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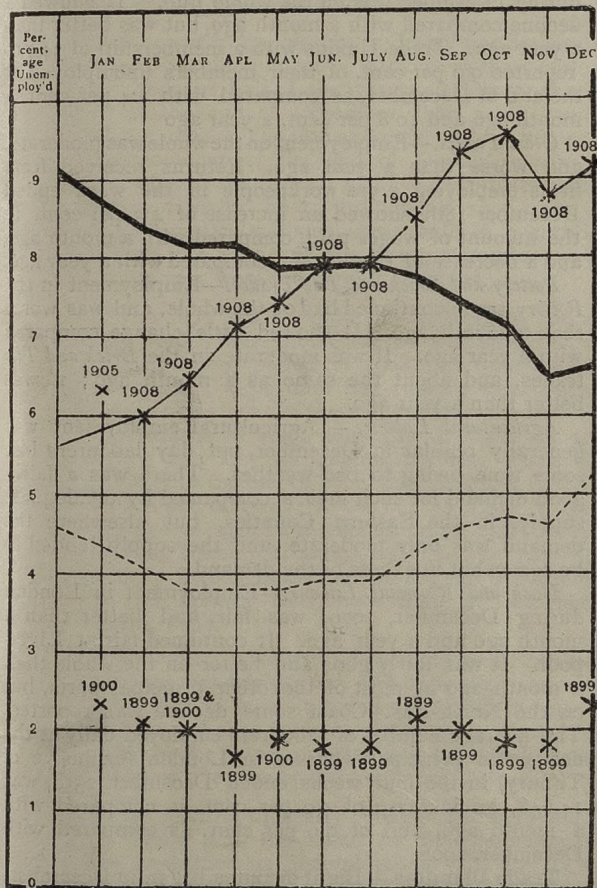
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## 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 December, 1909, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 692,153 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 57,489	Paper, Printing & Book-binding ... .. 59,415
Coal Mining ... .. 140,567	Woodworking and Furnishing ... .. 34,710
Engineering ... .. 168,200	Miscellaneous ... .. 16,898
Shipbuilding ... .. 55,967	Total ... .. 692,153
Other Metal Trades ... 42,090	
Textiles ... .. 116,817	

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[In addition to the 2,894 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,715 were received from employers relating to 1,131,855 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 6,609 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in December was, on the whole, much about the same as in November. There was some improvement in the coal mining, iron and steel, tinplate and shipbuilding industries. On the other hand, there was a seasonal decline in the building trades, and, at the end of the month, in the printing trades. In the engineering and other industries there were the usual holiday suspensions at the end of the year. In spite of seasonal and holiday influences the net increase in the percentage unemployed as between November and December was 0.1 only, as compared with an average increase of 0.6 in the ten years 1899-1908. The high price of raw cotton continued adversely to affect the cotton industry.

As compared with a year ago, all the principal industries, except cotton, showed an improvement.

In the 416 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 692,153 making Returns, 45,963 (or 6.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, 1909, compared with 6.5 per cent. at the end of November, 1909, and 9.1 per cent. at the end of December, 1908.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment during December was good on the whole, and showed an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the pits, for which Returns were received, during the four weeks ended December 18th was 5.49, as compared with 5.36 days in November, and 5.29 days a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment on the whole was good and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry during December was moderate. It was, however, better than a year ago. Returns received relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 22,700 workpeople showed 301 furnaces in blast at the end of December, 1909, as compared with 304\* in November, 1909, and 290 in December, 1908.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works showed an improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The volume of employment during the week ended December 18th, 1909, at the works from which Returns were received, was 2.8 per cent. more than a month ago, and 9.6 per cent. more than a year ago.

**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago.

\* Revised figure.

At the works covered by the Returns 471 tinplate and steel sheet mills were working at the end of December, as compared with 466 in November and 456 a year ago.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment, though still slack, continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 168,200 reported 9·8 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 9·5 per cent. a month ago and 14·0 per cent. a year ago. Holiday suspensions affected employment at the end of the month.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 55,967 reported 16·9 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 19·3 per cent. a month ago, and 24·7 per cent. a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment in the spinning branch was bad. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton. In the weaving branch employment was very slack, and there was much waiting for warps. In both branches there was a decline as compared with both November, 1909, and December, 1908. Returns from firms employing 126,914 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 6·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 10·2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,504 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 0·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 16·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,892 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 0·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8·7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,456 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed no change in the wages paid as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 13·3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,596 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 0·7 per cent. in the wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 8·1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment continued moderate and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,620 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid of 0·9 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5·0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,473 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 0·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 17·1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment continued fairly good generally, and was much better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,943 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 0·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 12·9 per cent. with a year ago.

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

**Hat Trade.**—Employment in the *Silk* hat trade was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago, but much better than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade it continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment continued fair, and

was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 58,960 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment was fair, but somewhat worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with 3,193 members reported 5·5 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 3·4 per cent. at the end of November, and 8·6 per cent. a year ago.

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

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment continued good generally, and was better than a year ago. It showed an improvement during the greater part of the month as compared with November, but declined towards the end of the month (as is usual in December). Trade Unions in the printing trades with a membership of 50,618 reported 4·2 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 3·5 in November and 5·7 a year ago. In bookbinding the corresponding percentages relating to 6,689 members were 3·8, 3·3 and 5·4.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continued slack. It showed a seasonal decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. The percentage unemployed among trade union carpenters and plumbers was 12·9 at the end of December, as compared with 10·4 in November and 14·9 a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment during December was on the whole dull. It showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,710 reported 9·0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 7·4 per cent. a month ago and 10·8 per cent. a year ago.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment on the whole was moderate, and worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,572 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 4·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1·9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment in the Pottery trade continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a month ago. It showed little change compared with a year ago. It was moderate in the *Brick and Tile* trades, and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

**Agricultural Labour.**—Agricultural employment was generally regular in December, but day labourers lost some time owing to bad weather. There was a fairly good demand for such men, accompanied by an adequate supply, in the Eastern Counties, but elsewhere the demand was only moderate, and the supply tended to be somewhat in excess of the demand.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment in London during December, 1909, was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. It continued fair at Liverpool. It was fairly good and better on the whole than a month ago at most of the other principal ports, but on the North-East Coast some decline was reported. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London (exclusive of Tilbury) in the four weeks ended December 25th, was 14,048, an increase of 4·0 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 9·9 per cent. as compared with December, 1908.

**Trade Disputes.**—Eight disputes began in December, as compared with 24 in the previous month, and 11 in December, 1908. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began, or were in progress during December, 1909, was 8,522 or 6,563 less than in November, 1909, and 9,054 less than in December, 1908.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 131,900 working days, or 56,500 less than in November, 1909, and 33,100 less than in December, 1908.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes taking effect in December affected 300 workpeople, of whom 200 received advances, and 100 sustained decreases, the net effect being a decrease of £5 per week.

## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES AND PRICES IN 1909.

### Employment.

A GENERAL decline in employment began during the second half of the year 1907, and continued throughout 1908. In the early part of 1909, however, there was a slight upward movement and during the latter half of the year there has been continuous improvement. The cotton trade was adversely affected by the high price of the raw material, and organized short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked from the beginning of July in mills spinning American cotton. With the exception of this trade, however, all the principal industries showed a considerable improvement in employment at the end of 1909 as compared with the end of 1908, and in many cases the improvement was considerable.

In the coal mining industry employment was fairly good, and during the last quarter of the year was better than in the corresponding period of 1908. The average weekly number of days worked (5·14) was somewhat less than in 1908 (5·23) and about one-third of a day less than in 1907, in which year the average number of days worked per week (5·51) by the pits was the highest recorded since the first collection of the statistics. At iron mines employment continued good.

Employment in the pig-iron industry was moderate on the whole, but the number of furnaces in blast increased during the latter half of the year and was appreciably higher at the end of December than at the end of December, 1908. The iron and steel trade also improved and employment at the end of December was considerably better than a year ago. The tinplate industry was exceptionally busy throughout 1909, and the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of the year and the average number at work during the year were the highest recorded.

For the first half of 1909 the engineering and shipbuilding trades were not quite so well employed as in the corresponding period of 1908, but from the end of July onwards the position has steadily improved, and although employment in these industries was still slack, the percentages of trade unionists unemployed, which were 14·0 and 24·7 for engineering and shipbuilding respectively at the end of 1908, had dropped to 9·8 and 16·9 at the end of 1909. According to Lloyd's Return the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction at the end of December, 1909, was 913,374 tons gross, being 135,338 tons more than at the end of September, 1909, and 148,854 tons more than at the end of December, 1908.

In the hosiery, woollen and worsted and linen trades employment was fairly good, and improving throughout the year, and in lace, jute and silk trades it was fair. In the boot and shoe trade employment continued fairly good, and in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades it was fair on the whole, and better than in 1908.

Returns relating to nearly 700,000 members of Trade Unions show that the mean of the percentages of members returned as unemployed at the end of each month of 1909 was 7·7 as compared with 7·8 in 1908, 3·7 in 1907, 3·6 in 1906, and 5·0 in 1905. The fluctuations in the percentages of unemployed in the period 1899-1909 are shown below:—

1899	...	...	2·0	1905	...	...	5·0
1900	...	...	2·5	1906	...	...	3·6
1901	...	...	3·3	1907	...	...	3·7
1902	...	...	4·0	1908	...	...	7·8
1903	...	...	4·7	1909	...	...	7·7
1904	...	...	6·0				

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed at the end of each month in the year 1905-1909, with the increases or decreases in 1909 as compared with the four previous years —

	Percentage unemployed at end of each month in					Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1909 as compared with				
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
January	...	...	...	...	...	+2·9	+4·8	+4·4	+2·4	+2·4
February	...	...	...	...	...	+2·4	+4·9	+4·3	+2·7	+2·7
March	...	...	...	...	...	+1·8	+5·0	+4·8	+3·0	+3·0
April	...	...	...	...	...	+1·1	+5·4	+5·0	+3·0	+3·0
May	...	...	...	...	...	+0·5	+4·9	+4·8	+3·2	+3·2
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	+4·8	+4·7	+3·1	+3·1
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	+4·7	+4·8	+3·2	+3·2
August	...	...	...	...	...	-0·8	+4·1	+4·4	+2·8	+2·8
September	...	...	...	...	...	-1·9	+3·3	+4·1	+2·6	+2·6
October	...	...	...	...	...	-2·4	+2·9	+3·2	+2·5	+2·5
November	...	...	...	...	...	-2·2	+2·0	+5	+2·2	+2·2
December	...	...	...	...	...	-2·5	+1·0	+2·2	+2·1	+2·1
Mean	...	...	...	...	...	-0·1	+4·0	+4·1	+2·7	+2·7

### Changes in Rates of Wages.

The downward movement in wages which commenced about the third month in 1908, continued until the latter part of the year 1909, when the downward tendency was checked. This will be seen from the net amount of the changes in the four quarters of the year which are as follows:—January-March, a decrease of £50,822 per week; April-June, a decrease of £17,954 per week; July-September, a decrease of £1,234 per week; and October-December, an increase of £798 per week. The net result for the year was thus a decrease of £69,212 per week.

The number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in rates of wages during 1909 was 1,150,919, of whom 16,481 received net increases computed as amounting to £697 per week, and 1,129,511 sustained net decreases amounting to £69,909 per week. The remaining 4,927 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year. The figures are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police, and Government employees. The changes taken into account are only changes in rates of wages and not fluctuations in the total amount of wages paid due to variations in the amount of employment available, or altered conditions of work.

The number of workpeople affected by changes, and the net results on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople whose rates of wages were changed in		Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Weekly Wages of those affected as compared with the preceding year.	
	1908.	1909.*	1908.	1909.*
Building	...	...	£ 226	£ 714
Coal Mining	...	...	-47,085	-56,184
Iron, &c. Mining	...	...	-2,936	-191
Quarrying	...	...	-990	+68
Pig Iron Manufacture	...	...	-2,274	-241
Iron and Steel Manufacture	...	...	-7,382	-1,234
Engineering and Shipbuilding	...	...	-4,059	-2,489
Other Metal Trades	...	...	-207	-360
Textile Trades	...	...	+1,132	-8,225
Clothing Trades	...	...	+149	+140
Printing, &c. Trades	...	...	+956	+70
Glass, &c. Trades	...	...	+208	-12
Other Trades	...	...	-368	-105
Employees of Local Authorities	...	...	+238	+71
Total	...	...	-61,683	-69,212

The Table shows that as in the previous year the changes in 1909 in the coal mining industry accounted for a large portion of the total, and miners in every district, with the exception of the Forest of Dean, are reported to have had their wages reduced. In the textile trades 156,000 workpeople sustained a net reduction of £8,000 per week while in the engineering and shipbuilding trades nearly 50,000 workpeople had a reduction of £2,500 per week.

The year 1908, which was a year of falling wages, was preceded by two years of rising wages. Previous to this there had been a quinquennial period 1901-1905, of falling wages, preceded by a similar period, 1896-1900, of rising wages.

The number of workpeople affected, and the net amount of change in each of these years are shown in the following Table:—

\* The figures for 1909 are preliminary and subject to revision.

Year.	No. of Workpeople reported as affected by Changes in Rates of Wages.	Computed Amount of change in Weekly Wages as compared with each preceding year.	
		Net Increase per week.	Net Decrease per week.
1896	598,865	26,152	—
1897	582,333	30,494	—
1898	1,010,057	80,572	—
1899	1,166,478	89,816	—
1900	1,110,031	206,772	—
1901	907,199	—	77,902
1902	883,191	—	72,865
1903	892,522	—	38,557
1904	799,959	—	59,238
1905	664,777	—	4,027
1906	1,495,601	56,728	—
1907	1,244,739	200,820	—
1908	509,538	—	61,683
1909*	1,150,919	—	69,212
Total for Fourteen Years (1896-1909)*	†	691,354	363,584

It will be seen that over the whole period the aggregate of the net increases exceeds that of the net decreases by £327,770 per week.

#### Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in weekly hours of labour taking effect in 1909 affected 62,753 workpeople (exclusive of those affected on account of the adoption of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908). Of these, 1,600 had their aggregate working time increased by 3,278 hours per week, and 61,063 had reductions amounting to 110,277 hours per week.

#### Trade Disputes.

The number of disputes causing a stoppage of work in 1909 was 409, involving directly and indirectly 299,949 workpeople, with an aggregate duration of over 2½ million working days. As compared with the previous year there was an increase both in the number of disputes recorded and in the number of workpeople involved. The high figure for numbers involved in disputes in 1909 is due almost entirely to the stoppage of work which occurred in a number of the principal coal-fields consequent upon the failure mutually to adjust conditions of working when the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908, was first put into operation. Of the 299,949 workpeople involved in disputes which began in 1909, over 147,000 (or 49 per cent.) were laid idle through this cause. Happily these stoppages were short, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in 1909 amounted to little more than one quarter of those recorded in 1908, the year of the great disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades of the North-East Coast and in the cotton trade of Lancashire. The figures for 1909 show a great falling off in the number of disputes and in aggregate duration, as compared with the averages of the ten previous years; in regard to numbers involved, however, the figures for 1909 show an increase of 70 per cent. as compared with the average of the period 1899-1908.

A comparison of 1909 with the ten previous years is made in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	Total No. of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in each year.	Aggregate Duration in working days of all Disputes in each year.
1899	79	180,217	2,516,416
1900	648	188,538	3,152,694
1901	612	179,500	4,142,207
1902	442	256,667	3,179,255
1903	387	116,901	2,338,168
1904	355	87,203	1,484,720
1905	318	93,003	2,701,189
1906	486	217,773	3,028,816
1907	601	147,498	2,162,150
1908	599	295,507	10,834,189
Average for 10 years	504	176,335	3,560,889
1909*	409	299,949	2,761,000

Although the number of workpeople involved in disputes in 1909 appears large, it amounts to less than 3 per cent. of the total industrial population of the United Kingdom. Spread over this same industrial population the amount of time lost by disputes in 1909 amounts to little more than a quarter of a working day per head.

\* The figures for 1909 are preliminary and subject to revision.  
† It will be understood that although the same workpeople are counted only once in each year many of them appear in several years, and therefore no total can be made for the fourteen years (1896-1909).

The following Table summarises by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the years 1908 and 1909 respectively:—

Groups of Trades.	1908.			1909.*		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ... ..	19	2,892	73,019	14	1,567	19,000
Mining and Quarrying...	145	87,022	1,351,429	196	272,754	2,230,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	62	58,338	3,835,661	54	9,160	169,000
Textile ... ..	69	132,803	5,565,095	54	6,637	178,000
Clothing ... ..	37	4,662	69,311	25	2,481	18,000
Transport ... ..	21	4,894	51,634	20	4,899	95,000
Other Trades ... ..	51	4,856	87,109	46	2,451	52,000
Total ... ..	399	295,507	10,834,189	409	299,949	2,761,000

The mining and quarrying industries were responsible in 1909 for the greatest number of disputes recorded, the highest number of workpeople involved, and the largest aggregate duration. Of the 409 disputes occurring in all trades in 1909, 48 per cent. were in this group of industry, and these accounted for 91 per cent. of the workpeople involved in, and 81 per cent. of the aggregate duration of all the disputes of the year. The aggregate duration of disputes in the transport trades in 1909 showed a considerable increase over that recorded in the previous year. In all other industries, and especially in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades and in the textile trades, the figures for 1909 show a considerable falling off in every respect from those of the previous year.

#### Wholesale Prices.\*

The general level of wholesale prices, as measured by the Board of Trade Index number, which is based principally on import and export average values, showed a rise of 1.3 per cent. in 1909, as compared with 1908, and with the exception of 1907 was higher than in any year since 1891.

The Table below gives the Index numbers indicating the general rise or fall in wholesale prices during the period 1871-1909, each year of the period being compared with 1900 which is taken as the base year.

#### 1900 = 100.0.

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1871	136.0	1884	114.7	1897	90.1
1872	145.8	1885	107.7	1898	93.2
1873	152.7	1886	101.6	1899	91.3
1874	149.7	1887	99.6	1900	100.0
1875	141.4	1888	102.7	1901	96.9
1876	138.0	1889	104.0	1902	96.5
1877	141.6	1890	104.0	1903	96.9
1878	134.6	1891	107.4	1904	98.3
1879	126.6	1892	101.8	1905	97.5
1880	129.6	1893	100.0	1906	100.5
1881	127.3	1894	94.2	1907	105.7
1882	128.4	1895	91.0	1908	104.8
1883	125.8	1896	88.2	1909†	104.4

Compared with 1908 there was an increase, more or less considerable, in the prices of 29 out of the 45 articles comprising the Index Number, and a decline in the price of 16 articles. Excluding articles of food and drink the greatest proportionate increases were in the prices of caoutchouc (38.7 per cent.), olive oil (30.8 per cent.), rum (28.9 per cent.), British wool (13.1 per cent.), flax (11.5 per cent.). The average value of raw cotton imported during 1909 showed an increase of 2 per cent. as compared with 1908, but the average value for the month of December (8.57d. per lb.) was nearly 50 per cent. higher than the value for January. The principal articles showing a decline in price were petroleum (11.8 per cent.), coal (11.2 per cent.), jute (9.0 per cent.), and bricks (7.5 per cent.). The average level of wholesale prices of food and drink (including tobacco) showed an increase of 2.1 per cent., following on a rise of 1.4 per cent. in 1908 and of 4.6 per cent. in 1907. Sixteen of the 23 articles composing the index number

\* For the method of construction of this Index Number and the prices of the 45 articles comprising it, see Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902 (H.C. 321 of 1903). The Index Number has, however, now been recalculated with the year 1900 as its base year instead of 1871.  
† The figure for 1909 is preliminary, and subject to revision.

for this group showed an increase, the most considerable increase being in the price of imported rum (27.4 per cent.). The price of hops increased 23.4 per cent., and of herrings 20 per cent. Bacon rose 17.2 per cent., British wheat rose 15.1 per cent., and imported wheat 10.1 per cent. Cocoa declined 23.8 per cent., and potatoes 20.9 per cent., while coffee, mutton and tobacco all declined between 9 and 10 per cent.

#### Retail Prices.

The retail prices of food in 1909 showed little general change as compared with 1908. It showed an increase of 2½ per cent. as compared with 1907, and of nearly 5 per cent. as compared with 1906 and of 8.2 per cent. as compared with 1900. The Index number constructed on the weighted retail prices in London of 23 of the principal articles of food was as follows for the years 1895-1909:—

#### 1900 = 100.0.

Year.	Index No.	Year.	Index No.
1895	93.2	1903	103.2
1896	92.0	1904	104.3
1897	96.4	1905	103.7
1898	100.8	1906	103.2
1899	96.4	1907	105.8
1900	100.0	1908	108.4
1901	101.9	1909	108.2
1902	101.6		

As compared with 1908, the principal articles which advanced in price were bacon (11.4 per cent.), eggs (6.4 per cent.), bread (6.3 per cent.), flour (5.5 per cent.), and pork (3.1 per cent.). There was a decline of 16.0 per cent. in the price of potatoes, of 12.6 per cent. in the price of cocoa, of 6.3 per cent. in the price of sugar, and of 4.1 per cent. in the price of mutton. Butter declined 3.2 per cent., and there were also considerable decreases in the prices of tapioca, currants, rice, and oatmeal.

According to the particulars obtained monthly as to the price of bread in London and 25 of the principal towns of the United Kingdom, there was in 1909 an average rise of 7.0 per cent. in the price as compared with 1908. There has, however, been some decline from the high prices which obtained from June to September of 1909. At the end of December, 1909, however, the price of bread was higher than at the end of December, 1908, in 19 of the towns. The quarterly returns from 361 co-operative societies in England and Wales and Scotland show an increase of about 6 per cent. in the price of bread in 1909 as compared with 1908.

## TRADE BOARDS.

### Chain Trade.

The Trade Board for Hammered and Dollied or Tommied Chain making, constituted in accordance with Regulations dated November 25th, 1909, under the Trade Boards Act (see GAZETTE for December last, p. 401), held its first meeting on January 7th at Cradley Heath.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. G. R. Askwith, C.B., K.C., the Comptroller-General of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, who explained the functions of the new Board and introduced the chairman, Mr. W. B. Yates, J.P., and the other two "appointed members," Mr. Alderman Thomas Smith, J.P., and Miss Mona Wilson.

After some remarks by the Chairman, in which he emphasised the necessity for the members of the Board approaching the duties imposed upon them by the Act with great caution, and entering upon their work in a conciliatory spirit with a view to making their decisions acceptable as far as practicable to all concerned, the Board proceeded to the consideration of the question of minimum rates. After a lengthy sitting the Trade Board arrived at a basis for discussion, and adjourned in order that the representative members might consult with the employers and workers respectively.

## RECENT PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

### ARBITRATION CASES.

#### Plasterers, Glasgow.

The Board of Trade, on December 20th, received an application from the Glasgow Master Plasterers' Association and the Glasgow Branch of the Scottish

National Operative Plasterers' Federal Union for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide questions which had arisen between the parties with regard to proposals for a reduction in the rate of wages and for the limitation of the number of apprentices. A Court of Arbitration consisting of His Honour Judge Arthur O'Connor, chairman, Mr. James E. Platt, arbitrator from the employers' panel, and Mr. J. D. Prior, arbitrator from the labour panel, was accordingly appointed, and issued its award on December 28th, deciding that the rate of wages should not be reduced, A claim by the operatives regarding the limitation of the number of apprentices was withdrawn.

#### Boot and Shoe Trade, Anstey.

In February, 1909, in response to an application received from the Board of Arbitration for the Anstey Boot and Shoe Trade, the Board of Trade appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., to act as conciliator in connection with disputes which had arisen upon the formation of a quantities statement for lasters (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1909). The reference required the 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 agreement, he was to act as arbitrator to determine all disputed points, and fix the said quantities statement.

Mr. Smith, having made full inquiry in accordance with the terms of reference, and finding it was not possible to obtain a mutual agreement upon all the points of difference, issued an award, as arbitrator, on December 20th, in the form of a piecework or quantities statement, setting forth in detail the conditions, classification, descriptive operations, processes and prices for the lasting department of the Anstey shoe trade.

#### Boot and Shoe Trade, Leicester.

On December 21st Mr. Smith issued his award as the Umpire appointed to decide a question as to the payment of an "extra" for certain operations connected with lasting, regarding which the arbitrators to the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Leicester had been unable to agree (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for December). The Umpire decided that payment should not be made except in certain specified circumstances.

#### Hosiery Workers, Kibworth.

Alderman T. Smith, J.P., the Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade to deal with a dispute which had arisen between a firm of hosiery manufacturers at Kibworth and certain of their workpeople (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for December), issued his award on December 31st, deciding that the price to be paid for making certain half-hose on particular "frames" shall be 6d. per dozen.

## CONCILIATION BOARDS.

### Fishing Trade, Hull.

At a conciliation conference under the chairmanship of Mr. G. R. Askwith, C.B., K.C., held at Hull on November 2nd, in connection with the dispute in the Hull trawl fishing industry, it was agreed that a Board of Conciliation and Arbitration should be formed to deal with future questions affecting wages or other conditions of employment that may arise between the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners and the Hull Share Fishermen. The parties to the Board were the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association and the Port of Hull Trawl Fishermen's Protective Society and the Hull Fishing Masters' Association. As the result of negotiations conducted by an officer of the Board of Trade, a similar Board of Conciliation and Arbitration has now been formed between the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association and the Hull Trawl Fishing Trade Engineers and Firemen (members of the Hull Amalgamated Steam Trawlers' Engineers' and Firemen's Union, and the Hull Fishing Trade members of the Hull Seamen and Marine Firemen's Amalgamated Association).

### SCOTTISH DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN 1908-9.

THE Local Government Board for Scotland have published a Report\* upon the proceedings of Distress Committees in Scotland for the year ended May 15th, 1909.

During the year Distress Committees were established in Clydebank and Falkirk, bringing the number of Committees to 16.

The total number of applications for relief work was 34,050, of which 613 were from females. In comparison with the number of applications for relief work received in 1907-8 by the ten Distress Committees that took action, viz., 15,154, the number received by the same Distress Committees in 1908-9 shows an increase of 17,493; and in the total number of applications received by all Distress Committees there is an increase of 18,896.

The number of applications in proportion to population varied from 0.36 per cent. in Inverness to 3.86 in Clydebank.

Of the male applicants 16 per cent. belonged to the building trades and 31 per cent. to the engineering, shipbuilding and metal trades. The percentage of "general or casual labourers" was 35; but it is thought that a proportion of the persons classified under particular industries may have been unskilled, or relatively less skilled hands, and in all probability belonged to the general or casual labour class. The ages of the applicants were: under 30, 32.40 per cent.; between 30 and 40, 29.50 per cent.; 40 and upwards, 38.10 per cent.

The total number of persons for whom work was provided was 16,154, and of these, 9,663 were provided with work directly by the Distress Committees and 6,913 indirectly through Local Authorities, 422 being provided with work both directly and indirectly. Following the practice of previous years, it was usual to allow men to work in relays of a week or a fortnight at a time where the number of applicants was in excess of the number required to undertake the work that the Distress Committee was in a position to offer. Married men with dependants were given a preference over single men and widowers with no dependants.

The total amount spent in wages to the unemployed was £77,953 19s. 6d., i.e., practically three times as much as in 1907-8. In Glasgow the wages amounted to £32,611 5s. 2d., and in Edinburgh to £18,226 10s. 3½d.

As regards the work provided directly by the Distress Committees, in Aberdeen stone-breaking was again the chief occupation, as many as 90 to 270 men at a time being employed. As was the case in 1907-8, the Farm Colonies at Palacerigg and Murieston were the main outlet for the employment of men by the Glasgow and Edinburgh Distress Committees respectively. At Palacerigg relief work was found for an average of 650 men, who travelled to and from Glasgow daily; in addition, an average number of 80 men were resident in the Colony. The Glasgow Distress Committee, with the consent of the Local Government Board, have established, as an experiment, a women's workroom for the purpose of providing sewing for unemployed women; it was started in March, 1909, and between that date and May 15th employment was found on an average for 10 women per week. At Murieston on an average 350 men were given relief work, the large majority travelling to and from Edinburgh. When men were employed at their own trades in the construction, &c., of buildings, on the estate, standard rates of wages were paid.

The work indirectly provided consisted for the most part of the construction of new streets and sewers, public park improvements, stone-breaking, and other miscellaneous jobs involving rough, unskilled work. It is the usual practice for Distress Committees to undertake to pay the Local Authority providing the work the loss that results, i.e., the difference between the actual cost of the work and its contract value. The loss varies very considerably; and while it is as low as 9 per cent. in Clydebank, it rises to 77 per cent. in Glasgow and 59 per cent. in Govan. In the aggregate, the loss resulting from unemployed labour works out at 25 per cent.

\* Cd. 4946. Price 2½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

The total receipts of the committees were £85,742, of which £23,355 was from rates, £47,253 from the Parliamentary Grant, and £7,676 from voluntary contributions. It is pointed out that the figures given under the head of "voluntary contributions" do not necessarily represent the total amount raised for the relief of the unemployed in the various localities; in Glasgow, for example, the Lord Provost raised upwards of £36,000, which was administered by a committee quite independently of the Distress Committee.

The total expenditure of the committees was £91,602, of which £62,531 was spent in the provision of temporary work, and £29,023 in establishment charges and expenses in connection with the acquisition of land. Only £48 was spent in aiding the emigration and removal of unemployed persons, 3 persons being assisted to emigrate and 49 to move from one area to another.

### CENSUS OF PRODUCTION IN 1907.

THE second of a series of tables summarising for the more important trades of the country the preliminary results of the Returns received under the Census of Production Act, 1906, has recently been issued by the Board of Trade.\* The tables now presented contain preliminary figures relating to shipbuilding yards and marine engineering works where power is used, and to factories in the engineering, cycle and motor, leather (tanning and dressing), and paper-making trades. In the tables relating to the engineering trades are included electrical engineering and a small amount of marine engineering but not heating, ventilating, and sanitary engineering.

The "output" shown in the tables is the gross output of each trade, i.e., where goods pass through the hands of several manufacturers at different stages, their quantity and value has been registered at each stage. The value of the gross output is, therefore, greater as a whole than the value of the goods ready for export or consumption manufactured by each trade considered as a unit. The figures entered against each class show the output of that product in the year, whether sold or not, deducting any amount worked up in the same factory into goods of a kind separately classified. Thus, for example, the entry against "Leather Undressed" shows only that portion of the leather tanned in the year of return which was either sold as undressed leather or remained in stock at the end of the year as such leather, and does not include tanned leather dressed by the tanning firm.

Where a firm makes goods for sale the value entered is the net selling value of the goods, including, of course, the value of any work done on the goods by other firms working on commission. Where a firm does work on commission the value entered is the amount received for the work, exclusive of the value of the material worked upon. In so far as such work on commission is done for other firms making Returns, the figures for gross output necessarily include twice over the payments for such work, and in order, therefore, to avoid duplication the schedules issued required a statement of the amount paid to other firms for all work given out.

The result of deducting the total cost of materials used and the amount paid to other firms for work given out from the value of the gross output for any one industry or group of factories is to give a figure which may, for convenience, be called the "net output" of the industry or the group. This figure expresses completely and without duplication the total amount by which the value of the products of the industry or group taken as a unit exceeded the value of the materials purchased from outside, i.e., it represents the value added to the raw materials in the course of manufacture. This sum constitutes for any industry the fund from which wages, salaries, rents, rates, taxes, depreciation, and all other similar charges as well as profits have to be defrayed.

The following short statement shows for the United Kingdom as a whole the gross output, the cost of

\* Cd. 5005. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 4d.

materials used, the amount paid for work given out to other firms, the "net output" as above defined, the number employed, and the net output per person employed for the industries covered by the present Report:—

	Gross Output. Selling Value.	Materials used. Cost.	Work Given Out. Amount paid to Other Firms.	Net Output. Excess of Column (1) over Columns (2) and (3).	Persons Employed. Total.	Net Output per Person Employed.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Shipbuilding Yards and Marine Engineering Works—Private firms	41,660,000	17,995,000	6,087,000	17,678,000	184,557	96
Engineering Factories (including Electrical Engineering)	101,599,000	48,323,000	3,851,000	49,425,000	455,561	103
Cycle and Motor Factories	10,643,000	5,063,000	181,000	5,399,000	46,800	115
Leather Factories (Tanning and Dressing)	17,551,000	13,872,000	58,000	3,621,000	27,258	133
Paper-making Factories	13,328,000	8,816,000	—	4,512,000	39,990	113
Total ... ..	184,781,000	93,969,000	10,127,000	80,685,000	754,166	—
Shipbuilding—Government Yards and Lighthouse Authorities	6,450,480	3,951,412	—	2,499,068	25,258	99

The output of private shipbuilding yards is returned on a profit basis, while that for Government yards is calculated on the cost of production. The figures for those two branches of the shipbuilding industry are, therefore, not strictly comparable as regards gross output and net output.

As cycles and motors are also included in some instances in the returns of firms in the engineering trades, the figures shown above for the cycle and motor trade are not complete, but full figures with regard to the factory production of motor vehicles and cycles are given in another section of the Report.

Except in the case of the leather trade it was possible to give for each trade an estimate of the value of the products of the trade taken as a whole (i.e., exclusive of duplications within the trade). The estimated figures in pounds sterling are: for the shipbuilding and marine engineering trades (private firms), between 37 and 41 millions; for Government yards and lighthouse authorities, about 6 millions; for general and electrical engineering (except cycles and motors), between 90 and 100 millions; for cycles and motors, between 10½ and 11½ millions; and for papermaking, between 12¾ and 13¼ millions.

#### Comparisons with 1906.

In order to obtain comparisons with the trade of the previous year the firms in the shipbuilding and marine engineering trades in the general and electrical engineering trades and in the leather trades were invited to state voluntarily the total value of their output in the twelve months preceding the period for which they had furnished detailed returns, and the following statement shows the gross value in the two years of the output of those firms who complied; the proportion borne to the total output in the trade and the increase or decrease in value in 1907 as compared with 1906. It must be remembered that this increase or decrease is calculated on the gross value of output, a figure which differs considerably from the value of the actual goods ready for use or consumption produced by the trade as a whole.

	Proportion of Output of firms making voluntary returns to total output.	Gross output of firms making voluntary returns in		Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1907 over 1906.
		1907.	1906.	
Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Trades*	56 per cent.	Thousand £ 23,167	Thousand £ 23,472	– 1.3
Engineering Factories (including Electrical Engineering)	45 „ „	45,836	41,532	+ 10.0
Leather Factories (Tanning and Dressing)	46 „ „	8,030	8,187	– 2.0

\* The figures apply to private firms only, and do not include production carried out in Government yards or by lighthouse authorities.

### SWEDISH LAW ON NIGHT WORK OF WOMEN.\*

By a law dated November 20th, 1909, the question of the employment of women at night in industrial establishments in Sweden has been regulated on the lines agreed to by a number of States at the International Labour Conference held at Berne in September, 1906.

The main provision of the new measure are as follows:—In mines, metal works, factories and workshops and similar undertakings where at least 10 persons are employed, women must be granted a period of rest amounting to 11 hours between one day's work and the next, and this period must include the hours from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Where the normal course of work is interrupted by unforeseen circumstances the employer may reduce the prescribed rest so far as may be necessary on giving due notice to the inspector of mines and factories. If, however, the reduction has to take place for a period exceeding a week, a permit must be obtained from the inspector, such permit not to be available for more than one month. Authorisations for a longer period, but not exceeding four months, must be sought from the Department of Commerce. In trades liable to seasonal fluctuations or to periods of pressure the uninterrupted rest may be reduced to 10 hours upon 60 days in the year, but not more. As regards trades in which perishable goods are dealt with, special exemptions can be granted by the King.

The new law comes into force on January 1st, 1911, but for three years from that date the uninterrupted rest for women is to be fixed at 10 hours, the full provisions of the law, therefore, taking effect from the first day of 1914.

### STRENGTH OF TRADE UNIONISM IN VARIOUS GERMAN TRADES.

THE details of the German census of occupations of June 12th, 1907, having been published, an attempt has been made in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* of December 10th last to make a comparison between the number of workpeople employed in various trades and the number organised in those trades.

It is pointed out that the comparison effected is not quite exact, as many organisations encroach on the trades covered by others. The comparison, moreover, had to be confined to men. It was found that 6,394,023 (88.8 per cent.) of the 7,204,496 workmen engaged in industrial occupations were in trades whose organisations were sufficiently defined to admit of their being used for the purposes of this comparison. Of these workmen 1,704,362 (or 26.6 per cent.) were organised.

The numbers employed in the principal trade groups and the proportion organised are as follows:—

Occupation.	No. of Workmen employed on June 12, 1907.	Trade Unionists.	
		Number.	Percentage.
Building ... ..	1,503,983	432,235	28.7
Mining and Quarrying, Blastfurnacemen, and Iron and Steel Manufacture	1,032,538	231,989	22.5
Metal Workers, Engineers, Shipbuilders	1,582,672	435,277	27.5
Textile Trades ... ..	426,825	108,996	25.5
Clothing Trades ... ..	331,738	80,705	24.3
Woodworking, &c., Trades ... ..	328,121	179,366	54.0
Printing, &c., Trades ... ..	162,163	92,779	57.2
Glass, Pottery, &c. ... ..	105,283	28,407	26.9
Food, &c., Trades ... ..	475,837	77,380	16.3
Leather Trades ... ..	102,905	28,582	27.8
Other Trades ... ..	141,408	8,646	6.1
Total ... ..	6,394,023	1,704,362	26.6

The proportion of organised workmen differed widely in the various trades included in these groups, varying from 68.1 per cent. in the case of printers and 67.8 per cent. for lithographers (including typesetters and cutters), to 4.9 per cent. for hairdressers, and 2.9 per cent. for butchers' assistants. The most strongly organised trades after printers and lithographers were hatters (58.3), glovemakers (41.4), brewers and maltsters (39.5), coppersmiths (36.9), plasterers (36.2), tobacco workers (36.1), paviors and asphalters (35.6), wood workers (34.6), porcelain workers (31.7), and glaziers (30.8).

\* *Revue du Travail* (Belgian Labour Department), December 31st, 1909.

## STATE SUBVENTION OF UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT FUNDS IN FRANCE IN 1908.

The *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (the journal of the French Labour Department) for September contains the fourth annual report on grants made by the French Government to societies which provide assistance for their members during unemployment.

Of the £4,400 allotted for the purpose of these subventions in 1908, the sum of £1,913 was distributed. Owing to the small number of funds making application for a share in the subsidy the scale of the grants was again the maximum permitted by law. By a decree of December 3rd, 1908, this maximum was raised from 16 to 20 per cent. of the amount of unemployed benefit paid by a society to its members in the case of purely local societies, and from 24 to 30 per cent. of that amount in the case of federations and of societies organised in branches. In the first half of the year £926 was granted to 73 funds making application, while in the second half a total of £987 was paid to 68 funds. Of the total of £1,913 granted, the sum of £1,745 was allotted to 45 funds which received subventions in each half-year, and whose unemployment benefit was confined to one trade. Particulars relating to these 45 funds are given in the following Table, where they are grouped according to trades:—

Group of Trades.	Average Membership of Funds.	Members Unemployed during the Year.	No. of Days for which Benefit was paid.	Amount of Benefit paid by Funds.	Amount of State Subventions.
Printing and Bookbinding...	12,334	2,517	31,026	3,000	891
Metal ... ..	5,037	902	17,199	1,380	342
Pottery ... ..	7,028	803	20,676	1,264	210
Commerce, Transport and Warehousing	9,238	1,260	7,924	685	109
Clothing ... ..	563	227	4,411	310	60
Textile ... ..	1,524	695	7,578	241	48
Skin and Leather ... ..	543	186	4,07	367	44
Other ... ..	911	250	3,693	202	41
Total ... ..	31,078	5,970	96,814	7,749	1,745

The particulars shown with regard to the pottery trades relate entirely to 7 unions of pottery workers at Limoges, where exceptional unemployment was experienced owing to the American crisis.

## EARNINGS IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

In connection with the inquiry\* into the earnings and hours of labour in the clothing trades in 1906, particulars were received with regard to 42,810 workpeople engaged in the tailoring trade, or 28.6 per cent. of the total number employed in factories and workshops in 1904.

In the tailoring trade ordered or "bespoke" work is almost entirely executed in workshops or in the workers' homes with a minimum of sub-division of labour. Ready-made clothing is in the main manufactured in factories, or else cut out in factories and warehouses, and given out to be made up in workshops in which sub-division of labour is adopted, or to be machined or finished by women in their own homes.

## Bespoke Tailoring.

The average earnings, inclusive of the effect of short time or overtime worked, in the last pay-week of September, 1906, of the 18,446 workpeople covered by the Returns were 21s. For the 14,197 workpeople who worked full time the average was 22s. 1d.

District.	Average earnings of workpeople who worked Full Time in the last pay-week of September, 1906.				
	Men.	Lads and Boys (Full Timers).†	Women.	Girls (Full Timers).†	All Workpeople.
Northern Counties and Cleveland	s. d. 34 4	s. d. 7 1	s. d. 12 11	s. d. 5 4	s. d. 23 1
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	34 7	9 0	14 11	5 5	22 8
North and West Midland Counties	34 1	7 7	14 3	5 6	20 6
London ... ..	42 9	10 0	16 2	7 2	27 1
Rest of England and Wales	30 7	5 1	11 10	4 0	19 7
Scotland ... ..	31 4	6 7	14 2	5 11	21 2
Ireland ... ..	32 7	5 7	12 0	4 11	22 8
United Kingdom ...	33 6	6 11	14 2	5 5	22 1

Men formed 54 per cent. of all the workpeople included in the Returns. The highest paid branch was

\* Cd. 4844. Price 2s. 5d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. † No half-timers were returned.

that of cutters, who were nearly 10 per cent. of the men, and who averaged 55s. for full time, the average rising to 86s. 4d. in London and 72s. 5d. in Ireland. The lowest average, 46s. 2d., was earned in Scotland.

Journymen tailors on time work were nearly 12 per cent., and those on piecework nearly two-thirds of all the men, and the average earnings of these two classes were 29s. 10d. and 29s. 4d. respectively.

District.	Percentage Number of Journeymen Tailors on Piecework working Full Time in the last pay-week of September, 1906, whose Earnings fell within the undermentioned limits.				Average Earnings for Full Time.
	Under 20s.	20s. and under 30s.	30s. and under 40s.	40s. and above.	
Northern Counties and Cleveland	3.8	62.1	25.5	8.6	s. d. 28 8
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	4.6	48.2	33.9	13.3	50 10
North and West Midland Counties	9.3	55.8	27.5	7.4	27 9
London ... ..	...	8.0	50.7	61.3	42 1
Rest of England and Wales	6.6	63.6	27.8	2.0	36 11
Scotland ... ..	5.0	59.4	28.9	6.7	28 2
Ireland ... ..	15.2	53.8	25.4	5.6	26 9
United Kingdom ...	5.9	53.9	29.4	10.8	29 4

Women were 29 per cent. of the total number returned, and the average earnings of those working full time was 14s. 2d.; 15.4 per cent. earned less than 10s., 42.4 per cent. 10s. and under 15s., 29.3 per cent. 15s. and under 20s., and 12.9 per cent. 20s. and above.

The average weekly number of persons paid wages in twelve specified weeks in 1906 was 17,612, and the total wages bill for the year £948,666, an amount which, when divided by the average number employed in the twelve weeks, gives £54 as the average annual earnings per head.

The average number of hours constituting a full week was 54.9 for men, 53.7 for lads and boys, and 52.4 for women and girls.

## Ready-made Tailoring.

The average earnings in the last pay-week of September, 1906, inclusive of the effect of short time and overtime, were 14s. 1d. For the 20,121 workpeople who worked full time the average was 14s. 8d. Particulars with regard to the different districts are given in the following Table:—

District.	Average Earnings of Workpeople who worked Full Time in the last pay-week of September, 1906.				
	Men.	Lads and Boys (Full Timers).*	Women.	Girls (Full Timers).*	All Workpeople.
Leeds ... ..	s. d. 31 11	s. d. 9 4	s. d. 13 8	s. d. 7 7	s. d. 15 2
Manchester ... ..	33 11	9 1	13 7	6 1	15 7
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire (excluding Leeds and Manchester)	29 0	9 11	13 6	7 10	14 5
Bristol ... ..	31 9	8 11	11 10	5 1	13 7
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	32 7	10 0	12 10	5 4	14 1
Norwich ... ..	28 4	8 7	10 9	5 6	12 2
South Midland and Eastern Counties (excluding Norwich)	28 0	10 2	12 8	6 1	14 4
London ... ..	36 2	11 11	11 11	6 0	18 4
Rest of England and Wales	32 3	9 5	14 0	5 5	15 7
Scotland ... ..	35 0	9 6	13 11	6 1	15 0
Ireland ... ..	29 6	9 10	10 1	5 2	10 6
United Kingdom ...	31 11	9 9	12 11	6 6	14 8

Men were about one-sixth of the number returned. One-tenth of the men were foremen, whose full-time wages averaged 44s. 10d. One-third were cutters, the majority being hand cutters on time work, averaging 31s. 8d. for full time; hand cutters on piecework averaged 35s. 5d., and machine cutters on time work 31s. 6d. Nearly one-fifth of the men were pressers, averaging on time work 27s. for full time, and on piecework 30s. 8d.

Women formed three-fifths of the total number returned, and more than half were power machinists, averaging on piecework 13s. 5d. for full time. The next largest group was that of hand sewers, forming nearly one-fourth of the women and averaging 11s. 4d. for full time

\* No half-timers were returned.

on piecework. The range of earnings of power machinists and hand sewers and finishers is shown below:—

District.	Percentage Numbers of Women working Full Time in the last pay-week of September, 1906, whose earnings fell within the undermentioned limits.					Average Earnings for Full Time.
	Under 10s.	10s. and under 15s.	15s. and under 20s.	20s. and under 25s.	25s. and above.	
<b>Power Machine Sewers—Piece Workers.</b>						
Leeds ... ..	10.5	48.1	32.6	7.7	1.1	14 4
Manchester ... ..	21.3	45.2	24.3	8.6	0.6	13 6
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire (excluding Leeds and Manchester)	19.9	47.4	22.4	8.2	2.1	13 7
Bristol ... ..	24.7	54.1	16.6	3.9	0.7	12 2
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	25.8	41.4	24.7	7.3	0.8	13 3
Norwich ... ..	35.1	51.4	13.5	...	...	11 1
South Midland and Eastern Counties (excluding Norwich)	23.7	51.3	18.9	4.4	1.7	12 11
London ... ..	27.6	46.5	22.4	3.5	...	12 7
Rest of England and Wales...	24.4	48.2	14.7	7.1	5.6	13 7
Scotland ... ..	2.7	31.9	37.4	20.9	7.1	17 1
Ireland ... ..	58.7	30.0	9.7	1.6	...	9 10
United Kingdom* ...	21.5	46.0	24.3	6.8	1.4	13 5

District.	Percentage Numbers of Women working Full Time in the last pay-week of September, 1906, whose earnings fell within the undermentioned limits.					Average Earnings for Full Time.
	Under 10s.	10s. and under 15s.	15s. and under 20s.	20s. and under 25s.	25s. and above.	
<b>Hand Sewers and Finishers—Piece Workers.</b>						
Leeds ... ..	31.1	51.2	16.4	1.1	0.2	11 8
Manchester ... ..	25.0	52.8	22.2	...	3.8	11 9
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire (excluding Leeds and Manchester)	27.4	38.7	19.6	10.5	...	13 6
Bristol ... ..	53.5	43.1	3.4	...	...	9 5
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	36.7	48.5	13.4	1.4	...	11 5
Norwich ... ..	45.5	48.0	5.2	1.3	...	10 4
South Midland and Eastern Counties (excluding Norwich)	50.7	43.8	5.5	...	...	10 5
London ... ..	60.3	36.4	3.3	...	...	9 6
Rest of England and Wales...	48.7	41.0	7.7	2.6	...	10 8
Scotland ... ..	22.7	50.4	24.4	2.5	...	12 9
Ireland ... ..	74.3	22.9	2.8	...	...	8 6
United Kingdom* ...	37.9	45.9	13.6	2.1	0.5	11 4

The average number of workpeople paid wages in twelve specified weeks was 23,237, and the aggregate wages bill for the year £822,295, an amount which, when divided by the average number employed in the twelve weeks, yields £35 10s. as the approximate average annual earnings per head. The average number of hours in a full week was 51.2.

## HOURS OF LABOUR IN BELGIAN MINES: NEW LAW.†

ON December 31st, a law was promulgated fixing the length of the shift in Belgian coal mines for persons employed underground. The normal duration of the shift for such persons is not to exceed nine hours, bank to bank, the shift being reckoned from the time when the first men enter the mine to the time when the first men of that shift arrive at the surface. The descent is not to occupy more than a "reasonable amount of time," and the time occupied in the ascent is not to exceed that occupied in descending by more than half an hour. When the underground workings are approached by means of galleries, the length of the shift is to be counted from the time of entry of the workpeople into the gallery to the time of their return to the same point. The normal hours of labour may be reduced, by Royal Decree, in the case of workpeople employed in particularly unhealthy workings, as for instance where the heat or damp is excessive; and, where the conditions of work render it necessary, the normal hours may be prolonged, by Royal Decree, to the extent of one hour at most, in the case of workmen in charge of machinery, onsets at the shafts, drivers of horses and their assistants. Where urgent work has to be carried out owing to force majeure, or to a necessity arising out of the ordinary measures of precaution in force in the mine, the above provisions as to the length of the shift do not apply. In cases of stoppage owing to force majeure or exceptional circumstances the Governor of the Province may, upon the report of the Mines Inspector, authorise the extension of the

\* Excluding 2,257 workpeople employed in the Royal Army Clothing Factory at Pimlico, in which the average earnings of workpeople working full time in the last pay week of September, 1906, were 29s. 9d. for men, 8s. 4d. for lads and boys, 20s. 11d. for women, 7s. 9d. for girls, and 23s. 1d. for all workpeople.  
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department), December 31st, 1909.

normal length of the shift for a period not exceeding three months in the year.

The law will enter into force on the 1st of January, 1911, but as a transitory measure the maximum hours of labour are fixed at 9½ per day up to January 1st, 1912. Further Royal Decrees issued on the advice of the Mining Council and the Higher Council of Labour may authorise the extension of the working time for trammers in certain specified mines up to January 1st, 1914, such extension to be limited to what is necessary in order to ensure the raising of all the coal hewn; in no case must it exceed half-an-hour.

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

## Canada.

The demand in Canada for all classes of emigrants, except female domestic servants, is over till next spring, and no one should now go there unless at the invitation of friends or under a contract which will last during the winter. The strike of coal miners in Nova Scotia is not yet settled at all the mines. A strike of carpet weavers has begun at Guelph, Ontario, and it is stated that the employers intend bringing men from England to replace the strikers. British carpet weavers therefore should make careful enquiries as to whether the strike is still in progress before accepting engagements.

Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dollars (£5 4s.), in addition to a ticket to his or her destination, unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment, or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant. Such evidence should usually take the form of a invitation from relatives or friends already in Canada endorsed by the nearest immigration authority, Mayor of Town or Justice of the Peace in the case of places west of Port Arthur, or by the Immigration Department at Ottawa for places east of Port Arthur. All emigrants sent out to Canada by British charitable societies or by public funds must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada. Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or other charitable institution, he or she may, after investigation of the facts, be sent back to the United Kingdom, together with all those dependent on him or her.

## Commonwealth of Australia.

*New South Wales.*—The strike of coal miners still continues, and large numbers of men are consequently idle. The miners of the West have, however, resumed work, but those of the North and the South are still out. Negotiations are now proceeding for a settlement.

According to the Report of the State Labour Bureau for October, prospects in the great majority of pastoral and agricultural districts were "fair," "good," or "very good." In Sydney and suburbs trade was brisk, especially in the cases of the building and clothing trades, and of storemen, coachmakers, electrical workers, farriers, trolley and draymen, tinsmiths, sheet-iron workers, metermakers and seamen. The supply of labour, however, seemed to be equal to the demand, except that slaughtermen, skilled quarrymen and lads for farm work were very scarce. Only the iron and boot trades and flour millers reported trade as bad. The New South Wales Government offers assisted passages to suitable settlers.

*Other Australian States.*—Of the other Australian States, Queensland, Western Australia, and to a less extent Victoria, assist emigrants—mainly farm labourers and female servants for whom there is a good demand—with cheap passages. In South Australia farmers have been offering 35s. to 40s. a week during harvest to competent men

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

who can take charge of a stripper. In Queensland more men are wanted for railway construction work in the South.

**New Zealand.**—Reduced passages are offered to female domestic servants if they will have £2 on landing. The last report of the Department of Labour states as follows:—Agricultural operations are busy everywhere; cycle and motor, coachbuilding, meat freezing, printing, woodworking, building, engineering and leather trades are generally only fair, but are active in one or two places. The clothing trades are active in Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill, and several other places. Unskilled labourers are not specially busy. There is a good demand in parts for competent farm hands and good milkers, but only men well up in their work have a good chance of employment.

#### South Africa.

**Cape Colony.**—The conditions of employment have somewhat improved, and a few competent men have been wanted in the harness making, saddlery, furniture making, brush making, and sheet metal trades. Otherwise the supply of all mechanics is ample everywhere, and in the case of the building trades is excessive in Cape Town, East London, Kimberley, King William's Town and Port Elizabeth.

**Natal and Orange River Colony.**—There is no demand for more male labour in these Colonies.

**Transvaal.**—There has been a distinct improvement in the labour market at Johannesburg, especially in the building trade, but at present there is no demand for more miners, farm or general labourers, or mechanics. Employment has been found for considerable numbers of white men and boys as unskilled labourers at the mines. There is an occasional demand for female servants both here and in other parts of South Africa.

### LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 1 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

#### FRANCE.

**Employment in November.\***—The termination of the dispute of girder fitters and joiners brought about a revival of work in all branches of the building trades at Paris; in the provinces, however, employment declined. In the metal trades employment improved somewhat, particularly in machine shops at Paris. Tin-box makers on the coast of Brittany were, however, short of work owing to poor catches of fish. Work was more plentiful for watch and clockmakers in Franche-Comté and Savoie. In nearly all the textile centres, particularly in the Nord, employment was good. This was also true of the silk trade, except in some districts of the Haute-Loire and in the smaller weaving sheds of Lyons, work being to some extent retarded at the latter place by a strike of dyers (see below). The tailoring and dressmaking trades were in their busy season. Printers were well employed. For leather dressers employment continued to improve, and for glovemakers at Millau it was satisfactory. The vintage being over, there was increased scarcity of work among vineyard labourers in the south of France. In many centres of forestry work the majority of the woodmen were idle, partly owing to differences between them and their employers. Employment for gardeners round about Paris continued satisfactory, but not quite so good as in October.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in November were received by the French Labour Department from 1,042 trade unions with an aggregate membership of 258,175. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais Department, 6.6 per cent. were described as unemployed, as compared with 7.2 per cent. in the previous month,

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

and 9.4 per cent. in November, 1908. (As regards these figures see above under "Labour Abroad.")

**Labour Disputes in November.\***—Sixty-three disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, compared with 78 in the previous month and 47 in November, 1908. In 57 of the new disputes 7,403 workpeople took part, as compared with 10,764 who took part in 66 of the October disputes and 4,597 who took part in 39 of the disputes of November, 1908. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the textile (10), metal (10), transport and warehousing (10), building (9) and woodworking groups (7). Of 51 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 6 ended in favour of the workpeople, 23 in favour of the employers, while 22 were compromised.

**Coal Mining in November.\***—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during November was 5.97, as compared with 5.82 in the previous month and 5.97 in November, 1908. Taking surface and underground workers together 92.26 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week) and 6.77 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 30.11 and 69.69, and in November, 1908, 95.69 and 3.63.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in November.\***—Seven instances of recourse to the law on conciliation arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in November. In four cases committees of conciliation were formed, which succeeded in settling two of the disputes. In the three remaining cases the employers declined to take part in the conciliation proceedings.

**Strike of Weavers at Lille.**—Despatches from H.M. Consul at Calais to the Foreign Office, dated October 15th and December 22nd, report a strike of weavers at Lille which began on October 11th. The workpeople demanded unification of the wage scale, to which the employers were unable to agree. By October 14th, all the weavers of common linen, over 3,000 in number, had ceased work. The dispute came to an end on December 20th, an increase in wages amounting in most cases to 5 per cent. being granted. The settlement was reached by means of agreements between the individual employers and their workpeople.

**Strike of Dyers at Lyons.**—Despatches from H.M. Consul at Lyons, dated November 15th and December 28th, report a strike of 2,000 workpeople in the dyeing industry of that town. The dispute arose owing to the employment of unskilled men at 3s. 2½d. per day in work usually performed by the more skilled dyers whose daily wage ranged from 4s. to 4s. 9½d. The dyers on strike were employed in 35 of the smaller establishments and formed 40 per cent. of the workpeople employed locally in the industry. It is stated that the silk trade at Lyons has been seriously affected.

#### GERMANY.

**Employment in November.**—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of December:—"In November there was a further improvement in employment in some of the larger industries. A number of trades benefited by the activity connected with the approach of Christmas, but on the other hand there were cases of reduced employment, especially in trades dependent on good weather. In the Ruhr coalmining industry the slight improvement of the previous month was maintained, and there was a still more marked improvement in Silesia. This was due to two causes, the increased demand for house coal, owing to the cold weather, and the higher water in the rivers. Employment at blast furnaces continued good, a further improvement taking place in West Germany. The establishments of the

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

† Revised figure.

Steel Works Federation were satisfactorily employed. The output of half-manufactured iron, railway materials and girders, though lower than in the previous month, was higher than in November, 1908. In the engineering trades there was an improvement in many cases. In the textile trades the state of employment continued to vary. The improvement was still very slow, as was shown by the small increase in the membership of the Sickness Insurance Funds in these trades. Throughout the Empire the reports of the cotton spinning industry were decidedly unfavourable, while in weaving of coloured goods employment at best was only moderate. There was, however, a seasonal improvement in the woollen industry. The decline in the building trades reported in October became more marked. Employment was good in most branches of the clothing trades, and there was a further improvement in the printing and paper trades. The toy industry was fully employed, the influence of the Christmas demand being felt. Although employment in the tobacco trades improved somewhat, it was still below the normal. In the brewing industry employment declined.

**Old Age and Infirmity Insurance in 1908.**—A report presented to the Reichstag on the work of the old age and infirmity insurance funds in Germany in 1908\* shows that the number of new pensions granted in the course of the year was 139,789, of which 10,986 were for old age, 116,852 for permanent, and 11,951 for provisional infirmity. The average value of a pension (including the addition of £2 10s. per annum granted by the State) was £8 os. 5d. for old age, £8 7s. 6d. for permanent, and £8 7s. 1d. for provisional infirmity.

During the year the total receipts of the various insurance funds were £11,571,878, including contributions in equal shares from employers and workpeople amounting to £9,067,434, and interest £2,359,719. A total of £7,366,016 was spent by the funds, £5,023,351 of which was directly upon pensions. To the sum of £7,366,016 expended by the insurance offices must be added £2,483,980 granted by the State, partly in the form of an addition of £2 10s. per annum to each pension and partly in defraying the premiums of persons performing their military service. Other items of expenditure by the insurance funds were £897,506 for cost of administration, £906,783 for medical attendance and convalescent homes, and £454,143 for contributions returned to widows on re-marriage, &c. At the close of the year the accumulated funds of the various offices amounted to a total of £73,549,993, as compared with £69,315,842 at the end of 1907.

The number of pensions in course of payment at the beginning of 1909 was 995,810, viz., 108,637 for old age, 868,086 for permanent, and 19,087 for provisional infirmity.†

#### HOLLAND.‡

**Employment in November.**—In the building trades the reports indicated some decline in employment, but not in any considerable measure except among painters. Iron and steel works continued well employed; the engineering trades showed a slight decline, there being some increase in the number of persons out of work. In shipbuilding, though there was very little unemployment, conditions in several towns compared unfavourably with October. Employment continued good in the diamond cutting trade, the proportion of trade unionists unemployed being just over 1 per cent. as in the preceding month. In the textile trades employment continued satisfactory, on the whole. In the printing trades employment was good on the whole, but at Amsterdam the situation continued to be less satisfactory than elsewhere.

**Labour Disputes in November.**—The number of labour disputes reported as having begun in November was 13, in 9 of which 177 workpeople were directly involved. During the month 11 disputes (including 9 of the new

\* Reichstag No. 118. 12. Legislatur-Periode, II. Session, 1909-1910.  
† The particulars with respect to the number of pensions in course of payment are from *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* of May 5th, 1909.  
‡ *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Bureau).

ones) came to an end. Of these one terminated in favour of the workpeople and one in favour of the employers, while 7 were compromised; in 2 cases the result of the dispute was unknown.

#### BELGIUM.\*

**Employment in November.**—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 2.3 per cent. of the 48,328 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of November, as compared with 2.4 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.6 per cent. in November, 1908. (As regards these figures, see note on p. 10 under "Labour Abroad.")

**Labour Disputes in November.**—Five strikes, affecting 738 workpeople (700 directly and 38 indirectly), were reported to have commenced in November. Three other strikes, which had commenced before November, and in which approximately 3,500 persons were involved, were also in progress during a part or the whole of the month. Of six new and old strikes which were reported to have terminated, four, affecting 633 strikers, ended in favour of the employers, and two, affecting 525 strikers, were ended by compromise.

#### NORWAY.†

**Employment in November.**—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of November in Trade Unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, comparative figures relating to the same Unions for the previous month and for November, 1908, being added:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Nov. 30th, 1909.	Oct. 31st, 1909.	Nov. 30th, 1908.	Nov. 30th, 1909.	Oct. 31st, 1909.	Nov. 30th, 1908.
Carpenters and Joiners ...	585	633	537	8.7	6.8	11.7
Painters ...	400	400	425	19.3	12.5	24.5
Metal Workers ...	5,057	5,047	5,338	3.5	4.4	3.6
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	539	510	509	0.2	...	0.2
Printers ...	1,394	1,378	1,325	1.0	1.5	0.5
Cabinet Makers ...	285	290	295	0.7	0.7	1.0
Sawyers and Planers... ..	308	317	394	3.9	3.5	5.1
Bakers ...	250	250	210	11.4	13.2	12.4
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>8,828</b>	<b>8,825</b>	<b>9,031</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>

(As regards these figures see note on p. 10 under "Labour Abroad.")

#### UNITED STATES.

**Strike of Blouse Makers in New York City.**—A despatch of December 17th from H.M. Ambassador at Washington transmits a report by the Secretary in Charge of Commercial Affairs at the British Embassy, in which *inter alia* a strike of female blouse makers at 260 establishments in New York City is mentioned. The strikers, who were mostly Jewish and Italian girls, demanded a 52-hours week, a uniform scale of piecework remuneration, the abolition of sub-contracting and the recognition of their union. One hundred and sixty shops had accepted these terms, while 100, including the larger establishments, were still holding out at the date of this report.

(According to newspaper reports the dispute was still in progress on the 11th of January, the number of strikers on that date being given as 10,000.)

**Strike of Railway Workers.**—Despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Chicago, and H.M. Consul at Portland (Oregon), dated December 2nd, report the commencement on November 30th of a strike of some 2,300 switchmen employed on thirteen railways in the North-West of the United States, running west and north of St. Paul from Lake Superior to the Pacific coast. The men demanded an advance in wages of 3d. per hour, together with double pay for overtime and for Sunday and holiday work. The ports of Superior and Duluth and the grain and coal mining industries were stated to be affected owing to the inability of the railways to move their wagons.

\* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).  
† *Arbeidsmarkedet* (Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office).

## REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN DECEMBER.

### COAL MINING.

(Based on 507 Returns—445 from Employers, 46 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry was good on the whole during December, and showed an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,353 pits employing 680,665 workpeople showed that the average number of days\* worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended December 18th, was 5.49, as compared with 5.36 days in November, and 5.29 days a year ago.

Of the 680,665 workpeople covered by the Returns 607,227 (89.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended December 18th, 1909, while 462,660 (68.0 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest averages per week were in North Wales (5.86 days), Gloucester and Somerset (5.72 days), and South Wales and Monmouth (5.68 days). The lowest average was in Fife (4.87).

The following Table shows the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended December 18th, together with the figures for similar periods in November, 1909, and December, 1908:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1909.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in Four Weeks ended				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
		Dec. 18th, 1909.	Nov. 20th, 1909.	Dec. 18th, 1908.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.	
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Northumberland ...	46,284	5.44	5.22	5.27	+0.22	+0.17	
Durham ...	121,757	5.49	5.43	5.45	+0.06	+0.04	
Cumberland ...	8,216	5.63	5.36	5.15	+0.27	+0.48	
South Yorkshire ...	74,841	5.63	5.64	5.28	-0.01	+0.35	
West Yorkshire ...	26,574	5.57	5.11	4.99	+0.46	+0.58	
Lancashire and Cheshire	59,596	5.34	5.06	5.05	+0.28	+0.29	
Derbyshire ...	43,695	5.52	5.12	5.00	+0.40	+0.52	
Nottingham and Leicester	34,949	4.97	4.80	4.61	+0.17	+0.36	
Staffordshire ...	30,377	5.55	5.30	5.11	+0.25	+0.44	
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,909	5.44	5.10	5.45	+0.34	-0.01	
Gloucester and Somerset	8,060	5.72	5.22	5.13	+0.50	+0.59	
North Wales ...	10,737	5.66	5.72	5.54	+0.14	+0.32	
South Wales and Mon. ...	148,701	5.68	5.78	5.70	-0.10	-0.02	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>622,766</b>	<b>5.53</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>5.32</b>	<b>+0.13</b>	<b>+0.21</b>	
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>							
West Scotland ...	25,932	5.33	5.15	5.00	+0.18	+0.33	
The Lothians ...	4,545	5.28	5.11	5.08	+0.17	+0.20	
Fife ...	16,770	4.87	4.77	5.05	+0.10	-0.19	
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>47,247</b>	<b>5.11</b>	<b>4.97</b>	<b>5.03</b>	<b>+0.14</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	
<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>5.62</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>+0.43</b>	<b>+0.03</b>	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>680,665</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>5.36</b>	<b>5.29</b>	<b>+0.13</b>	<b>+0.20</b>	

As compared with November, there was a slight decline in South Wales; in South Yorkshire there was but little change; in all the other districts there was an improvement, which was most marked in Gloucester and Somerset, and in West Yorkshire.

As compared with a year ago, there was a decline in Fife, but in Gloucester and Somerset, West Yorkshire and Derbyshire there was an increase of over half a day in the average number of days worked per week, while considerable increases were also shown in most of the other districts.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week by the pits, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople are engaged.

\* 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.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Dec., 1909.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in the Four Weeks ended				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
		Dec. 18th, 1909.	Nov. 20th, 1909.	Dec. 18th, 1908.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.	
Anthracite ...	5,353	5.41	5.59	5.81	-0.16	-0.40	
Coking ...	37,309	5.56	5.47	5.45	+0.09	+0.11	
Gas ...	45,617	5.54	5.42	5.44	+0.12	+0.10	
House ...	83,029	5.36	5.01	4.99	+0.36	+0.37	
Steam ...	282,473	5.51	5.47	5.33	+0.06	+0.15	
Mixed ...	226,939	5.43	5.33	5.23	+0.15	+0.45	
<b>All Descriptions</b>	<b>680,665</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>5.36</b>	<b>5.29</b>	<b>+0.13</b>	<b>+0.20</b>	

As compared with both a month ago and a year ago, there was a decline at pits producing anthracite; at other pits there was an improvement, especially marked at house coal pits.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in December, 1909, amounted to 5,543,268 tons, or 152,527 tons less than in November, 1909, but 171,364 tons more than in December, 1908.

### IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 74 Returns—58 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in iron mines was good and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. In shale mines it continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago.

Employment continued moderate in tin and copper mines; in lead mines it was good. With the exception of slate quarries, where it was still slack, employment remained fair on the whole in quarries, though somewhat affected by bad weather.

#### Mining.

**Iron Mining.**—During the four weeks ended December 18th, 1909, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.75, as compared with 5.83 in the previous month, and 5.75 a year ago.

Districts.	Workpeople employed in Dec., 1909.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
		Dec. 18th, 1909.	Nov. 20th, 1909.	Dec. 18th, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Cleveland...	8,077	5.75	5.90	5.85	-0.15	-0.10	
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,760	5.67	5.94	5.75	-0.27	-0.08	
Scotland ...	950	5.90	5.75	5.75	+0.15	+0.15	
Other Districts ...	2,419	5.82	5.39	5.41	+0.43	+0.40	
<b>All Districts</b>	<b>16,206</b>	<b>5.75</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>5.73</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	<b>...</b>	

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 90.1 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended December 18th, 1909, as compared with 93.0 per cent. in November, 1909, and 89.3 per cent. a year ago.

**Shale Mining.**—At the mines respecting which Returns were received 3,223 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended December 18th, 1909, as compared with 3,178 in November, and 3,431 in December, 1908. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended December 18th, was 5.59, as compared with 5.50 in the previous month, and 5.81 a year ago.

**Tin and Copper Mining.**—Employment in Cornwall was still only moderate on the whole; in the Calstock district employment continued dull.

**Lead Mining.**—Employment in North Wales continued good, and full time was still worked in the Matlock district. Employment was fair in Weardale.

#### Quarrying.

**Slate.**—Employment continued slack in North Wales, with a further slight improvement in the Festiniog district, where, however, a good deal of short time was worked. Employment was slack and worse than a month ago at Ballachulish (Argyll). It was fair at Delabole (Cornwall).

## IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 207 Returns—190 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed an improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

The volume of employment during the week ended December 18th, 1909 (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. on a month ago, and of 9.6 per cent. on a year ago. The total number of shifts worked during the week was 492,000.

As compared with a month ago, there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in all districts except Cleveland and Scotland. The increases were greatest in Sheffield and Rotherham, and Wales and Monmouth. The largest increases occurred in steel founding and steel rolling mills. The number of shifts worked was 5.44, as compared with 5.41 a month ago. There was not much change in any of the districts; in departments the most marked increases were shown at iron foundries, steel forges, and crucible furnaces, while there was a marked decline at iron rolling mills.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
<b>IRON:</b>					
Puddling Forges ...	9,593	+ 110	+ 595	4.70	+ 0.07
Rolling Mills ...	3,828	- 69	+ 61	4.62	- 0.23
Forging ...	481	- 34	+ 2	4.91	- 0.20
Founding ...	1,682	- 4	- 114	5.69	+ 0.42
Other Departments ...	603	- 27	- 13	5.46	- 0.05
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,874	+ 7	+ 79	5.8	- 0.01
<b>Total, Iron ...</b>	<b>18,008</b>	<b>- 14</b>	<b>+ 414</b>	<b>4.89</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>
<b>STEEL:</b>					
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,372	+ 2	+ 935	5.84	- 0.01
Crucible Furnaces ...	518	- 2	- 9	5.44	+ 0.28
Bessemer Converters ...	1,625	+ 93	+ 339	5.18	+ 0.14
Rolling Mills ...	15,692	+ 374	+ 2,019	5.28	+ 0.03
Forging and Pressing ...	2,731	- 112	+ 177	5.8	+ 0.25
Founding ...	7,334	+ 781	+ 747	5.87	+ 0.11
Other Departments ...	7,165	+ 161	+ 598	5.19	- 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,752	+ 357	+ 665	5.94	+ 0.01
<b>Total, Steel</b>	<b>51,189</b>	<b>+ 1,684</b>	<b>+ 5,461</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>+ 0.04</b>
<b>IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):</b>					
Rolling Mills ...	10,830	+ 236	+ 950	5.11	+ 0.06
Forging and Pressing ...	745	- 14	+ 104	5.57	+ 0.02
Founding ...	701	- 5	- 3	5.89	+ 0.01
Other Departments ...	3,133	+ 13	+ 236	5.91	+ 0.02
Mechanics, Labourers ...	5,822	+ 62	+ 265	5.79	+ 0.02
<b>Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)</b>	<b>21,231</b>	<b>+ 282</b>	<b>+ 1,091</b>	<b>5.46</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>60,426</b>	<b>+ 1,922</b>	<b>+ 6,966</b>	<b>5.44</b>	<b>+ 0.03</b>

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>				
Cleveland ...	83	83	80	...
Cumberland & Lancs.	33	31	26	+ 2
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	12	12	11	...
Derby & Nottingham	31	33	29	- 2
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	26	...
Stafford & Worcester	33	32	34	+ 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	11	10	11	+ 1
Other districts ...	6	5*	7	- 2
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>225*</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>- 3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>304*</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>- 3</b>

The Imports of iron ore in December, 1909, amounted to 616,393 tons, or 18,092 tons more than in November, 1909, and 80,521 tons more than in December, 1908.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in December, 1909, amounted to 83,593 tons, or 22,532 tons less than in November, 1909, and 2,722 tons less than in December, 1908.

\* Revised figures.

As compared with a year ago, there were increases in the number of workpeople in every district, and in most of the districts the increases were considerable. There was a decline in the iron founding department, but in steel rolling mills and the other principal departments there was an improvement. The average number of shifts worked showed an increase of 0.06 of a shift per week, the improvement being most marked in the Northumberland and Durham and Leeds and Bradford districts; most departments in the steel trade showed increases, while a decline was again noticeable in the iron founding department.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during December, 1909, amounted to 107,489

tons, or 3,987 tons more than in November, 1909, and 5,666 tons more than in December, 1908.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron and tinned plates, and black plates for tinning) during December, 1909, amounted to 240,743 tons, or 4,508 tons more than in November, 1909, and 52,210 tons more than in December, 1908.

**TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.**

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

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

At the works covered by the Returns, 419 tinplate mills were working at the end of December as compared with 410 in the previous month and 406 a year ago. The number of sheet mills working at the same dates were 52, 56, and 50 respectively, the decrease in December, 1909, being principally due to a breakage. A slight scarcity of labour was reported.

The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 23,550 workpeople.

The following Table shows the number of works open and the number of mills working at the end of December, 1909, together with the increases or decreases as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

District	Number of Works open.			Number of Mills in operation.		
	At end of Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Works	76	...	...	419	+ 9	+ 13
Steel Sheet Works	8	...	...	52	- 4	+ 2
Total ...	84	...	...	471	+ 5	+ 15

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

District	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<i>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</i>					
To United States ...	4,653	6,804	3,225	- 2,141	+ 1,438
" British East Indies ...	5,350	2,361	4,516	+ 2,989	+ 834
" Germany ...	3,955	3,444	1,811	+ 511	+ 2,114
" France ...	1,291	1,056	1,294	+ 225	- 3
" Netherlands ...	3,281	3,790	2,593	+ 509	+ 688
" Other Countries ...	18,678	20,190	19,791	- 1,512	- 1,103
Total ...	37,218	37,855	33,280	- 437	+ 3,968
<i>Black Plates for Tinning.</i>					
Total ...	5,681	3,742	5,883	+ 1,939	- 172

**ENGINEERING TRADES.**

(Based on 985 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 935 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 43 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though still slack, was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. The usual holiday suspensions affected employment at the end of the month.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 168,200 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of December was 9.8, as compared with 9.5 a month ago and 14.0 a year ago. Compared with a month ago, ten districts show an increase in the percentage unemployed (the greatest increase being in the Hull and Lincolnshire district), and four show a decrease. Compared with a year ago, the only districts showing an increase are the South Coast, Hull and Lincolnshire, and Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn, substantial improvements in employment appearing in the returns for most of the districts, especially for Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin, and the West Riding.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Dec., 1909.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage for Dec., 1909, on a	
		Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		North-East Coast ...	14,514	16.8	16.5	21.6
Manchester and Liverpool District	16,181	9.8	8.6	13.9	+ 1.2	- 4.1
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,341	15.0	14.2	14.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.2
West Riding Towns ...	12,693	13.4	11.3	21.8	+ 2.1	- 8.4
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,768	12.6	8.2	10.8	+ 4.4	+ 1.8
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,389	5.3	5.6	10.7	- 0.3	- 5.4
Nottingham, Derby and Leicestershire District	4,352	8.4	7.2	11.7	+ 1.2	- 3.4
London and Neighbouring District	11,517	4.8	5.2	8.2	- 0.4	- 3.4
South Coast ...	4,142	6.7	4.6	4.0	+ 2.1	+ 2.7
South Wales and Bristol District	6,768	6.9	6.8	9.7	+ 0.1	- 2.8
Glasgow and District ...	14,906	10.9	12.0	25.1	- 1.1	- 14.2
East of Scotland ...	3,736	19.5	19.3	24.5	+ 0.2	- 5.0
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,281	8.8	10.3	20.5	- 1.5	- 11.7
Other Districts ...	5,673	7.5	7.1	15.5	+ 0.4	- 8.0
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	168,200	9.8	9.5	14.0	+ 0.3	- 4.2

On the North-East Coast employment, on the whole, continued slack. It was better than a year ago. It remained fair in the ordnance shops at Newcastle. On the Wear it continued bad generally. Wagon builders at Darlington were still well employed.

In Lancashire employment continued slack generally. In the Manchester and Liverpool district it was better than a month ago, and some overtime was reported at Birkenhead. At Oldham also there was, on the whole, some improvement in employment as compared with a month ago, and employment was good with electrical workers and fair with spindle and flyer makers and brass founders; but at Bolton, Blackburn and Preston employment was bad, and worse on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Barrow was moderate generally.

In Yorkshire employment continued slack, but was considerably better than a year ago. At Sheffield and Hull it was better than a month ago. It continued fair with patternmakers at Hull and Lincoln. It was good at Grantham, and better than a month ago.

At Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry employment was moderate generally, and distinctly better than a month ago. At Nottingham it was moderate on the whole, with a tendency to improvement. It was good, with some overtime, in the case of lace machine and hosiery machine builders and bobbin and carriage makers, but bad with ironfounders. It was dull at Derby, except in the motor industry, which was very busy. A further slight improvement was reported with railway carriage and wagon builders. Employment was moderate and better than a month ago at Leicester and Loughborough. It was fair at Luton, and improving at Ipswich.

Employment continued quiet in London, but was better than a month ago and a year ago. At Erith it continued fair. In the Royal Dockyards it was fair, except at Pembroke, where it remained slack. It was fair at Southampton. In the South Wales and Bristol district employment was dull on the whole, but rather better than a month ago, and at Bristol some overtime was reported.

Employment in the Glasgow district was fair on the whole, the annual holidays being shorter than usual. It was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. With most of the ironfounders, however, employment was still slack. On the East Coast of Scotland it continued slack, with no general change from a month ago, but was better than a year ago. It was fair with brassfounders at Edinburgh and with patternmakers at Dundee. It continued fair with ironmoulders and patternmakers at Falkirk.

Employment continued dull in Ireland generally, but was much better than a year ago. It was fair with patternmakers and good with ironmoulders at Belfast.

The Imports of machinery in December, 1909, amounted to £339,275, or £23,106 less than in

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

November, 1909, and £6,097 more than in December, 1908.

The Exports of machinery in December, 1909, amounted to £2,163,893, or £130,057 less than in November, 1909, and £191,997 less than in December, 1908.

**SHIPBUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 371 Returns—7 from Employers' Associations, 349 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, and was much better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 55,967 members reported 16.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of December as compared with 19.3 per cent. a month ago, and 24.7 per cent. a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Dec., 1909.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
		Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Tyne and Blyth ...	9,443	25.5	26.3	25.6
Wear ...	4,023	24.3	34.3	42.8	- 10.0	- 18.5
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,462	20.7	19.8	39.3	+ 0.9	- 18.6
Humber ...	2,655	23.5	21.6	23.5	+ 1.9	...
Thames and Medway ...	4,191	8.4	11.7	12.3	- 3.3	- 4.1
South Coast ...	5,000	6.5	5.9	3.9	+ 0.6	+ 2.6
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,749	20.0	20.9	20.2	- 0.9	- 0.2
Mersey ...	4,001	8.3	11.6	23.5	- 3.3	- 15.2
Clyde ...	11,660	13.5	16.8	28.5	- 3.3	- 15.0
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	1,842	31.4	37.9	41.7	- 0.3	- 9.7
Belfast ...	3,078	13.4	12.8	14.9	+ 0.6	- 1.5
Other Districts ...	2,832	15.0	18.5	15.7	- 3.5	- 0.7
United Kingdom ...	55,967	16.9	19.3	24.7	- 2.4	- 7.8

As compared with a month ago, eight districts showed an improvement, which was greatest on the Wear and on the East Coast of Scotland. On the Humber, Tees, South Coast, and at Belfast there was a slight decline.

As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in most of the principal districts, which was most marked in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and on the Wear, Mersey and Clyde, and on the East Coast of Scotland.

On the Tyne employment continued bad generally, but was rather better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago.

On the Wear employment was still bad, but was better than a month ago and much better than a year ago.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was slightly worse than a month ago, but showed considerable improvement on a year ago.

On the Humber employment continued bad generally, being slightly worse than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago.

In the Thames and Medway district employment showed an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

On the South Coast employment was slack. It was good with shipwrights and dull with iron shipbuilders at the Royal Dockyards.

At the Bristol Channel ports employment was bad, was rather better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. With shipwrights it was good at Bristol. On the Mersey employment was better than a month ago and considerably improved as compared with a year ago. At Barrow employment continued slack.

Employment continued bad on the Clyde, but was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. With shipwrights at Greenock it was fairly good. On the East Coast of Scotland employment, though bad, showed an improvement on both a month and a year ago.

At Belfast employment continued slack; platers and shipwrights, however, reported an improvement. At Dublin employment was fair with shipwrights.

**TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

According to Lloyd's Return there was at the end of December, 1909, an increase in the tonnage of merchant

\* Exclusive of superannuated members.

vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 135,338 tons gross (or 17.4 per cent.) as compared with the end of September, 1909, and an increase of 148,854 tons gross (or 19.5 per cent.) as compared with the end of December, 1908. Of war vessels there was an increase of 34,085 tons displacement as compared with September, 1909, and of 53,939 tons displacement as compared with December, 1908.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	End of Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on		End of Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on	
		Sept., '09.	Dec., '08.		Sept., '09.	Dec., '08.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ...	306,454	+ 21,827	+ 60,701	46,951	- 1,657	+ 41,200
Belfast ...	163,210	- 8,320	- 27,950	...	...	...
Tyne ...	147,849	+ 28,874	+ 3,979	60,125	+ 7,673	- 7,474
Wear ...	105,523	+ 21,405	+ 36,825	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby	52,959	+ 12,010	+ 22,295	...	...	...
Middlesbro' and Stockton	63,685	+ 18,265	+ 36,779	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	2,880	...	- 1,953	45,230	- 640	+ 2,824
Other Districts...	65,841	+ 41,277	+ 18,178	11,844	+ 4,769	+ 6,549
Royal Dockyards	...	...	...	109,060	+ 23,940	+ 10,840
Total ...	913,374	+ 135,338	+ 148,854	273,210	+ 34,085	+ 53,939

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with the end of September, 1909, there were increases in every district except Belfast. On the Tyne the increase was nearly 29,000 tons, and on the Clyde and Wear over 21,000 tons. The decrease at Belfast amounted to 8,000 tons. As compared with a year ago Belfast was also the only district showing a decrease, which amounted to 28,000 tons. The increase on the Clyde was over 60,000 tons, and both on the Wear and at Middlesbrough and Stockton nearly 37,000 tons.

War Vessels.—Compared with September, 1909, there was an increase of over 7,600 tons on the Tyne, but a decrease of nearly 1,700 tons on the Clyde. At the Royal Dockyards there was an increase of about 24,000 tons. Compared with December, 1908, the increase on the Clyde amounted to 41,000 tons, but on the Tyne there was a decrease of 7,500 tons. At the Royal Dockyards the increase was about 11,000 tons.

**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

(Based on 98 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 74 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 23,921 had 3.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 3.6 per cent. a month ago, and 5.0 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment was fairly good with brassworkers at Birmingham, and also in Lancashire. Some overtime was reported in Manchester, and also short time in one case. With bedstead workers at Birmingham employment was quiet, but with an upward tendency.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment continued fair in the nut and bolt trade in Darlaston and district. It was slack, but slightly better than a month ago, at Halesowen and Blackheath. At Birmingham it was fair with shoe rivet and wire nail makers, and moderate with cut nail and machine made rivet makers.

Wire.—Employment continued fairly good, and was on the whole better than a month ago and a year ago. It was fair at Halifax and Middlesbrough; good at Sheffield, Birmingham and Ambergate. With wire drawers at Warrington employment showed some improvement on a month ago and was better than a year ago.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Employment was moderate with hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich. It continued bad and there was short time with lock makers at Wolverhampton and Willenhall; but there was a slight improvement in some branches in comparison with a month ago and a year ago.



**Stoves, Grates, etc.**—Employment was moderate on the whole. It was good at Falkirk.

**Cutlery, Tools, etc.**—At Sheffield employment was good with sheep shear makers, fair with edge tool grinders, moderate with file forgers, cutters, and hardeners, and slack with other branches. It continued moderate in the edge-tool trade at Birmingham. It was reported as good in the needle trade at Redditch; it was moderate in the fish-hook trade.

**Tubes.**—On the whole employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. It was fairly good and improving in the brass and copper tube trade at Birmingham.

**Chains, Anchors, and Springs.**—At Cradley Heath employment improved and was slightly better than a month ago with chain makers; it was bad with anchor smiths. It was fair in the anvil and vice trade at Dudley, and better than a month ago. It continued bad with railway spring fitters at Sheffield.

**Sheet Metal Workers.**—With braziers and sheet metal workers employment continued bad generally. It was good and slightly better than a month ago at Manchester. It was quiet with tinplate workers at Birmingham, and at Glasgow. It was good in the iron-plate trade at Old Hill, Cradley, Brierley Hill and the Lye, fair at Dudley, Bilston and Wolverhampton.

**Gold, Silver and Britannia Metal.**—With London goldsmiths and jewellers employment continued good; with silver workers and electro-plate operatives it was good, with some overtime; in both cases it was better than a month ago and a year ago. At Sheffield it was fair with silversmiths, and good with silver platers and gilders, and silver and electro-plate finishers. At Birmingham employment was moderate in the jewellery trade, and with silversmiths and electro-platers; it was good with Britannia metal workers.

**Favriers.**—Employment on the whole was fair, and better than a year ago.

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Cutlery ... ..	15,659	21,100	19,830	- 5,441	- 4,171
Hardware ... ..	101,155	122,113	81,929	+ 9,958	+ 19,546
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Cutlery ... ..	64,197	64,834	50,614	+ 6,377	+ 13,583
Hardware ... ..	202,827	190,250	167,266	+ 11,997	+ 35,561
Implements and Tools ...	185,831	178,568	148,099	+ 8,313	+ 38,782

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 479 Returns—404 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 67 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT** in the spinning branch was bad. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton,\* and this short time working will continue up to the end of February next. In the weaving branch employment was very slack, and there was much waiting for warps. In both branches there was a decline as compared with both November, 1909, and December, 1908, and on a year ago. Returns from firms employing 126,914 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was no change in the number employed, but a decrease of 10.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

As compared with a month ago, there was some slight decline in the number employed in all the departments; as regards the wages paid the decreases

\* It is estimated that about 85,000 workpeople were directly affected, and of these about 40,000 are included in the returns received.  
† Comparisons with a year ago in the amount of wages paid are affected by the reduction in wages of 5 per cent. in the preparing and spinning departments which took place in March last.

were more marked, amounting in the weaving department to nearly 7 per cent., and in the preparing department to over 6 per cent. As compared with a year ago the number employed declined in the preparing and spinning departments, but showed an increase in the weaving department. The wages paid showed marked decreases in the preparing and spinning departments (20.6 and 17.6 per cent. respectively); in the weaving department there was a decrease of 4.9 per cent.

The wages paid, as compared with a month ago, showed a decrease in every district; in the Ashton district there was a decrease of 9.5 per cent., and the Stockport, Bury, Preston and Burnley districts each showed a decline of between 8 and 9 per cent.; in the Blackburn district there was a decrease of 7.2 per cent. As compared with a year ago, the only district showing an increase was Burnley (5.9 per cent.). There were decreases of over 20 per cent. in the Ashton, Stockport and Manchester districts. In the Oldham district there was a decrease of 19.4 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing ... ..	14,455	- 0.9	- 1.4	10,950	- 6.2	- 20.6
Spinning ... ..	26,268	- 0.5	- 1.1	21,427	- 5.6	- 17.6
Weaving ... ..	58,347	+ 0.9	+ 1.2	46,648	- 6.8	- 4.9
Other ... ..	10,395	- 0.6	- 0.9	11,848	- 2.6	- 1.9
Departments not specified	17,437	- 0.5	- 1.0	15,800	- 8.9	- 11.9
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>126,914</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>- 0.0</b>	<b>106,683</b>	<b>- 6.4</b>	<b>- 10.2</b>

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Ashton District ... ..	8,353	- 2.1	- 3.8	6,669	- 9.5	- 22.7
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,357	- 1.3	+ 0.2	4,758	- 8.7	- 22.9
Oldham District ... ..	13,657	- 0.6	- 0.5	11,972	- 4.5	- 19.4
Bolton and Leigh ... ..	14,111	- 0.1	- 2.0	12,412	- 2.6	- 8.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Manchester ... ..	10,060	- 1.0	- 0.1	7,971	- 8.3	- 15.3
Walsden, & Todmorden	9,090	+ 0.6	- 0.4	5,612	- 5.9	- 20.6
Preston and Chorley	13,750	- 3.0	- 1.3	11,338	- 8.0	- 5.3
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	17,215	- 0.3	+ 2.8	14,118	- 7.2	- 5.9
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	16,105	- 0.0	+ 2.7	16,105	- 8.3	+ 5.9
Other Lancashire Towns	4,453	- 1.9	- 9.0	3,739	- 0.8	- 12.6
Yorkshire Towns ... ..	16,105	- 0.0	+ 3.5	5,211	- 1.5	- 4.3
Other Districts ... ..	7,581	+ 0.2	+ 2.3	6,492	- 6.0	- 0.5
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>126,914</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>- 0.0</b>	<b>106,683</b>	<b>- 6.4</b>	<b>- 10.2</b>

**Raw Cotton.**

**American Cotton.**—During the month of December, 1909, the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 8.06d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8½d. and the lowest 7.68d. per lb. The average price for November, 1909, was 7.72d. per lb., and for December, 1908, 4.91d. per lb. For the period from January 1st to 10th, 1910, the average price of "middling American" was 8.27d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on January 7th, 1910, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,117,770 bales, as compared with 1,366,680 bales on January 8th, 1909.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during December, 1909, averaged 12.99d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 13½d. per lb., and the lowest 12½d. per lb. The average price for November, 1909, was 11.46d. per lb., and for December, 1908, 8.32d. per lb. For the period from January 1st to 10th, 1910, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 13.27d. per lb.

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

Description of Cotton.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American ... ..	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Brazilian ... ..	189,735	224,476	256,619	- 34,741	- 76,884
East Indian ... ..	7,331	15,913	8,208	+ 8,582	- 877
Egyptian ... ..	6,148	3,678	1,525	+ 2,490	+ 4,623
Miscellaneous ... ..	49,570	36,963	46,166	+ 12,607	+ 3,404
	7,364	8,160	9,363	- 795	- 1,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,148</b>	<b>299,190</b>	<b>331,581</b>	<b>- 29,042</b>	<b>- 71,733</b>

**Exports.**

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Cotton Yarn and Twist—</b>					
Grey ... ..	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Bleached and Dyed ...	12,786	15,030	13,102	- 2,254	+ 316
	2,552	2,637	7,049	+ 85	+ 593
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>15,338</b>	<b>17,677</b>	<b>14,151</b>	<b>- 2,339</b>	<b>+ 187</b>
<b>Cotton—</b>					
Thread for Sewing ...	2,730	2,774	2,356	- 44	+ 374
<b>Cotton Piece Goods—</b>					
Grey or Unbleached ...	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Bleached ... ..	166,344	110,243	128,682	+ 6,101	+ 37,662
Printed ... ..	137,330	126,640	111,442	+ 10,690	+ 25,888
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ... ..	89,502	88,372	73,831	+ 1,130	+ 15,770
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>482,872</b>	<b>453,326</b>	<b>338,373</b>	<b>+ 19,516</b>	<b>+ 94,499</b>

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 392 Returns—367 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 18 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

**Woollen Trade.**

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

Returns from firms employing 29,504 workpeople in the week ended December 18th, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 6.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 16.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Wool Sorting ... ..	587	...	+ 4.1	617	+ 0.7	+ 13.8
Spinning ... ..	5,985	+ 0.5	+ 8.7	5,412	+ 1.0	+ 19.7
Weaving ... ..	12,563	+ 0.2	+ 5.6	11,013	- 0.4	+ 16.0
Other Departments ...	8,138	...	+ 5.5	8,481	- 1.2	+ 15.3
Unspecified ... ..	2,216	+ 0.2	+ 5.4	2,091	- 0.3	+ 17.2
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>29,504</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 6.1</b>	<b>27,624</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>+ 16.5</b>

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Huddersfield District ...	5,564	+ 0.5	+ 8.4	5,900	- 1.2	+ 20.2
Leeds District ... ..	3,351	- 0.1	+ 7.3	2,988	+ 1.2	+ 21.6
Dewsbury & Batley District	4,851	+ 0.9	+ 4.1	4,742	- 2.1	+ 21.3
Other Parts of West Riding	2,416	- 0.7	+ 4.0	2,344	+ 0.5	+ 10.8
<b>Total, West Riding ...</b>	<b>16,182</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 6.2</b>	<b>16,054</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>+ 19.3</b>
Scotland ... ..	7,245	+ 0.2	+ 7.3	6,774	+ 0.2	+ 16.8
Other Districts ... ..	6,077	+ 0.0	+ 4.6	4,795	+ 0.2	+ 7.8
<b>Total Woollen ... ..</b>	<b>29,504</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 6.1</b>	<b>27,624</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>+ 16.5</b>

In the Huddersfield district employment showed a slight decline, but was still good, and much better than a year ago. In the Leeds district it was fairly good and better than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district a good deal of overtime was reported, though short time was worked in a few cases. In Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels employment continued very good, and was much better than a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**

Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 45,892 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. both in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Bradford district employment with wool sorters and combers was fairly good, and better than a year ago; in the other branches it showed little change. In the Keighley district it was about the same as a month

ago, and better than a year ago. In the Halifax district there was some slight decline in both the spinning and weaving branches compared with a month ago, but employment was better than a year ago. In the Huddersfield district it continued good.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Wool Sorting & Combing ...	5,431	+ 2.0	+ 3.7	5,355	+ 1.4	+ 5.5
Spinning ... ..	23,478	+ 0.4	+ 3.1	12,890	+ 0.3	+ 6.3
Weaving ... ..	9,939	- 0.5	+ 8.7	9,063	+ 0.0	+ 14.4
Other Departments ...	4,933	+ 0.6	+ 3.3	5,206	+ 0.5	+ 9.0
Unspecified ... ..	2,121	+ 0.6	+ 9.4	1,515	- 1.5	+ 7.4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>45,892</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 4.6</b>	<b>34,034</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 8.7</b>

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Bradford District ... ..	22,249	+ 0.6	+ 4.6	16,582	+ 1.0	+ 9.1
Keighley District ... ..	7,020	+ 0.0	+ 6.2	5,231	+ 1.0	+ 10.4
Halifax District ... ..	5,376	- 0.1	+ 4.7	3,404	- 2.3	+ 4.8
Huddersfield District ...	5,275	+ 0.7	+ 6.3	5,035	- 0.1	+ 11.4
Other Parts of West Riding	2,567	- 0.2	+ 0.7	1,832	- 0.7	+ 3.6
<b>Total, West Riding ...</b>	<b>42,887</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 4.8</b>	<b>32,134</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 8.9</b>
Other Districts ... ..	3,005	+ 0.7	+ 2.7	1,900	+ 0.5	+ 5.3
<b>Total Worsted ... ..</b>	<b>45,892</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 4.6</b>	<b>34,034</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 8.7</b>

**Prices of Raw Material.**

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

	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.
<b>Average Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	10½	10½	9
40's Crossbred tops ...	13½	13½	11½
60's Super Botany tops ...	27½	27	24½
<b>Course of Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	10½	10½	9
40's Crossbred tops ...	14, 13½, 13½	13, 14	11½, 11½, 11½
60's Super Botany tops ...	27½	26½, 27½	24½, 24, 24½

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

	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS)</b>					
Imports ... ..	83,523	51,792	73,637	+ 31,731	+ 9,886
British Exports ... ..	6,070	5,729	5,743	+ 341	+ 327
Re-Exports of Imported Wool ...	1,000 lbs.	8,800	49,208	+ 36,474	- 3,904
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>					
Yarn:					
Woollen ... ..	272	198	150	+ 74	+ 122
Worsted ... ..	5,175	4,798	4,411	+ 377	

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing...	6,454	- 1'0	+ 1'6	3,667	- 0'2	+ 13'0
Spinning...	12,173	- 0'1	+ 2'9	6,088	+ 0'6	+ 18'7
Weaving...	17,145	+ 0'7	+ 9'1	10,289	- 0'4	+ 11'5
Other...	7,290	+ 0'2	+ 7'7	5,933	+ 0'2	+ 9'8
Not specified...	6,394	+ 0'3	+ 1'9	3,659	+ 0'1	+ 15'6
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>49,456</b>	<b>+ 0'1</b>	<b>+ 5'4</b>	<b>29,616</b>	<b>+ 0'0</b>	<b>+ 13'3</b>

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Belfast ...	18,330	- 0'0	+ 7'1	11,130	- 0'5	+ 21'8
Other Places in Ireland	15,803	+ 0'7	+ 6'9	8,664	+ 1'0	+ 12'0
<b>Total, Ireland...</b>	<b>34,133</b>	<b>+ 0'3</b>	<b>+ 7'0</b>	<b>19,794</b>	<b>+ 0'2</b>	<b>+ 17'3</b>
Fifeshire ...	6,723	- 0'2	+ 3'4	4,378	- 0'3	+ 7'0
Other Places in Scotland	6,518	- 0'2	+ 0'0	4,153	- 0'1	+ 5'1
<b>Total, Scotland...</b>	<b>13,241</b>	<b>- 0'2</b>	<b>+ 1'7</b>	<b>8,531</b>	<b>- 0'2</b>	<b>+ 6'1</b>
England ...	2,082	- 0'6	+ 3'3	1,291	- 1'0	+ 4'8
United Kingdom	49,456	+ 0'1	+ 5'4	29,616	+ 0'0	+ 13'3

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Cordilla) ... tons	7,160	4,348	9,097	+ 2,812	- 1,937
<b>Exports:</b>					
Linen yarn 100 lbs	15,923	13,658	11,209	+ 2,165	+ 4,714
Linen Piece Goods 100 yds	214,804	185,470	167,909	+ 29,394	+ 46,895

**JUTE TRADE.**

(Based on 38 Returns—35 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 18,596 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 0'7 per cent. in both the total number employed and the total amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there were increases of 3'2 per cent. in the number employed, and 8'1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,596 workpeople covered by the returns, 16,020 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

The improvement compared with a year ago was more marked in the weaving department than in the preparing and spinning departments.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing...	4,226	- 1'4	+ 1'3	2,853	- 0'7	+ 5'5
Spinning...	5,278	- 0'2	+ 0'4	3,319	+ 0'3	+ 4'1
Weaving...	6,164	- 0'3	+ 6'0	4,602	- 1'6	+ 10'3
Other...	2,046	- 1'2	+ 7'1	2,095	+ 0'8	+ 10'7
Not specified...	882	- 1'2	+ 2'2	645	- 4'2	+ 19'2
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>18,596</b>	<b>- 0'7</b>	<b>+ 3'2</b>	<b>13,514</b>	<b>- 0'7</b>	<b>+ 8'1</b>

**Imports and Exports.**

Description.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Jute ... tons	58,785	46,585	58,879	+ 12,200	- 94
<b>Exports:</b>					
Jute Yarn 100 lbs	45,219	45,801	42,390	- 582	+ 2,829
Jute Piece Goods 100 yds	150,347	171,552	157,193	- 20,705	+ 6,346

**LACE TRADE.**

(Based on 89 Returns—81 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,620 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 0'5 per cent. in the total number employed, and a decrease of 0'9 per cent. in the total amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there were increases of 2'4 per cent. in the total number employed, and 5'0 per cent. in the total amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment continued bad, with much short time, in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch. At Long Eaton much short time was reported. In other districts employment was fairly good generally.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Levers ...	1,961	+ 1'7	+ 0'3	2,515	- 0'7	- 0'5
Curtain ...	2,785	+ 0'2	+ 5'2	2,753	- 0'0	+ 8'0
Plain Net ...	2,828	+ 0'1	+ 3'2	2,207	- 0'9	+ 7'9
Others ...	460	- 1'3	- 9'4	338	- 1'7	+ 2'1
Departments not specified...	5'6	+ 0'7	+ 2'6	450	- 5'9	+ 8'7
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>8,620</b>	<b>+ 0'5</b>	<b>+ 2'4</b>	<b>8,263</b>	<b>- 0'9</b>	<b>+ 5'0</b>

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Nottingham City ...	1,951	+ 1'1	+ 0'4	1,755	- 0'6	+ 7'0
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,507	- 0'8	- 2'5	1,932	- 2'6	- 1'4
Other English districts	2,982	+ 0'3	+ 3'6	2,566	- 0'2	+ 7'6
Scotland ...	2,180	+ 0'9	+ 6'1	2,010	- 0'2	+ 6'6
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>8,620</b>	<b>+ 0'5</b>	<b>+ 2'4</b>	<b>8,263</b>	<b>- 0'9</b>	<b>+ 5'0</b>

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Cotton Lace ...	281,093	224,149	312,675	+ 56,944	- 31,582
Silk Lace ...	24,976	16,757	26,233	+ 8,219	- 1,257
<b>Exports:</b>					
Cotton Lace ...	377,751	332,771	393,508	+ 44,980	- 15,757
Silk Lace ...	9,712	9,442	10,821	+ 270	- 1,109

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 107 Returns—102 from Employers, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 19,473 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 0'4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0'5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 10'3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 17'1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester ...	9,769	+ 0'2	+ 12'3	7,863	+ 0'7	+ 18'3
Leicester Country District ...	2,338	- 0'3	+ 6'9	1,879	- 0'9	+ 15'9
Notts and Derbyshire ...	4,426	+ 0'2	+ 11'0	3,553	+ 0'2	+ 17'7
Scotland ...	2,209	+ 2'5	+ 10'5	1,544	+ 1'6	+ 18'9
Other Districts ...	731	+ 0'4	- 7'4	443	+ 0'7	- 5'5
<b>Total, United Kingdom</b>	<b>19,473</b>	<b>+ 0'4</b>	<b>+ 10'3</b>	<b>15,087</b>	<b>+ 0'5</b>	<b>+ 17'1</b>

At Leicester employment continued good; at Loughborough it was fairly good generally, except in the cashmere branch, where it was moderate; at Hinckley

full time was worked, except on cotton goods. With power-frame workers in Nottingham and Derbyshire employment continued good; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was moderate. In Scotland it continued very good, and was much better than a year ago.

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	39,839	43,246	28,949	+ 3,407	+ 10,890
Cotton ...	121,862	106,182	92,611	+ 15,680	+ 29,251
<b>Exports:</b>					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	124,843	100,804	96,745	+ 24,039	+ 28,098
Cotton ...	40,891	34,170	29,250	+ 6,721	+ 11,041

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on 55 Returns—50 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good generally, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,943 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed that there was an increase of 0'9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0'4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 6'5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 12'9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing ...	974	+ 2'1	+ 4'2	394	+ 5'1	+ 1'0
Spinning ...	2,556	+ 0'9	+ 3'4	1,928	- 0'3	+ 6'2
Weaving ...	2,980	+ 1'0	+ 8'6	2,036	+ 0'6	+ 24'1
Other ...	1,433	- 0'2	+ 9'7	961	- 0'6	+ 11'2
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>7,943</b>	<b>+ 0'9</b>	<b>+ 6'5</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>+ 0'4</b>	<b>+ 12'9</b>

Employment at Macclesfield was fair with throwsters' spinners, and power-loom weavers; with hand-loom weavers it was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Leek employment was bad with throwsters, spinners, and trimming weavers, and short time was worked. At Congleton it was fair with throwsters and spinners, and moderate with trimming weavers. In the Bradford district and in the Eastern Counties employment continued fairly good and better than a year ago.

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Raw Silk ... lbs	114,592	77,861	140,093	+ 36,731	- 26,401
Thrown Silk ... lbs	44,436	40,498	42,412	+ 3,938	+ 2,024
Span Silk Yarn ... lbs	37,524	33,960	30,257	+ 3,564	+ 7,267
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	5,458,592	5,773,196	4,999,016	- 314,804	+ 468,536
<b>Exports:</b>					
Thrown Silk ... lbs	2,213	4,695	4,167	- 2,482	- 1,954
Spun Silk Yarn ... lbs	128,047	121,956	57,811	+ 6,091	+ 70,236
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	398,282	326,856	421,390	+ 71,42	- 23,108

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

(Based on 45 Returns—19 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 12 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

**Carpet Trade.**

EMPLOYMENT during December showed little change as compared with November, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 5,039 workpeople, and paying £4,062 in wages, in the week ended December 18th, 1909, showed an increase of 0'8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1'7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 10'7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13'9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

**Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching and Finishing.**

**Woollen and Worsted Dyers.**—Employment in the West Riding was fair, and rather better than a month ago. About one-quarter of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about three-eighths worked overtime.

**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment was reported as bad, and as worse than a month ago and a year ago.

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

**Calico Printers, &c.**—Employment with machine calico printers continued good, and was much better than a year ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was good. In Scotland it continued fair with calico printers, calico printers' engravers and block printers.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.**—At Leicester employment showed little change; dyers were on short time. At Loughborough it showed an improvement, and full time was general. With dyers at Nottingham employment was fair; at Basford and Bulwell it was fair with bleachers and hosiery trimmers. On the whole employment in Nottinghamshire was slightly better than a year ago.

**Calenderers, &c.**—In Glasgow employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Dundee it continued good with bleachfield workers and calender workers.

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on 528 Returns—469 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 49 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 58,960 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 0'8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1'9 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 4'5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
London ...	2,331	+ 0'9	+ 5'7	2,417	+ 1'8	+ 6'6
Leicester ...	12,598	+ 2'9	+ 0'6	12,989	+ 7'6	+ 4'9
Leicester Country District	2,557	- 1'2	- 1'1	2,414	- 0'9	+ 2'9
Northampton ...	7,454	+ 0'2	- 0'3	7,208	+ 3'2	+ 3'5
Northampton Country District	8,458	- 0'2	+ 6'4	7,944	- 0'2	+ 8'7
Kettering ...	3,867	- 0'1	+ 4'8	3,707	- 2'6	+ 4'9
Stafford & District	2,524	+ 1'4	...	2,320	+ 3'8	+ 2'1
Norwich & District	3,261	+ 2'8	+ 11'7			

At Leicester employment showed a further improvement, though several firms were still working short time. At Northampton employment was still slack, but rather better than a month ago and a year ago; at Kettering it was moderate, and not quite so good as a month ago; with army bootmakers in Northamptonshire it showed a slight decline. At Bristol it showed a slight improvement. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and Leeds it was slack. In Scotland it continued fair, and was about the same as a year ago.

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

Description	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports (less Re-exports)</b>					
Quantity ... doz. pairs	32,466	58,151	25,653	- 5,685	+ 6,813
Value ... £	68,903	75,155	56,872	- 6,952	+ 12,031
<b>Exports (British &amp; Irish)</b>					
Quantity ... doz. pairs	112,132	106,020	82,632	+ 6,412	+ 26,800
Value ... £	251,854	242,547	186,767	+ 9,207	+ 65,087

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

### OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 38 Returns—23 from Trade Unions and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair, but somewhat worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,193 reported 5.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 3.4 per cent. at the end of November, and 8.6 per cent. a year ago.

**Skinner, Tanners, Curriers and Dressers.**—Employment with skinner was good at Leeds and moderate in London. With curriers it was quiet at Birmingham and bad in London; at Walsall, Glasgow, and Edinburgh it was fair, and at Leeds good. With dressers employment was fair. With leather workers generally employment was fair at Manchester, Bolton, Bury, and Wigan, and quiet at Leeds.

**Saddle and Harness Makers.**—In London employment was bad with harness makers, and worse than a month ago. At Walsall it was good with brown saddlers, but quiet with gig saddlers. In South Wales it was bad with harness makers. With saddlers it was fair at Dublin, and quiet at Glasgow.

**Miscellaneous Leather Trades.**—With fancy leather workers and portmanteau makers employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago; with fancy and morocco leather finishers in London employment was good.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness:—

Description	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Hides raw, and pieces thereof, dry ...	48,585	51,651	33,895	- 2,076	+ 14,789
Ditto, wet ...	65,965	75,632	64,380	- 8,767	+ 2,485
Total Hides, dry and wet ...	114,550	127,283	98,276	- 11,743	+ 17,274
Goat skins, undressed No.	1,390,000	961,048	1,176,122	+ 423,952	+ 213,873
Sheep skins " £	275,172	250,059	190,710	+ 25,103	+ 84,462
Leather* ... cwt.	98,929	113,258	116,028	- 14,319	- 17,999
<b>Exports:</b>					
Saddlery and Harness (value) £	37,075	43,757	32,585	- 6,682	+ 4,490

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

### HAT TRADE.

(Based on 11 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, and 8 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during December in the *Silk* hat trade was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago, but much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 6.6, compared with 5.9 a month ago and 19.0 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade employment continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 3.2, compared with 2.1 a month ago, and 4.6 a year ago. Employment was fairly good at Denton, good at Stockport, and fair in Warwickshire.

#### Imports and Exports.

Description	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
All kinds ... dozens	36,855	59,242	36,945	- 22,387	- 90
<b>Exports:</b>					
Hats, Felt ...	41,117	35,195	37,510	+ 5,922	+ 3,607
" Straw ...	43,625	43,700	37,129	- 75	+ 6,166
" Other sorts ...	8,479	8,515	6,416	- 36	+ 2,063
Total ...	93,221	87,410	81,055	+ 5,811	+ 12,166

### TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 119 Returns—91 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

#### Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during December showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms paying £11,351 to their workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 8.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 7.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Centres.**—Employment was reported as bad at Manchester and Glasgow, slack at Edinburgh and Dublin, and fair at Belfast.

#### Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment continued moderate. Returns from firms employing 7,393 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Jewish operatives reported employment as good.

**Other Centres.**—In Manchester employment continued moderate. In Norwich and Bristol it was fairly good. In Glasgow it was fair.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in December, 1909, were valued at £224,059, as compared with £224,276 in November, 1909, and £209,238 in December, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months at £519,178, £473,224, and £387,504 respectively.

### OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 177 Returns—172 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

**Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End,

employing 2,071 dressmakers in the week ended December 18th, showed a decrease of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 13.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers employing 600 dressmakers in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 8.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 7.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment was fairly good.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 2,802 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed no change in the demand for, and a decrease in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade was moderate, and rather worse than a month ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,784 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 5.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 20.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade continued moderate, and was rather better than a year ago.

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland employing 6,857 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) and paying £4,772 in wages in the week ended December 18th, showed an increase of 5.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 12.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns from corset manufacturers employing 2,746 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

### PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 452 Returns—127 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 305 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

#### PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago, when short time was reported at a number of mills.

Returns received from firms employing 21,695 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was practically no change in the total number of workpeople employed by them as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Description	Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:</b>			
Northern Counties	6,475	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,497	- 1.8	- 0.6
Southern Counties	7,044	- 0.1	- 3.0
Scotland	5,920	+ 0.3	+ 1.4
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	20,936	- 0.0	- 1.0
Hand-made Paper	759	+ 0.5	+ 2.4
Total	21,695	- 0.0	- 0.8

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 1,539 members had 2.2 per cent. unemployed at the end

of December, as compared with 2.4 per cent. a month ago and 3.8 per cent. a year ago. In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 569 members had 6.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 6.6 per cent. a month ago, and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of paper in December, 1909, amounted to £515,825, as compared with £520,096 in November, 1909, and £473,294 in December, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months amounted to £239,683, £214,932 and £200,992 respectively.

#### PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was good. It showed an improvement compared with November, partly seasonal and partly owing to election work, but, as is usual in December, it declined towards the end of the month, the percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of December being greater than at the end of November, 1909, though much less than at the end of December, 1908.

Districts	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1909.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	21,147	4.4	3.1	6.6	+ 1.3	- 2.2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,385	4.0	3.0	5.4	+ 1.0	- 1.2
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,937	4.7	4.1	5.3	+ 0.6	- 0.6
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,531	2.2	2.3	5.7	- 0.1	- 1.5
West Midlands	2,548	3.2	3.9	3.8	- 0.7	- 0.6
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,841	3.5	2.5	3.8	+ 1.0	- 0.3
Scotland	5,653	4.2	4.1	5.7	+ 0.1	- 1.5
Ireland	2,576	6.7	7.2	7.1	- 0.5	- 0.4
United Kingdom	50,618	4.2	3.5	5.7	+ 0.7	- 1.5

London.—Employment continued good and was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 4.4, as compared with 3.1 at the end of November and 6.6 at the end of December, 1908.

**Other Centres.**—Employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago, overtime being worked. It was slack, however, with letterpress printers at Bristol and with lithographic printers at Bradford, Edinburgh and Belfast.

#### BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was good generally. In London overtime was worked during the greater part of the month, but in the last week employment declined. In the provinces employment was better than a month ago and a year ago. Overtime was worked at Edinburgh, but at Dublin employment continued slack.

Districts	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1909.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,459	4.6	2.8	5.7	+ 1.8	- 1.1
Other Districts	3,230	3.0	3.9	5.1	- 0.9	- 2.1
United Kingdom	5,689	3.8	3.3	5.4	+ 0.5	- 1.6

### BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,306 Returns—757 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,496 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 53 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in December continued slack. It showed a seasonal decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of December was 13.9 as compared with 10.6 a month ago and 15.9 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 9.9, 10.6, and 12.1 respectively. These percentages were usually exceeded in London, the Northern Counties, Scotland and Ireland. Returns received from painters' unions show a considerable decline in employment compared with a month ago, while returns from bricklayers, masons, slaters, plasterers,

and labourers' unions show little general change. The improvement compared with a year ago was general.

For London the Trade Union Returns show that 11.3 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 12.1 a month ago and 15.5 a year ago. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 13.7, 14.5 and 15.2 respectively.

Returns received from 693 firms employing 38,863 workpeople at the end of December show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease in the total number employed of 6.8 per cent. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease in the number employed in Lancashire, Cheshire and the Midland and Eastern Counties of 7.8 per cent., while in the remaining districts there was a net increase of 2.1 per cent.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
	No. paid on last pay-day in Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.	No. paid on last pay-day in Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.
London ... ..	7,334	- 526	+ 85	5,165	- 228	- 64
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,157	- 154	+ 92	1,851	- 160	+ 122
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,076	- 309	+ 162	4,170	- 329	- 334
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,272	- 337	- 78	1,770	- 212	- 255
	2,761	- 241	+ 67	1,283	- 166	+ 276
<b>England and Wales ...</b>	<b>17,503</b>	<b>- 1,567</b>	<b>+ 4</b>	<b>12,739</b>	<b>- 1,095</b>	<b>- 253</b>
Scotland ... ..	2,619	- 33	+ 84	1,515	- 70	+ 144
Ireland ... ..	545	- 34	+ 147	615	+ 13	- 34
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>20,667</b>	<b>- 1,634</b>	<b>+ 67</b>	<b>14,869</b>	<b>- 1,152</b>	<b>- 143</b>
District.	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	No. paid on last pay-day in Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.	No. paid on last pay-day in Dec., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.
London ... ..	482	- 18	- 33	12,981	- 772	- 12
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	513	+ 4	- 26	4,851	- 810	+ 168
Lancashire and Cheshire	882	- 7	- 51	6,028	- 615	- 545
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	333	- 4	- 7	4,375	- 553	- 340
	419	- 3	- 5	2,966	- 410	+ 338
<b>England and Wales ...</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>- 28</b>	<b>- 122</b>	<b>32,871</b>	<b>- 2,660</b>	<b>- 371</b>
Scotland ... ..	621	- 7	- 86	4,756	- 110	- 28
Ireland ... ..	77	- 7	- 12	1,237	- 21	+ 101
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>- 35</b>	<b>- 220</b>	<b>38,863</b>	<b>- 2,821</b>	<b>- 296</b>

Employment remained slack in most of the large centres. It was moderate with carpenters at Hull and Barnsley, with plumbers at Huddersfield, with plasterers at Sheffield and Shields, with painters at Leeds and Dewsbury, and with slaters at Middlesbrough. With slaters at Hull it was good.

Employment was fair with bricklayers at St. Helens and Altrincham, with carpenters at Stockport, Warrington, Chorley and Accrington, and with plumbers at Blackburn, Bolton, Oldham and Rochdale. At Oldham, Macclesfield, Leek, and Congleton employment was worse than a year ago.

Employment was moderate generally at Derby and fairly good at Mansfield. With bricklayers it was good at Wolverhampton and Colchester, and moderate at Walsall, Tamworth, Newark, Ipswich, and Luton. It was fair with masons at Birmingham and Nottingham. Carpenters and joiners reported an improvement at Nottingham and Leicester, and were moderately well employed at Northampton, Oxford, and Shrewsbury. With painters at Coventry employment was fair.

Employment at Cardiff was fair, and better than a month ago. Employment was fair with bricklayers at Chatham, Maidstone, Southampton, Gloucester, Hereford, Taunton and Wrexham, with masons at Newport, with carpenters at Gravesend, Bath, Cheltenham, Swansea and Llanelly, with plumbers at Bristol, with plasterers at Newport, and with painters at Bath.

At Edinburgh employment was better than a month ago. Employment was fair with masons and plumbers at Dundee, with plumbers at Aberdeen and Paisley, and with plasterers at Glasgow.

Employment at Dublin was fair with bricklayers, masons, slaters and labourers. Masons at Belfast, plumbers at Cork, and carpenters at Limerick were fairly well employed.

## FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 165 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 129 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December was on the whole dull. It showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,710 reported 9.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 7.4 per cent. a month ago and 10.8 per cent. a year ago.

### Furnishing Trades.

Employment generally was bad with cabinet-makers, upholsterers and french polishers. It was worse than a month ago, but showed an improvement as compared with a year ago. Trade Unions reported 13.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 10.5 per cent. at the end of November, and 13.8 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinetware in December, 1909, were valued at £34,346, as compared with £35,365 in November, 1909, and £30,586 in December, 1908; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £76,931, £82,597, and £61,705 respectively.

### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment generally was dull. It showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. On the Tees and at Darlington it was reported as fair. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 6.7, as compared with 6.0 a month ago, and 9.7 a year ago.

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.		Nov., 1909.		Dec., 1908.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn ... ..	Loads.	179,529	288,716	189,081	109,187	9,552		
" sawn ... ..	376,392	604,628	316,218	228,236	60,174			
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£	14,945	16,529	15,274	1,584	£	329	

### Coopers.

Employment on the whole was quiet, and about the same as a month ago. At Dublin, Hull and Birmingham it was reported to be good; at Burton, Edinburgh, Manchester and Bristol it was slack.

### Coachbuilding.

Employment on the whole continued moderate. It showed a further seasonal decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Employment was reported to be good at Manchester, fair at Birmingham, Glasgow and Cork, dull at Belfast, and bad at Dublin. Trade Unions reported 7.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 6.0 per cent. a month ago, and 10.6 per cent. a year ago. Short time was fairly general.

### Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 10.3, as compared with 4.9 in the previous month, and 9.4 a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment with packing-case makers was good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. With basket makers in London it was good, and at Leicester, although still bad, it showed an improvement. With skip and basket makers at Oldham employment continued slack.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in December, 1909, were valued at £35,719, as compared with £35,099 in November, 1909, and £27,004 in December, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £19,615, £17,170, and £15,150 respectively.

## GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 93 Returns—62 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 7,572 workpeople in the week ended December 18th showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed a decrease of 3.6 per cent. and the amount of wages paid of 1.9 per cent.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.
Glass Bottle ... ..	4,782	+ 3.5	- 5.2	6,025	+ 7.3	- 4.8
Plate Glass ... ..	633	- 0.3	+ 0.9	894	- 0.9	+ 10.0
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	1,755	- 0.2	...	1,994	- 1.8	+ 2.7
Other Branches ...	342	+ 5.4	- 7.3	429	+ 3.9	- 3.2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>7,572</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>	<b>- 3.6</b>	<b>9,342</b>	<b>+ 4.3</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>
Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.	Week ended Dec. 18th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.
North of England	826	- 3.6	- 6.0	907	- 13.6	- 17.3
Yorkshire ... ..	3,269	+ 5.2	- 5.7	4,747	+ 11.6	- 3.7
Lancashire ... ..	711	+ 1.4	+ 2.3	861	+ 2.1	+ 18.6
Worcester and Warwick	1,164	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	1,531	+ 0.3	+ 6.8
Scotland ... ..	764	+ 0.1	- 3.3	966	+ 2.0	- 4.4
Other parts of the United Kingdom	538	+ 0.6	+ 1.8	530	- 3.5	- 0.6
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>7,572</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>	<b>- 3.6</b>	<b>9,342</b>	<b>+ 4.3</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. The number of men employed showed an increase on a month ago, but there was a great deal of short time. Employment was moderate with glass bottle makers in the North of England, and rather worse than a month ago and a year ago, though improving somewhat towards the end of the month; at Seaham Harbour it was bad and worse than a month ago. It was reported as bad in Lancashire, and at Glasgow and Dublin; it was moderate at Portobello and Bristol. Medicine bottle makers at Rotherham were fairly busy. Employment was very good with flint glass makers at Birmingham; at Wordsley it was fair and not so good as a month ago. With flint glass cutters it was fair at Birmingham and good at Wordsley. It continued moderate with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens; with pressed glass makers on the Tyne it was slack and not so good as a month ago. It continued fair with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham. A further slight improvement was reported among glass blowers in London.

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

Description.	Dec., 1909.		Nov., 1909.		Dec., 1908.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>								
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	118,516	117,599	133,204	917	14,688			
Plates ... ..	21,183	26,779	27,737	- 5,596	6,554			
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c. ... ..	72,127	75,672	69,691	- 3,245	2,735			
Manufactures, other sorts	135	169	234	- 34	99			
<b>gross</b>	<b>115,503</b>	<b>133,257</b>	<b>106,111</b>	<b>- 17,754</b>	<b>9,392</b>			
Bottles ... ..								
<b>Exports:</b>								
Plate ... ..	18,170	19,859	13,606	- 1,689	4,564			
Flint ... ..	5,987	7,335	6,732	- 1,248	745			
Manufactures, other sorts	37,893	48,005	31,919	- 11,012	5,974			
<b>gross</b>	<b>67,246</b>	<b>62,677</b>	<b>56,955</b>	<b>+ 4,569</b>	<b>10,291</b>			

## POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 22 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued bad, on the whole, and was worse than a month ago. It showed little change compared with a year ago. It was moderate in the Brick and Tile trades, and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—In Staffordshire employment in the earthenware trade continued bad, and short time was general. It was moderate on the whole in Devonshire; some short time was reported. It was fair with earthenware and stone potters at Bristol, and better than a month ago. It continued bad in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district, and was worse than a year ago. It was, on the whole, bad, and worse than a month ago, in Scotland. It remained dull with tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—In the Peterborough district employment continued slack, but with some tendency to improvement. At Nottingham, owing to seasonal slackness, it was bad, and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. It was fair in Shropshire and at Stourbridge, and also in the Hartlepool district. It was moderate in the Eastern Counties and in Devonshire. It was slack at Bridgwater and Bristol. In North Wales there was very much short time, owing to bad weather and seasonal slackness.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in December, 1909, were valued at £89,418, as compared with £85,477 in November, 1909, and £76,710 in December, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £202,579, £214,145 and £165,564 respectively.

## AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 210 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was generally regular in December, but day labourers lost some time owing to bad weather. There was a fairly good demand for such men, accompanied by an adequate supply, in the Eastern Counties, but elsewhere the demand was generally only moderate, and the supply tended to be somewhat in excess of the demand.

Northern Counties.—Outdoor work in Northumberland was somewhat interfered with by frost and storms. In Cumberland the severe weather caused farm work to fall into arrear, particularly as regards root-storing and ploughing. The supply of labour, both for daywork and permanent situations, was somewhat in excess of requirements. Some irregularity of employment was reported from Westmorland. The supply of and demand for day labourers were about equal in Lancashire. In Yorkshire threshing, turnip-pulling, manure-carting, hedging and ditching provided a fairly large amount of work for day labourers when the weather permitted; frost and rain, however, caused some loss of time to men of this class, and the supply generally tended to be somewhat in excess of the demand.

Midland Counties.—There was a fair demand for day labourers in Cheshire, but not in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire; in all three counties outdoor work suffered some interruption from severe weather. Threshing, root-lifting, hedging, and ditching provided fairly regular employment for day labourers in Leicestershire. Outdoor employment was frequently interrupted by wet and stormy weather in Staffordshire. Correspondents in Shropshire state that day labourers were in fairly constant employment during December. The demand for day labourers was reported as greater than the supply in the Evesham Union of Worcestershire, but elsewhere in this county there was but little demand for their services. Hedging, ditching, spreading manure, threshing, &c., caused a fair demand for day labourers in Warwickshire. There was a moderate demand for men of this class in Northamptonshire. Certain correspondents state that where corn had been carted in a

damp condition threshing had been delayed, and the demand for labour was consequently affected. The supply of and demand for day labourers were generally about equal in *Oxfordshire*. A demand for shepherds, carters, and stockmen was reported in the Banbury Union. There was some surplus of casual labour in *Buckinghamshire*, where wet weather hindered employment to a certain extent. Threshing, manure carting, &c., provided a good deal of work when the weather permitted in *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire*, and employment was fairly regular on the whole.

**Eastern Counties.**—Bad weather caused some interruption to outdoor work in *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire*, but no great irregularity of employment was reported from these counties, the supply of labour generally being equalled by the demand. Similar reports come from *Lincolnshire*, where threshing and work on the root crops provided a good deal of work. Day labourers were generally in fairly regular employment in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, where farm work was in arrear. The supply of such labour was equal to the demand in most of the districts reported on. Outdoor work was a good deal interfered with by wet weather in *Essex*, where day labourers were chiefly occupied at threshing, hedging and ditching, and draining the land. A correspondent in the Braintree Union writes that there are more applicants for permanent situations than two or three years ago.

**South and South-Western Counties.**—Day labourers in *Kent* generally lost but little time through bad weather; the demand for their services was, however, only moderate on the whole, and some men were irregularly employed in consequence. There was a sufficient supply of day labourers in *Surrey*, and in the Guildford Union a surplus was reported. Agricultural employment was fairly regular in *Sussex*, but the supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand. Wet weather caused some interruption to outdoor employment in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire*. In these counties the supply of day labourers was generally about equal to the demand. Threshing, storing roots, hedging, etc., provided a good deal of work, when the weather permitted, for day labourers in certain districts in *Wiltshire*, but the supply of such men was quite sufficient. A correspondent in the Devizes Union states that men for permanent situations are less difficult to obtain than formerly. Employment for day labourers was somewhat slack in *Dorset* and *Somerset*, where a moderate demand for this class of men was met by an adequate supply. Similar reports come from *Herefordshire*. Day labourers were generally in small demand in *Gloucestershire*; there was a plentiful supply of such men, but some scarcity of men for permanent situations was still reported. Threshing, hedging, and other work provided fairly regular employment in *Devonshire* and *Cornwall*, but some time was lost by day labourers in certain districts through bad weather.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 137 Returns—116 from Employers 6 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London during December, 1909 was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. It continued fair at Liverpool. It was fairly good and better on the whole than a month ago at most of the other principal ports, but on the North-East Coast, some decline was reported.

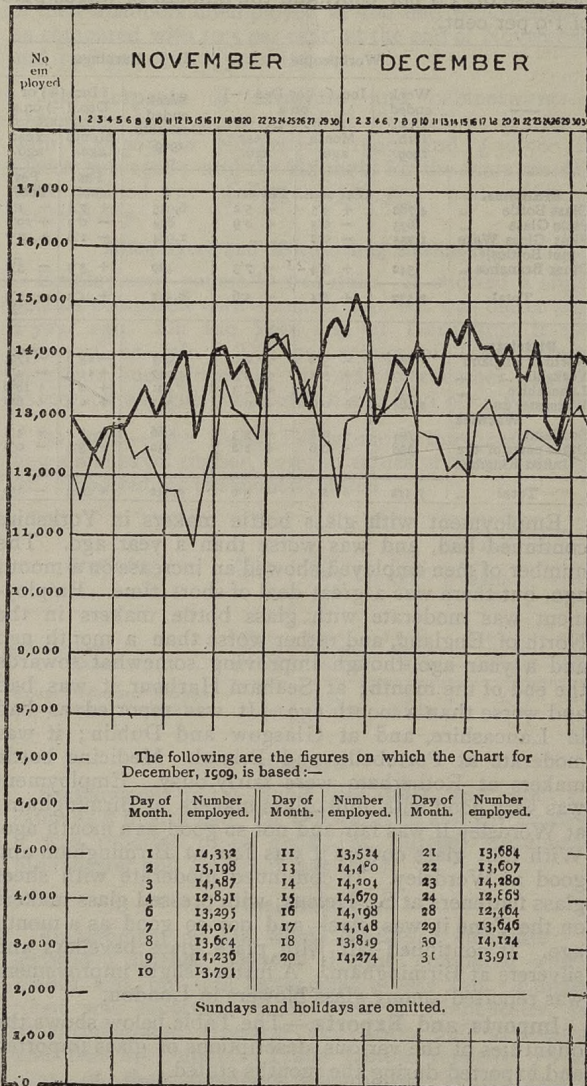
**London.**—Employment in London was fair generally, and better than a month ago and a year ago. There was some decline with deal porters. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended December 25th was 14,048, an increase of 4.0 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 9.9 per cent. as compared with December, 1908. The daily numbers employed in December, 1909, ranged from 12,464 on the 28th, to 15,198 on the 2nd. During December, 1908, the daily numbers ranged from 11,627 on the 1st to 13,667 on the 9th.

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Dec. 4th	5,017	2,607	7,624	6,765	14,389
" " " 11th	4,846	2,161	7,007	6,739	13,746
" " " 18th	5,145	2,118	7,263	7,027	14,290
" " " 25th	4,605	2,611	7,216	6,526	13,742
Average for 4 weeks ended Dec. 25th, 1909	4,903	2,365	7,273	6,775	14,048
Average for Nov., 1909	4,782	2,290	7,072	6,437	13,509
Average for Dec., 1908	4,318	2,266	6,584	6,171	12,755

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of November and December, 1909. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1908, is also given for comparison.

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



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,518 in December, 1909, as compared with 1,289 in the previous month, and 1,443 in December, 1908.

Employment with dock labourers at *Liverpool* was moderate at the South Docks, where there was a shortage of cotton arrivals. With dock labourers at the North Docks, and with quay and railway carters, it was fair and rather better than last month.

**Other Ports.**—Employment with dock and quayside labourers on the Tyne and Wear was bad, and worse than a month ago; it remained fair with trimmers and teamers on both rivers. At *Middlesbrough* and the *Hartlepool's* employment with dock labourers was moderate, and worse than a month ago; with riverside

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

labourers on the Tees it was fair, and better than a month ago. Employment was generally moderate at *Hull*; at *Grimsby* and *Goole* it was good, and better than a month ago. Quayside labourers were well employed at *Parkeston*. At *Southampton* employment was moderate. At *Plymouth* employment was moderate on the whole, but herring packers and carters were well employed. At *Bristol* it was moderate, and worse than a month ago. At the *South Wales* ports employment was good, and better than a month ago. It was fair at *Manchester*. Employment was good and better than in the previous month at the principal Scottish ports, and at *Belfast*. At *Dublin* it continued fair.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.**

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade was entered and cleared), show that during December 35,392\* seamen, of whom 3,598 (or 10.2 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with December, 1908, there was a net increase of 472. The chief increases were at *London* and *Southampton*, and the principal decreases at *Liverpool* and *Cardiff*.

For the year ended December, 1909, the total number of seamen shipped was 478,910\*, a decrease of 3,130 as compared with 1908. There were increases at *London* and on the *North-East Coast*. At *Liverpool* there was a decrease of 8,921 (5.0 per cent.). The *Bristol Channel Ports* also showed decreases.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	December,			Year ended December,		
	1908.	1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.	1908.	1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	2,502	1,992	- 510	29,712	30,385	+ 673
Sunderland ...	289	307	+ 18	4,555	5,158	+ 643
Middlesbrough ...	161	351	+ 192	3,519	5,042	+ 1,523
Hull ...	195	1,117	+ 922	12,216	13,464	+ 1,248
Grimsby ...	40	28	- 12	1,787	1,560	- 227
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	698	579	- 119	7,204	6,952	- 252
Newport, Mon. ...	719	901	+ 182	11,348	10,927	- 421
Cardiff ...	4,762	4,291	- 468	57,150	55,347	- 1,803
Swansea ...	312	382	+ 40	4,942	4,916	- 26
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	12,861	12,056	- 805	180,706	171,785	- 8,921
London ...	5,468	6,205	+ 738	73,388	77,389	+ 4,001
Southampton ...	3,170	3,670	+ 500	47,915	47,432	- 483
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leth ...	191	298	+ 107	4,052	4,336	+ 284
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	174	380	+ 206	2,519	3,154	+ 635
Glasgow ...	2,620	2,376	- 244	37,960	38,575	+ 615
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	32	98	+ 66	681	707	+ 26
Belfast ...	185	355	+ 170	2,393	1,910	- 473
Total ...	34,920	35,392	+ 472	482,049	478,910	- 3,130

**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 December, 1909, showed a slight decrease both in quantity and value as compared with December, 1908.

Employment at the principal ports was fair on the whole. At *Grimsby* and *Yarmouth* employment was fair on the whole, though worse than both a month ago and a year ago. At *Hull* it was moderate with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and good with fish curers. It was better than a year ago. Employment at *Lowestoft* was moderate with all classes, and worse than a year ago. At *Aberdeen* it was good with fishermen and fish curers, and moderate with fish dock labourers. Employment at *Peterhead* was moderate generally, and about the same as a year ago. At

\* 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.

*Fraserburgh* it was bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers, and moderate with fishermen; with all classes it was worse than a year ago. Employment at *Macduff* was moderate generally. Off the south-western coast of England fishing operations, though hindered by stormy weather during the first half of the month, were fairly successful.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	Cwts. 799,207	Cwts. 881,387	£ 521,302	£ 571,241
Scotland ...	277,453	268,111	130,982	119,558
Ireland ...	59,837	32,656	20,527	12,212
Total ...	1,136,497	1,182,154	672,811	703,011
Shell Fish ...	—	—	24,620	29,301
Total Value ...	—	—	£ 697,431	£ 732,312

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in December, 1909, were valued at £295,791, as compared with £607,729 in November, 1909, and £369,993 in December, 1908.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

(1) **Workmen's Compensation Act.**

WHO ARE EMPLOYERS? DOCK COMMISSIONERS: SHIPOWNERS; LABOURERS WITH MONOPOLY.

Where a workman is injured in circumstances giving him a right to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, such compensation is payable by his employer.

The commissioners of a certain dock formed a squad of coal-trimmers who were given a monopoly of work on ships in the dock. When shipowners required trimmers the practice was for them to send notice of their requirements to the office of the dock commissioners who told off the necessary men. These men were paid by the shipowners at a fixed rate at the office of the collector of harbour dues. One of these men while employed as a trimmer in loading a steamship was injured by accident in circumstances giving him a right to compensation. He accordingly took proceedings in the Sheriff's Court against the shipowners. They, however, contended that the man had been employed by the dock commissioners and not by them, and therefore the dock commissioners were the persons liable to pay the compensation. The sheriff, however, decided that the men were employed by the shipowners and not by the commissioners, and made an award in the claimant's favour.

On appeal by the shipowners the Court of Session affirmed the decision in favour of the workman.—*Gorman v. Gibson & Co., Court of Session, December 4th, 1909.*

TIME FOR MAKING CLAIM: EXPIRATION OF THE SIX MONTHS.

Where a workman desires to take proceedings to obtain an award of compensation under the Act he must make his claim within six months from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury, otherwise such proceedings cannot be maintained.

On November 24th, 1908, at 11.30 a.m. a miner was injured while in the employment of a colliery company. He made no claim for compensation until May 24th, 1909, when two claims were made on his behalf. The first of these claims was dropped into the letter box at the Company's office after the office had closed for business about 5.30 p.m. The second was handed to a porter in the company's employment while he was upon the company's premises about 11 p.m.

Subsequently when the claim came on for hearing the company contended that the proceedings could not be maintained as no claim had been made within the required six months. The Sheriff Substitute however held that the six months within which the claim had to be made commenced at midnight on November 24th, 1908, and terminated at midnight on May 24th, 1909, and that therefore the claim had been delivered in time. He accordingly made an award in the claimant's favour. The employers appealed.

The Court of Session approved of the decision of the Sheriff Substitute and dismissed the appeal.—*Peggie v. Wemyss Coal Co., Court of Session, December 8th, 1909.*

(2) **Employers and Workmen Acts.**

DISPUTE BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND WORKMAN: BREACH BY WORKMAN OF CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT: CLAIM BY EMPLOYER FOR DAMAGES; POWER OF COURT TO SET OFF DAMAGES AGAINST WAGES.

By the Employers and Workmen Act, 1875, disputes between employers and workmen may be heard and determined by a court of summary jurisdiction, which in relation to such proceedings has the same power as a county court.

It is further provided that in any such proceedings before a

county court, the court may adjust and set off the one against the other all such claims on the part either of the employer or of the workman arising out of and incidental to the relation between them as the court may find to be subsisting, whether such claims are liquidated or unliquidated or are for wages, damages, or otherwise.

A number of miners employed by a colliery company absented themselves from work without leave in breach of their contracts of service on April 30th, 1909, in consequence of which the whole work of the colliery was stopped for that day. Subsequently, proceedings were taken against one of these men (and also against others) to recover damages for breach of contract. The case was heard on Thursday, August 19th, 1909, and the magistrate found that the workman had committed a breach of his contract and was liable in damages and he was ordered to pay 5s. 9d. damages and 5s. 6d. costs. The company's solicitor then requested the magistrate to order that the damages and costs should be set off against wages at that time owing to the workman by the company. The solicitor for the workman objected, contending that, as the workman had not made any claim in that court for wages, the magistrate had no jurisdiction to make the order requested. The magistrate, however, held that he had jurisdiction. It was then proved by evidence that a sum of £1 15s. 8d. was due by the company to the workman, and that this sum was payable to him on the following Saturday, August 21st, 1909. It was the practice at the colliery to pay wages fortnightly, on alternative Saturdays, for the work done during the fortnight ending the week before the day of payment, and on the day preceding each pay day a ticket was given to the workman showing the amount he was entitled to draw the next day. On August 19th, when the case was heard, this ticket had not been delivered to the defendant and would not in the ordinary course be so delivered till the next day, August 20th, nor did he know the exact sum due to him for the fortnight's work, and payable to him on the 21st, until that ticket was delivered. The magistrate ordered the 11s. 3d. damages and costs to be set off against this sum of £1 15s. 8d. The workman appealed.

The High Court dismissed the appeal, holding that the sum due for wages was a claim within the meaning of the Act, and the magistrate had ample jurisdiction to set off the 11s. 3d. against the £1 15s. 8d. and had taken the right course in so doing.—*Keates v. Lewis Merthyr Consolidated Collieries, Limited, King's Bench Division, December 14th, 1909.*

(3) Trade Union Acts.

USE OF TRADE UNION FUNDS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES: PAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

By the Trade Union Act, 1876, it is provided that the term "trade union" means any combination for regulating the relations between workmen and masters, or between workmen and workmen, or between masters and masters, or for imposing restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business whether such combination would or would not, if the Trade Union Act, 1871, had not been passed, have been deemed to have been an unlawful combination by reason of some one or more of its purposes being in restraint of trade.

A trade union of railway men was formed and registered under the Acts, the objects of which, according to the rules of the society, were to improve the condition and protect the interests of its members; to endeavour to obtain and maintain reasonable hours of duty and fair rates of wages; to promote a good understanding between employers and employed, the better regulation of their relations and the settlement of disputes between them; to provide various benefits for members and their families; and to use every effort to provide for the safety of railway work and railway travelling. There was also a rule providing for the establishment of a fund for the maintenance of a Parliamentary representative of the society, for which purpose 1s. 6d. was to be paid per year per member to the society. The object of the fund was stated to be to provide for the representation of railway men in the House of Commons, provided that all candidates should sign and accept the conditions of the Labour Party and be subject to their whip. The secretary of a local branch of this union brought an action against the society and its trustees for a declaration that so much of the rules as provided for using the funds of the society for the maintenance of a representative in Parliament bound to vote for a certain party were outside the powers of the society, and for an injunction to restrain the trustees from distributing any of the moneys of the society for any objects other than those mentioned in the Act of 1876 as the objects of a trade union. The judge at the hearing in the Chancery Division gave judgment in favour of the defendants. The plaintiff appealed, and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal making the declaration and granting the injunction claimed. The defendants appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords dismissed the appeal affirming the decision of the Court of Appeal that it was illegal to use the funds of the society for paying members bound to vote in a certain way, and forbidding the trustees of the society from levying subscriptions for this purpose from the plaintiff or from applying the moneys of the society for the purpose objected to. Some of the Lords based their decisions upon the principle that as a trade union has its objects and powers defined by an Act of Parliament, and owes its constitution and its existence entirely to an Act of Parliament, the society cannot apply its funds to any purpose foreign to the purposes for which it was created. Other Lords decided mainly on the broader principle that it is inconsistent with our Parliamentary Constitution and contrary to public policy for a society to compel its members to contribute to the expense of sending a member to Parliament pledged and bound to vote according to the directions of any body or individual.—*The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants v. Osborne, House of Lords, December 21st, 1909.*

(4) Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

DISREGARD OF STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS: LIABILITY OF OWNERS: BURDEN OF PROOF.

Under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts provisions are made for certain precautions to be taken in the firing of shots in mines, and providing that in certain circumstances shots shall only be fired by qualified men appointed for the purpose. The explosives which are permitted to be used are also regulated by Orders made under the Acts by the Home Secretary.

Several miners were killed in a pit by an explosion. The widow of one of these men brought an action on behalf of herself and her children to recover damages against the colliery company, alleging breaches of their statutory duties and negligence, which were the cause of the accident. At the trial it was proved that the shot had been fired by an unqualified man, and that the explosive used was not a permitted explosive. The judge directed the jury that the duty imposed upon the owners was not an absolute one, and that if they had tried to enforce the rules they were not liable for damages for injuries caused to one servant by the negligence of a fellow servant who disregarded the rules. He also told the jury that the burden of proving that the defendants had not observed their statutory duties was upon the plaintiff, and that unless the plaintiff proved that the accident had been caused through the defendants not taking all reasonable means to prevent breaches of the rules they should find for the defendants. Accordingly a verdict and judgment were given for the defendants.

On appeal the Court of Appeal held that the judge had misdirected the jury, and ordered a new trial. [The facts of the case are reported more fully in the LABOUR GAZETTE for April last.]

The Colliery Company appealed to the House of Lords. The House of Lords dismissed the appeal on the ground that there had been misdirection, and therefore there must be a new trial.—*Britannia Merthyr Coal Co. v. David, House of Lords, December 13th, 1909.*

EIGHT HOURS ACT: SIXTY ADDITIONAL HOURS IN YEAR; EXTRA HOUR A WEEK.

By the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908, known as the "Eight Hours Act," it is provided that a workman shall not be below ground in a mine for the purpose of his work for more than eight hours in any consecutive twenty-four hours. It is also provided that this time may be extended as respects any mine on not more than 60 days in any year by not more than one hour in any day.

In a certain coal mine the miners had worked 54 hours a week before this Act came into force. After that time the miners agreed to work below ground for such time as should be authorized by the Act. Under this agreement the employers required the men to work one hour extra on every Friday. This the men refused to do, and proceedings before the magistrate were taken against one of the men so refusing as a test case to determine whether the employers were justified under the Act in requiring the man to work this extra hour. The magistrate decided that the employers were within their rights in requiring the man to work this extra hour, and awarded a small sum against him by way of damages. The workman appealed to the High Court.

The High Court dismissed the appeal, holding that the 60 extra hours were authorized by the Act, and the employers were entitled to require the miners to work those extra hours.—*Insoles, Ltd., v. Robertson, King's Bench Division, December 14th, 1909.*

(5) Miscellaneous.

DOCTRINE OF COMMON EMPLOYMENT: ACCIDENT ON EMPLOYER'S TRAIN RETURNING FROM WORK.

A servant injured in the course of his employment by the negligence of a fellow servant in a common employment with him is not entitled by the Common Law of England to recover damages from his master in respect of such injuries.

A colliery company supplied a train by which their workmen were allowed gratuitously to travel to and from their work. No workman was obliged to use the train, but no one except the company's workmen was allowed to use it. While returning from his work in this train a miner was killed in consequence of the negligence of a workman of the company who was employed in repairing a bridge belonging to the company which passed over the railway. [The facts are stated fully in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February last.] The mother of the deceased brought an action against the company for damages for the loss of her son. At the trial the judge gave judgment in favour of the defendants on the ground that the doctrine of common employment applied as the deceased had been killed in the course of his employment by the negligence of a fellow servant in a common employment with him. On appeal the Court of Appeal upheld this judgment. The plaintiff further appealed to the House of Lords. The House of Lords dismissed the appeal, holding that at the time of the accident the deceased was still in the position of a workman employed by the company, although he had finished his day's work, and that in the circumstances the doctrine of common employment applied.—*Coldrick v. Partridge, Jones & Co., House of Lords, December 13th, 1909.*

DANGEROUS GOODS SENT BY BARGE: INJURY TO PERSONS ON BARGE: LIABILITY OF PERSONS SHIPPING GOODS.

A consignment of casks containing ferro-silicon was sent by a company on a canal by barge. The man in charge of the barge and his wife who accompanied him on the voyage, were made

seriously ill by the poisonous gases given off by the goods. The woman recovered, but the man died from the effects. The woman then brought an action against the company for damages for her own illness and for the loss of her husband. The judge decided on the evidence that the deceased man did not know that the goods were dangerous, and also decided that the shippers were bound in law when delivering packages of a dangerous nature to give notice of the danger; not having given such notice in this case, whether the defendants knew of the danger or not, they were responsible for injury caused by the goods, and the plaintiff was entitled to damages both in respect of her own illness and of her husband's death.—*Bamfield v. Goole and Sheffield Transport Co., Ltd., King's Bench Division, Leeds Assizes, December 14th, 1909.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lbs. of bread on January 1st, 1910, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised 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:—

District.	1st Jan., 1910.			1st Dec., 1909.			1st Jan., 1909.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	6	5½	5'7	6	5½	5'7	5½	5	5'3
E. & N.E. ...	6	5	5'6	6	5	5'6	5½	5	5'3
S.E. ...	5½	5½	5'5	5½	5½	5'5	5½	5	5'4
S.W. ...	6½	5½	5'8	6½	5½	5'8	6	5½	5'6
W. & W.C. ...	6	5½	5'9	6	5½	5'9	6	5½	5'7
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6'1	7	5	6'1	7	5	5'8
Midlands ...	6½	5	5'7	6½	5	5'7	6	5	5'4
Eastern Counties ...	6	5	5'7	6	5	5'7	6	5	5'4
Southern Counties	6½	5	6'1	6½	5	6'1	6½	4½	5'9
S. Western Counties and Wales	6½	5½	6'0	6½	5	6'0	6	5	5'5
Scotland ...	7	5½	6'4	7	5½	6'4	7	5½	6'1
Great Britain ...	7	5	5'9	7	5	5'9	7	4½	5'6

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the predominant prices remains unaltered. Compared with a year ago an increase of ½d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

In the next Table the predominant price is shown for 27 of the principal towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on Jan. 1st, 1910.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	
London ...	d. 5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Oct. '09 - ½
Birmingham ...	5½ & 6	+ ½	+ ½	Dec. '09 + ½
Bolton ...	6	...	...	Sept. '09 - ½
Bristol ...	6 & 6½	...	+ ½	April '09 + ½
Cardiff ...	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Oct. '09 - ½
Derby ...	5½	...	+ ½	Oct. '09 - ½
Hull ...	6	...	+ ½	Sept. '09 - ½
Ipswich ...	6	...	...	Sept. '09 - ½
Leeds ...	7	...	+ 1	April '09 + 1
Liverpool ...	5½	...	+ ½	Sept. '09 - ½
Manchester ...	6	...	+ ½	April '09 + ½
Middlesbrough ...	5½ & 6	+ ½	+ ½	Dec. '09 + ½
Norwich ...	5	...	...	Nov. '09 - ½
Nottingham ...	6	...	+ ½	Mar. '09 + ½
Oldham ...	5½	...	+ 1	Oct. '09 - ½
Plymouth ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09 + ½
Portsmouth ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09 + ½
Potteries ...	5	...	...	Oct. '09 - ½
Southampton ...	5 & 6	...	+ ½	Oct & Nov '09 - ½
Wolverhampton ...	5½	...	+ ½	Sept. '09 - ½
Aberdeen ...	6½	...	+ 1	July '09 + ½
Dundee ...	5½	...	- ½	Oct. '09 - ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	...	Oct. '09 - ½
Glasgow ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09 + ½
Belfast ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09 + ½
Dublin ...	6½	...	+ ½	June '09 + ½

As compared with December 1st, the predominant price of bread has risen ½d. per 4 lbs. in Manchester.

In Birmingham the predominant price is now 5½d. and 6d. per 4 lbs.; a month ago it was 5½d. As compared with a year ago, one town (Dundee) shows a decrease of ½d. per 4 lbs., and in six towns the price is unaltered. In the remaining towns increases have occurred. In London the increase was ½d. per 4 lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September-December, 1909, amounted to 34,721,980 cwts., or 4,738,185 cwts. more than in the corresponding months of 1908. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-December, 1909, amounted to 4,796,879 cwts., or 83,890 cwts. more than in September-December, 1908.

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price. (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households & Mill for cash).
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1908.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
December ...	7 6	8 8½	11 0	11 3½
1909.				
November ...	7 7	8 11½	11 8	11 11
December ...	7 8	8 11½	11 5½	11 11

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Summary for 1909.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

	Year ended December,			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1909 as compared with	
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1908.	1907.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 247,290,596	£ 244,134,089	£ 254,333,628	+ 10,199,539	+ 7,043,032
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	241,248,871	203,455,017	220,153,047	+ 16,698,030	- 21,095,824
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	54,904,292	143,085,597	147,634,111	+ 4,548,514	- 7,220,181
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	2,364,183	2,278,724	2,569,731	+ 290,947	+ 205,548
Total value of Imports	645,807,942	692,953,427	624,740,517	+ 31,787,080	- 21,067,425

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 the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

	Year ended December,			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1909 as compared with	
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1908.	1907.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 22,729,648	£ 21,937,651	£ 23,627,458	+ 1,689,807	+ 897,810
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	55,003,081	54,382,499	50,782,779	- 1,599,720	- 4,220,302
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	342,025,273	296,955,416	297,393,812	+ 348,396	- 44,721,461
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	6,277,081	5,828,258	6,665,395	+ 837,137	+ 388,314
Total value of Exports of British produce.	426,035,083	377,103,824	378,379,444	+ 1,275,620	- 47,655,639

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £91,365,465 during 1909, as compared with £79,623,697 in 1908, and £91,942,084 in 1907.

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

### DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during December, 1909, was 44, consisting of 39 cases of lead poisoning, 2 cases of mercurial poisoning, and 3 cases of anthrax. In addition 20 cases of lead poisoning (4 of which were fatal) were reported during December among house painters and plumbers.

During the twelve months ended December, 1909, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 625, as compared with 727 in 1908. The total number of deaths was 42 in 1909 as compared with 40 in 1908. In addition there were 241 cases of lead poisoning (including 47 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during 1909, as compared with 239 cases (including 44 deaths) during 1908.

#### Analysis by Industries.

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

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.			
	Month ended Dec., 1909.	Year ended Dec., 1908.	Month ended Dec., 1909.	Year ended Dec., 1908.		
<b>Lead Poisoning.</b>						
Smelting of Metals ...	6	66	70	1	5	2
Brass Works ...	—	5	6	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	9	14	1	2	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1	28	27	—	—	—
Printing ...	—	21	30	—	1	2
File Cutting ...	—	8	9	—	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	5	21	10	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	3	32	79	—	2	3
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	2	10	12	—	—	—
China and Earthenware* ...	6	58	117	2	5	12
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	1	2	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	3	7	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	27	25	—	2	1
Paint and Colour Works ...	2	39	25	1	2	—
Coach Making ...	3	95	70	—	6	3
Shipbuilding ...	3	27	15	—	1	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	4	42	47	—	—	1
Other Industries ...	2	57	78	—	2	5
<b>Total in Factories and Workshops</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>
House Painting and Plumbing ...	20	241	239	4	47	44
<b>Other Forms of Poisoning.</b>						
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>						
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	2	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	1	4	5	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	1	4	3	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning—</b>						
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	3	1	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	4	16	—	—	1
Other Industries ...	—	—	7	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Anthrax.</b>						
Wool ...	2	28	18	—	3	3
Handling of Horsehair ...	1	8	11	—	2	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	18	13	—	6	1
Other Industries ...	—	2	5	—	1	2
<b>Total, Anthrax ...</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>

**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 6 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry 3 were Female.

### FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1909, was 252, an increase of 30 as compared with November, 1909, and of 6 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for December during the years 1904-1908 was 254, the maximum year being 1907, with 277 deaths, and the minimum year 1904, with 239 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in December, 1909, was 120, compared with 121 in November, 1909, and 115 in December, 1908. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in December, 1909, was 99, as compared with 75 in the previous month, and 90 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 31, 23, and 39 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in December, 1909, was 302, as compared with 104 in November, 1909, and 76 in December, 1908.

During the twelve months ended December, 1909, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 2,869, as compared with 2,892 in 1908. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 1,152 in 1909, and 1,283 in 1908.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1909, on a	
	Dec., 1909.	Nov., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	1	2	- 1	- 1
Engine Drivers ...	2	2	—	- 1	+ 1
Firemen ...	2	—	2	+ 2	—
Guards (Passenger) ...	1	1	1	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	11	9	3	+ 2	+ 8
Porters ...	5	2	5	+ 3	—
Shunters ...	2	1	4	+ 1	- 2
Miscellaneous ...	9	7	19	+ 2	- 10
Contractors' Servants	—	—	3	—	- 3
<b>Total, Railway Service</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>+ 8</b>	<b>- 8</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground ...	101	108	86	- 7	+ 15
Surface ...	13	9	19	+ 4	- 6
<b>Total, Mines</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>+ 9</b>
Quarries over 20 feet deep ...	6	4	10	+ 2	- 4
<b>Factories and Workshops—</b>					
<b>Textile—</b>					
Cotton ...	1	4	2	- 3	- 1
Wool and Worsted ...	4	2	4	+ 2	—
Other Textiles ...	1	—	2	+ 1	- 1
<b>Non-Textile—</b>					
Extraction of Metals ...	3	5	2	- 2	+ 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	20	6	9	+ 14	+ 11
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	4	3	2	+ 1	+ 2
Ship and Boat Building ...	8	11	10	- 3	- 2
Wood ...	—	—	3	—	- 3
Chemicals ...	3	3	4	—	- 1
Laundries ...	1	—	—	+ 1	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	36	29	33	+ 7	+ 3
<b>Total, Factories &amp; Workshops</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>- 18</b>	<b>+ 10</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, 1903—</b>					
Docks, Wharves and Quays ...	10	7	12	+ 3	- 2
Warehouses ...	2	2	—	—	+ 2
Buildings to which Act applies	6	3	7	+ 3	- 1
<b>Total under Factory Act, 1903—</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>+ 6</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>					
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>+ 30</b>	<b>+ 6</b>
<b>Seamen—</b>					
<b>On Trading Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ...	47	17	11	+ 30	+ 36
Steam ...	233	80	56	+ 153	+ 177
<b>On Fishing Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ...	5	4	3	+ 1	+ 2
Steam ...	17	3	6	+ 14	+ 11
<b>Total, Seamen</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>+ 193</b>	<b>+ 226</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>+ 228</b>	<b>+ 232</b>

### TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Eight disputes began in December, 1909, as compared with 24 in November, 1909, and 11 in December, 1908. By the 8 disputes, 1,569 workpeople were directly, and 353 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 8,522 workpeople involved in trade disputes in December, 1909, as compared with 15,085 in November, 1909, and 17,576 in December, 1908.

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

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining and Quarrying ...	—	716	185	901
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	2	583	18	601
Other Trades ...	2	270	150	420
<b>Total, December, 1909</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>1,922</b>
<b>Total, November, 1909</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>8,858</b>
<b>Total, December, 1908</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>4,618</b>	<b>7,669</b>

questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 1 on a question of Trade Union principle.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in the case of 6 new disputes, directly involving 1,498 persons, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 2,796 persons. Of these 10 new and old disputes, 3, directly involving 2,001 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 3, directly involving 665 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 4, directly involving 1,628 persons, were compromised. In the case of 1 other dispute terminating during the month work was resumed pending further negotiations.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in December of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 43,200 working days. In addition, 88,700 working days were lost during December, owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 131,900 working days, as compared with 188,400 in the previous month, and 165,000 in the corresponding month of 1908.

#### Summary of Disputes in 1909.

See article on p. 3.

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

#### Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began in 1909.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.†
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.†				
<b>Coal Mining—</b>							
Coal Miners ...	Ruabon ...	1,200	—	27 Oct.	34	Dispute as to payment for hard or difficult places	Payment to be made according to price list.
<b>Engineering—</b>							
Engineers ...	Coventry ...	551	—	16 Dec.	3	Objection to foreman, and against discharge of a workman	Foreman dispensed with; discharged workman reinstated.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.  
† The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

### CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

#### Wages.

**Changes taking effect in December.**—The net result of all the changes taking effect in December, 1909, was a decrease of £5 per week, as compared with a decrease of £47 per week in November, 1909, and one of £845 per week in December, 1908. The number of workpeople affected was 333, of whom 205 received advances amounting to £8 per week, and 128 sustained decreases amounting to £13 per week. The number affected in the preceding month was 14,682, and in December, 1908, 23,852.

The changes were arranged directly between workpeople and employers, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

#### Hours.

Two changes in hours of labour were reported as taking effect in December, 1909, viz., an aggregate increase of 2,138 hours per week in the hours of labour of 1,069 engineers, &c., at Coventry, and a decrease of 59 hours per week affecting 48 plasterers at Leicester.

#### Summary of Changes in 1909.

See article on p. 3.

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the February GAZETTE of the following important changes in wages which have been arranged to take effect in January:—

**Coal Mining.**—Decrease of £1 per cent. in the wages of miners in Durham.  
**Pig Iron Manufacture.**—Increases of 4½ per cent. in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland, of 1½ per cent. in Cleveland, and a decrease of 7½ per cent. in South Wales and Monmouthshire.  
**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Decrease of 7½ per cent. in the wages of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and an increase of 2½ per cent. in those of steel millmen in Scotland.

### TRADE UNIONS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1908.

THE September issue of the *Bulletin* of the Department of Labour of the State of New York contains statistics of trade unions in the United States in 1908. These figures are published subject to qualifications arising out of the fact that, for most of the general (as distinguished from the local) organisations, the membership cannot be given for the United States and Canada separately, and also that no figures are available for several organisations. It is estimated that in 1908 the aggregate membership of trade unions in the States

was about 2,500,000. Of this total 1,586,885, belonged to unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labour. This last figure is based upon the average number of members paying a *per capita* contribution to the Federation. In the previous year the membership of the Federation was 1,538,970, but most of the increase in 1908 was due to the re-admission of a union having a membership of about 40,000. Apart from these the increase in membership in 1908 was relatively small.

Of the unions not affiliated to the American Federation of Labour the most important are the organisations of railway servants (277,693 members) and the bricklayers and masons (68,000 members).





During the month registration was resumed at Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Scarborough, Wigan, Kilmarnock, and Paisley.

The total number who received employment-relief was 16,106, of whom 7,170 were in London and "Outer London," 5,494 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 2,287 in Scotland, and 1,155 in Ireland. The average number of days employment-relief provided was 110 per man employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 35s. 10d. per man, or 3s. 3d. per day.

**WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER, 1909.**

DURING December, 546 fresh applications (318 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 9 Bureaux\* furnishing Returns, and 496 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 187 persons, of whom 123 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 187 situations found for applicants, 126 were of a more or less permanent character, while 61 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was greatly in excess of the supply; the supply of housemaids, lady's maids, and companions was in excess of the demand.

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

	Applications by Work-people during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Perma- nently.		Tem- porarily.	
	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1909.	Dec., 1908.
<b>Summary by Bureaux.</b>								
Central Bureau:—								
9, Southampton Street, High Holborn.	114	101	71	63	28	22	5	6
Dublin:								
30, Molesworth Street ...	20	41	12	32	3	4	2	2
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Watford, Leeds and Glasgow) ...	111	104	90	65	39	28	10	9
Y.W.C.A.:—								
26, George Street, (1) ...	243	305	302	280	51	39	32	24
Hanover Sq., W. (2) ...	58	93	21	24	5	10	12	5
+Co-operating Agencies:—								
London ...	20	...	36	...	7	...	1	...
Provinces ...	114	...	173	...	35	...	19	...
Total of 9 Bureaux*	546	619	495	465	126	103	61	46
<b>Summary by Occupations.</b>								
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	47	48	17	23	8	7	1	1
Shop Assistants ...	4	31	1	1	...	1	3	8
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	29	43	16	18	3	6	8	8
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	72	80	22	17	8	6	8	4
Apprentices and Learners	15	3	12	10	12	3	...	...
Domestic Servants ...	318	396	390	357	84	66	39	32
Miscellaneous ...	61	48	38	39	11	14	2	1
Total of 9 Bureaux*	516	649	495	465	126	103	61	46

In addition to the above registered applications, the Returns show that 21 persons in London and 12 in the provinces were referred to other Agencies; 163 persons in London and 59 in the provinces were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

**HOME OFFICE ORDER.**

**Particulars of Work and Wages: Shipbuilding Yards.**—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that in every textile factory the occupier shall, for the purpose of enabling each worker who is paid by the piece to compute the total amount of wages payable to him in respect of his work, cause to be published in the manner prescribed particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work to be done, and also particulars of the work to which that rate is to be applied. On being satisfied by the report of an Inspector that these provisions are applicable to any class of non-textile factories, or to any class of workshops, the Home Secretary may, if he thinks fit, by Special Order apply the provisions to any such class, subject to such modifications as are necessary, in his opinion, for adapting them to the circumstances of the case. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order,† dated December 30th, 1909, and to come into

\* Excluding Bureaux for which information is not available for a year ago. † Figures not included in totals, information not being available for a year ago.

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1909, No. 1499. Wyman & Sons. Price 1d.

operation February 1st, 1910, applying the provisions to shipbuilding yards, so far as concerns the work of platers, riveters, and caulkers. By this Order the occupier or contractor must furnish to every such worker who is paid by the piece, written particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work done by him at or before the time of his first employment on that work, and on every subsequent occasion when the rates are fixed or altered; or else he must exhibit such particulars on a placard, so affixed as to be easily read, containing no other matter and not using symbols. If the rates are not ascertainable before the work is given out the particulars must be furnished in writing to the worker when the work is done. When the work is completed, such particulars as affect the amount of wages payable to each worker are to be furnished to him in writing. Where the work is done in common by a gang the particulars may be furnished to the member of the gang to whom the wages of the gang are paid. Provisions are also made for enforcing the requirements of the Order, and for preventing the divulging of any trade secret.

**RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.**

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended January 1st, 1910, amounted to £5,294,386, an increase of £292,206 (or 5.5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

During the fifty-two weeks ended January 1st, 1910, the receipts amounted to £55,041,872 an increase of £113,142 (or 0.2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1908.

	5 weeks ended Jan. 1st, 1910.		52 weeks ended Jan. 1st, 1910.	
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1908.	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1908.
<b>English Lines:—</b>				
L. & N. W., Midland, N. London, and N. Staffs.	1,651,208	+ 88,530	17,308,098	- 128,322
Gt. Northern, Gt. Central, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	858,270	+ 57,954	8,774,313	- 53,074
Lancs. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	1,015,325	+ 60,817	10,252,397	+ 181,962
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	769,400	+ 35,900	8,423,900	+ 27,200
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	184,828	+ 6,600	1,936,943	+ 20,293
<b>Scottish Lines:—</b>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	664,153	+ 34,627	6,723,719	+ 31,273
<b>Irish Lines:—</b>				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	151,201	+ 7,698	1,602,512	+ 38,805
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,294,386</b>	<b>+292,206</b>	<b>55,041,872</b>	<b>+ 113,142</b>

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901. Appointment of Certifying Surgeons during December, 1902.**

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.
Ballina ...	F. Keane, Knox's Street, Ballina	9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays.
Barnet ...	W. Thyne, Tudor House, High Street, High Barnet	53, Wood Street, Barnet, 9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays.
Clonalkin ...	A. P. MacMahon, The Dispensary, Clonalkin	The Dispensary, Clonalkin, 10 a.m.—12 noon, on Mondays & Thursdays.
Dunoon ...	C. W. Bell, Ardenmhor, Sandbank, Dunoon	9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays.
Goole ...	A. M. Erskine, 92, Boothferry Road, Goole	9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays.
Harpending ...	F. W. Cheese, The Elms, Harpenden	9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays.
Holywell ...	H. W. S. Williams, Castle Hill, Holywell	9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays.
Llanrwst ...	A. T. Hill, Bryn Conway, Llanrwst	9-10 a.m. on weekdays.
Rugeley ...	R. Freer, Glan Camlas, Rugeley, Staffs.	9-10 a.m. on weekdays.
Sutton Bridge ...	G. F. Collins, Sudeley House, Sutton Bridge	9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated the place of examination is at residence.

**Passengers to and from Places out of Europe.**—33,939 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, and 18,147 arrived from places out of Europe in November, 1909; the corresponding figures for November, 1908, were 23,432 and 20,407 respectively. There was an inward balance from British North America in November, 1909, of 300 as compared with 5,009 in November, 1908. The outward balance to the United States was 8,763 in November, 1909, as compared with 1,560 in November, 1908.

**PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.**

**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.)

*United Kingdom. Trade, Commerce, and Condition of People.* Return for each of the years 1831, 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1907, and 1908. 29 heads of information. Board of Trade. [H.C. 329: pp. 3: price 3d.]

*Seventy-first Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England and Wales, 1908.* [Cd. 4961: pp. cxxxv. + 528: price 3s. 5d.]

*Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1908-09.* Part II. (a) County Council Administration, (b) Public Health and Local Administration, (c) Local Taxation and Valuation. [Cd. 4928: pp. cxvi. + 272: price 1s. 7d.]

*Pauperism (England and Wales). Half-yearly Statement.* Showing the number of Paupers relieved on 1st July, 1909. Local Government Board. [H.C. 234 - i.: pp. xi. + 22: price 4d.]

*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, 1909. [Cd. 4946: pp. 21: price 2d.]

*Municipal Trading (United Kingdom). Return.* Showing the financial results and other particulars relating to Reproductive Municipal undertakings. Part III. Particulars furnished by the Corporations of Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Wolverhampton, Norwich, West Ham, East Ham, Croydon, and Brighton. Home Office. [H.C. 171-ii.: pp. x. + 197: price 1s. 8d.]

*Public Works, Ireland. Seventy-seventh Annual Report of the Commissioners, for year ending March 31st, 1909.* Action under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908, Labourers' Acts, Acquisition of Small Dwellings Acts, &c. [Cd. 4941: pp. 119: price 1s. 2d.]

*Royal Commission on the Canals and Inland Navigations of the United Kingdom.* Vol. VII. Fourth and Final Report. England, Wales and Scotland. [Cd. 4979: pp. xiv. + 266: price 2s. 11d.]

**BRITISH COLONIES.**

*Canada. Report of the Department of Labour for the Fiscal Year ended March 31st, 1909.* Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act from March 22nd, 1907, to March 31st, 1909; strikes and lock-outs and industrial accidents in Canada in 1908, &c. [Ottawa: C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer: pp. 355.]

*The Labour Gazette, November, 1909.* Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during October; the People's Bank in Quebec; rates of wages of farm labour, railway construction labour and unskilled labour in Canada, 1909.

*New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, November, 1909.* Condition of trade and employment as at October 30th, 1909, accidents in factories reported, persons assisted to employment, &c.

*Inspection of Coal Mines Report for the year ended December 31st, 1908.* Output, persons employed, accidents, mining operations, &c. [pp. 41.]

*Friendly Societies, Trade Unions, and Unclassified Societies.* 32nd. Annual Report by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending December 31st, 1908. [pp. 39.]

*Accident Insurance Branch of the Government Insurance Department.* Report for the year ended December 31st, 1908. [pp. 2.]

[All the above New Zealand reports are printed by John Mackay, Government Printer, Wellington.]

*Queensland. Twenty-fourth Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, Building Societies and Trade Unions.* List of Societies, &c., to September 30th, 1909, and Financial and Numerical Statements for the year 1908. [Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, Government Printer: pp. 37.]

**FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

**United States.**

*Department of Commerce and Labour. Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour, No. 83, July, 1909.* The women's trade union movement in Great Britain, by Katherine Graves Busbey; decisions of Courts affecting labour, &c.

*Massachusetts. 39th Annual Report on the Statistics of Labour for the year 1908.* Strikes and lock-outs, labour organisations, changes in rates of wages and hours of labour. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. xii. + 319.]

*Illinois. 27th Annual Coal Report of the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1908.* Persons employed, output, accidents, days of active operation in mines, prices paid for mining, earnings of miners, &c. [Springfield: Illinois State Journal Co., State Printers: pp. xiv. + 443.]

*Labour Laws of the State of California.* Bureau of Labour Statistics. [Sacramento: W. W. Shannon: pp. 76.]

**General.**

*Journal of the International Labour Office, Nos. 9 and 10, 1909.* Labour legislation in various countries. [Jena: Verlag von Gustav Fischer.]

**France.**

*Journal of the French Labour Department, November, 1909.* Employment and labour disputes in October, labour disputes in 1908, factory inspection in 1908. [Paris: Berger-Levrault & Cie: price 2d.]

*Inquiry relating to Home-Work in the Underclothing Trades.* Volume III. Departments of Seine-Inférieure, Oise, Aisne, Somme, Pas-de-Calais, Nord, Meuse, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Vosges, 1909. [Paris: pp. 664.]

*Journal of the French Ministry of Agriculture, November, 1909.* Price of wheat in French towns, and bread in Paris in October. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: price 6d.]

*Report for 1908 of the Municipal Provisioning Services of Paris.* Prices of various articles of food, &c. Department of the Prefecture of the Seine (Provisioning Office). [Paris: pp. 188.]

**Germany.**

*Census of Occupations of June 12th, 1907.* (1) Section I, Part 2. Secondary occupations. (2) Section 3: Principal and secondary occupations of Prussia and its districts. Imperial Statistical Office, (Berlin, Verlag von Puttkammer and Mühlbrecht: (1) pp. 123: (2) pp. iv. + 834: price 6s.)

*Workpeople's Insurance against Sickness in Berlin in 1908.* Municipal Statistical Office, 1909. [Berlin: Kommissionsverlag von W. & S. Loewenthal: pp. 32.]

*Quarterly Statistical Journal of the German Empire, Part IV., 1909.* Wholesale and retail prices; labour disputes in third quarter of 1909; women, young persons and children in factories in 1908. Imperial Statistical Office. (Berlin: Puttkammer and Mühlbrecht: price 2s.)

*Statistical Yearbook of Bavaria, 1909.* Occupations and undertakings in Bavaria according to census of June 12th, 1907; factory inspection, trade unions, wages of miners, iron and steel workers, and salt workers; labour disputes, prices, savings banks, &c. Statistical Office of Bavaria. [Munich: J. Lindauer'sche Buchhandlung (Schöpping): pp. xvi. + 418 + charts: price 1s. 6d.]

*Second Annual Report of the Federation of Labour Registries of Central Germany, 1908-9.* Municipal Statistical Office of Frankfurt-on-the-Main. [Frankfurt: pp. xviii. + 25.]

*Statistical Journal of Wurttemberg, 1909* (13 parts). Prices of cereals and meat in 1908; price of milk, &c. [Stuttgart: pp. 274.]

**Austria-Hungary.**

*Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, October, 1909.* Labour disputes in September and third quarter of 1909; labour exchanges in September, November, 1909;—Factory inspection in 1908; "Christian" trade unions in 1908; labour disputes in October; labour exchanges in October. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d. each.]

*Authorised Overtime in Austrian Factories, &c., in 1908.* [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. 26.]

*Statistical Journal of Hungary, November, 1909.* Orders relating to accident compensation under the law of 1907. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

**Italy.**

*Journal of the Italian Labour Department, November, 1909.* Labour disputes in October and in third quarter of 1909; prices of articles of food, &c., in October. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

*The Italian Mining Industry. Part 2. The Labour Contract.* Italian Labour Department, 1909. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. iv. + 132: price 1s. 7d.]

*Journal of the Italian Emigration Department, Nos. 14, 15 and 16, 1909.* No. 14 contains statistics of Italian emigration in 1908 and first half of 1909. [Rome: Libreria Bocca: price 3d. each.]

**Belgium.**

*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, November 30th, 1909.* Labour disputes in October, Norwegian factory law of September 10th, 1909, December 15th, 1909;—Employment in November. [Brussels: F. van Buggenhoudt: price 1d.]

*Report on the Work of the Municipal Labour Exchange of Ghent in 1908.* [Ghent: pp. 30.]

*Almanac of Belgian Co-operators, 1910.* [Brussels: Louis Bertrand, 17, rue James Watt: pp. 64: price 1½d.]

**Holland.**

*Statistical Yearbook of Holland, 1908.* Statistics of trade unions, wages and hours of state workpeople, disputes, factory inspection, prices of articles of food, &c. Dutch Central Statistical Office. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. xxxii. + 312: price 2s. 1d.]

*Monthly and other Periodical Statistics of Holland, No. 22.* First months of 1909. Savings banks; wholesale prices, &c. Dutch Central Statistical Office. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. x. + 76: price 6d.]

*Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, November, 1909.* Employment and labour disputes in October. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

**Switzerland.**

*Home Industries in Switzerland.* Extract from the Report on the Industrial Census of August 9th, 1905. Ministry of Interior (Statistical Department). [Berne: Kommissionsverlag A Francke: pp. xii. + 50: price 9½d.]

*Annual Reports of the Swiss Workmen's Federation and Secretariate, 1906 to 1908; also Proceedings of the Central Committee.* [Geneva: pp. 112.] Ditto. German Text. [Zürich: Kommissionsverlag der Buchhandlung des Schweiz. Gruttlvereins: pp. 94.]

**Denmark.**

*Statistical Yearbook of Denmark, 1909.* Wages and hours and occupations (industrial census of 1906); insurance against accidents; sick funds; trade unions; Copenhagen labour registry;

labour disputes; unemployment in trade unions; co-operative societies for distribution; savings banks, &c. Danish Statistical Office. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag: pp. xviii. + 210.]

#### Norway.

Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, October, 1909. Unemployment in October. [Christiania.]

#### Sweden.

Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 10 and 11, 1909. Wages of bakers and price of bread in Stockholm; work of labour exchanges in August and September; labour disputes in second quarter of 1909. [Stockholm: price 4d.]  
Population Statistics for 1907. [Stockholm, 1909: pp. xlv. + 66.]

#### Russia.

Journal of the Finnish Labour Department, No. 5, 1909. Employment, wages, &c., in May, 1909; labour disputes in 1908; text of new Norwegian laws on labour in factories and insurance against sickness; work of labour registries in third quarter of 1909. [Helsingfors: Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri: price 2½d.]

#### Spain.

(1) Social Congresses in 1908. (2) Legal Decisions as to Industrial Accidents. Spanish Labour Department, 1909. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez, Libreria, calle de Preciados, 48: pp. 173 and xvii. + 539: price 9½d. each.]

#### Bulgaria.

Journal of the Bulgarian Statistical Department. Prices of articles of food, &c., and wages of bricklayers and masons in September. [Sofia: price 2½d.]

#### CONSULAR REPORTS.

(The Consular Reports may be obtained from Wymann & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 4382. Trade of the Consular District of Yokohama, 1908. Wages and cost of living, &c. [Cd. 4446-206: pp. 39: price 2½d.]

#### INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

##### REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING DECEMBER.

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

##### (1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in December was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 21; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 72 (including 35 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 98.

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

**Trade Unions.**—England.—2, viz., United Kingdom Operative Tobaccoists' Society, Victoria Hotel, John's Lane, Liverpool; North Wales Mining Officials' Assoc., 39, High Street, Wrexham, Denbigh. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—Nil.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—England and Wales.—10, viz., Working Men's Clubs: (3) Cockton Hill (Bishop Auckland) Workmen's Club and Inst., Ltd., 1, Seymour Street, Bishop Auckland, co. Durham; Jarrold Excelsior Workmen's Club and Inst., Ltd., 2 and 4, Grey Street, Jarrold, co. Durham; Gough Constitutional Working Men's Club, Ltd., Constitutional Club Buildings, Ystradgynlais, S.O., Breconshire. Small Holdings: (3) Sleaps Hyde Small Holdings Soc., Ltd., 19, Watson's Walk, St. Albans, Herts.; Victoria Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Victoria Cottage, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks; Okeford Small Holdings, Ltd., Mrs. Robert Young, Okeford Fitzpaine, Blandford, Dorset. Agricultural Distributive: (2) Cockermouth Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Barkhouse, Cockermouth, Cumb.; Marton and District Growers' Assoc., Ltd., Mr. W. Dugdale, School Lane, Marton, Lancs. Miscellaneous: (2) Scotland 3, viz., Agricultural Productive: (1) Kilmaurs Dairy Assoc., Ltd., Kilmaurs, Ayr. Miscellaneous: (2) Ireland 8, viz., Agricultural Productive: (2) Glenmore Co-op. Threshing Soc., Ltd., Glenmore, Kilkenny; Bennetsbridge Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Bennetsbridge, Kilkenny. Agricultural Distributive: (5) Crossmaglen Markets Soc., Ltd., Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh; Valentia Island Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Valentia Island, Co. Kerry; Waterville Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Waterville, Co. Kerry; Caherdaniel Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry; Blackwater Co-op. Pig and Cattle Suppliers' Soc., Ltd., Blackwater, Co. Wexford. Miscellaneous: (1).

**Friendly Societies.**—England and Wales.—31, viz., Erith Working Men's Club and Inst., Erith, Kent; Bow Working Men's Club and Inst., 86, Bow Road, E.; Sherwood Working Men's Unionist Club and Inst., Sherwood, Nottingham; South Norwood and Woodside Social Working Men's Club and Inst., South Norwood, S.E.; Coventry West End Working Men's Club and Inst., Coventry; Birmingham Amalgamated Musicians' Union Working Men's Club and

Inst., Birmingham; Lidget Green Working Men's Club and Inst., Lidget Green, Bradford; Drayton Parslow Credit Soc., Drayton Parslow, Bletchley; Whitehaven Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Whitehaven; Chesterfield Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Chesterfield; Rishton Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Rishton, Blackburn; Accrington Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Accrington; Earlestown Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Earlestown, Newton-le-Willows; Toxteth Park (Liverpool) Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Toxteth Park, Liverpool; Edge Hill (Liverpool) Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Edge Hill, Liverpool; Gedney Dyke and Dist. Credit Soc., Gedney Dyke, Holbeach, Lincs.; Norfolk Loan and Investment Soc., Shoreditch, N.E.; Stiffkey Credit Soc., Stiffkey, Wells-next-Sea; East Glamorgan Mutual Investment and Loan Soc., Pontypridd; Cadoxton and Dist. Credit Soc., Cadoxton, Barry, Glam.; Hengoed Maesywmmmer and Ystrad Mynach Permanent Investment and Loan Soc., Hengoed, Cardiff; Loyal Ouse Juvenile Soc. Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Soc., King's Lynn; Bilston Dist. Juvenile Provident Soc., Wolverhampton; Sparling Friendly Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Crown Inn Provident Sick and Dividend Soc., Heath Town, Wolverhampton; Yenton Sick and Dividend Soc., Erdington, Birmingham; Sunderland Dist. Soc. of Past Grands of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity Friendly Soc., Sunderland; Ramsgate Fishermen's Accident Fund, Ramsgate; Vine Friendly Soc., Clitheroe; Société Alsacienne Lorraine, 111, Wardour Street, W.; Hartshead Ancient Shepherds' Hive of Refuge Sick and Funeral Soc., Hartshead, Liversedge, Yorks. Scotland.—1, viz., United National Friendly Assurance Collecting Soc., Glasgow. Ireland.—3, viz., Belfast Paviers' Local Provident Fund, Belfast; Cuttenswood Loan and Investment Soc., Ranelagh; Rahan Credit Soc., Rahan.

#### (2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Class of Society.	Notices received in Dec., of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions ... ..	2	...	...
Industrial and Provident Societies ... ..	...	100	...
Friendly Societies... ..	...	21	1
Building " " " " " "	...	47	...
	1	5	...

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

##### LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, DECEMBER, 1909.

##### ADMIRALTY CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.

**AIR AND WATER BEDS.**—Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Manor Mills, Salford Street, Aston. J. G. Ingram & Son., Hackney Wick, N.E. P. B. Cow & Co., 46 & 47, Cheapside, E.C. North British Rubber Co., Ltd., 2, 4 & 6, East Rd., City Rd., N. BRONZE BARS—Delta Metal Co., New Cross, S.E. BROWN COTTON DRAWERS—George Braund, 10, Woodgate, Loughborough, Leicestershire. I. & R. Morley, 18, Wood Street, E.C. Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Trinity Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire. Simpkin, Son & Smith, Hinckley. BROWN CANVAS SHOES—R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds. W. Nichols & Son, Kettering. Owen Smith, Raunds. BOOTS & SHOES—Adams Bros., Raunds. St. Crispin Prod. Society, Ltd., Raunds. R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds. J. Horrell & Son, Raunds. W. Nichols & Son, Regent Street, Kettering. Wilking & Denton, Ltd., 24, London Wall, E.C. Finedon Co-operative Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Obelisk Hill, Finedon. Owen Smith, Raunds. C. E. Nichols, Raunds. BOAT DISENGAGING GEAR—H. E. C. Robinson & Co., Ltd., West India Terrace, Chiswick. CANVAS SAILCLOTH—Richards, Ltd., Broadford Works, Aberdeen. Baxter Bros. & Co. Ltd., Dundee. F. Webster & Sons, Arbroath. The Boase Spinning Co. Ltd., Dundee. The Port Glasgow & Newark Sailcloth Co., Port Glasgow. CARTS, CARRIAGES, &c.—C. Roberts & Co., Ltd., Horbury Junction, Wakefield. J. H. Kelly, Van Street, Parkhead, Glasgow. G. E. Lambert, Skinner Street, Gillingham. Mumford & Sons, Belgrave Lane, Plymouth. W. Mumford, 64 & 66, Ebrington Street, Plymouth. R. Y. Pickering & Co., Ltd., Wishaw, N.B.

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