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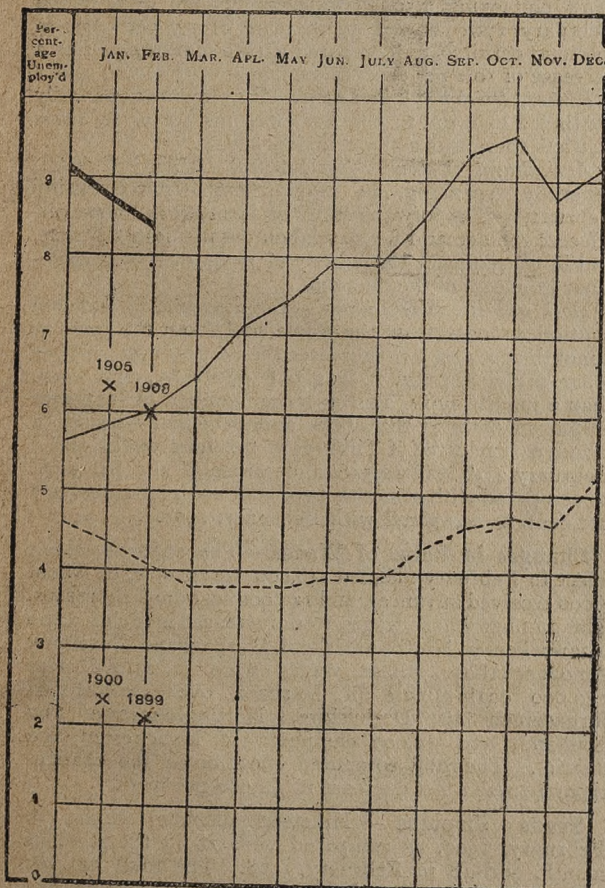
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve—1909. —— Thin Curve—1908.
----- Dotted Curve—Mean of 1899-1908.

× 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, 1909, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 696,688 members in the following trades:—

Building...	62,483	Paper, Printing & Book-binding	59,374
Coal Mining	139,779	Woodworking and Furnishing	36,404
Engineering	171,489	Miscellaneous	16,937
Shipbuilding	57,048		
Other Metal Trades	40,088		
Textiles	113,086		
		Total	696,688

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 iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,603 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. 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 ago. 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, 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, 1908.

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

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, 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 employment prevails.

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 consideration.

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

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 a 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 Authorities.

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 sanction all cases of out-door relief or "Home Allowance"

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 board.

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 GAZETTE.

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

as it is proposed to call it. It is considered undesirable that the various committees should be able to grant Home Allowance 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 three new administrative services, namely, a National 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 and support.

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 capacity.

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 8½ 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.

Painters, Wakefield.

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 matters.

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 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 gas-holders, purifiers, and other rough gas plant at the Leicester Corporation Gas Works, such painting or tarring may be done by persons other than skilled painters.

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 work 9d. per hour.

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

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 season.

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.

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, 1909, 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 ratified and signed by their representatives and by those of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation at Edinburgh on March 9th.

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 1st, 1910.

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, moreover, 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 1909, and *Reichsanzeiger*, January 2nd, 1909.

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 be 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 8½ 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 2½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

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 1.78 and 98.09, 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 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 comparison 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

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

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 stonemasons 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 affected.

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 January, 1908:—

Table showing Membership and Percentage Unemployed at end of Jan., Dec., and Jan. for various trades in Norway.

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 83.)

DENMARK.

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 breadwiners. 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.

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office). † Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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 21.0 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:—

Table showing Percentage Unemployed at end of Sept., 1908, Mar., 1908, and Sept., 1907, for various groups of trades.

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:—

Table showing Cause of Unemployment and Members of Trade Unions returned as unemployed, including Number and Percentage for Mar., June, and Sept. 1908.

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.

* Included under "Other Causes" in this quarter.

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 year ago.

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 0.28 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, 1908:—

Table showing average number of days worked per week by pits in various districts for Feb., 27th, 1909, Jan., 23rd, 1909, Feb., 22nd, 1908, and increase/decrease in Feb., 1909, as compared with A year ago and A month ago.

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.

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

Table showing quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated. Columns include Description of Cotton, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1909, as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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

Table showing quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated. Columns include Description, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1909, as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

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

Woolen 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 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 Selkirk and Galashiels it continued fair.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for the Woolen Trade. Columns include Departments, Districts, No. employed in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago, Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and 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 a decrease of 0.1 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. 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.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for the Worsted Trade. Columns include Departments, Districts, No. employed in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago, Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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 ago.

Prices of Raw Material.

Table showing Average Prices and Course of Prices during the month for raw materials. Columns include Description, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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:—

Table showing Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS'). Columns include Description, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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.

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 Ireland there was also an improvement. In Fifehire employment was good, and much better than a year ago. In the other parts of Scotland it showed an improvement.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for the Linen Trade. Columns include Departments, Districts, No. employed in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago, Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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 stated:—

Table showing Imports and Exports of Linen. Columns include Description, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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 ago.

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.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for the Jute Trade. Columns include Departments, No. employed in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago, Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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 stated.

Table showing Imports and Exports of Jute. Columns include Description, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

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 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 0.8 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:—

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for the Silk Trade. Columns include Branches, Districts, No. employed in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago, Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Feb. 27th, 1909, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

With throwsters and spinners employment was good at Macclesfield, and fair at Congleton. At Leek it was good with spinners. At Macclesfield it was good with hand-loom weavers working in factories, but bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago with "outside" hand-loom weavers.

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

Table showing silk imports and exports by description (Raw Silk, Thrown Silk, Spun Silk Yarn, Silk Broad-Stuffs) for February 1909, January 1909, and February 1908, including quantities and value changes.

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.

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.

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

Table showing hosiery imports and exports by district (Leicester, Leicester Country District, Notts and Derbyshire, Scotland, Other Districts) for February 1909, January 1909, and February 1908, including quantities and value changes.

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

Table showing hosiery imports and exports by description (Hosiery (less Re-Exports), Hosiery, Woollen, Cotton) for February 1909, January 1909, and February 1908, including quantities and value changes.

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.

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.

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

Table showing lace imports and exports by district (Nottingham City, Long Eaton and other outlying districts, Other English districts, Scotland) for February 1909, January 1909, and February 1908, including quantities and value changes.

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

Table showing lace imports and exports by description (Cotton Lace, Silk Lace) for February 1909, January 1909, and February 1908, including quantities and value changes.

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 workpeople 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.

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.

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 year ago.

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 year ago.

Other Centres.—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.

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 February, 1909, were valued at £257,658, as compared

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.

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 showed a decline.

Returns from firms employing 64,681 workpeople in the week ended February 27th showed an increase of 0.7 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 a year ago.

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.

Table showing boot and shoe imports and exports by district (England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom) for February 1909, January 1909, and February 1908, including quantities and value changes.

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

Table showing boot and shoe imports and exports by description (Imports (less Re-Exports), Exports (British and Irish)) for February 1909, January 1909, and February 1908, including quantities and values.

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see under "Other Leather Trades" p. 94.

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.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—With skinner 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:—

Table with 6 columns: Description, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a Month ago, Year ago. Includes rows for Imports: Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry; Ditto, wet; Total, hides, dry and wet; Goat skins, undressed (No.); Sheep skins, (value); Leather*; Exports: Saddlery and harness (value).

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.

Table with 6 columns: Description, Feb., 1909, Jan., 1909, Feb., 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a Month ago, Year ago. Includes rows for Imports: All kinds; Exports: Felt, Straw, Other Sorts; Total.

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, under-clothing 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 and skirt trade employment during the month was good, firms 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 workpeople 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.

Table with 4 columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of February, 1909, by firms making Returns, Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a Month ago, Year ago. Includes rows for Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards; Hand-made Paper; Total.

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.

Table with 6 columns: Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1909, included in the Returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of Feb., 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a Month ago, Year ago. Includes rows for London, Northern Counties and Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, East Midland and Eastern Counties, West Midlands and S. & S. W. Counties and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom.

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.

Table with 6 columns: District, No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1909, included in the Returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of Feb., 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a Month ago, Year ago. Includes rows for London, Other Districts, United Kingdom.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,275 Returns—779 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,441 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 55 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.

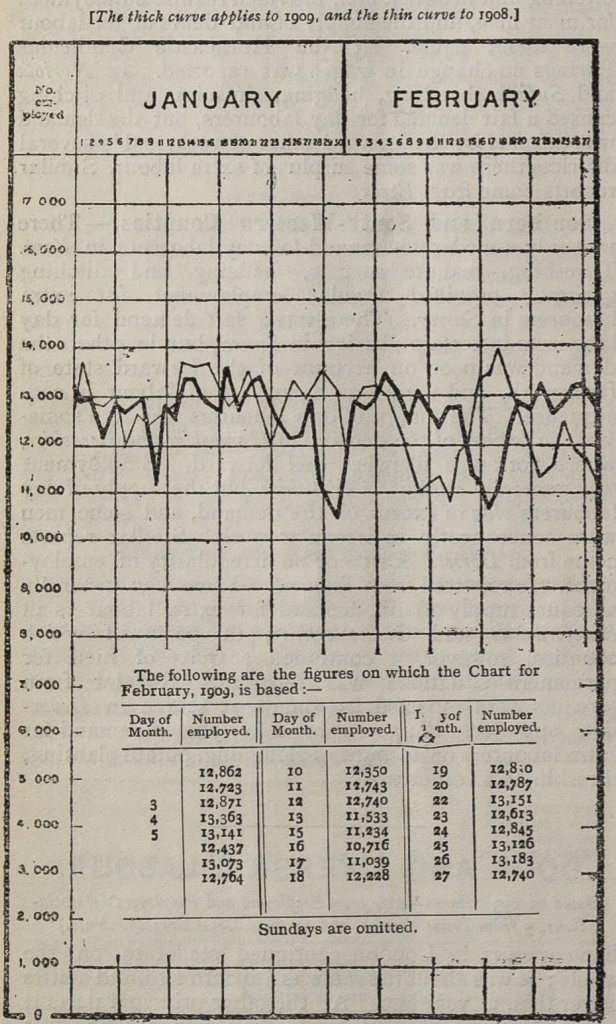
Returns received from 721 firms employing 39,154 workpeople at the end of February show that in London, in the case of skilled workmen, there was an increase in the number employed of 8.9 per cent., compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; while in the case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

Table with 6 columns: District, No. of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of Feb., 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, No. of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of Feb., 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago. Includes rows for Skilled Tradesmen, Labourers, Lads and Boys, Total. Includes rows for London, Northern Counties and Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S. W. Counties & Wales, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom.

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.

Table with 6 columns: Period, In Docks* (By Dock Companies, By Ship-owners, Total), At 100 Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves. Rows include weekly data for Feb 1909 and averages for 4 weeks, Jan 1909, and Feb 1908.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at the Docks, and at 100 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of January and February, 1909.



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

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

Other Ports.—Employment with dock and quayside labour on the Tyne and Wear was bad, and worse than a month ago; it was moderate with trimmers and teamers. 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.

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 Correspondents.)

The fish landed in February, 1909, showed an increase in quantity but a decrease in value as compared with February, 1908.

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.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in February, 1909 and 1908:—

Table with 5 columns: Fish (other than Shell), Quantity (Feb. 1909, Feb. 1908), Value (£ Feb. 1909, £ Feb. 1908). Rows include England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and Total.

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, 1908.

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.

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.

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

Table showing Number of Seamen* shipped in February, 1909, and January-February, 1909. Columns include Principal Ports, 1908, 1909, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

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

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

Table showing Predominant price per 4 lbs. on 1st Mar. 1909, 1st Dec. 1908, and 28th Feb. 1908. Columns include District, High, Low, Mean prices for each period.

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

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 predominant rates and the lowest predominant rates are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

Table showing District, 1st Mar. 1909, 1st Feb. 1909, 28th Feb. 1908. Columns include High, Low, Mean prices for each period.

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.

Table showing Place, Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on Mar. 1st, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A Month ago, A Year ago, Last Change Date, and Am't per 4 lbs.

The above Table shows that, compared with a month ago, the price of the 4lb. loaf has risen 1/2d. in Cardiff, Leicester, Manchester and Wolverhampton.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Table with columns for Industry, Month of Feb. 1909, Two Months ended Feb., 1909, Month of Feb., 1908, Two Months ended Feb., 1908. Sub-sections include Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax.

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

* Of the 5 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 1 was female.

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

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.

Table with columns for Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during Feb., Jan., Feb., 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1909, as compared with a. Sub-sections include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories and Workshops, Accidents reported under Factory Act, Seamen.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Nineteen disputes began in February, 1909, as compared with 28 in January, 1909, and 18 in February, 1908.

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

Table with columns for Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople involved (Directly, Indirectly, Total).

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.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with columns for Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute began in 1909, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* 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.

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.

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

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in February of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 52,000 working days.

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 follows:—

Table with columns for Groups of Trades, Jan.-Feb., 1908, Jan.-Feb., 1909. Sub-columns for No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved, Aggregate Duration in Working Days.

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 statistics.

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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.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN FEBRUARY.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1909, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increase/Decrease), Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics).

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 6 1/2 per cent. in Scotland.

Cotton Trades.—Reduction of 5 per cent. in the wages of cotton spinners, piecers and doublers, card and blowing room operatives, reelers, 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:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

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

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, January-February (1908, 1909) (No., £), Total.

Hours.

No changes in hours of labour were reported as taking effect in February, 1909. The total number of workpeople 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.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for the two months ended February.

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.

Table with columns: Two months ended February (1907, 1908, 1909), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan.-Feb., 1909, compared with 1908, 1907. Rows include I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

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.

Table with columns: Two months ended February (1907, 1908, 1909), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan.-Feb., 1909, compared with 1908, 1907. Rows include I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £18,219,106 in the two months ended February, 1909; £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.

Table with columns: 4 weeks ended February 27th, 1909; 8 weeks ended February 27th, 1909. Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1908. Rows include English Lines (L. & N.W., Midland, N. London, and N. Staffs., Gt. Northern, Gt. Central, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury), Lanes, and Yorks., and N. Eastern; L. & S.W., and Gt. Western; L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.; Scottish Lines (Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian); Irish Lines (Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern).

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

PAUPERISM IN 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 population.

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 occurred.

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.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Feb., 1909 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES* (Metropolises, Other Districts), SCOTLAND*, IRELAND†.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.*

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux whose registers are identical with those of Distress Committees are excluded from this Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in February, see page 82.

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.

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.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau or Exchange, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Women and Girls, Total). Rows include London Employment Exchanges, Other London Bureaux, and Provincial Bureaux.

* 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 particulars 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.

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.

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:—

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during (Feb. 1909, Feb. 1908), Situations offered by Employers during (Feb. 1909, Feb. 1908), Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanent, Temporary). Rows include Central Bureau, V.W.C.A., Dublin, Other Bureaux, Saperintendents, Shop Assistants, Dressmakers, etc., Domestic Servants, Miscellaneous, and Total of ten Bureaux.

Societies: (4) Pandu Tudur and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Tyn-y-fynon, Pandu, Llanrwst, S.O., Denbigh; North Lindsey Farmers, Ltd., Rookeries, Winterringham, 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 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., Readside, Westray, Orkney. Ireland.—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; Newtownstewart Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Newtownstewart, co. Tyrone. Miscellaneous: (1) Kilsberry 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, Chestfield; 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, Whitechurch; Succourative Collect. Soc., Liverpool; Ye Olde Wooden House Sick Benefit Slate Club, East Greenwick; 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

Table with columns: Notices received in Feb., of (Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up), Registry Cancelled. Rows include Trade Unions, Industrial and Provident Societies, Friendly Societies, Building Societies.

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.

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 Paviers 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.

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 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 2s. 6d.] 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 2s. 6d.] 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.] Building Societies. 13th Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1907. Part II. Abstract of Accounts. [H.C. 211 - 1: 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. 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 1s. 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 debate 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. cxcvi. + 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: price 2½d.]

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 1s. 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.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour (Department of Commerce and Labour), No. 78. September, 1908. Articles—Industrial Accidents; Mexican Labour in the United States.

Sixth Annual Report of the Secretary of Commerce and Labour, 1908. Work of the Bureau; action under the Erdman Act for the settlement of industrial disputes on inter-state railways, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 91.]

Massachusetts. *Second Annual Report of the Free Employment Offices for the year ending November 30th, 1908.* [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers; pp. 20.]

Labour Bulletin for January, 1909. State of employment in the organized industries. Decision of the Supreme Judicial Court on the right of labour unions to impose fines on members who refuse to go out on strike.

Indiana. *Sixth Biennial Report of the Indiana Labour Commission for the years 1907-1908.* Action with regard to labour disputes. [Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, State Printer; pp. 121.]

Iowa. *Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics for 1906-07.* Factory inspection, accident statistics, trade unions in Iowa, wages, etc., 1908. [Des Moines: Emory H. English, State Printer: pp. 363.]

Wisconsin. *Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics, 1907-1908.* Part III. Industrial Hygiene and the Police Power. [Madison, Democrat Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 25.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, January, 1909. Labour disputes and conciliation and arbitration in 1907; friendly societies in 1904; hours of labour, &c., of railway servants in 1906. [Paris: Berger-Levrault & Cie: price 2d.]

Statistical Yearbook of Charitable Institutions, 1906. French Ministry of Labour, 1908. [Paris: pp. 202.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, February, 1909. Summary statistics of the German Census of Occupations of June 12th, 1907; wages statistics of Germany; wages agreements in 1907, amendment of industrial code (as regards hours of women and children), &c. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

Journal of the German Insurance Department, January 15th, 1909. Statistics for 1907 of (1) Accident Insurance, (2) Old Age and Infirmity Insurance. [Berlin: Behrend & Co.: pp. 228: price 1s.]

Constitution and Administrative Organization of Towns. Vol. VII.: England, France and the United States. Verein für Social-politik, 1908. [Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot: pp. 227 + 299.]

Workpeople's Insurance. Edited by Dr. Zacher. Part Ib. Denmark; Part IVb. France; Part XIIIa. Holland; Part XVIIIa. Old age and invalidity insurance in Australia and Great Britain in 1908. Part XIX. Collected papers by the editor on workpeople's insurance in Germany and other countries. Part XX. Index to series. [Berlin, Gross Lichtenfelde: Verlag der Arbeiter-Versicherung, A. Troschel: pp. 70 and 75; 88 + 44; 59; 10 + 32; 193; 133: prices 4s. 6d.; 4s. 6d.; 2s.; 1s. 7d.; 4s. 6d.; 3s.]

Municipal Statistics of Chemnitz. Part I. Migration in the Erzgebirge industrial districts and in the town of Chemnitz. [Chemnitz, 1909: pp. 83.]

The Boot and Shoe Industry of Germany. By Dr. Carl Rehe. 1908. Earnings, hours, cost of living, &c. [Jena: Gustav Fischer: pp. 110.]

Statistical Yearbook of Barmen, 1907. Statistics of occupations, employment, labour registries, labour disputes, workpeople's insurance, prices, &c. Municipal Statistical Office. [Barmen: pp. vi. + 79: price 6d.]

Report on Administration and Communal Affairs of Barmen, 1907 (includes above statistical yearbook). [Barmen: pp. 213 + 73: Druck von D. B. Wiemann.]

Empty Houses in Barmen. Census of December 1st, 1908. Municipal Statistical Office. [Barmen: pp. 4.]

Statistics of Wiesbaden. Part 2. Housing statistics based on census of empty houses of 15th October, 1907 (includes rents.) Part 3. Finances of Wiesbaden, 1884-1908, with income and expenditure, 1888-1907. Municipal Statistical Office. [Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann: pp. 32 + 53: price 1s. and 1s. 6d.]

Population and Housing Statistics of Wiesbaden. Municipal Statistical Office, 1908. [Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann: pp. 13.]

Austria-Hungary.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, December, 1908. Regulations in force in various countries on hours, Sunday rest, and methods of payment of wages, &c., in mines; earnings in Austrian salt works in 1906; *January, 1909*, Ministerial Circular on hours on State railways of Austria; Christian Trade Unions in 1907. [Vienna: A. Holder: price 2d. each.]

Strikes and Lock-outs in Austria in 1907. Austrian Labour Department, 1909. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. cxliii + 596.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, January, 1909. Disputes in Italy, October, 1908. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

Statistics of Italian Emigration in 1906 and 1907. Appendix relating to emigration in other countries. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. Statistical Department. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. xxiv + 171: price 1s. 7d.]

Italian Emigration and Colonisation. *Italian Diplomatic and Consular Reports.* Vol. III., America. Part I., Brazil. Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Emigration Department), 1908. [Rome: Libreria Bocca: pp. 414: price 1s. 7d.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, January 15th, 1909. Employment in December, 1908; *January 31st, 1909*, Labour disputes in December, 1908; *February 15th, 1909*, co-operation 1903-1908; retail prices, *January 31st, 1909*; employment in *January 1909.* [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price 1d. each.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, January 30th, 1909. Employment and labour disputes in December; labour disputes in 1908 (provisional figures). [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

Comparative Population Statistics of Important Cities in Various Countries, 1899-1907. Municipal Statistical Office of Amsterdam. [Amsterdam: Johannes Müller: pp. 54: price 6d.]

Luxemburg.

Laws and Decrees relating to Labour, in force in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. Workpeople's Insurance Department of the Home Office of Luxemburg, 1908. [Luxemburg: pp. 298: price 7d.]

Norway.

Statistical Year Book of Norway, 1908. Statistics of occupations, unemployment, labour registries, wages, savings banks, &c. Norwegian Central Statistical Office. [Christiania: A. Aschehoug & Co.: pp. 196 + charts: price 1s. 1d.]

Industrial Statistics of Norway, 1901-4. Statistics of occupations, wages, &c. Norwegian Insurance Department, 1908. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: pp. xxii. + 92.]

Sweden.

Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, Nos. 11 & 12, 1908. Labour disputes, 1903-7. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

Report on Agriculture and Crops for 1907. Contains wages of agricultural labourers, prices of cereals. Swedish Central Statistical Office. 1909. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

Denmark.

Statistics of Copenhagen and Frederiksborg, 1903-1907. Statistics of occupations, unemployment, labour registries, trade unions, wages, hours, labour disputes, old age subventions, industrial accidents, &c. Municipal Executive of Copenhagen. [Copenhagen: pp. xvii. + 248.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, January, 1909. Labour disputes in December. [Madrid: Calle Mayor 93: price 2½d.]

Bulgaria.

Monthly Journal of the Statistical Department of Bulgaria, December, 1908. Prices of articles of consumption in towns, and wages of bricklayers and masons and labourers in November, 1908.

Argentine Republic.

Journal of the Labour Department of the Argentine Republic, December 31st, 1908. Statistics of occupations in Buenos Ayres; wages at the end of 1908; labour disputes in Buenos Ayres in third quarter of 1908. [Buenos Ayres: A. Espiasse e hijo, Florida 16: price 1s. 9d.]