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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

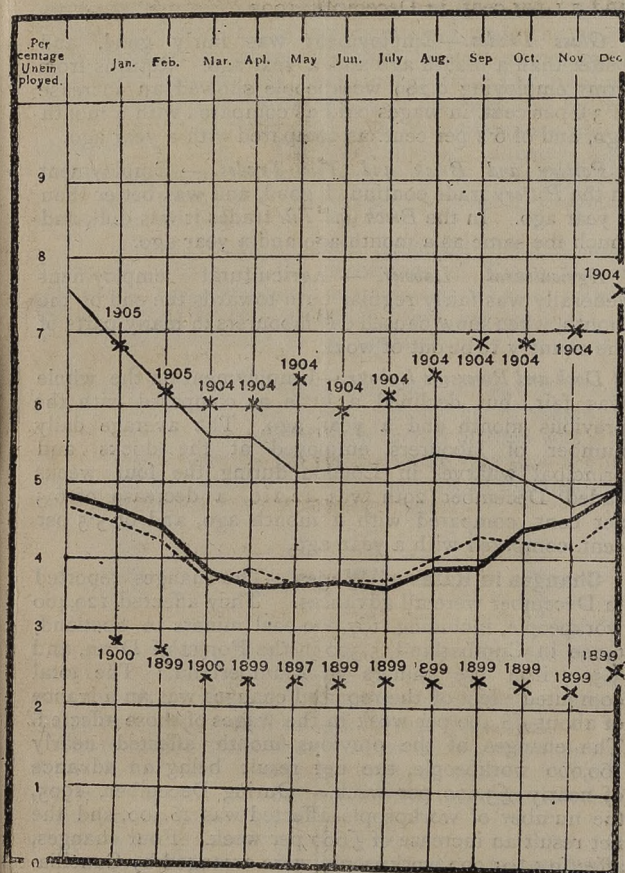


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve=1906. Thin Curve=1905.
Dotted Curve=Mean of 1896-1905.

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

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[Based on 7,733 returns, viz.: 4,357 from Employers and their Associations; 2,884 from Trade Unions; 395 from Local Correspondents; and 97 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in December showed little change as compared with the previous month. There was a seasonal decline in some trades, and employment was also affected by the holiday suspensions. The coal-mining industry is very brisk.

There was a rise in wages during the month to the extent of £8,400 per week.

As compared with a year ago there was, on the whole, a slight improvement in employment.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 597,198, making Returns, 29,212 (or 4.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, 1906, as compared with 4.5 per cent. at the end of November, 1906, and 4.9 per cent. at the end of December, 1905.

Building Trades.—Employment continued dull. It was worse on the whole than in November, and showed little general change compared with a year ago.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the collieries included in the Returns was 5.60 during the four weeks ended December 22nd, 1906, as compared with 5.50 in November, and 5.39 in December, 1905.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good in iron mines, and was much the same as a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.92, as compared with 5.89 in November, and 5.88 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry in December continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 25,000 workpeople, showed that 340 furnaces were in blast at the end of December, as compared with 342 in the previous month and 335 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works continued very brisk and showed a slight improvement on a month ago, while it was considerably better than a year ago. The volume of employment at 206 works from which Returns were received was 0.2 per cent. greater in the week ended December 22nd than in the week ended November 24th, and 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment during December continued good, and was better than a year ago. According to Returns received, 441 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of December, compared with the same number at the end of November, 1906, and 429 at the end of December, 1905.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in December continued fairly good, but was not quite so good as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 4.1, as compared with 3.5 a month ago and 3.7 a year ago. The percentages for December were affected by holiday suspensions.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment during December showed some improvement on a month ago, and was about the same as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 11.3, as compared with 13.6 at the end of November, and 10.2 at the end of December, 1905.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very brisk, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms

employing 130,439 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woolen Trade.—Employment continued good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 22,197 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in the worsted trade was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,133 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd, showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,229 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended 22nd December showed an increase of 3.5 per cent. in wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good, but was not quite so good as a month ago. Returns from firms employing 18,513 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended 22nd December, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment in this trade showed little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,547 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd, showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment in this trade was good in England and moderate in Scotland. It was considerably better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 9,051 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended December 22nd, showed an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 10.8 per cent. compared with the previous year.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and better than a year ago. Firms employing 14,210 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd, showed an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed a seasonal decline, and was moderate; it was better than a year ago. In the *Provinces* it was slack. In the *ready-made* branch it was fair, and slightly better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during December in the *Silk Hat* branch was quiet; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was fair, and better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of December in the *Silk Hat* trade was 11.6, compared with 10.2 at the end of November, and 15.8 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 5.1, 5.1 and 7.9.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade showed a further improvement, and was fair; compared with a year ago little change was shown. Returns from firms employing 63,000 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd showed an increase of 4.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment generally was quiet; worse than a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of

3,677 had 7.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 5.3 per cent. in November, and 6.1 per cent. in December, 1905.

Paper-making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good, and showed little general change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was fairly good on the whole except in the last week of the month, when a decline occurred. It was about the same as in December, 1905. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 4.7, as compared with 3.3 in November, and 4.8 in December, 1905. In the book-binding trades the percentages were 3.2 for December, 2.2 for November, and 3.4 for December, 1905.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was dull generally, and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,979 reported 6.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 4.8 per cent. a month ago, and 7.1 per cent. in December, 1905.

Glass Trades.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 9,289 workpeople showed an increase of 3.6 per cent. in wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 6.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Pottery* trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it was dull, and much the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Agricultural employment generally was fairly regular until towards the end of the month, when snow caused day labourers in many parts of the country to be out of work.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment on the whole was fair, but declined a little as compared with the previous month and a year ago. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended December 29th was 12,210, a decrease of 6.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in December were all advances. They affected 129,400 workpeople, including 107,000 coal miners in Scotland, 6,000 in Cumberland, 5,500 in the Forest of Dean, and 3,500 iron ore miners in Cumberland. The total computed effect of the reported changes was an advance of about £8,400 per week in the wages of those affected. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 160,000 workpeople, the net result being an advance of nearly £3,600 per week. During December, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was 26,400, and the net result an increase of £660 per week. Four changes, affecting 101,900 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change, affecting 600 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 26,900 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives; two of these changes, affecting 260 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty new disputes began in December, compared with 21 in November, and 15 in December, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during December, 1906, was 12,030, or 30,609 less than in November, 1906, but 1,034 more than in December, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 201,300 working days, or 316,500 less than in November, 1906, but 2,500 more than in December, 1905.

Definite results were reported in the case of 10 disputes, new and old, affecting 2,898 persons. Of these 10 disputes, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 2 in favour of the employers, and 3 were compromised.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES, AND PRICES IN 1906.

Employment.

THE general state of employment in 1906 showed a marked improvement compared with the previous year. The upward movement in employment which commenced in March, 1905, has since been almost continuous; but the shipbuilding disputes on the Clyde and Tees somewhat affected the percentage of unemployed in the last quarter of 1906. By the end of the year, however, employment in most of the principal industries had become good, and in a number of them it was very brisk. Coal mining, which showed little change in 1905 as compared with 1904, improved considerably in 1906; and the average weekly number of days worked by the pits was higher than in any year since 1901. The cotton industry maintained in 1906 the high level of employment which characterised the year 1905, and even to some extent improved on it, and in the other textile trades employment was good, or fairly good, throughout the year. The pig iron, iron and steel, and engineering industries made marked progress during 1906, and in the last-mentioned trade the mean percentage of members of Trade Unions unemployed was lower than in any year since 1900. The tinplate trade, which fell off in the spring of the year, had by the end of it returned to the high level of employment which obtained in 1905. The shipbuilding industry also improved, and employment was better than in any year since 1901, although it was seriously affected by disputes in the later months.

The building trade, however, remained very dull; and although, judging by the percentage of Trade Union carpenters and plumbers unemployed, it was rather better than in the two preceding years, yet the state of employment continued to be unsatisfactory up to the end of 1906.

Returns relating to about 600,000 members of Trade Unions show that the mean percentage of members unemployed at the end of each month of 1906 was 4.1, as compared with 5.4 in the previous year and 6.5 in 1904. The fluctuations in the percentages of unemployed in the period 1896-1906 are shown below:—

1896	...	3.4	1902	...	4.4
1897	...	3.5	1903	...	5.1
1898	...	3.0	1904	...	6.5
1899	...	2.4	1905	...	5.4
1900	...	2.9	1906	...	4.1
1901	...	3.8			

From the above figures it will be seen that the mean monthly percentage unemployed in 1906 (4.1), was about equal to the average for the previous ten years (4.04), and was lower than in any year since 1901.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed at the end of each month in the years 1904-6, with the decrease in 1906 as compared with the two previous years (see also Chart on p. 1):—

Months.	Percentage Unemployed at end of each month in			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) or	
	1906.	1905.	1904.	As compared with a year ago.	As compared with two years ago.
January	4.7	6.8	6.6	- 2.1	- 1.9
February	4.4	6.2	6.1	- 1.8	- 1.7
March	3.9	5.6	6.0	- 1.7	- 2.1
April	3.7	5.6	6.0	- 1.9	- 2.3
May	3.6	5.1	6.3	- 1.5	- 2.7
June	3.7	5.2	5.9	- 1.5	- 2.2
July	3.6	5.2	6.1	- 1.6	- 2.5
August	3.8	5.4	6.4	- 1.6	- 2.6
September	3.8	5.3	6.8	- 1.5	- 3.0
October	4.1	5.0	6.8	- 0.6	- 2.4
November	4.5	4.7	7.0	- 0.2	- 2.5
December	4.9	4.9	7.6	...	- 2.7
Mean	4.1	5.4	6.5	- 1.3	- 2.4

Changes in Rates of Wages.

The upward tendency in wages which began in the second half of the year 1905, continued throughout 1906, and, as will be seen from the following Table, there was in the latter year a net increase in weekly wages for the first time since 1900.

Wages rose during the five years 1896-1900, and fell during the succeeding quinquennium (1901-1905), and a

comparison of the net results of the changes in the period 1896-1906, shows that the aggregate of the increases was considerably greater than that of the decreases, while the addition of the rise in 1906 brings the net amount of the increase during the period to approximately £257,000 per week. The figures are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees, and only take into account changes in rates of wages and not fluctuations in the total amount of wages paid owing to changes in the amount of employment available, or altered conditions of work, or increments automatically accruing under a regular scale.

Year.	No. of Workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages.	Computed amount of change in weekly wages as compared with each preceding year.	
		Net Increase per week.	Net Decrease per week.
1896	598,865	26,152	—
1897	582,333	30,494	—
1898	1,010,037	80,372	—
1899	1,165,478	89,816	—
1900	1,110,031	206,772	—
1901	907,199	—	77,902
1902	883,191	—	72,865
1903	892,922	—	38,557
1904	799,959	—	39,278
1905	664,777	—	4,087
1906*	1,070,415	55,546	—
Total for eleven years, 1896-1906	—	489,352	232,689

The number of workpeople affected by wages-changes in 1906 was 1,070,000, of whom 1,053,000 received advances amounting to £56,000 per week, and only 5,000 sustained decreases amounting to £500 per week, while about 12,000 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year.

The principal changes in wages in 1906 were advances affecting workpeople in the coal mining, textile, engineering and shipbuilding, and iron and steel trades. A Table will be found on page 28, in which the changes of the year are summarised according to groups of trades.

Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in the weekly hours of labour reported during 1906 affected 52,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net reduction in their working time amounting in the aggregate to 84,000 hours per week.

Trade Disputes.

During 1906 there was a considerable increase in the amount of industrial disturbance as compared with other recent years. The number of disputes recorded as commencing during the year was 458, involving 215,446 workpeople, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during the year was 2,989,000 working days. The number of workpeople affected by disputes in 1906 was above the average for the previous ten years (178,494), while the aggregate duration, though higher than the average of the period 1901-5 (2,783,000 working days), was well below that for the period 1896-1900 (7,010,000 working days). A comparison of 1906 with each of the preceding ten years is given in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	Total No. of Workpeople affected by Disputes beginning in each year.	Aggregate Duration in working days of all Disputes in each year.
1896	926	198,190	3,746,368
1897	864	230,287	10,345,523
1898	711	253,907	15,280,478
1899	719	380,417	2,516,416
1900	648	388,538	3,152,694
1901	642	179,546	4,142,277
1902	442	256,667	3,479,255
1903	387	116,901	2,338,668
1904	354	87,203	1,484,220
1905	358	93,593	2,470,189
1906	458	215,446	2,989,000

* Preliminary figures, subject to revision.

† It will be understood that although the same workpeople are counted once only in each year, many of them appear in several years, and therefore no total can be made for the eleven years, 1896-1906.

Although the figures for 1906 are in excess of other recent years, it should be borne in mind that the numbers involved are small in comparison with the total industrial population of the United Kingdom. Thus, the number of workpeople involved in disputes in 1906 was only about 2 per cent. of the total industrial population, excluding agricultural labourers, seamen and domestic servants. Spread over this same industrial population, the amount of time lost by stoppages of work was only about one-third of a working day per head in the year.

In 1906 the greatest loss of time occurred in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades. This was chiefly due to the disputes in the shipbuilding industry on the Clyde and the Tees, involving over 20,000 workpeople. In the mining and quarrying industries, the number of disputes was slightly below that recorded in the previous year, but the number of workpeople affected showed a large increase. This was largely due to strikes of members of the South Wales Miners' Federation to compel non-unionists to join the Federation.

In the textile trades the number of disputes recorded was higher than for any other group of trades, and showed a large increase over 1905, while the number of workpeople affected and the aggregate duration were the highest recorded in the past eleven years. The high figures for 1906 in this group are largely due to strikes for an advance in wages which occurred in the linen and jute industries. There was a remarkable falling off in disputes in the building trades. An analysis of the figures for 1905 and 1906 by groups of trades is given on p. 27.

Wholesale Prices.

The general level of prices in 1906, as measured by the Board of Trade Index Number,* showed a rise of nearly 3 per cent. as compared with the previous year, and was higher than in any year since 1892. The Index Number was higher by 0.5 per cent. than that for 1900, in which year the prices of coal and iron were very high.

The Table below gives the Index Numbers indicating the percentage rise or fall in wholesale prices during the period 1871-1906, each year of the period being compared with 1900, which is taken as the base year. The figure for 1906 is, however, subject to revision.

1900 = 100.

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1871	136.0	1885	126.8	1895	91.0
1872	145.8	1886	124.7	1896	88.2
1873	152.7	1887	107.7	1897	90.1
1874	148.1	1888	101.6	1898	93.2
1875	141.4	1889	99.6	1899	92.3
1876	138.0	1890	102.7	1900	100.0
1877	141.6	1891	104.0	1901	96.9
1878	132.6	1892	104.0	1902	95.3
1879	125.6	1893	107.4	1903	95.9
1880	129.6	1894	101.8	1904	98.3
1881	127.3	1895	100.0	1905	97.6
1882	128.4	1896	94.2	1906	100.5

The most noticeable feature of the year was the rise, more or less considerable, in the price of every article in the raw textile materials and in the coal and metals groups. As compared with 1905 jute showed an advance in price of 32.4 per cent.; tin, lead, and copper an advance of about 27 per cent. each; and cotton 17.4 per cent. The advance in the price of coal was 3.3 per cent., and pig iron 11 per cent. The price of British wool exported in 1906 was 5.4 per cent. higher than in 1905, and no less than 109 per cent. higher than in 1902, in which year the price was the lowest recorded. On the other hand, there was a decline on the whole in the prices of articles of food and drink, due chiefly to a fall of about 22 per cent. in the price of sugar, and smaller decreases in the prices of some kinds of grain. There was a slight rise in the price of mutton, and a larger rise (13.8 per cent.) in the price of bacon.

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

LEGISLATION IN 1906 AFFECTING LABOUR.

SEVERAL new laws of the greatest importance to labour were passed in the year 1906. Of these the Act which affects the greatest number of persons is undoubtedly the **Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906**, which is said to bring 6,000,000 additional persons within the scope of the law giving compensation for injury by accident. It repeals the existing Acts and consolidates and amends the law. The first great point to notice is that the Act applies practically to all workpeople, including seamen, as well as clerks, shopmen, and domestic servants. Those excluded are:—All persons who are employed otherwise than by way of manual labour whose remuneration exceeds £250 a year, outworkers, members of a police force, members of the employer's family who live in the employer's house, and persons casually employed for some purpose not connected with the employer's trade or business. The amount payable in case of death or injury is generally the same as fixed by the Act of 1897; but the minimum period of incapacity entitling to a weekly payment is reduced from a fortnight to one week, and where the incapacity lasts two weeks or more, the weekly payments are to commence from the date of the injury instead of, as heretofore, from a fortnight after that date. Where an injured workman is under 21 years of age, and his earnings are less than 20s. a week, compensation may be awarded to him up to a rate of 100 per cent. instead of 50 per cent. of his weekly earnings, provided that the weekly payment is not to exceed 10s.

Another very important feature of the new Act is its extension so as to include the contracting of certain diseases due to the nature of an employment amongst personal injuries by accident arising out of the employment. The diseases referred to are anthrax, poisoning by lead, mercury, phosphorus or arsenic, and ankylostomiasis. The Home Secretary is, however, given power to extend the provisions of the Act, by order, to other diseases. To the list of "dependants" entitled to compensation in case of the death of a workman are added an illegitimate child or grandchild of the deceased, where such child was dependent on his earnings, and the parent or grandparent of the workman where the workman was illegitimate and the parent or grandparent was so dependent. The Act comes into operation on July 1st, 1907, and only applies to accidents happening on or after that day, with the exception of certain provisions as to medical referees. The Acts of 1897 and 1900 continue to apply to all cases where the accident happened before July 1st, 1907.

The **Trade Disputes Act, 1906**, relates to "any dispute between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, which is connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of the employment, or with the conditions of labour, of any person, and the expression 'workmen' means all persons employed in trade or industry, whether or not in the employment of the employer with whom a trade dispute arises." The Act makes an important change in the law relating to conspiracy. By the common law persons who agree together to do an act may often be indicted for the crime of conspiracy, or sued for damages, in cases where the doing of the act by a single person would not be a crime or actionable. The Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875, provided that an agreement by two or more persons to do an act in furtherance or contemplation of a trade dispute should not be indictable as a conspiracy if such acts committed by one person would not be punishable as a crime. The new Act now goes one step further, and provides that "An act done in pursuance of an agreement or combination by two or more persons shall, if done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, not be actionable unless the act, if done without any such agreement or combination, would be actionable." And it is further provided that "an action against a trade union, whether of workmen or masters, or against any members

or officials thereof on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union, shall not be entertained by any court." It will be seen at once that these two provisions will prevent the recurrence of actions such as have occupied the time of the courts during the last few years, in which damages have been claimed against trade unions and their officials for conspiracy, inducing employers to dismiss workmen, &c. The Taff Vale Railway case decided that a registered trade union may be sued. This Act now provides that a trade union may not be sued in tort, but it leaves a union liable to be sued in contract. It is further to be noticed that "an act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable on the ground only that it induces some other person to break a contract of employment or that it is an interference with the trade, business, or employment of some other person, or with the right of some other person to dispose of his capital or his labour as he wills." The Act also expressly legalises peaceful picketing for the purpose of obtaining information, or of persuading any person to work or abstain from working.

The **Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906**, authorises a local education authority to take steps under certain conditions towards providing children attending public elementary schools with meals. Where a Local Authority resolves that any of such children are unable by reason of lack of food to take full advantage of the education provided for them, and where funds other than public funds are not available or are insufficient in amount to defray the cost of such meals, food may be provided out of the rates with the authority of the Board of Education, provided that the amount so expended must not exceed 1d. in the £ in any year. In other cases the Local Authority must not incur any expense in the actual purchase of food to be supplied as meals for school children, but they are authorised in all cases to associate with themselves any committee on which the authority are represented who will undertake to provide such meals, such committee being referred to in the Act as a School Canteen Committee. Such committee may be aided by the Authority furnishing such land, buildings, furniture and apparatus, and such officers and servants, as may be necessary for the organisation, preparation and service of such meals. The parent of every child is to be charged such an amount as the Local Education Authority may determine for every meal supplied to the child; and it is to be the duty of the Authority to take steps to recover the amount so charged as a civil debt due from the parent, unless they are satisfied that the parent is unable to pay by reason of circumstances other than his own default. No person is to be disfranchised, on the ground of being a pauper or otherwise, by reason of his child being supplied with such meals, or by reason of his failure to pay for the same.

Another Act of importance is the **Merchant Shipping Act, 1906**. By this Act the load-line provisions now in force with regard to British ships are applied to all foreign ships while they are within any port in the United Kingdom. This does not, however, come into force before 1909. Power is given to detain in port a foreign ship which is unsafe by reason of the defective condition of her hull, equipment, or machinery; and there are other provisions relating to safety, and to the loading of grain and timber cargoes. The officer before whom a seaman is engaged for service on a British ship at any port in the British Islands, or on the Continent of Europe between the River Elbe and Brest inclusive, is forbidden to allow any seaman to sign an agreement, if the seaman does not possess a sufficient knowledge of the English language to understand the necessary orders that may be given him. This does not apply, however, to any British subject, or inhabitant of a British protectorate, or Lascar. With regard to the regulations contained in the Act of 1894, relating to the number of persons to be carried and the accommodation for steerage passengers on board emigrant ships, the provisions and water to be supplied to such persons,

and the carriage of animals on such ships, the Board of Trade are given power to make regulations in substitution for those in that Act. The master of every ship is required, where an agreement with the crew is made after June 1st, 1907, to furnish every member of the crew with provisions according to a scale set out in the Act; and every British foreign-going ship of 1,000 tons and upwards is obliged to carry a duly certificated cook. The Act also contains a large number of provisions as to the relief and sending home of distressed seamen and seamen left behind abroad. The minimum accommodation to be allowed to European seamen is to be increased from 72 cubic feet to 120 cubic feet; no seaman can be disgraced unless proper notice is given to him; the right of seamen to claim allotment of their wages is made clear; and provision is made for seamen to remit money home during the course of a voyage. No pilotage certificate is in future to be granted to the master or mate of a ship unless he is a British subject; but such certificates granted before June 1st last may be renewed to a master or mate who is not a British subject.

The **Notice of Accidents Act, 1906**, is described on page 7.

REPORT OF SMALL HOLDINGS COMMITTEE.

THE Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into the question of small holdings have presented their Report.*

The Committee have taken cognisance not only of small holdings provided by county councils, but also of those voluntarily provided by landlords or by small holdings associations. As regards the former class, it is provided by Part I. of the Small Holdings Act of 1892 that all county councils shall appoint a small holdings committee. On the receipt of a petition alleging that there is a demand for small holdings, the council is required to hold an enquiry; and, if satisfied as to the existence of the demand and the practicability of meeting it, may purchase (or in certain cases hire) land; prepare it for the purpose of small holdings by draining, fencing, making roads, etc.; and sell or let it to suitable occupiers under certain restrictions as to its manner of cultivation.

During the first ten years of the Act's existence only 652 acres had been thus acquired, and operations under it had been mainly confined to three counties in England (Worcester, Cambridge and Lincoln), and to one county in Scotland (Ross). In most of these cases the enforcement of the Act was due to the energy of one or more members of the council, or to the encouragement of a local landowner; and the Committee consider that similar results might have been attained elsewhere if equal enthusiasm had been shown. With regard to one reason alleged by a county council for not putting the Act into force—the anticipated burden on the rates—the Committee point out that in two cases at least where county councils have put the Act into operation there has been no burden on the rates.

Part II. of the Act provides that the tenant of a small holding may receive loans from the county council to enable him to buy his holding from his landlord; but this part of the Act has been virtually inoperative.

Among the reasons which the Committee find for the comparative unsuccess of the Act is ignorance of its provisions; and they think it would be desirable to circulate a pamphlet explaining them in non-technical language. They also think that the first instalment required to be paid by a small holder to the county council should be reduced from one-fifth to one-eighth, as most small holders require all the capital they can possibly command in order to stock and equip their holdings at the outset. Similarly, where loans are made to tenants of small holdings under Part II. of the Act, in order to enable them to buy their holdings, it is suggested that the proportion of the purchase price allowed to be advanced by the county council should be raised from four-fifths to seven-eighths. The Committee also recommend a relaxation of the restrictions upon small holders, particularly as regards the existing pro-

* Cd. 3277. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 6d.

hibition against the erection of more than one dwelling-house on a holding. As it has been found that the addition of grazing rights to a holding often enhances its value, it is further recommended that County Councils should be empowered to acquire grazing rights for small holdings purposes. The Committee also recommend generally that the attention of County Councils should be directed to their duties under the Small Holdings Act, and that they should be required to make an annual return of their operations under it.

In addition to these recommendations, intended to improve and extend the operation of the existing Small Holdings Act, the Committee suggest the creation of a branch of the Department of Agriculture as a central department to make experiments in small holdings, with a grant from Parliament. The proceedings of the new department are to be experimental in the sense of affording "example and encouragement, together with demonstration of the economic soundness of land subdivision"; since it has been found that a supply of small holdings has frequently created a demand for more.

As, however, the effect of the creation of the proposed central department in stimulating small holdings would probably be slow, the Committee recommend, as the most urgent immediate step, the encouragement of the provision of small holdings by private landowners by the offer of Treasury loans, at the lowest possible rate of interest, in order to enable them to lay out and equip small holdings.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

Foundry Glaziers, Belper.

On 1st December, 1906, the glaziers in the employment of a firm of iron founders at Belper struck work in support of a demand for payment according to a price list which they had tendered to the firm. Work was resumed on 18th December on the understanding that the matter in dispute should be referred to the Board of Trade for arbitration.

On 9th January, 1907, the Board of Trade received a joint application from the parties for the appointment of an arbitrator, and on 11th January appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Conciliation Board for Coal Trade in Federated Districts.

The agreement constituting the Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of the Federated Districts expired on December 31st, 1906. Early in August, 1906, negotiations were entered into between the parties with a view to the renewal of the agreement; and, as the result of a number of conferences, the following terms were agreed to on December 18th:—

That for the period of three years from 1st January, 1907, and thereafter until determined by either party by a three months' notice, the rate of wages shall not be below 37½ per cent. above the rate of wages of 1888, nor more than 60 per cent. above the rate of wages of 1888.

That from 1st January, 1907, to 31st December, 1909, and thereafter until determined by either side by a three months' notice, the rate of wages shall be determined by a Coal Conciliation Board within the above-named limits.

That in the event of any compulsory limitation of the hours of underground labour either party shall be at liberty to put an end to the Board by a six months' notice.

That the present rules of procedure shall be adopted by the new Board.

That the present rate of wages be increased as from the first making-up day in January, 1907, by 5 per cent. on the standard. But it is agreed that the advance of 5 per cent. is given in the belief that there is a rising market, and in consideration of the renewal of the Conciliation Board; and it is also agreed that the advance is not to be taken as interfering with the existing relation between selling prices and the wages rate.

That the notice for an advance in wages of 5 per cent. is withdrawn.

It was also resolved:—

That the above resolutions apply to the wages of all underground labour, and to the wages of surface labour engaged on the pit-banks and screens in manipulating the coal, as before.

The principal points of difference from the old agreement, entered into in February, 1904, are minimum rate of wages payable during the existence of the Board is 2½ per cent. higher than under the old agreement, and the provision that the Board's existence may be terminated at six months' notice from either party in the event of any compulsory limitation of the hours of underground labour.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

THE Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider the "Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill, 1906," have presented their Report.*

The proposed Bill was intended to facilitate the housing of the working classes in rural districts. The Select Committee review the present position of the law relating to public housing in the matter of (i.) the sanitary control of existing houses; and (ii.) the provision of additional houses. As regards (ii.), it is stated that in spite of the undoubted "house famine" in rural districts, only nine successful applications for putting into force Part III of the Housing Act of 1890 (the part relating to rural districts) have been made.† The Committee attribute this neglect partly to financial difficulties, many District Councils having apparently been deterred from building by the heavy burden which the inevitable loss entailed by a building scheme would throw upon the rates.

The Committee find no such explanation, however, for the neglect by Rural District Councils of their duties in the matter of the sanitary inspection of existing houses. They therefore recommend that the administration of the Public Health Acts in rural districts should be entirely taken away from the Rural District Councils, and transferred to the County Councils. They also recommend that the administration of the Housing Acts should be transferred to the County Councils; but that Rural District Councils should have concurrent power to provide additional houses under Part III. of the Housing Act, subject to confirmation by the Local Government Board. They think it possible that, with the additional facilities (in the way of loans at low rates of interest, &c.) that they propose, Rural Councils may show more activity in this direction than heretofore.

The remaining recommendations of the Committee deal with the powers and duties of County Councils in the administration of the enlarged functions proposed to be conferred on them. It is proposed that County Councils should be required to appoint a statutory Public Health and Housing Committee and also one or more medical officers of health, with an adequate staff of qualified sanitary inspectors. It is also proposed that the Local Government Board should appoint a separate Public Health and Housing Department, with a staff of travelling sanitary and housing inspectors to supervise the administration of the public health and housing laws. The Committee also recommend the keeping of a register of survey of all buildings, and the requirement of an annual return from all owners of house property as to the sanitary condition of their houses, with a penalty for false return.

As regards the provision of additional house accommodation, the Committee emphasise two points in particular: (i.) the desirability of providing cottages *with land attached*; and (ii.) the necessity of loans for housing being granted by the Treasury at lower rates than has hitherto been the case. As regards (i.), the

* H.C. 376 of 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1s.

† An account of operations under the Housing Acts in rural districts was published in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1906, p. 264.

Committee point out that though allotments are fairly universal, they are often at some distance from the labourer's cottage; and that, where land adjoining a cottage is provided, it has been found possible to let the cottage and land to a superior class of labourer at a fair rent. The Committee recommend the abolition, as soon as practicable, of the "tied cottage" system, (i.e., the custom of letting cottages on a farm with the farm itself, the cottages being sublet by the farmer to his labourers at less than their market rent, the difference being really an allowance in addition to wages).

As regards (ii.), the granting of loans by the Treasury at lower rates, the Committee consider that cottages cannot be erected in purely agricultural districts, however cheaply, at such a price as to cover interest and sinking fund, and repairs, and admit of the rent being within the means of a labourer in existing circumstances. Grants or subventions of some kind are therefore necessary, and the Committee recommend that these grants should take the form of Treasury loans at the lowest rate for which they themselves could borrow, and that the period of redemption should be extended to sixty or eighty years, without any increase in the rate of interest.

It is to be noted that the Committee do not attach very great importance to the alleged effect of the building bye-laws in restricting the erection of houses in rural districts. It has been found that modifications in the bye-laws have had very little effect in stimulating building, and that the "house famine" is quite as acute where there are no bye-laws at all as it is elsewhere.

THE NOTICE OF ACCIDENTS ACT, 1906.

THIS Act provides that the owner, agent, or manager of any coal or metalliferous mine shall, in the return which he is obliged to make annually to the inspector of the district as representing the Secretary of State, include a statement containing such particulars as the Secretary of State may prescribe of all accidents which occurred in or about the mine during the year to which the return relates, and which disabled any person for more than seven days from working at his ordinary work.* The owner, agent, or manager of any such mine is also required to send forthwith in the prescribed form (†) to the inspector notice of any accident which (1) causes loss of life to any person employed in or about the mine; or (2) causes any fracture of the head or of any limb, or any dislocation of a limb, or any other serious personal injury to any such person; or (3) is caused by explosion of gas or coal or any explosive, or by electricity, or by overwinding, or by any other special cause to be specified by order of the Secretary of State, and causes any personal injury whatever to any such person. Where any line or siding, not being part of a railway used for public traffic, is used in connection with a mine or quarry, the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, and of the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts, and of this Act with respect to accidents, are to apply as if such line or siding were part of the mine or quarry.

The provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, with regard to notice of accidents, have been amended. Electricity is added to the special causes of accidents mentioned in Section 19 of that Act; and accidents from any of such causes are to be forthwith notified to the inspector and the certifying surgeon upon any person employed in the factory being disabled so as to be absent at least one whole day from his work. Power is given to the Secretary of State by Order to add to such causes any other special cause. Any accident which disables any person employed from working at his ordinary work for more than seven days is also to be forthwith notified to the inspector. Forms are to be prescribed for these notices. If, after notification of an accident causing injury, death results, notice of the death must be sent to the inspector.

Power is given to the Secretary of State to extend by order the provisions of the Act to notice of accidents

* Under the powers of the Act the Home Secretary has notified that this provision will not take effect till 1908.

† Forms can be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

or occurrences of certain kinds occurring in mines or factories, whether any personal injury is caused by any such accident or occurrence or not, and by such Order the required notice may be directed to be sent within a limited time instead of "forthwith." Under this power the Home Secretary has made an Order*, dated December 22nd, 1906, extending these provisions of the Act to accidents in mines and quarries, and requiring notice of the following occurrences to be given to the inspector, whether injury is caused or not:—

All cases of ignition of gas or dust below ground other than ignitions of gas in a safety lamp.

All cases of fire below ground.

All cases of breakage of ropes, chains, or other gear by which men are lowered or raised.

All cases of over-winding cages while men are being lowered or raised.

All cases of inrush of water from old workings.

By a further Order(†) of the same date, the provisions have been extended to factories and workshops (including any place which for the purposes of the provisions of the Act of 1901 with respect to accidents is a factory or workshop, or a part of a factory or workshop); and notice of the following occurrences must be given to the inspector, whether personal injury is caused or not:—

All cases of—

Bursting of a revolving vessel, wheel, emery wheel, or grindstone, moved by mechanical power;

Breaking of a rope, chain, or other appliance used in raising or lowering persons or goods by aid of mechanical power;

Fire affecting any room in which persons are employed and causing complete suspension of ordinary work therein for not less than 24 hours.

The Act further amends the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, by including in the accidents to which that Act applies such as injure any person employed in such a way as to "cause him to be absent throughout at least one whole day from his ordinary work." The Act came into operation on January 1st, 1907, except as to special provisions, for which a later date may be fixed.

INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS IN THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

UNDER the title "Industrial Agreements in the German Empire,"(‡) the Imperial Statistical Office of Germany has published, as additional volumes of its series of "Contributions to Labour Statistics," a comprehensive report on the wages agreements which have been concluded in many of the small, and a few of the large, trades and industries of Germany during the past ten years. Together with this report is given a collection of representative agreements relating to all the more important trades which have in any degree adopted this principle of regulating wages and hours of labour.

It is not pretended that the present collection of wages agreements is exhaustive, nor, in the nature of the case, could it be. Fresh agreements are constantly being concluded, as the movement embraces additional trades and extends to new parts of the country. Moreover, in the interest of careful analysis and of unity of treatment, it was necessary to restrict the collection of agreements for the purpose of this report to those of which copies had been obtained at a fixed date, and this date (the middle of 1905) was naturally long anterior to the appearance of the work itself. The report estimates that between 3,000 and 4,000 wages agreements of one kind or another are in existence in Germany, and the collection upon which the Imperial Statistical Office has based this report numbers 1,585.

Ten years ago the wages agreements, which now play so important a part in smoothing the relationships between employer and employed in Germany, were hardly heard of in that country. Bearing in mind the course of events, it is interesting to recall the fact that the working classes began by distrusting agreements.

* Statutory Rules and Order, 1906. No. 934. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.
† Statutory Rules and Order, 1906. No. 933. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.
‡ "Der Tarifvertrag im deutschen Reich": Bearbeitet im Kaiserlichen Statistischen Amt, Abteilung für Arbeiterstatistik. Berlin: Carl Heymanns-Verlag, 1906. 3 vols.

of the kind. In 1897 the Leipzig Social-Democratic Trade Unions formally protested against the conclusion of wages agreements as being "injurious to the interests of the workmen and to the development of their organisations," and declared that such Unions as declined to adopt this view ought to be regarded as out of sympathy with the "modern labour movement." Two years later the annual congress of the Social-Democratic Trade Unions annulled this verdict, and gave to the "wages agreement" movement formal approval. By this time the labour organisations of all kinds were in line on the question; though, indeed, the Hirsch-Duncker societies had accepted the theory of collective wages agreements as early as 1868. The employers were slower to embrace this principle, though a conference of employers in the building trades held at Frankfurt declared as early as 1901 that "the defects of collective agreements are insignificant in comparison with their advantages; the conclusion of agreements is always to be recommended." This attitude is, none the less, exceptional; and the Central Association of Manufacturers voiced the apprehensions of a large section of employers when, in May of 1905, it passed a resolution asserting wages agreements to be dangerous to German industry, inasmuch as they were calculated to place "obstacles in the way of technical progress and the organisation of industry," and regretting that the Bavarian Government should two months before have instructed its factory inspectors to encourage the conclusion of such agreements. Nevertheless, the present report estimates that between 700,000 and 800,000 workmen are now employed under these agreements in various parts of the country.

The agreements fall broadly into three classes: (1) general agreements applying to entire trades, irrespective of locality; (2) local agreements for individual trades or combinations of trades (for example, the conditions of employment for masons and carpenters are often embodied in one and the same agreement), and (3) agreements between individual firms and their own workpeople.

(1.) The general trade agreement marks the most highly developed form of collective wage and labour regulation, and naturally it occurs but seldom, and in no case is an agreement of the kind absolutely comprehensive, either as to employers or workpeople.

The most important of the general agreements is that of the printers. This applies to the whole country, and late year embraced 5,583 firms, with 49,497 workmen, in 1,659 places; as against 1,631 firms, with 18,340 workmen, in 469 places in 1897, the year after its conclusion). In other words, it applied to 90 per cent. of the employees of the printing trade. This agreement follows the plan of fixing minimum rates with an additional and variable percentage of these rates in a scheduled list of towns. The minimum rates are 21s. 6d. for compositors and machinemen under 21 years, 22s. from 21 to 23 years, and 22s. 6d. above 23 years, while the local supplement ranges from 2½ to 25 per cent. The agreement also provides a machinery of arbitration, and it regulates the system of employment registration for the printing trade. The agreement expired in 1906, and it has been succeeded by another which increases the rates for both time and piece work, though the local percentage additions to the time rates remain as before.

(2) The local agreements do not all apply only to single towns. Many of them cover two or more adjacent places, and some even cover wide areas, delimited by well recognised geographical boundaries, or by substantial identity of industrial conditions. Cases in point are the masons' agreement for Berlin and its suburbs, and the brewers' agreement for the Wupperthal, comprising Elberfeld, Barmen, etc.

(3) The individual firm agreements are often found where local agreements have not as yet become popular, and they have been found to pave the way for the latter.

Of the agreements dealt with in this work, 80 per cent. are local agreements.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES AND THE UNEMPLOYED IN DECEMBER.

THE usual enquiries relating to exceptional distress due to want of employment in December, and the measures taken to relieve such distress, have been addressed to the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, to the various Distress Committees constituted under the Unemployed Workmen Act, and to the Local Correspondents of the Labour Department in the chief provincial towns.

It would appear from the Local Correspondents' reports that there was, on the whole, decidedly less distress in December, 1906, than in the previous December; in most of the towns no exceptional distress was reported, except at Hull, Stockton, Hartlepool, and Middlesbrough, where strikes have been in progress, and in the Clydeside burghs, where the distress was partly attributable to the recent shipbuilding strike.

The building trade, on the whole, remained dull in all parts of the country. The severe weather at the end of December is reported from many districts to have virtually put a stop to building and other outdoor operations.

London and Neighbourhood.

The following Table shows the number of unemployed on the registers of the various Distress Committees in London and the Metropolitan area on December 31st, 1906. In some cases the names of those who had moved, found work, etc. since registering, or had been found, on investigation, ineligible for relief, had been removed from the registers; but, as a rule, the numbers given represent the total number of applicants since the beginning of November, without any deduction:—

	Unemployed on Register.	Labourers.
Eastern Boroughs	(about) 2,600	1,650
Southern Boroughs	5,750	3,900
Northern Boroughs	1,720	890
Western Boroughs	3,120	1,970
Central Boroughs	780	570
Outer London:—		
West Ham	3,119	1,805
East Ham, Leyton, and Walthamstow	1,553	779
Tottenham and Edmonton	2,212	1,227
Croydon, Hornsey, and Willesden	1,367	819

The proportion returned as labourers is, for the whole district, about 60 per cent.

Employment-relief was provided by the Central (Unemployed) Body for London for 357 men, for an aggregate of 8,452 days, at Hollesley Bay; for 192, for an aggregate of 4,992 days, at Farnbridge; for 73, for an aggregate of 825 days, at Letchworth; and for 113 persons, for an aggregate of 2,106 days, in Women's Workrooms. The total amount of wages earned by those given employment-relief was £2,722. In addition, a number of men were employed in various London boroughs, for a few days, to clear away snow.

In Outer London employment (other than snow-clearing) was given to 262 persons, for an aggregate of 1,102 days, at Croydon; to 388, for an aggregate of 1,925 days, at East Ham; to 283, for an aggregate of 5,660 days, at Leyton; to 823, for an aggregate of 2,877 days, at Tottenham; to 238, for an aggregate of 2,103 days, at West Ham (including 85 at the farm colony); to 250, for an aggregate of 1,839 days, at Willesden; and to 147, for an aggregate of 1,617 days, at Edmonton.

The total amount of wages paid to those given employment-relief was £2,126.

Grants from the £200,000 voted by Parliament in aid of the voluntary funds for carrying on relief-works under the Unemployed Workmen Act have been made to the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, and to the distress committees at East and West Ham, Leyton, Walthamstow, Willesden, Edmonton and Tottenham.

Rest of England and Wales.

The following statement shows the number of unemployed on the Distress Committees' Registers at

December, 31st, 1906, in the undermentioned provincial towns. For reasons which have been explained in the "BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE" for November (p. 319) and for December (p. 351), these figures cannot be accepted without reserve as a measure of the actual number of persons now unemployed in the various towns.

Town.	Total Number of Unemployed on Register.	Number of Labourers included in total.	Town.	Total Number of Unemployed on Register.	Number of Labourers included in total.
Birmingham	267	178	Newcastle-on-Tyne	532	349
Bolton	758	514	Northampton	551	145
Brighton	1,464	835	Norwich	1,178	624
Bristol	1,203	854	Plymouth District	837	761
Burton-on-Trent	253	192	Portsmouth	1,037	800
Dartford	215	140	Southampton	581	397
Hull	977	—	Stockport	257	196
Leeds	291	156	Sunderland	420	231
Leicester	933	486	Wigan	217	181
Liverpool and Birkenhead	2,498	1,581	Other Towns (27)	2,480	1,557
Manchester and Salford	771	354			

The proportion returned as labourers was, for the whole of the 47 towns included, about 59 per cent. of the total number on the registers. It was highest at Burton-on-Trent, Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Wigan, where it amounted to about 80 per cent.

Employment-relief.—The following particulars relating to employment-relief exclude snow clearing, so far as possible. In many boroughs, however, the men required for this purpose appear to have been engaged by the Town Council without any arrangement with the Distress Committee.

	No. given Employment-Relief.	Aggregate Duration of Employment.	Wages Paid.
		Days.	£
Bournemouth	121	1,896	335
Bristol	289	2,839	554
Burton	71	977	123
Leicester	93	1,167	240
Liverpool	86	1,010	191
Northampton	182	2,507	338
Norwich	485	2,480	310
Plymouth	148	888	149
Portsmouth	154	1,621	224
Sunderland	41	549	115
Other towns (17)	707	4,510	666
Total	2,377	20,444	3,245

It would thus appear that the average duration of employment was about 8 days, and the average wage about 27s. per man, or 3s. 4d. per day.

Scotland.

The following statement shows the number of unemployed on the Registers of the various Distress Committees in Scotland, and the amount of employment-relief provided:—

	No. on Register.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate Duration of Employment.	Wages Paid.
			Days.	£
Aberdeen	550	170	1,549	200
Dundee	358	93	718	92
Edinburgh	1,061	62	1,376	105
Leith	88	—	—	—
Glasgow	858	437	5,704	800
Greenock	357	—	—	—
Govan and Partick	171	42	501	77
Total	3,443	804	9,848	1,274

The proportion returned as labourers was, for the whole district, about 63 per cent., ranging from 98 per cent. in Dundee to 53 per cent. in Edinburgh.

Ireland.

So far as is known, only one Distress Committee was in operation in Ireland during December, viz., that at Dublin, where there were 1,345 on the Register on the 31st December, all of whom were stated to be labourers. Employment-relief was provided for 166 persons for 4 days each, the amount of wages earned being £94.

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.

It is too early in the year for the ordinary emigrant to go to Canada, except under special circumstances. There is sure to be a demand in April for farm labourers and competent men for railway construction, and such persons should prepare to start in March. The December number of the *Dominion Labour Gazette* states: "In the closing weeks of November a number of labourers were rendered idle at several points by the cessation of civic improvement work, railway construction, saw-milling, &c. Large numbers of these, however, were given immediate employment in the lumber camps, the demand for men in this connection being very active, and having a widespread effect on the general market for labour. The manufacturing industry continued very busy, and mining compared favourably both in production and output with the corresponding month in previous years. The outlook for general employment during the coming winter season was regarded as very favourable in view of the large amount of work begun or projected, and the general prosperity of trade and industry." There was some demand for miners in British Columbia, but the supply at the Cape Breton collieries was about sufficient. A scarcity of female factory employees was reported at certain points in Ontario. Domestic servants were also very scarce. Electrical workers and linesmen were busy in numerous localities.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia grant assisted or nominated passages to certain classes of emigrants. At the present time the various Australian States are more prosperous than in recent years, and there is a good demand especially for men competent to work on the land and look after sheep and cattle, and for female servants. In *New South Wales* the dispute at the Broken Hill Mines has been settled, and miners' wages have been raised by 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d. a day. In *South Australia* there has been a great revival in the copper mining industry. In *Queensland* there is a scarcity of competent men on farms and dairy farms, and on sugar plantations in the north; this is partially caused by the repatriation of Kanakas, who are no longer allowed to work in Australia.

New Zealand.

Farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds, woodcutters, and men able to milk cows and manage live stock, who have £25 on landing, and female servants, if they have £2 on landing, are eligible for reduced passages to New Zealand, if approved by the High Commissioner in London. The last reports from the Colony show that the building, engineering, clothing, boot, flax-milling and saw-milling trades were all busily employed, as is usual in the spring and summer season. In many of the boot and clothing factories there was a good demand for female machinists and for girls to learn the trade. In country districts there was a good demand for agricultural labourers—especially milkers—bushmen, railway navvies and others; in fact, no man who was fit and willing had need to look far for work.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one is allowed to land in the Colony unless he has £20, or has secured employment beforehand. There is no demand for more labour, and large numbers of mechanics have left in search of work elsewhere.

Natal.—The supply of labour in the building trades in Natal is more than sufficient.

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

Transvaal.—Persons entering the Transvaal must have permits, which are given immediately to those making personal application in South Africa, unless there is any police record against them. All persons are warned against going to the Colony in search of work. A recent report from Johannesburg states: "Hundreds of all classes are idle." Large numbers of persons are in receipt of relief. The cost of living remains high. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—The rules as to permits are the same as those in the Transvaal. There is no demand whatever for mechanics, miners, farm or general labourers. Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

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

FRANCE.*

Employment in November.—Employment in the building and allied trades was about the same as in October. Miners were well employed, and with metal workers employment was on the whole very satisfactory. In the textile trades there was some improvement in the Nord department and the Roanne district; continued activity was reported in the Vosges and in the western centres. Work was very plentiful with silk weavers at St. Etienne and machine (factory) weavers at Lyons. Persons engaged in the garment, hat, and boot and shoe trades were fully employed. The printing and bookbinding trades had completely recovered from their seasonal slackness. The increase of unemployment amongst vineyard workers in the South of France continued.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in November were received by the French Labour Department from 1,147 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 218,534. Excluding returns from the Miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments, 79 per cent. of the members were described as out of work, as compared with 75 per cent. in the preceding month, and 10.4 per cent. in November, 1905. (As regards these figures see note above.)

Coal Mining in November.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coalmining in France during November was 6.02, as compared with 6.00 in the previous month, and with 6.03 in November, 1905. Full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 97.45 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 2.55 per cent. of all workpeople (whether surface or underground workers), the corresponding percentages for the preceding month being 94.72 and 5.28, and for November, 1905, 92.92 and 7.08 respectively.

The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 164,000 workpeople.

Labour Disputes in November.—Fifty-six disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, compared with 107 in the previous month, and 68 in November, 1905. In 54 of the new disputes 4,170 workpeople took part, as compared with 15,271 who took part in 99 disputes in October, and 24,987 who took part in the disputes of November, 1905. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes took place were the textile (13 disputes), metal and engineering (11), paper, printing, and bookbinding (6), and skin and leather (5). Out of 57 new and old disputes which came to an end in November, 13 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 21 in favour of the employers, while 23 resulted in a compromise.

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

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.—Six cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred during November, the initiative being taken by the Justice of the Peace in one, and by the workpeople in five cases. In 2 cases the employers declined the proffered mediation, but, in the other 4, Committees of Conciliation were formed. These committees were successful in terminating 1 of the disputes, while in the 3 remaining disputes no agreement was reached.

GERMANY.*

Employment in November.—As usual, the month of November witnessed a certain decline in employment due to the decrease in outdoor work (building), and the end of the busy season in a number of trades. With certain local exceptions, however, this decline was not greater than that usually experienced at this time of the year, and no set-back can be said to have taken place in the generally favourable state of employment. On the contrary, there still remained a shortage of labour in the principal industries, a notable example of this condition of things being that of the coal-mining industry, where production was also hindered by the shortage of railway trucks. The metal trades and most branches of the textile and electrical trades also report a continued strong demand for workpeople. Employment in the chemical trades was, on the whole, favourable. In the towns the supply of labour was augmented by workpeople previously employed in the building trades or in agriculture. Many who would otherwise have been unoccupied (especially women and girls) found temporary employment for the Christmas season in the large supply stores and retail shops.

HOLLAND.†

Employment in November.—Employment generally was good in November, with the notable exception of the building trades, in which the slackness which has characterised recent months became accentuated. In the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding, as also in the textile trades, employment continued good. In the clothing and boot and shoe trades it fell below the level usual at this time of the year. In the wood-working trades there was a decline in some towns. Diamond workers remained very busy. With printers and bookbinders employment was everywhere very plentiful; and of the food, tobacco and cognate trades the same was reported, allowing for certain local and seasonal depressions. Persons engaged in the cultivation of bulbs continued well employed.

Labour Disputes in November.—Twelve strikes, ten of which directly affected 327 persons, were reported as having begun in November. Four of the 12 were dockers' strikes, 3 were in the textile industry, and 2 in the tobacco trades. Seven of the new strikes came to an end in November, besides 6 others which had commenced earlier in the year. Of these 13 strikes 3 terminated in favour of the employers, 2 in favour of the workpeople, and 4 were compromised. In 2 cases the result was indeterminate, and in the 2 remaining cases unknown. No lock-outs began or terminated in November.

BELGIUM.‡

Employment in November.—According to reports made to the Belgian Labour Department, 142 Trade Unions, with 32,769 members, had 1.9 per cent. of their number out of work towards the latter part of the month, this percentage being the same as in the preceding month and in November, 1905. As regards these figures, which do not include particulars relating to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers, see note under "Labour Abroad."

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).
† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Commission).

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

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN DECEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 509 Returns—443 from Employers, 43 from Trade Unions, and 23 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued good during December, and was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,400 pits employing 587,925 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended December 22nd, 1906, was 5.60, as compared with 5.50 in November, and 5.39 in December, 1905. The average weekly number of days worked was greater than in any December since 1899, and greater than in any month since October, 1900.

Of the 587,925 workpeople covered by the Returns, 538,145 (or 91.5 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended December 22nd; while 458,102 (or 77.9 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

Employment showed an improvement in nearly every district as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Compared with a month ago, the improvement was most marked in West Yorkshire, where it amounted to a quarter of a day per week. Compared with a year ago the principal change was in South Wales, where there was an increase of half-a-day per week in the average number of days worked.

No time was reported as having been lost owing to holidays or disputes in the pits covered by the Returns in the four weeks ended December 22nd, 1906.

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

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
		Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Nov. 24th, 1906.	Dec. 23rd, 1905.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	40,401	5.46	5.40	5.44	+ .06	+ .02
Durham ...	102,041	5.61	5.55	5.54	+ .06	+ .07
Cumberland ...	8,268	5.69	5.57	5.47	+ .12	+ .22
South Yorkshire ...	63,634	5.87	5.78	5.58	+ .09	+ .29
West Yorkshire ...	22,080	5.30	5.03	5.33	+ .27	– .03
Lancashire and Cheshire	55,591	5.48	5.36	5.30	+ .12	+ .18
Derbyshire ...	40,088	5.26	5.07	5.26	+ .19	...
Nottingham and Leicester	30,358	5.06	4.92	4.76	+ .14	+ .30
Staffordshire ...	27,644	5.56	5.40	5.53	+ .16	+ .03
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	9,648	5.57	5.35	5.48	+ .22	+ .09
Gloucester and Somerset	7,865	5.53	5.35	5.64	+ .18	– .11
North Wales ...	9,175	5.83	5.81	5.44	+ .02	+ .39
South Wales and Mon. ...	117,182	5.87	5.77	5.31	+ .10	+ .56
ENGLAND & WALES...	533,975	5.60	5.50	5.38	+ .10	+ .22
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	25,609	5.47	5.39	5.38	+ .08	+ .09
The Lothians ...	5,774	5.89	5.72	5.80	+ .17	+ .09
Fife ...	21,938	5.62	5.60	5.46	+ .02	+ .16
SCOTLAND ...	83,321	5.68	5.51	5.46	+ .07	+ .12
IRELAND.	629	5.34	5.32	5.52	+ .02	– .18
United Kingdom ...	587,925	5.60	5.50	5.39	+ .10	+ .21

In the Northern Counties employment was fairly good generally, and in South Yorkshire 5.87 days per week were worked. With cokemen in Durham employment was good. In West Yorkshire there was a considerable improvement compared with November.

In the Midlands employment was fairly good on the whole. In the Nottingham and Leicester district there was a distinct improvement, and some scarcity of surface workers is reported in Leicestershire.

In Wales and Scotland employment was good. In South Wales the average number of days worked was 5.87. In the Lothians it was 5.89.

* 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 worked 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.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 198,546 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "Mixed":—

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
		Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Nov. 24th, 1906.	Dec. 23rd, 1905.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	6,455	5.86	5.43	5.53	+ .43	+ .33
Coking ...	29,811	5.76	5.68	5.58	+ .08	+ .18
Gas ...	34,668	5.46	5.44	5.47	+ .02	– .01
House ...	78,972	5.33	5.18	5.18	+ .15	+ .15
Manufacturing and Steam	239,523	5.68	5.61	5.36	+ .07	+ .32
Mixed ...	198,546	5.61	5.48	5.43	+ .13	+ .18
All Descriptions ...	587,925	5.60	5.50	5.39	+ .10	+ .21

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in December, 1906, amounted to 4,641,794 tons, as compared with 4,967,997 tons in November, 1906, and 4,176,185 tons in December, 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 91 returns—73 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines and fairly good in shale mines. It was about the same as a year ago.

It continued good in tin, copper and lead mines. In quarries employment on the whole remained fair, though in several districts bad weather caused considerable interruption.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended December 22nd, the average number of days per week worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.92, as compared with 5.89 a month ago, and 5.88 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Dec., 1906, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
		Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Nov. 24th, 1906.	Dec. 23rd, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,482	5.95	5.99	5.94	– .04	+ .01
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,287	5.99	5.92	5.85	+ .07	+ .14
Scotland...	981	6.00	5.76	5.53	+ .24	+ .47
Other Districts ...	4,865	5.71	5.62	5.90	+ .00	– .19
All Districts ...	16,615	5.92	5.89	5.8	+ 0	+ .

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns, 97.4 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended December 22nd, as compared with 95.4 per cent. a month ago, and 94.2 a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,231 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended December 22nd, as compared with 3,114 a month ago, and 3,211* a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 22nd was 5.62, as compared with 5.53 a month ago, and 5.65* a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall was good, and continued to improve. There was a general demand for more labour.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in Denbighshire and Flintshire, and in Weardale. It was fairly regular in Derbyshire.

* Revised figures.

Quarrying.

Slate.—In North Wales employment during the last two weeks of the month was affected by severe weather. There was a slight improvement on a month ago in the Festiniog district, and in Carnarvonshire employment was reported as fair. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) employment continued dull.

Granite.—In North Wales employment continued good, but was affected by the severe weather. In Leicestershire it was fair and better than a month ago. On Dartmoor employment was slightly better than a month ago; but in the Penryn district it was still dull. In Aberdeenshire employment continued fair, but at the end of the month snow caused the quarries to be closed.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in South Durham. It was also good in Cumberland. At the quarries in Westgate and Upper Weardale it was reported as fair, but work was suspended for one week owing to severe weather. In North Wales it was fair, though affected by the weather. In the Plymouth district it was moderate. Employment continued quiet in the Buxton district.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good, with overtime, in chert quarries in Derbyshire. In the sandstone quarries in North Wales it was fair, but was affected by severe weather. In the Clee Hill road-material quarries it continued fair. Employment in the Sheffield and Barnsley district was quiet, bad weather causing interruption. In the grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate, with short time, and worse than a month ago. At Gateshead it was bad, and much time was lost through bad weather. Employment continued bad in Bath stone quarries, in the Bristol district, and in Forfarshire.

Settlers.—Employment continued good generally in North Wales, though interrupted by bad weather, and fair in the Clee Hill district, at Edinburgh, and in Aberdeenshire. At Stoney Stanton (Leicestershire) it continued dull. At Glasgow employment was also dull, bad weather causing broken time; at Airdrie employment was bad and worse than a month ago.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district, where more men are said to have been wanted; it was also good at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 112 Returns—108 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry in December continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 25,000 workpeople at the end of December, showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at these works at the end of the month was 340, or two less than at end of November, 1906, but five more than in December, 1905. During December, three furnaces were re-lit, one each in Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Lanarkshire; one was damped down in Yorkshire, and four were blown out, one each in Cumberland, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, and Leicestershire.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
	December, 1906.	November, 1906.	December, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	89	89	86	...	+
Cumberland & Lancs.	38	39	37	- 1	+
S. and S.W. Yorks.	15	16	16	- 1	- 1
Derby & Nottingham	40	3	38	+	+ 2
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	26	28	28	- 2	- 2
Stafford & Worcester	35	35	35	...	...
S. Wales & Monmouth	16	16	14	...	+ 2
Other districts ...	7	7	7	...	...
England & Wales	266	269	261	- 3	+ 5
Scotland	74	73	74	+ 1	...
Total	340	342	335	- 2	+ 5

The Imports of iron ore in December, 1906, amounted to 616,407 tons, or 110,825 tons more than in November, 1906, but 47,505 tons less than in December, 1905.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during December, 1906, amounted to 166,440 tons, or 15,606 tons less than in November, 1906, but 101,318 tons more than in December, 1905.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 225 Returns—206 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 6 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very brisk and showed a slight improvement on a month ago, while it was considerably better than a year ago.

The total volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended December 22nd, 1906, at the 206 works from which Returns have been received, was 0.2 per cent. greater than in the week ended November 24th, 1906, and 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 551,800, as compared with 550,500 a month ago, and 535,100 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.				Average Number of Shifts worked per man.				
	In week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.		Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		In week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.		Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		
	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	
IRON :									
Puddling Forges ...	10,554	- 99	+ 76	5.23	+ 0.13	+ 0.01			
Rolling Mills ...	4,524	+ 13	+ 57	5.31	+ 0.33	+ 0.15			
Forging ...	520	+ 41	+ 68	5.52	+ 0.05	+ 0.03			
Founding ...	1,892	- 71	- 89	5.99	...	+ 0.20			
Other Departments ...	634	- 34	+ 23	5.94	+ 0.06	- 0.01			
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,617	- 5	- 39	5.58	+ 0.01	- 0.01			
Total Iron ...	19,781	- 150	+ 96	5.38	+ 0.14	+ 0.08			
STEEL :									
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,839	+ 180	+ 186	5.90	+ 0.02	- 0.02			
Crucible Furnaces ...	690	- 6	+ 61	5.16	- 0.47	- 0.31			
Bessemer Converters ...	2,156	+ 196	+ 99	5.32	+ 0.31	+ 0.10			
Rolling Mills ...	15,937	+ 241	+ 331	5.49	+ 0.19	+ 0.06			
Forging and Pressing ...	2,949	- 55	+ 52	5.74	+ 0.15	+ 0.09			
Founding ...	8,218	- 117	- 119	5.87	- 0.02	+ 0.02			
Other Departments ...	6,348	- 103	+ 75	5.84	+ 0.03	+ 0.01			
Mechanics, Labourers ...	9,997	+ 78	+ 1,089	5.93	...	- 0.01			
Total Steel ...	55,144	+ 414	+ 1,774	5.74	+ 0.07	+ 0.03			
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):									
Rolling Mills ...	11,938	+ 34	+ 315	5.35	+ 0.04	+ 0.01			
Forging and Pressing ...	754	+ 2	+ 65	5.64	+ 0.05	+ 0.19			
Founding ...	787	- 1	+ 65	5.93	- 0.01	- 0.01			
Other Departments ...	3,304	- 8	...	5.82	- 0.01	+ 0.01			
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,507	- 62	+ 276	5.75	- 0.03	- 0.04			
Total Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	23,290	- 33	+ 719	5.56	+ 0.01	- 0.01			
Grand Total ...	98,165	+ 231	+ 2,589	5.62	+ 0.07	+ 0.02			
Districts.									
Northumberland & Durham	12,120	- 198	+ 103	5.56	- 0.05	+ 0.01			
Cleveland	7,735	+ 241	+ 240	5.65	+ 0.05	+ 0.02			
Sheffield and Rotherham	18,708	- 257	+ 283	5.74	+ 0.06	+ 0.01			
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,556	+ 12	+ 66	5.59	+ 0.03	- 0.09			
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	11,309	+ 16	- 4	5.60	+ 0.38	+ 0.18			
Staffordshire	10,494	+ 9	+ 473	5.31	+ 0.01	+ 0.01			
Other Midland Counties	5,144	+ 33	+ 167	5.60	+ 0.12	- 0.04			
Wales and Monmouth	10,204	+ 151	+ 550	5.69	+ 0.02	+ 0.02			
Total England and Wales	80,280	+ 7	+ 2,358	5.63	+ 0.08	+ 0.02			
Scotland	17,885	+ 224	+ 231	5.58	+ 0.04	+ 0.01			
Total	98,165	+ 231	+ 2,589	5.62	+ 0.07	+ 0.02			

On the whole, the number of workpeople employed was about the same as a month ago. The greatest increases were at Bessemer converting departments (196, or 10 per cent.), open hearth melting furnaces (180, or 2.1 per cent.), and steel rolling mills (241, or 1.5 per cent.). At iron and steel foundries the number employed by firms making returns was rather less than a month ago and a year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 979 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 929 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 40 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good, but was not quite so good as a year ago.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 153,597, and shows that at the end of December the percentage unemployed was 4.1, as compared with 3.5 a month ago, and 3.7 per cent. a year ago. The increase in the percentage as compared with November is due to a large extent to Christmas and New Year's holiday suspensions. As compared with a year ago, the figures indicate an improvement in 9 out of the 14 districts shown in the Table:—

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Dec., 1906, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Dec., 1906, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,318	8.2	6.8	4.0	+ 1.4	+ 4.2
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,170	3.2	2.7	3.3	+ 0.5	- 0.1
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,773	2.7	2.0	3.5	+ 0.7	- 0.8
West Riding Towns ...	12,987	4.4	2.9	4.5	+ 1.5	- 0.1
Hull and Lincolnshire District	2,328	1.8	3.1	4.3	- 1.3	- 2.5
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,739	2.8	2.7	2.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,131	4.5	2.8	6.0	+ 1.7	- 1.5
London and Neighbouring District	12,125	4.8	4.3	3.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
South Coast	3,856	3.5	2.2	3.6	+ 1.3	- 0.1
South Wales and Bristol District	6,426	4.5	3.1	4.1	+ 1.4	+ 0.4
Glasgow and District ...	15,031	5.5	5.3	4.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
East of Scotland	3,848	5.5	4.0	7.0	+ 1.5	- 1.5
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,478	6.0	4.7	6.5	+ 1.3	- 0.5
Other Districts	5,533	3.2	2.0	4.0	+ 1.2	- 0.8
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	153,597	4.1	3.5	3.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.4

Employment in the Tyne and Wear district was fairly good generally. It improved with turners and fitters. At Jarrow, and on repair work generally, it declined. Overtime was worked in some shops, though in one or two cases night shifts were discontinued. With pattern-makers and brassfinishers it was dull; with iron and brass moulders fair on the whole. In the Tees district it was dull, with some short time, except at Darlington, where employment was good.

Employment in Lancashire continued good, a considerable amount of overtime being reported, especially with engineers and ironfounders at Manchester, and in textile machinery shops at Oldham. It continued bad with brassfounders at Liverpool. It was worse than a month ago with engineers at Wigan and Preston.

In the West Riding district employment was, on the whole, good at Leeds, Huddersfield, and Rotherham; fair at Sheffield and Dewsbury; moderate in other centres. A good deal of overtime was reported at Leeds. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment was fair. At Hull it was affected by a dispute. It was slack, with some short time, at Grimsby.

At Birmingham employment with engineers was fairly good; with ironfounders and toolmakers good, with some overtime. In the cycle shops it was fair, and in motor shops good, with some overtime, throughout the district. It was good generally at Wolverhampton, overtime being worked in motor shops.

Employment in the Nottingham district was fairly good generally. It was moderate with ironfounders; with patternmakers, however, a decline was reported. On the whole employment was better than a year ago. Overtime was reported in a few shops and short time in cycle shops. At Derby employment was fair in general engineering works, good in railway shops, with

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

In the Cleveland district the number of workpeople employed was greater than a month ago by 241 (3.2 per cent.), and in Scotland the increase amounted to 224 (or 1.3 per cent.). In the Sheffield and Rotherham district, and in Northumberland and Durham, the number employed was less than a month ago by 257 and 198—1.4 per cent. and 1.6 per cent. respectively.

Compared with a year ago, every district showed considerable improvement in respect of the number of workpeople employed, with the exception of the Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire district.

The average number of shifts worked per man during the week was 5.62, as compared with 5.55 a month ago and 5.60 a year ago. It varied from 5.16 at crucible furnaces to 5.99 at iron foundries. At iron rolling mills and Bessemer converting departments there was an improvement of nearly one-third of a shift on a month ago, and these two departments, together with the ironfoundry department, also showed the greatest improvement on a year ago; while, on the other hand, at crucible furnaces there was a decline of 0.47 of a shift compared with a month ago and 0.31 of a shift compared with a year ago. In Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire increases occurred, amounting to 0.38 of a shift on a month ago and 0.18 of a shift on a year ago.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during December, 1906, amounted to 73,926 tons, as compared with 75,344 tons in November, 1906, and 153,163 tons in December, 1905.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) amounted to 207,742 tons, as compared with 258,604 tons in November, 1906, and 189,544 tons in December, 1905.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 59 Returns—54 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December continued good, and was better than a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 381 tinplate mills were working at the end of December, as compared with 383 in November, and 378 a year ago; the number of sheet mills working for the same periods was 60, 58, and 51 respectively. At the 441 mills working, about 22,000 workpeople were employed.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table, the figures in which, with one or two exceptions, relate to works in South Wales and Monmouthshire:—

	December, 1906.		November, 1906.		December, 1905.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	74	381	74	383	75	378
Sheet Mills ...	10	60	9	58	9	51
Total	84	441	83	441	84	429

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, are given in the Table below:—

	December, 1906.			November, 1906.			December, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
To United States	6,783	6,038	3,266	+	745	+ 3,517			
Other Countries	24,378	31,756	21,488	-	7,378	+ 2,890			
Total	31,161	37,794	24,754	- 6,633	+ 6,407				
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.									
To all Countries	6,341	6,616	7,979	-	1,275	- 2,638			
Black Plates for Tinning.									

much overtime and night shifts. It was quiet with ironfounders, fair with boilermakers. In the Leicester and Northampton district employment continued fairly good with general engineers and boot and shoe machinery makers, but it declined with hosiery machine workers, and was slack with boilermakers at Leicester. It declined in the Potteries with engineers and machinemakers.

At Norwich it was fair on the whole, but with boilermakers it was slack; it was good with agricultural machinery makers at Ipswich.

In London employment was dull and showed little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. It was good with ironfounders.

Employment was moderate at Southampton, but not quite so good as a month ago; it was fair generally in the South-western Counties. Employment with engineers at Swansea and Newport was slack. It improved at Llanely and Cardiff. It continued brisk at Bristol, Swindon and Gloucester.

In the Glasgow district employment was fairly good, and some overtime was reported. It was better than a month ago with brassfinishers, iron, steel and brass dressers, and patternmakers. It was quiet at Edinburgh, bad with ironmoulders at Falkirk, and worse than a year ago. It improved with ironmoulders and smiths at Aberdeen, where employment was fair; at Dundee it was fair, but a slight decline was reported.

Employment was fair generally at Belfast, though it continued slack with patternmakers; at Dublin and Cork it was dull.

The values of Imports and Exports of machinery are shown in the following Table:—

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
Imports:					
Steam Engines ...	£ 7,259	£ 4,850	£ 8,385	+ 2,409	- 1,126
Other Machinery, including Electrical	365,712	402,492	338,634	- 36,780	+ 27,078
Exports:					
Steam Engines ...	626,087	606,862	548,970	+ 19,225	+ 77,117
Other Machinery, including Electrical	1,706,325	1,824,598	1,577,813	- 118,173	+ 128,712

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 334 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 310 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December showed some improvement on a month ago, and was about the same as a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,181 members had 6,561[†] (or 11·3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 13·6 per cent. at the end of November, and 10·2 per cent. at the end of December, 1905.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1906 included in the Returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Dec., 1906, as compared with a	
		Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Tyne and Blyth ...	9,875	9·3	7·3	8·3	+ 2·0	+ 1·0
Wear ...	5,170	5·9	5·6	4·2	+ 0·3	+ 1·7
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,054 [†]	21·51	22·73	5·3	+ 0·8	+ 16·2
Humber ...	2,399	13·4	8·6	9·5	+ 4·8	+ 3·9
Thames and Medway ...	4,682	10·8	10·8	12·18	...	- 1·3
South Coast ...	3,752	5·7	3·7	9·7	+ 2·0	- 4·0
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,643	21·0	22·0	12·9	- 1·0	+ 8·1
Mersey ...	3,843	10·7	23·3	16·2	- 12·6	- 5·5
Clyde ...	12,453	11·6	21·1	11·0	- 9·5	+ 0·6
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,382	13·7	12·4	13·6	+ 1·3	+ 0·1
Belfast ...	2,894	7·0	9·1	15·1	- 2·1	- 8·1
Other Districts ...	3,034	8·7	11·4	8·7	- 2·7	...
United Kingdom ...	88,181	11·3	13·6	10·2	- 2·3	+ 1·

* Exclusive of superannuated members.
† Inclusive of members on strike.
‡ Exclusive of members on strike.
§ Revised figures.

Compared with a month ago, there were noticeable increases in the numbers unemployed in the Tyne and Blyth, Humber, South Coast, and Dundee, &c., districts, and slight increases in two other districts. There were, however, marked decreases in the Mersey and Clyde districts, and smaller decreases in the Bristol Channel, Belfast, and other districts.

Compared with a year ago, there were increases in seven districts, including a large increase in the Tees and Hartlepool district, which was due to a strike of platers. In four districts there were decreases, the largest being in the Belfast district.

Employment on the Tyne was fairly good. On the Wear it continued good. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was bad, owing to the continuance of the platers' dispute; it was slightly worse than last month, and much worse than a year ago. On the Humber employment continued fairly good, but some sections of the boilermakers were slack.

In the Thames and Medway district employment continued slack, but was rather better than a year ago. On the South Coast there was a decline, but employment was better than a year ago. At the Bristol Channel ports it continued slack, and was much worse than a year ago. On the Mersey there was a decrease in the number unemployed, but employment continued bad, as there was much short time.

On the Clyde employment was much better than a month ago. At Leith it was fair. At Dundee it was quiet, and at Aberdeen it continued fairly good. At Belfast it was slack with platers, but with shipwrights it was good. Employment at Barrow was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It continued good at Lowestoft, fair at Yarmouth, and bad at Dublin and Cork.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's Returns for the quarter ended December, 1906, there was a decrease in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction of 97,778 tons gross, or 7·7 per cent., as compared with September, 1906, and of 188,767, or 13·9 per cent., as compared with a year ago. With regard to war vessels, the figures show an increase of 2,513 tons displacement as compared with the September quarter, but a decrease of 56,167 tons compared with a year ago.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	Dec. 31st, 1906.	Sept. 30th, 1906.	Dec. 31st, 1905.	Dec. 31st, 1906.	Sept. 30th, 1906.	Dec. 31st, 1905.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ...	410,240	515,241	503,335	51,000	50,500	30,500
Belfast ...	174,770	132,540	194,310	...	...	...
Tyne ...	245,026	232,613	253,994	49,042	48,731	47,982
Wear ...	178,475	190,389	174,109	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	36,470	56,450	76,630	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton ...	57,314	74,843	88,051	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington ...	3,700	4,040	3,240	36,323	38,560	53,650
Other Districts ...	60,994	58,641	61,987	7,693	8,204	5,943
Royal Dockyards ...	...	...	...	61,800	57,350	124,400
Total ...	1,166,989	1,264,767	1,355,756	205,858	203,345	262,025

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with September, 1906, increases were shown in the Belfast and Tyne Districts, but in the Clyde, Wear, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Barrow districts there were decreases.

As compared with December, 1905, the Wear and Barrow districts showed increases, while there were decreases in all the other districts, the most noticeable being the decrease in the Clyde district.

War Vessels.—Compared with both September, 1906, and December, 1905, increases were shown in the Clyde and Tyne districts, but there was a decrease in the Barrow district. The tonnage under construction at the Royal Dockyards showed an increase compared with last quarter, but a considerable decrease compared with December, 1905.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 56 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 25 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December in these trades continued good, but compared with a month ago and a year ago it showed a slight decline. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,488 had 429, or 2·8 per cent., of their members unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2·3 per cent. in November, 1906, and the same percentage in December, 1905.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers was good at Birmingham and Bolton; fair in London and at Nottingham; quiet at Manchester and Leeds; bad at Exeter, Doncaster and Hexthorpe. At Birmingham it continued bad with bedstead makers.

Tubes.—Employment was good at Birmingham; it was also good in South Wales, except in the brass tube department.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment continued good with chain makers, bad with anchor smiths. At Gateshead it continued good with chain makers. It was fairly good with spring and axle makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich, and continued good with railway spring makers at Sheffield. At Wednesbury it continued good with railway and constructional workers. It continued fair with buckle, cart gear, etc., makers at Walsall, and good with anvil and vice-makers at Dudley and Darlaston.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was good at Manchester; steady on the Tyne; moderate at Hull. With sheet metal workers it was good at Oldham, fair in London and at Leeds. With iron plate workers it was good at Birmingham and in the Lye district. With tinsplate and sheet metal workers it was quiet at Glasgow. With tinsplate workers it was good at Nottingham; fair at Birmingham and Bristol; bad at Edinburgh and Aberdeen. In South Wales it continued good with galvanizers.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers employment was fair at Birmingham, good at Dudley and Darlaston. At Birmingham it was fairly good with nail makers, good with shoe rivet makers. At Blackheath it was good with nut, bolt, rivet and frost nail makers.

Wire.—Employment continued good generally.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad. It was good with hollow-ware workers at Wolverhampton; quiet with hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich; fair with hollow-ware stampers at Sheffield.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was moderate at Rotherham; quiet at Leeds; fair at Glasgow; bad at Falkirk.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield district employment continued moderate with cutlers generally, fair with sawmakers, good in the file trades. At Birmingham it was moderate with file cutters, fair in the edge tool trade. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trades continued good.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment was fair with goldsmiths, jewellers, diamond workers and silver plate polishers. With silver workers it continued good. At Birmingham it was good with jewellers and Britannia metal workers; fairly good with silversmiths and electro-platers; fair in the spoon and fork trades. At Sheffield it was bad with silversmiths. At Coventry it continued quiet with watchmakers.

Farriers.—With farriers employment was fair generally.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the values of cutlery and hardware imported and exported during the periods mentioned:—

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports:—					
Cutlery ...	£ 6,841	£ 9,426	£ 6,679	- 2,585	+ 162
Hardware ...	78,198	79,274	89,281	- 1,076	- 11,083
Exports:—					
Cutlery ...	54,717	65,966	57,399	- 11,249	- 2,682
Hardware ...	199,634	192,529	172,580	+ 7,105	+ 27,054
Implements and Tools ...	178,820	183,707	157,202	- 4,887	+ 21,518

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 490 Returns—405 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 76 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very brisk, and was better than a year ago.

A difficulty in obtaining labour was still experienced in many districts. In spinning mills there was a scarcity of labour for the carding and ring spinning departments, and a general deficiency of piecers. In weaving sheds the supply of weavers was not equal to the demand, and in the Burnley district a large number of looms were reported to be idle on this account. The scarcity was partly due to sickness.

The average price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool during December was 0·1d. less than in November, and 4·5d. per lb. less than in December, 1905. The average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7·8d. per lb. more than in November, and 1·81d. more than in December, 1905.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended December 22nd was 130,439, an increase of 0·1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1·8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1·3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3·7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. paid Wages on pay day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.		Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Departments.						
Preparation ...	14,286	+ 0·2	+ 1·3	13,015	- 0·3	+ 7·1
Spinning ...	26,170	+ 0·1	+ 1·6	25,271	+ 0·0	+ 5·8
Weaving ...	68,069	- 0·1	+ 1·9	57,723	+ 2·2	+ 2·1
Other ...	10,764	+ 0·2	+ 0·5	12,760	+ 0·0	+ 2·7
Departments not specified	17,150	+ 0·9	+ 3·0	18,866	+ 2·5	+ 4·0
Total ...	130,439	+ 0·1	+ 1·8	127,635	+ 1·3	+ 3·7
Districts.						
Ashton District ...	8,076	+ 0·0	+ 4·8	7,798	- 1·1	+ 4·4
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	8,669	+ 0·2	+ 1·5	8,298	+ 1·7	+ 5·2
Oldham District ...	14,912	- 0·1	+ 1·9	15,138	- 0·0	+ 7·1
Bolton and Leigh ...	14,807	+ 0·5	- 0·2	13,545	+ 0·6	+ 3·5
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	9,818	- 0·4	+ 0·7	9,391	- 0·4	+ 1·0
Manchester District ...	10,550	- 0·5	+ 1·1	8,819	- 2·0	+ 0·2
Preston and Chorley ...	13,373	+ 0·0	+ 2·6	12,442	+ 3·6	+ 5·6
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	19,052	- 0·0	+ 0·7	20,079	+ 3·8	+ 1·8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	16,279	+ 0·9	+ 1·6	19,142	+ 0·7	+ 1·5
Other Lancs. Towns ...	5,391	- 0·2	+ 2·1	4,634	+ 0·6	+ 2·0
Yorkshire Towns ...	4,375	+ 0·3	+ 3·9	4,401	+ 1·6	+ 5·7
Other Districts ...	5,197	+ 0·4	+ 7·8	4,548	- 0·2	+ 14·2
Total ...	130,439	+ 0·1	+ 1·8	127,635	+ 1·3	+ 3·7

Compared with a month ago an improvement in the amount of wages paid was shown in the weaving department. Compared with a year ago there was a distinct improvement in every branch. As compared with a month ago five districts showed a decline and seven an increase in the amount of wages paid, the greatest improvements taking place in the Preston and Blackburn districts. As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in every district, the increase in

wages being most marked in the miscellaneous group (14.2 per cent.) and in the Oldham District (7.1 per cent.).

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of December the average price of raw cotton "midding American" at Liverpool was 5.84d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.16d., and the lowest 5.60d. The price for November was 5.85d., and for December, 1905, 6.29d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of January, 1907, the average price of "midding American" was 5.94d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during December averaged 9.58d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.9d., and the lowest 9.3d. The price for November was 8.80d. per lb., and for December, 1905, 7.77d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of January, 1907, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.82d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on January 4th, 1907, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 998,890 bales, as compared with 1,254,970 bales on January 5th, 1906.

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

Description of Cotton.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	294,133	297,809	239,112	- 3,676	+ 55,021
Brazilian	13,670	16,746	18,408	- 3,076	- 4,738
East Indian	2,989	1,405	2,997	+ 1,584	- 11,113
Egyptian	53,958	60,948	42,845	- 6,990	+ 11,113
Miscellaneous	6,093	12,907	6,108	- 4,814	+ 1,985
Total	372,843	389,815	309,470	- 16,972	+ 63,373

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	13,547	14,304	15,370	- 757	- 1,823
Bleached and Dyed	2,787	2,958	3,488	- 171	- 701
Total	16,334	17,262	18,858	- 928	- 2,524
	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached	175,504	181,826	205,778	- 6,262	- 27,214
Bleached	138,724	134,415	156,745	+ 4,279	- 22,021
Printed	90,813	90,853	96,370	- 40	- 5,557
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	95,511	94,896	95,289	+ 615	+ 222
Total	500,612	502,020	555,182	- 1,408	- 54,570

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 338 Returns—328 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good in these trades, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

Employment in the woollen trade continued good, but showed a slight decline, overtime being less prevalent in some districts; it was not quite so good as a year ago.

Firms employing 22,197 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	799	+ 0.7	676	- 1.6	- 1.4
Spinning	4,303	+ 0.6	3,628	- 0.9	- 1.7
Weaving	6,646	+ 0.6	8,173	+ 1.1	- 0.7
Other Departments	6,260	+ 0.4	6,221	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Unspecified	1,279	+ 0.3	1,175	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Total	22,197	+ 0.2	19,873	- 0.3	- 0.9

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Per cent.
			£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Huddersfield District	3,640	- 0.1	4,054	+ 1.3	- 0.3
Leeds District	2,545	- 0.2	2,257	+ 1.5	+ 1.5
Dewsbury & Batley District	3,044	+ 0.4	2,968	- 3.3	+ 1.0
Other Parts of West Riding	1,051	+ 0.9	930	- 0.5	+ 4.8
Total West Riding	10,290	+ 0.1	10,219	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Scotland	6,843	+ 0.3	5,799	+ 1.7	- 5.4
Other Districts	5,064	+ 0.4	3,855	+ 1.6	+ 1.5
Total Woollen	22,197	+ 0.2	19,873	- 0.3	- 0.9

In Huddersfield, Leeds, and the heavy woollen district employment continued good, and overtime was still worked; in Selkirk it was good, but showed a further decline at Galashiels; in Hawick it was better, but not so good as a year ago.

Worsted Trade.

Employment in the worsted trade was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 45,133 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting & Combing	4,708	+ 4.1	4,501	+ 7.6	+ 6.1
Spinning	24,593	+ 0.2	13,368	+ 1.3	+ 4.9
Weaving	7,271	+ 1.1	6,894	+ 1.3	- 1.2
Other Departments	4,548	- 0.7	4,589	- 0.1	- 0.1
Unspecified	3,413	+ 0.8	2,505	- 0.2	- 7.9
Total	45,133	+ 0.6	31,857	+ 1.8	+ 1.8

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Per cent.
			£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bradford District	21,336	+ 1.3	14,740	+ 3.3	+ 1.2
Keighley District	6,453	+ 0.7	4,719	+ 1.6	+ 4.8
Halifax District	6,417	- 0.8	4,149	- 0.7	+ 2.6
Huddersfield District	4,928	- 0.4	4,321	- 0.2	+ 2.5
Other Parts of West Riding	3,150	...	2,105	+ 1.2	+ 11.2
Total West Riding	42,284	+ 0.6	30,034	+ 1.8	+ 2.0
Other Districts	2,849	+ 0.6	1,823	+ 2.4	- 1.0
Total Worsted	45,133	+ 0.6	31,857	+ 1.8	+ 1.8

Employment with wool-sorters and combers in Bradford showed a decided improvement, though short time was still reported; it was better than a year ago. In Keighley employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Several firms reported a deficiency of labour in both spinning and weaving branches.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Average Prices:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	26 1/2	26 1/2	25 1/2

	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	13 1/2 to 14	13 1/2 to 13 1/2	13 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	12 1/2 to 12 1/2	12 1/2 to 12 1/2	12 1/2 to 12 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	26 1/2 to 26 1/2	26 to 26 1/2	25 1/2 to 25 1/2

Imports and Exports.

The following Table shows the quantities of raw wool, imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and of woollen and worsted piece goods for the months stated:—

	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports less Re-Exports 1,000 lbs.	25,189	30,122	26,224	- 4,933	- 1,035
British Exports	2,467	3,600	2,746	- 1,133	- 279

Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')					
Imports less Re-Exports 1,000 lbs.	25,189	30,122	26,224	- 4,933	- 1,035
British Exports	2,467	3,600	2,746	- 1,133	- 279

Yarn:		British and Irish Manufactures Exported		
		Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Per cent.
Woollen	172	207	- 35	- 19
Worsted	4,432	4,331	+ 101	+ 575
Alpaca & Mohair	1,343	1,314	+ 29	+ 248
Total	5,947	5,852	+ 95	+ 804

Piece Goods:		Imports and Exports of Piece Goods		
		Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Per cent.
Woollen ... 1,000 yds.	6,564	5,700	+ 864	- 121
Worsted	9,158	6,865	+ 2,293	- 1,667
Total	15,722	12,565	+ 3,157	- 1,788

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 122 Returns—114 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 46,229 workpeople, and paying £27,824 in wages on pay day in the week ended 22nd December, show that, in comparison with November, there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.5 per cent. in wages paid. In comparison with a year ago they show an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.9 per cent. in the amount paid in wages. In the Fifehire and Dundee districts a scarcity of spinners and weavers is reported.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	5,069	+ 0.4	3,207	+ 1.3	+ 5.0
Spinning	10,893	+ 0.4	5,003	+ 2.2	+ 8.8
Weaving	16,860	+ 0.5	10,677	+ 6.9	+ 3.0
Other	6,753	+ 0.1	5,937	+ 1.4	+ 2.8
Departments not specified	5,754	+ 0.7	3,540	+ 0.7	+ 0.9
Total	46,229	+ 0.3	27,824	+ 3.5	+ 3.9

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Per cent.
			£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Belfast	15,607	+ 0.3	9,762	+ 4.7	+ 7.5
Other Places in Ireland	15,090	+ 1.0	8,421	+ 5.1	+ 3.6
Ireland	30,697	+ 0.6	18,183	+ 5.2	+ 5.6
Fifehire	7,755	- 0.9	4,845	- 0.6	+ 0.6
Other Places in Scotland	5,753	+ 0.5	3,537	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
Scotland	13,508	- 0.3	8,382	- 0.1	+ 0.5
England	2,024	+ 0.2	1,259	+ 3.7	+ 2.8
United Kingdom	46,229	+ 0.3	27,824	+ 3.5	+ 3.9

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	10,527	4,909	7,437	+ 5,618	+ 3,090
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	13,022	13,025	12,277	- 3	+ 745
Linen Piece Goods 100 Yds.	179,411	172,521	181,487	+ 6,890	- 2,076

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 39 Returns—35 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good, but was not quite so good as a month ago.

Returns received from firms employing 18,513 workpeople, and paying £12,767 in wages on pay day in the week ended 22nd December, showed, in comparison with November, a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the wages paid. In comparison with a year ago, they showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the amount paid in wages.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	4,200	- 0.9	2,712	+ 0.3	+ 4.3
Spinning	5,298				

ago, there was no change in the number of workpeople employed, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.
Throwing	1,060	+ 0.2	+ 4.0	403	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
Spinning	2,434	- 0.2	+ 3.6	1,786	- 0.7	+ 1.0
Weaving	3,759	- 0.6	+ 1.2	2,423	- 1.1	+ 2.6
Other	1,070	+ 3.1	+ 6.8	841	+ 4.0	+ 4.6
Not Specified	224	- 1.8	+ 3.2	130	- 5.8	- 8.5
Total	8,547	- 0.0	+ 3.0	5,583	- 0.3	- 0.5

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,605	- 0.5	+ 1.4	2,504	- 1.9	- 3.7
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	876	- 1.9	+ 2.5	641	- 1.5	+ 2.4
Leek	367	+ 0.3	+ 3.4	227	- 2.6	- 2.2
Eastern Counties	2,111	+ 1.2	+ 2.3	1,235	+ 1.9	+ 1.6
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,588	+ 0.4	+ 7.9	916	+ 3.3	+ 4.9
Total	8,547	- 0.0	+ 3.0	5,583	- 0.3	- 0.5

At Macclesfield employment was bad with power-loom weavers, and worse than a month ago. It was also bad with outside hand-loom weavers. With silk spinners it was good. At Congleton employment was good with throwsters, and fair with dressers and trimming weavers. Employment at Leek was moderate, but braidmakers were still working short time. It was fairly good generally in the Eastern Counties.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk Lbs	82,103	98,897	44,654	- 16,794	+ 37,449
Thrown Silk	50,122	58,741	42,364	- 8,619	+ 7,758
Spun Silk Yarn	41,477	30,913	31,731	+ 10,564	+ 9,746
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk & Twist ...	432	714	501	- 282	- 69
Spun Silk Yarn	85,003	94,550	92,702	- 9,547	- 7,699
Silk Broad-stuffs ... yards	572,824	638,800	588,877	- 65,976	- 16,053

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 92 Returns—87 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade was slightly better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. It was good in England and moderate in Scotland, where there was a decline compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,051 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd, and paying £9,352 in wages, show an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago. As regards wages, the Returns show an increase of 3.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 10.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a year ago there was a marked increase in the wages paid in the levers and plain net branches. In all English districts there was an increase, but in Scotland there was a decrease. Compared with a month ago there was an increase in wages in all districts.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.
Levers	2,421	+ 0.2	+ 7.3	3,575	+ 4.6	+ 20.0
Curtain	2,888	+ 0.6	+ 1.5	2,806	+ 2.9	+ 3.3
Plain Net	2,824	+ 2.1	+ 14.1	2,305	+ 2.6	+ 19.2
Others	918	- 0.7	+ 7.5	666	- 0.3	+ 6.7
Total	9,051	+ 0.8	+ 6.3	9,352	+ 3.2	+ 10.8

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.
Nottingham City	2,309	+ 1.4	+ 8.5	2,286	+ 2.6	+ 11.8
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,739	+ 0.1	+ 7.3	2,492	+ 4.2	+ 11.0
Other English districts	3,004	+ 1.5	+ 11.8	2,775	+ 4.2	+ 24.3
Scotland	1,999	- 0.1	+ 3.8	1,799	+ 1.3	+ 6.1
Total	9,051	+ 0.8	+ 6.3	9,352	+ 3.2	+ 10.8

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the values of lace imported and exported during the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports:—					
Silk Lace	£ 30,653	£ 24,735	£ 22,030	+ 5,918	+ 8,623
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace	£ 466,077	£ 390,218	£ 421,074	+ 75,859	+ 45,003
Silk Lace	£ 8,544	£ 8,309	£ 5,962	+ 232	+ 2,579

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 85 Returns—79 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Firms employing 14,210 workpeople, and paying £10,949 in wages in the week ended December 22nd, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the number of workpeople employed showed an increase of 3.5 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 5.5 per cent.

At Leicester employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; at Hinckley it was good on shirts, pants and seamless hose, and slacker in the fashioned hose and cotton goods departments; at Loughborough there was a decline owing to stocktaking. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was reported as fairly good. In Hawick and Selkirk it was good, and better than a year ago.

District	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.
Leloeester	7,931	+ 0.9	+ 2.8	6,452	+ 7.8	+ 8.3
Leloeester Country District ...	2,439	- 1.3	+ 1.2	1,916	- 0.5	+ 4.2
Notts. and Derbyshire	1,944	- 0.1	+ 6.3	1,410	+ 5.9	+ 6.7
Scotland	1,515	+ 1.1	+ 9.4	988	+ 4.4	+ 8.5
Other Districts	381	- 2.6	- 1.8	183	- 8.5	...
Total, United Kingdom	14,210	+ 0.1	+ 3.5	10,949	+ 3.3	+ 5.5

The Imports of Woollen and Cotton Hosiery in December, 1906, amounted to £27,018 and £60,635 respectively, as compared with £29,835 and £77,324 in November, and £33,398 and £72,550 in December, 1905. The Exports of Woollen and Cotton Hosiery in

December, 1906, amounted to £104,823 and £36,613 respectively, as compared with £92,345 and £41,967 in November, 1906, and £77,271 and £28,534 in December, 1905.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.
(Based on 16 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Cotton Dyers.—Employment on the whole continued fair, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment continued good at Macclesfield, some overtime being worked.

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment at New Mills continued very good, and was better than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was good. At Glasgow it was good with calico printers, fair with engravers, and bad with block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester employment continued slack. At Loughborough it was unusually good for December. With dyers at Nottingham it was fairly good; at Basford it was fairly good with bleachers, and moderate with hosiery trimmers. Some overtime was reported in the district, and on the whole employment was slightly better than a year ago.

Calendriers, etc.—In Glasgow employment was good, better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. With bleachfield workers in Dundee it was fair, with calender workers it was dull.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 118 Returns—90 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoken branch in London showed a seasonal decline, and was moderate; it was better than a year ago; in the provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and slightly better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during December was moderate; worse than a month ago but better than a year ago.

Firms paying £9,969 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended December 22nd showed a decrease of 10.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment on the whole was slack, but slightly better than a year ago.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was moderate and slightly better than a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as normal on contract work, fair on shipping work, and bad on stock work.

Leeds.—Employment during the month was fair, and slightly better than a year ago. Returns have been received from firms employing about 9,000 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops). From these Returns it appears that employment was good with firms employing 35 per cent. of the workpeople, moderate with firms employing 51 per cent., and bad with firms employing 14 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 33 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 16 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 51 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 38 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 37 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 25 per cent. as worse. The Jewish operatives reported much short time.

Other Centres.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and better than a year ago. It was reported as good at Norwich, fairly good at Manchester and Glasgow, and quiet at Bristol.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in December, 1906, were valued at £205,090, as compared with £273,352 in November, 1906, and £218,325 in December, 1905, and the Exports for the same periods, £393,033, £404,430, and £372,747.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 496 Returns—483 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 4 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the boot and shoe trade showed a further improvement, and was fair; there was little change compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 63,006 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 4.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, thirteen of the sixteen districts covered by the Returns showed an increase in the amount of wages paid, the increase being greatest in London and at Leicester (9.2 and 8.8 per cent. respectively). Compared with a year ago, seven districts showed an improvement and nine a decline in the total amount of wages paid. There was an increase of 10.1 per cent. at Kingswood, and of 9.4 per cent. at Bristol; Scotland showed a decrease of 12.5 per cent.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	2,360	+ 2.6	+ 2.1	3,029	+ 9.2	+ 0.7
Leloeester	13,475	+ 2.6	+ 0.7	14,325	+ 8.8	+ 0.8
Leloeester Country District	3,294	+ 0.2	+ 3.2	3,149	+ 3.8	+ 1.7
Northampton	8,688	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	8,217	+ 5.9	+ 0.7
Northampton Country District	8,679	+ 0.1	+ 5.3	8,432	+ 4.2	+ 5.5
Kettering	3,292	- 0.3	- 0.7	3,193	+ 4.8	+ 5.2
Stafford & District	2,521	+ 0.4	+ 2.5	2,238	+ 6.7	+ 1.9
Norwich & District	3,497	+ 0.3	+ 1.3	2,911	+ 4.3	+ 2.6
Bristol & District	1,877	- 0.3	+ 3.3	1,678	- 1.4	+ 9.4
Kingswood	1,925	+ 0.5	+ 3.3	2,073	+ 4.7	+ 10.1
Leeds & District	2,788	- 1.2	+ 1.1	2,627	- 0.6	+ 3.8
Manchester & District	2,557	- 0.0	+ 0.4	2,194	+ 4.2	+ 6.5
Birmingham & District	1,027	+ 0.1	- 2.5	827	+ 1.3	+ 4.4
Other parts of England and Wales	2,696	- 0.1	+ 5.1	2,368	+ 3.5	+ 4.4
ENGLAND & WALES	58,946	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	57,261	+ 5.1	+ 0.4
SCOTLAND	3,772	- 1.0	+ 5.8	3,524	+ 1.4	- 12.5
IRELAND	288	- 1.4	+ 7.9	223	+ 1.8	+ 19.9
UNITED KINGDOM	63,006	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	61,008	+ 4.9	-

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

	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports					
Quantity Dozen pairs	14,373	15,530	14,918	- 1,157	- 545
Value £	52,258	65,893	59,650	- 13,635	- 7,392
Re-Exports					
Quantity Dozen pairs	1,351	1,330	1,100	+ 31	+ 261
Value £	3,163	3,470	3,364	- 307	- 201
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity Dozen pairs	62,701	68,963	63,755	- 6,262	- 1,054
Value £	154,069	174,892	158,035	- 20,823	- 3,966

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 12 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations and 10 from Trade Unions.)

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

In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 11.6, compared with 10.2 at the end of November, and 15.8

a year ago. In London employment showed a further decline.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 5.1, compared with the same percentage in November, and 7.9 a year ago. Employment at Denton was fairly good, and better than a year ago; at Stockport it was good, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, exported in the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.
Felt	41,269	30,511	36,416	+ 10,758	+ 4,853
Straw	37,279	49,777	35,197	- 3,498	+ 2,082
Other Sorts	5,951	5,448	3,460	+ 503	+ 2,491
Total	84,499	76,736	75,073	+ 7,763	+ 9,426

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 184 Returns—180 from Employers, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed a general seasonal decline in the dressmaking, blouse, and millinery trades, and was moderate; it was better than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the corset trade it was fairly good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 1,438 dressmakers in the week ended December 22nd, showed a decrease of 7.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. Court dressmakers employing 1,167 workpeople showed a decrease of 6.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. In the wholesale mantle, costume, and blouse trades, firms in London employing 3,021 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the week ended December 22nd, showed a decrease of 3.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate. Firms in the wholesale and retail millinery trade, employing 1,075 workpeople, showed a decrease of 14.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 6.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed practically no change in the demand for, and an increase in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners as compared with a year ago. As compared with a month ago there was a marked seasonal decline in both demand and supply.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was dull. In the costume and skirt trade employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago; firms employing 1,889 workpeople in the week ended December 22nd showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantle makers was moderate, and slightly better than a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers employing 6,569 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,500 in wages during the week ended December 22nd, showed an increase of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was moderate in London, Taunton, and Londonderry, fairly good in Manchester, and good in Glasgow and Belfast.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 2,845 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 22nd showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 30 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the Returns reported employment as improved, firms employing 34 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 36 per cent. as worse.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 44 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 26 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was quiet, and worse than a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,677 had 7.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 5.3 per cent. in November, and 6.1 per cent. in December, 1905.

Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment generally was quiet, not so good as last month, and about the same as a year ago. It was good, however, with leather workers at Bolton, Bury, Wigan, and Manchester, and with tanners at Hull. With curriers it was good at Edinburgh and Newcastle, and fair at Walsall and Glasgow; in London it was worse than a year ago.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment generally continued fair. With gig saddlers at Walsall it was quiet, with much short time. It was dull at Dublin, and bad with harness makers in London.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—Employment with fancy leather workers was bad, with much short time. With portmanteau makers in London it was fair.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, are shown in the following Table for the months stated:—

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in December, 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	35,254	37,390	28,492	- 2,136	+ 6,762
Ditto, wet	44,853	34,275	47,735	+ 10,577	- 2,883
Total, hides, dry and wet	80,106	71,665	76,227	+ 8,441	+ 3,879
Goat skins	No. 1,030,947	No. 1,342,519	No. 1,141,030	- 312,572	- 111,083
Sheep skins	1,081,196	1,794,743	1,157,347	- 713,547	- 76,151
Leather*	cwts. 87,117	cwts. 114,944	cwts. 108,189	- 27,827	- 21,072
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value)	£ 46,767	£ 56,041	£ 42,536	- 9,274	+ 4,231

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 408 Returns—141 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 247 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fairly good generally during the greater part of the month, but fell off during the last week. At the end of the month it was worse on the whole than at the end of November, 1906, and about the same as at the end of December, 1905.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago, except in Scotland, where it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 20,936 workpeople in the last week of the month showed

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

that there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with November, and an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with December, 1905.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week in December, 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,254	- 0.7	- 0.3
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,985	- 0.5	- 0.7
Southern Counties	6,244	- 0.0	- 0.7
Scotland	5,591	- 0.1	+ 1.8
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	20,074	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Hand-made Paper	862	...	+ 1.1
Total	20,936	- 0.3	+ 0.2

Trade Unions in the *machine-made* paper trade with 1,813 members had 1.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 2.1 per cent. in November, and 2.5 per cent. in December, 1905. In the *hand-made* paper trade, Trade Unions with 637 members had 4.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, against 4.2 a month ago, and 5.5 a year ago.

The imports of paper in December, 1906, amounted to £475,078, as compared with £476,308 in November, 1906, and £484,805 in December, 1905, and the exports to £166,291, as compared with £189,933 in November, 1906, and £148,600 in December, 1905.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment with *letterpress* printers was fairly good during the greater part of the month, but declined during the last week. Trade Unions with 40,912 members had 4.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.1 per cent. in November, and 4.8 per cent. in December, 1905. In the *lithographic* branch employment was moderate on the whole, but worse than a month ago; Trade Unions with 6,629 members having 5.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4.3 in November, and 5.0 in December, 1905.

The following Table shows by districts the percentage unemployed in Trade Unions in the *Printing Trades*:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	19,432	5.7	3.4	5.8	+ 2.3
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,226	4.8	3.5	4.5	+ 1.3
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,504	3.9	3.9	4.8	...
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,268	3.0	2.0	3.9	+ 1.0
West Midlands	2,400	4.0	2.7	3.5	+ 1.3
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,788	2.9	2.0	1.9	+ 0.9
Scotland	5,481	3.4	2.1	3.4	+ 1.3
Ireland	2,442	6.9	7.1	6.8	- 0.2
United Kingdom ...	47,541	4.7	3.3	4.8	+ 1.4

London.—Employment was fairly good with letterpress printers, except in the last week of the month; it was rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions with 17,400 members had 5.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.2 at the end of November, and 5.8 at the end of December, 1905. With lithographic printers employment continued quiet, and was worse than a month ago, short time being reported.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers was fairly good at Edinburgh, and overtime was worked in some cases. At most of the other principal towns employment was good, and better than in November, overtime being worked on Christmas orders; but in some cases a decline in employment at the end of the month was reported. At Bristol employment continued

quiet, but showed a slight improvement compared with November. With lithographic printers employment was good at Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and Glasgow; at Leeds and Nottingham it was only moderate; at Edinburgh, Liverpool and Belfast it was bad. With lithographic artists employment was good generally.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

In London employment was fairly good during the first half of the month, but in the latter part of the month it declined. In the provinces employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,611	4.5	2.2	4.4	+ 2.3	+ 0.1
Other Districts ...	3,334	1.6	2.1	2.4	- 0.5	- 0.8
United Kingdom ...	6,945	3.2	2.2	3.4	+ 1.0	- 0.2

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,927 Returns—973 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 921 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 33 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull during December. It was worse on the whole than in November, and showed little general change compared with December, 1905.

Returns received from firms employing 51,408 workpeople at the end of December showed a decline in the numbers employed of 4.870, or 8.6 per cent., compared with a month ago. These figures, however, were affected to some extent by the Christmas holidays, and also by the severity of the weather.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

District.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on the last pay-day of the month.							
	Skilled Workmen.		Labourers.		Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.
London	10,025	11,182	7,181	7,987	682	726	17,888	19,895
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,898	3,187	2,872	3,113	641	674	6,411	6,974
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,792	4,197	2,847	3,143	1,080	1,098	7,719	8,438
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,213	3,593	2,489	2,733	499	521	6,201	6,847
S.&S.W. Counties and Wales	2,867	3,196	2,044	2,120	560	574	5,471	5,890
England & Wales	22,795	25,355	17,433	19,096	3,462	3,593	43,690	48,044
Scotland	2,995	3,137	1,878	2,155	904	901	5,777	6,193
Ireland	886	975	925	931	130	135	1,941	2,041
United Kingdom	26,676	29,497	20,236	22,182	4,496	4,629	51,408	56,228

From the above Table it will be seen that there was a decrease of 9.5 per cent. in the case of skilled workmen, and of 8.8 per cent. in the case of labourers. In the London district the decrease in the total number (including lads and boys) amounted to 10.1 per cent.

Employment was dull in most branches of the building trades, but in Scotland it was reported as fair by plumbers and plasterers, and as good by slaters, being better than a month ago in each case. Slaters in England reported employment as moderate. Compared with a month ago carpenters and joiners showed a decline in employment, but no general change was reported by bricklayers, masons and painters. Compared with a year ago carpenters, plumbers and slaters reported an improvement, and painters in Scotland and masons reported a decline, while bricklayers and plasterers reported no general change.

The percentage unemployed of Trade Union carpenters and joiners in the United Kingdom at the end of December was 8.6, as compared with 6.9 a month

ago, and 0.6 a year ago. The percentages unemployed of Trade Union plumbers for the same periods were 7.5, 6.9, and 10.5 respectively.

London.—Employment was dull generally. From Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district it appeared that 9.8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 8.2 a month ago, and 10.0 a year ago. For plumbers the percentages were 12.5, 11.9 and 14.2 respectively. Masons and painters reported employment as worse than a year ago, while bricklayers reported no general change compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was dull generally except with slaters, who were fairly well employed. At Sheffield employment was reported as worse than a month ago, after allowing for the holidays. At Leeds there was some improvement at the beginning of the month, but severe weather seriously affected employment later. With carpenters and plumbers at Sunderland employment was moderate.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment was dull on the whole. It was moderate at Oldham, and also with carpenters and joiners at Manchester, Blackburn and Burnley. At Bolton employment was worse than in November, and a decline was also reported by bricklayers and plasterers at Manchester. With plumbers employment was moderate generally, but bad at Liverpool.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was slack generally. At Birmingham there was a slight improvement on the whole, but at Nottingham employment was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. At Coventry, West Bromwich, and Shrewsbury employment was reported as fair, and plumbers at Birmingham were fairly well employed.

Southern and South Western Counties and Wales.—Employment continued dull generally. At Plymouth it was worse, on the whole, than in November. With plumbers at Cardiff employment was fair.

Scotland.—Employment was quiet generally. With painters it was worse than a month ago. At Glasgow carpenters, plasterers and slaters reported an improvement, but bricklayers reported a decline. A decline in employment was reported at Aberdeen and Dundee. At Edinburgh employment with plasterers was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Ireland.—Employment was dull generally, except with plumbers, who were fairly well employed. In the Cork district it was reported as worse than a month ago. With slaters at Dublin employment was fair.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 151 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 115 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was dull generally, and worse than in November, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,979 reported 6.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 4.8 per cent. a month ago, and 7.1 per cent. in December, 1905.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was dull, and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Short time was again worked in some districts. Trade Unions reported 7.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 5.8 per cent. in November, and 9.9 per cent. in December, 1905.

The imports of furniture and cabinet ware in December, 1906, were valued at £43,583, as compared with £53,563 in November, 1906, and £43,948 in December, 1905.

The exports of furniture and cabinet ware in December, 1906, were valued at £68,523, as compared with £76,497 in November, 1906, and £68,571 in December, 1905.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was dull, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Reports from Trade Unions show that 6.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 5.4 per cent. a month ago, and 5.1 per cent. a year ago. Short time was worked in several places. Employment was good at Birmingham and Dundee, and fair at Edinburgh and Belfast.

The imports of hewn and sawn timber, and house frames, &c., are shown in the following Table;—

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Timber, hewn	66,588	49,383	63,405	+ 17,205	+ 3,183
„ sawn	367,541	490,694	337,458	- 123,153	+ 30,083
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 19,148	£ 14,499	£ 28,316	+ 4,649	- 9,168

Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued good, and was much better than a year ago. It was bad at Burton-on-Trent, Birmingham and Liverpool.

Coachbuilding.

With coachmakers employment was moderate, with short time, and worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., had 5.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 4.1 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.3 per cent. in December, 1905.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was quiet on the whole, but better than a year ago. It was reported as bad at Leeds.

Other Trades.—Employment with packing-case makers was fair, and slightly better than a month ago. It was good at Bristol. With basket-makers it was fair in London and bad at Leicester.

The imports of brushes and brooms in December, 1906, were valued at £30,889, as compared with £32,136 in November, 1906, and £27,234 in December, 1905.

The exports of brushes and brooms in December, 1906, were valued at £13,806, as compared with £16,801 in November, 1906, and £11,241 in December, 1905.

POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 35 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was dull, and much the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire and Devonshire and at Glasgow continued good, and was better than a year ago; at Birmingham it was fair. It was fair in South Yorkshire and at Newcastle. With engravers in Staffordshire it was not quite so good as a month ago. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it continued good at Manchester, moderate at Waterford, and dull at Gateshead and Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued slack at Peterborough, Ruabon and Wrexham, and at Nottingham, where it was worse than a month and a year ago. In Shropshire short time was being worked; in South Staffordshire and the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was moderate; in the Flint district it was steady; and in Devonshire fairly good on the whole. In South Wales and at Oldham it continued good, but was slightly worse than a month ago.

The imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in December, 1906, were valued at £87,453, as

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 187 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fairly regular until towards the end of the month, when snow caused day labourers in many parts of the country to be out of work. In a number of districts the supply of this class of men was in excess of the demand throughout the month.

Of the Returns received 164 gave a comparative statement of the rates of weekly cash wages paid to ordinary agricultural labourers in December 1906 and 1905. In the case of 149 Returns the rates are the same for both periods, while a downward tendency is shown in 11 Returns, and an upward tendency in four Returns.

Northern Counties.—In Cumberland day labourers are reported to have been in irregular employment on account of bad weather. Employment was also irregular in Lancashire, where the weather interrupted threshing operations. In Yorkshire, carting roots, cleaning dykes, threshing, &c., provided fairly regular employment until the last week of the month, when heavy falls of snow caused considerable hindrance to all outdoor employment. There was a plentiful supply of day labourers in this county, and some youths and young men who could not obtain a hiring at Martinmas were still out of employment.

Midland Counties.—Employment was regular in Cheshire and Derbyshire until the end of the month, when snow prevented day labourers from obtaining work. Similar reports as to employment come from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire. The supply of and demand for labour in these counties were generally about equal. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire the supply of extra labour was in several districts somewhat in excess of the demand; there was still some scarcity of men for permanent situations. In Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire employment was fairly regular, and the supply of and demand for labour were generally equal. Employment was fairly regular, on the whole, in Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Bedfordshire; but, partly on account of the forward state of work and partly on account of bad weather, there was not much demand for day labourers, and a number of these men were in irregular work.

Eastern Counties.—In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire a number of day labourers were in irregular work during the latter part of the month on account of bad weather. Similar reports come from Lincolnshire. Employment was generally regular in Norfolk and Suffolk until the last week of the month, when snow interrupted threshing, ploughing, and other outdoor work, causing day labourers to lose time. In several districts there was a more plentiful supply of this class of labour than was required. A few day labourers lost time in Essex on account of bad weather.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was fairly regular in Kent, but there was not much demand for extra labour, and a number of day labourers could not get work. Snow caused some day labourers to lose time in Surrey. Threshing, manure carting, and wood-cutting caused a fair demand for day labourers in Sussex, but snow somewhat interrupted outdoor work at the end of the month. Employment was regular in Hampshire until the end of the month, when bad weather caused irregularity. Similar reports come from Berkshire and Wiltshire. There was a plentiful supply of day labourers in these three counties. In Dorset and Somerset employment was fairly regular, but the supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand. Unfavourable weather caused some interruption to employment in Herefordshire at the end of the month. In Gloucestershire little irregularity of employment due to bad weather was reported, but a somewhat limited demand for day labourers caused some irregularity among men of this class. Employment was fairly regular in Devonshire and Cornwall, wet weather causing but little interruption.

compared with £103,199 in November, 1906, and £93,195 in December, 1905. The exports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in December, 1906, were valued at £198,836, as compared with £230,620 in November, 1906, and £174,951 in December, 1905.

GLASS TRADES.

Based on 87 Returns—64 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 12 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.

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

Returns received from firms employing 9,289 workpeople, and paying £11,211 in wages on pay-day in the week ended 22nd December show that there was an increase of 1.6 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 3.6 per cent. in amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. The increase in numbers was shared by all branches, and by all districts except the North of England.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.9 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 6.2 per cent. in wages paid. The increase in numbers employed was common to all branches, and to all districts except Lancashire.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Dec. 22nd, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.		Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Glass Bottle ...	5,143	+ 2.3	+ 2.6	6,443	+ 4.8	+ 7.3
Plate Glass ...	199	+ 1.0	+ 8.2	212	- 2.3	+ 4.4
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	2,612	+ 0.9	+ 1.6	2,998	+ 2.6	+ 3.7
Other Branches ...	1,335	+ 0.6	+ 5.5	1,558	+ 1.2	+ 6.7
Total ...	9,289	+ 1.6	+ 2.9	11,211	+ 3.6	+ 6.2
Districts.						
North of England ...	1,221	- 1.3	+ 14.5	1,371	- 3.0	+ 13.7
Yorkshire ...	3,924	+ 3.7	+ 0.5	4,989	+ 5.5	+ 5.7
Lancashire ...	911	+ 2.8	- 3.6	1,040	+ 7.0	+ 0.7
Worcester and Warwick ...	2,158	+ 0.2	+ 4.7	2,581	+ 2.9	+ 5.8
Scotland ...	749	...	+ 2.7	874	- 0.7	+ 5.6
Other parts of United Kingdom ...	326	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	356	+ 10.9	+ 8.9
Total ...	9,289	+ 1.6	+ 2.9	11,211	+ 3.6	+ 6.2

With glass bottle makers employment was generally good, but at Castleford and Mexborough it continued dull. With medical bottle makers it was quiet at Rotherham, improving at Leeds, and fair at Glasgow, where it was better than a month ago. With flint glass makers at Glasgow it was fair; at Birmingham it was good and improving, as also with makers and cutters at Wordsley. It was fair with bevellers at Birmingham. It continued good with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens, and fairly good with glass blowers in London. Pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear were working short time.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with	
				Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 121,887	cwts. 123,212	cwts. 143,573	- 1,325	- 21,686
Plate ...	25,930	30,160	26,483	- 4,230	- 553
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	69,969	74,375	84,049	- 4,406	- 14,080
Manufactures, other sorts...	1,441	2,116	6,036	- 575	- 4,995
Bottles gross	125,813	116,712	145,682	+ 9,101	- 19,869
Exports:					
Plate	cwts. 9,711	cwts. 13,551	cwts. 7,554	+ 3,840	+ 2,127
Flint	6,054	5,730	4,370	+ 254	+ 1,684
Manufactures, other sorts ...	30,319	41,832	35,368	- 11,513	- 5,049
Bottles gross	61,833	76,522	49,904	- 14,689	+ 11,929

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 136 Returns—110 from Employers, 9 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

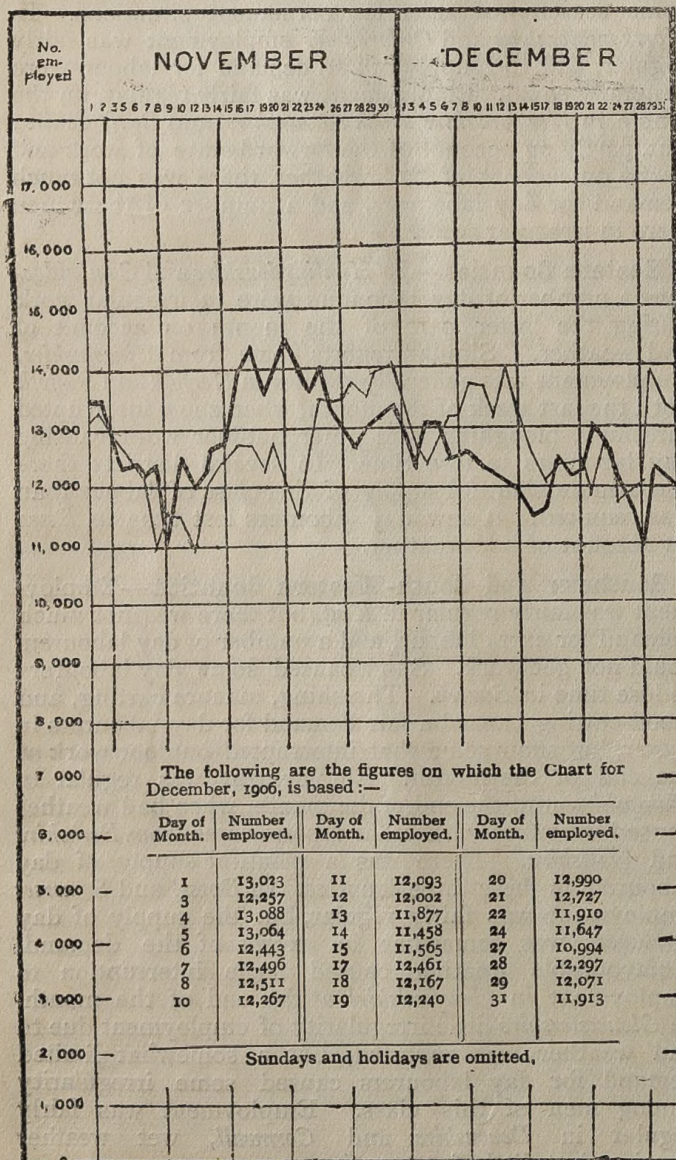
EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fair, but declined a little as compared with the previous month and a year ago.

London.*—Employment on the whole was fair, but there was a decline in the number employed both as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended December 29th was 12,210, a decrease of 6.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. The daily numbers in December ranged from 10,994 on the 27th to 13,088 on the 4th. During the corresponding period of 1905 the numbers ranged from 11,442 on the 27th to 14,022 on the 1st.

Period.	In Docks*			At 107 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Dec. 8th	5,316	1,361	6,690	5,953	12,643
" " " 15th	4,479	1,467	5,946	5,931	11,877
" " " 22nd	4,589	1,995	6,584	5,831	12,416
" " " 29th	4,072	2,256	6,328	5,425	11,753
Average for 4 weeks ended Dec. 29th.	4,666	1,727	6,393	5,818	12,210
Average for Nov., 1906	5,146	1,842	6,988	6,072	13,060
Average for Dec., 1905	4,781	2,051	6,832	6,094	12,926

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 107 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of November and December, 1906. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1905, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1906, and the thin curve to 1905.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for December, 1906, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	13,023	11	12,093	20	12,990
3	12,257	12	12,002	21	12,727
4	13,088	13	11,877	22	11,910
5	13,064	14	11,458	24	11,647
6	12,443	15	11,565	27	10,994
7	12,496	17	12,461	28	12,297
8	12,511	18	12,167	29	12,071
10	12,267	19	12,240	31	11,913

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

* Exclusive of Tilbury

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,448 in December, as compared with 1,378 in November, an increase of 5.1 per cent.

At Liverpool employment was good for dock labourers and fair for quay and railway carters and Mersey flatmen; it was generally better than a month ago.

Other Ports.—Employment for dock and quayside labour on the Tyne and Wear and at Blyth was fair; for dock labour at Middlesbrough it was moderate, and at Hartlepool very slack. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was fair. Dock labourers at Swansea and Port Talbot were well employed, at Newport fairly well. At Bristol employment was fair. It was good for dockers at Leith, Dundee, and Glasgow, and moderate at Aberdeen. At Dublin and Belfast employment was fair, and at Limerick moderate.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during December 31,878* seamen, of whom 4,165 (or 13.1 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. In nine cases increases were shown, and in the remaining eight there were decreases, the net result being a decrease of 126 as compared with December, 1905.

During the year 1906, 465,417* seamen were shipped, of whom 59,692 (or 12.8 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding total for 1905, the aggregate number shipped during 1906 shows an increase of 25,219.

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

The following Table shows the number of persons* shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom during the periods mentioned:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	December,			Twelve months ended December,		
	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	2,144	2,056	- 88	33,352	32,900	- 452
Sunderland ...	485	287	- 198	5,600	4,946	- 654
Middlesbrough ...	207	300	+ 93	3,380	3,539	+ 159
Hull ...	1,994	977	- 1,017	13,109	15,161	+ 2,052
Grimsby ...	49	52	+ 3	1,472	1,388	- 84
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	677	681	+ 4	7,186	7,794	+ 608
Newport, Mon. ...	671	745	+ 74	10,493	11,496	+ 1,003
Cardiff ...	4,215	4,662	+ 447	53,839	58,009	+ 4,170
Swansea ...	332	424	+ 92	5,642	5,202	- 440
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	10,979	11,528	+ 549	161,922	174,602	+ 12,680
London ...	5,216	4,765	- 451	72,392	71,242	- 1,150
Southampton ...	2,137	1,941	- 196	23,922	26,777	+ 2,855
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	354	336	- 18	4,805	5,148	+ 343
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth ...	163	178	+ 15	2,539	2,833	+ 294
Glasgow ...	2,901	2,622	- 279	37,054	41,114	+ 4,060
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	47	104	+ 57	882	1,083	+ 201
Belfast ...	333	220	- 113	2,609	2,683	+ 74
Total ...	32,004	31,878	- 126	440,198	465,417	+ 25,219

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 21 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed during December showed an increase, both in quantity and in value, as compared with a year ago.

Employment continued fair on the whole, but showed some decline on a month ago, the Yarmouth herring season having closed about December 20th. Employment was poor at Harwich, and owing to stormy weather it was only moderate at Fraserburgh, Macduff, Arbroath, and Montrose, and dull off the South and South-West coast of Ireland. With fish dock labourers employment was moderate at Lowestoft, and bad at

* 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.

Fraserburgh, and with fish curers it was bad at Lowestoft and moderate at Macduff.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in December, 1906, and December, 1905, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Dec., 1906.	Dec., 1905.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	Cwts. 810,982	Cwts. 812,727	£ 598,724	£ 580,779
Scotland ...	234,463	204,249	128,482	119,963
Ireland ...	58,738	45,269	26,030	18,766
Total ...	1,104,183	1,062,245	753,236	719,508
Shell Fish ...	—	—	31,620	31,379
Total Value ...	—	—	784,856	750,887

The exports of herrings in December, 1906, amounted to 153,977 barrels, as compared with 453,482 barrels in November, 1906, and 212,667 barrels in December, 1905.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: DELIBERATE REFUSAL TO OBEY ORDERS.

Where a workman has been injured by an accident, it is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, that if it is proved that the injury is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed.

A man was in the employment of a timber merchant. He had had upwards of 40 years' experience as a sawyer, and though he had only one hand was a skilful workman, and one who thoroughly understood his business. While working at a circular saw he met with an accident by which he was killed. His widow claimed compensation, but the employer resisted the claim on the ground that the accident was attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the deceased.

The County Court judge found as facts that the workman had been killed because he refused to use the guard which had been fitted to the saw; that he had worked at the same saw for six years previous to the use of guards being made compulsory; that he had been frequently cautioned by his employer about the guard, and had been compelled to use it when his employer was present; that the factory inspector had also cautioned him as to the use of the guard, but that he seemed to have an extraordinary personal aversion to it; and that though the employer was aware that he habitually disregarded the rule as to using the guard, he had never summoned the workman for breaking the rule, or threatened to dismiss him for disobedience. On these facts the judge decided that though the man was wilfully disobedient, he was not guilty of serious and wilful misconduct within the meaning of the Act, and therefore the widow was entitled to compensation. Against this decision the employer appealed.

The Court of Appeal overruled the decision of the County Court judge, holding that as the man deliberately disobeyed his instructions, and acted so as to endanger both his own life and the lives of others, his misconduct was both serious and wilful, and compensation should be disallowed.—*Brooker v. Warren, Court of Appeal, December 20th, 1906.*

SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: DOING ACT OBVIOUSLY DANGEROUS: ACQUIESCENCE OF EMPLOYER.

A man in the employment of a railway company, having occasion in the course of his employment to cross a line of railway, crawled between two wagons which had just been shunted, instead of crossing by means of a bridge. The wagons moved and the man was killed. His widow claimed compensation, but the company resisted the claim on the ground that the man's death was attributable to his serious and wilful misconduct. The County Court judge decided that the practice of crawling between wagons was a common practice among railway men, and although a "horrible practice" did not amount to serious and wilful misconduct within the meaning of the Act. He therefore made an award of compensation. The railway company appealed.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court judge, holding that though the practice was obviously dangerous to life it was so far acquiesced in by the officials of the company as almost to have become a custom; therefore there was no serious and wilful misconduct sufficient to disentitle the widow to compensation.—*Rees v. Barry Railway Company, Court of Appeal, December 19th, 1906.*

WHO IS A "WORKMAN"? CHEMIST EMPLOYED AT DYE WORKS.

The right to compensation in case of injury by accident is given by the Act only to a workman, and "workman" is defined to include any person who is engaged in an employment to which

the Act applies, whether by way of manual labour or otherwise, and whether his agreement is one of service or apprenticeship or otherwise, and is expressed or implied, is oral or in writing. The proprietors of a dye and chemical works entered into an agreement by deed with a man, who was a Master of Science and a very highly educated person, to act as chemist at the works. The engagement was for five years certain at a salary commencing at £200 a year; and he was bound to give his whole time to his employers, to give them the benefit of any discovery made in the course of his employment, to obey all orders of those in authority, and to make daily reports of his work. Under this agreement he was employed in the manufacture of colours, taking samples and testing them. About five-sixths of his time was occupied in the laboratory and one-sixth in the works. He had a certain amount of manual work to perform, and was exposed to all the risks that an ordinary workman was exposed to. He was paid monthly, but his name did not appear in the wages book. Much of the work that he did was similar to that done by ordinary workmen, and as it soiled the hands and clothes he dressed as a workman. In the course of his employment he met with an accident which resulted in his death. His widow claimed compensation under the Act.

It was contended in the County Court that the deceased was not a workman within the meaning of the Act, and therefore that his widow was not entitled to compensation. The County Court judge however, made an award in favour of the claimant.

On appeal the Court of Appeal held that the deceased was employed as a scientific expert and not as a workman, and that the Act gave his dependants no right to compensation. The appeal of the employers was therefore allowed.—*Bagnall v. Levenstein, Ltd., Court of Appeal, December 13th, 1906.*

CLAIM BY DEPENDANT OF DECEASED WORKMAN: DEATH OF DEPENDANT: RIGHTS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF DEPENDANT.

Where a workman is killed by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, only those members of his family who were at the time of his death wholly or in part dependent upon the workman's earnings are entitled to compensation under the Act.

A workman was injured by an accident entitling him to compensation under the Act, and his employers paid him a weekly sum for several weeks, when he died, leaving a widow, who was at the time wholly dependent on his earnings. The widow then made a claim upon the employers for compensation, and under the Act she was clearly entitled to the sum of £94. While, however, negotiations for a settlement of the claim were proceeding, the widow died. She left a daughter, a married woman, who had been in no sense dependent on her father's earnings at the time of his death. This daughter took out letters of administration to her deceased mother, and then took proceedings in a County Court to recover the compensation to which her mother would have been entitled had she lived. The County Court judge made an award in her favour for compensation to the amount of £94, and the employers appealed.

It was argued on behalf of the appellants that the widow's right to compensation had died with her, and that her representatives had no claim to it. The Court of Appeal, however, dismissed the appeal, deciding that the employers were bound to pay to the representatives of the deceased dependant the amount of compensation to which that dependant became entitled on the death of the workman.—*Darlington v. Roscoe & Sons, Court of Appeal, December 12th, 1906.*

ORDER OF COURT "ENDING" WEEKLY PAYMENTS: EFFECT OF ORDER.

It is provided by the Act that any weekly payment made by way of compensation may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased.

In January, 1904, a workman was injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, and agreed with his employer for compensation at the rate of 15s. a week. This agreement was duly recorded. In October, 1905, the employer applied to a County Court judge for a review of the weekly payment, and asked that it should be terminated. The judge made an order accordingly, that the agreement recorded in the court "be this day terminated, and that the weekly payments to the workman thereunder be ended accordingly." In July, 1906, the workman made an application for the review and increase of the weekly payments, and contended that new circumstances had arisen. The judge, however, held that the matter was finally determined by the order of October, 1905, declined to hear evidence and refused the application. The workman appealed. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the weekly payment having once been duly ended by order of the judge there could be no further review.—*Nicholson v. Piper, Court of Appeal, December 18th, 1906.*

ILLITERATE CLAIMANT: DISCHARGE IN SATISFACTION OF CLAIM.

A workman in the employment of a colliery company was accidentally injured in April, 1906, by a splinter in the eye. The workman and his employers were unable to agree as to the amount of compensation payable during disability, and therefore the workman took proceedings claiming 13s. a week. The employers admitted liability up to 10s. 7d. a week, and the Sheriff made an award for that amount by consent on July 11th. The proceedings were conducted by the agents of the Trade Union to which the workman belonged, in his name. The weekly payments not being

made after the award, on 30th August the workman took proceedings in the Sheriff's Court to recover the arrears. The employers then prayed the Court of Session for a suspension of the proceedings, on the ground that on June 30th the workman had accepted £3 14s. rd. in full satisfaction of all claims in respect of his injuries and given a discharge. The injured man was sixty-five years of age and unable to read or write. It was very doubtful whether he had any clear idea of the effect of the discharge he had given, or knew that he was giving up his right to any further compensation; and it was certain that he had acted without the advice of the agents of the Union who had taken up his claim. In these circumstances the Court refused to grant the suspension which was sought, or to interfere with the workman's proceedings to enforce the award in his favour.—*Bolland v. Gilmour Martin & Co., (Ltd.), Court of Session, December 7th, 1906.*

(2) Merchant Shipping Acts.

RIGHT OF SEAMAN TO REFUSE TO RUN WAR RISKS: WRONGFUL CONVICTION FOR REFUSAL TO SAIL: TIME TO WHICH WAGES PAYABLE.

A crew signed articles in December, 1904, to serve on a vessel on a voyage of not exceeding three years' duration to any ports within 75 degrees north and 60 degrees south latitude, commencing at Glasgow, proceeding thence to Hong Kong via Barry. War had at the date of the agreement been declared between Russia and Japan, and coal had to the knowledge of the seamen been declared contraband. The ship arrived with a cargo of coal at Hong Kong in February, 1905. The crew were then told they were to proceed to Sasebo, in Japan. Coal being contraband of war, the crew refused to go to a belligerent port. The master accordingly took them before the harbour-master, who was a magistrate. He committed them to prison for 70 days for impeding the navigation of the ship. They went to prison, and the ship was taken to Sasebo by a Chinese crew. After serving their imprisonment they were sent home to this country as distressed seamen, and brought an action against the owners of the ship to recover wages from the time they were left at Hong Kong. The defendants contended that the plaintiffs were bound to go to Sasebo if required; and, further, that if they were not so bound, their service came to an end by their conviction by a regular court of justice.

The Judge in the King's Bench Division held that, coal being contraband, the plaintiffs were within their rights in refusing to proceed on the voyage to Sasebo, and that the magistrate had acted contrary to law in convicting the plaintiffs at Hong Kong, therefore his decision was no bar to the claim. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiffs for wages down to the date of their arrival in this country. The defendants appealed against this decision; and the plaintiffs gave notice of a cross-appeal as to the time to which wages were in the circumstances payable.

The Court of Appeal held that the crew were not bound to proceed to Sasebo with a contraband cargo, as their agreement was to serve only on a commercial or mercantile voyage, involving the ordinary perils of such a voyage, but not the special and peculiar risks of capture by a belligerent fleet; that the wrongful decision of the magistrate in Hong-Kong was no bar to the action in England; and that inasmuch as under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, the wages of the crew continued to run and were payable until the time of final settlement, the plaintiffs were entitled to wages down to the time of the judgment of the Court of Appeal. Therefore the decision of the King's Bench Division was affirmed, except as to the date to which the wages were payable.—*Caine and Others v. The Palace Shipping Company (Ltd.), Court of Appeal, December, 21st 1906.*

(3) Trades Union Acts.

DISPUTE BETWEEN TRADES UNIONS: MEMBER OF ONE REFUSED MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER: PROCURING DISMISSAL: ACTION FOR DAMAGES.

A workman, who had for several years been employed as a stuff presser by a firm of dyers in Bradford, left that firm in November, 1900, and took a situation with a firm at Cleckheaton. In December he was told by the foreman under whom he worked, that he had been asked by the Leeds, Halifax and Bradford Stuff-Pressers' Trade Union Society to dismiss him. He had been for several years a member of the Bradford Amalgamated Society of Dyers, to which, apparently, only machine pressers belonged. He joined the Stuff-Pressers' Society as well, but after having paid one or two subscriptions he was informed that he could not continue to be a member, as he was a member of the Dyers' Society. He offered to give up his membership of the Dyers' Society if he could continue to be a member of the Stuff-Pressers' Society, but his offer was not accepted. The foreman then received a letter from the secretary of the Stuff-Pressers' Society, informing him that he had been censured by the committee for not having discharged the man, as he was not a member of the Society, and requiring him to at once discharge him. The man was accordingly summarily dismissed in January, 1906, and was unable to get other employment.

He then brought an action against the president and other officials of the Stuff-Pressers' Society, claiming damages against them for wrongfully procuring his dismissal, and a breach of the contract between him and his employers.

For the defence it was contended at the trial that the plaintiff had disobeyed the rules of the Society, in that being a machine presser he had worked as a hand presser. It appeared that there had been a dispute between the two societies; for a time men had been allowed to belong to both, but afterwards the Stuff-Pressers' Society had forbidden their members to belong to the other society. In summing up the case to the jury, the Lord Chief Justice said that the defendants were entitled to defend the interests of their

society so long as they kept within the law. If, however, they had unduly harassed the plaintiff and induced his employers to break their contract with him, they would be liable in damages. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £40 damages, and judgment was given accordingly.—*Buckley v. Morrell and Others, Leeds Assizes, December 6th, 1906.*

PUBLICATION BY TRADES UNIONS OF "BLACK" LIST OF EMPLOYERS. TRADE LABEL: INJUNCTION.

A trade union for the protection of compositors from time to time publishes a pamphlet or guide which contains (amongst other matter) a list of firms who, it is alleged, do not pay their workmen a fair rate of wages. This list is called a "black" or "closed" list. The guide is extensively circulated amongst the public, especially amongst local authorities who have large printing orders to place. In the guide for 1903 appeared the name of a company of printers and stationers who do an extensive business under contracts with municipal and local bodies. The name of the company appeared in a list of firms who were said to be unfair, and compositors were requested not to work for such firms. The company threatened to bring an action against the union in respect of the publication of their name in this list. Thereupon a deputation of the union had a meeting with officials of the company, and, as a result, in May, 1903, the secretary of the union wrote a letter to the company undertaking to withdraw the guide from circulation and promising that the name of the company should be omitted from any similar publication. The company accepted this letter and no proceedings were taken. In 1905 another edition of the guide was published, and the company's name appeared therein in a list of houses which it was stated were not recognised by the union. There was, however, no statement that the company were unfair, and no request to compositors to abstain from working for them. The company brought an action against the union, claiming an injunction for breach of agreement and damages for an alleged trade libel. The Judge decided that the union had been guilty of a breach of their agreement contained in the letter of May, 1903, in inserting the name of the plaintiff company in the guide, and granted an injunction against repeating such breach; he held, however, that there was no untrue statement concerning the plaintiff company contained in the guide, and gave judgment for the defendants on the claim for damages for a trade libel.—*Waterlow Brothers & Layton, Ltd., v. The London Society of Compositors, Chancery Division, December 4th, 1906.*

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for December.

IMPORTS.

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

	Month ended 31st Dec.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with	
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£ 20,331,780	£ 20,341,755	£ 19,224,689	-1,117,066	-1,107,092
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	21,011,115	20,121,280	22,921,471	+2,800,191	+1,910,356
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	11,334,844	12,492,137	12,351,529	-140,608	+1,016,685
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	167,627	165,314	176,293	+10,979	+8,666
Total value of Imports	52,845,366	53,120,466	54,673,982	+1,553,496	+1,828,616

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.

NOTE.—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.

	Month ended 31st Dec.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with	
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£ 1,456,615	£ 1,659,097	£ 1,726,455	+67,358	+269,840
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	3,177,362	3,058,805	3,531,234	+472,429	+353,872
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	22,982,512	23,319,719	25,566,716	+2,246,997	+2,584,204
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	455,645	614,573	584,770	-29,803	+129,125
Total value of Exports of British produce	28,072,134	28,652,194	31,409,175	+2,756,981	+3,337,041

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £6,440,276 in December, 1904; £7,093,109 in December, 1905; and £7,746,072 in December, 1906.

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

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from 126 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on January 1st, 1907.

The figures in the following Table are based on the returns received from Master Bakers' Associations, and from other sources, and show the highest, and lowest predominant prices of bread in the principal districts:—

	1st Jan., 1907.			1st Dec., 1906.*			1st Jan., 1906.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean
London:—									
N. & N.W. ...	5	4	4 7/8	5	4	4 7/8	5 1/2	4	4 8/8
E. & N.E. ...	5	4	4 6/8	5	4	4 6/8	5 1/2	4	4 7/8
S.E. ...	5	4	4 6/8	5	4	4 6/8	5 1/2	4	4 9/8
S.W. ...	5	4 1/2	4 9/8	5	4 1/2	4 9/8	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 2/8
W. & W.C. ...	5	5	5 0/8	5	5	5 0/8	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 3/8
Northern Counties	5 1/2	5	5 1/8	5	4 1/2	5 0/8	6	5	5 3/8
Lancs. and Yorkshire	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 9/8	6	4 1/2	5 1/8	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 9/8
Midlands ...	5 1/2	4	4 5/8	5	4	4 8/8	5 1/2	4	4 9/8
Eastern Counties ...	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 8/8	5	4	4 8/8	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 0/8
Southern Counties	6	5	5 4/8	6	4	5 2/8	6	4	5 5/8
S. Western Counties and Wales	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 9/8	5 1/2	4	4 9/8	6	4	5 0/8
Scotland ...	6	4 1/2	5 2/8	6	4 1/2	5 2/8	6 1/2	4 1/2	5 4/8

Compared with a month ago there has been no decided change in the predominant price of bread in any

* Revised Figures.

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty new disputes began in December, 1906, compared with 21 in November, 1906, and 15 in December, 1905. By the 20 disputes 3,827 workpeople were directly and 820 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 12,030 workpeople involved in trade disputes during December, 1906, compared with 42,639 in November, 1906, and 10,996 in December, 1905.

New Disputes in December, 1906.—In the following Table the new disputes in December are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying ...	5	1,291	627	1,918
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ...	5	1,703	...	1,703
Cotton Weaving ...	6	1,259	68	1,327
Other Textile ...	2	146	125	271
Other Trades ...	2	28	...	28
Total, December, 1906 ...	20	3,827	820	4,647
Total, November, 1906 ...	21	19,461	947	20,408
Total, December, 1905 ...	15	2,835	386	3,191

Causes.—Of the 20 new disputes, 6 arose on demands for increased wages, and 10 on other wages questions, 2 on details of working arrangements, and 2 on other questions.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 9 new disputes affecting 2,843 workpeople, and 1 old dispute, affecting 55 workpeople. Of these 10 new and old disputes, 5, involving 1,854 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 2, involving 271 persons, in favour of the employers; and 3, involving 773 persons, were compromised. In the case of 2 other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 66 persons, certain points were still under consideration at the end of the month.

district. There have been slight decreases, however, compared with a year ago, in every district except Lancashire and Cheshire, which shows no change. There have been reductions in the price of bread at Aberdeen and at Elgin, where the predominant prices are now 4 1/2d. and 5d. per 4lbs respectively.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated:—

Month.	British Wheat. Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price (England and Wales).	Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) per Mill for cash.
		Average Declared Value.		
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
December ... 1905.	6 7 1/2	7 5	10 2 1/2	10 0
November ... 1906.	6 1 1/2	6 9 1/2	9 7 1/2	8 9 1/2
December ... 1906.	6 1	6 9	9 6 1/2	8 8 1/2

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and British Possessions from September 1st, 1906, to December 31st, 1906, amounted to 27,973,300 cwts., or 1,591,022 cwts., less than in the corresponding period of 1905. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during the period September-December, 1906, amounted to 5,055,700 cwts., or 242,600 cwts. less than in September-December, 1905.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in December of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 41,600 working days. In addition, 159,700 working days were lost during December owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 201,300 working days, as compared with 517,800 in the previous month, and 198,800 in the corresponding month of 1905.

Principal Disputes.—Only one important dispute began during December, affecting 456 engineers at Hull, who struck work on 10th December for an advance in wages of 3s. per week. No settlement of this dispute had been arrived at at the end of the month.

The details of the other disputes in progress during December are included in the preceding statistics.

Summary for the Years 1905 and 1906†.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the years 1905 and 1906, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	1905.			1906†		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ...	31	6,637	412,633	18	1,382	59,300
Mining and Quarrying...	106	44,791	1,255,514	94	83,425	913,200
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	70	12,753	467,571	112	40,725	1,108,200
Textile ...	67	15,786	126,483	123	75,064	761,800
Clothing ...	39	3,540	71,435	37	8,834	88,600
Transport ...	11	2,112	67,089	17	1,758	9,900
Other Trades ...	44	7,884	69,464	57	4,257	46,200
Total ...	358	93,593	2,470,183	458	215,446	2,989,200

* 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 figures for 1906 are preliminary only, and are subject to revision.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in December.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in December was an increase of £8,387 per week, as compared with an increase of £3,580 per week in November, 1906, and an increase of £659 per week in December, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 129,373, all of whom received advances. The total number affected in November, 1906, was 159,939, and in December, 1905, 26,356.

Four changes, affecting 101,850 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change, affecting 620 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 26,903 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives; two of these changes, affecting 265 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during December, 1906, affected 5,284 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 13,969 hours per week.

Summary of Changes in Wages in 1906.

See also article on page 3. Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by changes reported in 1905 and 1906, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Trades.	Number of Workpeople whose wages were changed in		Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Weekly Wages of those affected as compared with preceding year.	
	1905.	1906.†	1905.	1906.†
Building	11,747	3,125	- 1,938	- 159
Coal Mining	200,746	421,076	-13,471	+27,202
Other Mining (Iron, &c.)	7,623	12,040	+ 380	+ 1,127
Quarrying	9,184	4,850	- 1,352	- 58
Pig Iron Manufacture	16,414	17,404	+ 941	+ 1,210
Iron and Steel Manufacture	47,422	53,709	+ 1,488	+ 4,160
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	48,119	147,833	- 1,735	+ 8,381
Other Metal Trades	461	982	- 17	+ 79
Textile Trades	311,437	392,495	+ 9,915	+12,418
Clothing Trades	60	2,032	+ 14	+ 256
Glass, &c., Trades	1,630	1,103	- 146	+ 95
Other Trades	4,282	4,642	+ 318	+ 435
Employees of Local Authorities	5,647	9,074	+ 416	+ 400
Total	864,777	1,070,418	- 4,087	+55,546

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1906.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
I.—RATES OF WAGES.						
Coal Mining	Cumberland ...	3 Dec.	Hewers and other Underground Workers	1,600	...	Advance of 2½ per cent., making wages of Hewers 37½ per cent., and of other Underground Workers 27½ per cent., above the standard of November, 1879.
	Forest of Dean ...	31 Dec.	Hewers, other Underground Workers and Surface Workers (including Enginemens and Mechanics)	3,500	...	Advance of 5 per cent. making wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1888§.
	Scotland ...	21 Dec.	Underground Workers	90,000	...	Advance, under Conciliation Board, of 6½ per cent., making wages 43½ per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Iron Mining ...	Cumberland and N. Lancs.	10 Nov.	Iron Ore Miners and Labourers	3,500	...	Advance, under Conciliation Board, of 5 per cent.
Iron and Steel	Barrow-in-Furness	3 Dec.	Rail, Wire and Hoop Millmen	620	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent., making wages 40 per cent. above the standard.
Shipbuilding	The Wear ...	13 Dec.	Shipwrights ...	1,050	...	Advance of 1s. per week (38s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.).
			Ship Joiners ...	600	...	Advance of 1s. per week (37s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.).
			Ship Painters ...	100	...	Advance of 1s. per week (34s. to 35s.).
			Drillers and Hole Cutters ...	600	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates (28s. to 29s.).
Clothing ...	Denton, Manchester	3 Nov.	Felt Hat Makers§	2,500	...	Advance of about 6 per cent. on piece rates, and of about 5 per cent. on time rates.
Woodworking	Hull ...	Oct. & Nov.	Coopers ...	212	...	Advance of 3s. per week.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Engineering ...	Midlands (one firm)	19 Nov.	Fitters, Turners, &c. ...	2,500	Decrease of 5 hours per week (53 to 48).
Clothing ...	Denton, Manchester	3 Nov.	Felt Hat Makers§	2,500	Decrease of ½ hour per week (56 to 55½)

IMPORTANT CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JANUARY.

(Full particulars will appear in the February GAZETTE.)

Coal Mining.—It has been arranged that the wages of miners in the Federated Districts should be advanced 5 per cent., making their wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1888. In Northumberland miners' wages have been advanced 12 per cent., making their wages 25 per cent. above the standard of 1879. Pig Iron Trade.—Advances have been arranged for blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham of 2½ per cent., and in West Cumberland of 9 per cent., making the wages 26½ per cent. and 41 per cent. respectively, above the standards for those districts. In South Wales and Monmouthshire the advance is 4 per cent., making wages 19 per cent. above standard. Iron and Steel Trade.—Advances have been arranged for steel millmen at Consett, Jarrow and Newburn of 2½ per cent., and for iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire of 4 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. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c. † Including workpeople affected by changes during the year, but whose wages stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning. ‡ The figures for 1906 are preliminary, and subject to revision. § At a few of the collieries the percentage is stated to be 25 per cent. above standard. ¶ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ** See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

THE EAST END EMIGRATION FUND.

The Report of the East End Emigration Fund for the year 1906 states that 3,955 emigrants were sent out by the society in the twelve months ended September 30th, 1906, of whom all but 25 were sent to Canada. The corresponding numbers for 1904 and 1905 were 700 and 1,718 respectively. The cost of emigrating 1,760 of

those sent out this year was paid by the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total cost of emigrating the 3,955 persons sent out in 1905-6 was £22,500, exclusive of £3,600 given to the emigrants as "landing money." A sum of £971 was contributed towards their expenses by the emigrants themselves.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1906.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1906, was 260, an increase of 4 as compared with the previous month, and of 13 as compared with December, 1905.

The mean number for December in the years 1901-1905 was 247, the maximum year being 1901 with 278 deaths, and the minimum 1903, with 223 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during December, 1906, was 109, as compared with 95 in November, 1906, and 132 in December, 1905. The number reported for December is lower than the number for the same month in any of the preceding 5 years, which ranged from 113 in 1904 to 183 in 1901, the mean for the five years being 137.

In the following Table the accidents reported in December, 1906, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1906, as compared with a	
	Dec., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	6	3	5	+ 3	+ 1
Engine Drivers	1	3	...	- 2	+ 1
Firemen	2	2	2	...	...
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	...	...	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	10	13	8	- 3	+ 2
Porters	10	7	2	+ 3	+ 8
Shunters	3	2	5	+ 1	- 2
Miscellaneous	18	18	13	...	+ 5
Contractors' Servants	3	1	1	+ 2	+ 2
Total Railway Service	53	49	36	+ 4	+ 17
Mines—					
Underground	87	80	83	+ 7	+ 4
Surface	15	11	16	+ 4	- 1
Total Mines	102	91	99	+ 11	+ 3
Quarries over 20 feet deep	7	9	6	- 2	+ 1
Factories (including Workshops)					
Textiles—					
Cotton	2	4	6	- 2	- 4
Wool and Worsted	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Other Textiles	...	2	1	- 2	- 1
Non-Textiles—					
Extraction of Metals	1	7	5	- 6	- 4
Founding and Conversion of Metals	12	13	13	- 1	- 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	4	2	- 1	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building	6	10	14	- 4	- 8
Wood	1	1	1	...	...
Chemicals	2	6	2	- 4	...
Other Non-Textile Industries	34	24	25	+ 10	+ 9
Total Factories	64	72	71	- 8	- 7
Accidents reported under Factory Act, ss. 103-5	11	14	11	- 3	...
Docks, Wharves, and Quays...	3	1	5	+ 2	- 2
Warehouses	14	14	13	...	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	...	1	...	- 1	...
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...
Total under Factory Act, ss. 103-5	28	30	29	- 2	- 1
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	6	5	6	+ 1	...
Total, exclusive of Seamen	260	256	247	+ 4	+ 13
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	19	17	42	+ 2	- 23
Steam	77	59	82	+ 18	- 5
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	2	3	1	- 1	+ 1
Steam	11	16	7	- 5	+ 4
Total Seamen	109	98	132	+ 14	- 23
Total, including Seamen	369	354	379	+ 18	- 10

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

The Return shows the name of every seaman whose death has been reported during the month, together with his age, nationality, and last place of abode; the cause, date, and place of death; and the name, official number, and port of registry of the ship on which he was serving.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office during December was 62, consisting of 55 cases of poisoning, and 7 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 18 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during December among house painters and plumbers.

During the year ended December, 1906, the total number* of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 707, as compared with 663 in 1905. The total number of deaths was 54 in 1906, as compared with 42 in 1905. In addition there were 181 cases of lead poisoning (including 36 deaths) among house painters and plumbers, as compared with 163 (including 28 deaths) in 1905.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Dec., 1906.	Twelve Months ended December, 1906.*	Month of Dec., 1906.	Twelve Months ended December, 1906.*
Lead Poisoning.				
Smelting of Metals ...	3	38	24	—
Brass Works ...	—	11	5	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	—	7	9	—
Plumbing and Soldering	—	16	24	—
Printing ...	2	16	19	1
File Cutting ...	—	2	15	12
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	2	18	14	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	10	108	90	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	6	10	—
China and Earthenware	9	107	84	1
Litho-transfer Works	—	1	5	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	4	3	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	4	2	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	1	26	27	—
Paint and Colour Works	3	37	57	—
Coach Making	10	85	56	—
Shipbuilding	2	26	32	—
Paint used in other Industries	2	37	49	—
Other Industries	8	66	70	—
Total in Factories and Workshops	85	632	592	3
House Painting and Plumbing	18	181	163	4
Total	103	813	755	7
Other Forms of Poisoning.				
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	1	—
Furriers' Processes	—	—	3	—
Other Industries	—	3	4	—
Total	—	4	8	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Lucifer Match Works	—	—	3	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	3	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	—	2	—	—
Other Industries	—	3	1	—
Total	—	5	1	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	—	9	12	—
Anthrax.				
Wool Sorting	—	1	4	—
Wool Combing	3	23	30	—
Handling of Horsehair	1	10	7	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	18	17	—
Other Industries	3	14	1	—
Total Anthrax	7	66	59	3

* The figures for year 1906 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† Of the 9 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in December, 1906, 7 were females.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

(I.) LABOUR BUREAUX IN LONDON AFFILIATED TO THE CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

Number of Registrations, Situations offered and filled, and number on the Register at end of December, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Exchange, No. of individuals who registered during Dec., 1906, No. of Situations offered during Dec., 1906, No. of Situations filled during Dec., 1906, No. of individuals on Register at end of Dec., 1906.

Occupations in which Situations were found during December, 1906, and Occupations of those on the Register at end of Month.

Table with columns: Building Trades, Metal Work, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Situations found, No. on Register.

(II.) LABOUR BUREAUX IN LONDON AND PROVINCES NOT AFFILIATED.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during Dec., 1905, Situations offered by Employers during Dec., 1905, Workpeople found during Dec., 1905.

* The figures for Hackney and Stoke Newington relate to one week only. † Including women and girls. ‡ In addition 35 men were temporarily employed snow clearing. § 115 of these were temporarily employed by the General Post Office.

Employment found for Workpeople in December by 25 Bureaux.

Table with columns: Capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total.

Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 25 Bureaux at the end of December, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Porters, Messengers, Carmen &c., Other Occupations, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 476 fresh applications (219 from domestic servants) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 502 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 163 persons, of whom 70 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 163 situations found for applicants 110 were of a more or less permanent character, while 53 were temporary only.

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

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during Dec., 1905, Situations offered by Employers during Dec., 1905, Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily).

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

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in December, 1906, corresponded to a rate of 224 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with November, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 6,954 (1.8 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 4. The number of indoor paupers showed an increase of 3,931 (or 2.3 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers an increase of 3,023 (or 1.4 per cent.). Increases occurred in 33 districts; there was a decrease of 1 per 10,000 in the Edinburgh and Leith district, and the Sheffield district showed no change.

Compared with December, 1905, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 12,344 (3.0 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 10. The number of indoor paupers increased by 988 (0.6 per cent.), while the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 13,332 (5.8 per cent.). Decreases took place in 27 districts, the most marked being in the East London district (41 per 10,000), the West Ham district (35 per 10,000), and the Manchester district (28 per 10,000); there were increases in 6 districts, and in the remaining 2 no change was indicated.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Dec., 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with 1905.

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolitan, West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District, Total Metropolitan, West Ham, Other Districts, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Loughborough District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea, Total "Other Districts".

Table with columns: SCOTLAND, Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Perth & Arbroath, Total for the above Scottish Districts.

Table with columns: IRELAND, Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District, Galway District, Total for the above Irish Districts.

Total for above 35 Districts in Dec., 1906. 174,404 218,312 392,716 224 + 4 - 10

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended December 29th, 1906, amounted to £4,130,188, an increase of £47,568 (or 1.2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the fifty-two weeks ended December 29th, 1906, the total amount was £54,034,934, an increase of £1,480,238 (or 2.8 per cent.) as compared with 1905.

Table with columns: 4 weeks ended Dec. 29th, 1906, 52 weeks ended Dec. 29th, 1906, Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING DECEMBER.

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

(i) REGISTERED. The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in December was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 14; under the Friendly Societies Act, 38 (including 26 branches of existing Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 6; in all 60.

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

- Industrial Unions.—England.—2, viz., Liverpool Association of Master Net Makers and Allied Trades, 147, Islington, Liverpool; Eastern Counties Agricultural Labourers and Small Holders' Union, Gresham, Norwich. Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—11, viz., Co-operative Productive Society: Rothley Co-op. Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., Woodgate, Rothley, Loughborough. Co-operative Distributive Society: Anglesey Western Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Bodowen, Bodorgan, Anglesey. Co-operative Agricultural Society: Avalon Fruit Grading Soc., Ltd., Portway Street, Somerset. Miscellaneous Societies: 5 Working Men's Clubs and 3 others. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—3, viz., Co-operative Productive Society: Tynan and Middletown Co-op. Limeburning Soc., Ltd., Middletown. Co-operative Agricultural Society: Killea Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Killea; and 1 Miscellaneous Society. Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—12, viz., Abersychan Cambrian Workmen's Social Club and Inst., Abersychan, Pontypool; Addiscombe Working Men's Club and Inst., Addiscombe, Croydon; Belmont Social Working Men's Club, Belmont, Sutton; Wakefield Working Men's Social Inst., Wakefield; Acton Road Working Men's Club and Inst., Castleford; Calne and Dist. Pig Insurance Assoc., Calne; Pride of the Weald Juvenile Foresters' Friendly Soc., Rolvenden, Ashford; Hornsey Road Mut. Benefit Soc., Hornsey Road, N.; Forest Hill Working Men's Benefit Soc., Forest Hill, S.E.; Royal Oak Benefit Soc., Bedford Row, W.C.; Benevolent Perseverance Friendly Soc., East Leake, Loughborough; Cross Foxes Tontine Benefit Soc., Wrexham, Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—Nil.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table with columns: Notices Received in Dec. of, Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up, Registry Cancelled.

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.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR
RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Report and Special Report from the Select Committee on Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill; with the proceedings of the Committee [H.C. 376: pp. 122: price 1s.]

Small Holdings in Great Britain. Report of the Departmental Committee, with copy of the Minutes appointing the Committee. [Cd. 3277: pp. 61: price 6d.]

Memorandum on the International Conference on Labour Regulation held at Berne, September, 1906. With the text of the Documents signed at the Conference. [Cd. 3271: pp. 21: price 2½d.]

Local Taxation Returns (England and Wales). Year 1904-05. Part I. Accounts of Overseers of the Poor, Boards of Guardians, Poor Law School Districts and Joint Committees of Boards of Guardians (Provincial Unions). [H.C. 311: pp. xxix. + 130: price 1s. 3d.]

Local Taxation Returns (England and Wales). Year 1903-04. Part VII. Summary and Index. [H.C. 273-vi.: pp. 132: price 1s. 1d.]

Pauperism (England and Wales). Half-yearly statement for 1st July, 1906. [H.C. 272-i.: pp. xi. + 41: price 6d.]

Monthly Statement for November, 1906. [H.C. 69-X: pp. 7: price 1½d.]

Index and Digest of Evidence to the Report from the Select Committee on Sunday Trading. [H.C. 275 Ind.: pp. 45: price 5d.]

Report from the Select Committee on Post Office Servants; with the Proceedings of the Committee. Formal Report submitting the Evidence already taken. [H.C. 380: pp. xix.: price 2½d.]

Statistical Abstract for the several British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates in each year from 1891 to 1905. 43rd Number. Contains statistics of immigration and emigration, coal and other production, number of persons employed in and about coal mines, &c. [Cd. 3253: pp. 466: price 1s. 11d.]

Seamen's Savings Banks, Money Orders and Transmission of Wages. Annual Account. [H.C. 374: pp. 5: price 1d.]

Public Works (Ireland). 74th Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland: with Appendices. 1905-6. Action under the Labourers' Dwellings and Housing of the Working Classes Acts, Seed Potatoes Supply (Ireland) Act, 1906, &c. [Cd. 3109: pp. 107: price 1s. 5d.]

Poor Law Reform Commission (Ireland). Appendix to the Report of the Vice-Regal Commission. Volume II. [Cd. 3203: pp. 171: price 1s. 8d.]

Royal Commission on Congestion in Ireland. First Report. Formal Report submitting Evidence taken during September and October. [Cd. 3266: pp. 4: price ½d.] *Appendices to the Report.* Minutes of Evidence. Appendices contain information on number of small holdings, &c., in Congested Districts. [Cd. 3266: pp. vi. + 289: price 4s.]

Irish Land Commission. Return of Proceedings under the Law Acts, "Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883-1891," and "Land Purchase Acts," during the month of October, 1906. [Cd. 3257: pp. 15: price 2d.]

Banking, Railway, and Shipping Statistics (Ireland). June, 1906. Shows balances of Deposits and number of Accounts remaining open in the Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks of Ireland at the end of each year 1886-1905. [Cd. 3244: pp. 65: price 7½d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Colonial Reports. Annual. No. 511. *Sierra Leone.* Report for 1905. [Cd. 2684-57: pp. 59: price 3d.]

No. 512. *Southern Nigeria.* Report for 1905. [Cd. 2684-58: pp. 63: price 8d.]

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

Victoria. Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1905. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Acting Government Printer: pp. 10: price 9d.]

Queensland. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the year ended 31st March, 1906. [Brisbane: G. A. Vaughan, Government Printer: pp. 48: price 1s. 3d.]

Canada. Labour Gazette, November, 1906. Special articles on "Legislation respecting Co-operative Associations in Canada;" investigation into Early Closing systems in shops and works in Canada, &c.

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, October 6, 1906. The Labour market; awards under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; enforcement of Arbitration Awards; permits to under-rate workers, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Statistical Record of the Progress of the United States, 1880-1906. [Washington. Government Printing Office: pp. 42]

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No. 44. December, 1906. Contains "A Living Wage"—Notes upon Wages Board, Fair Wages and Compulsory Arbitration systems; report on investigation into average retail prices in October, 1906, &c.

Monthly Trade and Consular Reports. December, 1906.

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department. November, 1906. Contains articles on employment and disputes in October, and on the new French Ministry of Labour.

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, December, 1906. Contains article on Employment in November.

Annual Reports for 1905 of Industrial Inspectors. Vol. IV. Contains summary of Vols. I-III. and Index. Imperial Statistical Office, 1906. [Berlin: R. v. Deckers Verlag: pp. 1092.]

Wages and Hours Agreements in the German Empire. 3 vols. Imperial Statistical Office, 1906. [Berlin: Carl Heymann's Verlag: pp. viii. + 80, iv. + 407, vii. + 424: price 8s.]

Statistical Handbook of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, 1904 and 1905. Royal Statistical Bureau of Wurtemberg, 1906. Contains statistical tables of trade unions, prices, co-operation, wages, &c., in Wurtemberg. [Stuttgart, Druck und Kommissions-Verlag von W. Kohlhammer: pp. x. + 254 with 2 maps.]

Statistics of Co-operation in Bavaria 1902 and 1903, and Provisional Figures for 1905. Royal Statistical Bureau of Bavaria, 1906. [Munich: pp. 47 + 83.]

Austria.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department. November, 1906. Contains articles on Wages and Hours Agreements in Austria in 1905, and Labour Disputes in 1905.

Monthly Journal of the Austrian Central Statistical Commission. July-August, and September-October. Contains statistics of Austrian emigration for 1904 and 1905.

Statistics of Austrian Savings Banks in 1904. Central Statistical Commission, 1906. [Vienna: K. K. Hof-und Staatsdruckerei: pp. liv. + 75: price 3s. 4d.]

Journal of the Austrian Workmen's Insurance Department. December, 1906. Contains summary of receipts and expenditure of Workmen's Insurance Offices in 1905.

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department. November, 1906. Contains article on labour disputes in October.

Inquiry concerning Sunday and Holiday Labour in Italy, with notes upon Foreign Legislation. Italian Labour Department, 1906. [Rome, pp. x. + 218: price 2s. 5d.]

Monthly Bulletin of the Italian Emigration Department. December, 1906.

Reports on Industrial Conditions in Italy. Part I. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1906. [Rome, Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero e C., Via Umbria: pp. 243 with map.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, November 30th, 1906 and December 15th, 1906. Contain articles on Labour Disputes in October, and Employment in November.

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Bureau. December, 1906. Contains articles on Employment and Disputes in October.

Statistics of Industrial Accidents, February 1st—December 31st, 1903. [Amsterdam, 1906: Druck van M. Lindenbaum & Co.: pp. lix. + 421.]

Statistical Year Book of Holland, 1905. Contains statistical tables relating to labour disputes, wages, prices, poor relief, etc. [Amsterdam, 1906: Gebr. Belinfante: pp. xxxi. + 306.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, November, 1906. Contains article on Labour Disputes in 1904-5.

Statistics of Labour Disputes in 1904-5. Spanish Labour Department, 1906. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: pp. 221.]

Denmark.

Statistical Year-book of Denmark. 11th Year, 1906. Danish Statistical Bureau, 1906. Contains statistical tables relating to insurance, strikes, subventions to old age pension funds, Co-operation, &c. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel.]

Norway.

Annual Reports of Factory Inspectors for 1904 and 1905. Ministry of Shipping, Commerce and Industry, 1906. [Christiania: W. C. Fabritius & Sønner A/S: pp. 171.]

Statistics of Accident Insurance, 1895-99. Norwegian Insurance Office, 1906. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: pp. 206.]

Sweden.

Agricultural Statistics, 1906, and Savings Banks Statistics, 1904. Central Statistical Bureau of Sweden, 1906. [Stockholm: Kungl. Bogtryckeriet, P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. 16 + xii. + 48.]

Bulgaria.

Reports on (1) Census of Industries encouraged by the State (State Monopolies), Dec 31st, 1904 (Sofia, 1906). (2) Statistics of causes of deaths in Bulgarian towns in 1900 (Sofia, 1906). (3) Results of Bulgarian Census of Buildings, Dec. 31st, 1900 (Sofia, 1905). Bulgarian Statistical Office [pp. xxii. + 101, lxxxvii. + 71, 299: price 1s. 7d., 2s., 2s. 7d.]

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3734. Trade of Switzerland for the Year 1905. [Cd. 2682-259: pp. 39: price 2½d.]

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