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EMPLOYMENT CHART

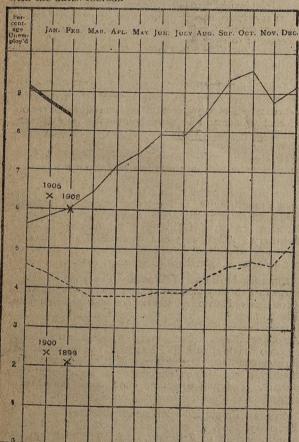
SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve=1909.

- Thin Curve=1008.

____ Dotted Curve=Mean of 1899-1908.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1899-1908 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For February, 1900, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 696,688 members in the following trades:—

Building...
Coal Mining ...
Engineering ...
Shipbuilding ...

Total ...

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[In addition to the 2,881 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,722 were received from employers relating to 1,118,529 workpeople employed in coal and tross mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades. and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,603 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT, on the whole, continued to improve

during February.

As compared with a year ago, most of the principal industries showed a decline. In the boot and shoe and cotton trades there was little change, and in the linen, hosiery and tinplate industries there was some improvement.

In the 416 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 696,688 making Returns, 58,670 (or 8.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, 1909, as compared with 8.7 per cent. at the end of January, 1909 and 6.0* per cent. at the end of February, 1908.

Coal Mining.—Employment during February continued fairly good.

tinued fairly good. It was not so good as a year ago.
The average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended February 27th, 1909, was 5'21, as compared with 5'56 in February, 1908.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued fairly good, and about the same as a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by all mines and openworks included in the returns was 5.87, as compared with

5.78 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry. — Employment in this industry during February continued moderate. It was worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 22,000 men showed 283 furnaces in blast at the end of February, 1909, as compared with 284 in January, 1909, and 300 in February, 1908.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment continued about

the same as a month ago, but was not so good as a year The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended February 27th, 1909, at the works from which Returns were received was the same as in the week ended January 23rd, 1909, but 7.8 per cent. less

than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during February continued very good. It was better than a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns, the timplate and sheet mills were working, as compared 447 tinplate and sheet mills were working, as compared with 448 in January, 1909, and 436 in February, 1908.

Engineering Trades.—Employment though still slack,

continued to improve slightly, but was much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 12.8, as compared with 13.1 a month ago, and 6.0 at the end of February,

* This figure differs slightly from that previously published owing to fuller and more accurate information being available as regards certain Trade Unions.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued bad, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 22.5, as compared with 23.0 per cent. a month ago, and 20.0 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment on the whole was moderate during February; there was a slight decline in the spinning branch, and a slight improvement in the weaving branch, compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 117,599 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was quiet, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 27,755 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease

of 6.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Worsted Trade,—Employment continued moderate, and was slightly worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,733 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of the part cent approach with a second accordance of the part cent accordance with a second accordance of the part cent accordance with a second accordance of the part cent accordance with a second accordance of the part cent accordance with a second acc decrease of 1 o per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,749 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 3 9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade,—Employment was fair, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,500 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was moderate and showed little change from a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,089 workpeople in the week ended February 27th, showed an increase of o.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was moderate, but slightly better than a month ago; it was also better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,123 workpeople in the week ending February 27th showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago; it was moderate in England, fairly good in Scotland. Returns from firms employing 17,419 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoke branch in London showed a seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago. In the provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and better than a month ago; it was slightly worse than

Hat Trade.—Employment in the Silk Hat trade was bad; in the Felt Hat trade it was moderate. In both branches it was better than a month ago, and worse than

a year ago. Boot and Shoe Trade. - Employment was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago, except in the heavy boot districts, where it showed a decline. Returns from firms employing 64,681 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of o'2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.-Employment was bad, but showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,268 had 7.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 7.9 per cent. in January and 6.6 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades. — Employment in these trades was fair. It showed little change compared with a

month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was slack generally and worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of February was 5.8, as compared with 6.3 a month ago and 4.8 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages were 7.6, 6.6,

and 5.8 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment continued slack, and was seriously retarded by bad weather during a part of the month. It was rather better on the whole than

in January, but was worse than a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades. — Employment continued bad, but showed an improvement as compared with a month ago. It was rather worse than a vear ago. Trade Unions, with a total membership of 36,404, reported 8.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 10.4 per cent. a month ago, and 8.1 per cent. a year ago. A good deal of short time was worked.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued dull on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,509 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the total earnings as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 10.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery, Brick and Tile Trades.- Employment generally continued bad, but in the brick and tile trades in some districts there was a slight improvement.

Agricultural Labour.-Agricultural labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment during February. The forward state of farm work, however, affected the demand for day labourers in many districts, and in consequence the supply of such men was somewhat in excess of the demand.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment in London continued moderate on the whole, and about the same as a month ago, and a little better than a year ago. At the other principal ports it was bad generally, and worse than a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London (exclusive of Tilbury) in the four weeks ended February 27th was 12,546, a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.7 per cent. as compared with February, 1908.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in February affected 148,000 workpeople, of whom 4,000 received advances, and 144,000 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 3,400 ironworkers in Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland. Amongst those whose wages were decreased were 120,000 coal miners in Durham, over 4,000 blastfurnacemen in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Scotland, and 14,000 engineers in Manchester and district. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of £4,000 per week.

Trade Disputes. - Nineteen disputes began in February, 1909, as compared with 28 in the previous month, and 18 in February, 1908. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during February, 1909, was 8,050, or 3,971 less than in January, 1909, and 28,086 less than in February, 1908.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 90,300 working days, or 42,100 less than in January, 1909, and 451,300 less than in February, 1908.

Definite results were reported in the case of 18 disputes, new and old, directly involving 2,097 persons. Of these 18 disputes, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 7 in favour of the employers, and 6 were compromised.

COST OF LIVING FRENCH TOWNS.

THE third Report on the results of the series of investigations which the Board of Trade have for some time been engaged in making with regard to the cost of living of the urban working classes in the principal industrial countries, has now appeared. The first two volumes dealt with the United Kingdom and with Germany (see Board of Trade Labour Gazette for February, 1908, pp. 36-7, and July, 1908, pp. 204-5). The present volume relates to France.*

For the purpose of this enquiry investigators of the Board of Trade visited thirty French towns, ranging in population from 2,763,000 in Paris, and 517,000 in Marseilles, to 28,000 in Lens and 23,000 in Fougères.

The main subjects of investigation were the customary the main subjects of investigation were the customary standards of housing accommodation and the rents commonly paid by working class tenants; the kinds of food usually consumed by working class families and the prices most generally paid; and the wages and hours of labour in the principal occupations in each town. The large amount of original statistical material which was collected relating to these subjects is set out in detail in the separate town reports and summarised in the General Report; but much additional information is given as to French industrial conditions generally. In order to arrive at some estimate of the standard of living prevalent among the French urban working classes, over 5,600 budgets showing the expenditure on food by working-class families in a normal week and representative of numerous occupations and of all grades of working-class incomes, were obtained from the various towns. The principal results furnished by an analysis of these budgets are set out in the General Report, and an attempt is also made in that part of the volume to institute such comparisons as may be possible between the results yielded by the French enquiry and those arrived at for the British and German towns which were dealt with in the first two reports of the series.

(i.) Rents of Working Class Dwellings.

While English working class families for the most part occupy small separate houses, and the German working classes flats in large tenement buildings, no one type of housing is at all markedly predominant in France. In about half of the towns visited the prevalent form of house is the tenement building; in about one-third the small separate cottage affords the usual working class accommodation; and in the remainder both forms of dwelling are found together. While in England and Wales dwellings of four and five rooms are the most usual, and in Germany dwellings of three rooms, in France tenements of two and of three rooms are equally frequent, and tenements of a single room, which were not of sufficient importance to tabulate either in England (except for London) or in Germany, are characteristic of working class housing in more than half the French towns visited. The size of the rooms, however, appears to be distinctly greater than in England or in Germany.

The predominant rents for tenements of two, three and four rooms in England, Germany, and France respectively are shown below:-

Number of I	2000000000	Predo	ominant Weekly I	Rents.
Number of Rooms per Tenement.		England & Wales (including rates).	Germany.	France.
Two rooms Three rooms Four rooms		3s. to 3s. 6d. 3s. 9d. to 4s. 6d. 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d. 3s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. 4s. 3d. to 6s.	2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d. 2s. 11d. to 4s. 2d. 3s. 6d. to 4s. 4d.

It will be seen that while rents in England and Germany appear approximately equal the French tenant pays only 78 to 86 per cent. of the corresponding rents in England and Wales. Rents paid by workpeople in England, however, include an element of local rates which is absent from rents in both Germany and France,

*Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into working-class Rents, cousing and Retail Prices, together with the Rates of Wages in certain occupations in the principal industrial towns of France. Cd. 4512. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., ondon. Price 4s. rd.

where local contributions are paid separately. It has been estimated that 18 per cent. of the gross rent paid in English industrial towns consists of local rates, and if this percentage is deducted from the English rent figures, so as to render them more comparable with those for Germany and France, it is found that French rents bear to English rents the ratio of 98 to 100, the ratio between German and English rents being 123 to 100. In other words, the French workman pays about 2 per cent. less, and the German workman 23 per cent. more than the workman in an English town for the same number of rooms, exclusive in both cases of local taxation.

(ii.) Cost and Consumption of Food, &c.
The following Table shows the retail prices commonly paid for certain important articles used by the urban working classes in England and Wales, in Germany and in France, respectively, in October, 1905:

Commodities.	Predominan	Prices at October,	1905.	Mea domin to the Engla Wales	tio of in Pre- antPrice nat in and and s (taken
	England and Wales.	Germany. F	rance.	Ger- many.	France
Sugar per lb. Butter , Potatoes, per y lb. Flour Wheaten, per y lb. Bread, White, per 4 lb. Milk per qt. Milk per qt. Motton , Pork , Coal per cwt. Paraffin Oil, per gall,	S. d. s. d. 2d. 12d.* 2 2d. 2 3d.* 2 2d. 2	2\frac{1}{4}, 2\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}, 2\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{3} \tag{1} \tag{1} \tag{2} \tag{1} \tag{1} \tag{2}	3d. to 1 3d 1, 0 6 1, 0 2d 1, 0 8d 1, 0 9d 1, 0 10d	119 105 88 140 — 75 122 137 123 124	144 94 100 153 115 71 109 131 116 170 188

The only exceptions to the rule that the prices paid by the French working classes in October, 1905, were higher than those paid by the English working classes occurred in the case of milk and butter. Milk which cost 25 per cent. less in Germany than in England was id. a quart or nearly 30 per cent. cheaper in France than in England. Butter which was 5 per cent. dearer in Germany was 6 per cent. cheaper in France. The price of potatoes in France was the same as in England, the German price being 12 per cent. less. All the three kinds of meat chiefly consumed in England were dearer both in Germany and in France. Sugar cost 44 per cent. more in France and 19 per cent. more in Germany than in England, but the difference between the French price and the German and English prices may be partly accounted for by the difference in the kind consumed. the French workman consuming loaf sugar while the English and German consume chiefly white granulated. Flour was 53 per cent. dearer in France and 40 per cent. dearer in Germany, but the domestic consumption of flour in France is very small. Coal in France was 70 per cent. and in Germany 24 per cent. dearer than in England, while paraffin oil was 88 per cent. dearer in the former and 35 per cent. dearer in the latter country than in England.

In the report on the United Kingdom, the price levels of different towns were compared by the amount required to purchase in each town the groceries, meat, and coal in an approximate average working man's budget.
Applying the same principles it was found that, if the average British working man went to live in France and tried to live as nearly as possible in the same way as he had lived in England, purchasing the same food in the same quantities, he would have to increase his expenditure to the extent of 18 per cent. The corresponding comparison between English and German cost afforded an identical result.

(iii.) Wages and Hours of Labour. The following Table compares the predominant range of weekly wages in certain occupations in England and

* Mean of colonial or "Foreign" and Danish.
† British or home-killed.
‡ Foreign or Colonial.
§ In Germany the bread most commonly consumed was "grey" bread, made of wheat and rye. The predominant range of prices was 43d, to 64d.

March, 1909.

Wales with the ranges in the same occupations in Germany and France. The ranges in England and Wales represent in all cases standard time-rates for an ordinary full week exclusive of overtime; the German and French figures are in some cases standard rates and in others the predominant range of earnings in a similar week.

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Occupation.	Ratio of Mean Predominant Wage to Mean Predominant Wage in England and Wales (taken as 100)				
	England and Wales.	Germany.	France.	Germany.	France.
Building:— Bricklayers Masons Carpenters Joiners Plasterers Plasterers Labourers Englineering:— Turners Smiths Patternmakers Patternmakers Printing:— Compositors	s. d. s.d 37 6to 40 6 37 2 , 339 4 36 2 , 39 4 35 4 , 39 9 35 6 , 41 8 31 6 , 37 6 32 0 , 36 0 32 0 , 38 0 34 0 , 38 0 38 0 , 22 0	s. d. s. d. }26 II to 3I 3 26 IT , 3I 3 24 0 , 28 6 24 0 , 29 8 19 6 , 24 0 26 0 , 32 0 27 0 , 33 0 28 6 , 33 0 25 6 , 30 0 18 0 , 22 0 24 9 , 25 II	s. d. s. d. 21 7 to 23 10. 24 0, 50 3 3 23 9, 26 5 24 0, 28 10 23 9, 29 0 21 5, 29 5 15 10, 19 10 24 0, 28 10 24 0, 29 10 25 2, 31 9 45 6, 29 9 22 10, 28 10	75 77 70 	65 72 66 70 67 69 71 78 80 84 77 87
All above occupations(average)	_	-	15 T 15 15	83	75

From the above it appears that for skilled men in the building trades the French wages were about 68 per cent. and the German wages about 75 per cent. of the English; for skilled men in the engineering trades 81 per cent. and 85 per cent. respectively. Building trades labourers in France earn about 71 per cent. and in Germany about 86 per cent. of the corresponding class in England. In the lowest paid class of all-engineering labourers—the French earnings were 87 per cent. of those of England and Germany, which are practically the same. Considering as a whole the three groups of occupations comprised in the comparison, the wages in France were 75 and in Germany 83 per cent. of those in England and Wales.

The following Table gives a comparison of the average usual hours of labour per week in the three countries in the same selected trades:-

Trade.	per weel	e Hours of (excluding October, 19	Ratio of average Hours of Labour to those in England and Wales (taken as 100) in		
	England and Wales,	Germany.	France.	Germany.	France.
Building-			into the	6 45	
Bricklayers and Mason		59	646	112	123
Carpenters		59	64	III	121
Joiners		1000	654	-	120
Plumbers		58	63	108	118
Plasterers		-	63		119
Painters		59	63	110	118
	522	59	6.3	112	123
Engineering Trades— Fitters		1000			
	53	595	Eo1	II2	114
Turners		592	612	112	114
Detterment		599	COA	112	114
Labourers		592	6c1	112	114
Printing Trades—	53	599	6c 4	112	114
Compositors	521	54	593	103	113
All above occupations (average)	_	-	<u>-</u>	111	117

It will be seen that the hours of labour of the French artisan were from 13 to 23 per cent. more than the hours of labour usual in this country amongst corresponding classes, the average being 17 per cent., whilst the hours in Germany were from 8 to 12 per cent. more than in England, except in the printing trade, which is a highly organised trade in that country.

Hourly Earnings .- Weekly wages in France, for the trades considered, standing to English weekly wages for the same trades approximately as 75 to 100, while the hours of labour in the week were in the ratio of 117 to 100, the average hourly earnings of the French artisan may be taken approximately as 64 per cent. of

those of the corresponding English workman. The average hourly earnings in the same trades in Germany were found to be 75 per cent. of those in England. In other words, for the building, engineering and printing trades in the towns visited, the average hourly earnings of the French workmen are only about two-thirds, and those of the German workmen about three-quarters of those of the English workmen doing the same kind of work

(IV.) Summary of Conclusions.

Summarising the preceding sections, it has been found that, as regards rents :-

Net rents of working-class dwellings in France are to gross rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings in England as 80 to Too Corresponding comparison between Germany and England 101 to 100 Net rents of working-class dwellings in France are to net rents of working-class dwellings in England (excluding that portion of English rents which represents local taxation) as 98 to 100

Corresponding comparison between Germany and England 123 to 100 As regards prices :-On the basis of the ordinary English

standard of consumption the expenditure of the workman on certain standard articles of food and fuel in France is to his expenditure in England as 118 to 100 Corresponding comparison between Germany

and England 115 to 100 If the expenditure on rent be combined with that on

the standard articles of food and fuel, the expenditure on the latter items being taken, with sufficient accuracy for present purposes, at four times the former, the

The expenditure on certain standard articles of food and fuel and on rent of the workman in France, on the same basis as above, would be to that of the same workman in England, on the same items ... 110 to 100

but including local taxation, as Corresponding comparison between Germany

articles of food and fuel and on rent of the workman in France would be to that of the same workman in England on the

same items, exclusive of local taxation, as 114 to 100 Corresponding comparison between Germany and England ... It appears, therefore, that an English workman in

France, living so far as possible as he had been accustomed to live in England, would find his expenditure on rent (exclusive of local taxation) food, and fuel. increased by some 14 per cent. (or roughly by one-seventh), while living similarly in Germany the corresponding increase would be roughly one-fifth.

As regards wages and hours of labour:

Weekly money wages of the working classes in French towns are to weekly wages of the same classes in England, in the trades selected for comparison, as ... Corresponding comparison between Germany

and England ... A Verage usual working hours per week of the working classes in French towns are to those of the same classes in England, in the trades selected for comparison, as Corresponding comparison between Germany

and England ... Consequently the hourly rates of money wages for the working classes in French towns are to those of the same classes in England, for the trades selected for

comparison, as corresponding comparison between Germany and England

75 to 100 83 to 100

117 to 100

III to 100

64 to 100

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS.

THE Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Reliet of Distress have issued their first Report *, dealing with England and Wales, signed, with certain reservations, by all but four of the members. Separate reports dealing with Scotland and with Ireland will be presented later. A Minority Report has been issued, signed by four of the members of the Commission.

Majority Report.

In the report of the Majority the main defects in the present system of Poor Law administration which have been laid bare by the evidence which the Commission heard are briefly summarised under the following

(i) The inadequacy of existing Poor Law areas to meet the growing needs of administration:

(ii) The excessive size of many Boards of Guardians: (iii) The absence of any general interest in Poor Law work and Poor Law elections, due in great part to the fact that Poor Law work stands in no organic relation to the rest of local

(iv) The lack of intelligent uniformity in the application of principles and in general administration:

(v) The want of proper investigation and discrimination in dealing with applicants:

(vi) The tendency in many Boards of Guardians to give outdoor relief without plan or purpose:

(vii) The unsuitability of the general workhouse as a test or deterrent for the able-bodied; the aggregation in it of all classes without sufficient classification; and the absence of any system of friendly and restorative help:

(viii) The lack of co-operation between Poor Law and charity: (ix) The tendency of candidates to make lavish promises of out-relief, and of Guardians to favour their constituents in its

(x) General failure to attract capable social workers and leading citizens:

(xi) The general rise in expenditure, not always accompanied by an increase of efficiency in administration:

(xii) The want of sufficient control and continuity of policy on

the part of the central authority.

The associations of harshness and hopelessness which have gathered round the name "Poor Law" have led the Majority to think that the system of help which they recommend will be better expressed by the title of "Public Assistance." They propose that the existing Poor Law areas shall be enlarged, and that the unit of administration shall in future be the county and the county borough, with the provision that two or more public assistance authorities may combine for the maintenance of institutions. They recommend that two classes of bodies should be called into existence—a Public Assistance Authority for the central administration and control of Public Assistance and local Public Assistance Committees for dealing with applications and for the investigation and supervision of cases, and such other duties as may be delegated to them.

They consider that the system of direct election of Boards of Guardians has not succeeded on the whole in obtaining local authorities who have an adequate or uniform appreciation of the difficulties and responsibilities which beset the administration of the Poor Laws. They therefore propose that the Public Assistance Authority shall consist of a statutory committee of the county or county borough council. One half of the members of this committee may be appointed by the council from among their number or from outside, the remaining half to be appointed from outside their number, and to consist of persons experienced in the local administration of public assistance or other cognate work.

The Public Assistance Authority shall appoint a Public Assistance Committee in each Poor Law Union, and this Committee shall include a certain proportion of persons nominated by the urban and rural district councils. Ultimately the Public Assistance Authority may, with the consent of the Local Government Board, modify the areas of these committees, and these modified areas shall be as far as possible coterminous with one or more urban or rural districts. The Public Assistance Committee

* Cd. 4499. Price 3s. 6d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

shall make careful inquiry into the circumstances and condition of all persons applying for assistance within their area and shall review periodically the cases of those in receipt of assistance, taking measures where necessary to recover the cost of such assistance. They shall adminster the institutions of the Public Assistance Authority within their area, and shall secure periodical visitation of all cases in receipt of home assistance. With regard to London some modification of the above scheme is proposed.

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It is also proposed that Poor Law expenditure, including the cost of both indoor and outdoor relief, shall be a uniform charge over the whole area of the Public Assistance Authority both in London and in the country.

Dealing with the methods of public assistance, it is recommended that in the future general workhouses should be abolished, and that indoor relief should be given in separate institutions appropriate to the following classes of applicants: - Children, the aged and infirm, the sick, able-bodied men, able-bodied women, vagrants, and the feeble-minded and epileptics. Powers of removal to and detention in institutions should be given with proper safeguards to the Public Assistance Authority. The treatment of inmates should be made as far as possible curative and restorative.

Out relief, or home assistance, as it is proposed to call it, should be given only after thorough inquiry, except in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, and it should be adequate to meet the needs of those to whom it is given. Persons so assisted should be subject to supervision, which should include the conditions, moral and sanitary, under which they are living. Voluntary agencies should be utilised as far as possible for the personal care of individual cases.

On the subject of the treatment of children the Majority are strongly of opinion that effective steps should be taken to secure that their maintenance in the workhouse should no longer be recognised as a legitimate way of dealing with them. While recognising the excellence of the education and training given in district schools, they do not recommend the multiplication of large institutional schools, and they consider that boarding-out is a method of training children which might and should be greatly extended. When the latter system is well managed a real home life is secured for the children, and they enter upon industrial life on the same terms as the children of the independent working classes.

When home assistance is given for the maintenance of children there should be closer supervision of their condition, and care should be taken that the total income from whatever source is sufficient to afford proper food, clothing and housing conditions for the whole family. Unless satisfactory conditions in the home can be assured, the children should be maintained in a Public Assistance institution or industrial school.

With regard to the institutional relief of the aged it is recommended that they should have separate accommodation and treatment and be sub-divided into classes, as far as possible, with reference to their physical condition and their moral character. When additional accommodation for the respectable aged is required they recommend the promotion and extension of the system of small homes. When home assistance is given to the aged greater care should be taken to ensure its adequacy, and recipients should be visited periodically both by the officers of the Public Assistance Committee and by voluntary visitors.

In considering the question of the relief of distress due to unemployment the Majority were led to the conclusion that there is an increased aggregation of unskilled labour at the great ports and in certain populous districts, and that this aggregation is so much in excess of normal local needs as to promote and perpetuate under-employment. As a result of investigations into the constitution and operations of the various relief organisations that are now in existence it was found that the relief given is frequently unsuitable and inadequate, and its effect often pernicious. Poor Law relief, if deterrent, is at times deterrent to the wrong people, and restorative treatment plays a very small part in its methods. Charitable effort too frequently takes the form of doles to the unworthy and results in demoralisation. The relief works carried on by municipal authorities, and by distress committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, have not in the vast majority of cases been successful in reaching the class for whom they were intended.

The creation of Labour Exchanges under the control and direction of the Board of Trade is placed in the forefront of the proposals for the establishment of machinery for the relief and treatment of under-employment. The defects which permeate the present system are the failure to do anything positive and effective to increase the mobility of labour, and the impossibility of obtaining accurate information both as to the extent of unemployment and the classification of the unemployed. If a national system of labour exchanges were established, it is thought that it would tend to ensure that the supply of labour in all parts of the country would be gauged and recorded, and that the demand and supply would be brought into touch with each other. While it is not recommended that the use of these institutions should be made compulsory. of these institutions should be made compulsory, it should be the object of the Board of Trade and of the local advisory committees which it is proposed should assist the Board, to popularise them in every way. Associated with the labour exchange there should be an intelligence bureau in connection with every public elementary school which would advise parents and teachers as to the branches of employment likely to give the best opening for children leaving school, and which would discourage boys from entering occupations which offer no prospect of permanent employment. The Majority regard with favour the suggestions that boys should be kept at school until the age of fifteen, that exemption below this age should be granted only to boys leaving to learn a skilled trade, and that there should be school supervision until sixteen, boys not properly employed being replaced in school. They think that education in elementary schools should be made more practical, and that there is urgent need of improved facilities for technical education after the present age for leaving school.

In order to promote the regularisation of employment it is recommended that Government Departments and Public Authorities should, so far as possible, regularise their work and endeavour to undertake their irregular work at seasons when the general demand for labour is slack. The Board of Trade should endeavour through conference with employers and employed to arrange schemes for the progressive decasualisation of employment in localities where intermittent employ-

It is considered that the establishment and promotion of unemployment insurance, especially among unskilled and unorganised labour is of paramount importance in averting distress arising from unemployment, and that contributions from public funds towards its furtherance would be justified. This form of insurance can best be promoted by utilising the agency of existing trade organisations which provide unemployed benefit, or of organisations of a similar character which may be brought into existence. While not recommending any particular scheme, it is suggested that a small commission should be appointed to frame one for con-

While hoping that the measures outlined above will do much to prevent capable and deserving men from being reduced to destitution, the majority recognise the necessity for a permanent organization to meet the cases of those whom these preventive measures fail to reach in times of distress. Such cases should be dealt with either by a Voluntary Aid Committee representing local charitable effort or by the Public Assistance Committee, adequate provision being made for effective co-operation between the two committees. The function of the Voluntary Aid Committee would be to give advice and aid out of voluntary funds, especially to the better class | sanction all cases of out-door relief or "Home Aliment

of workmen who may be reduced to want before the Labour Exchange can find employment. The following methods of assistance would be available to the Public Assistance Authority:-

Home Assistance.—When an applicant has a decent home and a good industrial record, and requisite assistance is not forthcoming from any other source, adequate assistance should be given in the home on condition of daily work, without requiring the recipient to live in an institution. Such an order for assistance should be for strictly limited period and be subject to revision. Registration at the labour exchange should be compulsory, and relief should cease as soon as suitable occupation has been offered through the exchange.

Partial Home Assistance.—For other cases home assistance might be given to the family while the man is maintained in an institution and given work.

Institutional Assistance.—Men who are not suitable for either of the above methods of treatment, or who require for a longer period maintenance with work and training, should be provided in an industrial or agricultural institution with occupations as far as possible akin to their ordinary trades, the family being maintained in an institution at the same time. Labour Colonies will also be available for the Public Assistance

Detention Colonies.—Those who are unwilling to work. or whose character and behaviour are such that no employer will engage them, and who therefore require discipline and training for a prolonged period, should be committed to a detention colony for any period between six months and three years. Such colonies should be under the control and supervision of the Home Office.

Emigration.—While it is not considered that emigration by itself is a sufficient remedy for unemployment, the majority nevertheless regard it as a valuable means of dealing with a certain class of cases which are likely to make a fresh start under new conditions; they think that the work of emigrating poor persons should fall within the functions of the Public Assistance Authority. To meet the case of exceptional and protracted distress

arising during the earlier years of the reforms they recommend, the majority propose that local authorities should carry out special works of public utility for which they should be able to obtain loans from the Public Works Loan Commissioners on specially favourable terms. Such works should be carried out on ordinary commercial lines at the ordinary rate of wages.

Minority Report.

The Minority agree with the Majority in recommending the abolition of the existing Boards of Guardians, and the transference of their functions to the county and county borough councils. They differ in proposing that the services at present rendered by the Poor Law authorities should be assumed, not by a new committee, but by four of the existing committees of the councils. The entire care of pauper children of school age should fall to the Education Committees, who are already providing, in many cases, not only schooling but also maintenance. The Health Committees should be entrusted with the provision for the sick and the permanently incapacitated, the infants under school age and the aged needing institutional care. The Asylums Committees should be responsible for the maintenance of and provision for the mentally defective of all grades and ages. The Pensions Committees should deal with those aged who are not entitled to national pensions, but for whom local pensions are recommended.

They think that some systematic co-ordination, within each local area, of all forms of public assistance and, if possible, of all assistance dispensed by voluntary agencies, is essential, and to this end they propose the appointment in each county or county borough of one or more officers to be designated Registrars of Public Assistance. The duties of these officers would be to keep a complete register of all the various classes of assistance given in the locality, to assess and recover whatever charges Parliament may decide to make for particular kinds of relief or treatment, and to as it is proposed to call it. It is considered undesirable that the various committees should be able to grant Home Aliment without a common standard of economic necessities and due regard for all the circumstances, educational, moral, sanitary and economic, of each case. The Registrar should further maintain a small Receiving House for the temporary reception of cases needing relief, and he should be entrusted with the duty of deciding in each case to which committee an applicant should be transferred. Emphasis is laid on the necessity that no person should be allowed to remain in such a Receiving House for more than the few days required for the adjudication of his case.

With regard to the relief of distress arising from unemployment the minority agree with the majority in recommending the establishment of a national system of labour exchanges, the maintenance with training in their own homes or in institutions of unemployed men of good character, and the compulsory detention of men of bad character in detention colonies under discipline.

The minority think that the duty of so organizing the national labour market as to prevent or minimise unemployment should be placed upon a Minister for Labour whose Department, besides taking over certain existing branches of other Departments, should embrace Labour Exchange, a Trade Insurance Division and a Maintenance and Training Division.

It is proposed that the use of the labour exchange should be optional for men who fall into unemployment from permanent situations and for employers who offer permanent situations. In certain scheduled trades in which excessive discontinuity of employment prevails, resort to it should be made legally compulsory, especially for casual labour. The function of the National Labour Exchange should be not only to ascertain accurately the demand for and the supply of labour, and to facilitate its transference, but also to "dovetail" casual and seasonal employments, so as to arrange for practical continuity of work for those who are now chronically under-employed.

With a view to diminishing the surplus of labour it is recommended that it should be made illegal to employ children below the age of fifteen, that no young person under eighteen should be employed for more than thirty hours a week, and that all young persons so employed should be required to attend suitable trade schools for thirty hours a week. It is further recommended that the hours of duty of railway, tramway, and omnibus workers should be reduced to a weekly maximum of 60 hours, if not 48. It is thought that many women would be removed from the labour market by the adoption of the recommendation that mothers in charge of young children and in receipt of Public Assistance should receive adequate maintenance for the whole family.

To meet the periodically recurrent general depressions of trade, the Government should undertake as far as practicable the regularisation of the national demand for labour, and for this purpose it should arrange a portion of the ordinary work required by each Department on a ten years' programme to the extent of at least £4,000,000 a year. In each decade £40,000,000 worth of work would thus be put in hand, not by equal annual instalments but exclusively in the lean years of the trade cycle. Such a programme should include works of afforestation, coast protection and land reclamation, and should be executed with the best available labour taken on in the ordinary way at the rates locally current.

They are unable to recommend the establishment of any plan of Government or compulsory insurance against unemployment, but they think that the adoption of their reforms would render practicable the provision of out-of-work benefit by Trade Unions over a much greater range of industry than at present, and they consider that its extension should receive Government encouragement

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

A REPORT* upon the proceedings of the Board of Trade in relation to the establishment and working of the Railway Conciliation Boards, set up in accordance with the agreement arrived at in November, 1907 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1907, p. 323), has been issued by the Board of Trade.

The agreement provided for the adoption of a scheme under which conciliation boards were to be formed for each railway company adhering to the scheme to deal with questions of wages or hours raised by the company or any class of employees. The various grades of men coming under the scheme were to be grouped in a suitable number of sections, for each of which a sectional board would be formed, and in addition there would be for each railway a central conciliation board consisting of one or more representatives chosen from each sectional

Applications for changes in rates of wages or hours of labour were first to be made through the officers of the department concerned. Failing a reply within two months, or if the reply were unsatisfactory, the matter could be referred to the sectional board, and then, if no agreement was arrived at, to the Central Board. If that Board failed to agree, the matter was then to be sent to arbitration, the Master of the Rolls and the Speaker of the House of Commons to nominate the arbitrator if the parties could not mutually select one.

The agreement was signed initially on behalf of eleven of the principal railway companies, but thirty-five other companies subsequently adhered to its terms, subject to certain modifications in details in the case of Scottish companies. The most important company outside the scheme is the North-Eastern Railway, who have adopted a scheme of a rather different kind for dealing with disputes by mutual discussion between the company and its employees. In the aggregate the companies that have a conciliation scheme in operation employ over 97 per cent. of the railway servants in the United Kingdom.

The Railway Department of the Board of Trade took steps to see that the details of the application of the scheme to suit the circumstances of the different lines were adjusted to meet the views of both the companies and the men, and the principal features of these arrangements are set out in an appendix to the report.

The Board of Trade conducted the first election of representatives of the employees to serve on the conciliation boards. The total number of elections for the 169 boards of the different companies was 425, of which all but nine (for two railways) had been completed at the time of issue. Of the remaining 416 elections, 130 were in divisions for which there was no contest. In the other 286 cases, voting papers were issued by the Department, and it was found that over 77 per cent. of the employees eligible availed themselves of the franchise. The lists of representatives elected have been published from time to time in the LABOUR

Arising out of the provision of the agreement that any question of interpretation should be decided by the Board of Trade, or, at the request of either party, by the Master of the Rolls, a number of cases have been submitted for settlement. Some of these were mutually adjusted between the representatives of the companies and the men on lines suggested by the Board of Trade; others have been settled directly by the Board of Trade, and one by the Master of the Rolls.

Of the applications from the men for improved conditions under the conciliation scheme, many have been referred, together with proposals made by the companies, to the conciliation boards. In the case of two railways proceedings have already advanced to the stage of arbitration. For the London and North Western Railway, Sir Edward Fry was appointed to act as

*Cd. 4534. Price 6d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

arbitrator, and his award is given in an appendix to the report (see Labour Gazette, February, 1909, p. 40). For the Midland Railway, where the parties did not agree upon the choice of an arbitrator, Lord Cromer was appointed by the Speaker and the Master of the Rolls.

Copies of the original agreement and of the modified agreement adopted by the Scottish companies, together with the rules as to procedure, &c., adopted by certain railways, are given in other appendices to the report.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT. Boot and Shoe Operatives, Anstey.

A dispute having arisen in connection with the formation of a quantities statement for lasters at Anstey, the matter was referred by the local Arbitration Board for the trade to two arbitrators for settlement. The arbitrators were unable to agree upon the basis upon which the statement should be framed and applied, on February 15th, to the Board of Trade for the appointment of a conciliator to hold an inquiry into the prevailing conditions and classes of work manufactured, and the output of the operatives engaged in the lasting department, with a view to a quantities statement being agreed upon, and failing such agreement to act as arbitrator to determine all disputed points and fix the said quantities statement.

The Board of Trade, on February 18th, appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act in that

Steelworkers, Leeds.

Mr. W. B. Yates, the Umpire appointed in this case (see Board of Trade Labour Gazette for February, 1909, p. 39), issued his award on February 15th. The steelworkers at one works had struck against a proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent., and Mr. Yates decided that a reduction of $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. should be made. He further recommended that a sliding scale should be adopted in these works on the terms and conditions of the scale now in force at the North Eastern Steel Works, Middlesbrough, if, and so far as, this was applicable.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see Board of Trade Labour Gazette for February, 1909, page 40), issued his award on February 15th.

The workpeople had given notice for an increase in wages from 7½d. to 8½d. per hour, an alteration in hours of labour and alterations in other working rules, while the employers gave counter notice for alterations in the rules relating to hours of labour, overtime, and other

Mr. Hudson, whose award was issued in the form of a code of working rules, decided that no alteration should be made in the rate of wages or hours of labour, but granted an increased out-working allowance for Sundays, and fixed February 1st, 1912 (the date agreed upon by the parties), as the date before which no further alteration in working rules should be made.

Painters, Leicester,

Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, the Arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 40), met the parties on February 12th and 19th and March 1st, and at the last conference a settlement was effected on the basis of certain suggestions made by the arbitrator. The dispute arose on the question whether certain painting work on gas-holders and purifiers at the Leicester Gas Works might be done by other than competent painters, and the following are the terms of the agreement arrived at :-

It is hereby agreed on behalf of the Leicester Corporation Gas Committee on the one part and on behalf of the Leicester Branch of the Amalgamated House and Ship Painters and Decorators on the other part, that as and from the date of this Agreement :-

1. When special tools or long brushes, with handles not less than 3 ft. in length (other than ordinary painters' tools or ground brushes similar to samples initialled by the arbitrator, and kept at the Leicester Gas Works) are used for painting or tarring gasholders, purifiers, and other rough gas plant at the Leicester Corporation Gas Works, such painting or tarring may be done by persons other than skilled

2. Where paint or varnish is used by ordinary painters' brushes such work shall be done by skilled

painters only.

3. All painting of any description done for the Leicester Corporation Gas Committee outside the Corporation Gas Works shall be considered skilled work, and be done under the rules and conditions as provided in the working rules agreed to by the Leicester Master Painters and the Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators Societies, dated June 6th, 1904.

4. Any dispute as to the interpretation of this agreement shall be referred to the decision of the Arbitrator, Alderman Thomas Smith, J.P., of Leicester.

Coal Miners, Bath (near).

On October 29th, 1908, 567 coal miners employed at the Dunkerton Collieries, near Bath, struck work owing to a dispute as to the rate of wages to be paid to carting boys. In January, 1909, in view of disturbances which had broken out, the Board of Trade sent an officer of the Department to endeavour to effect a settlement between the parties, with the result that on February 16th a joint application was made by the parties to the Board of Trade asking for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the question in dispute.

On February 18th the Board of Trade appointed a Court of Arbitration consisting of His Honour Judge Austin, chairman; T. Ratcliffe Ellis, Esq., arbitrator, drawn from the employers' panel; and W. Brace, Esq., M.P., arbitrator, drawn from the workpeople's panel.

Carters, &c., Dublin.

In the January issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE (see p. 7) particulars were given of the termination of the dispute involving carters, &c., at Dublin. Under the terms of settlement arrived at, it was provided that the questions of rates of wages and hours of labour should be referred to arbitration.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Andrew Marshall Porter, Bart... and Patrick John O'Neill, Esq., J.P., were chosen as arbitrators, and their award was issued on February 17th. The following is a summary of the principal points of the award:

Men working " on their earnings." A schedule of rates of pay is fixed for storing, carting and loading.

Men on weekly or daily wages. The arbitrators found it impossible to determine any fixed minimum rate of wages.

Overtime. Overtime from 6.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. to be paid 6d. per hour, from 11.30 p.m. to 6.30 a.m. 9d. per hour. Sunday

Early closing on Saturdays. Saturday closing at 3 p.m., though desirable, cannot be enforced owing to the necessary discharge

Meal Hour .- Fixed meal hour is unworkable for carters out with load, but arbitrators recommended that, when possible, carters should be allowed a meal hour and short Saturdays.

Maltsters.-Claims of maltsters disallowed except that the practice is abolished of allowing a 'back shilling' to be retained by employer until end of season and then given to workmen if his conduct is satisfactory. In lieu of this, weekly wages are to be advanced 1s. per week from the end of the present malting

The arbitrators also recommended (1) that both parties should agree that there should be no stoppage of work by either side without a fortnight's notice, save in case of breach of agreement or other misconduct: (2) that a permanent Court of Conciliation to deal with disputes should be established; and (3) that no action should be taken injuriously affecting any of the men concerned in the arbitration or the dispute.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS. Engineering Trades, Hull.

March, 1909.

The following agreement was entered into on February 24th between the Hull Iron Trades Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers:

"It is hereby agreed that in consequence of the employers withdrawing their notice of the reduction in wages dated January 28th, 1900, the standard rate of wages of members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers employed in federated firms in Hull shall remain as at present for a period of five years from the date of this agreement.

An agreement in similar terms has also been made between the Hull Iron Trades Employers' Association and the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, the Hull Journeymen Brass Founders, Turners, Fitters, Finishers and Coppersmiths' Society, the United Patternmakers' Association, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, the United Machine Workers' Association, and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour.

Shipbuilding Industry, Great Britain.

The provisional Agreement for the Shipbuilding Industry of Great Britain (for terms see Board of Trade Labour Gazette for January, p. 6), having been submitted to a ballot of the 18 Trade Unions affected, was ravified and signed by their representatives and by those of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation at Edinburgh on March oth.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN GERMANY: AMENDMENT OF LAW.

By a law dated December 28th, 1908, the section of the German Industrial Code dealing with the conditions of work in factories, mines, &c., has been amended in certain important particulars. Except where otherwise stated the amendments are to take effect from January

The term "factory" hitherto in use is replaced by the words "establishment in which, as a rule, at least ten persons are employed." The provisions of the Federal Council of July 13th, 1900 (see GAZETTE, August, 1900, p. 231), permitting the employment of children between 13 and 14, in power-using workshops employing at least 10 persons, and not engaged in glass, stone or metal polishing, for 10 hours a day are abrogated.

Workpeople of 16 years of age or under may not be employed before 6 a.m. (instead of 5.30 a.m. as hitherto) or after 8 p.m. (formerly 8.30 p.m.). A new condition is also laid down, viz., that such persons must be granted an unbroken interval of at least 11 hours between one day's work and the next.

Females over 16 may not be employed in industrial establishments, according to the new law, between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. (instead of 8.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m., as before), nor on Saturdays or the eves of holidays after 5 p.m. (formerly 5.30 p.m.). They may not be employed for more than 10 (formerly 11) hours daily, nor for more than 8 (formerly 10) hours on Saturdays or the eves of holidays. They must, more-over, be granted an unbroken interval of rest of at least 11 hours between one day's work and the next.

Hitherto it has been forbidden to employ women during the 6 weeks following their confinement, except with a medical certificate, which, however, could not procure their re-admission during the first 4 weeks. The granting of a complete rest of 8 weeks is now required, and of this period 6 weeks must be subsequent to the date of confinement.

Women must not be employed in coke works, or in carrying building materials of any kind. (This particular clause is not to come into force until April 1st, 1912.)

Permission may be obtained from the Lower Administrative Authorities for the employment of women for a period of two weeks (but not on Saturdays or Sundays) up to 9 p.m. (instead of 10 p.m. as formerly), in cases of great pressure of work, on condition that the hours of work do not exceed 12 per

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department), February 1939, and Reichsanzeiger, January 2nd, 1969.

day (formerly 13), and that the women have an unbroken interval of at least 10 hours between one day's work and the next. Such permission may not given for more than 40 days in all in the year. The Higher Administrative Authorities are empowered to give similar permission for periods of more than two weeks; but such permission may not be given for more than 50 days in the year. (Hitherto this limit of 50 days did not exist.)

The exercise by the Federal Council of its power permanently to exempt from the regulations affecting the hours of labour of women, young persons and children, those branches of trades which regularly at certain times of the year require an increased labour staff, is now made subject to the proviso that the daily working hours of the protected persons in the exempted trade or trades shall not exceed 12 (formerly 13), and on Saturdays 8 (formerly 10). The further condition is also laid down, for the first time, that such persons shall be allowed an unbroken interval of not less than 10 hours between one day's work and the next, and that this interval shall include the time between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Although, as before, such exemption may be given for more than 40 days a year, provided the average working day for the year does not exceed the legal maximum, it cannot now be granted for more than 50 days.

In the case of trades in which it shall appear that night work is indispensable in order to prevent raw material from perishing or labour products being wasted. the Federal Council is now empowered to make exemptions in the case of regulations effecting the hours of employment of women, on condition that the statutory interval of 11 hours' uninterrupted rest between one day's work and the next be not reduced on more than 60 days in the year, and then not below 81 hours.

In the case of establishments in which fires must be kept going day and night, or in which, for other reasons, day and night work is regularly carried on, or in which a regular system of day and night shifts of equal duration is not permitted, or in which work is only possible at certain seasons, exceptions may be granted by the Federal Council, provided that the number of weekly working hours shall not exceed 36 for children, 60 for young persons and 58 (formerly 65) for women. The provision hitherto in force, allowing women, young persons, and children to work for 70 hours in brick works in such cases is abrogated.

To the section forbidding the employment of women underground in mines, quarries, saltworks and works in which ores are prepared, is added the provision that they must not be employed above ground in such establishments in the operations of transport and loading. (This section is to come into force partially on April 1st, 1912, and fully on April 1st, 1915.)

HUMIDITY AND VENTILATION IN COTTON WEAVING SHEDS.

THE Departmental Committee appointed in November, 1907, by the Home Secretary (see LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1907, p. 381), to inquire into the question of humidity and ventilation in cotton weaving factories have issued their report.* The Committee are unanimous in thinking that it has been clearly proved that work in moist atmospheres at high temperatures is really and seriously uncomfortable for the workers, and possibly in the long run injurious to their health. Hitherto there has been no standard of ventilation in 'dry" sheds, and they recommend that a standard of 15 volumes of carbon dioxide in 10,000, or 11 volumes in excess of the outside air, whichever is the greater, be adopted during daylight, and, pending the result of further investigation, 23 volumes in 10,000, or 19 volumes in excess of the outside air, whichever is the greater, during the period of the day affected by the use of gas or oil for illuminating purposes. In humid

*Cd. 4484, price 24d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

March, 1909.

sheds they recommend that the standard of ventilation should be altered from 9 to 12 volumes in 10,000, or 8 volumes in excess of the outside air, whichever is the greater during daylight, and, pending the result of further investigation, to 20 volumes in 10,000, or 16 volumes in excess of the outside air, whichever is the greater, during the period affected by the use of gas or oil. They consider that if these recommendations are carried into effect they will form a strong inducement for manufacturers who now introduce humidity to discontinue its use, and they are of opinion that their adoption will not cause injury to the workers.

In view of the generally expressed opinion of physiologists that the health and comfort of workers is dependent on the wet bulb temperature rather than on the dry bulb temperature, or the relative or the absolute humidity, the Committee think that the discomfort and possible injury to health, of which the operatives complain, can best be met by fixing a maximum limit of wet bulb temperature, and by securing within the limits retained a difference between the wet and dry bulb temperatures sufficient to prevent the deposit of moisture. The Committee, however, point out that the evidence before them did not justify them in coming to a final conclusion as to the maximum limit to be fixed. The evidence showed that for satisfactory weaving the temperature should be about 65 degrees to 70 degrees Fahr., and the relative humidity 78 to 80 per cent. In order to retain this relative humidity without excessively raising the wet bulb temperature, the temperature in humid sheds in summer must be considerably reduced. With a view to determining how far practical effect can be given to the cooling necessary to bring this about. the Committee propose that arrangements should be made with occupiers of representative weaving sheds for experiments to be made on a large scale.

The Committee think that the amount of heat would be minimised if more attention were paid to the efficiency and maintenance of the non-conducting covering of steam pipes, and if the white-washing of roofs were more efficiently carried out.

Other recommendations of the Committee deal with the prevention of direct and cold draughts from impinging on the workers, the fixing of a standard of purity of water used for humidifying, the provision of better accommodation for the clothing of workers, the more rigid enforcement of the law relating to the cleanliness of the floors and walls, the method of recording temperatures, and the prescription of a standard hygrometer.

Under Section 95 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901, on discovery of a contravention of, or non-compliance with, any provision relating to humidity in cotton cloth factories, statutory notice must be given to the occupier, and legal proceedings can only be taken if the offence is repeated within twelve months after such notice. The Committee think that this period is too short, and recommend that it should be extended to two years.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN FEBRUARY, 1909.

Note.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 106.

THE Table given below summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in February, 1909. As regards the number of applicants the Committees were requested, in making up their returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work or to have left the neighbourhood since registration, and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified. Those engaged on relief-works are, however, included. The particulars as to relief relate to employment provided by the London Central Unemployed Body, and by the various Distress Committees, or towards the provision of which the Distress Committees are expected to contribute. Works provided and entirely paid for by the Local Authorities, without any contribution from the Distress Committees are, as far as possible, excluded :-

Distress C	omm	ittees	•	Net No. of Applicants on Registers at end of Feb., 1909.	No. given Employ- ment- relief.	Aggregate duration of Employ- ment- relief.	Total Amount o Wages palo
London Cen ployed Bod Outer London	tral	Un	em-	39,185*	5,923	Days. 83,478	16,445
Barking				511	222	1,250	250
Croydon East Ham			-	1,53	425 715	2,670 4,155	475 831
Edmonton		***		1,278	240	3,060	618
Erith Leyton				1,204	190 365	950 2,803	195 491
Tottenham Walthamstov West Ham				2,639 1,104	1,373 271	4,542	795
West Ham Willesden				2,351	1,014	1,378	299
Other Towns	(2)			2,050 682	250 162	3,557 1,520	738 253
Total, Out Provincial To England Northern Coun	er Lo	ndon n Wa		16,017	5,270	38,678	7,017
Middlesbroug	gh			6.5	225	1,548	284
	···			1,086	691 727	4,246	720
Sunderland				1,553	138	3 984	797
				573 1,185	698	2.013	128 623
Other Towns	(5)			1,076	178	2,943 598	102
Total, Nort Lancashire and	hern	Coun	nties	7,889	2,787	15,037	2,915
Barrow-in-Fu	rness			2,050			†
Birkenhead Bolton	***			705 1,261	121	1,592	209
Burnley			-	t61 314	144 186	591	102
Hyde Liverpool	•••			1.327	494 1,884	1,962 7,722	310
Preston				3,462 1,096		15,881	3,069
St. Helens Salford				419 1,751	128 514	1,544	179
Stockport				593	246	4,052	634
Walkasey Other Towns	(10)			628 2,571	217 822	1,302	244 890
Total, Land		e and Chesi		17,038	4,756	43,152	7,322
Bradford				1,398	132	1,740	207
Halifax Hull			•••	1,325 2,778	643 1,878	3,932 5,120	498 1,024
Leeds Sheffield				3,483	934 838	8,001	1,307
York				1,153	172	9,703 1,091	1,481
Other Towns				939			
Total, York Midlands:				15,231	4,597	29.087	4,702
Aston Manor Birmingham				490	250	1,044	203
Coventry	-			2,400	176	7,841 988	1,307
Derby Kings Norton	and N	lorth	field	795 466	660 154	6,766	1,016
Leicester Northampton				1,378	299	1,419 2,278	213 406
Nottingham				271 1,164	190 401	3,115	390
West Bromw	ich	•••	•••	1,094 885	342	3,384	353 488
Wolverhamp	ton		•••	700	649 671	2,271 3,942	388 594
Other Towns				1,987	862	6,417	796
Total, Midl Rest of Englan	ands d and	Wal	es:	12,599	5,425	42,545	6,326
Brighton Bristol				2,646 2,527	979 828	6,506	908
Bristol Cardiff Great Yarmo		***		1,632	539	8,526 2,695	2,042
Grimsby				792 670	666	8,495	1,133
Hastings Maidstone				896	130 213	968	193
Newport (Mo				943 449	115	2,659 1,094	389 264
Plymouth				I,452 I,440	985 410	13,167 2,460	1,327 402
Reading Southampton				25I 726	171	2,994	446
Swansea				1,329	213	3,877	679
Swindon Other Towns	(8)			455 1,869	103	1,199 1,814	180 317
Total, Rest		nglan nd W		18,087	5,471	56,454	9,997
Total, Prov				70,864	23,036	186,275	31,262
Total, Engla	and ar	id W	ales	126,1 16	34,229	308,431	54,724
Aberdeen Dundee				1,334 875	874 227	6,456 2,731	812
Edinburgh			•••	3,149	1,452	21,129	2,729
Glasgow Govan				2,047 972 656	1,771 245	22,992 2,500	2,649 368
Greenock Leith		***		656 768	656	5,418	612
Partick Other Towns				661 1,235	85	1,322	219
Total, Scot				11,697	5,611	67,752	8,155
Ireland:							
Belfast Dublin				3,075	763 300	18,312	1,812
Galway Other Towns	(0)			Return 1	not received	4,200	575
Other Towns	(2)			590			
Total, Irela	nd			6,064	1,063	22,512	2,387

* Applicants on registers of 23 Metropolitan Boroughs. \dagger No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men.

will be seen that the net total number of applicant. remaining on the registers (after deduction of persons disqualified, those who had found work, &c.) was usquanned, those who had found work, &c.) was 143,877, of whom 55,252 were in London and "Outer London," 70,864 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 11,697 in Scotland, and 6,064 in Ireland. As usual the great majority of applicants to the Distress Committees were general labourers, or labourers in the building trades.

The total number who received employment - relief was 40,903, of whom 11,193 were in London and "Outer London," 23,036 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 5,611 in Scotland, and 1,063 in Ireland, The average number of days' employment - relief provided was 9'7 per man employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 31s. 11d. per man, or 3s. 3d.

The following table affords a comparison between the work done by Distress Committees in February, 1909, and January, 1909, and February, 1908. No satisfactory comparison can be given of the number of applicants remaining on the registers at the end of each of these

han populatas da	No. of Distress Commitees in operation.				No. of applicants given Employment-relief.		
on an order of the	Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb, 1908.	Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	
London:—				10 30	765		
County	29	29	29	5,923	4,676	3,359	
Outer Other Places in England	12	12	9	5,270	6,330	3,904	
and Wales	83	18	56	23,036	1,146	7,193	
Scotland	13	13	9	5,611	6,008	2,761	
Ireland	4	5	1	1,063	1,583	823	
United Kingdom	141	140	104	40,903	59,743	18,040	
The state of the s	Aggre	gate durat	ion of elief.	Total A	mount of Paid.	Wages	
	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.,	Feb.,	
	1909.	1909.	1908.	1909.	1909	1908.	
London: —	Days.	Days.	Days.	£		£	
County	83,478	94,496	53,408	16,445	17,968	11,152	
Outer	38,678	42,594	28,624	7,017	8,038	,373	
Other Places in England and Wales	-96	170,661	66,211	31,262	28,635	8,556	
2413	186,275	72,204	42,747	8,155	8,504*	4,893	
reland	22,512	23,822	4,738	2,387	2,975	910	
United Kingdom	398,695	412,777	195,728	65,266	65 120	30,884	

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.+

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

Canada.

THERE is likely to be the usual good demand for farm labourers in April and the summer months. Mechanics, miners, and general labourers will have more difficulty in finding employment; there are openings for competent men of these classes, who have sufficient money to live on till they procure work; but the great demand is for men prepared to work on the land. Female servants are always in demand. Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dollars (£5 4s. 2d.)—in addition to a ticket to his or her destination; unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant. All emigrants sent out to Canada by British charitable societies or by public funds, must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada. Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or other charitable institution, he, or she may, under existing Canadian

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

Law, be deported, together with all those dependent on him or her after investigation of the facts.

Australia.

Farm labourers, female servants and other approved emigrants can obtain cheap passages to New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. There is a good demand for such workers. There is little demand for mechanics, or for miners; and at the Broken Hill Silver mines there is a serious strike of workers. The dispute on the railways in Western Australia has been settled; the minimum pay of any adult in the service is fixed at 7s. 6d, a day plus privileges, and the hours of work at 96 a fortnight.

New Zealand.

Approved farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds, milkers and female servants can obtain reduced passages to New Zealand. The last reports show that agricultural operations were busy everywhere; that cycle and motor trades were very busy at Napier and busy elsewhere; that coach building and meat freezing trades were fairly busy; printing trades were busy; wood-working trades were quiet or fair; building trades were rather quiet; engineering and leather trades were fair; and clothing trades were very busy at Christchurch, Gisborne, Greymouth, Invercargill, and Napier. There is no special demand for either mechanics or general labourers, the local supply of labour being generally sufficient. The season for going to New Zealand is now advanced, and it is generally advisable to defer departure till about September.

South Africa.

There is no demand for emigrants, except female servants, in any part of South Africa, and in nearly all the big towns there are many who are unable to obtain employment. Male emigrants therefore are warned against going there now in search of work.

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. 73 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in January. — Unemployment in the building and allied trades increased during January. In the metal and engineering trades there was still moderate activity; unemployment among tin box makers on the coast of Brittany was more severe than a month ago. In the textile trades there was little change on the whole in the Nord; the activity continued in the Vosges, and employment was satisfactory in the smaller centres of Maine-et-Loire and Vendée, as well as in the hosiery trades at Troyes; on the other hand there was a decline in employment in the cotton centres of Normandy and the Ardennes; at Rheims there was some improvement. In silk-weaving the activity in the Loire and Isère departments continued, but at Lyons __e were signs of a decline. The trades engaged in the manufacture of wearing apparel were in their slack season. In the printing and bookbinding trades employment declined slightly. There was much unemployment among leather dressers at Annonay, pottery workers at Limoges, and among coopers generally. There was more employment for vineyard workers in the South of France. In forestry centres much work was at a standstill owing to no agreement having been reached between the wood merchants and the woodcutters. Among gardeners at Paris, employment was fair for the time of year.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in January were received by the French Labour Department from 1,083 Trade Unions, with an aggregate

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

membership of 254,211. Excluding returns from the miner's unions in the Pas-de-Calais, 13.5 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 11'4 per cent. in the previous month, and 10'9 per cent. a year ago. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 83.)

Coal Mining in January.—The average number of days

worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during January was 5.99, as compared with 5.38 in December, and 5.84 in January, 1908. Taking surface and underground workers together, 92 73 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 7.21 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 178 and 9809, and in January, 1908, 9:11 and 90.86.

Labour Disputes in January.—Forty-six disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, compared with 53 in the previous month, and 81* in January, 1908. In 34 of the new disputes 3,709 workpeople took part, as compared with 4,827 workpeople who took part in 47 of the December disputes, and 3,776 who took part in 47 of the December disputes, and 3,776 who took part in 61 disputes in January, 1908. The trades in which most disputes occurred were textiles (14), building (6), transport and warehousing (5), leather (5) and metal (4). Of 33 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 8 resulted in favour of the workpeople, and 8 in favour of the employers, while 17 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in January.—Three instances

of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in January. In one case a committee of conciliation was formed, but failed to settle the difference. In the two other cases the employers did not present themselves at the proceedings for the formation of a committee of conciliation.

GERMANY.

Employment in January.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the Reichsarbeitsblatt (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of February: - " January brought a further decline for several of the larger industries. Thus the Ruhr coal market showed, in comperison with the previous month, many signs of a decreased demand, partly due to disturbances in shipping facilities. There was also a decline in activity in the lignite mining districts, causing short time to be worked, and so increasing the glut of labour. In the metal and engineering trades employment was continuously bad on the whole, and in some cases worse than in December; steelworks and rolling mills alone showed some improvement. In the various branches of the textile trades the situation was again decidedly unfavourable. The principal branches of the electrical trades reported a further decline. In the chemical trades the majority of reports showed business to have improved as compared with December; the glut of labour continued unabated in January. In the brewing trades the number of unemployed was very large, and except in South Germany, where business continued good, most districts showed a decline in comparison with December.

"The seasonal influences which asserted themselves in December became more marked in January, especially in the building trades and in inland navigation. The slackness which set in for many trades after the Christmas season continued during January. The effects of the approaching spring season were, however, already in some measure apparent, especially in the underwear, costume, blouse, hat and allied trades."

BELGIUM.+

Employment in January.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 7:3 per cent. of the 44,753 members of 211 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as

compared with 5.7 per cent. in December, and 12.0 per cent. in January, 1908. Excluding the returns from two Antwerp Unions, where there was an exceptional amount of unemployment, the percentage for a year ago would be 6.0. (As regards these figures see note under 'Labour Abroad" on p. 83.)

HOLLAND.*

Employment in January.—The building trades were adversely affected by the weather; employment among bricklayers and masons was worse than a month ago; among carpenters and stucco-workers employment was no better than in December, and stonecutters were working short time; plumbers were well employed in many places owing to the snow and frost; for painters there was a slight improvement in some communes. In the larger metal and engineering establishments, in shipbuilding and in the textile trades, the state of employment varied; in general, however, there was not much unemployment. The diamond industry at Amsterdam continued slack, and there was more unemployment than in December, but this decreased as the month went on. The seasonal slackness in the men's tailoring trade and the millinery and boot and shoe trades continued. Makers of men's hats and caps were satisfactorily employed. In the woodworking trades employment varied according to locality; but with furniture makers employment was still slack. In the printing trades employment was almost normal, unemployment being reported in a few districts only. The seasonal slackness continued in the bulb growing industry and in the brewing and mineral water trades; the cocoa and chocolate trades, too, were slightly

NORWAY.+

Employment in January.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed in certain Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics for each of the three months, January, 1909, December, 1908, and

	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
Group of Trades.	Jan.,	Dec., 1908.	Jan., 1908.	Jan.,	Dec., 1908.	Jan.,
Carpenters, &c	784 425 5,257 566 1,345 250 1,405 669 420 420	783 400 5,293 520 1,327 211 1,444 685 409 361	738 525 5,044 460 1,255 210 1,415 988 301 280	15'8 16'9 5 1 2'8 1'6 13'2 2 6 43'2 5'2 15'2	21'7 30'3 5'5 2'9 2'7 14'2 0'8 20'7 5'4 15'8	16·5 18·5 1·3 1·1 0·8 9·5 3·1 22·7 1·3 8·6
Total ecc see see	11,542	It,433	11,216	8.2	7.8	5'5

DENMARK.

Abroad "on p. 83.)

Workmen's Compensation for Accidents: Inclusion of Agricultural Labourers.—In the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1898, p. 41, is given a summary of the provisions of the Danish law of 1898, fixing the conditions under which, in certain trades, workpeople should be compensated for the loss of earning power arising from accidents, and the survivors of those killed by accidents should be indemnified for the loss of their breadwinners. This law was amended in certain respects by a measure of May 15th, 1903, and, by the law of April 1st, 1905, the right to compensation was extended to seamen on vessels of over 20 tons. H.M. Minister at Copenhagen now transmits a copy of a further law of May 27th, 1908, by which workpeople engaged in agricultural operations (including forestry and horticulture) also come within the scope of the law.

† Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

March, 1909.

Employment in New York State: End of Third Quarter of 1908.—In the Bulletin of the Department of Labour of the State of New York for December, 1908, are published statistics of unemployment among members of Trade Unions in New York State on September 30th, 1908. The Returns cover all Unions in the State, and the figures therefore have a wider basis than those published in the previous Bulletin and summarised in the Board of Trade Labour Gazette for October. 1908 (p. 309), which related to a number of representative Unions only.

On September 30th, 1908, out of a total of 358,756 members as to whom returns were furnished, 80,576, or 22.5 per cent., were reported idle, as compared with 35'7 per cent., out of a total of 387,450, at the end of March, 1908 (the last date for which similar returns for all Unions were made), and 10.5 per cent., out of a total of 405,114, in September, 1907. Excluding unemployment due to labour disputes and disability, the number reported idle on September 30th was 75,206, or 2100 per cent. of the members reporting, as compared with 34'3 per cent. at the end of March, 1908, and 8'0 per cent. in September, 1907.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed in certain groups of trades at the end of September owing to causes other than labour disputes and disability, the corresponding figures for March, 1908, and September, 1907, being added for the purpose of comparison:

Group of Trades.	Member- ship reporting	Percentage Unemployed at end of			
	at end of Sept., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Mar., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	
Building, Stone Working, &c Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Clothing Transport Printing, Bookbinding, &c Woodworking and Furniture Food, Drink and Tobacco Hotels and Restaurants Stationary Enginemen Public Employment Other		117,240 28,050 28,233 64,441 24,562 10,150 25,877 6,342 11,901 14,976 26,084	32'2 22'1 29'5 13'9 10'4 19'6 10'8 14'9 6'3 5'8	51'8 29'5 46'2 24'5 14'5 29'3 15'7 16'3 7'0 7'9 15'7	12'7 6'2 10'0 3'6 5'3 9'0 4'4 4'2 1'5 8'7
Total		358,756	21.0	34'3	8.0

Unemployment in Massachusetts: End of Third Quarter of 1908.—The Massachusetts Labour Bulletin (the journal of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour) for January gives statistics of unemployment among members of Trade Unions in the State at the end of each of the first three quarters of 1908. The percentage for the first quarter was based on returns from 256 Unions with 66,968 members; that for the second quarter on returns from 493 Unions with 72,815 members; and that for the third quarter on returns from 651 Unions with 83,969 members.

The figures are summarised in the following Table, distinguishing the principal causes of unemployment:

	Members of Trade Unions returned as unemployed.							
Cause of Unemployment.		Number		Percentage.				
	Mar. 31,	June 30,	Sept.30,	Mar. 31,	June 30,	Sept.30,		
Lack of Work or Material Unfavourable Weather Strikes or Lock-outs Disability Other Causes (repairs, vacations, stocktaking, &c.)	10,832 113 487 512 43	9,128 90 173 880 219	7,349 * 389 978 202	16:18 0:17 0:76 0:06	12.24 0.12 0.24 1.51 0.30	8:75 0:46 1:17 0:24		
Total	11,987	10,490	8,918	17.90	14.41	10.62		

Thus the percentage unemployed on September 30th, taking account of all causes, was 10.62, as compared with 14.41 on June 30th and 17.90 on March 31st. Excluding unemployment due to strikes or lock-outs and disability the percentages unemployed at these dates were 8.99, 12.96 and 16.41 respectively.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT

IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

IN FEBRUARY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 502 Returns-440 from Employers, 59 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued fairly good during February. It was not so good as a

Returns relating to 1,253 pits employing 652,177 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended February 27th, 1909, was 5.21, as compared with 5.03 in January (when o'28 of a day per week was lost on account of holidays), and as compared with 5'56 in February, 1908.

Of the 652,177 workpeople covered by the Returns 464,755 (or 71'3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended February 27th, 1909, while 299,848 (46'0 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more. The highest average number of days worked per week in February was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5'64), and the lowest in Fife (4'28).

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended February 27th, 1909, together with the figures for similar periods in January, 1909, and February,

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Feb.,	worked Colli	per week eries in F eeks ende	by the	Increase (- or Decreas (-) in Feb 1909, as con pared with		
	Collieries included in the Table.	Feb. 27th, 1909.	Jan. 23rd, 1909.†	Feb. 22nd, 1908.	A m'nth ago.	A	
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days	Days.	Days	
Northumberland	41,628	4'91	4'94	5'39	- 0.03	- 0'4	
Durham	115,449	5'25	5.10	5'47	+ 0'15	- 0'2	
Cumberland	7,173	5'40	. 4'98	5'62	+ 0'42	-0'2	
South Yorkshire	67,452	5'23	5.00	5.80	+ 0 23	-05	
West Yorkshire	25,069	5'10	4'74	5'47	+ 0.36	- 0.3	
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,745	5'14	4.87	5.60	+ 0.27		
Derbyshire	42,417	5'00	4.82	5.4I	+ 0.18	-07	
Nottingham and Leicester	34,982	4.41	4'41	4'93	+ 0.30		
Staffordshire Warwick, Worcester, and	29,753	5'40	5.06	5'73	+ 0'34	- 0.3	
Salop	8,441	5'45	5'30	5'66	+ 0'15	- 0'2	
Gloucester and Somerset	8,030	5'48	4.77	5'64	+ 0.71		
North Wales	11,476	5'47	5'5I	5'71	- 0.04		
South Wales and Mon	146,108	5'64	5'62	5.83	+ 0.03	-0.1	
ENGLAND AND WALES	598,728	5.27	8-11	5.61	+ 0.16	- 0.8	
SCOTLAND.							
West Scotland	25,992	4.80	4'34	5'06	+ 0'46	-0'2	
The Lothians	4,480	4.76	4'19	5'25	+ 0.24	- 0'4	
Fife	25,302	4.58	3.83	4 83	+ 0 45	- 0'5	
SCOTLAND	88,774	4.56	4.09	4.99	+ 0.47	- 0.4	
IRELAND	680	5'56	4.85	4.69	+ 0.20	+ 0.8	
United Kingdom	652,177	5.21	5:03	B·56	+ 0.18	- 0.3	

Compared with a month ago, and making allowance for the New Year holidays, employment in Staffordshire showed an improvement which amounted to 0.34 of a day; there was also a slight improvement in Cumberland, Yorkshire, other Midland Counties and in South Wales and Monmouthshire; while there was a decline in the Northern Counties and in North Wales. In Scotland employment was bad, especially in Fife, where there was a decline of about half a day. Compared with a year ago, there was a decline in every district except Ireland. This decline was most marked in Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Fife.

^{*} Revised figure. † Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

^{*} Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

^{*} Included under "Other Causes" in this quarter.

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

days.

† This period includes the New Year Holidays.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, classified according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were employed. At pits employing 216,968 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed. Compared with a year ago, there was a decline at pits producing each class of coal except anthracite.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Feb., 1909, at the	work by t	e number ked per w he Collier r Weeks	eek ries	(-) in	ecrease Feb., as com-
TANASA SECONDO	Collieries included in the Table.	Feb. 27th, 1909.	Jan. 23rd, 1909.*	Feb. 22nd, 1908.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite	7,884 34,755 41,752 81,248 269,570 216,958	Days. 5.82 5.30 5.23 5.11 5.27 5.13	Days. 5'28 5'08 5'10 4'83 5'16 4'90 8'03	Days. 5'74 5'58 5'51 5'49 5'60 5'53	Days. + '54 + '22 + '13 + '28 + '11 + '23 + '18	- '28 - '38 - '38 - '40

The **Exports** of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in February, 1909, amounted to 4,595,423 tons, or 100,919 tons more than in January, 1909, but 297,452 tons less than in February, 1908.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 79 Returns—64 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

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

It was moderate on the whole in tin and copper mines, and in quarries. In lead mines it was fair.

Mining.

Iron Mining. — During the four weeks ended February 27th, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.87, as compared with 5.58 a month ago, and 5.78 a year ago. The average for January was reduced by the New Year holidays.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Feb., 1909, at the Mines	work	Number ed per we n 4 week	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1909, as compared with		
	included in the Returns.	Feb. 27th, 1909.	Jan. 23rd, 1909.*	Feb. 22nd,	A month ago.	A year ago.
pickers in the same		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland	7,246	5 98	5'74	5.84	+ 0'24	+ 0'14
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,638	18.5	5'42	5'72	+ 0'39	+ 0.00
Scotland	816	5'66	4'92	5'60	+ 0'74	+ 0.00
Other Districts	2,510	5'73	5.62	5'77	+ 0.11	- 0.01
All Districts	18,210	5.87	5-58	5.78	+ 0.29	+ 0 09

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 92.2 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended February 27th, as compared with 79.9 per cent. a month ago, and 87.0 per cent. a year ago. These comparisons, however, are affected by holidays, which amounted to 0.31 of a day per week in January.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,404 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended February 27th, as compared with 3,377 in the previous month, and 3,269 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended February 27th was 5.80, as compared with 5.38 a

* This period includes New Year Holidays.

month ago, and 5.83 a year ago. These comparisons, however, are affected by holidays, which amounted to 0.50 of a day per week in January.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall was moderate in the Camborne district, but was bad in the Calstock district. In the St. Ives district, and at St. Austell and Marazion, it had improved.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in North Wales, and was fair in Weardale.

Quarrying.

Slate.—In North Wales employment continued slack in the Festiniog district, but in the Carnarvon district there was a slight improvement, and in the Dinorwic quarries full time was resumed. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) it was quiet, short time being worked.

Granite.—Employment continued good in Leicestershire, and dull, with much short time, in Aberdeenshire, though slightly better than a month ago. It was bad on Dartmoor, where it was affected by severe weather; in the Penryn district it was dull.

Limestone.—Employment was bad in Cumberland. In Weardale it was moderate and rather better than a month ago. In North Wales it was fair. In the Somerset blue lias quarries employment continued slack.

Other Stone. — Employment with sandstone quarrymen in North Wales was good. In the Forest of Dean quarries employment was slightly better, and in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries it was fair. In the Clee Hill road material quarries employment continued good. At the freestone quarries in the Gateshead district half-time was worked, partly on account of the bad weather, and partly through slackness of trade. With grindstone and building stone quarrymen at Bakewell employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago. In Forfarshire also it was bad and worse than a month ago.

Settmaking.—Employment continued good in Leicestershire. It was better at Glasgow, improved at Aberdeen, and was fair at Ratho. At Pwllheli and Nevin it was good. In the Clee Hill district it continued quiet.

China Clay.—Employment in the St. Stephen district was good; at St. Austell it was fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 116 Returns—109 from Employers and an Employers' Association, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

Employment in this industry during February continued moderate. It was worse than a year ago.

Districts.	Number of the Return	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with			
	Feb.,	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES-					
Cleveland	76	77	78	- I	- 2
Cumberland & Lancs.	25	25	28		- 3
S. and S.W. Yorks	II	11	15		- 4
Derby & Nottingham	30	29	37	+ 1	- 7
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	25	25	26		- I
Stafford & Worcester	34	34	35		- I
S.Wales & Monmouth	II	II	13	200	- 2
Other districts	6	6	7		– 1
England & Wales	218	218	239		-21
Scotland	68	66	61	- 1	+ 4
Total	283	284	200	-1	-17

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, 1909, was 283, as compared with 284 in January, 1909, and 300 in February, 1908. During February 2 furnaces were re-lit (in Lancashire and Derbyshire), and 3 were either blown out or damped down (one each in Cleveland, Cumberland and

Lanarkshire). The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 22,000 in February, 1909; a decrease of 1.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

March, 1909.

The Imports of iron ore in February, 1909, amounted to 435,327 tons, or 6,072 tons less than in January, 1909, and 3,689 tons less than in February, 1908.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in February, 1909, amounted to 69,899 tons, or 6,414 tons more than in January, 1909, but 26,495 tons less than in February, 1908.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 213 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 4 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued about the same as a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended February 27th, 1909 (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), was about 469,000, the same as in January, 1909, but a decrease of 37,000 (or 7.8 per cent.), as compared with February, 1908.

Number of Workpeople Average Number of

	empl	loyed by king Ret	firms urns.		Shifts worked per man		
	ended		In week ended Feb.				
Part of the State	27th, 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.	27th, 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.	
Departments.							
Puddling Forges Rolling Mills Porging Pounding Cher Departments Mechanics, Labourers	9,626 3,661 421 1,908 659 1,733	- 79 - 243 - 47 + 40 + 42 + 101	- 792 - 841 - 19 + 14 - 17 - 10	4'79 4'39 5'03 5'71 5'85 5'49	- 0'02 - 0'28 - 0'41 + 0'02 - 0'04 + 0'02	+ 0.03 - 0.53 - 0.04 - 0.04	
Total, Iron	18,008	- 186	-1,665	4.92	- 0.08	- 0.05	
STEEL: Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,819	+ 137	- 815	2.81	+ 0.03	+ 0.01	
Crucible Furnaces Bessemer Converters Rolling Mills Forging and Pressing Founding Other Departments Mechanics, Labourers	525 1,850 14,058 2,664 6,997 6,764 7,279	+ 11 + 31 + 127 + 15 + 302 + 159 - 288	- 65 -1,087 - 200 - 625 - 53 - 304	4'41 5'14 5 11 5'32 5'80 5'72 5'89	- 0'08 - 0'22 + 0'04 - 0'06 - 0'06	- 0'59 + 0'21 - 0'09 - 0'09 - 0'06	
Total, Steel	47,956	+1,070	-3,149	8.80	- 0.03	- 0.02	
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished): Rolling Mills Forging and Pressing Founding Other Departments Mechanics, Labourers	10,451 672 755 3,257 6,509	- 83 - 119 + 14 + 50 - 184	-1,055 - 57 + 12 - 73 - 435	4'98 5'15 5'86 5'47 5'77	- 0.17 - 0.03 + 0.13 - 0.04	- 0'11 - 0'25 - 0'03 - 0'36 + 0'02	
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,644	- 322	-1,608	5-33	- 0.11	- 0.10	
Grand Total	87,608	+ 562	-6,423	8.38	- 0.03	- 0.02	
Districts. Northumberland & Durham Cleveland Sheffield and Rotherham Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns		- 62 + 254 + 469 - 21	-1,835 + 365 - 553 - 504	5 23 5 66 5 43 5 32	+ 0.06 - 0.08 - 0.04	+ 0'13 - 0'09	
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches. Staffordshire	4,864	- 80 - 177 + 179 + 316	-2,575 - 487 - 210 + 104	5'20 5'27 5'21 5'49	+ 0.02 - 0.01 + 0.01 - 0.12	+ 0.08 - 0.03 - 0.08	
Total, England and Wales	71,268 16,340	+ 878	-5,695 - 727	5'37 5'31	- 0'02 - 0'08	- 0.11	
Total	87,608	+ 562	- 6,422	-	- 0.03	- 0.03	

As compared with a month ago, there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in the Cleveland, Sheffield and Rotherham, "Other Midland Counties" and Wales and Monmouth districts; in Scotland there was a decrease, while in the other districts there was not much change. As compared with a year ago, there were increases in the Cleveland, and Wales and Monmouth districts; all other districts showed decreases, especially Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire. In the departments, as compared with a month ago, the

principal increase was at steel foundries, and the principal decrease at iron rolling mills. As compared with a year ago, there was a decline in all the principal departments.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.36, as compared with 5.39 in January, and 5.38 in February, 1908. Compared with a month ago, the districts showed little change. The decline in the number of shifts worked was most marked at iron rolling mills and forges, and in the Bessemer converting department. As compared with a year ago, Bessemer converters and steel rolling mills were the departments chiefly affected by increases in the number of shifts worked, while the decreases were at crucible furnaces, iron rolling mills and iron and steel forges.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during February, 1909, amounted to 86,120 tons, or 9,671 tons less than in January, 1909, but 12,889 tons more than in February, 1908.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during February, 1909, amounted to 179,516 tons, or 3,625 tons less than in January, 1909, and 4,846 tons less than in February, 1908.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 59 Returns-55 from Employers, 3 from a Trade Union, and I from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued very good. It was better than a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 402 tinplate mills were working at the end of February, 1909, as compared with 399 a month ago, and 385 a year ago. The numbers of sheet mills working at the same dates were 45, 49, and 51 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople.

	Numbe	er of Work	s open.*	Number of	f Mills in o	Mills in operation.		
_	At end of Feb		At end of Feb.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a				
1831 53T-01 7	1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.	1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Tinplate Works Steel Sheet Works	4 8	- r	- I	402	+ 3 - 4	+ 17 - 6		
Total	82	- I	- I	447	- 1	+ 11		

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

	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Increase Decrease Feb., n compare	e (—) in 909, as
	1909	1909.	1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Ti	nned Plat	es and Ti	nned Sheet	s.
To United States	Tons. 5,152 5,158 1,828 1,761 2,152 16,170 32,221	Tons. 3,503 3,632 2,342 1,248 2,100 19,073	Tons. 5,018 4,223 2,513 2,323 2,071 13,476	Tons. + 1,649 + 1,526 - 514 + 513 + 52 - 2,903 + 323	Tons. + 935 - 685 - 562 + 81 + 2,694 + 2,597
10141 500 500 500	Sajaai		lates for T		7 2,081
Total ,	4,794	4,572	5,013	+ 222	- 219

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

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 969 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 922 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 39 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though still slack, showed a further slight improvement. It was, however, much worse than a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions having a membership of 171,489 show that at the end of February the percentage unemployed was 12.8, as compared with 13.1 per cent. a month ago, and 6.0 per cent. at the end of February, 1908. Compared with a month ago there was some decline in employment in five districts, and an improvement in nine districts, that in the Notts, Derby, and Leicester district being the most marked. Compared with a year ago every district showed a decline, which was especially noticeable in Scotland and in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn district.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Feb., 1909,	turn	centag ed as U ed at e	Jnem-	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unem- ployed for Feb., 1909, as compared with a		
	included in the Returns.	Feb.,	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
North-East Coast	14,793	19'2	10.8	16'0	- 0.6	+ 3'2	
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,100	116	15.8	2,1	- 1.5	+ 6'5	
Oldham, Bolton, and Black- burn District	13,413	16.1	15.6	3.9	+ 0'5	+ 13.2	
West Riding Towns	12,353	16.1	17'7	7'3	- 16	+ 88	
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,991	10'7	9'2	4.6	+ 1'5	+ 6.1	
Birmingham, Wolverhamp- ton, and Coventry District	7,473	7.8	9.0	4'9	- 1.3	+ 2.9	
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,322	10,0	12.7	5.2	- 2.7	+ 4.2	
London and Neighbouring District	11,324	7.0	8.3	6'1	~ 1.3	+ 0'9	
South Coast	4,417	4'5	3'3	2'5	+ 1'2	+ 2.0	
South Wales and Bristol District	6,707	9.0	7'5	3'4	+ 1.2	+ 5'6	
Glasgow and District	15,295	23'4	24'0	12'3	- I'5	+11.1	
East of Scotland	4,097	25'5	25'3	109	+ 0'2	+ 14.6	
Belfast and Dublin	3,559	14'9	157	7'3	- 0.8	+ 2.6	
Other Districts	5,908	10.0	11.9	3.6	- 1.6	+ 6.4	
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	171,489	12.8	13·1	6.0	- 0.3	+ 6.8	

On the North-East Coast employment continued slack, and nearly one-fifth of the Trade Union members were unemployed. At Newcastle employment continued good at ordnance works, but in other works a decline was reported. On repair work in the lower reaches of the Tyne employment was, on the whole, fairly good. On the Wear a slight improvement was reported, but employment was still very bad, and much short time was reported.

In Lancashire employment continued slack, considerable short time being worked. A further improvement was reported with engineers at Liverpool. With makers of textile machinery employment was moderate on the whole.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment was still very slack, and short time was again reported. On the Humber employment continued bad; at Lincoln, Doncaster and Peterborough it was moderate.

In the Midland Counties employment, though still slack, was better than a month ago. The cycle trade in the Birmingham, Coventry, and Wolverhampton district continued to improve, and some overtime was reported. At Nottingham, employment was fairly good with lace and hosiery machine builders, and good with tool makers, and brass bobbin and carriage makers. At Derby it was good at motor and refrigerating machinery works, where some overtime was worked. At Leicester employment was fairly good with shoe machinery makers.

Employment continued slack in London, and fair on the South Coast and at the Royal Dockyards. At Bristol and in South Wales it continued slack.

In Scotland employment continued slack; about one ourth of the Trade Union members were still un

employed, and short time was general. At Belfast employment was slack but improving. At Dublin it was bad.

March, 1909.

The Imports of machinery in February, 1909, amounted to £373,691, or £64,223 more than in January, 1909, but £49,609 less than in February, 1908.

The **Exports** of machinery in February, 1909, amounted to £2,080,745, or £201,178 less than in January, 1909, and £257,142 less than in February, 1908.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES

(Based on 349 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 329 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during February continued bad, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was still worse than a year ago, except on the North-East Coast, where an improvement was reported.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,048 members had 12,798 (or 22.5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, 1909, as compared with 23.0 per cent. a month ago, and 20.0 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, there was a decline in employment in four districts, and an improvement in seven districts. The improvement was greatest in the Tees and Hartlepool District, at Belfast and on the Thames and Medway. Compared with a year ago, there was an improvement on the North-East Coast; in all other districts there was a decline, the most noticeable being in Scotland and the Bristol Channel Ports.

District.		No. of Mem- bers* at end of Feb. 1909,	re	ercents turned employ end of	as ed at	Decreas percen Feb.,	ase (+) or ase (-) in entage for , 1909, as red with	
		included in the Returns.	Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Month ago,	Year ago.	
Wear	 leen	9,850 3,557 4,517 2,504 4,431 5,093 2,740 4,145 11,827 2,411 2,775 3,197	25'4 41'3 33'8 18'9 90 5'4 21'4 147' 29'3 26'2 13'5	26:4 40:4 38:6 19:6 11:7 5:8 16:7 12:3 30:0 25:6 16:8 13:4	31'4 48'8 44'4 12'4 6'3 2'9 10'8 8'0 18'9 11'4 6'5 5'6	+ 0'9 - 4'8 - 0'7 - 2'7 - 0'4 + 4'7 + 2'4 - 0'7 + 0'6 - 3'3 - 1'0	- 5.0 - 7.5 - 10.6 + 6.5 + 2.7 + 2.5 + 10.6 + 6.7 + 10.4 + 14.8 + 7.0 + 6.8	
United Kingdom		57,048	22.5	23.0	20.0	- 0.5	+ 2.8	

On the Tyne employment continued slack generally, but with platers, rivetters and caulkers at Elswick it was fairly good, but declining. On the lower reaches of the Tyne and at Blyth employment was fair for shipwrights on repair work. On the Wear employment continued very bad. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment generally was bad, but showed an improvement as compared with a month ago. On the Humber employment continued bad; with shipwrights it was good at Selby and moderate at Beverley.

In London employment, though still slack, was better than a month ago. On the South Coast employment was fair; with shipwrights at the Royal Dockyards it was good. At the Bristol Channel Ports employment continued bad, and was worse than a month ago. On the Mersey employment continued slack; at Barrow it was bad.

On the Clyde employment continued bad. At Aberdeen, Dundee, and Leith, it was still slack. At Belfast employment continued slack, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago. With ship cabinet-makers it continued good. At Dublin employment was bad generally.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 108 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 81 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 23,691 had 5.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 5.0 per cent. a month ago and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc. — Employment was bad generally; at Manchester it was fair with brassworkers.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc. — Employment was slack generally; at Birmingham it was fair in the shoe rivet and wire nail branches, and moderate in the cut nail branches; at Winlaton it was moderate.

Wire.—Employment was moderate on the whole.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment was quiet in the hollow-ware trade; at Wolverhampton and Willenhall it continued quiet with lock and latch makers.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was bad generally.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—At Sheffield employment was bad generally. In the needle and fish-hook trades at Redditch employment was fair on the whole.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire employment was bad in South Wales it was slack; at Birmingham, fair.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—At Cradley Heath employment with chain makers was bad. At Sheffield it was bad with railway spring fitters and vicemen. In the spring trade at West Bromwich it was fair. With anchor smiths it was moderate at Cradley, and bad on the Wear. It was slack at Dudley with anvil and vice makers, and short time was worked.

Sheet Metal Workers. — Employment was bad at Manchester; it was about the same as a month ago in London. With tinplate workers it was fair generally; at Birmingham it was quiet. With ironplate workers it was fair at Birmingham and slack in the Lye District.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment with goldsmiths and jewellers in London was slack. At Birmingham it was bad with jewellers and quiet with silversmiths and electroplaters. With silversmiths it was bad at Sheffield. With silver and electro-plate operatives in London employment was dull. With Britannia metal workers at Birmingham it was moderate. With watchmakers at Coventry it continued quiet.

Farriers.—Employment was fair generally.

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

Description	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Increase Decrease Feb., a compare	e (-) in
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:— Cutlery Hardware	£ 6,871 72,452	£ 6,783 71,046	£ 12,495 89,227	+ 88 + 1,406	£ 5,624 - 16,775
Exports:— Cutlery Hardware Implements and Tools	37,954 155,829 142,756	41,976 157,983 144,625	48,048 191,381 159,188	- 4,022 - 2,154 - 1,869	- 10,094 - 35,552 - 16,432

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 449 Returns—356 received from Employers, partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 85 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was moderate during February; there was a slight decline in the *spinning* branch, and a slight improvement in the *weaving* branch, compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 117,599 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.2

per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with a month ago the numbers employed showed little change in any department; the amount of wages paid showed a slight decline in the preparing and spinning departments, and a slight increase in the weaving and "other" departments. Compared with a year ago the numbers employed showed a slight decline in the weaving and "other" departments, but otherwise little change; the amount of wages paid showed a decrease in the spinning and "other" departments, and an increase in the weaving department.

Compared with a month ago, the amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 8.5 per cent. in the Ashton district, and of 0.7 per cent. in the Bolton district; the other districts all showed slight increases. Compared with a year ago, the amount of wages paid showed a decrease in four districts, that in the Ashton district being 5.4 per cent.; the other districts all showed increases, the highest being one of 8.8 per cent. in the Manchester district.

	w	orkpeople	3.	I	Carnings	
	No. paid Wages in week ended	or Decre as con wi	pared	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week	mount of Wages paid Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
record of the second of the second	Feb. 27th, 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Per	Per	0.000	Per	Per
Departments.		cent.	cent.	£	cent.	cent.
Preparing	13,993	- o.1	+ 0'4	12,908	- 1'2	+ 0'4
Spinning	24,792	+ 0'2	+ 0.1	24,031	- 1.7	- 2.0
Weaving	53,119	+ 0.1	- I,I	46,120	+ 1.3	+ 1'5
Other	9,838	+ 0.2	- 1.6	10,729	+ 0.4	- 1.3
Departments not specified	15,857	+ 0.8	+ 0.0	16,808	+ 1.8	+ 3.0
Total	117,599	+ 0'2	- 0'5	111,096	+ 0.3	+ 0'4
Districts.	No. 1 Cont.					
Ashton District	8,283	- 06	- 1'5	7,500	- 8.5	- 5'4
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,565	+ 0.1	- 0.1	6,379	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
Oldham District	12,312	- 0.I	- 0'4	13.210	+ 1.0	- 1.8
Bolton and Leigh	13,058	+ 0.3	+ 0'3	12 066	- 0'7	+ 0'0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood,	9,557	+ 0'3	+ 2'1	9,003	+ 19	+ 3'0
Walsden, & Todmorden	31337			3,5-3		
Manchester	8,882	+ 0'7	- I'5	7.212	+ 0'9	+ 8.8
Preston and Chorley	12.604	+ 1'3	- 0.1	11,023	+ 1.8	+ 2.8
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	15,226	+ 0.4	- 0.2	15,034	+ 1.1	+ 2'4
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	13,873	- 1.1	- 1.3	14,508	+ 1.1	- 2.0
Other Lancashire Towns	5,082	+ 1'5	- 2.8	4,354	+ 1'3	+ 2'I
Yorkshire Towns	4,830	+ 1'3	- 0.0	5:022	+ 0.0	- 5'1
Other Districts	7,327	+ 0.0	- 1'7	,776	+ 2.8	+ 0.8
Total	117,599	+ 0'2	- o.2	111,006	+ 0.3	+ 0'4

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of February the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.13d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.25d. and the lowest 5.01d. per lb. The average price for January, 1909, was 5.19d. per lb., and for February, 1908, 6.20d. per lb. For the period from March 1st to 10th, 1909, the average price of "middling American" was 5.11d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during February, 1909, averaged 7.93d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being $8\frac{1}{16}d$. and the lowest $7\frac{3}{4}d$. per lb. The average price for January, 1909, was 8.20d., and for February, 1908, 8.45d. per lb. For the period from March 1st to 10th, 1909, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.72d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on March 12th, 1909, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,473,920, as compared with 1,107,570 bales on March 13th, 1908.

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

* Exclusive of superannuated members

^{*} Exclusive of superannuated members.

Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sebruary, 1909, as compared with a Feb., Feb., 1909. Jan., Description of Cotton Month Year ago. ago. Bales. - 26,447 - 3,345 + 3,047 - 12,662 - 391 Bales. 303,708 8,141 3,548 56,086 5,553 Bales. 277,261 4,796 6,595 43,424 5,162 279,435 3,778 5,366 28,261 4,572 + 1,018 + 1,229 + 15,163 + 590 337,238 321,412 - 39,798 + 15,826 377,036

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

Description.		Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1909, a compared with		
		.	1909.		A month ago.	A year ago.	
Cotton Yarn and Twist—		1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	
Grey Bleached and Dyed		14,889	14,856	17,251 2,553	+ 33 - 134	- 2,362 - 406	
Cotton— Total		17,036	17,137	19,804	- 101	- 2,768	
Thread for Sewing		2,016	2,343	2,654	- 327	- 638	
O Han Diag Condo		1,000 yds.	ı,ooo yds.	1,000 vds.	1,000 vds.	1,000 yds.	
Grey or Unbleached		162,143	155,508	166,359	+ 6,635	- 4,216	
Bleached		126,840	116,165	155,436	+ 10,675	- 28,595	
Printed Dyed or Manufactured Dyed Yarn	of	71,005	71,449 76,001	89,191 95,139	- 444 - 306	- 18,186 - 19,444	
Total		435,683	419,123	506,125	+ 16,560	- 70,442	

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 393 Returns—369 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 15 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.) Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was quiet, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year

Returns from firms employing 27,755 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield, Leeds and Dewsbury districts employment was quiet, with much short time; it was better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. At Hawick employment continued slack; at

	Workpeople covered by returns.			Earnings.		
	No. em- ployed in week ended Feb.	Decreas	se (+) er se (-), as pared th a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments. Wool Sorting Spinning Weaving Other Departments Unspecified	577 5,647 11,656 7,981 1,894	Per cent 0.5 + 0.8 + 0.1 + 0.7 + 0.2	Per cent 2'7 - 2'3 - 4'0 + 0'1 - 0'6	£ 541 4,825 9,201 7,511 1,579	Per cent. + 4.6 + 6.6 + 4.2 + 1.6 + 1.9	Per cent. + 4.0 - 5.1 - 5.0 - 4.0
Total	27,755	+ 0'4	- 2'2	23,657	+ '7	- 6.1
Districts. Huddersfield District Leeds District Dewsbury & Batley District Other Parts of West Riding	5,321 3,877 4,393 2,353	+ 2.6 + 0.1 - 0.3	3- 2·2 - 8·0 - 3·4 + 1·9	5,254 3,165 3,740 3 2,073	+ 8.4 + 1.5 + 6.7 + 2.3	- 8.0 -13.2 -12.3 + 2.8
Total, West Riding Scotland Other Districts	15,944 5,792 6,019	+ 0.8	- 3'5 - 1'9 + 0'9	14,232 4,877 4,548	+ 5'5 + 0'5 + 2'0	+ 1,3 - 3,4 - 0,0
Total, Woollen	27.755	+ 0'4	- 2'2	23,657	+ 3'7	- 6.1

Worsted Trade.

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

Returns from firms employing 45,733 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed a decrease of or per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of o'4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1'0 per cent. both in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid.

Malacest desired		people c		I	Carnings	mid.
ate in the end that that the control of the control	No. em- ployed in week ended	Decres as con wit	e (+) or ase (-) apared th a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week	Increase Decrease as com wit	pared
	Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago
Departments. Wool Sorting & Combing Spinning Weaving Other Departments Unspecified Total	5,295 25,076 9,015 4,967 1,380	Per cent. + 0.6 - 0.2 - 0.4 + 0.5 + 1.2 - 0.1	Per cent. + 0.6 - 0.2 - 4.3 - 1.6 + 2.6 - 1.0	£ 5,314 13,605 7,851 5,004 951	Per cent. + 3'1 - 0'5 + 0'5 + 0'6 + 0'4	Per cent. + 2'9 1'5 2'3 1'0 3'3 1'0.
Districts. Bradford District	22,763 6,894 5,062 5,506 3,252	+ 0.1 - 0.4 + 0.1 - 0.4	- 2.8 + 0.5 + 2.4 + 1.4 + 2.3	16.189 4,811 3,371 5,025 1,936	+ 1'4 - 3'9 + 3'4 - 0 9 + 1'8	- 2'2 - 3'0 + 3'6' + 1'8 + 1'9
Total, West Riding Other Districts	43,477 2,256	- o.3	- o·8 - 5·4	31,352 1,373	+ 0.4	- 3.3 - 0.0
Total, Worsted	45,733	- o.1	- 1.0	32,725	+ 0'4	- 1.0

In the Bradford district employment with wool sorters and combers was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; in the other branches of the trade it was moderate. In the Keighley district there was a decline. In the Halifax district employment showed an improvement, and was better than a year ago. In the Huddersfield district it showed little change compared with a month ago, and was slightly better than a year

Prices of Raw Material.

	Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.
Average Prices: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops	Pence per lb. 9 117 248	Pence per lb. 9 117 248	rence per lb., 105 112 26
Course of Prices during the month: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops	9 113-12 241-25	9 11 ² 4, 12, 11 ² 4 24 ¹ 2, 24 ¹ 4	11-102 123-111 263-252

Imports and Exports.—The Table below 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 :-

-	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Increase Decreas Feb., 1 compare	e (-) in 909, as	
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Import	s and Ex	ports of l	Raw Wool	(SHEEP OR	LAMBS').	
Imports 1,000 lbs. British Exports ;, Re-Exports of Imported Wool	124,622 4,129 55,631	113,580 5,546 25,273	89,100 1,457 37,805	+ 11,042 - 1,417 + 30,358	+ 35.522 + 2,672 + 17,826	
Yarn:				tures Exp		
Woollen 1,000 lbs.	162	4,226	3,877	+ 58	+ 194	
Alpaca & Mohair ,,	1,193	1,106	1,123	+ 87	+ 70	
Total, Yarn ,,	5,426	5,456	5,142	- 30	+ 284	
Piece Goods: Woollen 1,000 yds. Worsted "	6,397 7,630	7,458 8,416	7,480 8,520	- 1,061 - 286	- 1,083. - 890	
Total, Piece Goods ,,	14,027	15,874	16,000	- 1,847	- 1,973.	

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 112 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.) EMPLOYMENT was fair, and better than a month ago

and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 47,749 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

of 3.3 per cent. In the number employed, and of 9.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Belfast employment showed an improvement and was much better than a year ago; about 60 per cent. of the mills were running full time, the remainder averaging about 43 hours a week. In the other parts of Iteland there was also an improvement. In Fifechira of Ireland there was also an improvement. In Fifeshire employment was good, and much better than a year ago. In the other parts of Scotland it showed an improvement.

nostania il	Work	Returns	ered by	Ea	rnings.	2 2 3 3 4
denses of sudd	paid wages in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	Decreas	e (+) or se (-) as red with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in	Decrea	e (+) or ase (-) as ed with
		A month ago.	A year ago.	week ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Per	Per	£	Per	Per
Departments.	6.126	cent.	ent.	3,195	cent. + 0'4	+ 3'9
Spinning	11,373	+ 0.6	+ 0'4	5,157	+ 2.6	+ 26
Weaving	15,645	+ 2.6	+ 5'9	9,310	+ 4'9	+ 16.8
Other	7,135	+ 1.8	+ 3.7	5,517	+ 2'9	+ 7.6
Not specified	7,470	+ 2'7	+ 4'3	4,244	+ 76	+ 9.6
Total	47.749	+ 1.7	+ 3'3	27,423	+ 3'9	+ 94
Districts. Belfast Other Places in	18,013	Per cent. + 2'3	Per cent. + 3.6	£ 10,470	Percent + 5'0	Per cent
Ireland	15,575	+ 1'4	+ 4'9	8,100	+ 2.8	+ 9.3
Total, Ireland	33,588	+ 1.0	+ 4'2	18,570	+ 4'0	+ 10'2
Fifeshire Other Places in	6,103	+ 2.0	+ 4'5	3,923	+ 4'7	+ 18'5
Scotland	6,170	+ 0'2	+ 1.0	3,806	+ 3'5	
Total, Scotland	12,273	+ 1.2	+ 1.3	7,729	+ 4'1	+ 8.6
England	1,888	- 0.3	+ 1.0	1,124	+ 1'4	+ 1'7
United Kingdom	47,749	+ 1.7	+ 3'3	27,423	+ 3'9	+ 9'4

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and piece goods, for the months

Description.	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a		
		.303 .	1gooi	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports: Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) Tons Exports Linen Yarn 100 Lbs. Linen Piece Goods 100 Yds.	9,556 10,936 174,441	11,296 10,252 197,398	9,239 11,427 122,735	- 1,740 + 684 - 22,957	+ 317 - 491 + 51,706	

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 34 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was not so good as a year

Returns from firms employing 17,500 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 17,500 workpeople covered by the Returns, 14,969 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

	Work	Returns.	ered by	Barnings.			
Departments.	Number paid wages in week ended	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		
	Feb. 27th, 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	A month ago,	A year ago.	
Preparing Spinning Weaving Other Not specified	4,056 4,973 5,772 1,804 885	Per cent. + 0'I - 0'I + 0'I + 1'4 - 0'2	Per cent. - 3'4 + 0'1 - 4'5 + 3'1 - 1'3	£ 2,530 3,026 4,178 1,804 656	Per cent - 0'2 + 0'3 + 1'2 + 1'3 + 2'2	Per cent - 5'2 - 2'4 - 4'5 + 0'5 - 0'3	
Total	17,500	+ 0'2	- 2.0	12,294	+ 0.4	- 3'2	

Compared with a month ago the preparing and spinning departments showed little change in the number employed or in the amount of wages paid, while the weaving and "other" departments showed slight increases. Compared with a year ago the preparing, spinning and weaving departments all showed decreases in the amount of wages paid.

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

Description.	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Decreas Feb.,	se (+) or se (-) in 1909, as ed with a
He are thrown as			Igoo.	Month ago.	Year ago.
mports: Jute Tons	43,944	53,950	18,593	- 10,006	+ 25,351
Sxports: Jute Yarn 100 Lbs. Jute Plece Goods 100 Yds.	35,890 118,822	42.498 145,657	44,458 108,368	- 6,608 - 26,835	- 8,568 + 10,454

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 56 Returns—51 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,089 workpeople, and paying £5,194 in wages in the week ended February 27th, showed that, as compared with January, there was a decrease of o'l per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of o.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:-

	Workpeople covered by Returns,] 1	Earnings	
-	No. paid wages in week ended	Decres as con	ase (+) or ase (-) apared th a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week	Increa Decrea as con with	r ise (-) ipared
****	Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Branches. Throwing	988 2,445 3,279 1,264 113	Per cent. + 1'2 - 1'2 + 0'9 - 6'6	Per cent 7'3 - 2'7 - 6'9 + 9'2 - 5'8	\$385 1,769 2,084 900 56	Per cent. — 1'3 — 1'6 + 2'9 + 25 — 8'2	Per cent. + 1'3 - 1'8 - 8'6 + 9'1 - 11'1
Districts. Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire Macolesfield, Congleton and District Eastern Counties	3,046 951 2,398	- 0.1 - 0.2 - 0.1	- 3'5 - 1'7 - 2'3 - 2'8	2,257 650 1,378	+ 0.8 - 1.6 + 3.2	- 3.2 - 0.7 - 3.8 + 6.9
Scotland	8,089	- 1.4 - 1.4	- 3·5	5,194	+ 0.4	- 3.5 - 13.5

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated.

Description.	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb., 1908.	Decrease Feb.,	se (+) or se (-) in 1909, as ed with a	
	on rige	(a) - 33 (a) 23	don B	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:— Raw Silk lbs Thrown Silk ,'' Spun Silk Yarn ,'' Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	105,064 37,984 24,838 7,043,546	94,771 36,584 20,909 5,543,773	52,461 21,552	+ 10,293 + 1,400 + 3,929 +1,499,773		
Exports:— Thrown Silk lbs Spun Silk Yarn , Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,461 63,785 456,661	4,527 75,291 393,426		+ 934 - 11,506 + 63,235	- 5,864	

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 107 Returns—98 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago; it was moderate in England, fairly good in Scotland.

Returns from firms employing 17,419 workpeople in the week ending February 27th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago; at Hinckley it was moderate; at Loughborough it was slack. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was moderate; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was bad, short time being general. In Scotland it was fairly good, and better than a month

		people co y Return		E	arnings.	arnings.			
District.	No. paid wages in week ended Increase (+)		r ase (-) apared	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a				
	Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909	Month ago.	r ise (-) ipared			
Leicester Leicester Country District Notis and Derbyshire Sootland Other Districts	8,211 2,063 4,018 2,147 980	Per cent. + 1'1 + 0'7 + 0'8 + 1'5 + 1'2	Per cent 2.2 - 0.7 - 1.9 + 0.0 + 7.7	£ 6,506 1,558 2,973 1,496 612	Per cent. + 2.3 - 0.8 - 0.1 + 7.2 - 0.5	eent 1.5 - 1.4 + 4.4 + 6.9			
Total, United Kingdom	17,419	+ 1.0	- o.e	13,145	+ 1.8	+ 1.3			

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the value of woollen and cotton hosiery imported and exported for the months stated :-

	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Decrease	e (+) or -) in Feb., compared th a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports (less Re-Exports): Hosiery, Woollen Cotton Exports:	£ 23,954 106,833	£ 9,306 84,58	£ 28,342 131,553	+ 14,648 + 22,251	- 4,388 - 24,720	
Hosiery, Woollen	122,275 35,762	130,954 32,157	139,370 41,591	- 8,679 + 3,605	- 17,095 - 5,829	

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 86 Returns—78 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, but slightly better than a month ago; it was also better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,123 workpeople in the week ended February 27th, and paying £7,493 in wages, showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.1 per cent. In the number employed, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was reported as bad in the levers branch, but better than a year ago; fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch; many firms reported short time. In the Long Eaton district employment showed an improvement. In the West of England employment in the plain net branch was slack, but better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In Scotland employment in the curtain branch was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

	Workpeople covered by Returns.			ı	Carnings		
	No. paid wages in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	as con	e (+) or ase (-) apared h a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week	Increas Decrea as con wit	pared	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month year ago.		
Branches.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per	
Levers	1,995	+ 4'3	+ 0.8 - 4.5	2,279	- 0.7	+ 13.0	
Plain Net	2,538 2,717 873	+ 1.6	- 1·5 - 6·4	2,071	+ 1.6	- 4'0 - 8'8	
Total	8,123	+ 17	- 2.1	7,493	+ 1.1	+ 2'3	
0							
Districts. Nottingham City	1,902	- 1.8	- 6.4	1,600	+ 0'4	- 1'3	
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,469	+ 0.3	- 3.0	1,728	+ 1.2	+ 5.0	
Other English districts Scotland	3,032	+ 5'0	- 1.8 + 3.2	2,424	+ 0.2	+ 0'9	
	2						
Total	8,123	+ 1.4	- 2.1	7.493	+ 1.1	+ 2.3	

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of lace imported and exported for the

Description.		Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Decreas	e (+) or e (-) in 1909, as d with a	
						Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:— Cotton Lace Silk Lace	300		£ 279,288 23,357	£ 352,194 26,644	£ 279,125 23,860	£ - 72,906 - 3,287	+ £ 163 - 503
Exports:— Cotton Lace Silk Lace	•••	***	382,785 10,726	405,276	385,412 6,914	- 22,491 - 4,243	- 2,627 + 3,812

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 59 Returns-22 from Employers and Employers' Associations. 27 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents).

Carpet Trade.

Employment during February was slack generally. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 5,144 work-people and paying £4,300 in wages in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.2 per cent. in the wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE. March, 1909.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was slack, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. About five-eighths of the Trade Union dyers are reported to have worked short time, and about one-eighth overtime.

Cotton Dyers .- Employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago; much short time was reported.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield, and fair at Leek.

Calico Printers, &c .- Employment generally showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but much short time was still worked; it was worse than a year ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire employment was good. In Glasgow it continued bad with calico printers, engravers and block

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c .- At Leicester and Hinckley employment showed a slight improvement; at Loughborough it showed a decline. With dyers at Nottingham employment continued good, with bleachers at Nottingham and Basford it was fairly good, with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was about the same as a year ago.

Calenderers, &c .- At Glasgow employment continued fair, and was about the same as a year ago.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 125 Returns-95 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London showed a seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago. In the provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and better than a month ago; it was slightly worse than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London. - Employment during February showed a seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a

Firms paying £9,010 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended February 27th showed an increase of 15'9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.5 per cent. compared with a vear ago.

Other _ tres.—Employment was reported as dull at Liverpool and Belfast, bad at Glasgow, slack at Edinburgh, and fair at Dublin.

Ready-made Branch.

London.-Employment was fair, and slightly better than a month ago; compared with a year ago little change was shown.

Leeds.—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago. Firms employing 7,755 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops), in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Jewish operatives reported employment

Other Centres. - Employment at Manchester and Norwich was moderate, at Bristol it was slack, at Glasgow it was fair; it was generally worse than a year ago, except in Manchester, where there was a slight improvement.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in

with £204,532 in January, 1909, and £234,364 in February, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £416,775, £432,046, and £430,207 respectively.

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BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 512 Returns-497 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago, except in the heavy boot districts, where it

Returns from firms employing 64,681 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of o.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.0 per cent, in the number employed, and of 0'2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment showed on the whole a slight improvement, but the Trade Union lasters and finishers reported a slight decline. At Northampton the Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as slack; at Kettering it was better than a month ago and

With army bootmakers in Northamptonshire employment showed a slight improvement. At Bristol it was quiet, and worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and Leeds it was bad, and worse than a year ago. In Scotland employment was moderate, but better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

i batan g		people c			Earning	s.
District.	No. paid wages in week ended	Decreas	e (+) or se(-) as pared h a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week	Increas Decreas comp wit	e (-) as
and with a second	Feb. 27th, 1909	Month ago.	Year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
BNGLAND & WALES. London Leicester Country District Northampton Country District Kettering Stafford & District Bristol & District Manchester & District Birmingham & District Other parts of England and Wales	2,331 14,463 3,138 9,546 8,821 3,964 2,665 3,425 2,011 1,813 1,957 2,779 843 2,904	Per cent. + 2'7 + 1'8 + 0'7 - 0'5 + 0'1 + 2'4 + 0'6 + 0 1 + 2'9 - 1'0 - 1'0 - 1'0 - 0'8 + 0'3	Per cent 1.5 + 4.6 + 0.6 + 0.6 + 0.6 + 2.3 + 5.5 - 1.7 + 2.5 + 6.7 + 1.4	£ 2,612 15,547 2,948 9,206 8,089 3,990 2,327 2,921 1,609 1,497 1,587 2,405 688 2,435	Per cent. + 7.7 + 2.7 + 1.5 + 1.6 + 1.4 + 1.8 - 6.1 - 5.8 - 5.8 - 0.2	Per cent.
ENGLAND & WALES	60,630	+ 0.4	+ 2'1	57,861	+ 1.1	+ 0'2
SCOTLAND IRELAND	3,818	- 0'3 + 5'4	+ 6.6	3,562 160	+ 74 + 74	- 0.3 - 0.3
United Kingdom	64,681	+ 0.4	+ 2'0	61,583	+ 1'4	+ 0'2

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

gang was included a	Feb.,		Feb.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a		
	1909.		1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports (less Re-Exports) Quantity Dozen pairs Value £	18,738 68,525	22,407 65,448	23,370 72,875	- 3,669 + 3,077	- 4,632 - 4,350	
Exports (British and Irish) Quantity Dozen pairs Value £	89,173 190,157	89,062	89,241 195,832	+ III - 855	- 68 - 5.675	

February, 1909, were valued at £257,658, as compared Trades "p. 04.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 38 Returns—22 from Trade Unions and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was bad, but showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,268 had 7.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February as compared with 7.9 per cent. in January, and 6.6 per cent. a year ago.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—With skinners employment continued fair at Leeds; it was slack at Birmingham and bad in London. With curriers employment was bad in London and at Walsall and Edinburgh, and quiet at Birmingham; at Glasgow and Leeds it was fair. With dressers employment was moderate, and showed a slight improvement. With leather workers generally employment was fair at Bolton, Bury and Wigan; at Manchester it was bad.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—In London employment was bad. At Walsall short time was worked by makers of gig saddles; employment improved, and was fair, with brown saddlers. With saddlers it was fair at Glasgow, and moderate at Dublin.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades. — With fancy leather workers employment continued bad, and short time was worked. With fancy and morocco leather finishers it was fair. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment continued bad at Manchester, and was quiet in London; short time was worked.

Imports and Exports.

The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a		
	1909.	Agog.	19001	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:— Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	cwts. 33,321	owts. 34,346	owts. 25,957	- cwts. - 1,025	ewts. + 7,364	
Ditto, wet	61,130	55,332	78,407	+ 5,798	- 17,277	
Total, hides, dry and wet	94,451	89,678	104,364	+ 4,773	- 9,913	
Goat skins, undressed (No.) Sheep skins ,, (value) £	1,057,137 219,462	1,162,749 236,627	884,109 203,129	- 105,612 - 17,165	+ 173,028 + 16,333	
Leather*	cwts. 102,281	owts. 106,050	owts. 85,577	owts. - 3,769	owts. + 16,704	
Exports:— Saddlery and harness (value)	£ 33,292	£ 29,499	£ 37,238	+ £	- £	

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 13 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, and 11 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during February in the Silk hat trade was bad, but better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 14.1, compared with 16.2 a month ago, and 10.9 a year ago.

In the Felt hat trade employment was moderate, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 3.4, compared with 3.5 a month ago, and 2.1 a year ago. Employment was fair at Denton, quiet at Stockport. In Warwickshire it was moderate, with some short time.

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

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

Description.		Feb., Jan	Jan.,	Feb.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb 1909, as compared with a		
		-yoy.	2909.	1900.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports: All kinds		Dozens. 58,985	Dozens. 28,980	Dozens. 30,242	Dozens. + 30,005	Dozens. + 28,743	
Exports: Felt Straw Other Sorts		56,039 45,880 6,429	45,731 45,340 7,269	50,873 48,876 7,789	+ 10,308 + 540 - 840	+ 5,166 - 2,996 - 1,360	
Total	1	08,348	98,340	107,538	+ 10,008	+ 810	

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 169 Returns—162 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade was fair with retail firms, and better than a year ago; with court dressmakers it was quiet, and worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was fairly good, and slightly better than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was moderate; 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 1,397 dressmakers in the week ended February 27th, showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers employing 863 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 7.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was quiet. With milliners in the West-End employment was fair.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,838 workpeople on their premises in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 8·7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2·5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers continued moderate. In the costume an 'skirt trade employment during the month was good, ms employing 1,990 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 13.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was moderate, better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,546 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,430 in wages, in the week ended February 27th, showed an increase of 3'3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5'4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was moderate.

Corset Trade. — Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,061 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 467 Returns—138 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 308 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades was fair on the whole, except in the Northern Counties, where it was dull, short time being reported at a number of mills. Employment showed little general change compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago it showed a decline.

Returns received from firms employing 22,133 work-people in the last week of the month showed that there was little change in the total number employed compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the Northern and Midland Districts there was some decline in the number employed, while in the Southern Counties and Scotland there was an increase.

A conductive and a conductive of the conductive	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of February,	Percentage or Decre in No. of We compare	ease (-) orkpeople as
35.17.20.20.20.20.	rgog, by firms making Returns.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards: Northern Counties Midlands, Wales, and Ireland Southern Counties Scotland	5,603 1,524 7,159 6,007	- 1'2 - 1'4 + 0'2 + 0'1	- 1'9 - 0'5 + 2'2 + 0'6
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,293	- 0'4	+ 0'3
Hand-made Paper	840	V 00	- 2.4
Total	22,133	- 0'4	+ 0.5

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 1,649 members had 3.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 3.4 per cent. a month ago, and 1.8 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of paper in February, 1909, amounted to £424,254, as compared with £409,988 in January, 1909, and £524,584 in February, 1908; and the Exports for the same months amounted to £179,099, £178,332 and £198,053 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was slack generally, and worse than a year ago. Compared with a month ago, it showed some improvement with letterpress printers and a slight decline with lithographic printers. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 5.8, as compared with 6.3 at the end of January and 4.8 at the end of February, 1908.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1909,		Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in per- centage unemployed as compared with a		
\$1 - 11 - 12	included in the Returns.	Feb., rgog.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
London	21,148	6.1	6'3	5'2	- 0'2	+ 0'9		
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,425	6'4	6.7	4'4	- 0.3	+ 2.0		
Lanes, and Cheshire	6,700	57	6.7	5'0	- 1'0	+ 07		
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,566	3.7	5'0	2.7	- 1.3	+ 1.0		
West Midlands	2,523	47	4'9	4'5	- 0'2	+ 0'2		
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,780	2.8	3'9	2.7	- 1.1	+ 0.1		
Scotland	5,523	5'4	5'8	3'9	- 0'4	+ 1'5		
Ireland	2,609	11.6	12.1	8.3	- 0.2	+ 3'3		
United Kingdom	50,274	5.8	6.3	4.8	- o·5	+ 1.0		

London.—Employment was quiet generally and worse than a year ago. It showed an improvement compared with January in the case of letterpress printers and a decline in the case of lithographic printers. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 6·1, compared with 6·3 at the end of January, and 5·2 a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was slack on the whole, and worse than a year ago. It was good, however,

with letterpress printers at Bolton, Leicester, Ipswich, Norwich and Dundee, and fair at Edinburgh and Nottingham. It showed an improvement at Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, Bristol and Cardiff, and a decline at Oxford, Newcastle and Aberdeen. With lithographic printers employment was worse than a month ago at a majority of the principal centres, short time being reported; at Birmingham employment continued fair.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment continued slack generally, and was worse than a year ago. In London short time was worked to a considerable extent, although overtime was reported in a few branches.

bing e somen off so sic a of exp er its	185	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb.,1909, included in the Returns.	Percen Unemp	tage retu ployed at	rned as end of	Decrease centage u	e (+) or (-) in per- nemployed ared with a
on paolen Geloù Sa i			Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London Other Districts	•••	3,539 3,326	7.6 7.5	6 g 6 g	7'4 4'I	+ 0.7	+ 0'2 + 3'4
United Kingdom		6,865	7.6	6.6	5.8	+ 1.0	+ 1.8

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,275 Returns—779 from Employers and Employe. Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Traus Correspondent, 1,44x from Trade Unions and their branches, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

From Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in February was slack in all parts of the United Kingdom. It showed a slight improvement compared with January, but was worse than in February, 1908. During part of the month building operations were seriously interfered with by frosty weather.

Returns received from 721 firms employing 39,154 workpeople at the end of February show that in London, in the case of skilled workmen, there was an increase in the number employed of 8.9 per cent., compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; while in the case of labourers there were increases of 4.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.9 per cent. compared with a wear ago. In the Provinces the increase in the number employed compared with a month ago amounted to 4.4 per cent. in the case of skilled workmen and 0.9 per cent. in the case of labourers; while, compared with a year ago, there were decreases of 15.0 per cent. in the case of skilled men, and of 23.4 per cent. in the case of labourers.

obset some dinose.	Skill	ed Trad	lesmen.		Labourer	8. 4111
District,	No. of Work- people paid wages	Decre	ase (+) or ase (-) as ared with	No. of Work- people paid wages	Decrea	se (+) or se (-) as red with
us at Soore armer	on the last pay-day of Feb., 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.	on the last pay-day of Feb., 1909.	A month ago.	A year ago.
London Northern Counties and Yorkshire	7,646 1,893	+ 743		5,014 1,469	+ 216	+ 95 - 109
Lancashire and Cheshire Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	3,219 2,384 2,747	+ 198 + 108 + 251	- 793	2,610 2,478 1,515	+ 106 + 104 + 40	- 35 - 1,349 - 340
England and Wales	17,889	+ 1,384	- 1,293	13,086	+ 497	- 1,738
Scotland	2,766 285	- 34 + 2		1,312	- 112 - 84	- 536 - 632
United Kingdom	20,940	+ 1,357	- 2,160	14,822	+ 301	- 2,906
ender - Deel - James	Lac	ls and I	Boys.		Total.	
London Northern Counties and Yorkshire	530 478	+ 4	- 7 - 59	13,190 3,840	+ 963 + 113	+ 268 - 461
Lancashire and Cheshire Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	855 343 421	- 17 - 6 - 1		6,684 5,205 4,683	+ 287 + 200 + 290	- 8 - 2,199 - 843
England and Wales	2,627	- 28	- 212	33,602	+ 1,853	- 3,243
Scotland	715 50	- 8 - 7	- 130 - 13	4,793 759	- 154 - 84	- 1,221 - 957
United Kingdom	3,392	- 43	- 355	39,154	+ 1,615	- 5,421

joiners unemployed at the end of February was 14.5 as compared with 16.3 a month ago and 11.2 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 12.0, 10.3, and 12.4 respectively. For London the Trade Union Returns show that 11.8 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed, as compared with 15.2 a month ago and 11.9 a year ago; the corresponding percentages for plumbers were 15.6, 11.2, and 15.8 respectively.

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Employment was slack in nearly every large centre. At Leeds, Manchester and Leicester it was reported as worse than in January. An improvement was reported by bricklayers at several places in the Midland and Eastern Counties. At Plymouth and Bristol employment showed an improvement with carpenters and painters. At Cheltenham employment was fair on the whole. At Cardiff it was worse than a month ago. In Scotland employment declined with masons, but improved with painters. With painters at Belfast employment was reported as good.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 185 Returns-5 from Employers' Associations, 150 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, but showed an improvement as compared with a month ago. It was rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 36,404 reported 8.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 10.4 per cent. a month ago and 8.1 per cent. a year ago. A good deal of short time was worked.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment with cabinet makers, upholsterers, and french polishers was on the whole bad, though better than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 11.6, as compared with 13.9 a month ago, and 11.3 a year ago. A good deal of short time was worked.

The Imports of furniture and cabinetware in February, 1909, were valued at £29,810, as compared with £24,359 in January, 1909, and £50,061 in February, 1908; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £44,276, £47,892, and £51,210 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally was bad. It showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. Trade Unions reported 8.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 9.0 per cent. a month ago, and 7.1 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.—The Table below shows the quantities of hewn and sawn timber, and the values of house frames, &c., imported for the months stated :-

Description.	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Decrease Feb.,	e (+) or se (-) in 1909, as ed with a
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	Loads. 21,369 130,471	Loads. 22,569 135,426	Loads. 25,009 126,771	Loads. - 1,200 - 4,955	Loads. - 3,640 + 3,700
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 11,762	£ 10,336	£ 13,977	+ £,426	- £

Coopers.

Employment generally continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. It continued good at Dublin, and fair at Belfast; it was fair also at Hull.

Coachbuilding.

Employment generally continued bad, but showed a turther improvement as compared with a month ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and It was about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 9.0 per cent. a month ago, and 6.9 per cent. a year ago. Short time was reported in many places.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers. - Employment with brushmakers was fair, and showed a further improvement as compared with a month ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 4.8, as compared with 6.4 at the end of January, and 3.4 a year ago. Employment was reported to be good at Leeds, Bristol and Dublin, but dull at Glasgow.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was bad, and showed, on the whole, little change compared with a month ago. With skip and basket makers at Oldham it was good, but with basket makers at Leicester it continued bad; it was bad also at

The Imports of brushes and brooms in February, 1909, were valued at £30,220, as compared with £23,577 in January, 1909, and £29,000 in February, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months at £15,749, £14,718 and £15,502 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 87 Returns-61 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 16 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull on the whole, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,509 work-people in the week ended February 27th, and paying £9,082 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the total earnings paid, as compared with a month ago.

As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 8.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 10.1 per cent. in the total earnings. The decline in numbers employed was principally in the Yorkshire and Lancashire districts, and in Scotland.

	Workp	eople cove Returns.	ered by	Earnings.			
17 25 25 2 26 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Number paid Wages in week	Decre as cor	e (+) or ase (-) npared ith	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		
	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.	ended Feb. 27th, 1909.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.	
Branches. Glass Bottle Plate Glass Flint Glass Ware	4,830 6go 1,740	Per cent 1'2 + 0'7 + 0'2	Per cent 11'7 - 8'0 - 0'3	6,068 848 1,858	Per cent. + 2'I + 3'2 + 0'6	Per cent 13'6 + 1'4 - 2'7	
(not Bottles) Other Branches	249	- 3.9	- 2'0	308	- 4'9	- 5'5	
Total	7,509	- 0.8	- 8.7	9,082	+ 1.7	- 10,1	
Districts. North of England Yorkshire Lancashire Worcester and Warwick	777 3,781 699 1,216	- 8.8 + 0.3 - 2.8 + 0.4	+ 2.8 - 13.7 - 8.0 - 0.6	856 4,733 807 1,497	- 13.5 + 5.1 + 2.5 + 3.5	+ 8.1 - 0.0 + 8.1	
Scotland Other parts of the United Kingdom	325	+ 0.0	+ 0.0	870 319	+ 4.9	+ 3.8	
Total	7,509	- 0.8	- 8.7	9,082	+ 1'7	- IO'I	

Employment with glass bottle makers continued bad in Yorkshire, except at Leeds and Wakefield, where it was moderate; some improvement on the previous month was reported at Barnsley, Castleford, and Mexborough. Employment was reported as still bad in Lancashire. In the North of England some slight improvement was shown on the Wear, but at Seaham Harbour employment was much worse than a month ago. It was good at Bristol and fair at Glasgow; at Portobello it was slack. With flint glass makers

employment generally was good. It was fair with flint glass cutters generally, though dull at Birmingham and Glasgow. With plate glass bevellers at Birmingham it was fair, and better than a month ago. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens employment was moderate; and with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it continued bad. With glass blowers in London employ-

March, 1909.

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

Description.	Feb.,		Feb.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with	
YATEL		200	1101	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:	owts.	owts.	owts.	cwts.	owts.
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	92,530	103,181	124,033	- 10,651	- 31,503
Plate Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	26,245 46,249	32,093 45,072	35,275 57,370	- 5,848 + 1,177	- 9,030 - 11,12
Manufactures, other sorts	192 gross	233 gross	873 gross	- 4t	- 68 gross
Bottles	116,069	109,282	131,748	+ 6,787	- 15,67
Exports:	swts.	owts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Plate	12,290	15,325	10,045	- 3,035	+ 2,24
	4,877 25,086	5,418	4,195	- 54I + 20	+ 68
manufactures, other sorts	gross	gross	28,470 gross	+ 29 gross	- 2,38 gross
Bottles	59.740	65,425	65,808	- 5,685	- 6.06

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 28 Returns-9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued bad, but in the brick and tile trades in some districts there was a slight improvement

Pottery Trade.—Employment remained generally bad in Staffordshire, and was worse than a year ago. It continued moderate on the whole in Devonshire and Cornwall, and it improved slightly with earthenware potters at Bristol. In South Yorkshire it continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. It was bad at Glasgow, short time being worked. With clay tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow it was slack.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued good in South Wales, and moderate at Barnsley and in the Tees and Hartlepool district. There was a slight improvement at Bristol and Stourbridge, and in Shropshire. In other districts it remained bad.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in February, 1909, were valued at £53,552, as compared with £50,092 in January, 1909, and £78,534 in February, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £158,210, £162,153, and £211,010 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 214 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment during February. The forward state of farm work, however, affected the demand for day labourers in many districts, and in consequence the supply of such men was somewhat in excess of the

Northern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Northumberland, where, however, there was little demand for extra labourers. A fair demand for extra labourers was reported from certain districts in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire, principally for carting and spreading manure and hedge-trimming. There was little or no interruption of outdoor work in Yorkshire, but in many districts the demand for day labourers was not equal to the supply.

Midland Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Cheshive; there was a fairly equal supply of and demand for labour, but a correspondent in the Tarvin Union mentions a scarcity of indoor farm servants. There was not much demand for day labourers in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and some men of this class were consequently in irregular work. Threshing, manure carting and hedging provided a fair amount of employment for extra labourers in Leicestershire, and little or no excess in the supply of men was reported; there was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in the Market Harborough Union. The supply of day labourers was in excess of the demand in Staffordshire. Carting manure, threshing and hedging provided fairly full and regular employment in Shropshire. Employment was generally regular in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, with the supply of labour about equal to the demand. There was only a moderate demand for extra labourers in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire; waggoners, cattlemen and shepherds, however, were stated to be somewhat scarce. There was a lessened demand for day labourers in Buckinghamshive and Hertfordshive, and some men of this class were in irregular work in consequence. There was also some surplus of day labourers in Bedfordshire.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, but in several districts the supply of day labourers was rather greater than the demand. In Lincolnshire threshing, ditching and hedging, etc., provided regular employment for most men, and the supply of and demand for labour were about equal. At the Horncastle Candlemas Hirings no change in wages was reported. In Norfolk and Suffolk threshing, hedging, draining and ditching caused a fair demand for day labourers, but the demand was affected by the forward state of work, and in several districts there was some surplus of extra labour. Similar reports come from Essex

Southern and South-Western Counties. - There was only a moderate demand for day labourers in Kent. Threshing, manure carting, hedging and ditching generally provided regular employment for extra labourers in Survey. There was a fair demand for day labourers in certain districts in Sussex, but in others the demand was poor on account of the forward state of farm work, and there was a surplus of labour in con-sequence. The supply of day labourers was also some-what in excess of the demand in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire*, where work was likewise well forward. Employed day was generally regular in Wiltshire, but the supply of day labourers was in excess of the demand, and some men were consequently in irregular work. Similar reports come from Dorset. Little or no irregularity of employment was reported from Somerset. There was generally an equal supply of and demand for extra labourers in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, in parts of which counties, however, a continued scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported. Regular farm servants were reported as somewhat scarce in Devonshire and Cornwall; there was a fairly good demand for extra labourers on account of ploughing, potato planting, threshing and other work.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 135 Returns-116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London continued moderate on the whole; it was about the same as a month ago, and a little better than a year ago. At the other principal ports it was bad generally, and worse than a month ago. It was fair, however, at the South Wales ports, with the exception of Swansea.

London.*—Employment in London continued moderate on the whole, about the same as a month ago and a little better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal

^{*} Exclusive of Tilbury.

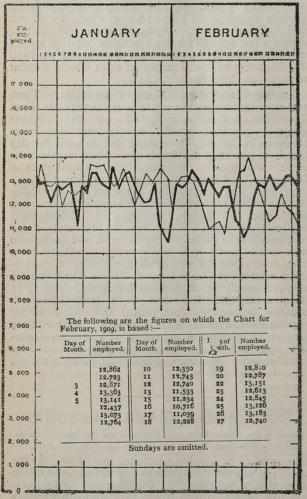
wharves in the four weeks ended February 27th was 12,546, a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.7 per cent. as compared with February, 1908. Wool sales and deliveries caused some improvement at the beginning of the month.

The daily numbers in February ranged from 10,716 on the 16th to 13,363 on the 4th. During the corresponding month of 1908 the numbers ranged from 10,838† on the 13th to 13,914† on the 19th.

	Average Da	aily Number ad at Principa	of Labor	rers emplo res in Lond	yed in Docks
	7	In Docks*		EL TORIN	
Period.	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship- owners, &c.	Total.	At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Principal Wharves.
Week ended Feb. 6th '' '' 13th '' '' 20th '' '' 27th	4,531 3,662 3,694 4,055	2,394 2,895 2,311 2,896	6,925 6,557 6,005 6,951	5,975 5,977 5,800 5,992	12,900 12,534 11,805 12,943
Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 27th, 1909	} 3,986	2,624	6,610	5,936	12,546
Average for Jan., 1909	4,225	2,580	6,805	5,805	12,610
Average for Feb., 1908	3,988	2,468	6,456	5,763+	12,219+

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of January and February, 1909. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1008, is also given for comparison

[The thick curve applies to 1909, and the thin curve to 1908.]



The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,286 during February, as compared with 1,212 in the revious month and 1,007 in February, 1908.

At Liverpool employment for dock and quayside labour was dull, generally, and worse than a month ago.

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

Other Ports.—Employment with dock and quayside labour on the Tyne and Wear was bad, and worse han a month ago; it was moderate with trimmers tand teemers. At Middlesbrough and Hartlepool it was bad generally; it was also bad with dock labourers at Hull, Grimsby, and Goole, and with coal porters at Hull. With coal porters at Grimsby it was moderate, and at Goole an improvement was reported. Employment was dull generally at Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and at Plymouth and the South-Western ports. It was bad at Bristol and Gloucester, and worse than a month ago. At the South Wales ports it continued fair, except at Swansea, where it was slack. At Manchester it was bad. Employment was dull at Glasgow and Greenock, and worse than a month ago; fair, but declining, at Dundee, and bad at Aberdeen. It was dull at Dublin, and quiet at Belfast.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics of England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Corre-

THE fish landed in February, 1909, showed an increase in quantity but a decrease in value as compared with

At Yarmouth employment was moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers. With all classes it was about the same as a year ago. At Grimsby it was good with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and moderate with fish curers. At Lowestoft employment was fair generally; about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago.
At Hull it was moderate with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers, Employment at Aberdan ago. ment at Aberdeen was good generally, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At Macduff it was fair and better than both a month ago and a year ago. At Fraserburgh it was bad with fish dock labourers, and fair with fish curers. At Peterhead it was fair with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. At both ports it was moderate with fishermen. Off the south-west coast of England fishing operations

were hindered by stormy weather.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in February, 1900 and 1908:—

yes down been	Qua	intity.	Value.	
Book For House	Feb., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Feb., 1909.	Feb., 1908
Fish (other than Shell): England and Wales Sootland	438,452	Cwts. 591,173 396,523 21,234	£ 445,094 151,459 17,681	£ 525,043 167,728 10,937
Shell Fish	a contract of the contract of	1,008,930	614,234 24,794	703,708 29,362
Total Value		_	639,028	733,070

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in February, 1909, were valued at £66,511, as compared with £67,265 in January, 1909, and £101,947 in February,

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN FEBRUARY. (Based on 27 Returns received through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and checked), show that during February 33,770* seamen, of whom 3,533 (or 10.5 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with February, 1908, there was a net decrease of 682. The greatest increases occurred at Newport, Mon., and Leith, and the greatest decreases at Cardiff and Belfast,

For the two months ended February, 1909, the total number of seamen* shipped was 69,717, or 4,673 less than during the corresponding period of 1908. The most noticeable decreases occurred at Liverpool, the Tyne Ports, Cardiff and Glasgow.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

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

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE. March, 1909.

			Numb	er o	f Sear	nen* ship	ped in		
Principal Ports.			Februar	January-February,					
normalista de la composición del composición de la composición de	1908.	1908. rgog. Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.		1908. 1909.		Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1909.			
ENGLAND AND WA	LES.								
Tyne Ports	***	2,323	2,293	-	30	4,956	3,989	-	962
Sunderland	•••	396	319	-	77	721	884	+	163
Middlesbrough		210	207	-	3	647	520	-	127
Hull	•••	1,003	919	-	84	2,169	2,232	+	6
Grimsby	•••	94	16	-	78	137	57	-	80
Bristol Channel.									
Bristol+		583	432	-	151	1,240	929	-	311
Newport, Mon		770	I,OII	+	241	1,671	2,136	+	46
Cardifft	***	4,178	3,874	-	304	9,323	8,698		625
Swansea	•••	422	396	-	26	772	695	-	77
Other Ports.									
Liverpool		12,481	12,377	-	104	26,498	24,474	-	2,024
London		5,181	5,171	1-	IO	11,263	11,154	-	100
Southampten	•••	3,860	3,860			8,225	7,669	-	556
SCOTLAND.									
Leith		222	369	+	147	562	842	+	280
Kirkcaldy, Methil	and	122	56	-	66	213	242	+	29
Grangemouth	•••	6-		1.				183	1 500
	•••	2,267	2,318	+	51	5,267	4,732	-	535
IRELAND.		50 OL			12/6	936.33		1	
Dublin	•••	40	33	-	7	120	150	+	30
Belfast		300	119	-	181	606	314	-	292
Total		34,452	33,770	-	682	74,390	69,717		4,673

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Cooperative Societies and Master Bakers' Associations in Great Britain, and from local correspondents, showing the price of household bread on March 1st, 1909.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 231 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 132 from Scotland:-

District.	pric	domin e per t Mar.	4 lbs.	price	edomir per 4 l Dec.,	bs. on	Predominant price per 4 lbs. on 28th Feb., 1908.			
	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean	
England and Wales.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	
N. Counties and Yorkshire	7	51/2	6.12	7	5	6.05	7	51/2	6-22	
Lancs. & Cheshire	61	5	B-86	63	41	B-69	25	5	B-99	
N. Mid. Counties	6	5	5.38	6	5	B-23	6	5	5.40	
W. do. do	6	5	5.57	6	5	8-54	6	5	8.75	
S. do. do	6	42	5.35	6	42	5.32	6	5	5.34	
Eastern Counties	6	5	5.70	6	5	B-63	6	5	5.83	
London	6	52	5.84	6	58	5.78	6	51	B-85	
S.E. Counties	6	5	5.92	6	5	5.89	63	58	6.04	
S.W. Counties, Wales & Mon.	61/2	5	5-55	6	5	5-52	61	51/2	5.73	
England and Wales	7	41/2	5.68	7	41/2	5-60	71/2	5	5.81	
SCOTLAND.	100				30.75					
N. Counties	7	51	6.07	7	58	6.11	7	53	6.13	
Eastern Counties Lanarkshire	7	4	6.22	7	4	6.23	7	4	6.24	
Other Southern	63	6	6.07	62	5	6.00	61	51/2	6.67	
Counties	7	6	6-39	7	6	6-38	7	6	6.42	
Scotland	7	4	6.22	7	4	6.22	7	4	6-25	
Great Britain	7	4	5.88	7	1	5.83	71/2	4	5.97	

The mean of the prices for March, 1909, shows little change as compared with that for either 1st December, 1908, or 28th February, 1908.

Other Returns.

The Returns showing the predominant price of 4 lbs. of bread on March 1st, 1909, received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and 30 from other sources are summarised

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

in the following Table, in which the highest pre-dominant rates and the lowest predominant rates are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

	rst :	Mar., 1	909.	ıst	Feb., 1	909.	28th Feb., 1908.			
District.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean	
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	
N. & N.W E. & N.E S.E	6 51/2 56 6	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	5.6 5.5 5.5 5.7	55-51-55 55-51-56 6 7	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	5'4 5'3 5'3 5'6	512 52 6 6	512 422 513	5'5 5'8 5'6 5'6	
W. & W.C. N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	52 5	5.8	6 7	52 5	5.8	6 7	42 52 52 52 52 52 52 52 52	5.4	
Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties	6 6 61 62	5 5 5 5	5'5 5'4 6'0	6 6 6 6	5 5 4½	5'4 5'4 5'9	6 6 63	5 5 5	5.6 5.5	
S. Western Counties and Wales Scotland	6		5.6		5	5'5	6	5	5'7	
	7	51/2		7	52	Q.I	7	51/2	6.3	
Great Britain	7	5	5'7	7	41	5.6	7	41	5.7	

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices shows a slight increase. Compared with a year ago no change is shown.

In the next Table the predominant price is shown for 28 of the principal towns.

Place.		Predominant Price per 4 lbs.	Decreas	e (+) or e (-) as ed with	Last Change.		
		on Mar. 1st, 1909	A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am'n	
		d.	d.	d.		d.	
London	***	53			Oct. '07	- ±	
Birmingham	•••	51			Nov. '08	+ 1	
Bolton	-	6			Oct. '07	+ 3	
Bristol		58 & 6			Sept. '07	+ 5	
Cardiff		53 & 6	+ 1	+ +	Feb. 'oq	+ 1	
Derby	•••	5	. 2	- 1	April '08	- 1	
Huddersfield	•••	5		- 2			
Hull	•••	58		- 1	Mar. '08		
Ipswich	•••	51/2		- 1	Ian. 'og	- 3	
Leeds	***	6			Sept. '07	+ 1	
Leicester	•••	58	+ 3	+ 1	I Mar. 'og	+ 6	
Liverpool	-	51/2			Sept. '07	+ 4	
Manchester		51/2	+ 3		I Mar. 'co	+ 4	
Middlesbrough	***	58		- I	April '08	- 4	
Newcastle		51			Jan. '08	- 4	
Norwich		5			Feb. '08	- 1	
Nottingham	900	58			Sept. '08	+ 1	
Oldham		41		- 1	Aug. '08	+ 4	
Plymouth		6		- 2	Sept. '07	+ 4	
Portsmouth		6			Sept. '07	+ 1	
Potteries		5			Aug. '08	+ 6	
Wolverhampton		56	+ 1	+ 1	I Mar. 'og	+ 1	
Abadaa			. 2				
Dunder	504	5½		- 1	May '08	- 1	
P.3!-11	***	52 & 62	***	***	Dec. '07	- 1	
		63	•••	•••	Sept. '07	+ 1	
Glasgow	***	6		•••	Sept. '07	+ 1	
Belfast		6			Sept. '07	+ 6	
Dublin		6		- 3	Mar. '08	- 1	

The above Table shows that, compared with a month ago, the price of the 4lb. loaf has risen $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in Cardiff, Leicester, Manchester and Wolverhampton. In London, though the price has risen in some districts, the predominant price is still $5\frac{1}{2}$ per 4 lbs. As compared with a year ago, 18 of the towns show no shore rised. a year ago, 18 of the towns show no change, six show a decrease of ½d., and one (Middlesbrough) a decrease of 1d. per 4 lbs. In Cardiff the price on 1st March, 1909, was ¼d., and in Leicester and Wolverhampton ½d. per 4 lbs. higher than on 1st March, 1908.

II .- WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during the period September, 1908-February, 1909, amounted to 40,972,095 cwts., or 3,165,605 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1907-8. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1908-February, 1909, amounted to 6,575,518 cwts., or 1,292,520 cwts. less than in September, 1907-February, 1908.

The following Table 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.

British Wheat. Mean London Gazetts Price (England and Wales) (Average Declared Value.) Month Wheat. Per cwt. s. d. II 9 Per cwt. s. d. 8 7¹₂ February ... 11 04 10 104 11 5 8 73 8 8 January ...

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the fourth quarter of 1908, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £8,498,931, a decrease of 4.7 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1907, and an increase of 20.7 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1903 (i.e., five years ago).

The sales and transfers from the productive to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £2,137,945, a decrease of 05 per cent. on the fourth quarter of 1907, and an increase of 59.8 per cent. on that of 1903:

The following Table gives details for the three

	Sales.†									
Names of Societies and	In the	fourth quar	ter of	Percentage Increase (+) of Decrease (-) a compared with						
Nature of Business.	1908.	1907.	1903.	A year ago.	Five years ago.					
ENGLISH WHOLESALE	£	£	£	Interior)	2000					
Distributive Departments Productive	6,592,698 1,435,413	6,817,516 1,414,857	5,297,579 812,708	+ 1.2 - 3.3	+ 24.4					
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY: Distributive Departments Productive ,,	1,899,158 667,298	2,093,379 698,046	1,734,775 497,160	- 9'3 - 4'4	+ 9'5 + 34'2					
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE:— Productive Departments	35,234	36,194	28,244	- 2.9	+ 24.3					
RISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY:— Distributive Departments ‡	7,075	4,560	8,187	+ 55.2	- 13.6					
Totals—Distributive Depts Productive "	8,498,931 2,137,945	8.915,455 2,149,197	7,040,541 1,338,212	- 4.7 - 0.2	+ 59.8					
Grand Total	10,636,876	11,064,652	8,378,758	- 3.9	+ 27.0					

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases affecting labour reported in February. The accounts are based principally on reports appearing in newspapers:-

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

Compensation: Full Admission of Liability: Arbitration Proceedings.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, that if any question arises in any proceedings under the Act as to the liability to pay compensation, or as to the amount of compensation, the question, if not settled by agreement, shall be settled by arbitration according to the provisions of the Act.

A workman employed by a shipbuilding company was killed by accident arising cut of and in the course of his employment, and his widow demanded compensation on behalf of herself and children. The employers fully admitted their liability, and agreed to pay an amount which was admitted to be the limit of their liability. In spite of this agreement, however, the widow took proceedings for

arbitration; but the employers contended that in the circumstances there could be no arbitration, and tendered the admitted amount to the clerk of the court, who refused to receive it unless it was paid into court in the arbitration proceedings. In due course the claim came before the Recorder, and although the employers contended that he had no jurisdiction in the matter, the Recorder made an award in favour of the dependents for the amount for which liability had been admitted. The employers appealed, and the Court of Appeal of Ireland allowed the appeal, set aside the award of the Recorder, remitted the case to him, and allowed the employers to pay the sum into court.—Radcliffe v. Harland & Wolff, Court of Appeal of Ireland, February 5th, 1909. arbitration; but the employers contended that in the circumstances

AGREEMENT AS TO COMPENSATION: RECORDING MEMORANDUM: APPLICATION TO RECORD AFTER RECOVERY FROM INJURY.

Where the amount of compensation has been ascertained by agreement, it is provided by the Act that a memorandum of the agreement shall be sent to the officer of the local court having jurisdiction, who on being satisfied as to its genuiness shall record such memorandum in a special register; and thereupon the memorandum shall for all purposes be enforceable as a judgment.

memorandum shall for all purposes be enforceable as a judgment.

A workman was injured in October, 1907, and totally incapacitated from continuing his employment. It was agreed between him and his employers that he should be paid by way of compensation during total incapacity at the rate of 15s. 9d. per week. In September, 1908, the workman lodged a memoradum of the agreement with the officer of the court and demanded that it should be recorded. The employers objected to its being recorded on the ground that the workman had entirely recoved from his irjuries, and his incapacity had come to an end some time before the demand to record. On application, however, to the sheriff-substitute he ordered the recording of the memorandum. The employers appealed.

appealed.

A preliminary objection was taken by the respondent that the act of the sheriff-substitute was merely ministerial, and not subject to appeal, but the court decided that they had jurisdiction to hear the appeal. They further decided that the sheriff-substitute was right in ordering the memorandum to be recorded, as the fact that the respondent was no longer incapacitated when he presented the memorandum for registration, did not necessarily involve that the agreement had come to an end; for a workman might apparently recover from the effects of an accident but might again become incapacitated, in which case the agreement might again become operative. Coakley v. Addie & Sons, Limitea, Court of Session, February 5th 1000. Session, February 5th 1909.

(2) Employers Liability Act.

APPLICATION OF ACT TO SEAMEN: WHO IS A "SEAMAN?"

The Employers Liability Act, 1880, applies to railway servants and to any person to whom the Employer's and Workmen's Act, 1875, applies. The term "seaman" was defined by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, to include "every person employed or engaged in any capacity on board any ship." The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, has the same definition.

Act, 1894, has the same definition.

A man employed as a "rigger" by a firm of shipowners was working on board a ship lying in a dock. While he and four others were engaged in warping the ship from one berth to another across the dock, he was injured by accident. The duty in which he was engaged when injured consisted in moving the vessel by means of a tug and a rope, she at no time being entirely free from the quay, and at no time using her own steam or any motive power of her own

The injured man brought an action for damages under the Act against his employers. At the trial of the action it was contended on behalf of the employers that the plaintiff was a seaman and therefore not entitled to bring the action. The County Court judge, however, gave judgment for the plaintiff. The defendants appealed. It was he d by the High Court that the County Court judge was the state of the plaintiff was a "teacman" within the definition in wrong; that the plaintiff was a "seaman" within the definition in the Merchant Shipping Acts, and as such had no right to bring an action under the Act.— Chislett v. Macheth & Co. King's Bench Division, February 4th, 1909.

(3) Merchant Shipping Acts.

LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES: LIFE-BELTS.

By the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, it is the duty of the owner and master of every British ship to see that his ship is provided, in accordance with the rules for life-saving appliances, with such of those appliances as, having regard to the nature of the service on which the ship is employed, and the avoidance of undue encumbrance of the ship's deck, are best adapted for securing the safety of her crew and passengers. If any ship is required by those rules to be provided with such appliances and proceeds on any voyage or excursion without being so provided in accordance with the rules applicable to the ship, then both the owner of the ship (if in fault) and the master (if in fault) are guilty of an offence and liable to a fine. The Board of Trade have power to make rules for life-saving appliances, and to prescribe amongst other things the number and description of life-jackets and life-buoys to be carried in each class of ship. In accordance with this power the Board have made rules, among which is one applying to steamships not certified to carry passengers and employed solely in the coasting trade, to the effect that such ship must carry life-belts "so that there may be one for each person on board the ship."

A steamship, which was engaged in the coasting trade and was

A steamship, which was engaged in the coasting trade and was not certified to carr y passergers, was hir g at a pierhead in a port

The crew consisted of seven men, and there were on board seven life-belts and no more. On the day in question thirty-four persons were on board the ship including the crew of seven, the captain and engineer of another ship, two women, one child, and twenty-two other men. Having these thirty-four persons on board, the ship proceeded from the pier-head to another ship which was lying twelve miles away but within the limits of the port, waiting to be lightened.

March, 1909.

The Board of Trade then took proceedings under the Act against the master for failing to provide on his ship sufficient life saving appliances in accordance with the rules; and with having allowed his ship to proceed on a voyage without being provided with the life-saving appliances required. At the hearing before justices it was contended for the master that there was no evidence that the ship "had proceeded on a voyage"; that the rules only required that there should be one life-belt for every member of the crew and passengers; and that there was no evidence that the persons on board, other than the crew, were passengers. The justices held that such persons were neither passengers nor crew, and that the vessel was provided with the required number of life-belts. They accordingly refused to convict the master. The Board of Trade appealed to the High Court. The High Court allowed the appeal, holding that the vessel was "proceeding on a voyage," and that she should have had on board a life-belt for every person on the ship.—Genochio v. Steward, King's Bench Division—(Reported) February 6th, 1909. The Board of Trade then took proceedings under the Act against

(4) Trade Union Acts.

LIBEL BY OFFICIALS OF TRADE UNION: PROTECTION BY TRADE DISPUTES ACT: UNION OF MUSICIANS.

By the Trade Union Act, 1876, a "trade union" means any combination, whether temporary or permanent, for regulating the relations between workmen and masters, or between workmen and workmen, or between masters and masters, or for imposing restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business. By the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, an action against a trade union, whether of workmen or masters or against any members or the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, 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. In this provision "workmen" means all persons employed in trade or industry. By the same Act it is also provided 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.

A company owning music halls in several towns had disputes as

person to dispose of his capital or his labour as he wills.

A company owning music halls in several towns had disputes as to the amount of salaries with the musicians employed by them in their orchestras. The halls were largely patronised by persons of the working classes. In one of these towns there was a Musicians Union and also a Trades' Council, which was an association of trade unions existing for the purpose of giving to one another mutual assistance in case of disputes. In these circumstances, handbills were printed and widely distributed, suggesting that the company had treated some of the members of their orchestras unfairly, asking "fellow unionists" to assist the musicians, and recommending unionists to patronize other places of amusement, the names of which were given, and which were stated to be on the "Fair List." The company thereupon brought an action for libel against the secretary and general secretary of the Musicians' Union, the president and secretary of the Trades' Council, and the printer of the handbills, who were alleged to have caused the handbills to be published. The claim was for damages, and an injunction against repetition of the alleged libels.

The defences raised were that the facts stated in the handbills

injunction against repetition of the alleged libels.

The defences raised were that the facts stated in the handbills were true, that the opinions were fair comment made without malice, that the publication was privileged, and that the action could not succeed against any of the defendants (except the printer) by reason of the protection afforded them by the Trades' Disputes Act. On the other side it was contended that the defendants were sued for their own personal acts, and not as representing any trade unions; also that the Act afforded no protection, on the ground that the alleged tortious acts of the defendants did not cause breach of contract, interference with trade or business, or interference with the right of any person to dispose of his labour; and further that the Musicians' Union was not a trade union because the members of it were not "workmen."

A large amount of evidence was heard and the proceedings

A large amount of evidence was heard and the proceedings occupied eight days. The judge refused to withdraw any part of the claim from the jury, and held that the plea of privilege could not be maintained as the bills had been sent to others than members of trade unions. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs with damages £500.—The United County Theatres, Ltd. v. Durrant and Others, King's Bench Division, February 15th to 25th, 1909.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION: COMPULSORY LEVY TO PAY MEMBER

By the rules of a trade union a levy of is, per annum, payable 3d, a quarter, was to be made on each member in order to endeavour to secure the return to Parliament of a member of the trade union. Every member of the trade union was supplied with a card of membersh p, which was renewable annually to those who were clear on the union's books at the close of the year. By the rules it was further provided that all members, except those superainuated, were required to pay the levy. A member selected to

stand for Parliament was required to stand as a Labour candidate in opposition (if necessary) to Liberal, Conservative, or Nationalist parties. A candidate was to receive payment for loss of time, and for reasonable expenses until election. If elected, he was to become an official of the union under the title of Parliamentary Secretary, and to receive a salary of £300 a year.

A demand was made by the union upon a member for the sum of A demand was made by the union upon a member for the sum of 3d., his quarterly share of this is. levy. In the first instance he refused to pay; but afterwards he paid under protest, and then commenced proceedings in the Chancery Division of the High Court for an injunction to restrain the union from levying from him or other members of the union, and from applying the moneys of the union for the maintainence of a representative in Parliament.

The matter came before the court on a motion for an inter-locutory injunction. On the hearing of the motion it was contended on behalf of the union that the levy was not compulsory, as the rules provided no penalty in case of non-payment. The judge, however, decided that the case was governed by the recent decision of the Court of Appeal in Osborne v. the Amalgamated Societies Railway Servants, and that although the rules of the two societies were not actually alike the levy in this case was compulsory. were not actually alike the levy in this case was compulsory. Therefore an injunction was made as claimed until the trial of the action.—Furner v. London Society of Compositors. Chancery Division, with February 1997. 5th February, 1909.

BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS OF A TRADE UNION: RIGHT OF MEMBER TO INSPECT BY ACCOUNTANT.

It is provided by the Trade Union Act of 1871 that the rules of It is provided by the Trade Union Act of 1871 that the rules of every trade union shall contain provisions for the inspection of the books and names of the members of the trade union by every person having an interest in the funds of the trade union. By the rules of a trade union duly registered under the Act it was provided that the books and accounts of the society and list of members should be open to the inspection of all the members thereof, and of every person having an interest in the funds, in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union accordance with the provisions of the Union accordance with the provision accordance with the Union accordance wi week's notice being given, on application to the committee.

week's notice being given, on application to the committee.

A member of the executive council of this union, being dissatisfied with the accounts, desired to inspect the books, and, in conjunction with other members, applied that they might be allowed to inspect them by an accountant employed by them. In answer to this application the member received a letter from the solicitor to the society to the effect that members of the union might themselves inspect the books, but that they could not employ an accountant to do so for them, as their right of inspection was purely a personal right. The member and three other members of the council then brought an action against the other members of the council for a declaration that they and each of them had the right to inspect the books and accounts by his them had the right to inspect the books and accounts by his

It was held by the judge that the object of the law was to enable It was held by the judge that the object of the law was to enable those members who thought that matters were wrong to inspect the books and accounts for the purposes of ascertalning whether or no that was so; that as the members had not the technical training necessary to enable them to make a satisfactory examination of the books and accounts, the right of inspection would be useless unless the members were entitled to trained assistance in making the inspection; that there was nothing in the rules to negative the right of the members to such inspection as would be practically useful: that in the circumstances the right of each member was more than a merely personal right; and that they were entitled to employ an accountant as they desired, but that the accountant must give an undertaking not to make use of the the accountant must give an undertaking not to make use of the information acquired except for the purposes of advising his clients. Norey & Others v. Keep & Others. Chancery Division. February 5th, 1909,

ACTION PENDING AGAINST TRADE UNION: CONTEMPT OF COURT: SPEECHES AT MEETING.

Employers commenced an action against a trade union for conspiracy to induce workmen to break their contracts. A meeting of members of the defendant union was held, at which the chair was taken at short notice by the secretary of another union. At the meeting the chairman, in the course of a speech, said that the meeting had been convened for the purpose of protesting against the action of the employers and added—"the judge who tries the case weighs up very carefully all that may be said, but you must not lose sight of the fact that the judges are drawn from the capitalist class." He also proposed a resolution protesting against the bringing of an action for damages against the society and expressing sympathy with the society in its struggle against an unjustifiable onslaught. Another man spoke at the meeting and also subsequently wrote in a trade paper referring in opprobrious terms to the "law case which the masters were bringing against the workers." At the instance of the plaintiff employers proceedings were taken against these two speakers for contempt of court. were taken against these two speakers for contempt of court.

At the hearing the two respondents denied that they knew that the action was actually pending (though, as a matter of fact, it was almost ready for trial), and they expressed regret for what had

The court decided that both men were guilty of contempt of court and by way of punishment ordered them to pay the costs of the proceedings. The court were of opinion that what had been done was calculated to diminish the chance of a fair trial by discouraging the attendance of witnesses, and possibly by influencing members of the jury.—The King v. Gassip and Another, King's Bench Division, February 17th, 1909.

^{*} In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act. 1882 the rate of conversion from quarters to cwts, is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.

[†] The amounts given for the productive departments represent sales and transfers to distributive departments.

‡ This Society has no productive departments.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during February, 1909, was 50, consisting of 46 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of mercurial poisoning, and 3 cases of anthrax. Three deaths were reported in February, 2 from lead poisoning and 1 from anthrax. In addition, 17 cases of lead poisoning (3 of which were fatal) were reported during February among house painters and plumbers.

During January-February, 1909, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 94, as compared with 108 in the corresponding period of 1908. number of deaths was 7 in 1909 and 5 in 1908. In addition, there were 41 cases of lead poisoning (including 9 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first two months of 1909, as compared with 32 cases (including 7 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1908.

Analysis by Industries.

[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 each) in previous returns or not.

to sales of pair vest to 1840		CASES	. 6539	E	EATH	3.
Industry.	Month of Feb.	en	wo nths ded	Month of Feb.,	Mo	wo nths ded b.,
ende a saida la company Al alem, alcal resolution	1909.	1909.	1908.	1909.	1909.	1908.
* State of the sta		L	ead Po	isonin	g.	
Smelting of Metals	7	9	13	-	1	_
Brass Works	2	1 2	I	1	-	_
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping Plumbing and Soldering	5	8	I			_
	3	6	ī	-	-	-
	-	4-	3	-	10000	-0
Finning and Enamelling of Iron	3	3	I	-	-	NO STATE
Hollow-ware	T	5	10	_		
White Lead Works	I	2	3	-	_	-
Red and Yellow Lead Works China and Earthenware*	5	9	17	- 1	-	2
itho-Transfer Works	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glass Cutting and Polishing	I	3	I	-	2	
Glass Cutting and Polishing Chamelling of Iron Plates Electrical Accumulator Works	_ I	2	2 5			
Electrical Accumulator Works	7	3	4	I	1	
Paint and Colour Works Coach Making	3	9	12			_
Shipbuilding	2	2	2	-	-	-
Paint used in other Industries	2	8	6	-	1000	
Other Industries	8	12	12			1
Total in Factories and Workshops	46	84	98	2	5	3
House Painting and Plumbing	17	41	32	3	9	7
	1 0	ther B	orms	of Pol	coning	,
		III I	011111	1		
Gercurkal Poisoning— Barometer and Thermometer Making Furriers' Processes	1	1	=	=	=	=
Other Industries	-	1	-	-	-	_
Total	1	2	_	(T)	-	
Phosphorus Poisoning— Lucifer Match Works Other Industries	-	_ I	=	-	=	=
Total	_	1	0_0	-	-	-
		19.81				V U 10.10
rsanic Poisoning—		1000000000				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	-	-	I	-	-	E 11 94
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries	_	_	_	_	_	- Tab
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries Total	_ 		<u>-</u>	_	<u>-</u>	- 124 - 134 - 134
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries	- - - 1	_ _ _ _ 8	_	- - - - -	<u>-</u>	
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries Total	- - 1	- - 3	<u>-</u>	- - - - -		
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries			11 Anth	- - - - -	-	
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries	- - - 1	- - 3	- 1 1	- - - - - -	- - -	
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries		4	11 Anth	- - - - - - - -		
Total		4 1	11 Anth	=		
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries		4 1	11 Anth	=		

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

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) Exclusive of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during February, 1909, was 389, an increase of 158 as compared with the previous month, and of 134 as compared with a year ago, this increase being due to the West Stanley disaster. The mean number for February in the years 1904-1908 was 223, the maximum year being 1908 with 255 deaths, and the minimum year 1905 with 189 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in February, 1909, was 268, as compared with 114 in January, 1909, and 134 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during February, 1909, was 87, as compared with 76 in the previous month, and 86 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 31, 37, and 33 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during February, 1909, was 80, as compared with 98 in January, 1909, and 120 in February, 1908.

During the two months ended February, 1909, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 620, as compared with 549 in 1908. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 178 in 1909, and 236 in 1908.

Trade.		er of Worl		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a		
The Angella of Booking and the Control of the Contr	Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Raliway Service— Brakesmen and Goods Guards Engine Drivers Firemen Guards (Passenger) Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) Porters	1 1 5 6	1 3 3 2 5	3 4 4	- 2 + 2 - 2 + 1	- 2 + 1 + 1 - 2 - 4	
Shunters	3 12 1	14 3	13 1	+ I - 2 - 2	+ 1	
Total, Railway Service	31	37	33	- 6	- 2	
Wines— Underground Surface	25t 7	90	119	+161 - 12	- 6 + 132	
Total, Mines	258	109	132	+149	+126	
Quarries over 20 feet deep	10	8	2	+ 8	+ 8	
Factories and Workshops— Textile— Cotton Woel and Worsted Other Textiles Non-Textile— Extraction of Metals Founding and Conversion of Metals Marine and Locomotive Engineering Ship and Boat Building Wood Chemicals	1 3 1 4 7	1 2 3 1 11 2 3 4 6	4 3 3 5 13 1	+ 1 - 2 + 3 - 4 + 2 - 3 - 3	- 3 - 2 - 1 - 6 + 1	
Chemicals Laundries OtherNon-Textile Industries	29	2 24	22	- a + 5	+ 7	
Total, Factories	56	59	74	- 3	- 18	
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 163-B— Docks, Wharves and Quays Warehouses Buildings to which Act applies	18 1 12	9 1 7	5 2 5	+ 9 + 5	+ r ₃ - r + 7	
Total under Factory Act, 8s- 103-5	31	17	12	+ 14	+ 19	
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	3	4	2	- 1	+ 1	
Total, exclusive of Seamen	389	231	255	+158	+134	
Geamen- On Trading Vessels- Sailing Steam On Fishing Vessels- Sailing	17 42 4	14 68 	31 70 2	+ 3 - 26 + 4	- 14 - 28 + 2	
Steam	17	16	17	+ 1		
Total, Seamen	80	98	120	18	- 40	
Total, including Seamen	469	329	375	+140	+_94	

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.*

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Number and Magnitude.-Nineteen disputes began in February, 1909, as compared with 28 in January, 1909, and 18 in February, 1908. By the 19 disputes, 1,730 workpeople were directly, and 779 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 8,050 workpeople involved in trade disputes in February, 1909, as compared with 12,021 in January, 1909, and 36,136 in February, 1908.

New Disputes in February, 1909.—In the following Table the new disputes in February are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.				No. of Workpeople involved				
				Total.				
	8188	27		27				
	2		53	341				
1	5			1,291				
	5	334		334				
	19	1,730	779	2,509				
	28	3,914	4,659	8,573				
	18	11,193	2,578	13,771				
	ling	ling 5 5 5 5 19 28 28	No. of Disputes.	No. of Disputes. Directly. Indirectly. 2 27 288 53 660 631 5 421 95 5 334 19 1,730 779 28 3,914 4,659				

Causes.—Of the 19 new disputes, 5 arose on demands for increased wages, 3 on objections to reduction in wages, 2 on other wages questions, 5 on details of working arrangements; 2 on questions of Trade Union principle; and 2 from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 10 new disputes, directly involving 1,259 persons, and 8 old disputes, directly involving 838 persons. Of the 18 new and old disputes, 5, directly involving 426 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 7, directly involving 482 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 6, directly involving 1,189 persons,

were compromised. In the case of 4 other disputes terminated during the month, work was resumed pending further negotiations. 2008.828

Aggregate Duration.— The aggregate duration in February of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 52,000 working days. In addition, 38,300 working days were lost during February owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in February of all disputes, new and old, was 90,300 working days, as compared with 132,400 in the previous month and 541,600 in the corresponding month of 1908.

Summary for the First Two Months of 1908 and 1909†.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the two months, January and February, 1908 and 1909, respectively, were as

		JanFeb.,	1908.	JanFeb., 1509.				
Groups of Trades,	No. of Dis- putes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days,		
Building	ı	1,000	25,000	2	27	200		
Mining and Quarrying	13	8,298	268,000	14	6,840	131,300		
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	15	24,500	511,300	II	2,715	66,300		
Cextile	14	3,297	111,600	9	882	9,100		
lothing	6	594	14,500	5	418	2,800		
ransport	2	1,155	12,500	2	199	200		
Other Trades	9	1,240	27,100	9	335	14,700		
Total	60	40,084	970,000	52	11,416	224,600		

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

. Occupations.;	Locality.	Work	ber of people olved.	Date when Dispute	Dura- tion in Work-	Alleged Cause or Object.;	Result.t
		Di- rectly.	Indi- rectly.‡	began in 1909.	ing Days.		
Coal Mining— Miners, Carting Boys, Daymen, &c. Copper Smelting— Furnacemen, and other workpeople at Copper Smelting Works	Bath (near) Neath	567	256	19c8 29 Oct. 9 Nov.	80 91	For advance in tonnage rate to carting Boys Against employers' requirement that furnacemen should skim slag off	Matter referred to a Court of Arbitration appointed by the Board of Trade. Employer to remove slag; 4
Ironfounding —						furnaces and draw 4 charges in 24 hours	charges of 60 cwt. each to be melted per 24 hours; furnacemen to be paid 7s. per day for 5½ days per week, and an extra rate of 1s. 3d. per ton for all tonnage over 60 cwt. per charge
Iron Dressers, Moulders, Fitters, &c. Jute Manufacture—	Falkirk	24	516	1909 16 Feb.		Against change from piece to time work	of 12 tons per day. No settlement reported.
Spinners and Preparers, Weavers, Machine Repairers, &c.	Liverpool	205	95	8 Feb.	6	Workpeople demanded to be put on full time, or alternatively to be paid full wages	Work resumed on old conditions.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days. † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

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

NEW SOUTH WALES.—MINIMUM WAGE ACT, 1908.

THE Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Minimum Wage Act, 1908," which came into force on January 1st, 1909. This Act provides that no workman or shop assistant shall be employed unless in receipt of

a weekly wage of at least 4s., irrespective of any amount earned as overtime, and forbids the receipt of any consideration, premium, or bonus for the engagement of any female in the manufacture of wearing apparel. It provides for a minimum payment for overtime of 3d. per hour in the case of males under 16 and females, and, where overtime is worked by such employees, for the payment of at least 6d. as tea money.

^{*} Of the 5 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, I was female.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in February.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in February, 1909, was a decrease of £3,990 per week, as compared with a decrease of £2,385 per week in January, 1909, and an increase of £942 per week in February, 1908. The number of workpeople affected was 147,891, of whom 4,109 received advances amounting to £152 per week, and 143,782 sustained decreases amounting to £4,142 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 73,582, and in February, 1908, 146,762.

One change, affecting 120,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board; one change, affecting 200 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; and six changes, affecting 7,998 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 19,693 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; one of these changes, affecting 1,200 workpeople, was preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for January and February, 1909.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in January and February, 1909, was 222,158, as compared with 604,307 in the corresponding period of 1908. The changes arranged gave 7,821 workpeople a net increase of £271 per week, and 214.337 workpeople a net decrease of £6,676 per week. The net effect of all the changes was thus a decrease of £6,405 per week, as compared with an increase of £16,098 per week in the corresponding period of 1908.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these changes, and the net effect on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Monthly distriction and	January—February.					
Groups of Trades,	19	08.	1909.			
Building		No.	. £	No.	£	
		183	+ 20	840	- 14	
		480,000	+ 19,018	162,150	- 4,564	
		7,885	- 289	7,500	- 89	
		2,190	- 96	1,744	- 19	
Pig Iron Manufacture		13,604	- 76	14,075	- 277	
fron and Steel Manufacture		15,930	- 70	11,255	- 282	
Engineering and Shipbuilding.		69,348	- 2,552	20,804	- I,074	
Other Metal Trades	(0.50) (3.00)	42	- 2,55 ² + 2	2,107	- 187	
Textile Trades	FULD DO	5,669	+ 795	368		
Clothing Trades	2000 2000	570	+ 28	250	+ 20	
Drinting & Trades						
		3,607	+ 249	636	+ 31	
Glass, &c., Trades		4,345	+ 295	•••	•••	
Other Trades		724	+ 70	429	+ 22	
Employees of Local Authoritie	8	210	+ 28	****		
Total		604,307	+ 16,098	222,158	- 6,405	

No changes in hours of labour were reported as taking effect in February, 1909. The total number of work-people reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in January, 1909, was 2,020, the net decrease in their working hours being 13,410 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in February.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages taking effect in February are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN FEBRUARY.

Trade.	Date from which change takes		Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change (Decreases in Statics.)		
		effect in 1909.	and the same of th	In- crease.	De- crease.			
Building	Burnley	ı Feb.	Painters	200		Advance of 1d. per hour (8d. to 81d.).		
	Durham	8 & 15 Feb.	Hewers, other Underground Workers, Deputies, Enginemen, Boilerminders, Mechanics, Coke- men and Banksmen		120000	Decrease of 24 per cent., leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
		,	Other Surface Workers		1	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 42 per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
Coal Mining		1	Deputies		1,000	Decrease of 2d. per day (6s. 10d. to 6s. 8d.).		
			Mechanics		1,600	Decrease of 2d. per day (5s. 8d. to 5s. 6d).		
10 10012 W	Northumberland	1 & 8 Feb.	Enginemen	-	700	Decrease of 2d, per day. Wages after change: Winding Enginemen, 6s. 3d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginemen 5s. 8d.		
			Firemen		250	Decrease of 3 per cent., leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
Pig Iron	Derbyshire and Notts	1st pay Feb.	Blastfurnacemen		629	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2h per cent., leaving wages 2h per cent. above the standard of 1905.		
Manufacture	Scotland	ı Feb.	Blastfurnacemen and Labourers		3,500	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 23 per cent., leaving wages 20 per cent. above the standard of Jan. st, 1899.		
THE DELL'ART	Northumberland,	ı Feb. {	Iron Puddlers	750		Advance, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 9d.).		
Iron and Steel	Durham&Cleveland	I Feb.	Iron and Steel Millmen	2,650		Advance, under sliding scale, of 21 per cent		
Manufacture	South Yorks.	(Iron Puddlers	79		Advance under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton.		
	(3 firms)	1 Feb.	Iron and Steel Millmen	247		Advance, under sliding scale. of 21 per cent.		
Boilermaking	Sheffield	nst making- up day in Feb.	Angle-iron Smiths, Platers, Rivetters and Holders-on		332	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates.		
Engineering	Manchester and District	ist pay Feb.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths, Machine- men, Brass Moulders & Finishers, Coppersmiths, Patternmakers, &c.		14,000	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates.		
	Edinburgh and Leith	18 Feb.	Fitters, Turners and Machinemen		350	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of \(\frac{1}{2}\)d. per hour off time rates.		
Other Metal Trades	Birmingham and District	3 Feb.	Bedstead Workers		1,200	Discontinuation of bonus of 74 per cent.		

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the April GAZETTE of the following important changes which have been arranged to take effect in March: Coal Mining.—Reduction of 5 per cent. in the wages of miners in the Federated Districts and in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and of 64 per cent. in

Cotton Trade.—Reduction of 5 per cent. in the wages of cotton spinners, piecers and doublers, card and blowing room operatives, reclers, winders, warpers, &c., in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire.

* 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:—(r) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments according under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for the two months ended February.

March, 1909.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE. Note.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods

Substant and	Two mon	aths ended	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan Feb., 1909, compared with				
	1907. 1908.		1909.	1908.	1907.		
IFood, Drink, and	£ 36.084.711	£ 38.664.172	£ 36.412.55	£ 51.618	£ 227 842		
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly			SECTION SECTION		- 6,166,784		
Unmanufactured* III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manu- factured†	25,043,795	23.740.753	22,414,038	- 1,326,715	- 3,629,757		
IV,—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	477,201	417,833	464,012	+ 46,179	- 13,189		
Total value of Imports	113,461,443	108,791,501	103,919,856	- 4.811.945	- 9.481.887		

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

2000 CO	Two mor	ths ended	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan Feb., 1909, compared with				
	1907.	1908.	1909.		1908.	1	907.
IFood, Drink, and	2,883,549	£.960,589	2,984,358	+	£ 23,769	+	£ 100,809
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured 1		8,410,218	7,310,015	-	7,100,203	-	477,420
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured§	55,514,021	54,025,716	45,368,985	-	8,657,731	- 10	,145,036
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	958,947	959,758	1,164,140	+	204 ,38	+	205,193
Total value of Ex- ports of British produce.	67,143,982	66,357,281	56,827,498	100	9,529,788	- 10	,316,454

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £18,219,106 in the two months ended February, 1907; £14,096,882 in the two months ended February, 1908; and £15,161,185 in the two months ended February, 1909.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended February 27th, 1909, amounted to £4,214,847, a decrease of £123,784 (or 2.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1908. During the eight weeks ended February 27th, 1909, the receipts amounted to £8,243,186, a decrease of £314,528 (or 3.7 per cent.) as compared with the first two months of 1908.

	4 week February	s ended 27th, 1909.	8 weeks ended February 27th, 1909			
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Amount,	Increase(+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Amount.	or (-)	rease(+) Decrease as com- red with 1908.	
English Lines :-	1	,	,	1		
L. & N. W. Midland N	1,362,126	- 69.359	2,687,056	-	158,385	
Gt. Northern, Gt. Central,					230,303	
Gt, Eastern, and London	658,316	- 11601				
& lilbury	030,310	- 15,601	1,319,191	-	60,159	
Lancs, and Yorks., and N. Eastern	783,406	- 30.060	1,505,084	-	59,556	
L. & S.W., and Gt Western						
	647.300	- 2,800	1,275,300	-	11,800	
cours Lines -	147,090	+ 2,458	287,217	+	2,548	
Glasgow & S. Western, N.	500,358	- 10 280	945,641		31,500	
British and Caledonian.					32,300	
Gt. Southern and Wastern						
Midland G.W., and Gt.	115,443	+ 1,958	222,697	+	4,324	
Total	10000					
*** ***	4,214.847	-123.784	8,243,186	-3	314,528	

ol, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds hides

† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c. † Coal, wool, oil, seeds, &c., hides and skins. § Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in February, 1909, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 238 per 10,000 of the estimated

Compared with January, 1909, the total number of paupers increased by 5,053 (1.2 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers increased by 2,183 (1.1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers increased by 2,870 (1.2 per cent.). Increases occurred in 21 districts, the most marked being in the Cork district (13 per 10,000), and in the Manchester district (10 per 10,000). In 11 districts there were decreases, and in 3 districts no change

Compared with February, 1908, the rate per 10,000 increased by 10. The number of indoor paupers increased by 8,669 (4.7 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 14,885 (6.7 per cent.). In 27 districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (187 per 10,000); in 8 districts there were decreases

Paupers on one day in second week of Feb., 1909.

	secon	Decrease (-) in				
Selected Urban Districts.	In- door.	Out-door,	TOTAL.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	of Popu	ar 10,000 elation as pared ith
				10555601	20000	
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	12,745	3,552	16,297	190	+ 4	- 3
North District	17,616	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	28,605	262	+ 3	+ 3
Central District East District	7,273	2,494	9,767	587 350	+ 6	- 3
South Disertes	17,002	23,487	25,343	271	+ 2 + 9	+ 10
Total Matropolis		48,863	52,374	SCHOOL STORY	+ 6	+ 7,
West Ham	83,523		132,386	277	ALLEGA	+ 4
	4,841	13,485	18,326	244	- 2	+ 9
Other Districts.			1700		1000	
Newcastle District	2,994	5.954	8,948	194		+ 1
Stockton & Tees District	1,683	9,652	11,335	505	- 25	+187
Bolton, Oldham, &c	4,801	6.789	11,590	148	+ 2	+ 14
Wigan District Manchester District	2,511	5,882	8,393	204	7 4	-
I ivernool District	12,261	11,876	24,137	246	+ 10	+ 36
Bradford District	2,268	12,207	4,971	133	+ 5	+ 17
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,422	4,518	5.940	162	+ 6	+ 5
Leeds District	3,351	5.877	9,228	184	+ 8	+ 10
Barnsley District	861	3,045	3.906	152	+ 3	+ 15
Sheffield District	3.766	3.730	7.496	162	- I	+ 6
Hull District	1,984	5.927	7,911	374	- 6	+ 12
North Staffordshire	2,697	8,365	11,062	283	+ 2	+ 22
Nottingham District	2,446	6.075	8,521	198	+ 2	5
Leicester District	1,777	5,000	6,777	281	- 9	+ 6
Wolverhampton District	4,248	12,296	16,544	245	+ 3	+ 5
Birmingham District	5,991	4,873	10,864	181	+ 5	+ 18
Bristol District	3,223	6.257	9,480	235	+ 2	- 8
Cardiff & Swansea	2,617	7,821	10,438	263	+ 3	7 2
Total, "Other Districts"	75.008	128,847	203,855	219	+ 2	+ 16
SCOTLAND.*		3 0		in I was		
Glasgow District	6,697	18,770	25,467	248	- 1	+ 11
Paisley & Greenock District	1,001	2.814	3,815	269		+ 14
Edinburgh & Leith District	2,093	5,651	7.744	188	***	+ 2
Dundee & Dunfermline	998	2,744	3,742	185	- 1	+ 3
Aberdeen	810	3,373	4,183	285	+ 3	+ 5
Coatbridge & Airdrie	458	1,683	2,141	216	- 5	+ 13
Total for the above Scottish Districts	12,057	35,035	47,092	223	- I	+ 8
IRELAND.	SEE	3 0015	Hewast.	othe or	T-85	negowods
Dublin District	7,473	5,936	13,400	882	+ 4	hand
Belfast District	4,398	993	5,391	125	+ 4	+ 5
Cork, Waterford & Limerick				Man &	STREET, ST	
District	4,795	5,210	10,005	411	+ 13	+ 5
Galway District	360	356	716	207	+ 6	- 11
Total for the above Irish Districts	17,026	12,495	29,521	265	+ 4	+ 6
Total for above 35 Dis-	192,455	288,725	431,180	238	+ 2	+ 10

the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses

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

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 45 Labour Bureaux during February; of these Bureaux 27 were in London (including West Ham), and 18 in the Provinces. Of the 27 London Bureaux 24 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

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The total number of applications for work during the month was 22,806, of which 16,889 were in London, and 5,917 in the Provinces. The number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 3,328, or 14.6 per cent. of the applications received, and 78.6 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 2,126 (or 63.9 per cent.), and temporary 1,202 (or 36.1 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Exchanges affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades, as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 324; wood-working trades, 48; metal and engineering trades, 90; other skilled trades,

66; "transport and general," 210; other trades, 91; boys, 323; women and girls, 510. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 133; metal and engineering trades, 138; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 139; general labourers, 67; bill distributors, &c., 183; employees of local authorities, 73; charwomen and domestic servants, 229; other occupations, 422. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 282 men.

At 44 of the Bureaux mentioned below figures for 1908 are available. The number of applicants registered at these Bureaux was 22,792 in February, 1909, of whom 3,328 (or 14.6 per cent.) obtained situations. In February, 1908, there were 17,258 applicants, of whom 3,056 (or 17.7 per cent.) obtained situations. The number of workpeople on the registers at the end of February, 1909, was 29,545, as compared with 18,056 in February, 1908.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING FEBRUARY, 1909.

ni bal aleman an an an an			Situations Filled.								Applic	ants Re	maining	g on th	e Regist	ers.	
Name of Bureau or Exchange Appli- ti	i- tions	tions	tions	Build-	Metal and En-	Trans-	Other Occu- pations.	Women	All	Situation	ns.	Build- ing	Metal and En- gineer-	Trans- port and	Other Occu- pations.		Total
	Ganes. Office	onerea.	ing Trades.	gineer- ing Trades.	and General	Men & Boys.	Girls.	Perma- nent.	Tem- porary.	Total.	Trades.	ina	General	Men & Boys.	Girls.		
condon Employment Ex- changes (under Central Body) Battersea (332, Battersea Park		67	8		2	17	13	42		42	25	22	68	79	73	26	
Rd., S.W.) Bethnal Green (11, Green St., E.) Brixton (30, Brixton Road, S.W. Camberwell(131PeckhamRd S.E	1,052 830 804	69 88 107 61	1 19 18 13	2 3	5 15 7	24 25 43 21	33 26 9	46 82 105 43	3 2 	49 84 105 50	93 94 67	22 46 19 44	69 164 91 223	156 144 130 193	75 37 59 124	33 48 39 65	
camden Town(184, HighSt, N.W.) Chelsea (91, Church St., S.W.) City of London (78, Temple Chambers, Temple Aven, E.C.		Closed	under 6		nisation 15	Scheme 20	47	88 60		88	43	49	46	52	24	2	
Chambers, Temple Aven, E.C. Deptford (13. Deptford Bridge) Pinsbury (8, Pentonville Rd., N.) Fulham (2, Jerdan Place, Walham Green)	505 936 1,066	75 137 124	19 16	2 5	4 4 13	41 40	43 50 8	91	7	91 124	32 158 41	35 68 55	174 250 47	181 244 75	104 183	9	
Greenwich (10. Nelson St., S.E.) Hackney (24, Amhurst Rd.) Hammersmith (20, Queen St., W. slington (131 & 133, Holloway	545 661 482 745	45 96 46 100	15 25 8 27	2 7 3	4 4 9 15	10 19 13 17	22 7 14	36 71 32 50	1 12 26	37 72 44 76	73 125 110	57 27 44	134 75 240	162 84 89	35 25	3 5	
Rd., N.) Kensington (155, Clarendon Rd. Lewisham (246, High St., S.E.) Paddington (303, Harrow Rd., W.	296 382 598	70 35 153	3 1 41 17	 6 3 7	20 2 2 3	20 14 40 3	11 2 32 14	43 24 50 22	11 1 68 22	54 25 118 44 38	21 57 101 49	9 31 16 60	48 89 136 96 69	45 86 123 101	26 9 130 56 27	1 2 5 3	
Poplar (127, East India Dock Rd. Rotherhithe (3, Fort Buildings Southwark Park Rd.) St. Marylebone & Westminste	, 319	54 46 97	3		4	15 23	17	38	5	38	8	2	52	36	27	,	
(25, Paddington St., W.) Shoreditch (134F, Kingsland Rd. South Central (53 & 54, London Rd., S.E.)	375 n 756	106	2 26	3	9	14	19 29	47 71	9	47 80 46	13 23	28 23 31	106	108 68	26 43 108		
Stepney (463, Commercial Rd., E. Wandsworth (213, Garrett Lane Woolwich (125, High St.)	400 528 815	79 77 216	5 15 16	42	3 56	19 10 40	21 21 26	40 48 124	56	180	39 67 32	35 59	74 132	107	31 44	8,	
Total of above	14,040	2,161	324	90	210	528	510	1,413	249	1,662	1,310	793	2,664	2,584	1,328	0,	
Other London Bureaux. Salvation Army (20-22, White	2,441	537	13	1	6	517	-	3	534	537	45	31	200	176			
chapel Rd., E.) West Ham (29, Broadway, Straford, E.)		21	2 8			8	3 42	10	3 8	70	25	43	35	499	538	1	
Westminster (Caxton Hall, S.W Total, "Other London".		657	23	1	12	539	45	75	545	620	83	97	614	736	551	2	
Inswich (res. Fore St.)	247 182 70	141 172 73 12 8	7 4 34 2	8 96 4 	8 4 5 1 	41 45 34 8 2	63 3 84	58 149 34 2 4 5	69 43 9 3 83	127 149 77 11 7 88	1,246 32	1,103 506 18 71 4	596 92 534 303 7	559 173 142 64 13 6	454 50 4 64	3	
Liverpool (Municipal Building Dale St.) Manchester (King St., We		171	16	3	18	21	87	97	48	145	-	560	1,442	573	440	3	
Deansgate); Newcastle-on-Tyne (22, Roys Arcade)		46	I	-	18	3 6	14	20	16	36		175	988	79	48	1	
Norwich (Free Library Building Nottingham (Mount Street) Reading (Valpy Street) Salford (Town Hall) Warrington (Bank House, Sa	23 58 68	8 7 14 26 65	2 1 2 6	 16	7 1 2	3 6 16 18	6 21	3	4 26	7 14 26 63	15 22 59	20 8 15 93	62 46 67 90	66 17 36 70	2 246 120		
77 11	244 111 25 166 2,276	547	31	 1 5	10 46	5 10 74	 5 96	10 183	16 1 10 69	17 1 20 252 	85	170 1 271 398 529	859 16 524 756 382	935 569 27	12 1 84 444		
Total, Provincial Bureau				137	125	294	380	638	408	1,046	2,679	3,958	6,860	3,538	1,973	19	
Grand Total	22,806	4,235	487	228	347	1,361	935	2,126	1,202	3,328	4,072	4,848	10,13	8 6,888	3,852	2	

*The figures for the London Exchanges affiliated to the Central Exchange relate to the 4 weeks ended February 27th, 1909; for the other Bureaux the clars relate to work done during the calendar month.

† In addition, the Westminster Bureau found temporary employment for 3,793 men at snow-clearing.

‡ In January, 1909, the Manchester Bureau found relief work for 168 women and girls.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

DURING February 975 fresh applications (513 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 10 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 722 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 233 persons, of whom 135 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Of the 233 situations found for applicants 184 were of a more or less permanent character, while 49 were temporary only.

March, 1909.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was in excess of the supply; the supply of housekeepers, housemaids, ladies' maids, children's nurses, and companions was in excess of the demand.

The work done by the Bureaux during February, 1908 and 1909 is shown in the following Table:

	Applications by Work-		by Work- offered by			Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers					
<u>-25</u>	people during		people during Employers during		Pernen		Tem- porarily.				
	Feb.,	Feb., 1908.	Feb., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Feb., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Feb., 1909.	Feb.,			
			Sum	mary	by Bu	reaux.					
entral Bureau 9, Southampton Street, High Holborn. W.C.A.:—	116	110	80	74	24	18	9	6			
26, George Street, {(1) Hanover Sq., W. {(2)	444 164	438 131	436 75	511 86	80	93 38	20 8	23 I			
30, Molesworth Street ther Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Watford, Birmingham, Edinburgh,	78	66	30	46	9	12					
and Glasgow)	173	177	IOI	113	40	42	12	12			
Total of ten Bureaus	975 37	922	722 28	830	184	203	49 2	42 *			
		Sı	ımma	ry by	Occup	ations		KILL OF THE			
aperintendents,	5/8/6	I		1	1		17				
Forewomen, etc.	64	92	24	30	8	6	-11	I			
ressmakers, Milliners, etc.	30 97	gi	5 64	64	3 25	36	13	4			
eretaries, Clerks, Typists	103	76	19	27	9	10	4	3			
prentices and Learners	11	8	23	34	14	10		I			
emanatia Communic	513	472	540	581	100	114	26	26			
ispellaneous											

In addition to the above registered applications, the Returns show that 12 persons in London, 16 in Glasgow, and 34 in Edinburgh were referred to other Agencies; 234 persons in London, 39 in Leeds, and 29 in Dublin were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

Total of ten Bureaux 975 922 722 830 184 203 49 42

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING FEBRUARY. (Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in February was as follows: - Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 24; under the Friendly Societies Act, 38 (including 20 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 2, in all, 68.

Among the new Societies registered in February were the following :-

Trade Unions,—England.—2, viz., Amalgamated Soc. of Miners,
4, Poplar Terrace, South Elmsall, Doncaster; United Soc.
of Brushmakers, "Crown" Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.
Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—2, viz., Dublin Paviors Protective
Soc., Trades Hall, Capel Street, Dublin; Dublin Corporation
Lamplighters' Trade Union, 179, Townsend Street, Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies. - England and Wales. -- 16, viz., Retail Distributive Societies: (2) Deiniolen Co-operative Soc., Ltd., Co-op. Stores, Llanddeiniolen, Carn.; Ystalyfera Modern Co-op. Soc., Ltd.; Clare Road, Ystalyfera. S.O., Glam.; Small Holdings Societies: (2) Cadoxton and District Small Holders Assoc., Ltd., 82, Main Street, Cadoxton, Barry, Glam.; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Small Holdings Soc., Ltd., 242, Hampstead Road, Newcastle; Productive Societies: (2) Worcester Hamper and Basket Makers, Ltd., 51. Tybridge Street, Worcester; Manchester Hatters, Ltd., Wickentree Lane, Failsworth, Manchester; Agricultural Distributive

* Information not available.

Societies: (4) Pandy Tudur and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Tyn-y-ffynon, Pandy, Llanrwst, S.O., Denbigh; North Lindsey Farmers, Ltd., Rookeries, Winteringham, Doncaster; Saffron Walden and Dist. Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., 13, Hill St., Saffron Walden; Nant Machno and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Swch Isa, Penmachno, Bettws-y-Coed. Working Men's Clubs: (3) Fatfield and Dist. Workmen's Social Chub and Inst., Ltd., Club House, Fatfield, Washington Station, S.O. Durbam: Crawkerne Consequenting Workmen's Social Club and Inst., Ltd., Club House, Fatfield, Washington Station, S.O., Durham; Crewkerne Conservative Working Men's Club, Ltd., Market Street, Crewkerne; Kensal Rise Constitutional Club, Ltd., Club House, 119, Chamberlayne Wood Road, Kensal Rise, W; Miscellaneous: (3) Hereford Co-op. Housing Soc., Ltd., 30, Castle Street, Hereford; Business Club of London, Ltd., 1, The Gables, Hampstead Heath, N.W.; Prospect Co-op. Bank, Ltd, St. Simon's Church Room, Bullard Place, Bethnal Green, E. Scotland.—4, viz., Agricultural Distributive Societies: (4) Forres and Dist. Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Muirside, Brodie, Elginshire; Brac Lochaber Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Keppoch, Roy Bridge, Inverness-shire; Arisaig and Dist. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Cannisdarrach, Arisaig, Inverness-shire; Westray Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Roadside, Westray, Orkney. Iveland.—4, viz., Agricultural Productive, Societies: (3) Toughboyne Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Honess, St. Johnston, co. Donegal; Lixnaw Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Lixnaw, co. Kerry; Nowtownstewart Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Newtownstewart, co. Tyrone. Miscellaneous: (1) Kilskerry Co-op. Home Industries Soc., Ltd., Trillick, co. Tyrone.

(1) Kilskerry Co-op. Home Industries Soc., Ltd., Trillick, co. Tyrone.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—16, viz., Clowne and Dist. Working Men's Club and Band Inst., Clowne, Chestefield; Balderton Working Men's Club and Inst., Balderton, Notts; Netherland Club and Inst. (Eensgezinheid), Great Portland Street, W.; Rotherhithe Progressive Working Men's Club and Inst., London, S.E.,; Teddington and Hampton Wick Constitutional Club, Teddington; Bargoed National Working Men's Club and Inst., Bargoed, Cardiff; Erith Mutual Aid Soc., Erith; Borough of Woolwich Conservative and Unionist Labour League Soc., Woolwich; Llanarth Mutual Investment and Loan Soc., Newport, Mon.; Balsall Heath and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Birmingham; Burleydam and Dist. Cow Club, Burleydam, Whitchurch; Succourative Collectg. Soc., Liverpool; Ye Olde Wooden House Sick Benefit Slate Club, East Greenwich; Holloway Soc. of Bethesda and Neighbourhood, Bethesda, Bangor: Lady Lewis Colliery Workmen's Sick, Accident, and Funeral Fund, Pontypridd; Provident Friendly Collecting Soc., Cardiff. Scotland.—1, viz., Glasgow and Dist. Millers' and Millworkers' Friendly Soc., Glasgow. Ireland.—1, viz., St. Columbus Burial Soc., Dublin.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices receiv		
	Commence- ment of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Registry Cancelled.
rade Unions	2	1 4	ĭ
riendly Societies		16	7
Building "Branches		27	•••
sunding "		3	

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress,

1909. [Cd. 4499: pp. xiii. + 1238: price 5s. 6d]
Cases of Industrial Poisoning, Fatal and Non-Fatal Accidents, and
Dangerous Occurrences in Factories and Workshops, &c., during the year

Dangerous Occurrences in Factories and Workshops, &c., during the year 1908. Preliminary tables, subject to correction. Home Office, 1909. [Cd. 4518: pp. 8: price 1d.]

Railway Employment Safety Appliances Committee. Analysis of Accidents which have occurred in coupling and uncoupling railway vehicles reported to the Board of Trade in 1907. [Cd. 4492: pp. 20: price 2½d.]

Report of the Departmental Committee on Humidity and Ventilation in Cotton Weaving Sheds. Committee appointed by the Home Office in November, 1907. [Cd. 4484: pp. 21: price 2½d.]

Report to the Home Office on the Causes and Circumstances of the Accident which occurred on November 14th, 1907, at Dalbeath Colliery, Fifeshire, by R. A. S. Redmayne, 1909. [Cd. 4517: pp. 12: price 3d.]

price 3d.]

Building Societies. 13th Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of

Building Societies. 13th Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1907. Part II. Abstract of Accounts. [H.C. 211 - i.: pp. 160; price 1s. 4d.]

Trustee Savings Banks. Seventeenth Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Inspection Committee, for the year ended 20th November, 1908. [H.C. 21: pp. 28: price 3d.]

Coal Tables, 1907. Production, Consumption and Imports and Exports of Coal in the British Empire and Principal Foreign Countries. 1885, to 1907. Beard of Trade, 1909. [H.C. 227] Countries, 1885 to 1907. Board of Trade, 1909. [H.C. 377 pp. 59: price 6d.]

Special Reports on Educational Subjects. Vol. 22. Provision made for the care and training of young children below the age of compulsory school attendance in Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland. Board of Education, 1909. [Cd. 4477: pp. v

+ 283: price 18. 3d.]

Reports from H.M. Representatives Abroad as to Legislation in Foreign Countries respecting a Weekly Rest Day. Information obtained in compliance with desire expressed in desire in House

of Lords in 1908 on the Weekly Rest Day Bill. Foreign Office, 1909. [Cd. 4468: pp. 25: price 3d.]

Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1907-1908. Treats of schemes for labourers' dwellings, schemes and applications under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, action under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, &c. [Cd. 4347:

pp. exevi. + 520: price 3s. 8d.]

Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905. Report by the Local Government
Board for Scotland as to the Proceedings of Distress Committees in
Scotland for the Year ended 15th May, 1908. Relief work, labour
exchanges, emigration and removal, &c. [Cd. 4478: pp. 19:

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1907-8. Return of Prices of Crops, Live Stock and other Irish Agricultural Products. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 1909. [Cd. 4437: pp. 93, with diagram: price is. 9d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. The Labour Gazette, January, 1909. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during December, 1908; industrial and labour conditions during 1908; trade disputes during 1908; unemployment during winter season, 1908-9, &c.

Queensland. Second Annual Report of the Director of Labour and Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the year ended 30th June, 1908. Casual labour on Government works; indentured labour in the sugar industry; ruling rates of wages paid; average rates of wages by districts and industries—from Factory Inspectors' reports.

[Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, Government Printer: pp. 67.]

New Zealand. Return relative to appointments to the Conciliation

Boards, and showing cost of the farmers and farm labourers' dispute, 1908. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer,

pp. 2.]
Victoria. Determination of the Ovenmakers' Board, December 14th, 1908. Cancelling Determination of 29th January, 1904.

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