775	3,738
Exports (British and Irish)	Dozen pairs... 77,620	51,710	62,136
	Value £ ... 187,748	118,446	137,665

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the London dressmaking trade was dull and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the mantle trade employment was still dull but was better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the shirt and collar and corset trades employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London returns received from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,547 dressmakers in the last week in January showed a further decrease of 5·2 per cent. in the number employed compared with the week before Christmas, but an increase of 1·0 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally was reported as moderate. Court dressmakers employing 1,680 workpeople showed a further decrease of 5·2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 6·4 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the wholesale mantle and costume trade employment showed an improvement in the higher class branch, but otherwise continued bad and was much the same as a year ago. Employment with makers of blouses, aprons and underclothing was moderate and the same as a year ago. With milliners in retail firms making returns employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago but slightly better than a year ago; in the wholesale millinery branch employment, although still only moderate, was better than a month and a year ago.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was fair and better than a month ago; it was rather worse than a year ago. Firms employing 1,850 workpeople at the end of January showed an increase of 5·5 per cent. compared with the week before Christmas, but a decrease of 7·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and

collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,729 workpeople in their factories at the end of January (in addition to 3,565 outworkers) showed an improvement compared with a month ago, although employment was still only moderate in England and Scotland; in Belfast it was good, in Londonderry moderate. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement; firms employing 67 per cent. of those in factories reported employment as improved, firms employing 21 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 12 per cent. as worse. With the out-workers (of whom 3,398 were in Ireland) employment was reported as good.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,141 workpeople in their factories at the end of January showed an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the number employed compared with the week before Christmas, and an increase of 6·0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair and better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 43 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 40 per cent. as unchanged; and firms employing 17 per cent. as worse.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.) EMPLOYMENT in the hat trade was slack, and worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with 5,385 members had 317 (or 5·9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 5·4 per cent. in December, and 6·4 per cent. a year ago.

With *silk* hatters employment in London was very quiet, but better than a month ago. In Denton employment was again reported as quiet, with much short time, but as rather better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. The Trade Union silk hatters had 15·6 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 14·0 per cent. a month ago, and 13·4 per cent. a year ago.

With *felt* hatters in Denton employment continued slack, the majority being on short time. At Stockport it was reported as moderate, and worse than a year ago. Employment was bad at Bury in the soft hat branch, and fairly good in the stiff hat trade; an improvement was noted at Hyde and Failsworth. In Warwickshire employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters had 4·3 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 4·0 per cent. at the end of December, and 5·1 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

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

THE state of employment in January remained bad with much short time, and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of January was 10·8, compared with 11·9 in December and 9·4 in January, 1904.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment continued bad generally. At Bolton, Bury and Wigan, however, it remained fairly good.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment remained slack generally, and worse on the whole than a month and year ago.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Employment was slack in all branches.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

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

THE returns show that employment at the end of January was quiet, and worse than a month and year ago.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was worse on the whole than a month and year ago. In *letterpress printing* Trade Unions with 39,500 members had 5·2 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 4·7 per cent. in December, and 4·3 per cent. in January, 1904. In *lithographic printing*

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES; GLASS, &c., TRADES.

Trade Unions with 6,451 members had 6·3 per cent. unemployed, against 5·4 a month ago and 4·6 a year ago. With *bookbinders* the figures show a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but a considerable decline compared with a year ago. Of 6,965 Trade Union members in this section 4·8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 5·0 per cent. in December, and 3·1 per cent. in January, 1904.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1905, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	22,983	5·0	5·4	4·1	– 0·4	+ 0·9
Northern Counties ...	1,475	4·1	1·8	4·0	+ 2·3	+ 0·1
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,894	6·4	6·2	6·5	+ 0·2	– 0·1
Yorkshire ...	4,329	5·8	4·7	4·6	+ 1·1	+ 1·2
East Midlands ...	2,017	5·7	3·9	3·3	+ 1·8	+ 2·4
West Midlands ...	2,448	4·8	5·3	4·7	– 0·5	– 0·2
Eastern Counties ...	383	3·1	4·1	3·8	– 1·0	– 0·7
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,716	2·7	2·6	2·0	+ 0·1	+ 0·7
Wales and Mon. ...	827	5·2	2·3	3·5	+ 2·9	+ 1·7
Scotland ...	6,248	5·2	2·8	2·2	+ 2·4	+ 3·0
Ireland ...	2,596	7·0	5·5	6·2	+ 1·5	+ 0·8
United Kingdom ...	52,916	5·3	4·8	4·2	+ 0·5	+ 1·1

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

London.—Employment at the end of January showed little change on the whole as compared with a month ago, but was worse in all branches as compared with a year ago. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 17,303 members had 4·6 per cent. unemployed, against 5·0 per cent. in December, and 3·9 per cent. in January, 1904. In the lithographic trade employment was bad generally, the percentage unemployed of 1,960 Trade Union members being 8·7, against 6·9 a month and a year ago; lithographic artists, however, were fairly well employed. Trade Unions of bookbinders, with 3,720 members, had 5·3 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, against 6·4 at the end of December, and 3·4 per cent. at the end of January, 1904.

Northern Counties.—Employment was fair generally, but dull at Sunderland.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Manchester 9 per cent. and at Liverpool 8 per cent. of Trade Union letterpress printers were out of employment at the end of the month. With lithographic printers and bookbinders employment was fair at Manchester, but slack at Liverpool. At most other towns the trade generally was fairly well employed.

Yorkshire and Midland Counties.—Employment with printers was slack generally, but good with lithographic printers at Birmingham. Bookbinders continued fairly well employed.

Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Counties and Wales.—Employment was fairly good generally, but quiet with letterpress printers at Cardiff and Swansea.

Scotland.—In Edinburgh compositors reported employment as fair, but declining; press and machinemen as bad, with much short time; lithographic printers, bookbinders and type founders as bad. On the whole employment was much worse than it had been for many years. In Glasgow employment was bad generally. At Aberdeen and Dundee it was fairly good.

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

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in England and Wales remained good in the machine trade. In the hand-made trade it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,374 members had 3·3 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with

3·1 in December, and 3·3 in January, 1904. In Scotland returns received from 31 employers showed that 6,203 workpeople were employed by them at the end of January, as compared with 6,178 at the end of December, and 6,188 at the end of January, 1904, but that employment, though fairly good, was not so good as a year ago. At some of the mills short time was worked.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT during January continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. It was slightly better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades (exclusive of coopers) at the end of January was 10·0, as compared with 10·5 at the end of December, 1904, and 8·8 at the end of January, 1904.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued slack. It showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,943 showed 324 (or 6·6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 8·0 per cent. at the end of December, 1904, and 5·3 per cent. at the end of January, 1904.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment remained bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 14,289, showed 1,922 (or 13·5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 11·8 per cent. at the end of December, 1904, and 11·0 per cent. at the end of January, 1904.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued dull and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, fair at Hull, improving at Dublin, and good at Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment generally was slack, but showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago. Coach builders in the motor trade in London, and electric tramcar builders at Loughborough, however, continued busy. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,880, reported 525 (or 6·7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 7·6 per cent. at the end of December, 1904, and 7·3 per cent. at the end of January, 1904.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers showed considerable improvement as compared with a month ago, and was rather better than a year ago. With ivory and bone brushmakers in London, it was good. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,744, reported 115 (or 6·6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 20·7 per cent. at the end of December, 1904, and 8·4 per cent. at the end of January, 1904.

Other Trades.—Packing case makers and lathrenders reported employment as slack generally, but moderate at Bradford and Belfast. With basket makers at Leicester it was moderate, with much short time. Bobbin makers at Barnsley and Dundee were well employed.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the *Glass* trades was bad, worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

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

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers was bad at Seaham Harbour, St. Helens, Newton-le-Willows, Leeds, in the Mexboro' district, and at Bristol;

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—GLASS, &C., TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

quiet at Wakefield; fair at Dublin; and good at Glasgow and Portobello.

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

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment in the pottery trades was bad, with much short time, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) the potters again worked four days per week. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment continued fair. In the Sheffield and Barnsley district it was quiet. In Devon it continued moderate at Bovey Tracey, and fair at Barnstaple. It was also fair at Kingskerswell.

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

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued bad at Peterborough, Nottingham and Birmingham, and was also bad in the Bradford and Oldham districts. It was slack in the Coalport and Broseley districts of Shropshire and in North Wales, quiet at Calstock and Gunnislake, moderate at Exeter, fair at Neath and in the Stourbridge district, and good in the Plymouth district and in the Gateshead, Tees and Hartlepool districts.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on Reports from Correspondents in various parts of England.)
THE reports received show that agricultural labourers in England were, generally speaking, in fairly regular employment during January. The weather, on the whole, was favourable for outdoor work, and on frosty days the men were generally employed in carting manure, threshing, and other suitable work. The supply of day labourers was in most districts sufficient for requirements, and in certain districts a few men of this class were in irregular employment.

Northern Counties.—Although there was a good deal of frosty weather, outdoor work was not much interfered with. The supply of day labourers was, generally speaking, somewhat in excess of the demand, work being well forward, and a number of men were in irregular employment in certain districts. Farm labourers in Cumberland and Westmorland found employment in pulling, storing and cutting roots, and manure carting and spreading. At the Candlemas hirings in Lancashire there was a fairly good supply of men, but women for farm service are reported to have been scarce. Day labourers were not in much demand. In Yorkshire there was some little interruption to ploughing through frosty weather. Owing to the light corn crop men last year for threshing were not in so much demand as usual. A scarcity of lads for ploughing is mentioned in the Bridlington Union.

Midland Counties.—Employment was generally regular, and only a small proportion of day labourers lost time. Day labourers were not in much request, and the supply was in some parts rather in excess of the demand. In Cheshire and Derbyshire day labourers found employment in hedging, threshing and attending to stock. Ploughing is said to have progressed favourably, and a few frosty days enabled manure carting to be carried on. Work on the land in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire was somewhat delayed by snow and frost, but this did not interfere with manure carting and hedge trimming. In Shropshire and Staffordshire some day labourers lost time through the severe weather, but work was generally found at hedging and soil turning. Similar reports come

from Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Day labourers in Northamptonshire were frequently in excess of the demand. Farm labourers were generally well employed in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The supply of day labourers was in excess of the demand, but a number of them found employment in wood-cutting and threshing. Some irregularity in outdoor work was caused in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire by frosty weather. There was very little demand for extra labour, although some day labourers obtained work in hedge cutting and manure carting.

Eastern Counties.—Some little interruption of outdoor employment was occasioned in these counties by frosty weather and by one or two wet days. In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire the supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, and men for permanent situations were more easily found. Work on the land in Lincolnshire was fairly regular, although some time was lost by day labourers engaged in turnip pulling. In Norfolk there was some interruption in employment through frost, but there was a good deal of work in ploughing, manure carting, turnip carrying, hedging and ditching, threshing and chaff-cutting. Farm work in Suffolk and Essex was well forward, although ploughing was somewhat hindered by frost. The supply of extra labour was quite sufficient. Men for permanent situations were more readily obtainable than of late, except where Sunday work was required.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment is reported as having been fairly regular in Kent. Very little time was lost through frost or stormy weather. Day labourers were rather plentiful, but there was some shortage of young men to work with horses and for tending stock. In Surrey and Sussex day labourers were generally somewhat in excess of the demand, but in the Rye and Thakeham Unions some scarcity is reported. Work, however, was fairly plentiful, wood-cutting and hedging being carried on when other outdoor work could not be done. Work on the land in Hampshire and Berkshire was somewhat interrupted by frost, but farm labourers found employment in threshing, manure carting, ditching and wood-cutting. The supply of extra men was in excess of the demand, and men for permanent situations were easier to meet with. Regularity of employment is reported from Wiltshire, and good progress was made with threshing and manure carting. There was a fair demand for day labourers, but the supply was generally sufficient. Similar reports come from Dorsetshire. In Somersetshire the supply of extra labour was sufficient for the small demand, farm work being generally well forward. Skilled men for permanent situations were rather easier to obtain. Some interruption to outdoor work was caused by frost and snow in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. Farm labourers were, however, generally well employed in manure carting, wood cutting, hedging, and attending to stock. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand, but in certain districts men for permanent situations were rather scarce, particularly waggoners, cowmen and shepherds. The favourable weather in Devon and Cornwall enabled all farm work to be proceeded with, and agricultural operations were well forward. Day labourers and skilled men for permanent situations were in demand in several districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

EMPLOYMENT remained moderate in January, and showed little change on the whole as compared with a year ago.

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended January 28th was 13,553, an increase of 5.5 per cent. on the average for December, when fog seriously

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING.

interrupted employment, and a decrease of 5.1 per cent. on that for January, 1904.

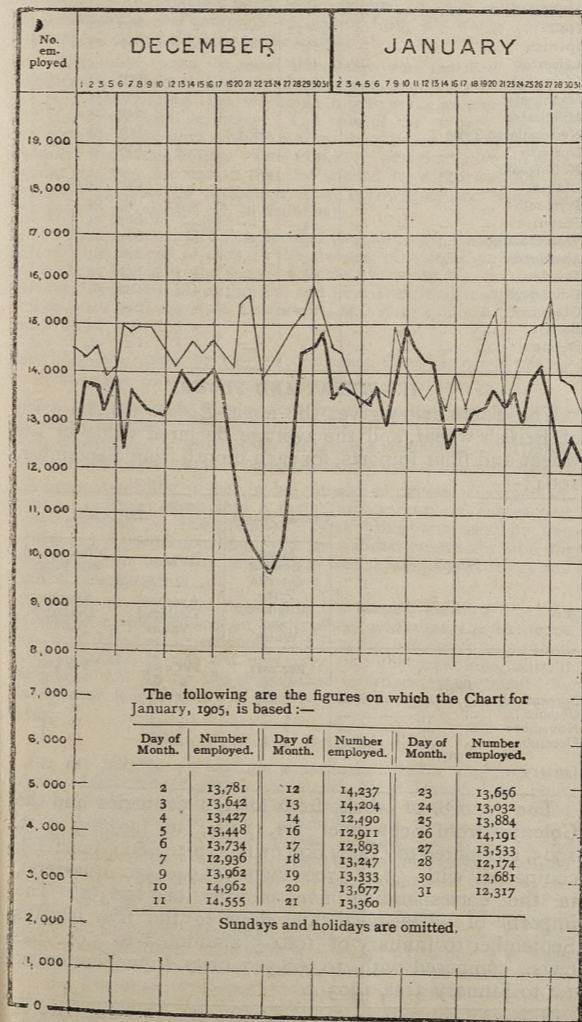
(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended January 28th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Jan. 7th	4,032	2,406	7,338	6,156	13,494
" " " 14th	5,562	2,462	8,024	6,044	14,068
" " " 21st	5,212	2,033	7,245	5,992	13,237
" " " 28th	5,265	2,412	7,677	5,735	13,412
Average for 4 weeks ended Jan. 28th	5,243	2,328	7,571	5,982	13,553
Average for Dec., 1904	5,007	1,944	6,951	5,901	12,852
Average for Jan., 1903	5,817	2,433	8,250	6,024	14,274

(2) **Daily Fluctuations.**—The daily fluctuations in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers are shown in the following Chart. The numbers in January ranged from 14,962 on the 10th to 12,174 on the 28th. During January, 1904, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 13,313 on the 16th to 15,616 on the 29th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of December, 1904 and January, 1905. The corresponding curve for December, 1903 and January, 1904, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1905, and the thin curve to 1904.]



Employment generally was moderate. It was fair with coal porters, lightermen, and workers in mid-stream, and

moderate with stevedores, winchmen, deal porters, corn porters, and lumpers. With fruit porters in Thames Street it was fair, the average daily number employed being 269, as compared with 289 in the previous month, and 296 in January, 1904.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during January, 52 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 45 per cent. in December, and 63 per cent. in January, 1904.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—On the Tyne and Wear employment with trimmers and teamers was moderate generally, though fairly good in the steam coal trade. With dock and riverside labourers employment was bad. At Middlesbrough and Hartlepool it was moderate with riverside labourers; with dock labourers it was good at Middlesbrough and slack at Hartlepool.

Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.—Employment at Hull was reported as bad, except with coal porters, who were fairly well employed. At Goole employment was fair generally. At Grimsby the casual dock and timber trade workers reported it as fair; the dock labourers as bad.

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

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment was fair generally at these ports.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment was dull at Bristol. At the South Wales ports it continued fair generally, and was good with coal trimmers and patent fuel loaders.

Liverpool and Manchester.—Employment continued fair at Liverpool. It was not quite so good at the South Docks as at the North Docks. At Manchester employment remained fair.

Glasgow.—Employment continued bad, there being still a large number of men unemployed.

East of Scotland Ports.—At Leith employment was slack on the whole, but good with coal porters. At Dundee it was good; at Aberdeen dull.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin employment was reported as fair; at Belfast as moderate; at Cork as dull.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

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

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1904.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1904.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	477,003	548,282	452,393	435,808
Scotland	280,328	325,104	137,402	155,612
Ireland	18,068	24,016	9,935	11,037
Total	775,399	897,402	599,730	602,457
Shell Fish	—	—	23,955	24,854
Total Value	—	—	623,685	627,311

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that trawlers had fair catches, but were much interrupted by bad weather.

Employment at Hull was fair among fishermen, moderate with fish dock labourers, and bad with persons

engaged in fish curing. At Grimsby it was fairly good in all branches. At both Ports it was worse than a month and a year ago.

At Cardiff, Swansea, and Milford employment was good and heavy catches were taken.

Employment was fair in all branches at Aberdeen somewhat worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.

At Peterhead it was moderate with fishermen, bad with fish dock labourers and fair with persons engaged in fish curing.

At Macduff it was fair generally, better than a month ago and similar to a year ago.

At Arbroath and Montrose the unsettled weather prevented many of the boats from going out, but some fair catches were made.

Off the South and South-Western coasts of Ireland mackerel fishing was dull up to the last week of the month when large supplies were caught.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JANUARY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during January, 36,891* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 2,655 on the number shipped during January, 1904.

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

Of the total number shipped during the month, 6,038 (or 16.4 per cent.) were foreigners. The corresponding percentage for January, 1904, was 16.9.

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

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in January, 1905 and 1904 respectively:—

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Persons shipped in Jan., 1905, Total in Jan., 1904. Rows include East Coast, Bristol Channel, Other Ports, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, and Total for 1905 and 1904.

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

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.*

THE returns as to the price of 4lbs. of bread furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department relate to London and 25 large provincial towns at the beginning of February.

As compared with a month ago, there have been increases at Gateshead and Newcastle, where the predominant price on 1st February was 5½d., as compared with 5d. to 5½d. at each of the towns on 2nd January.

In London though there was no change in the predominant price up to the beginning of the present month, an advance of ¼d. per 4lbs. has since taken place in some of the N. & N.W. districts.

As compared with a year ago there has been an increase of 1d. on the 4lb. loaf at Edinburgh, and of ½d. at nine other towns.

On the other hand there have been decreases of ¼d. at Birmingham and Norwich, and of ½d. in London, while the other 13 towns show no change.

Table with columns: Place, Present Price (1st Feb., 1905.), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Last Change, Date, Am't.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

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

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1904, to January 31st, 1905, amounted to 43,692,000 cwts. (10,194,800 quarters), compared with 38,315,700 cwts. (8,940,330 quarters), in the corresponding five months of 1903-4.

* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the present prices for each place are believed to be generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, reported in January. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

WHO IS A WORKMAN?

A man in partnership with two others in the working of clay pits agreed with his partners to work manually for the firm at wages amounting to 33s. a week. He was killed by accident and his widow claimed compensation under the Act.

The Court of Appeal held that the intention of the Act was to exclude cases in which the same person occupied the position of employer and employee. The man was not, therefore, a workman within the Act, and the widow was not entitled to compensation.—Ellis v. Joseph Ellis & Co., Court of Appeal, January 12th, 1905.

The certificated manager of a colliery was paid a salary of £400 a year, payable monthly, and had a house rent free and a free supply of house coal. The owners of the colliery had other mines under other managers, and a general mining manager over all their mines.

The duties of this manager often required him to go underground, but he did no manual labour. In December, 1903, he went down the mine to investigate a fall of roof, when he met with an accident which proved fatal. His widow claimed compensation under the Act, but the Court of Appeal held that the deceased was not a workman, and that, therefore, the widow was not entitled to compensation.—Simpson v. Ebbw Vale Steel Iron and Coal Co. (Ltd.), Court of Appeal, January 21st, 1905.

CONTRACTING OUT: RENEWAL OF SCHEME: POSITION OF OLD MEMBERS AFTER RENEWAL.

A scheme was certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies by which certain miners joining a Friendly Society, accepted the benefits under the scheme instead of those under the Act. The certificate was given in 1898, to expire at the end of 1903.

A miner, who became a party to the scheme in 1900, authorized his employers, a coal company, to deduct from his wages certain sums which they paid over to the society.

In December, 1903, a renewal scheme was certified by the Registrar, and the company posted notices at the colliery announcing the fact, and stating that workmen might enrol as members by applying to the local secretary. The rule of the colliery was that any member desiring to withdraw from the scheme should give the company a month's notice.

The miner in question gave no such notice, nor any intimation that he wished to withdraw, but he protested against the deduction from his wages, and sued the company to recover 3s. 2d. so deducted.

The King's Bench Division decided that although the miner was bound up to the end of 1903, in the absence of a fresh agreement, he was not bound to the second scheme, therefore the deductions were not made by his authority, and he was entitled to recover.—Wilson v. The Ocean Coal Company, Ltd., King's Bench Division, January 18th, 1905.

BUILDING IN COURSE OF REPAIR: SEVERAL CONTRACTORS: INJURY TO SERVANT OF UNDERTAKER NOT REQUIRING SCAFFOLDING.

The Act applies to employment by the undertakers on or about any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding. "Undertakers" means the persons undertaking the construction or repair.

A house exceeding 30 feet in height was in course of conversion from an ordinary shop into a restaurant, and several contractors were employed on the premises. Scaffolding was used by one contractor. A workman employed by another contractor who did not put up nor use any scaffolding was injured by accident and claimed compensation.

The Court of Appeal decided in his favour, holding that the claimant's employer was an undertaker, and that the existence of a scaffolding was necessary, but that if there were more than one undertaker, it was not necessary that the scaffolding should have been put up by the undertaker in whose employment the injured man was.—Fletcher v. Hawley, Court of Appeal, January 17th, 1905.

WHAT IS A "BUILDING"?

For the purpose of erecting a large building a platform was being constructed to support a steam crane intended to hoist the building materials. It was made of timber, supported by three long wooden legs. Each leg was composed of four uprights, connected by cross pieces of wood nailed on to the uprights so as to form a hollow square, each side of which measured 4½ feet. Each leg was let into the ground, and at its foot was surrounded by a quantity of bricks and other materials to assist in keeping it firm. In order to construct the platform, planks were placed on the cross pieces and ladders placed on the planks, thus forming a scaffolding. The work was being carried on by a crane erector, whose whole business was the putting up of steam cranes and the platforms to support them, and who had nothing to do with brickwork or the construction of houses. A man in his employment, whilst working at the construction of one of the legs, fell from a ladder through the breaking of a plank and was injured. At the time of the accident the erection was 62 feet in height, but only the foundations of the building were in existence. The injured man claimed compensation under the Act, and the Court of Appeal

decided in his favour, holding that, although the structure was of wood, and was only of a temporary nature, it was none the less a "building" within the Act.—Aylward v. Matthews, Court of Appeal, January 18th, 1905.

In another case a building was being erected as an extension of a large existing building over 30 feet in height. Eventually structural alterations in the old building would be required to connect the two buildings. The new building had not reached 30 feet in height, but was in actual contact with the old building though no alterations had yet been made in the latter, when a workman in the employment of the contractor was injured. He claimed compensation and the Court of Appeal decided in his favour holding that the work involved structural alterations in the old building, and therefore the injured man was at the time of the accident employed about a building exceeding 30 feet in height.—Hartley v. Quick, Court of Appeal, January 21st, 1905.

ENGINEERING WORK: ALTERATION OF SEWER: CONNECTION WITH DRAIN.

The Act applies to employment on or in or about an engineering work. "Engineering work" includes any work of construction, alteration or repair of a sewer.

A contractor had agreed with a Local Authority to connect the drains of a newly-built house with the main sewer. A man in the employment of this contractor was engaged in making a trench across a roadway in which to lay the connecting pipe. While working in the trench an accident happened which so injured the man that he died. At the time of the accident the trench had not reached the sewer, nor had the sewer been touched, but the day after the accident the sewer was reached and tapped for the purpose of connection.

The widow of the deceased man claimed compensation, and the Court of Appeal held that "engineering work" included work done for the purpose of gaining access to a sewer as well as the actual work of making the alteration in the sewer, therefore the widow was entitled to succeed.—Coles v. Anderson, Court of Appeal, January 15th, 1905.

WHAT ARE "EARNINGS"?: UNIFORM SUPPLIED BY EMPLOYER.

Where compensation is payable under the Act in respect of a fatal accident, and the deceased has left dependants wholly dependent upon him, the amount of compensation is a sum equal to the earnings of the deceased in the employment of the same employer during the three years next preceding the injury or £150, whichever of these sums is the larger, but in no case exceeding £300.

A goods guard in the employment of a railway company was killed by an accident, and it was not disputed that his widow was entitled to the maximum compensation payable to a dependant. She, however, claimed, in addition to the amount of his wages, to be entitled to £7, the value of uniform clothing supplied to her husband for use during his service.

The Court of Appeal decided that when a man receives part of the emoluments of his services in the form of clothing, the value of the right to wear clothing so received is part of his earnings.—Great Northern Railway Co. v. Dawson, Court of Appeal, January 18th, 1905.

WAGE-EARNING CAPACITY AFTER INJURY.

With regard to the standard of compensation the Act provides that in fixing the amount of a weekly payment, regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the injured man before the accident, and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident.

A man employed as a coal porter by a gas company met with an accident in December, 1899, by which he lost part of four fingers of his left hand. His wages before the accident were £2 rs. 9d. a week. In January, 1900, it was agreed between the man and his employers that he should receive £1 a week compensation. In January, 1901, the company offered the man employment as gateman and timekeeper at 27s a week. This offer he refused. In April, 1901, the company took proceedings before the County Court Judge by way of review, and obtained an order diminishing the weekly payments to 14s. 9d.

The company subsequently renewed their offer of employment, and this time it was accepted. However, as he refused to note down the times of arrival of his fellow workmen in the morning, he was dismissed in November, 1902. He then brought an action against the company for wrongful dismissal, but judgment was given against him. In March, 1903, he applied to the County Court Judge to increase the weekly payments of 14s. 9d., but his application was refused. In May, 1904, he made another similar application, when, after hearing evidence, the Judge decided that the man was entitled to have the compensation at the rate of £1 a week restored.

Against this decision the company appealed. The Court of Appeal, however, dismissed the appeal, holding that when the case was before the County Court Judge on the earlier occasions he was justified in coming to the conclusion that the reason why the applicant was not then able to earn wages was because he had not taken or kept the place in the company's employment which was offered to him. But when, after an interval of more than a year, the case again came before the County Court Judge, matters had changed. The applicant had tried to find work and had not been successful, and he was justified in saying that his wage-earning capacity was not the same as before.—Clark v. Gas Light & Coke Company, Court of Appeal, January 13th, 1905.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR—Continued.
REDEMPTION OF WEEKLY PAYMENT: DISCRETION OF ARBITRATOR.

The Act provides that where a weekly payment has been continued for not less than six months, the liability thereof may, on the application of the employer, be redeemed by the payment of a lump sum, to be settled in default of agreement by arbitration under the Act.

A workman in the employment of a spinning company was injured by an accident occurring in July, 1903, and in August it was agreed between him and his employers that he should receive compensation under the Act at the rate of 20s. a week. A memorandum of this agreement was duly recorded. After an interval of six months the company applied to the County Court Judge for redemption of the payments by the payment of a sum not exceeding £150.

The County Court Judge made an award fixing the amount to be paid by way of redemption at £150.

The Court of Appeal set aside the award, holding that the Act did not contemplate any such limitation upon the discretion of the arbitrator in fixing the amount of the redemption money, as the employers attempted in this case to impose upon it.—*Castle Spinning Co. (Ltd.) v. Atkinson, Court of Appeal, January 18th, 1905.*

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS
IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING JANUARY 40 cases of lead poisoning and 2 cases of anthrax were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of phosphorus, mercurial, or arsenic poisoning were reported. Two deaths due to lead poisoning were reported.

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1904.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1904.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals	2	1	—	—
Brass Works	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	3	1	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	4	1	—	—
Printing	—	3	—	—
File Cutting	—	5	—	1
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	5	4	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	1	—	—
China and Earthenware*	7	15	1	—
Litho-transfer Works	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	3	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	5	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	4	3	1	—
Coach Making	2	4	—	—
Shipbuilding	1	—	—	—
Paint used in other Industries	3	6	—	—
Other Industries	3	6	—	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	40	43	2	1
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	—	—	—
Furriers' processes	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	—	1	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	—	2	—	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting	—	—	—	—
Wool Combing	1	1	—	—
Handling of Horsehair	—	—	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	—	1	—	—
Total Anthrax	1	3	—	—
Grand Total	42	48	2	1

* Of the seven persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in January, 1905, five were females.

† *House Painters and Plumbers.*—In addition to the cases included in the Table 9 cases of lead poisoning (including 1 death) were reported during January, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during January, 1904, was 13 (including 2 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS
REPORTED IN JANUARY.

(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 January, 1905, was 239, being the same as in December, 1904, and 16 less than in January, 1904. The mean number for January in the years 1900-1904, was 258, the maximum year in this period being 1900, with 276 deaths, and the minimum year 1903, with 246 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in January, 1905, was 163. The number reported in January of the years 1900-1904 varied from 111 to 167, the mean for the five years being 131.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 373, as compared with 328 in the corresponding period of 1904. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents reported in January 1905, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Trades.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1905, as compared with a	
	Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	7	8	3	- 1	+ 4
Engine Drivers	2	6	3	- 4	+ 1
Firemen	2	4	—	+ 2	+ 2
Guards (Passenger)	2	—	—	- 4	+ 3
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	9	13	6	- 4	+ 3
Porters	3	5	5	- 2	- 2
Shunters	1	2	6	- 1	- 6
Miscellaneous	10	13	16	- 3	- 6
Contractors' Servants	1	—	4	+ 1	- 3
Total Railway Service	37	51	44	- 14	- 7
Mines—					
Underground	84	71	83	+ 13	+ 1
Surface	14	20	5	- 6	+ 5
Total Mines	98	91	88	+ 7	+ 6
Quarries over 20 feet deep	5	8	1	- 3	- 6
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	5	2	5	+ 3	—
Wool and Worsted	—	1	3	- 1	- 3
Other Textiles	—	—	2	—	- 2
Non Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	3	3	5	—	- 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	16	5	9	+ 11	+ 7
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	3	3	—	—
Ship and Boat Building	6	11	14	- 5	- 8
Wood	2	6	3	- 4	- 1
Chemicals, &c.	4	5	2	- 1	+ 2
Other Non-Textile Industries	32	27	27	+ 5	+ 5
Total Factories	71	63	73	+ 8	- 2
Workshops	2	—	1	+ 2	+ 1
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	13	17	16	- 4	- 3
Warehouses	2	—	5	+ 2	- 3
Buildings to which Act applies	8	7	8	+ 1	—
Laundries	—	—	1	—	- 1
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	23	24	30	- 1	- 7
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	3	2	4	+ 1	- 1
Total, exclusive of Seamen	239	239	255	—	- 16
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	37	35	23	+ 2	+ 14
Steam	143	75	76	+ 38	+ 37
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	—	1	3	+ 2	—
Steam	3	2	9	+ 8	+ 1
Total Seamen	163	113	111	+ 50	+ 53
Total, including Seamen	402	352	366	+ 50	+ 36

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-one new disputes began in January, 1905, compared with six in December, and 17 in January 1904. By the 21 disputes, 4,614 workpeople were directly and 524 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before January, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 6,628 workpeople involved in trade disputes during January, 1905, compared with 3,727 in December, 1904, and 10,175 in January 1904.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining	5	2,569	72	2,641
Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	739	120	859
Textile	3	719	257	976
Boot and Shoe	5	192	75	267
Other...	3	395	—	395
Total, January, 1905	21	4,614	524	5,138
Total, December, 1904	6	864	310	1,174
Total, January, 1904	17	2,373	4,477	6,850

Causes.—Of the twenty-one new disputes, five arose on demands for increased wages, four on objections to

reductions, six on other wages questions, two on questions of working arrangements, and four from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in January in the case of sixteen new disputes, affecting 4,658 workpeople, and one old dispute, affecting 400 workpeople. Of these seventeen new and old disputes, one, involving 31 persons, was decided in favour of the workpeople; nine, involving 2,494 persons, were settled in favour of the employers; and seven, involving 2,533 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in January of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 33,800 working days. In addition, 33,300 working days were lost in January, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration of all disputes, new and old, was 67,100 working days, which compares with 46,900 in the previous month, and 98,900 in the corresponding month of 1904.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1905.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.†
		Directly.	Indirectly.†				
Miners	Pontypool	1,500	—	4 Jan.	1	Men alleged mine unsafe owing to presence of gas	Mine examined by workpeople's representatives and reported safe.
Platers' Helpers and Platers	Sunderland	400	120	31 Jan.	2	Dispute as to the times of starting and leaving off work	Men agreed to conform to the rules of the yard.
Weavers, Winders, Warpers, Cardroom Hands, Spinners and Mechanics	Stockport (near)	339	257	4 Jan.	16	Against proposed reduction in piece rates of wages on account of improved machinery	Compromise effected.
Linen Weavers	Burnley	300	—	19 Jan.	—	For new price list	No settlement reported.

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

† The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

COAL SUPPLIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Final Report* of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the extent and available resources of the coalfields of the United Kingdom has now been issued. Following the precedent of the Royal Commission of 1871, the Commissioners adopted 4,000 feet as the limit of practicable depth in working, and one foot as the minimum workable thickness, and they estimate the available quantity of coal in the Proved‡ Coalfields of the United Kingdom to be 100,914,668,167 tons. The Coal Commission of 1871, estimated the available resources of the country as 90,207 million tons. From 1870 to 1903 5,695 million tons have been raised, but the estimate of the later Commission shows an excess of 16,403 million tons when this is allowed for. This excess is accounted for partly by the difference in the areas regarded as productive by the two Commissions, and partly by discoveries due to recent borings, sinkings, and workings, and more accurate knowledge of the coal seams.

It is also estimated that in addition to the coal within 4,000 feet of the surface, there are 5,239 million tons lying at greater depths in the Proved Coalfields. The Commission notes with satisfaction that no less than 79.3 per cent. of the available resources (exclusive of Ireland, Somerset and Gloucester) is contained in seams

of 2 feet thick and upwards, and 91.6 per cent. in seams of 18 inches and upwards.

With regard to the probable duration of our coal resources, the present annual output is about 230 million tons. For the last 30 years the average increase in the output has been 2½ per cent. per annum, and that of the exports (including bunkers) 4½ per cent. per annum. It is the general opinion of the District Commissioners that owing to physical considerations it is highly improbable that the present rate of increase of the output of coal can long continue—indeed, they think that some districts have already attained their maximum output, but that on the other hand the developments in the newer coalfields will possibly increase the total output for some years. "In view of this opinion," says the Report, "and of the exhaustion of the shallower collieries, we look forward to a time, not far distant, when the rate of increase of output will be slower, to be followed by a period of stationary output, and then gradual decline."

Complete returns were obtained for 1902 and 1903 of the number of coal cutting machines at work. In 1902 there were 483, and in 1903 there were 643.

The consumption of coal in the United Kingdom was 167 million tons in 1903, and of this quantity it is estimated that 53 million tons were used by factories, 32 millions for domestic purposes, 28 millions in the iron and steel industries, 18 millions in mines, 15 millions in gas works, 13 millions by railways (for all purposes), and the remaining 8 millions in other industries, &c.

* Final Report of the Royal Commission of Coal Supplies. Cd. 2353-1905. Price 4d.
‡ By boring, &c.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Changes reported in January.

Wages.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in January was a decrease of £1,636 per week, as compared with a decrease of £2,145 per week in December, and a decrease of £2,306 in January, 1904. The number of workpeople affected was 63,823, of whom 3,057 received advances amounting to £105 per week, and 60,766 sustained decreases amounting to £1,741 per week. The total number affected in December was 39,553 and in January, 1904, 75,519.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 35,000 coal miners in Northumberland, 20,000 iron

workers in the Midlands, and 4,182 iron and steel workers in the North of England.

Two changes, affecting 55,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and twelve changes affecting 7,055 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 1,768 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Hours.—Only one change in hours of labour was reported during January. It affected 100 Corporation workpeople at West Hartlepool, whose working time was reduced by one hour per week.

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

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

BUILDING TRADES. 1 Decrease—180 Workpeople.					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Chesterfield	Bricklayers	2 Jan.	180		Decrease of 3d. per hour (gd. to 83d.).
COAL MINING. 1 Decrease—35,000 Workpeople.					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Northumberland	Coal Miners:— Underground Workers and Banksmen (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen, and Firemen) Other Surface Workers	9 & 16 Jan.	35,000		Decrease of 2½ per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 16½ per cent. above the standard of November, 1879. Decrease of 2 per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 13 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE. 1 Decrease—600 Workpeople.					
<i>5 Increases—869 Workpeople.</i>					
Millom	Blastfurnacemen	1 Jan.	172		Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages of furnacemen 15 per cent., and of other workpeople 12½ per cent. above the standard.
Ulverston	Blastfurnacemen	2 Jan.	132		Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 12½ per cent. above the standard.
Barrow-in-Furness	Blastfurnacemen	Jan.	290		Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 12½ per cent. above the standard.
South Lancashire (2 firms)	Blastfurnacemen	1st week in Jan.	220		Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 14 per cent. above the standard.
North Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen	Jan.	600		Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above the standard.
North Wales	Blastfurnacemen	5 Jan.	55		Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 14 per cent. above the standard.
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. 7 Decreases—24,666 Workpeople.					
<i>1 Increase—1,030 Workpeople.</i>					
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	Puddlers	30 Jan.	700		Decrease of 3d. per ton (8s. to 7s. 9d.) under sliding scale.
	Iron and Steel Millmen		2,500		Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Jarrow	Enginemen, Cranemen, &c.	9 Jan.	110		Decrease of 5 per cent.
Middlesbrough	Steel Workers	Jan.	740		Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 5 per cent. above the standard.
Eston	Steel Workers	1 Jan.	1,030		Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 8½ per cent. above the standard.
Teams (Gateshead)	Iron and Steel Millmen, &c.	30 Jan.	82		Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 10 per cent. above the standard of 1896.
Workington	Iron Workers:— Puddlers Millmen	30 Jan.	160		Decrease of 3d. per ton under sliding scale. Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale. Decrease of 3d. per ton under sliding scale.
South Yorkshire (3 firms)	Puddlers	Jan. & Feb.	374		Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Midlands (including parts of S. Yorks. and S. Lancs.)	Iron Workers:— Puddlers Millmen	6 Feb.	20,000		Decrease of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 3d.) Decrease of 2½ per cent.
ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING. 1 Decrease—320 Workpeople.					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Birkenhead	Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Ship-builders	13 & 14 Jan.	320		Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. 6d. per week off time rates.
OTHER TRADES. Decreases—Nil.					
<i>3 Increases—750 Workpeople.</i>					
Darlington	Compositors and Machinemen	1 Jan.	50		Advance of 1s. per week (31s. to 32s.).
Newport (Mon.)	Compositors and Machinemen	1 Jan.	100		Advance of 1s. per week (30s. to 31s.).
Swansea	Patent Fuel Workers	1 Jan.	600		Advance of 5 per cent.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

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

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY, 1905.—(continued).

EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases—Nil.					
<i>2 Increases—408 Workpeople.</i>					
Bingley	Lamp-lighters	16 Jan.	13		Advance of 2s. per week.
Manchester	Pail and Ash Carriers		155		Advance of 1s. per week. Wages after change 24s. day work and 25s. night work.
	General Labourers	1 Apl.	240		Advance of 1s. per week (22s. to 23s.).

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1905.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.
West Hartlepool	Corporation Workpeople:— Sweepers, Roadmen, Carters, Labourers, &c.	7 Jan.	100	Decrease of 1 hour per week (5 to 50).

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for January.

Categories.	Month of January.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
	I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£ 17,904,791	£ 18,180,844	£ 18,799,894	+ £ 619,050	+ £ 895,103
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.†	17,070,440	17,708,373	17,619,948	– 88,425	+ 549,508
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.‡	11,015,631	10,037,500	11,174,986	+ 1,137,486	+ 1,593,355
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	235,653	205,803	171,632	– 34,171	– 64,021
Total value of Imports	£ 45,226,515	£ 46,132,520	£ 47,766,460	+ £ 1,633,940	+ £ 1,530,945

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.‡

Categories.	Month of January.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
	I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£ 1,261,820	£ 1,177,226	£ 1,281,108	+ £ 103,882	+ £ 19,288
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured §	2,991,894	2,683,047	2,752,186	+ 69,139	– 239,708
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured ¶	20,311,903	19,899,913	20,602,638	+ 711,725	+ 290,738
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	338,022	324,179	353,845	+ 21,666	+ 15,823
Total value of Exports of British produce	£ 24,903,639	£ 24,083,365	£ 24,989,777	+ £ 906,412	+ £ 86,141

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £6,113,887 in January, 1905; £5,712,000 in January, 1904; and £6,067,718 in January, 1903.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended January, 1905, amounted to 2,933,139 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,720,587 tons, as against 2,979,361 tons entered, and 3,670,965 tons cleared in the month of January, 1904. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during January, 1905, amounted to 2,619,051 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,578,133 tons, as against 2,640,259 tons entered, and 2,594,383 tons cleared in January, 1904.

† The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.
‡ Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
§ Yarns and Textile fabrics, manufacturers of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
¶ The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.
‡ Coal, wool, oilseeds, hides and skins, &c.
¶ Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, machinery, chemicals, &c.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

The results of the last ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron are given in the Table below. These audits relate to the closing months of 1904.

Compared with the previous ascertainment it will be seen that little change took place in the price of Northumberland coal, that the price of pig iron advanced, and that the price of manufactured iron in the North of England and the West of Scotland fell.

Compared with a year ago there has been a general decline in prices, except in the case of Cumberland pig iron, in which there has been a slight rise.

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) of last Audit as compared with	
		Last Audit.*	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Coal.						
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Sept.–Nov.	6 2 69	6 3 59	6 9 95	– 0 9 90	– 0 7 26
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland	Oct.–Dec.	54 1 97	52 5 44	53 5 33	+ 1 8 53	+ 0 8 64
Cleveland		43 4 59	42 6 39	44 1 37	+ 0 10 20	– 0 8 78
Manufact'rd Iron.						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	Nov.–Dec.	116 4 89	119 1 03	123 10 75	– 2 8 14	– 7 5 86
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)		113 9 87	115 0 43	121 6 24	– 1 2 56	– 7 8 37

In his report on the audit for November and December, 1904, and January, 1905, relating to the ascertained selling price of Scotch pig iron, the accountant says: "There have been no transactions reported to me of sales for cash of Scotch pig iron warrants in the Glasgow market." He was unable, therefore, to quote a price based on cash transactions, and it is these prices which regulate wages under the sliding scale. He stated, however, that the average settlement price during the period as shown in the reports of the Glasgow market was 53s. 0 14d. This compares with 50s. 7 6d. in August, September and October.

With regard to manufactured iron in the Midlands, there was no ascertainment in January. The Wages Board decided, however, that the wages of puddlers and millmen should be reduced by 3d. per ton, and 2½ per cent. respectively.

Changes in wages which have followed the recent ascertainment are reductions affecting coal miners in Northumberland, and puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and advances affecting blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and Cleveland. For further particulars regarding these changes, see pp. 29 and 60.

* Under the various sliding scale agreements, changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place in the pig iron industry immediately after the period to which the audit relates, while in the manufactured iron trades they follow one month later. In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertainment are taken into consideration by the Coal Trade Conciliation Board when determining the rate of wages of the miners.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left for places out of Europe during January, was 22,754 as compared with 15,952 in January, 1904, an increase of 6,802, which is entirely due to a larger number of passengers to the United States.

British and Irish.—Of 22,754 passengers in January, 1905, 10,222 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 819 compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in January, 1905, and 1904:—

Table with columns: Destination (Country in which passengers contracted to land), Jan. 1905, Jan. 1904. Rows include British Colonies and Possessions, Foreign Countries, and Grand Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 22,754 passengers in January, viz., 12,532, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 5,983 more than in January, 1904.

Alien Immigration.—During January, 12,551 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 5,472 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 2,932 as compared with January, 1904.

Table with columns: Jan. 1905, Jan. 1904. Rows include Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries, Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries, and Gross Total.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The total receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended January 28th, 1905, amounted to £6,479,602 a decrease of 1.4 per cent. as compared with the total for the corresponding period of 1904.

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

Table with columns: Passenger Traffic, Goods and Mineral Traffic, Amount for the 4 weeks ended Jan. 28th, 1905, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in corresponding period in 1904. Rows include English Lines, Scottish Lines, and Irish Lines.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

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

The number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in January corresponded to a rate of 239 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts. This is higher than the rate for January in any of the previous ten years, the next highest rate in this period being 230 per 10,000 in January, 1895.

Compared with December, 1904, the number of persons relieved has decreased by 5,662, and the rate per 10,000 by 4. The number of indoor paupers increased by 1,094, but there was a decrease of 6,756 in the number of outdoor paupers.

Compared with January 1904, the number of persons relieved has increased by 38,772 and the rate per 10,000 by 20. The number of indoor paupers shows an increase of 7,430 (or 4.5 per cent.), and of outdoor paupers an increase of 31,342 (or 15.0 per cent.).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of January, 1905 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

Table with columns: Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of January, 1905 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, WEST HAM, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

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

* The rates for January, 1905, and December, 1904, are based upon the estimated population in 1905, and the rate for January, 1904, upon the estimated population in 1904.

† 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.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

At twelve Bureaux which furnished returns for both January, 1905 and 1904, 6,618 fresh applications were registered during January, 1905, as compared with 4,114 a year ago. During January these Bureaux found work for 2,469 persons, of whom 1,278 were engaged by private employers.

Returns relating to January, 1905, were also received from five other Bureaux. At the seventeen Bureaux included in the Table below 7,688 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 2,733 persons. The work procured for 472 of these persons was stated to be more or less of a permanent character, while, in the case of 2,261, temporary employment only was found.

(I.) Work done in January.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Jan. 1905, Jan. 1904), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Jan. 1905, Jan. 1904), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau during (Jan. 1905, Jan. 1904). Rows include London, Provincial, and Total of 17 Bureaux.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during January, 1905, by 17 Bureaux.

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

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during January numbered 427, being 63 more than in January, 1904. This number included 21 bakers, 28 builders, 25 farmers, 29 grocers, and 27 publicans, the corresponding numbers for last year being 22, 32, 13, 23, and 15 respectively.

† Revised figures. ‡ Bureau not in operation in January, 1904.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January 772 fresh applications for work were registered by six Bureaux furnishing returns, and 735 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 161 persons, of whom 105 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 313 to 589, and the number of servants applying rose from 262 to 440; the number permanently engaged rose from 63 to 84. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 19 to 47, and the number requiring such situations rose from 45 to 95; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 31, compared with 14 in December.

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

Table with columns: No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily). Rows include Summary by Bureaux, Summary by Occupations, and Watford Bureau.

PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AT TAR DISTILLATION WORKS.

THE attention of the Home Office was some time ago directed to the serious risks incurred by persons employed in works in which is carried on the distillation of tar and the production of naphtha, light oil, creosote oil and pitch. Accordingly in October, 1903, a memorandum was issued by the Chief Inspector of Factories, with the approval of the Home Secretary, suggesting certain regulations to be adopted in such works.

* Opened July 1st, 1904. † No return made before April, 1904.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING JANUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Woollen, Worsted, and Shoddy Factories (Inspection), 1904. Return of the number of Woollen, Worsted, and Shoddy Factories subject to inspection under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the number of spindles, looms, and other machines used in such factories. [H.C. 293: pp. 13: price 2d.]

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour).—Return of Railway Servants of certain Classes who were on one or more occasions during October, 1903, on duty more than 12 hours at a time, or who, after being on duty more than 12 hours, were allowed to resume work with less than 9 hours' rest. [Cd. 2344: pp. 53: price 5½d.]

Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. Annual Report for 1903. Part B.—Appendix (L). *Industrial and Provident Societies.* Names and addresses of societies for carrying on industries and trades; for carrying on business, land societies, &c.; societies registered, dissolved or terminated during 1903; membership, transactions, capital, &c., of Industrial and Provident Societies during 1903. [H.C. 55-1: pp. 111 + 231: price 1s. 11d.]

Part C.—Appendix (M). *Trade Unions.* List of registered trade unions by counties; membership, funds, income, and expenditure in 1903; unions registered, dissolved, or terminated. [H.C. 55-11: pp. 40: price 4½d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland.—Extent in statute acres and produce of the crops for the year 1904. Potato culture and produce; bee-keeping statistics, &c. [Cd. 2339: pp. 43: price 3½d.]

Royal Commission on Coal Supplies.—Final Report. Part I. General Report. [Cd. 2353: pp. vi. + 38: price 4d.]

Part X. Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 2362: pp. v. + 399: price 4s. 10d.]

Part XII. Supplement containing plans and diagrams referred to in the Evidence. [Cd. 2364: pp. 20: price 1s. 3d.]

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

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada.

Fourth Annual Report of the Department of Labour, for the year ending 30th June, 1904. Refers to the working of the Railway Labour Disputes Act, 1903; Royal Commission to inquire into employment of Aliens by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company; Fair Wages on Public Contract Work, &c., &c. [Ottawa: E. S. Dawson, Government Printer: pp. 107.]

New South Wales.

Statistical Register for year ended 31st December, 1903. Part XI. Industrial Wages Tables showing average rates of wages paid in 19 classes of industries to workpeople at various groups of ages. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 67: price 1s.]

The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records. Vol. III. Part 5. 1904. Reports of 16 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. viii. + 83 + lvi: price 5s.]

Victoria.

Statistical Register for 1903. Part III. Social Condition. [Melbourne: R. S. Brain, Government Printer: pp. 37: price 1s. 6d.]

South Australia.

Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Alleged Sweating Evil. With Minutes and Evidence. [Adelaide: C. E. Bristow, Government Printer: pp. 183.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Eleventh Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics for the State of California, 1904. The Apprentice System in California; report of inquiry into the conditions of Women and Children wage-workers in San Francisco and Oakland; comparative statistics of occupations, number and condition of the unemployed, &c., &c. [Sacramento: W. W. Shannon, State Printer: pp. 140.]

Germany.

Report of Proceedings at Meeting of Council for Labour Statistics held on December 13th, 1904. [Berlin, 1904: pp. 34.]

Report on Hours of Labour of Assistants and Apprentices in Commercial Establishments. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Carl Heymann, 1904: pp. iv. + 174.]

Berlin Statistics, V.—Incomes and Household Expenditure of Working Classes in Berlin in 1903. [Berlin: Verlag von P. Stankiewicz, 1904: pp. vi. + 61 + 75.]

Austria.

Strikes and Lock-outs in Austria in 1903. K. K. Arbeitsstatistisches Amt. [Vienna: A. Hölder, 1. Rothenthürmstrasse, 1904: pp. 173 + 211: price 2s.]

Report of Proceedings at 18th Session of Labour Council held on November 5th, 1904. K. K. Arbeitsstatistisches Amt. Vienna, 1904.

Italy.

Report of Census of Population taken February 10th, 1901, Vol. V. Direzione Generale della Statistica. Deals with methods and results, and compares latter with those obtained at former censuses and in other countries. [Rome: G. Bertero & Co., via Umbria, 1904: pp. cxli. + 282 and diagrams: price 3s. 2½d.]

France.

Report on Coal and other Mining in France for 1903.—Ministry of Public Works, Mines Division, Paris; Imprimerie Nationale, 1904. [pp. xii. + 116 + 206: price 8s.]

Norway.

Industrial Statistics relating to 1895-99.—Norwegian Insurance Department, Christiania. [H. Aschehoug & Co., 1904: pp. 29 + 494.]

Statistical Yearbook of Norway, 1904.—Statistical Central Bureau, Christiania: Contains statistics of workpeople in factories (grouped by trades), wages, want of employment, &c. [H. Aschehoug & Co., 1904: pp. 186: price 1s. 1d.]

Consular Reports. No. 623. Miscellaneous Series. *Mining and Metallurgical Industries of Spain in 1903.* [Cd. 2237-4: pp. 33: price 2½d.] Number of mines worked, number of workpeople employed below and above ground, machinery, production, &c.

No. 624. Miscellaneous Series. *German Cement.* Number of works, persons employed, output and exports [Cd. 2237-5: pp. 7: price ½d.]

No. 625. Miscellaneous Series. *Rice Industry in the United States.* Acreage under rice culture, number of mills, cost of preparation of land, &c. [Cd. 2237-6: pp. 26: price 2d.]

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

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

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JANUARY.

(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 January was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 14; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 47 (including 20 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 65.

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

Trade Union.—1, viz., Liverpool United Society of Operative Plasterers' and Slaters' Labourers, 57, Hunter Street, Liverpool.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—11, viz., *Co-op. Soc. mainly for Production*; 1, viz., Hull Brush Makers, Ltd., 97, Somerset Street, Hessle Road, Hull. *Co-op. Agric. Socs.*—4, viz., Epping and Waltham Agric. Co-op. Assoc., Ltd., Little Copped Hall, Epping; Dysynni Valley Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Perfeddant, Towyn, Merioneth; Wensleydale Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Bainbridge, Askrigg, Yorks.; County Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., 119, St. Mary Street, Cardiff. *Miscellaneous Societies.*—Working Men's Clubs, 3; others, 3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—*Co-op. Agric. Socs.*—3, viz., Glashare Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Glashare Johnstown; Cooley Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cooley; Doora and Rarefield Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Knockanean.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—17, viz., Wardleworth £30 Money Club, Rochdale; City of Manchester Permanent Money Soc., Manchester; City Mutual Help Soc., London, E.C.; City of Oxford Permanent Money Soc., Oxford; Aberdare Town Band Musical Institute, Aberdare; Belvedere Working Men's Social Club, Kent; South Elmsall Working Men's Club and Institute, Doncaster; Tamworth and Dist. Horse Keepers' Assoc., Tamworth; Manchester Achei Brith Sub. Sick Benefit Soc., Manchester; Free Odd Fellows Friendly Soc., Great Harwood, Blackburn; Sons of Jerusalem Friendly Benefit Soc., London, E.; New St. James's Sick Benefit Soc., London, W.; London and Provincial Yearly Dividing Friendly Soc., London, N.; Pack Horse Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Padeswood Tontine Mutual Benefit Soc., Club Room, Mold; Bryn Cenydd Benefit Soc., Caerphilly, Glam. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—10, viz., Lord Edward Burial Soc., Dublin; Inniskeen Agric. Credit Soc., Inniskeen, R.S.O.; Co. Monaghan; Monaseed Credit Soc., Monaseed, Gorey; Annaghmore Credit Soc., Annaghmore, Dromod, R.S.O.; Co. Leitrim; Greencastle Co-op. Agric. Credit Soc., Greencastle; Feenagh Credit Soc., Feenagh, Charleville; Bruckless Credit Soc., Bruckless, R.S.O.; Co. Donegal; Louth and Stonetown Credit Soc., Stonetown; Mayo Abbey Agric. Credit Soc., Mayo Abbey; Cloonmorris Credit Soc., Cloonmorris, Dromod, R.S.O., Co. Leitrim.

(2) DISSOLVED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as dissolved, or as having had registration cancelled in January, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 7; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 9; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 52 (including 29 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 18; in all 86.

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

Printed by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & Co., Ltd., 31 to 37 Cursitor Street, London, E.C., and Published for His Majesty's Stationery Office by HORACE MARSHALL & SON, Temple House, Temple Avenue, London, E.C. Sole Advertising Contractors—RATCLIFFE, DUNBAR & Co., 1, Lombard Court, Lombard Street, E.C.—Feb., 1905.