

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

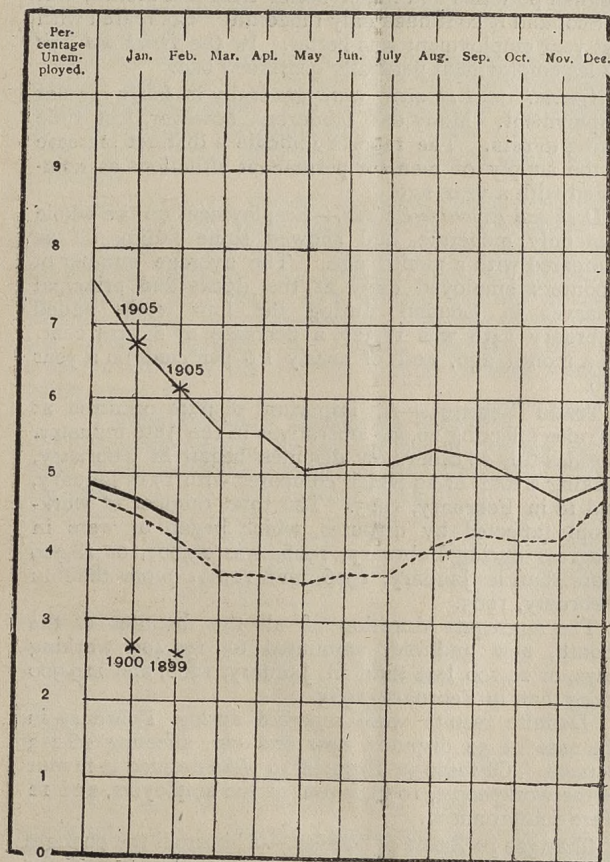


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

x The crosses indicate the maxima and minima percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 8,410 returns, viz.: 4,076 from Employers and their Associations; 3,869 from Trade Unions; 423 from Local Correspondents; and 42 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in February continued to improve generally. In the textile, engineering and iron and steel trades it was very good. Shipbuilding improved, and the building trades showed a slight seasonal improvement in certain branches, but on the whole remained dull. The changes in rates of wages reported continued to show a rise, especially in the mining and metal trades.

As compared with a year ago, nearly all the principal industries showed some improvement, with the exception of the building trades, in which employment was much the same as in February last year.

In the 271 Trade Unions with a net membership of

586,956 making returns, 26,064 (or 4·4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, 1906, as compared with 4·7 per cent. at the end of January, 1906, and 6·2 per cent. at the end of February, 1905.

*Building.*—Employment in this industry remained dull, but there was a slight seasonal improvement in certain branches, as compared with a month ago. It showed little change as compared with a year ago.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in this industry continued good, and was better than a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits per week during the four weeks ended February 24th, 1906, was 5·54, compared with 5·33 in February, 1905. The number of days worked was greater last month than in any February since 1900.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago. At the mines and open works covered by the Returns received from employers, the average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 24th was 5·86, as compared with 5·90 a year ago.

*Pig Iron Industry.*—Employment in this industry during February continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to 108 ironmasters showed that they had 337 furnaces, employing about 24,200 workpeople, in blast at the end of February, being one less than in January, and 25 more than in February, 1905.

*Iron and Steel Works.*—Employment in this industry continued good, and was slightly better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago, the number employed at 197 works from which Returns have been received having increased by 8·3 per cent. The volume of employment at these works in the week ended February 24th, 1906, was 0·2 per cent. greater than during the week ended January 27th last, and 10·1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

*Tinplate Manufacture.*—Employment during February showed a slight decline, but was very good and better than a year ago. At the end of February 412 mills were working, compared with 419 in January, 1906, and 405 at the end of February, 1905.

*Engineering Trades.*—Employment generally remained good, showing a slight improvement on the previous month. It was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 3·0, as compared with 3·2 per cent. at the end of January, 1906, and 6·4 per cent. in February, 1905.

*Shipbuilding Trades.*—Employment, on the whole, continued to improve. It was considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 6·9, as compared with 7·9 per cent. at the end of January, and 11·5 per cent. a year ago.

*Cotton Trade.*—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 132,375 workpeople in the last week in February showed an increase of 1·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and

of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. The real improvement in employment is greater than is indicated by these figures, which do not include the mills and weaving sheds recently started.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 31,170 workpeople in the last week in February showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in January, and of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment was fair and decidedly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 52,932 workpeople during the last week in February showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in January, and of 6.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax (Linen) Trade.**—Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago, especially in the weaving departments. It was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,597 workpeople during the last week in February showed increases of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in January and of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment in this industry was reported as being good, before the commencement of the dispute at Dundee, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,150 workpeople in the last full week in February showed increases of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the last full week in January, and of 5.7 per cent. compared with February, 1905.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 11,135 workpeople in the last week in February showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago, in the number of spinning and throwing spindles at work; the number of looms working showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment was fairly good in England, good in Scotland, and generally better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. Firms employing 18,224 workpeople in the last week in February showed an increase of 4.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 10.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hat Trades.**—Employment on the whole was quiet; in the *Silk Hat* branch it was worse than a year ago; in the *Felt Hat* branch it showed little change. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed in February in the *Silk Hat* trade was 13.5, compared with 14.4 in January, and 12.7 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 5.4, 7.5, and 3.6.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment continued to improve in most districts, and is now fairly good on the whole, and better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 64,069 workpeople showed, as compared with a month ago, an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the numbers employed, and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 3.7 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 5.7 per cent.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment during February continued quiet on the whole. Compared with a year ago it was considerably better. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,600 had 5.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5.7 per cent. in January, and 9.3 per cent. in February, 1905.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch was better than a month ago, but dull generally, and slightly worse than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Papermaking Trade.**—Employment was good on the whole, and better than a year ago. In the *hand-made* trade it was also better than a month ago.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment was quiet in these trades. In the printing trades there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but no general change compared with a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 4.7, against 5.1 in January and 4.7 in February, 1905. In the bookbinding trades employment was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. The percentages of unemployed Trade Union members were 4.6 for February, 1906; 4.1 for January, 1906; and 5.3 for February, 1905.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in these trades continued slack, but was better than a month and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 6.5, as compared with 7.3 at the end of January, 1906, and 8.2 at the end of February, 1905.

**Glass, Pottery, and Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment in the *Glass* trades continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. In the *Pottery* trades it was fair in the English potteries and much better than last month, but in Scotland it continued only moderate. Compared with last year employment was better. In the *Brick and Tile* trades employment generally continued bad.

**Agricultural Labourers** were generally in fairly regular employment. Many day labourers, however, lost time owing to rain. The reports indicate a distinct increase in the supply of men for permanent situations as compared with a year ago.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment on the whole was only moderate, and showed some falling off as compared with a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended February 24th was 11,327, a decrease of 8.2 per cent. on a month ago, and of nearly 1.0 per cent. on a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—An important dispute occurred at Dundee affecting 20,000 operatives in the *Jute* industry. Besides this 28 other new disputes began in February, making a total of 29 which compares with 17 in January, and 18 in February, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes, which began or were in progress during February, 1906, was 29,867, or 18,909 more than in January, 1906, and 22,691 more than in February, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 193,400 working days, or 20,200 less than in January, 1906, and 119,900 more than in February, 1905.

Definite results were reported during February in the case of 32 disputes, new and old, affecting 26,213 persons. Of these 32 disputes, 10 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 12 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Almost all the changes in wages reported in February were increases, and the number of persons affected was nearly 131,000. The net effect of the changes was an increase of £2,150 a week, 130,000 workpeople having received advances amounting to £2,230, and only about 1,000 having sustained decreases amounting to £80. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 120,000 workpeople, the net result being an increase of £3,570 per week. During February, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was nearly 10,800, and the net result a decrease of £260 per week.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting 110,000 coal miners in Durham, 3,900 workpeople engaged in steel manufacture in Great Britain, and 11,500 workpeople employed in engineering on the North-East Coast.

Five changes, affecting 112,900 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards or mediation; two changes, affecting 3,500 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining changes, affecting 14,600 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In two cases, affecting 500 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

## RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN FEBRUARY.

ACCORDING to the returns received from the Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, and from the Local Correspondents of the Department, the amount of distress due to unemployment in February was less than in the previous month, and much less than a year ago.

The total number of workpeople who, since the opening of the registers up to the end of February, had made application to 37 Distress Committees in London and neighbourhood, and to 88 Committees in the rest of the United Kingdom, was 106,312, of whom 48,119 were in London and neighbourhood, 50,094 in the rest of England and Wales, 7,072 in Scotland, and 1,027 in Ireland. The number of cases that had been investigated was 79,705, and the results are known in the case of 75,145, of whom 12,729 were found to be ineligible or not suitable for assistance under the Act.

The classes of workpeople most generally affected by distress were those connected with the building trades and general labourers. The returns show the occupations of over 80,000 of the applicants. Of these about 30 per cent. were reported as skilled, and about 70 per cent. as labourers.

Altogether 24,903 persons received employment-relief during February, their total earnings amounting to £41,292, or an average of about 33s. 2d. per head for the month. In January the total earnings were £28,524, or 28s. 9d. per head. The average number of days worked during February was 9.5. In February 1905, the returns showed that 40,081 persons received employment-relief, the average number of days worked being about 10.

### Gross Number of Unemployed Registered.\*

The figures relating to the number of persons registered in the different districts of the United Kingdom are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Distress Committees.	Number of Applicants Registered up to end of February.	District.	No. of Distress Committees.	Number of Applicants Registered up to end of February.
London	28	34,591	S.E. Counties	7	3,945
Outer London	9	13,328	S. & S.W. Counties	7	8,227
N. Counties	6	2,575	Wales & Mon.	4	2,107
Yorkshire	11	10,855	Scotland	8	7,072
Lancs & Cheshire	21	11,837	Ireland	3	1,027
Mid. Counties	18	8,296			
E. Counties	3	2,252	Total	125	106,312

**London and Neighbourhood.**—The total number of applicants to 37 Distress Committees registered up to the end of February was 48,119. Of the 34,591 applicants in the county of London, 12,772 were in South London, 8,898 in East London and 6,769 in Western Boroughs. Of the 13,328 applicants in outer London, 4,497 were in West Ham, 1,593 in Edmonton, 1,535 in Tottenham, and 1,502 in East Ham.

**Rest of the United Kingdom.**—Of the 50,094 unemployed registered up to the end of February in the rest of England and Wales, 2,575 were resident in the Northern Counties, including 840 at Sunderland, 570 at Newcastle and 479 at Tynemouth. In Yorkshire the figures include 3,144 at Leeds, 2,193 at Sheffield, 1,867 at Bradford, 1,111 at York, and 1,029 at Hull. In Lancashire and Cheshire there were registered 2,681 at Liverpool, 1,915 at Manchester, 1,379 at Salford, 1,042 at Bolton, and 959 at Stockport. In the Midland Counties the figures include 1,959 at Birmingham, 1,525 at Leicester, 746 at Northampton, 705 at Nottingham, 615 at Derby, and 512 at Burton. In Norwich 1,546 were registered, and in Yarmouth 533. In the South-Eastern and Southern and South-Western Counties the figures include 2,717

\* It should be understood that these figures relate to the total number of persons registered since the opening of the distress registers, and some of these are known to have obtained work since the date of their application, in addition to those who have received employment-relief. As in many cases, however, no effective provision has been made for recording the names of those who may have obtained work, the exact numbers to be deducted on that account cannot be stated.

at Bristol, 2,042 at Brighton, 1,822 at Portsmouth, 1,207 at Southampton, and 1,021 at Plymouth. At Cardiff 991 were registered, and in Swansea 658. In Scotland the applicants numbered 2,301 at Edinburgh, 2,291 at Glasgow, and 921 at Aberdeen. The Irish figures include 928 at Belfast.

### Employment-Relief in February.

The extent of the employment-relief given in the different districts is summarised in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Boroughs or Urban Districts.	Total No. of Men given Employment-Relief in February.	Total Amount of Wages earned in February by those given Employment-Relief.	Average Amount earned per head in February.
London Central Body	—	2,170	£ 7,012 <sup>2</sup>	£ s. d. 3 4 8 <sup>2</sup>
London Boroughs	15	1,955	5,080	2 12 0
Outer London	9	3,997	5,249	1 6 3
Northern Counties	4	1,340	1,662	1 4 10
Yorkshire	7	1,816	3,384	1 17 3
Lancashire and Cheshire	16	2,617	3,960	1 10 3
Midland Counties	13	2,435	2,966	1 4 4
Eastern Counties	4	1,057	1,509	1 8 7
South-Eastern Counties	3	1,692	1,471	0 17 5
S. & S.W. Counties	7	3,329	5,168	1 11 1
Wales and Monmouth	4	937	1,003	1 1 5
Scotland	4	1,432	2,646	1 17 0
Ireland	3	126	182	1 8 10
Total	89	24,903	41,292	1 13 2

**London and Neighbourhood.**—Work was provided by the London Central Body for 2,170 men at Chingford, Long Grove, Hollesley Bay, Osea Island, the Garden City, Farnbridge, and in the London County Council parks. In addition, local work was provided for 1,955 men by 15 Metropolitan Borough Councils, and for 3,997 men by 9 Distress Committees and 4 Local Authorities in districts bordering on London.

**Rest of the United Kingdom.**—Work for the unemployed was provided in 65 towns by the Local Authorities or Distress Committees or by both. In the Northern Counties employment-relief was given at 4 towns, including Tynemouth, where 599 were employed, and Newcastle, where 553 were employed. In Yorkshire the figures include about 700 at Sheffield, 584 at Leeds, and 225 at Halifax. In Lancashire and Cheshire there were employed 680 at Manchester, 416 at Stockport, 343 at Bolton, 234 at Wigan, and 204 at Liverpool. In the Midland Counties employment-relief was provided for 834 at Birmingham, 269 at Northampton, 265 at Derby, 183 at Nottingham, and 173 at Burton-on-Trent. In the Eastern Counties the figures include 517 at Norwich and 355 at Yarmouth. In the South-Eastern Counties employment-relief was given to 1,692 persons, including 1,322 at Brighton. In the Southern and South-Western Counties employment-relief was provided at 7 towns, including Portsmouth, where 952 were employed; Plymouth, 821; and Bristol, 667. In Wales and Monmouth 937 were given employment-relief, including 727 at Cardiff. In Scotland, 677 were employed at Edinburgh and 506 at Glasgow.

### PAUPERISM AND COST OF POOR RELIEF IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1849-1905.

FROM a comparative statement† recently issued by the Local Government Board the following particulars have been extracted, giving the number of paupers and the cost of poor relief for certain years during the period 1849 to 1905:—

Year ended Lady-day.	Mean number of Paupers of all classes.	Ratio per 1,000 of population.	Total Expenditure on Relief of the poor and paupers connected therewith.	Average Cost per Pauper.		Average cost per head of population.
				Indoor.	Outdoor.	
1849	1,088,659	62.7	£ 5,792,963	£ s. d. 7 17 8	£ s. d. 3 11 2	s. d. 6 8
1860	844,633	42.9	5,454,964	9 0 9	4 0 2	5 7
1870	1,032,800	46.5	7,644,307	9 11 8	4 5 8	6 11
1874	827,446	35.3	7,664,957	11 4 11	4 14 9	6 7
1880	808,030	31.8	8,015,010	9 14 10	4 12 4	6 4
1890	775,217	27.3	8,434,345	10 2 11	4 11 4	5 11
1900	792,367	25.0	11,567,649	12 6 7	5 6 1	7 3
1905	884,365	26.2	14,016,269†	13 5 5	5 13 11	8 5

\* In the case of men employed by the London Central Body at labour colonies the amount includes allowances to families and cost of maintenance of the men.

† Cd. 2835. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 4d. 1906. † Amount for 1904.

## VAGRANCY.

## REPORT OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

The Departmental Committee appointed to inquire and report with respect to England and Wales as to the law applicable to persons of the vagrant class, the administration of the law applicable to these persons, and any amendments which should be made in it or in its administration, have recently issued their Report.\*

The Report contains an historical summary of legislation and administration relating to vagrancy, and chapters dealing with the statistics of vagrancy, and giving a description of the different classes of vagrants, and an account of casual wards, and assistance for *bona fide* work-seekers, the punishment of vagrant offenders, labour colonies in this country and abroad, common lodging-houses and shelters, the spread of disease by vagrants, and other matters.

The Committee state that—

"The army of vagrants has increased in numbers of late years, and there is reason to fear that it will continue to increase if things are left as they are. It is mainly composed of those who deliberately avoid any work, and depend for their existence on almsgiving and the casual wards; and for their benefit the industrious portion of community is heavily taxed. We are convinced that the present system neither deters the vagrant, nor affords any means of reclaiming him, and we are unanimously of opinion that a thorough reform is necessary. Briefly, the object of the scheme we propose is to place the vagrant more under the control of the police, to help the *bona fide* wayfarer, and to provide a means of detaining the habitual vagrant under reformatory influences."

The Committee arrive at the conclusion that an essential condition of any reform in the present system of the relief of vagrants is an extension of the area of chargeability and management, and the substitution for the guardians of some other Authority who will administer the law on uniform lines and be subject to central control. They consider that the casual wards cannot be dispensed with at present; and they are of opinion that the alteration suggested by them can best be effected by the substitution of the Police authority for the Poor Law authority as the body responsible for the local relief of vagrants and the management of casual wards. The expenses of the wards would be charged to the police fund, and the Standing Joint Committee would be the administrative authority. In separate Police Boroughs the Watch Committee, and in the Metropolitan Police District, the Metropolitan Police would be the controlling authority.

A description is given in the Report of the Berkshire way-ticket system, now in force in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, the system of bread tickets issued by mendicity societies in a few counties, and the German and Swiss systems of way-tickets for wayfarers. The Committee are strongly of opinion that to be successful any way-ticket system must be universal over the country; and they propose that—

"The police should be empowered to issue a way-ticket to a man who can satisfy them either that he has worked at some employment (other than a casual job) within a recent period, say three months, and that he has reasonable grounds for expecting to get work at a certain place, and that he is likely to keep it, or that he has some other good ground for desiring to go to some particular place. . . . The ticket should give the man's personal description, his usual trade, his reason for wanting to travel, and his proposed destination, and should contain his signature and, possibly, his finger prints for the purpose of testing identity. It should be in the form of a book . . . with spaces on which should be stamped the name of each casual ward visited. We think that the duration of the book should be limited to a certain period, say one month. With this book the man would go to the casual ward and be entitled to a night's lodging, supper and breakfast, and, after performing two hours' work to help to pay for his food and lodging, he should be free to leave the ward whenever he likes. The name of the next ward on the direct line of his route, which he can reach that night, should be entered in the book, and if he arrived at that place he should be treated in the same manner. The book would thus be a record of the man's journey, and show clearly on the face of it whether he is genuinely in search of work."

\* Cd. 2852. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1s. 1d.

It is further proposed that the holder of a ticket should have a ration of bread and cheese for mid-day meal given him on leaving the ward in the morning, that information as to work in the district should be kept at casual wards and police stations for the assistance of work-seekers, and that power should be given to the police to alter the route when satisfied that it was necessary. For the way-ticket man there should be practically no detention, and the Committee think that he should generally have better treatment and accommodation than the ordinary vagrants, and be kept as far as possible apart from them. And it should be open to him to remain at the ward for another night if he desires a rest.

As regards habitual vagrants, the Committee consider that the need of keeping such persons in detention for long periods is clearly proved; and, in view of the impossibility of making a prison serve the purpose, they recommend that compulsory labour colonies should be established in this country, but that these should not in the first instance be provided by the State. The recommendations on this point are thus summarised:

"Habitual vagrants to be sent to certified labour colonies for detention for not less than six months or more than three years. Labour colonies for habitual vagrants to be certified by Secretary of State, and generally to be subject to regulations made by him. Councils of counties and county boroughs to have power to establish labour colonies, or to contribute to certified colonies established by other councils, or by philanthropic agencies. Exchequer contribution to be made towards cost of maintenance of persons sent to labour colonies. Subsistence dietary to be prescribed. Inmates to have power to earn small sums of money by their work, and, by means of canteen, to supplement their food allowance. Discharge before the conclusion of sentence to be allowed on certain conditions. Industrial, as well as agricultural, work to be carried on."

The committee also make recommendations in regard to licensing and supervising common lodging-houses, the regulation of shelters and free food distributions, and other matters. Lastly, they draw attention to what in their opinion is "the real cause of vagrancy, but which, unfortunately, is beyond the power of legislative or administrative action. Were it not for the indiscriminate dole-giving which prevails there would be little necessity for casual wards or labour colonies for the vagrant, and idle vagrancy, ceasing to be a profitable profession, would come to an end."

## TRADE UNIONS IN 1902-04.\*

THE Report on Trade Unions in the United Kingdom in 1902-04, which has just been issued by the Board of Trade, shows that during the years under review there was a slight decline in the total membership accompanied by a considerable increase in trade union expenditure on unemployed benefit. Against this, however, has to be set some increase in income and lessened expenditure on disputes, the net result being a substantial increase in the funds of the principal unions during each of the years under review.

## Membership of all Unions.

A Table is given in the Report showing the membership of each Trade Union at the end of each of the five years 1900-04, and in summary Tables and Charts the growth of the unions during the ten years 1895-1904 is shown.

At the end of 1904 the number of Trade Unions known by the Department to be in existence was 1,148, with a total membership of 1,866,755. In each of the three years 1902-04, which were years of declining employment, there was some decline in the total membership of Trade Unions. Comparing 1904 with 1901, however, the total decline amounts to 74,119 only, or 3.8 per cent. of the membership in 1901—the highest recorded. The total membership at the end of 1904 remained higher than at the end of 1899, and much higher than during any previous year for which comparative figures are available. During the ten years 1895-1904 there was a total increase in membership of 32 per cent., shared by nearly all the main groups of trades.

\* Cd. 2858. Price 1s. 2d. The Report can be obtained through any book-seller, or direct from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.

## Accounts of 100 Principal Unions.

The 100 Unions for which financial details are given in the Report, include over 60 per cent. of the total membership of the 1,148 Trade Unions in the Kingdom. In 1904 the income of these 100 Unions was £2,097,470 and their expenditure £2,042,165. Their accumulated funds at the end of the year amounted to £4,616,230, or nearly £4 2s. per member. These figures all show increases on the previous year, and are the highest yet recorded, but the growth of the funds was below the average in 1904, owing to the drain of payments to unemployed members, which amounted to £647,722. Of every £1 spent by the 100 Unions in 1904, 6s. 4d. was for unemployed benefit, 1s. 3d. was on account of disputes, 8s. 4d. for sick, accident, superannuation, funeral and other benefits, and 4s. 1d. for working and miscellaneous expenses.

The following summary shows the membership, income, expenditure, and accumulated funds of the 100 Principal Unions for each of the ten years 1895-1904, amounts being also given per member:—

Year.	Member-ship at end of Year.	Income.		Expenditure.		Funds at end of Year.	
		Amount.	Per Member.	Amount.	Per Member.	Amount.	Per Member.
1895	907,496	1,541,502	33 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,377,352	30 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,711,733	37 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1896	957,010	1,654,130	34 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,216,391	25 5	2,149,473	44 11
1897	1,056,617	1,973,944	37 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,903,239	36 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2,220,175	42 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1898	1,031,297	1,901,111	36 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,485,228	28 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2,636,058	51 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1899	1,107,721	1,828,049	33 0	1,255,198	22 8	3,208,609	57 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1900	1,149,937	1,937,041	33 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,454,096	25 3	3,693,854	64 3
1901	1,155,133	2,031,075	35 2	1,631,653	28 3	4,093,316	70 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1902	1,152,834	2,077,640	36 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,790,975	31 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4,379,981	75 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1903	1,139,559	2,086,529	36 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,925,595	33 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4,560,925	80 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1904	1,127,519	2,097,470	37 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2,042,165	36 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4,616,230	81 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

The income of the 100 Principal Unions exceeded £2,000,000 in each of the years 1901-4, rising from £2,031,075 in 1901 (previously the record year) to £2,097,470 in 1904. The expenditure rose from £1,632,000 in 1901 to £1,791,000 in 1902, £1,906,000 in 1903 and £2,042,000 in 1904. The accumulated funds of these Unions also increased each year, and now exceed by £522,914 the amount at which they stood in 1901. As compared with 1895 the funds have much more than doubled.

During the ten years under review, £16,060,000 has been spent by the 100 Principal Unions. Of this amount about £2,343,000, or 14.6 per cent. of the total, has been spent on dispute pay, £3,608,000, or 22.5 per cent., on unemployed benefits, and £6,658,000, or 41.4 per cent., on other benefits (principally sick, accident, superannuation, and funeral benefits), the remaining £3,451,000, or 21.5 per cent., having been used in the payment of working and miscellaneous expenses. The Table below gives for each of the years 1895-1904 the figures on which these percentages have been calculated:—

Year.	Dispute Benefit.		Unemployed Benefit.		Other Benefits.		Working and Miscellaneous Expenses.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.
1895	197,236	14.3	416,784	30.3	509,723	37.0	253,609	18.4
1896	168,635	13.9	262,143	21.5	513,451	42.2	272,162	22.4
1897	659,042	34.6	329,567	17.3	650,311	31.6	314,119	16.5
1898	328,615	22.1	238,724	16.1	612,686	41.3	305,203	20.5
1899	119,474	9.5	188,063	15.0	624,228	49.7	323,433	25.8
1900	149,056	10.3	263,231	18.1	681,649	46.9	358,160	24.7
1901	204,540	12.5	327,785	20.1	719,928	44.1	379,360	23.3
1902	217,976	12.2	424,046	23.7	752,699	42.0	396,254	22.1
1903	174,417	9.1	509,673	26.7	793,452	41.6	431,043	22.6
1904	126,446	6.2	547,722	31.7	850,793	41.7	417,204	20.4
Average for ten years	234,344	14.6	360,774	22.5	665,812	41.4	345,055	21.5

In the first five years included in the Table the proportion spent on unemployed benefit steadily fell with the improvement in employment. In the remaining five years 1900-04, owing to the decline in employment, the proportion gradually increased until in 1904 it was higher than in 1895, and more than twice as great as in 1899 (a year of exceptionally good employment). The percentage proportion of total expenditure accounted for

by disputes has fallen to 9.1 in 1903, and 6.2 in 1904, the smallest figures in the Table.

A Table is given in the Report showing the membership, income, expenditure, and funds of each of the 100 principal Trade Unions for each of the ten years 1895-1904, and for the last five years the expenditure of each Union is shown in detail. The Charts accompanying the Report deal with the ten-year period.

## Federations of Trade Unions.

The number of Federations of Trade Unions in existence at the end of 1904 was 93, with a membership of 1,851,378. This is the gross membership, in which some individuals are counted more than once owing to many Unions being affiliated to more than one Federation. The principal individual Federations were the General Federation of Trade Unions (396,226 members), the Miners' Federation of Great Britain (326,618 members), and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades of the United Kingdom (344,208 members). The first two of these Federations provide benefit to affiliated Unions in cases of approved disputes; the last-named Federation does not provide dispute benefit, but intervenes, when called upon, on questions such as the demarcation of work between trades.

## CENSUS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A REPORT and Summary of the Census of the British Empire in 1901 has recently been issued.\* The volume is based on the Census Reports of the several British Colonies, Dependencies and Protectorates, from which comparative and detailed tables have been constructed, giving as fully as the data permit, information concerning (a) area and dwelling-houses; (b) number of the people, distinguishing age, sex, and condition as to marriage; (c) birthplaces of the people, their religion, education, occupation, and their physical infirmities.

In 1861 the Empire comprised 8½ million square miles. Between 1881 and 1891 extensions in the East Indies and our Indian Dependency and annexations of territory in Africa added 2 million square miles, and since 1891 further expansions have occurred, principally in Africa and Asia, raising the total to 11,908,378 square miles. Thus, in the forty years, 1861-1901, the aggregate area has increased by about 40 per cent., and now amounts to more than one-fifth of the land surface of the Globe.

The density of population per square mile in 1901 varied considerably, being 342.4 persons in the United Kingdom, and 172.0 in the Indian Empire, while in the Dominion of Canada and the Australian Commonwealth it was as low as 1.4 and 1.3 respectively.

Throughout the Empire there were 187 cities or towns in which the population at the last census exceeded 50,000; of these, 87 were in the United Kingdom, 78 were in India, 7 in Australasia, 5 in Canada, 2 in the West Indies, 2 in the Straits Settlements, and one apiece in six other colonies.

In the United Kingdom 71 per cent. of the population enumerated at the last Census were living in towns. In New Zealand and the Australian Commonwealth together, over one-half were enumerated in towns, the proportion ranging from 39 per cent. in Tasmania to 68 per cent. in New South Wales. In Canada about 38 per cent. were resident in urban areas, the proportion ranging from 14 per cent. in Prince Edward Island to 50 per cent. in British Columbia. In the four South African Colonies the rural population largely predominates, the greatest proportion of urban population (26.2 per cent.) being in the Cape of Good Hope. The conditions in India afford a striking contrast to those prevailing in other parts of the Empire, for, of the aggregate population of nearly 295 millions, less than one-tenth live in places classed as urban areas, the remaining nine-tenths residing in villages.

Broadly speaking, the 398 million persons residing in the British Empire may be divided between two classes—"Whites," numbering approximately 54 millions, or 13.6 per cent. of total population; and "Coloured," numbering about 344 millions.

\* Cd. 2660. Price 3s. 5d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

## SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS IN THE CLOTHING TRADES.

RETURNS have been obtained by the Board of Trade during 1905 from employers in the clothing trades from which some indication is given of the extent to which employment in these trades fluctuates from seasonal causes, and which enable a comparison to be made with the state of employment in the previous year.

As will be seen from the charts below, the fluctuations in the West-end tailoring and dressmaking industries carried on in workshops is very great. By comparison, the fluctuations in the number employed in factories in the ready-made costume trade (omitting returns from employers engaged in high class work for West-end retail firms) and in the shirt and collar and corset trades are small.

Compared with 1904, employment with West-end tailoring firms, and with dressmakers employed in West-end retail firms was slightly better throughout 1905; in Court dressmakers' workshops it was worse in the beginning of 1905, but better during the last four months, the average being slightly better for the whole year than in 1904. In the ready-made costume trade employment on the average was worse than in 1904, but relatively better during the last four months of 1905. In the shirt and collar and corset trades employment was slightly better than in 1904.

**Tailoring.**—Forty-eight tailoring firms in the West-end of London, paying £16,279 in wages to their inworkers and outworkers in their busiest month, and £9,472 in their slackest month in 1905, have made returns. Their busiest season begins in April and ends in July; there is a brief autumn season in October and November; January, February, and August are months of great slackness. In this branch the amount of wages paid in each month is represented in Chart I. In the other branches the charts represent the numbers employed.

**Dressmaking.**—Fifty-one Court dressmakers, employing 1,851 workpeople at the end of their busiest month, and 679 at the end of their slackest month in 1905, have made returns. Their busiest season begins at the end of March and ends in June or early in July; their autumn season begins at the end of September, and is at its height in October and November; August is a month of extreme slackness. (See Chart II.)

Thirteen retail firms, nearly all in the West-end of London, employing 1,527 dressmakers at the end of their busiest month, and 833 at the end of their slackest month in 1905, have made returns. Their seasons correspond with those of the Court dressmakers, but the fluctuations are not so extreme. (See Chart III.)

**Shirts, Blouses and Costumes.**—Twelve firms in Manchester and London, employing 2,436 operatives at the end of their busiest month in 1905, and 2,281 at the end of their slackest, have made returns. Fluctuations in trade in this industry, which is in a transitional stage, tend to obscure the seasonal fluctuations, but in both 1904 and 1905 February and March are the busiest months, and December is the slackest. (See Chart IV.)

Returns from manufacturers of high-class blouses and costumes for West-end firms (not included in the above) show much greater seasonal fluctuations although not so great as in the West-end workshops; February, March and April, and September and October are their busiest months; June and July, November and December are their slackest months.

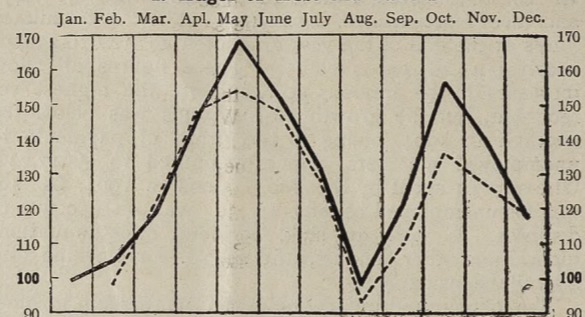
**Shirts and Collars.**—Twenty-six firms in the United Kingdom employing 7,098 operatives in their busiest month and 6,791 in their slackest month in 1905, have made returns. Little fluctuation due to season is indicated by them. (See Chart V.)

**Corsets.**—Fourteen firms in Great Britain employing 3,967 operatives in their busiest month and 3,784 in the slackest month in 1905, made returns. Here also little seasonal fluctuation is discernible. (See Chart VI.)

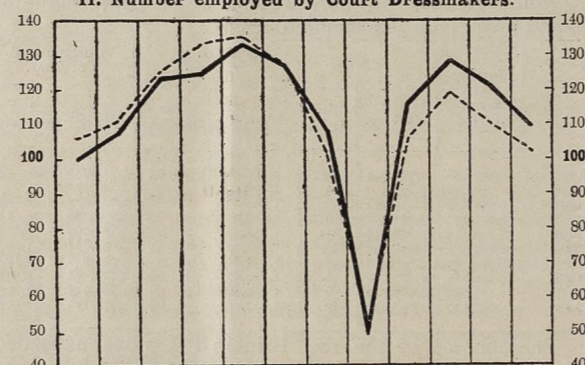
In the accompanying Charts the wages paid in the four full weeks of January, 1905, in the tailoring trade, and the numbers employed at the end of January, 1905, in the other trades are represented by the index number 100.

The fluctuations in the amount of wages, or the numbers employed in the other months of 1905, and the months of 1904, are shown as percentages of this base month.

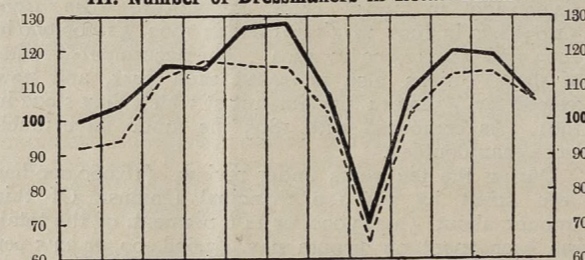
I. Wages of West-end Tailors.



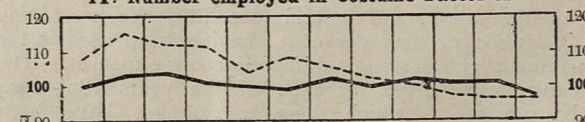
II. Number employed by Court Dressmakers.



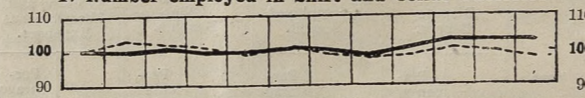
III. Number of Dressmakers in Retail Firms.



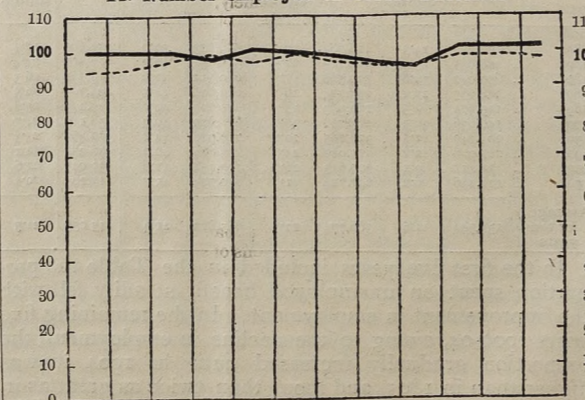
IV. Number employed in Costume Factories.



V. Number employed in Shirt and Collar Factories.



VI. Number employed in Corset Factories.



The thick curve ——— = 1905. The dotted curve - - - - = 1904. January, 1905 = 100.

## REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON TRADE DISPUTES AND TRADE COMBINATIONS.

THE Report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the subject of Trade Disputes and Trade Combinations, and as to the law affecting them, and to report on the law applicable to the same and the effect of any modifications thereof, and the Minutes of Evidence taken before that Commission have now been issued.\* The members of the Commission were Lord Dunedin, Chairman; Sir W. T. Lewis, Bart.; Sir G. Lushington, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.; The Right Hon. Arthur Cohen, K.C., and Mr. Sidney Webb.

The Report of the majority of the Commission, which is signed by Lord Dunedin, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Sidney Webb, makes the following recommendations:— "That an Act should be passed for the following objects:—

- (1) To declare Trade Unions legal associations.
- (2) To declare strikes from whatever motive or for whatever purposes (including sympathetic or secondary strikes), apart from crime or breach of contract, legal, and to make the Act of 1875† to extend to sympathetic or secondary strikes.
- (3) To declare that to persuade to strike, *i.e.*, to desist from working, *apart from procuring breach of contract*, is not illegal.
- (4) To declare that an individual shall not be liable for doing any act not in itself an actionable tort only on the ground that it is an interference with another person's trade, business, or employment.
- (5) To provide for the facultative separation of the proper benefit funds of Trade Unions, such separation if effected to carry immunity from these funds being taken in execution.
- (6) To provide means whereby the central authorities of a Union may protect themselves against the unauthorised and immediately disavowed acts of branch agents.
- (7) To provide that facultative powers be given to Trade Unions, either (a) to become incorporated subject to proper conditions, or (b) to exclude the operation of Section 4 of the Trade Union Act, 1871,‡ or of some one or more of its Sub-sections, so as to allow Trade Unions to enter into enforceable agreements with other persons and with their own members.

\* Report, Cd. 2825, price 1s. 1d.; Evidence, Cd. 2826, 3s. 8d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

† The Conspiracy, and Protection of Property Act, 1875. By the third Section of this Act it is provided that: "An agreement or combination by two or more persons to do or procure to be done any act in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute between employers and workmen shall not be indictable as a conspiracy if such act committed by one person would not be punishable as a crime. . . . A crime for the purposes of this Section means an offence punishable on indictment, or an offence which is punishable on summary conviction, and for the commission of which the offender is liable under the statute making the offence punishable to be imprisoned either absolutely or at the discretion of the Court as an alternative for some other punishment."

‡ This Section is as follows:—"Nothing in this Act shall enable any Court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the object of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any of the following agreements, namely,

1. Any agreement between members of a Trade Union as such, concerning the conditions on which any members for the time being of such Trade Union shall or shall not sell their goods, transact business, employ or be employed;
2. Any agreement for the payment by any person of any subscription or penalty to a Trade Union;
3. Any agreement for the application of the funds of a Trade Union:
  - (a) To provide benefits to members; or
  - (b) To furnish contributions to any employer or workman not a member of such Trade Union, in consideration of such employer or workman acting in conformity with the rules or resolutions of such Trade Union; or,
  - (c) To discharge any fine imposed upon any person by sentence of a Court of Justice; or,
4. Any agreement made between one Trade Union and another; or
5. Any bond to secure the performance of any of the above-mentioned agreements. But nothing in this Section shall be deemed to constitute any of the above-mentioned agreements unlawful."

(8) To alter the 7th Section of the Conspiracy, and Protection of Property Act, 1875,\* by repealing Sub-section 4 and the proviso, and in lieu thereof enacting as a new Sub-section (which would also supersede Sub-section 1): "Acts in such a manner as to cause a reasonable apprehension in the mind of any person that violence will be used to him or his family, or damage be done to his property."

(9) To enact to the effect that an agreement or combination by two or more persons to do or procure to be done any act in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be the ground of a civil action, unless the agreement or combination is indictable as a conspiracy notwithstanding the terms of the Conspiracy, and Protection of Property Act, 1875."

The Majority Report is accompanied by a Memorandum by Mr. Sidney Webb, in which he draws attention to a clause in a New South Wales Government Bill in relation to the liability of Trade Unions for the acts of their agents, and to the industrial conciliation and arbitration laws of New Zealand and Australia; by Notes by Lord Dunedin and Mr. Cohen on the *Mogul Steamship Company* case; and by Memoranda on the Civil Action of Conspiracy, and on the case of *Allen v. Flood* by Mr. Cohen, concurred in by Lord Dunedin, Sir G. Lushington, and Mr. Sidney Webb.

In a separate Report Sir G. Lushington dissents from the proposal, that the Provident Funds of Trade Unions should be exempt from liability. He sets forth the objections which he entertains to the enactment of special legislation to protect a Trade Union from undue liability on account of the acts of its branches as its agents, and also to the suggestion of "a special enactment of a wider scope to comprehend the most important of such principles of responsibility for the acts of agents as are applicable to Trade Unions." Further, he expresses his disagreement with the proposals made in the Majority Report with respect to the legal status of Trade Unions, and with the proposal to strike out from the list of offences made punishable by Section 7 of the Conspiracy, and Protection of Property Act the watching and besetting of premises, the prohibition of which, on the contrary, should, in his opinion, be retained, while the proviso permitting this practice for the sole purpose of giving and receiving information should be repealed. He also recommends that this Section shall be amended so as to make it clear that the person against whom any of the forbidden acts of molestation are committed need not be the same person who is intended to be compelled. Sir G. Lushington further recommends that the proposal to declare that to persuade to strike, apart from breach of contract, is not illegal, should extend to persuading not to enter into a contract of employment; and that the notification of a strike, whether given by the workmen themselves, or by anyone else on their behalf, shall be declared not to be illegal.

\* This Section is as follows:—"Every person who, with a view to compel any other person to abstain from doing or to do any act which such other person has a legal right to do or abstain from doing, wrongfully and without legal authority,—

1. Uses violence to or intimidates such other person or his wife or children, or injures his property; or,
2. Persistently follows such other person about from place to place; or,
3. Hides any tools, clothes, or other property owned or used by such other person, or deprives him or hinders him in the use thereof; or,
4. Watches or besets the house or other place where such other person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place; or
5. Follows such other person with two or more other persons in a disorderly manner in or through any street or road, shall, on conviction thereof by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, or on indictment as hereinafter mentioned, be liable either to pay a penalty not exceeding £20, or to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour.

Attending at or near the house or place where a person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place, in order merely to obtain or communicate information, shall not be deemed a watching or besetting within the meaning of this Section."

A Note to this Report by Mr. Cohen, concurred in by Mr. Sidney Webb, expresses concurrence with the account there given by Sir G. Lushington of the history of the law of conspiracy.

Sir W. Lewis makes a Report, in which he explains in detail the reasons for his disagreement with the recommendations made in the Majority Report. Sir W. Lewis recommends the repeal of Sub-section 3 (a) of the fourth Section of the Trade Union Act, 1871, in order to give members of a Trade Union a right of action against the Trade Union, to which they belong, for improperly refusing to apply for their benefit the benefit funds to which they had contributed, and assents to the proposed repeal of Sub-section 4 of the same Section, in order to make agreements entered into between Trade Unions of workmen and Trade Unions of employers legally enforceable; he also recommends the repeal of the last paragraph only of Section 7 of the Conspiracy, and Protection of Property Act, 1875, which permits watching and besetting in order merely to obtain or communicate information, so as to abolish picketing altogether. Lastly, Sir W. Lewis recommends: "That in view of the overwhelming evidence we have received as to the cruelty and oppression to which non-Unionists are subjected at present, the practicability of devising legislation to prohibit strikes against non-Unionists should be considered in order to prevent, if possible, the existing gross infringements of the liberty of the subject."

#### EMPLOYMENT AND OUTPUT AT COAL MINES IN 1905.

ACCORDING to preliminary figures recently issued by the Home Office, the output of coal in the United Kingdom in 1905 was the largest recorded, amounting to over 236 millions of tons, or 1.6 per cent. greater than in 1904, 4.9 per cent. greater than in 1900, and 30.0 per cent. greater than in 1890, when the output was slightly over 181,600,000 tons. The output of other minerals at pits under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, was 13,669,000 tons in 1905, being 2.3 per cent. greater than in 1904, and 5.1 per cent. greater than in 1890. The number of workpeople employed in 1905 at mines under the Act was 858,373, or 1.28 per cent. greater than in 1904, 10 per cent. greater than in 1900, and 40 per cent. greater than in 1890. The increase in output since 1890 has, therefore, not quite kept pace with the increase in the numbers employed.

The output in the principal districts for 1904 and 1905 are shown in the following Table:—

District.	Output of Coal in		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of 1905 over 1904.	
	1904.	1905.	Number.	Per cent.
	1,000 tons.	1,000 tons.	1,000 tons.	
Northumberland ... ..	12,258	12,694	+ 436	+ 3.6
Durham ... ..	36,154	37,397	+ 1,243	+ 3.4
Yorkshire ... ..	28,835	29,944	+ 1,089	+ 3.8
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	24,450	24,248	- 202	- 0.8
Derby ... ..	15,079	15,683	+ 604	+ 4.0
Notts and Leicester ... ..	11,095	11,598	+ 503	+ 4.5
Staffordshire ... ..	12,709	12,825	+ 116	+ 0.9
S. Wales and Monmouth ...	43,750	43,203	- 547	- 1.2
Lanarkshire ... ..	17,193	16,756	- 437	- 2.5
Fifeshire ... ..	6,586	7,241	+ 655	+ 9.9
Other Districts ... ..	24,323	24,542	+ 219	+ 0.9
Total United Kingdom ...	232,412	236,111	+ 3,699	+ 1.6

The largest proportionate increase (9.9 per cent.) occurred in Fifeshire, but the largest increases in amount were in Durham (1,243,000 tons) and Yorkshire (1,089,000 tons). On the other hand there were decreases of 527,000 tons (or 1.2 per cent.) in the output from the South Wales and Monmouthshire coalfields, and of 437,000 tons (2.5 per cent.) in Lanarkshire.

There has been a continuous increase in the numbers employed in and about mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act since 1896, in which year the numbers employed were 692,684. The numbers employed in the principal districts in 1904 and 1905 are given below:—

#### Numbers employed in and about Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1904 and 1905.

District.	Number of workpeople employed		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with 1904.	
	1904.	1905.	Number.	Per cent.
Northumberland ... ..	43,762	45,038	+ 1,276	+ 2.9
Durham ... ..	121,594	124,915	+ 3,321	+ 2.7
Yorkshire ... ..	119,620	120,476	+ 856	+ 0.7
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	93,959	93,896	- 73	- 0.1
Derby ... ..	51,636	51,231	- 405	- 0.8
Notts and Leicester ... ..	39,182	39,953	+ 771	+ 2.0
Staffordshire ... ..	48,304	48,563	+ 259	+ 0.5
S. Wales and Monmouth ...	163,034	165,609	+ 2,575	+ 1.6
Lanarkshire ... ..	51,883	51,430	- 453	- 0.8
Fifeshire ... ..	18,424	19,607	+ 1,183	+ 6.4
Other Districts ... ..	96,145	97,595	+ 1,450	+ 1.5
United Kingdom ... ..	847,553	858,373	+ 10,820	+ 1.3

The largest proportionate increases were in Fifeshire (1.183 or 6.4 per cent.), Northumberland (1,276 or 2.9 per cent.), Durham (3,321 or 2.7 per cent.), and South Wales and Monmouthshire (2,575 or 1.6 per cent.). There were slight decreases in Lanarkshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire.

#### RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

##### Coal Miners, near Chesterfield.

Mr. Thomas Bell, late H.M. Inspector of Mines, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see GAZETTE for January, p. 5), issued his award on February 16th. The arbitrator was asked to decide whether the present tonnage price paid for machine-got coal by the Clay Cross Iron and Coal Company in the Tupton seam includes the removal of the holing dirt by the workmen, or whether the owners, in addition to the tonnage price paid, are also responsible for removing the said dirt. In his award, Mr. Bell decided that it was the duty of the stall men in the Tupton seam of the various pits of the Company to remove and clear away the holing dirt where the coal is under-holed by coal-cutting machines, and that the present tonnage price includes this work.

##### London Boot and Shoe Trade.

The arbitrators elected by the Machine Sewn Board of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of London, having failed to make an appointment of an umpire between them, made application on February 13th to the Board of Trade. Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, has been appointed umpire.

##### Compositors in London.

Differences having arisen between the proprietor of the *Jewish Journal* and the London Jewish Compositors' and Printers' Trade Union, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration. Six arbitrators were appointed, three by each side, and on February 28th application was made on their behalf for the appointment of an umpire under the Conciliation Act. The Board of Trade have appointed Sir A. E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act as umpire.

##### Plasterers in London.

In the autumn of 1905, the London Master Builders' Association gave six months' notice to terminate the working rules for plasterers, and put forward fresh rules, which provided, among other things, for a reduction in the rate of wages from 11d. to 10½d. per hour. On February 26th, joint application was made by the Master Builders and the National Association of Operative Plasterers, for the appointment of an arbitrator under the Conciliation Act, to decide whether the rate of wages should be continued at 11d. per hour or reduced as proposed by the employers, and the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Mr. Askwith heard the parties on March 5th, and issued his award the following day, deciding that the rate of wages should continue at the same rate as heretofore. By consent, the question was also referred to the arbitrator whether an amendment should be made in the new rule providing for the termination or alteration of the working rules on six months' notice being

given by either side, and Mr. Askwith decided that notice under this rule should not be given so as to fall due within the thirteen weeks during which winter hours are worked.

##### Nottingham Lace Trade.

A difference having arisen in the Levers section of the Nottingham Lace Trade as to the correct interpretation of a clause in the arbitrator's (Mr. G. R. Askwith) award (see GAZETTE for October, p. 291), and the General Purposes Committee having met and failed to come to an agreement, application was made, on January 31st, to the Board of Trade for the reference of the matter to arbitration, as provided by the rules of the Committee. The Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith to determine the matter, and that gentleman issued his decision on February 20th.

The question arose under the Bobbin Fining Cards. The operatives suggested that there was an anomaly in the cards which worked in their favour, and that a lace hitherto a Plain Valenciennes was now a Honiton. The arbitrator found that the assumption on which the suggestion rested, viz., that backs and fronts must be purled, was erroneous, that there was no anomaly, and that the lace was, and is, a Plain Valenciennes. The arbitrator, however, decided that where backs and fronts are specially difficult to make, a higher price should be agreed upon, and suggested a dividing line beyond which the higher price should begin.

#### 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 emigration season to Canada has commenced; and there is a good demand for competent farm labourers, general labourers and navvies for railway construction, and female servants for town or country; and a fair demand for mechanics, especially those in the building trades. There is not much opening for female factory hands, unless they have secured engagements beforehand.

Emigrants should beware of strangers, and always apply to the Dominion Land or Immigration Agents. They should have a little money with them on landing, but should take care to conceal their resources from others. They should be very careful not to buy or rent land from persons about whom they know nothing, until, at all events, they have examined the land for themselves, and have taken independent advice.

##### Commonwealth of Australia.

A recent Act prohibits the landing in Australia of any person who fails to write out, at the dictation of an officer, not less than fifty words, in a language selected by the officer.

Another new Act repeals the former law as to contract labour, and should be carefully attended to by persons emigrating to Australia. It enacts as follows:—

A contract immigrant—i.e., an immigrant to Australia under a contract or agreement to perform manual labour in Australia—may, unless otherwise prohibited by law, land in the Commonwealth if the contract is in writing, and is made by or on behalf of some person named in the contract, and resident in Australia, and its terms are approved by the Minister for External Affairs.

The Minister shall approve the terms of the contract only—

- (1) When a copy is filed with him, and, if he so requires, is verified by oath; and
- (2) If in his opinion
  - (a) the contract is not made in contemplation of or with a view of affecting an industrial dispute; and
  - (b) there is difficulty in the employers obtaining within the Commonwealth a worker of at least equal skill and ability (but this paragraph does not apply where the contract immigrant is a British subject either

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

born in the United Kingdom or descended from a British subject there born); and

(c) the remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment are as advantageous to the contract immigrant as those current for workers of the same class at the place where the contract is to be performed; and

- (3) If, where the approval is sought after the contract is made, the contract contains a copy of this and the previous paragraphs, and is expressed to be made subject thereto; and
- (4) Before the contract immigrant has landed in the Commonwealth.

This Act does not apply to domestic servants or personal attendants accompanying their employer to Australia.

Assisted or nominated passages are now granted to suitable emigrants by New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia. The principal demand is for experienced farm labourers and female servants. There is no special demand for mechanics or miners, but competent men who land with a little money to keep them for a time, can generally find work.

##### New Zealand.

Reduced passages at £10 are granted to persons with a small capital, to navvies without capital and to their wives and children, and to experienced farm labourers who will possess £5 on landing in the Colony. Applications must be made as early as possible to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

##### South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one may enter Cape Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured employment beforehand according to a prescribed form of agreement. There is no improvement in the building trade at Cape Town, and building trade employees are specially warned not to go to the Cape at the present time in search of work. At Cape Town there has been a fair demand for competent coach-smiths, coach trimmers, coach painters, coopers, hair-dressers, lead glaziers, pottery workers, printers' cutters, and wheelwrights; but there is an excess of bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, clerks, salesmen, storemen, engine drivers, grooms, painters, plasterers, plumbers, unskilled labourers, and waiters, and many granite dressers are being discharged on completion of works. At Port Elizabeth the supply of artisans in all trades is much in excess of the demand, and there are large numbers of clerks, salesmen, and factory hands seeking employment. In other parts of the Colony there is no demand for more labour.

Natal.—Natal grants nominated passages at £5 5s. a head to certain persons, such as relations of colonists, to female servants and other wage-earning women, and to agriculturists; such passages must be applied for in Natal only. At the present time labour is plentiful in all trades, and mechanics in the building trade are warned against going to Natal to seek employment.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. No permit is granted to anyone unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured *bona fide* employment beforehand. There are a great many persons out of employment in Johannesburg, Pretoria and other towns, and no one should go there now on the chance of getting work. The cost of living remains very high. The wives and families of British subjects permanently employed or settled in the Transvaal may procure assisted passages there from this country, by making application to the Secretary of the Immigration Office, Von Brandis Square, Johannesburg. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit, and no emigrant can obtain such permit unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured *bona fide* employment beforehand. There is no demand for more hands in any trade. Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 65 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries. (See also p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

## FRANCE.

*Employment in January.\**—The number of unemployed in the building and dependent trades increased during the month. In the metal trades, on the whole, employment continued fairly satisfactory. The revival in the textile trades reported in December in the Nord became still more marked in January. In the Vosges, at Rheims, at Belfort, and in the western centres employment continued satisfactory, but it was not so good in the Rouen and Roanne districts. As regards employment in the silk trade, a decline was reported at St. Etienne, but factories at Lyons were busy. Garment-makers and boot and shoe makers were passing through their slack season in the majority of districts. Printers and bookbinders were satisfactorily employed, considering the time of year, especially at Paris. Employment declined in the furniture trades and many leather dressers were again unemployed at Graulhet and Mazamet. Among vineyard labourers in the south of France there was increased unemployment, but a large number of wood cutters, who were out of work in December, found employment in January, owing to the commencement of forestry work in most centres. Gardeners continued to be well employed.

Out of 208,221 members of 1,251 Trade Unions which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment of their members during January, 24,114, or 11.6 per cent., were described in the returns as out of work in the month, as compared with 10.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 13.8 per cent. in January, 1905. These figures are exclusive of the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais and Nord departments. (As regards these figures, see Note above.)

*Coal Mining in January.\**—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in January was 5.99, as compared with 5.61 in the previous month, and 5.81 in January, 1905. Taking surface and underground workers together, 96.74 per cent. worked full time (six days and over per week), and 3.26 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week, the corresponding percentages for the previous month being 11.04 and 88.96, and for January, 1905, 34.8 and 64.0 respectively. The foregoing figures relate to over 160,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines, and were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners.

*Labour Disputes in January.\**—Fifty-four disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, as compared with 60 which began in the previous month and 47 in January, 1905. The number of workpeople who took part in 52 of the new disputes was 10,052, as compared with 11,631 who took part in 58 of the December disputes, and with 5,518 in 41 of the disputes of January, 1905. The greatest number of disputes occurred in the textile trades, viz., 18, while the metal trades had 13; no more than 4 occurred in any other group of trades. Out of 51 new and old disputes which came to an end in January, 9 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 14 in favour of the employers, while 28 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in January.\**—Fourteen cases of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department during January. In 8 cases the initiative was taken by the Justice of the Peace, in 5 by the workpeople and in 1 by the employers. Committees of conciliation were formed in 9 cases, resulting in the settlement of 4 disputes, and one of the remaining 5 was afterwards settled by arbitration. In 4 of the cases in which no committee was formed, the employers declined to accept mediation, and in the remaining case, the workpeople, who took the

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

initiative, abandoned their demands before a committee could be formed.

*Strike of Tulle Makers at Lyons.\**—A general strike of about 1,200 tulle makers at Lyons was declared on February 13th, the men demanding a revision of their price list, complete abolition of night work, and a strict limitation of the working hours to 60 per week. On the employers agreeing to an amendment of the price list, the strikers, except in a few cases, resumed work.

## GERMANY.

*Employment in January.†*—The dulness of employment which usually characterises January was not so marked as in other years, particularly in the latter half of the month. The mild weather allowed outdoor work to be carried on without interruption, and the approaching introduction of new commercial treaties and of tariff changes resulted in a large number of orders for delivery before March 1st in the iron and other metal trades, and in the electrical and chemical trades, with the result that employment in these trades was better than in the previous month. Employment in coal mining was very good owing to the increased demand for industrial use, especially as business was no longer hampered by the lack of wagons. The fluctuations in the prices of raw materials had no adverse effect on the number of persons employed in the textile trades. The state of employment in other industries was, in general, determined by seasonal influences.

## AUSTRIA.

*Employment in January.‡*—The number of applications for situations made to public and private labour registries, relief stations, and other agencies for procuring employment, which reported to the Austrian Labour Department, was 64,779 in the month of January, the number of situations offered was 44,478, and the number of situations found for applicants was 28,502. The number of situations filled per 100 applicants is shown below for the three periods named:—

	Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.
No. of Situations found per 100 Applicants			
Males ...	33	26	22
Females ...	61	46	58
Total ...	44	32	37

In so far as can be judged by these figures, therefore, employment would appear to have been considerably better in January than in December, and also slightly better than in January, 1905.

## NORWAY.

*Employment.§*—The proportion of members described as unemployed by the Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, was as follows at the end of January, 1906. For reference, the figures for December and January, 1905, are also given, and it will be seen that, on the whole, there was an improvement in January, 1906, as compared with a month and a year before. (As regards this Table see note above under heading "Labour Abroad.")

	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Jan. 1906.	Dec. 1905.	Jan. 1905.	Jan. 1906.	Dec. 1905.	Jan. 1905.
All Unions ...	10,074	11,660	11,341	6.1	7.4	6.6
Metal Workers & Moulders	5,094	5,118	5,525	1.8	2.5	3.2
Printers ...	1,088	1,112	1,121	5.6	7.8	6.6
Painters, Masons, & Bricklayers (inc. Labourers)	565	773	620	48.2	51.1	39.7
Bakers ...	540	561	736	11.1	11.2	10.5
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	449	467	382	1.6	1.1	9.2
Woodworkers ...	678	750	505	10.9	15.2	7.5

\* Based on telegraphic despatches to the Foreign Office from the British Consul at Lyons, dated February 13th, and March 14th, 1906, and on newspaper reports.

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

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

§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Labour Department.

¶ Revised figures.

⌘ Labourers not included.

## ITALY.

*Labour Disputes in January.\**—Fifty-three disputes were reported to the Italian Labour Department as having occurred in January, as compared with 41 in the previous month. The number of persons directly affected by 34 of the new disputes was 5,274; in December, 7,040 were directly affected by 34 disputes. The groups of trades in which the greatest number of disputes occurred were the textile (11 disputes), the transport (7 disputes), and the metal and shipbuilding (6 disputes). Out of the 33 disputes which came to an end in the month of January, 7 (involving 476 workpeople) terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 8 (6 of which involved 673 workpeople) in favour of the employers, while 17 (16 of which involved 3,727 workpeople) were compromised. In one dispute, in which 70 persons took part, the result was not stated.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*The Threatened Dispute in the American Coal Mining Industry.†*—The awards of the Commission‡ appointed by the President of the United States in connection with the prolonged strike of anthracite miners of Pennsylvania in 1902 expire on March 31st, and although conferences have been held with a view to coming to a new agreement, it has not, so far, been found possible to arrange terms. The miners demand that their Union, the United Mine Workers, shall be recognised, that there shall be an increase of wages of 12½ per cent., and that 8 hours shall constitute a working day. On March 11th, the anthracite coal owners rejected the proposals of the United Mine Workers' Union for a re-adjustment of wages and the improvement of the conditions prevailing in the anthracite fields. A conference of bituminous mine owners and miners is called for March 15th.

The present dispute differs from that of 1902 inasmuch as the bituminous miners are involved as well as those employed at the anthracite collieries in the State of Pennsylvania. Of the 450,000 Union men that may possibly be affected 150,000 will be in the Pennsylvania anthracite district, 85,000 in the Pennsylvania bituminous mines, 38,000 in Ohio, 17,000 in Indiana, 60,000 in Illinois, 16,000 in Iowa, 30,000 in West Virginia, 3,000 in Michigan, and about 51,000 in Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Indian Territory and Arkansas.

The mine owners in the anthracite region have been stocking coal for some time in expectation of a strike, but at the bituminous collieries it has not been possible to lay aside large quantities of coal for storage purposes.

*Strike in the Printing Trades at New York and Boston.§*—The printing trade employers at New York, who have adopted a nine-hour day and the "open shop" policy, state that business is now normal, as they have succeeded in obtaining some 900 men to take place of the men who struck (see February GAZETTE, p. 44). The employers at Boston are also stated to have been successful in obtaining non-unionists to replace the 200 men who struck work on February 2nd.

*Strike of Structural Iron and Steel Workers in New York and district.¶*—(see GAZETTE for February p. 44). On February 25th, the employers issued a notice stating that they would conduct their work on the "open shop" principle, but disavowing any intention of discriminating against members of any society or organisation. They also stated that there was no intention of lowering wages or altering the working hours. Attempts are being made to obtain the recognition of the Union of House-smiths and Bridgemen.

\* Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro (Journal of the Italian Labour Department).

† Based on a report by the British Commercial Agent at New York, and on newspaper reports.

‡ See GAZETTE, April, 1903, p. 94.

§ Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated February 6th and 23rd, and from H.M. Consul at Boston, dated February 5th and 19th, 1906.

¶ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at New York dated February 27th, 1906.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES  
IN FEBRUARY.

## COAL MINING.

(Based on 562 Returns—475 from Employers, 64 from Trade Unions, and 23 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good during February, and was better than a year ago; the improvement was general in all districts, and in all descriptions of coal. Compared with a month ago, little general change was shown.

Returns relating to 1,344 pits employing 580,393 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended February 24th, 1906, was 5.54, as compared with 5.33 during the four weeks ended February 25th, 1905. During January, 1906, the average weekly number of days worked (5.01) was affected by holidays.

Of the 580,393 workpeople covered by the Returns 512,047 (or 88.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended February 24th, and of these 420,507 (or 72.5 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The improvement, compared with a year ago, which was general throughout Great Britain, was greatest in the Midlands and Yorkshire, where the increases in the average number of days worked ranged from .28 to .57 of a day. The smallest increases were in Scotland (.05) and Durham (.08).

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

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Feb., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1906, as compared with	
		Feb. 24th, 1906.	Jan. 20th, 1906.*	Feb. 25th, 1905.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	42,017	5.43	5.04	5.31	+ .39	+ .12
Durham ...	108,119	5.50	5.25	5.42	+ .25	+ .08
Cumberland ...	7,044	5.51	4.78	5.29	+ .73	+ .22
South Yorkshire ...	57,467	5.75	4.93	5.45	+ .82	+ .30
West Yorkshire ...	21,231	5.27	4.95	4.84	+ .32	+ .43
Lancashire and Cheshire	56,177	5.44	4.86	5.31	+ .58	+ .13
Derbyshire ...	35,677	5.43	4.76	4.91	+ .67	+ .52
Nottingham and Leicester	29,898	4.88	4.40	4.56	+ .48	+ .32
Staffordshire ...	26,775	5.42	4.81	5.01	+ .61	+ .41
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,524	5.39	4.84	5.11	+ .55	+ .28
Gloucester and Somerset	8,140	5.45	4.74	4.88	+ .71	+ .57
North Wales ...	11,301	5.60	5.02	5.13	+ .58	+ .47
South Wales and Mon. ...	115,874	5.89	5.30	5.72	+ .59	+ .17
ENGLAND & WALES...	528,244	5.55	5.03	5.32	+ .52	+ .28
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	24,546	5.36	4.71	5.32	+ .65	+ .04
The Lothians ...	5,853	5.73	5.19	5.62	+ .54	+ .11
Fife ...	21,147	5.61	4.89	5.56	+ .72	+ .05
SCOTLAND ...	51,546	5.80	4.84	5.45	+ .96	+ .08
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	580,393	5.54	5.01	5.33	+ .53	+ .21

In the Northern Counties employment was good generally, but in West Yorkshire one-third of the workpeople worked less than five days per week, the lost time being due in some cases to breakage of machinery.

In the Midlands employment was fairly good on the whole, but in the Notts and Leicester district half the workpeople reported on worked less than five days per week. In Derbyshire the pits working short time were house-coal pits.

In Wales and Scotland employment was good generally.

From Returns relating to over 320,000 workpeople, the following Table has been compiled, showing the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal

\* This period includes Christmas and New Year holidays.

produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Feb., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1906, as compared with	
		Feb. 24th, 1906.	Jan. 20th, 1906.*	Feb. 25th, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Anthracite ...	7,938	5.84	5.25	5.15	+ .59	+ .69
Coking ...	24,716	5.67	5.35	5.45	+ .32	+ .22
Gas ...	37,165	5.43	5.14	5.41	+ .29	+ .02
House ...	63,770	5.30	4.72	4.92	+ .58	+ .37
Manufacturing ...	11,206	5.54	4.77	4.96	+ .77	+ .58
Steam ...	178,023	5.70	5.14	5.55	+ .56	+ .15

Employment was better than a year ago in all descriptions of coal. The greatest increase in the average number of days worked is shown by pits producing anthracite and manufacturing coal, and the smallest increase by pits producing gas coal. For each of the periods under review, steam and coking coal pits worked a higher number of days than the general average, while pits producing house coal worked less than the general average.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in February, 1906, amounted to 4,054,149 tons, as compared with 4,218,391 tons in January, 1906, and 3,906,128 tons in February, 1905.

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

(Based on 95 returns—79 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

In tin, copper and lead mines employment continued good.

In quarries employment, on the whole, was dull, and showed little change compared with a month ago.

**Mining.**

**Iron Mining.**—During the four weeks ended February 24th, the average weekly number of days worked by the mines and open works covered by the Returns was 5.86, as compared with 5.38 a month ago, and 5.90 a year ago. The average for January, however, was reduced by holidays.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Feb., 1906, at all Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1906, as compared with	
		Feb. 24th, 1906.	Jan. 20th, 1906.*	Feb. 25th, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland...	7,417	5.90	5.39	5.97	+ 0.51	- 0.07
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,931	5.91	5.40	5.94	+ 0.51	- 0.03
Scotland...	990	5.68	5.06	5.54	+ 0.62	+ 0.14
Other Districts ...	2,866	5.72	5.48	5.74	+ 0.24	- 0.02
<b>Total and Averages</b>	<b>16,204</b>	<b>5.86</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>5.90</b>	<b>+ 0.48</b>	<b>- 0.04</b>

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 94.2 per cent. were employed in mines working twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended February 24th, as compared with 53.8 per cent. a month ago, which included a holiday period, and 92.7 per cent. a year ago.

**Shale Mining.**—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,192 men were employed in the four weeks ended February 24th, as compared with 3,170† a month ago, and 3,166† a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked in the four weeks ended February 24th was 5.61, as compared with 5.34† a month ago, and 5.91† a year ago. In January, however, the number of days was reduced by holidays.

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

**Tin and Copper Mining.**—Employment generally continued good in Cornwall and Devon, with a demand for more labour in the Camborne district. It was, however, dull in the Calstock district.

**Lead Mining.**—Employment continued good in Denbighshire and Flintshire, and at Darley Dale. In Weardale five days per week were again worked.

**Quarrying.**

**Slate.**—Employment continued slack in the Festiniog district, and in Carnarvonshire, with the exception of the Llanberis district. Employment was slack in Argyllshire, where only five days a week were worked.

**Granite.**—Employment continued dull in Aberdeenshire and bad in Devonshire and Cornwall. In Leicestershire it was fair.

**Limestone.**—Employment continued good in Cumberland and Weardale; in Derbyshire it was adversely affected by bad weather. In the Bath stone quarries it was slack, with short time. Employment in the Plymouth district was quiet. In North Wales it was not so good as a month ago.

**Other Stone.**—Employment was good, with considerable overtime, in chert quarries in Derbyshire. At Gateshead it was fair. In the Clee Hill road-material quarries and in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate. It was generally slack in the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham district, and it continued bad in Forfarshire, with short time.

**Sett-making.**—In Aberdeenshire employment was considerably affected through a dispute. In the Clee Hill district it was moderate, and in North Wales and at Airdrie and Edinburgh it was fair.

**China Clay.**—Employment was fair in the St. Austell district, and at Lee Moor work was reported as steady.

**PIG IRON INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 115 Returns—108 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, 4 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

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

Returns relating to 108 ironmasters show that during February four furnaces—one each in Cleveland, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Lanarkshire were re-lit; four were blown out, three of which were in Scotland, and one in Derbyshire was damped down. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of February was 337, as compared with 338 in January, and 312 in February, 1905. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the Returns which are summarised below is estimated at 24,200.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1906, as compared with	
	Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>					
Cleveland ...	86	85	79	+ 1	+ 7
Cumberland & Lancs.	38	38	35	...	+ 3
S. and S.W. Yorks.	17	16	13	+ 1	+ 4
Derby & Nottingham	37	38	37	- 1	...
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	28	28	26	...	+ 2
Stafford & Worcester	35	34	31	+ 1	+ 4
S. Wales & Monmouth	14	14	14	...	...
Other districts ...	7	8	7	- 1	...
<b>Returned from England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>+ 20</b>
<b>Returned from Scotland</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>+ 25</b>

The Imports of iron ore in February amounted to 582,315 tons, or 108,081 tons more than in February, 1905, and 208,821 tons more than in February, 1904.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during February, 1906, amounted to 81,083 tons, as compared with 56,508 tons in February, 1905, and 47,184 tons in February, 1904.

**IRON AND STEEL WORKS.**

(Based on 216 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 7 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works in February was slightly better than in January, and considerably better than a year ago, 8.3 per cent. more workers being employed at the works covered by the Returns received.

The total volume of employment (i.e. numbers employed multiplied by the average number of shifts worked) during the week ended February 24th, 1906, at the 197 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.2 per cent. greater than during the week ended January 27th, 1906, and 10.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 516,500, as compared with 515,500 a month ago, and 469,250 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.			
	In week ended Feb. 24th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended Feb. 24th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
<b>Open-Hearth Melting Furnaces</b>	8,118	+ 116	5.91	+ 0.02	- 0.01	
Crucible Furnaces ...	566	- 17	5.65	+ 0.22	+ 0.29	
Bessemer Converters ...	1,566	- 181	4.91	- 0.27	- 0.01	
Puddling Forges ...	9,948	+ 33	5.15	- 0.12	+ 0.24	
Rolling Mills ...	30,796	+ 852	5.32	- 0.05	+ 0.08	
Forging and Pressing ...	3,737	- 81	5.65	+ 0.03	+ 0.16	
Founding ...	11,517	+ 180	5.89	- 0.02	+ 0.04	
Other Departments ...	10,408	+ 360	5.84	- 0.02	+ 0.01	
Mechanics, Labourers ...	15,897	+ 4	5.86	...	+ 0.10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,523</b>	<b>+ 700</b>	<b>5.58</b>	<b>- 0.03</b>	<b>+ 0.09</b>	
<b>Districts.</b>						
Northumberland & Durham	11,735	+ 72	5.64	+ 0.01	+ 0.03	
Cleveland ...	7,665	- 275	5.67	+ 0.01	+ 0.05	
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,474	+ 183	5.69	+ 0.01	+ 0.12	
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,480	- 69	5.61	- 0.08	+ 0.34	
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	10,126	+ 52	5.37	- 0.15	+ 0.19	
Staffordshire ...	10,193	+ 168	5.44	- 0.09	+ 0.05	
Other Midland Counties	4,596	+ 34	5.55	+ 0.09	+ 0.19	
Wales and Monmouth	9,716	+ 232	5.66	+ 0.02	+ 0.01	
England and Wales	74,895	+ 399	5.59	- 0.02	+ 0.11	
Scotland ...	17,628	+ 301	5.57	- 0.06	+ 0.03	
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,523</b>	<b>+ 700</b>	<b>5.58</b>	<b>- 0.03</b>	<b>+ 0.09</b>	

Compared with a month ago, five departments showed an increase in the number of workpeople employed, while four departments showed some decrease. The greatest increase was in rolling mills, 352; while the greatest decrease was in the Bessemer converting department (181), this being due to a decline in the Cleveland district. The districts in which the greatest increases in the number of workpeople took place, were Scotland (301) and Wales and Monmouth (232).

Compared with a year ago, every district, and every department except the Bessemer converting department, showed an increase in the numbers employed.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week remained about the same as a month ago except at crucible furnaces, where an increase of 0.22 of a shift took place, and in Bessemer converting departments, where a decrease of 0.27 of a shift occurred. The Midland Counties, other than Staffordshire, showed the greatest increase, 0.09 of a shift; the greatest decrease, 0.15 of a shift, took place in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire district.

Compared with a year ago, every district, and all departments, except Open Hearth melting furnaces and Bessemer converting departments, showed an increase, the greatest improvements being at crucible furnaces, 0.29 of a shift, and puddling forges, 0.24 of a shift.

**TINPLATE WORKS.**

(Based on 54 Returns—50 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during February showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was still very good; it was better than a year ago.

At the end of February 412 mills were working compared with 419 at the end of the previous month. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 7 (1.7 per cent.) in the number of mills at work. The number of workpeople employed at the 412 mills was about 20,600.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	66	361	—	361
Works giving partial employment	11	51	27	78
<b>Total at end of February, 1906*</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>439</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for Jan., 1906*</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>446</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for Feb., 1905*</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>427</b>

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and blackplates for tinning, are given in the Table below for the three periods stated. It will be seen that of the total exports of tinplates during February, 4,068 tons, or 12.5 per cent. went to the United States. The British East Indies took 4,251 tons, Germany 3,840 tons, the Netherlands 1,947 tons, and France 1,911 tons. Of the blackplates for tinning exported in February, 1,756 tons went to Germany, and 1,475 to Russia.

	Month ended Feb. 28th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Two Months ended Feb. 28th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1906.
<b>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</b>						
To United States ...	Tons. 4,068	Tons. - 2,322	Tons. + 1,070	Tons. 7,260	Tons. - 5,573	Tons. - 1,398
„ Other Countries	28,413	+ 5,842	+ 7,954	54,284	+ 8,233	+ 10,612
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,481</b>	<b>+ 3,520</b>	<b>+ 9,024</b>	<b>61,544</b>	<b>+ 2,660</b>	<b>+ 9,214</b>
<b>Black Plates for Tinning.</b>						
To United States ...	...	- 39	...	...	- 58	...
„ Other Countries	6,227	+ 2,506	+ 2,246	10,154	+ 1,824	+ 930
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,227</b>	<b>+ 2,467</b>	<b>+ 2,246</b>	<b>10,154</b>	<b>+ 1,766</b>	<b>+ 930</b>

**ENGINEERING TRADES.**

(Based on 966 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 917 from Trade Unions, and 39 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during February generally continued good, showing a slight improvement on the previous month, and being much better than a year ago.

In nearly every district employment was good, and as compared with the previous month the districts showing the greatest improvement were Belfast and Dublin, the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn district, and the East of Scotland. The only districts in which a decline was recorded were the Hull and Lincolnshire district, the West Riding towns, the South Wales and Bristol district, and the Notts, Derby and Leicester district.

As compared with a year ago, an improvement was shown in every district.

Returns relating to 150,579 members of Trade Unions show that 3.0 per cent. were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 3.2 per cent. in January, 1906, and 6.4 per cent. in February, 1905.

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

The percentages for the various districts, as far as they are available, are shown below:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1906, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Feb., 1906, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,033	3'0	3'0	5'7	...	- 2'7
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,339	2'9	3'1	8'5	- 0'2	- 5'6
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,111	2'6	3'5	10'5	- 0'9	- 7'9
West Riding Towns ...	12,259	4'0	3'7	9'9	+ 0'3	- 5'0
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,616	3'6	3'2	4'6	+ 0'4	- 1'0
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,861	1'5	2'0	4'0	- 0'5	- 2'5
Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester District	3,932	4'6	4'4	11'0	+ 0'2	- 6'4
London and Neighbouring District	12,459	3'0	3'1	4'5	- 0'1	- 1'6
South Coast ...	3,598	2'6	2'8	3'1	- 0'2	- 0'5
South Wales and Bristol District	6,644	3'4	3'1	5'5	+ 0'3	- 0'1
Glasgow and District	14,728	3'5	4'2	7'3	- 0'7	- 3'8
East of Scotland	3,650	2'1	6'0	12'5	- 0'9	- 5'4
Belfast and Dublin	3,425	5'8	6'9	9'3	- 1'1	- 4'0
Other Districts	5,605	1'9	2'7	5'1	- 0'8	- 3'2
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	<b>160,879</b>	<b>3'0</b>	<b>3'2</b>	<b>5'4</b>	<b>- 0'2</b>	<b>- 3'4</b>

On the North-East Coast employment was generally good, and was much better than a year ago.

In Manchester and district employment remained on the whole good. At Liverpool it was generally fair, but dull with brassfounders and hammermen. With engineers at Birkenhead it was slightly worse than last month. Employment was good at Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn, Preston, and Burnley. Grinders and glazers, and spindle and flyer makers were well employed, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked throughout Lancashire generally. At Barrow-in-Furness employment remained much the same.

At Leeds employment generally continued fairly good, and showed an improvement with boiler makers and iron founders. It was fair at Wakefield and improving at Stanningley. At Sheffield and at Rotherham employment generally was fairly good. Core makers and iron and steel dressers were well employed, but boiler makers were slack. At Barnsley it was slack. In the Bradford district engineers and ironfounders were fairly well employed and some overtime was worked. At Huddersfield and Dewsbury employment was fairly good. At Keighley it was good with engineers and moderate with ironfounders. At Halifax it was improving with engineers and iron founders.

In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment was fairly good, though there was a slight increase in the percentage of unemployed as compared with the previous month. At Doncaster it was moderate generally.

At Nottingham employment, though still only moderate, improved slightly with general engineers, tool makers and pattern makers. It was bad with ironfounders, boiler makers and blacksmiths, but good in the lace and hosiery machinery branches. At Derby it was dull with engineers, fair with boiler makers, and good with brass moulders and finishers. At Burton-on-Trent it was quiet with engineers and bad with ironfounders. At Leicester it was good with engineers and tool makers.

At Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry employment generally was good, and some overtime was worked in the cycle and motor branches.

Employment in the Potteries remained moderate, and there was some short time.

In the Eastern Counties employment remained generally fair.

Employment in the London district, as shown by Trade Union returns, slightly improved, and was considerably better than in February, 1905.

In the dockyard towns employment remained dull. At Southampton it was fair, and some overtime was worked.

In the South Wales district employment generally was fair, and slightly better than in the previous month. At

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Bristol, though some improvement was recorded, employment remained slack, and short time was worked by brassfounders and finishers. At Gloucester and Swindon it was generally good, with some overtime.

In the Clyde district employment was good, and continued to improve, much overtime being worked.

Employment was fair generally at Edinburgh, and with ironfounders at Falkirk, though short time was worked by the latter; it was quiet at Leith. At Aberdeen employment remained good. At Dundee it was fair generally, except with brassfounders and finishers.

Employment at Belfast was generally fairly good, and improving with engineers and boiler makers. At Dublin and Cork it was still dull.

**SHIPBUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 384 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 360 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, on the whole, continued to improve. It was considerably better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,153 members had 3,915 (or 6'9 per cent., the lowest figure since August, 1902) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 7'9 per cent. at the end of January, and with 11'5 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, the most marked improvement, as indicated by the percentages of unemployed, was in the Mersey district and in East Scotland; the greatest decline was in the Bristol Channel Ports.

Compared with a year ago a considerable improvement is shown in most of the great shipbuilding centres.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1906, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Feb., 1906, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,504	6'2	6'0	13'8	+ 0'2	- 7'6
Wear ...	4,914	2'5	4'3	11'9	- 1'8	- 9'4
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,124	5'5	3'7	16'0	+ 1'8	- 10'5
Humber ...	2,344	6'5	3'9	12'3	- 2'6	- 5'8
Thames and Medway ...	4,785	8'7	10'9	8'4	- 2'2	+ 0'3
South Coast ...	3,892	7'1	9'5	5'2	- 2'4	+ 1'9
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,486	13'3	10'0	13'2	+ 3'3	+ 0'1
Mersey ...	3,863	5'1	12'6	14'1	- 7'5	- 9'0
Clyde ...	12,189	8'5	8'1	10'5	+ 0'4	- 2'0
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,279	6'5	14'1	14'7	- 7'5	- 8'1
Belfast ...	2,584	5'2	3'0	11'4	+ 2'2	- 6'2
Other Districts ...	3,189	7'3	8'4	6'8	- 1'1	+ 0'5
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>57,153</b>	<b>6'9</b>	<b>7'9</b>	<b>11'5</b>	<b>- 1'0</b>	<b>- 4'6</b>

Employment continued good on the Tyne and Wear on both new and repair work. With sailmakers, however, it was slack. In the Tees and Hartlepool district it was good on new work but showed a falling off in the repairing branch. On the Humber employment was fairly good on the whole, but iron shipbuilders reported a decline. Generally speaking, employment on the North-East Coast was considerably better than a year ago.

In the Thames and Medway district employment was slack but the improvement noted a month ago (chiefly in repair work) was maintained. As compared with a year ago there was little change. At Southampton employment continued fair on ship repairs, and was moderate on yacht work. At other South Coast ports there was a slight improvement on the whole. At Bristol Channel ports an increase in the number of unemployed was reported. On the Mersey employment showed considerable improvement, chiefly on repair work, and was much better than a year ago. Ship joiners, however, reported it as dull.

Employment continued fair on the Clyde, and was rather better than a year ago. At Partick and Govan, however, some slackness was reported. At Leith employment remained bad; at Dundee it was fairly good; at Aberdeen, fair.

At Belfast employment was good generally, and much better than a year ago.

At Barrow-in-Furness it was moderate, and worse than a month ago. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was good; at Ipswich, dull; it was good at Cork, bad in the other ports in that district.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

† Revised figure.

**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

(Based on 61 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 31 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

With few exceptions these trades continued to be well employed, and showed considerable improvement compared with a year ago. Eighteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 15,271 had 383 (or 2'5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, compared with 2'6 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 3'5 per cent. at the end of February, 1905.

*Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.*—Employment with brassworkers continued fairly good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. In London it was generally dull, but with copper workers it was fair. At Birmingham it was fair with bedstead makers, although short time was being worked; in the fender and fire brass trade it continued quiet, but better than a month ago.

*Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.*—With nut and bolt makers employment continued good at Darlaston, and fair at Birmingham and in South Wales. With wire nail, shoe rivet, and cut nail makers at Birmingham it continued fair. At Black Heath with nail workers it was fair, but with rivet makers it was not so good as a month ago.

*Tubes.*—In the tube trades employment continued good generally. Overtime was reported in South Wales and in the cased tube section in Birmingham.

*Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.*—At Cradley employment continued good with chain makers, and with anchor smiths it had improved and was fair. With chain and anchor smiths in South Wales it had declined. In the Dudley district the improvement with anvil and vice makers was maintained. Employment was fair at at Walsall with motor chain, buckle and cart gear workers, and at Rotherham with railway spring makers. It was good at Birmingham and West Bromwich with spring and axle makers, and at Wednesbury with railway and constructional ironwork.

*Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.*—Employment at Wolverhampton in the lock and latch trade continued depressed, more short time being worked than a month ago. It was fair on cast iron hollow-ware, and good on iron fences and hurdles. In the hollow-ware trade it was good at Wigan, fair at Birmingham and West Bromwich, but remained slack at Sheffield.

*Cutlery, Tools, etc.*—In the penknife, table cutlery, and razor trades at Sheffield employment continued slack, but with saw makers it was fair. In the edge-tool trades it was fair at Sheffield and Birmingham, but quiet at Wednesbury. In the file trades generally employment was fairly good. At Redditch in the needle trade it was good.

*Stoves, Grates, etc.*—Employment in these trades was fair at Falkirk, and quiet at Rotherham. At Glasgow short time was worked, but a slight improvement was shown compared with a month ago.

*Sheet Metal, etc.*—In London employment with tin and ironplate workers continued fair; with zinc workers it was still slack, though a slight improvement was shown. With tinplate workers it was quiet at Glasgow, fair at Aberdeen, and good at Nottingham, Oldham and Edinburgh. In the ironplate trade at Birmingham and the Lye it continued quiet. At Manchester with sheet metal workers it was good.

*Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.*—In London goldsmiths remained fairly well employed. In the silverplate trades employment was reported as slack in London, Sheffield and Birmingham. With britannia metal smiths it was slack at Sheffield, but fairly good at Birmingham. It was quiet with jewellers at Birmingham and with watch makers at Coventry.

*Wire.*—Employment continued good on the whole, and rather better than a year ago.

*Farriers.*—Employment was generally good in Scotland, and moderate in England.

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 696 Returns—604 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 81 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, being slightly better than a month ago, and better than a year ago.

The price of "middling American" cotton was 32d. lower in February than in January, but 1'72d. higher than a year ago. The price of "good fair Egyptian" was 53d. higher in February than in January, and 1'74d. higher than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in February was 164,848, an increase of 0'2 per cent. compared with the last week in January, and of 1'5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 132,375 of these operatives have stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with a month ago the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0'3 per cent. and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1'0 per cent. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 1'6 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 4'1 per cent. The real improvement in employment is greater than is indicated by these figures, which do not include the mills and sheds recently started.

**Analysis by Departments and Districts.**

Compared with a month ago there was a slight improvement and compared with a year ago there was a more marked improvement in every department.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed in last week of Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last week of Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of	
		Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.		Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.
Preparing ...	14,504	+ 0'0	+ 1'2	£ 12,671	+ 0'4	+ 1'2
Spinning ...	26,247	+ 0'2	+ 3'3	25,313	+ 1'4	+ 4'7
Weaving ...	61,319	+ 0'2	+ 0'1	55,845	+ 0'5	+ 3'9
Other ...	12,610	+ 0'2	+ 5'2	14,499	+ 1'5	+ 7'3
Departments not specified	17,695	+ 0'8	+ 2'1	17,979	+ 2'2	+ 3'8
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>132,375</b>	<b>+ 0'3</b>	<b>+ 1'6</b>	<b>124,107</b>	<b>+ 1'0</b>	<b>+ 4'1</b>
<b>Districts.</b>	<b>Per cent.</b>	<b>Per cent.</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Per cent.</b>	<b>Per cent.</b>	
Ashton District ...	7,552	+ 0'2	+ 1'2	7,325	+ 2'3	+ 3'1
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,620	+ 0'0	+ 1'0	6,006	+ 0'3	+ 2'8
Oldham District ...	16,851	- 0'4	+ 1'7	16,775	+ 0'2	+ 0'5
Bolton and Leigh ...	16,232	+ 0'9	- 3'9	14,191	+ 2'1	- 0'6
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	8,845	+ 1'1	+ 2'7	8,046	+ 1'2	+ 3'0
Manchester District ...	10,233	- 0'3	+ 1'0	7,901	+ 1'0	+ 4'0
Preston and Chorley ...	9,674	+ 0'1	+ 1'6	8,497	+ 1'3	+ 5'9
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	22,629	+ 0'0	+ 0'9	22,539	+ 1'1	+ 7'2
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	18,619	+ 0'3	+ 0'5	20,054	- 2'0	+ 2'4
Other Lancs. Towns ...	1,517	- 0'1	+ 2'6	1,241	+ 2'6	+ 6'5
Yorkshire Towns ...	5,083	+ 1'4	+ 6'7	4,804	+ 4'5	+ 11'2
Other Districts ...	8,520	+ 0'8	+ 1'4	6,728	+ 1'6	+ 19'5
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>132,375</b>	<b>+ 0'3</b>	<b>+ 1'6</b>	<b>124,107</b>	<b>+ 1'0</b>	<b>+ 4'1</b>

In every district employment was reported as good, although a slight decline was reported in the weaving branch in the Burnley and Nelson district compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago every district showed an improvement, except the Bolton and Leigh district, which showed no change in the amount of wages paid, but a decline in the number employed owing to a dispute in one large factory.

**Raw Cotton.**

*American Cotton.*—During the month of February the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5'85d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5'99d., and the lowest, 5'69d. The price for January, was 6'17d., and for February, 1905, 4'13d. For the period from 1st to 10th March the average price of "middling American" was 5'88d. per lb.

*Egyptian Cotton.*—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during February averaged 8'29d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8'3d., and the lowest, 7'18d. The price for January was 7'76d., and for February, 1905, 6'55d. For the period from 1st to 10th March the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8'93d. per lb.



The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on March 9th, 1906, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,174,460 bales, as compared with 942,480 on March 10th, 1905.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month ended Feb. 28th, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with February.		Two months ended Feb. 28th, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
	Bales.	lbs.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.
American	248,450	-17,431	+ 54,681	534,348	- 10,493	+ 139,319		
Brazilian	17,028	+15,536	+ 8,500	34,147	+ 29,591	+ 20,015		
East Indian	6,918	+ 4,642	- 476	11,588	+ 4,185	+ 54		
Egyptian	42,217	+10,621	+10,194	89,357	+ 25,176	+ 15,967		
Miscellaneous	7,195	+ 3,754	+ 3,188	15,562	+ 9,606	+ 6,055		
<b>Total</b>	<b>321,808</b>	<b>+17,142</b>	<b>+ 76,387</b>	<b>685,002</b>	<b>+ 58,155</b>	<b>+ 181,410</b>		

**Exports of Cotton Goods.**

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

Description.	Month ended Feb. 28th, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with February.		Two months ended Feb. 28th, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
	1000's lbs.	1000's yds.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.
<b>Cotton Yarn and Twist—</b>								
Grey	14,251	+ 1,928	+ 2,069	29,291	+ 4,512	+ 5,833		
Bleached	3,275	+ 223	+ 579	6,786	+ 941	+ 1,372		
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,526</b>	<b>+ 2,151</b>	<b>+ 2,648</b>	<b>36,077</b>	<b>+ 5,453</b>	<b>+ 7,205</b>		
<b>Cotton Piece Goods—</b>								
Grey or Unbleached	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.		
Grey or Unbleached	178,407	-10,420	+ 7,149	389,111	+ 28,407	+ 49,455		
Bleached	14,195	-12,350	+ 8,182	304,394	+ 12,598	+ 45,939		
Printed	83,453	+ 6,315	- 9,034	181,758	+ 23,867	+ 4,614		
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	88,567	- 3,122	+ 5,637	190,062	+ 9,509	+ 26,042		
<b>Total</b>	<b>493,412</b>	<b>-19,577</b>	<b>+ 11,934</b>	<b>1,065,325</b>	<b>+ 74,381</b>	<b>+ 125,704</b>		

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 615 Returns—607 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Woollen and Worsted trades showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**

Employment in the Woollen trade continued good, and was slightly better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in February was 39,345, an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last week in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Per cent.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Wool Sorting and Combing...	6,228	+ 5.7	5,826	+ 6.9	+ 11.1	
Spinning ...	26,433	+ 0.6	13,795	+ 1.1	+ 7.0	
Weaving ...	12,130	- 0.2	10,289	- 2.1	+ 5.2	
Other Departments ...	5,784	- 0.3	5,656	- 0.1	+ 3.9	
Unspecified ...	2,351	+ 1.3	1,665	+ 0.1	+ 1.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,932</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>37,231</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>+ 6.4</b>	

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last week in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Per cent.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Bradford District ...	27,153	+ 1.4	19,251	+ 1.9	+ 7.9	
Keighley District ...	7,297	- 0.8	5,201	+ 0.9	+ 3.9	
Halifax District ...	6,121	+ 1.5	3,723	+ 5.0	+ 5.0	
Huddersfield District ...	6,388	- 0.1	5,455	- 5.7	+ 5.0	
Other Parts of West Riding ...	3,858	+ 1.5	2,318	+ 2.8	+ 2.2	
<b>Total West Riding</b>	<b>59,817</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>35,918</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 6.2</b>	
<b>Other Districts</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>+ 11.6</b>	
<b>Total Worsted</b>	<b>52,932</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>37,231</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>+ 6.4</b>	

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last week in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Per cent.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Wool Sorting ...	774	+ 1.0	725	- 0.1	+ 1.2	
Spinning ...	6,730	- 0.8	5,758	- 0.1	+ 0.2	
Weaving ...	13,191	+ 0.8	10,910	+ 2.6	+ 5.6	
Other Departments ...	7,988	- 0.1	8,015	+ 0.5	...	
Unspecified ...	2,487	+ 1.5	2,223	+ 3.6	+ 7.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,170</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>27,661</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>+ 2.7</b>	

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last week in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Per cent.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Huddersfield District ...	5,972	- 0.8	6,169	- 0.1	+ 3.2	
Leeds District ...	2,973	+ 2.0	2,547	+ 1.3	+ 5.8	
Dewsbury & Batley District ...	4,607	+ 1.2	4,696	+ 3.1	+ 1.6	
Other Parts of West Riding ...	2,473	- 0.2	2,116	+ 2.4	- 2.1	
<b>Total West Riding</b>	<b>16,325</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>15,518</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>	
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>8,544</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>7,227</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>	
<b>Other Districts</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>4,916</b>	<b>+ 3.4</b>	<b>+ 4.8</b>	
<b>Total Woollen</b>	<b>31,170</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>27,661</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>+ 2.7</b>	

Firms employing 31,170 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with a month ago, the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.3 per cent., and the amount of wages an increase of 1.5 per cent. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 1.0 per cent., and the amount of wages an increase of 2.7 per cent.

Employment in Huddersfield continued good, but some firms stopped night shifts, and overtime was not so common. In the heavy woollen district employment was fairly good. In Leeds makers of the cheaper class of goods for ready-made suits and costumes were very busy; employment on best goods was only fair. Employment in Hawick, Selkirk, and Galashiels continued good, and was better than a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**

Employment was fair, and decidedly better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in February was 67,345, an increase of 1.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 52,932 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with the last week in February, the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.9 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 0.8 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	No. employed in last week in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Per cent.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Wool Sorting and Combing...	6,228	+ 5.7	5,826	+ 6.9	+ 11.1	
Spinning ...	26,433	+ 0.6	13,795	+ 1.1	+ 7.0	
Weaving ...	12,130	- 0.2	10,289	- 2.1	+ 5.2	
Other Departments ...	5,784	- 0.3	5,656	- 0.1	+ 3.9	
Unspecified ...	2,351	+ 1.3	1,665	+ 0.1	+ 1.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,932</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>37,231</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>+ 6.4</b>	

Districts.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last week in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Per cent.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Bradford District ...	27,153	+ 1.4	19,251	+ 1.9	+ 7.9	
Keighley District ...	7,297	- 0.8	5,201	+ 0.9	+ 3.9	
Halifax District ...	6,121	+ 1.5	3,723	+ 5.0	+ 5.0	
Huddersfield District ...	6,388	- 0.1	5,455	- 5.7	+ 5.0	
Other Parts of West Riding ...	3,858	+ 1.5	2,318	+ 2.8	+ 2.2	
<b>Total West Riding</b>	<b>59,817</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>35,918</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 6.2</b>	
<b>Other Districts</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>+ 11.6</b>	
<b>Total Worsted</b>	<b>52,932</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>37,231</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>+ 6.4</b>	

Employment in Bradford showed a great improvement in the wool-sorting and combing branch, and the wool-sorters' Trade Union had no members unemployed; in the spinning and weaving branches there was little change, but firms were advertising for weavers. In Keighley employment with weavers was fair, and less short time was worked by the spinners. In Halifax there was a marked improvement. In Huddersfield there was a considerable decline in the weaving branch.

**Prices of Raw Material.**

The course of prices again showed a slight rise compared with a month ago, and was higher than a year ago.

	Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.
<b>Average Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ...	13 1/2	13 1/2	11 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ...	16 1/2	15 1/2	15
60's Super Botany tops ...	26 1/2	25 1/2	24
<b>Course of Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ...	13 1/2	13 1/2 to 13 3/4	12 to 11 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ...	16 to 16 1/2	15 1/2 to 16	15 to 14 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	25 1/2 to 26 1/2	25 1/2 to 25 3/4	24 to 23 1/2

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

Description.	Month ended Feb. 28th, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with February.		Two months ended Feb. 28th, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with corresponding period in	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.
<b>Imports and Exports.</b>								
<b>Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')</b>								
Imports (less Re-Exports) British	40,228	- 17,231	+ 6,779	99,800	- 17,715	+ 16,059		
Exports	2,857	+ 1,271	+ 8	5,084	+ 445	- 441		
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>								
Yarn—								
Woolen ...	175	- 17	+ 43	388	- 105	+ 108		
Worsted ...	4,289	+ 1,915	- 383	8,037	+ 997	- 828		
Alpaca and Mohair	1,109	+ 146	+ 115	2,116	+ 37	+ 123		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,573</b>	<b>+ 1,144</b>	<b>- 225</b>	<b>10,541</b>	<b>+ 899</b>	<b>- 597</b>		
<b>Piece Goods:</b>								
Woolen ...	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.		
Woolen ...	6,628	- 221	+ 993	15,881	+ 1,575	+ 4,054		
Worsted ...	9,536	- 36	+ 12	20,843	+ 869	+ 334		
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,164</b>	<b>- 258</b>	<b>+ 1,010</b>	<b>36,724</b>	<b>+ 2,444</b>	<b>+ 4,378</b>		

**FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.**

(Based on 144 Returns—130 from Employers and Employers' Associations and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and better than a month ago, especially in the weaving departments. It was much better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last full week in February was 58,563, an increase of 0.3 per cent. upon the number employed by the same firms at the end of January, and of 1.9 per cent. upon the number employed at the end of February, 1905.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 49,597 workpeople made Returns of wages paid in the periods under review. From these Returns it appears that, compared with January, there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last full week of Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last full week of Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Preparing ...	6,657	- 0.2	3,319	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	
Spinning ...	11,731	- 0.2	5,047	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	
Weaving ...	18,054	+ 0.9	10,535	+ 2.4	+ 7.9	
Other ...	6,566	+ 0.5	5,077	+ 1.4	+ 2.9	
Departments not specified	6,569	- 0.0	5,631	+ 1.7	+ 1.7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,597</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>27,609</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>+ 4.1</b>	

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last full week of Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last full week of Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Belfast ...	17,145	+ 0.0	9,655	+ 2.2	+ 2.8	
Other Places in Ireland ...	17,140	+ 0.6	8,616	+ 1.3	+ 4.9	

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on 80 Returns—76 from Employers and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement in numbers employed compared with a month ago and a year ago; in the throwing and spinning branch there was an improvement compared with a year ago; in the weaving branch there was a decline.

**Number of Workpeople.**

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns at the end of February was 11,135, an increase upon the numbers employed by the same firms of 0.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, the numbers employed showed a slight decline in the throwing branch, and a slight improvement in the spinning and weaving branches. Compared with a year ago, there was a slight improvement in the spinning branch and little change in the other branches.

Districts.	Number employed by firms making Returns.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lancashire and W. Riding of York	3,952	+ 1.5	+ 0.1
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	2,995	- 0.0	+ 2.7
Leek	426	+ 0.9	+ 3.9
Eastern Counties	2,122	+ 2.3	+ 3.2
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,640	- 0.6	- 0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,135</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>

**Number of Spindles and Looms.**

The number of spindles and looms returned, by the firms making Returns, as working in the last week of February showed a slight decline compared with a month ago.

Spindles and Looms.	Number of Spindles and Looms working in last week of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing Spindles	97,520	99,461	93,250	- 2.0	+ 4.6
Spinning Spindles	154,874	152,982	146,917	- 0.1	+ 4.1
Looms	4,633	4,656	4,781	- 0.5	- 3.1

In Macclesfield employment was reported as quiet with weavers, the mills running full time but many weavers only working one loom instead of two; with silk throwers, as good; with silk spinners, as moderate. Employment was reported as quiet at Braintree; moderate at Halstead; fair with factory workers and moderate with hand-loom weavers at Sudbury.

**Imports and Exports.**

The imports of raw and thrown silk, and of spun silk yarn, and the exports of thrown silk and yarn, and of silk broad-stuffs are shown in the Table below for the periods specified:—

Description.	Month ended Feb. 28th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with February,		Two Months ended Feb. 28th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
<b>Imports:—</b>						
Raw Silk	79,333	+ 1,821	+ 2,030	156,975	+ 1,363	+ 24,410
Thrown Silk	41,206	- 2,768	- 1,139	80,166	+ 1,284	+ 1,894
Spun Silk Yarn	16,879	- 8,637	+ 5,451	49,193	- 22,618	+ 15,866
<b>Exports:—</b>						
Thrown Silk	59,265*	- 12,711	+ 5,366	136,933	+ 8,506	+ 21,749
Twist & Yarn						
Silk Broad-stuffs	765,857	+ 30,277	+ 354,748	1,297,884	+ 14,771	+ 563,051

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 116 Returns—111 from Employers and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good in England, good in Scotland, and generally better than a month ago and much better than a year ago.

\* Yarn, 58,251 lbs. † Yarn, 133,873 lbs.

Firms employing 18,224 workpeople, and paying £14,037 in wages on the last pay-day in February, made Returns, which are summarised in the Table below. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 5.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 10.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Leicester, Hinckley, and Loughborough employment continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. In Nottingham it was fairly good. In Scotland employment continued good and was better than a month ago and a year ago.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.		Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.
Leicester	7,500	+ 0.5	+ 2.8	5,936	+ 3.6	+ 8.9
Leicester Country District	2,455	+ 0.4	+ 8.2	2,059	+ 2.4	+ 15.7
Notts. and Derbyshire	4,038	+ 0.1	+ 5.9	3,118	+ 3.3	+ 12.6
Scotland	3,312	+ 3.9	+ 9.2	2,391	+ 12.0	+ 9.3
Other Parts of United Kingdom	919	- 1.0	- 1.8	533	+ 5.3	+ 8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,224</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 5.0</b>	<b>14,037</b>	<b>+ 4.7</b>	<b>+ 10.7</b>

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

**Lace Trade.**

(Based on 6 Returns—1 from an Employers' Association, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair in England, good in Scotland, and generally much better than a year ago. In Nottingham employment, on the whole, showed a further improvement and was better than a year ago; it was reported as good in the plain net section, bad in the curtain section, and improved in the levers section. At Beeston employment showed an improvement, at Stapleford it was fairly steady, at Kimberley and Bulwell it was moderate. Lace makers at Ilkeston reported employment as fair; it was better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. Employment at Glasgow and Newmilns continued good, and was better than a year ago.

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

(Based on 17 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

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

**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment continued fairly good, and showed a slight improvement compared with a year ago.

**Silk Dyers.**—Employment at Macclesfield continued bad on the whole.

**Calico Printers, etc.**—Employment was reported as fairly good at Manchester, as having further improved at New Mills; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was reported as fair. At Glasgow it was reported as fair with calico printers, good with printers' engravers, and dull with block printers.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.**—At Leicester employment continued slack with general short time; at Hinckley it was fairly good; at Loughborough a slight decline was reported. Employment at Nottingham was reported as moderate with lace dyers, good with silk hosiery dyers and bleachers; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell employment was good and better than a year ago.

**Calenderers, etc.**—In Glasgow employment was good and better than a year ago, some overtime being worked. In Dundee employment was reported as bad with calender workers with much short time; with bleachfield workers it continued fair.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on 123 Returns—97 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch was better than a month ago, but dull generally, and slightly worse than a year ago. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

London.—Employment was better than a month ago, but slightly worse than a year ago.

Firms paying £10,304 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended February 24th, showed an increase of 9.7 per cent. compared with the four weeks ended January 27th, but a decrease of 0.8 per cent. on the corresponding period a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as bad at Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, and Dublin; quiet at Edinburgh; fair at Belfast.

**Ready-made Branch.**

London.—Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported employment as better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment during the month continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. According to Returns received from firms employing about 10,500 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment in February was good with firms employing 89 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, and moderate with firms employing 11 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 77 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 20 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 3 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 71 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 17 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 12 per cent. as worse. The Trade Union cutters reported employment as fair.

Other Centres.—Employment in Manchester, although still only moderate, was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. In Bristol it was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago; at Stroud it was good. Employment was slack at Ipswich and Colchester, good at Haverhill, fair at Norwich. In Glasgow it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; with the Trade Union cutters it was moderate.

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on 587 Returns—572 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 4 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

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

The number employed in the last week of February by 572 firms making Returns was 75,825, an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 468 firms, employing 64,069 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. These Returns showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, Leeds again showed a decline, and there was a slight decline in Norwich and in Scotland; in every other district there was an improvement which was especially marked in London, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, and the Leicester country district.

Compared with a year ago, every district, except Birmingham and Stafford, showed an improvement which was especially marked in London, Norwich, the Leicester and Northampton country districts and Kettering.

The Trade Union clickers and pressmen reported employment as good or fair in nearly every important centre, but as bad in Leeds. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as bad in Leeds district,

Birmingham, Nottingham, Newcastle-on-Tyne; slack in Glasgow and Maybole, quiet in Wolverhampton, in most other centres as good, fair, or improving.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during last week in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week in		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Feb., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week in	
		Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.		Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
London	3,003	+ 3.3	+ 7.8	3,553	+ 6.8	+ 10.8
Leicester	13,658	+ 1.7	+ 3.6	14,310	+ 1.4	+ 2.7
Leicester Country District	2,684	+ 0.9	+ 4.1	2,544	+ 4.4	+ 9.8
Northampton	8,857	+ 1.1	+ 7.0	8,415	+ 1.5	+ 3.4
Northampton Country District	9,135	- 0.3	+ 3.9	8,802	+ 0.1	+ 8.0
Kettering	3,165	+ 0.7	+ 7.3	3,197	+ 2.5	+ 8.9
Stafford & District	2,391	+ 5.1	+ 2.8	2,097	+ 1.1	- 0.4
Norwich & District	4,070	- 0.1	+ 6.7	3,369	- 0.4	+ 10.2
Bristol & District	1,947	+ 2.6	+ 5.4	1,810	+ 6.6	+ 7.8
Kingswood	2,106	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	1,893	+ 1.6	+ 6.9
Leeds & District	2,511	- 1.8	- 4.4	2,042	- 3.9	+ 0.5
Manchester & District	1,812	+ 0.7	+ 3.0	1,775	+ 6.0	+ 7.9
Birmingham & District	876	- 2.8	- 7.8	755	+ 6.2	- 5.3
Other parts of England and Wales	3,157	+ 1.0	+ 1.1	2,702	+ 1.9	+ 8.3
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>59,372</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>+ 4.0</b>	<b>57,562</b>	<b>+ 1.8</b>	<b>+ 5.8</b>
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>+ 0.0</b>	<b>4,058</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>+ 4.6</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>+ 2.0</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>	<b>+ 6.0</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<b>64,069</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 3.7</b>	<b>62,010</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>+ 5.7</b>

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported during February, 1906, and the two months ended February 28th, 1906, together with the increases or decreases, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1905 and 1904:—

	Month ended Feb. 28th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with February,		Two months ended Feb. 28th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
<b>Imports</b>						
Dozen pairs	17,860	- 2,847	+ 3,958	36,400	+ 16	+ 3,142
Value	£ 70,517	- 9,891	+ 19,346	143,652	+ 1,155	+ 31,239
<b>Re-Exports</b>						
Dozen pairs	1,400	- 217	- 1,693	3,107	+ 98	- 1,851
Value	£ 3,704	+ 195	- 1,030	8,783	+ 1,536	- 2,726
<b>Exports (British and Irish)</b>						
Dozen pairs	75,507	+ 12,049	+ 19,813	143,317	+ 16,723	+ 34,913
Value	£ 172,103	+ 20,514	+ 43,826	331,203	+ 41,949	+ 84,480

**HAT TRADE.**

(Based on 15 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 12 from Trade Unions.)

In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 13.5, compared with 14.4 at the end of January, and 12.7 a year ago. In London employment was reported as dull for the season, and worse than a year ago, with 1½ days short time per week. In Denton it continued quiet, short time being general. In the Felt hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 5.4, compared with 7.5 at the end of January, and 3.6 a year ago. Employment generally was quiet with much short time; in Stockport it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

**OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.**

(Based on 208 Returns—198 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed a slight improvement in the dressmaking trades, but was worse than a year ago; in the millinery trade it was better than a month ago and a year ago. Employment in the shirt and collar trade was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the corset trade it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—In London, Returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,482 dressmakers in the last week in February, showed a decrease of 0·8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 5·2 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate, and worse than a year ago. Court dressmakers, employing 1,373 workpeople, showed an increase of 4·1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0·5 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate, and slightly better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms employing 3,019 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the last week of February showed an increase of 3·7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1·0 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good. Firms employing 1,475 milliners showed an increase of 6·0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 7·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed an increase in the demand for dressmakers and milliners, but a decrease in the supply; compared with a year ago there was a decrease in the demand, and no change in the supply; in all three periods the supply was greater than the demand.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago; it showed little change compared with a year ago. Firms employing 3,254 workpeople in the last week of February showed an increase of 1·7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0·2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,396 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £5,063 in wages during the last week in February, showed an increase of 3·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7·2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was moderate in London, fair in Londonderry, fairly good in Taunton and Belfast, and good in Manchester and Glasgow.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,963 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the last week of February showed an increase of 1·8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1·0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 55 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 43 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 2 per cent. as worse.

#### OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 44 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during February continued quiet on the whole. Compared with a year ago it was considerably better. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,600 had 5·8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5·7 per cent. in January, and 9·3 per cent. in February, 1905.

**Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.**—Employment continued quiet on the whole, but was considerably better than a year ago. At Bolton, Bury and Wigan it was again reported as good. Curriers at Manchester, Glasgow, Dundee, Birmingham, Northampton and Wellingborough reported an improvement as compared with January, but in London a decline was reported.

**Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.**—Employment continued quiet generally, but was better than a year ago.

**Miscellaneous Leather Trades.**—Employment with fancy leather workers continued fair. With portmanteau and trunk makers in London short time was general.

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

(Based on 433 Returns—152 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 262 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was quiet on the whole at the end of February, and showed little general change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

##### PAPER TRADES.

Employment was good on the whole, and better than a year ago. In the *hand-made* trade it was also better than a month ago.

Returns received from firms employing 22,214 workpeople at the end of February showed that there was practically no change in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with January, but an increase of 0·8 per cent. as compared with February, 1905.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Feb., 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties ... ..	6,790	– 0·4	– 0·9
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,478	– 0·4	– 0·2
Southern Counties ... ..	6,423	+ 0·4	+ 2·0
Scotland ... ..	5,547	+ 0·1	+ 1·8
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	21,238	– 0·0	+ 0·8
Hand-made Paper ... ..	976	+ 0·7	+ 1·3
Total ... ..	22,214	+ 0·0	+ 0·8

Trade Unions in the *machine* trade with 1,694 members had 2·2 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, the same percentage as a month ago. In February, 1905, the percentage unemployed was 1·7. In the *hand-made* trade, Trade Unions with 624 members had 4·3 per cent. unemployed, compared with 5·7 in January, and 7·2 in February, 1905.

##### PRINTING TRADES.

Employment with *letterpress printers* was quiet. Compared with a month ago it showed an improvement in London, but was slightly worse in the provinces. Compared with a year ago little change was shown. Trade Unions with 39,236 members had 4·6 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5·1 per cent. in January, and 4·4 per cent. in February, 1905.

In the *lithographic* trade employment remained quiet, but was better than a year ago. Trade Unions of lithographic printers and artists, with 6,483 members, had 5·2 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 5·0 in January, and 6·3 per cent. in February, 1905.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1906 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	18,600	4·4	5·7	4·2	– 1·3	+ 0·2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,160	5·4	6·0	4·4	– 0·6	+ 1·0
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,393	6·0	5·2	7·0	+ 0·8	– 1·0
East Midland and Eastern Counties ...	1,579	3·9	3·7	3·9	+ 0·2	...
West Midlands ... ..	2,351	5·1	4·6	5·3	+ 0·5	– 0·2
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,708	1·9	2·4	2·4	– 0·5	– 0·5
Scotland ... ..	5,479	4·6	3·7	4·6	+ 0·9	...
Ireland ... ..	2,449	7·3	7·1	6·9	+ 0·2	+ 0·4
United Kingdom ...	45,719	4·7	5·1	4·7	– 0·4	...

**London.**—Employment with *letterpress printers*, though still quiet, was better than a month ago. With electrotypers and stereotypers it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of *letterpress printers* with 16,670 members had 4·1 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 5·7 per

cent. a month ago and 3·7 a year ago. With *lithographic printers* employment was quiet but better than a year ago.

**Other Centres.**—At Edinburgh employment with *letterpress printers* was reported as fair, but worse than a month ago. At Glasgow, Manchester, Sheffield and Hull it was slack, and worse than in January. At Newcastle, Cardiff and Dublin it was reported as quiet; at Aberdeen and Dundee as declining. At Leeds, Bradford, Birmingham and Belfast an improvement was reported. At Liverpool and Derby employment was fair. At Leicester, Oxford and Bristol it was good. With *lithographic printers* employment was quiet generally.

##### BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was quiet on the whole, but better than a year ago, especially in the provinces. Compared with a month ago there was a slight decline.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed in Trade Unions making Returns :—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1906 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	3,651	5·3	4·9	5·7	+ 0·4	– 0·4
Other Districts ... ..	3,309	3·8	3·3	4·9	+ 0·5	– 1·1
United Kingdom ...	6,960	4·6	4·1	5·3	+ 0·5	– 0·7

In London employment was quiet with *bookbinders*, but good with *machine rulers*. At Glasgow, Leeds, and Newcastle employment was good and better than a year ago; at Newcastle, Liverpool, and Manchester it was better than a month ago. At Edinburgh employment was reported as quiet; at Dublin as bad.

#### BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,024 Returns—139 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,830 from Trade Unions and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades remained dull in February, but there was a slight improvement on the whole as compared with a month ago. It showed little change compared with a year ago.

Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 61 London employers showed that in the last week of February they paid wages to 10,445 workpeople of all classes, compared with 10,339 in January and 12,086 in February, 1905. Employment generally in London was much the same as in the previous month, but worse than a year ago.

Returns were received from Employers' Associations in 71 districts outside London, and in nearly all of these employment was reported as dull generally. Compared with a month ago, no change was reported in 55 towns, while in 8, including Birkenhead, Lancaster, Blackpool and Dublin, employment was better, and in 8, including Stockport, Chester, Rugby, Newport and Aberdeen, it was worse. Compared with a year ago, employment was reported about the same in 42 towns, worse in 22 and better in 7.

The following information is based on Returns from Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents :—

With *bricklayers* employment was dull generally, and no better than a month ago. In many towns short time through bad weather was reported. Employment was moderate at Stockton, Middlesbrough, Oldham, Warrington, Stockport, Barrow, Burnley, and Blackpool; fair at St. Helen's, Chelmsford, Swindon, Cheltenham, Eastbourne, Plymouth, and Falkirk; good at Rotherham, Coventry, and Dundee.

Employment with *stonemasons* was bad generally, and about the same as a month ago. Bad weather interfered with outdoor work in some districts. Employment was fair at Sunderland, Oldham, Liverpool, Cambridge, Norwich, Chatham, Devonport, Plymouth and Paisley.

With *carpenters* and *joiners* employment was better

than a month ago in most districts, the chief improvements being in London, the Eastern Counties and Scotland, while there was some decline in Ireland, and a slight falling off in the Northern Counties and Yorkshire. Compared with a year ago, employment showed considerable improvement in Ireland, and a decline in Wales and Monmouth. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 9·5, compared with 10·1 in January, and 9·6 in February, 1905. Employment generally was bad, but was moderate at Blackpool, Warrington, Lincoln, and Rugby, good at Coventry.

With *slaters* and *tilers* employment was bad. In England it was worse than a month ago, but in Scotland showed some improvement. Short time was very general.

With *plumbers* employment, as compared with a month ago, showed an improvement in the Eastern Counties and in Scotland; in London there was no change; and in most other districts there was a decline, the greatest falling off being in Ireland. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable decline in the East Midlands. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 12·1 at the end of February, the same as in January; in February, 1905, it was 12·5. Generally, employment was bad, but at Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Birmingham, and Dublin it was moderate.

With *plasterers* employment was bad. In Scotland it was worse than a month and a year ago, but in the rest of the kingdom there was some improvement as compared with January. Employment was fair at Oldham, Bolton, Coventry and Dundee; moderate at Barrow, Scarborough and Barry; and good at Paisley and Falkirk.

Employment generally with *painters* was quiet, but showed considerable improvement on the previous month, and was rather better than a year ago. Short time was worked in some districts. Employment was fair at Blackburn, Bolton, Birkenhead, Stockport, Crewe, Rotherham, Leeds, Aberdeen, and Stirling; good at Newcastle and Chelmsford; fairly good at Liverpool, York and Portsmouth; and moderate at Doncaster, Preston, Blackpool, Wakefield, Birmingham, Reading and Southampton.

Employment with *labourers* showed little change, and was bad generally. It was, however, fair at Birkenhead, Huddersfield, Dover and Bristol.

#### FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 153 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 121 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in February continued slack. It was, however, better than a month and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 6·5, compared with 7·3 at the end of January, and 8·2 at the end of February, 1905.

##### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with *millsawyers* and *woodcutting machinists* continued dull, but was rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,611 reported 232 (or 5·0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of February, compared with 5·2 per cent. at the end of January, and 5·8 per cent. in February, 1905. Employment was good at Coventry and Dundee; fair at Birmingham; improving at Nottingham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and on the North-East coast generally; quiet at London, Glasgow, Bristol, Cardiff and Bradford; bad at Hull, Leicester, Liverpool, Bolton, Wolverhampton, Dublin, and the Potteries. In the Potteries and at Hull and Hartlepool a considerable amount of short time was reported.

##### Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment continued dull, especially in the French polishing and upholstery branches. It was, however, somewhat better than a month and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 13,399 reported 1,256 (or 9·4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, compared with

10.9 per cent. in the previous month, and 11.1 per cent. a year ago. Employment with cabinet makers was good in Dundee; it improved considerably at Leeds; at Glasgow and Liverpool it was fair; at Bristol it was moderate. In London it was quiet generally.

**Coopers.**

Employment with coopers continued dull generally, and was worse than in January, 1906, but rather better than in February, 1905. It was good at Peterhead and Fraserburgh, fair at Dublin and Cork, and bad at Burton-on-Trent.

**Coachbuilding.**

Employment in this industry continued to improve, but was still only fair generally. It was good in London and bad at Dublin. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 8,509 had 319 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed at end of February, compared with 4.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.8 per cent. in February, 1905.

**Miscellaneous.**

**Brushmakers.**—Employment with brushmakers improved during the month and was considerably better than a year ago. In London it was fair generally. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,746 had 67 (or 3.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, compared with 4.7 per cent. at the end of January, and 6.0 per cent. in February, 1905.

**Other Trades.**—With packing-case makers employment generally was quiet; it was good at Nottingham and Bolton. With lath renders it was slack. With basket makers it was fair.

**GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.**

(Based on 63 Returns—13 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 23 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Glass trades continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. In the Pottery trades it was fair in the English potteries, and much better than in January, but in Scotland it continued only moderate. Compared with last year employment was better. In the Brick and Tile trades employment continued bad.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment with glass bottle-makers, on the whole, continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. It was good, however, at Glasgow, and bad at St. Helens, Barnsley, and Dublin. Employment with makers of medicine bottles was fairly good at Rotherham, but bad at Glasgow.

Employment with flint-glass makers was fair at Birmingham, Stourbridge, Barnsley, and London, moderate at Glasgow, and bad at Warrington, Dudley, and Edinburgh. With flint-glass cutters employment on the whole continued quiet. With sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens employment continued good. It had improved with pressed glass makers in the Tyne and Wear district. With plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham it was quiet. Employment was fairly good with glass blowers in London.

**Pottery Trades.**—In Staffordshire employment on the whole was fair, and much better than a month ago. It was also better than a year ago. Employment was fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and was considerably better than a month ago at Swadlincote (Derbyshire). It was moderate in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district, where there was a little short time. In North and South Devon employment generally continued fair.

In Scotland employment generally continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. At Glasgow employment was bad with tobacco-pipe makers and dull with white hollowware potters, some short time being worked in both industries; with stoneware throwers it was fair.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment on the whole was bad, and much the same as a month ago, much short time being worked. In the Peterborough district, however, there was a slight improvement on a month ago, and employment was reported as fair in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and at Brierley Hill and Stourbridge. It continued good at Exeter and fair in South Wales.

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.**

(Based on 191 Reports from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was fairly regular in February, except with day labourers, many of whom lost time owing to rain. Ploughing was interrupted in several districts because of the sodden condition of the land, and sowing was delayed.

The reports indicate a distinct increase in the supply of men for permanent situations on farms as compared with a year ago. In certain districts, however, particularly in the south western counties, there is still some scarcity of men for situations involving Sunday work.

**Northern Counties.**—Reports from Northumberland and Westmorland state that, though the weather was changeable during February, employment was generally regular with farm labourers. Some day labourers in Lancashire lost time through rain. Farm labourers in Yorkshire were, on the whole, in regular employment, but in certain districts wet weather interrupted threshing and other work, and day labourers lost a few days in consequence. The supply of men was generally equal to the demand.

**Midland Counties.**—Outdoor work in Cheshire and Derbyshire proceeded with little interruption, but some day labourers were not in constant work. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire ploughing and threshing were stopped by unfavourable weather for a few days, but on the whole employment was regular. The supply of extra men was, however, somewhat in excess of the demand. Similar reports were received from Staffordshire and Shropshire. A number of day labourers in Worcestershire and Warwickshire were in irregular employment owing to wet weather, and to the supply of men being greater than the demand. Employment was generally regular in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. The supply of extra men, however, was in excess of the demand, and some were not in constant employment. A correspondent in the Thame Union refers to a continued scarcity of milkers. Regularity of employment was reported in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire, except for day labourers, many of whom lost time owing to wet weather and the small demand for their services.

**Eastern Counties.**—Work on the land in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire was hindered by wet weather, and several day labourers were in irregular employment. In Lincolnshire employment was fairly regular. The reports state that at recent hirings in this county more men were seeking situations on farms than for some years past. Farm labourers in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex were for the most part in regular employment, but some day labourers and men attending threshing machines lost time owing to rain. In the Eastern Counties generally, the supply of day labourers is said to have been rather in excess of the demand.

**Southern and South Western Counties.**—Farm labourers in most districts of Kent were in fairly regular employment. Regularity of employment was reported in Surrey and Sussex except with wood cutters on piecework and day labourers, who lost time through rain. The supply of extra labour in these counties was ample. In Hampshire and Berkshire agricultural employment was generally regular. Some casual or day labourers, however, were in irregular work. Similar reports were received from Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, where there was said to be little or no demand for extra men. Agricultural employment in Somerset, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire was generally regular. In parts of the two last-named counties there was a demand for stockmen and milkers. Reports from Devonshire and Cornwall show that work in the fields was interrupted by rain, causing irregularity of employment to some day labourers. Employment was found under cover for permanent men on rainy days.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 129 Returns—107 from Employers, 10 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was only moderate, and showed some falling off as compared with a month ago.

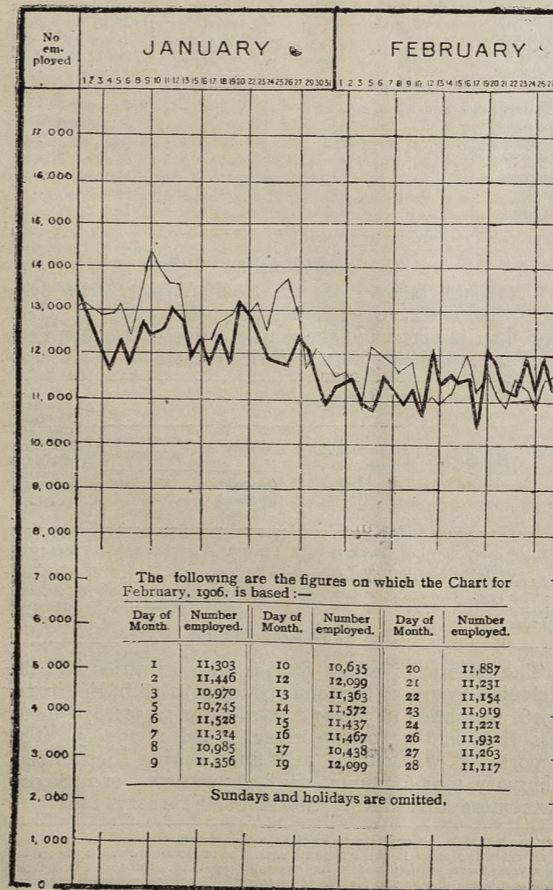
**London.\***—Employment generally was moderate, but was not so good as a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks\* and principal wharves during the four weeks ended February 24th was 11,327, a decrease of 8.2 per cent. on a month ago and of nearly 1.0 per cent. on a year ago. The decline, compared with a month ago, is due to the fact that wool sales took place in January but not in February.

The daily numbers in February ranged from 10,438 on the 17th to 12,099 on the 12th and on the 19th. During the February period, 1905, the numbers ranged from 10,733 on the 4th to 12,477 on March 1st.

Period.	In Docks*			At 107 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Feb. 3rd	3,864	1,767	5,631	5,602	11,233
" " 10th	3,675	1,913	5,588	5,507	11,095
" " 17th	3,755	2,181	5,936	5,460	11,396
" " 24th	3,942	2,012	5,954	5,631	11,585
Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 24th	3,809	1,968	5,777	5,550	11,327
Average for Jan., 1906	4,306	2,304	6,610	5,886	12,496
Average for Feb., 1905	3,934	1,925	5,859	5,684	11,543

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 108 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of January and February, 1906. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1905, is also given for comparison.

(The thick curve applies to 1906, and the thin curve to 1905.)



\* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,224 in February, as compared with 1,451 in January, a decline of over 15½ per cent.

In Liverpool employment with dock labourers was dull, and not so good as a month ago; at Garston, however, it continued fair. With quay and railway carters it was also dull, and not as good as last month.

**Other Ports.**—Employment, on the whole, continued fair. Some improvement was shown at Bristol and Middlesboro', and a further improvement at Glasgow, but there was a falling off at Dundee and Aberdeen. Employment was bad at Hartlepool and Dublin, dull at Aberdeen, and moderate at Bristol and Hull.

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 22 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 8 from Local Correspondents, and 1 from a Trade Union.)

THE fish landed during February showed a slight decrease in quantity but an increase in value as compared with a year ago, as will be seen from the following Table:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Feb., 1906.	Feb., 1905.	Feb., 1906.	Feb., 1905.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ... ..	588,145	530,009	545,224	493,447
Scotland ... ..	380,625	436,274	177,728	162,661
Ireland ... ..	12,437	15,884	9,659	11,485
Total ... ..	981,207	982,167	732,611	667,593
Shell Fish ... ..	—	—	27,382	23,692
Total Value ... ..	—	—	759,993	691,285

From the Tyne, Blyth and Wear it is reported that fair catches of white fish were landed during the month by the trawl and line boats.

At Hull employment continued good with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and fair with persons employed in fish curing; with all classes it was better than a year ago. Employment with all classes at Grimsby was better than in the previous month when it was reported as good; it was also better than in February, 1905. At Yarmouth employment was fair among fishermen and fish dock labourers, but bad with fish curers. With fishermen it was better than in the previous month, but otherwise it was the same as a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Lowestoft continued fair with fishermen, moderate with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers.

Off Plymouth and the South-Western coast fishing operations were generally very quiet throughout the month, though steam trawlers at Plymouth landed some fair catches. At Milford, Swansea, and Cardiff good catches were again taken.

At Aberdeen employment was good in all branches; at Peterhead it was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers; and at Fraserburgh it was moderate with fishermen, bad with fish dock labourers, and good with fish curers. At all three ports it was the same as a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Macduff was fair with fishermen and fish curers, and better than in the previous month and in February, 1905. At Dundee the catches were slightly better than in the previous month. At Arbroath and Montrose there was but little interruption from stormy weather, and the catches were fairly good.

Off the South and South-Western coasts of Ireland fishing was very dull during the month.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN FEBRUARY.**

(Based on 27 Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) showed that, during February 32,224\* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 1,677 on the number shipped in February, 1905. The principal increases were at Liverpool, Glasgow and Cardiff. The greatest decrease occurred at Swansea.

\* It will be understood that the number given is the number of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.

During the two completed months of 1906, 69,704\* seamen were shipped, of whom 10,399 (or 14.9 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with 1905 the total number shows an increase of 2,482. The principal increases were at Hull, Glasgow, and London. The decreases were most marked at Swansea and the Tyne Ports.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen\* shipped in (February, 1905, 1906, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906), Two months ended February, 1905, 1906, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906. Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES (East Coast, Bristol Channel, Other Ports), SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread, per 4 lbs., on March 1st, 1906.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 225 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 121 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

Table with columns: District, Present Prices (1st March, 1906), Price last quarter (1st Dec., 1905), Price a year ago (1st March, 1905). Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, and Great Britain.

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

From the above Table it will be seen that the mean of the prices at March 1st charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns is slightly lower than the mean of the prices at December 1st, 1905. As compared with a year ago, the mean price shows a decrease of 1.2d. per 4 lbs. in England and Wales, and of 2.9d. in Scotland. The decrease in London was about 1.4d. per 4 lbs.

Returns from Local Correspondents.\*

The Returns as to the price of bread per 4 lbs., as furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 26 large Provincial towns at the beginning of March.

As compared with a month ago, no change in price was recorded at any of the places included in the Table.

As compared with a year ago, the price per 4 lbs. is less by 1d. at Middlesbro', and by 1.5d. at 8 towns—3 in England, 3 in Scotland and 2 in Ireland. The price in London shows a decrease of 1.4d. per 4 lbs. At Manchester the price is higher by 1.2d. per 4 lbs., while at the remaining 16 towns the price is the same as at March 1st, 1905.

Table with columns: Place, Predominant Price at 1st Mar., 1906, of quality of bread most generally consumed by work-people in each town, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago, Date, Am't. per 4 lbs. Rows include London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Gateshead, Huddersfield, Hull, Ipswich, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbro', Newcastle-on-Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Potteries, Wolverhampton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Table with columns: Month, British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price), Imports (Wheat, Wheat-meal and Flour), Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households). Rows include February 1905, February 1906, January, February.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September, 1905, to 28th February, 1906, amounted to 39,211,022 cwt., or 10,501,878 cwt., less than in the corresponding period of 1904-5. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-February, 1905-6, amounted to 8,215,900 cwt., or 2,280,000 cwt., more than during September-February, 1904-5.

\* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same in the different towns, the predominant prices quoted for the several towns are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago for the same towns. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices (not the average price of all bread sold) paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

WHAT IS SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT? QUESTION OF FACT: APPEAL.

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

A man was employed by a farmer in various odd jobs. One day he was sent to a neighbouring town with a horse and lorry. His road lay up a steep track to the main road to the town. He was found later on this track with the overturned lorry, and was suffering from injuries in respect of which he subsequently claimed compensation. The Sheriff-Substitute refused to award compensation, on the ground that the workman had brought about the accident by tying the horse's reins to the wheel which operated the brake of the lorry, and that this amounted to serious and wilful misconduct.

On appeal, the Court of Session refused to interfere with the decision, holding that if the Sheriff had drawn an inference which could not possibly have been reached upon any view of the facts, his judgment might have been reviewed. The Court, however, could not say that the Sheriff had drawn such an inference in this case, and therefore his finding of fact could not be disturbed.—Vaughan v. Nicoll, Court of Session, February 6th, 1906.

FAILURE OF ACTION BY WORKMAN: AWARD OF COMPENSATION: DEDUCTION OF COSTS OF ACTION.

Where an action for damages is brought for injury caused by accident, and it is determined in such action that the injury is one for which the employer is not liable in such action, but that he would have been liable to pay compensation under the provisions of the Act, the action must be dismissed; but the Court must, if the plaintiff so choose, assess the compensation, and may deduct from such compensation all the costs which have been caused by the plaintiff bringing the action instead of proceeding under the Act.

A workman employed in a cotton mill brought an action against his employer for damages for injuries alleged to have been caused by negligence and breach of statutory duty to fence machinery. The jury found a verdict for the defendant. The defendant had always been prepared to pay the plaintiff the maximum compensation under the Act during incapacity, that is, 10s. 0d. a week. The Judge awarded 10s. 0d. a week compensation, but ordered the sum of £40 to be deducted from the compensation in respect of the employer's costs, the plaintiff to receive nothing till the £40 was exhausted.—Park v. Birtwistle, Manchester Assizes, February 10th, 1906.

DEPENDANTS: WIFE NOT NECESSARILY A DEPENDANT.

When a workman is killed by an accident to which the Act applies, his "dependants" are entitled to compensation. These are such of certain members of his family as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of his death. When any dependants were wholly dependent upon such earnings, the maximum compensation is payable. Where there are no such dependants, but there are dependants who were in part dependent upon the man's earnings, the compensation is such sum not exceeding the maximum compensation as is reasonable and proportionate to the injury to the dependants.

In December, 1903, a Pole, leaving his wife in Poland, came to Scotland in search of work, and obtained employment at a colliery. In August, 1904, he was killed in an accident in circumstances entitling his dependants to compensation. The widow came to Scotland and took proceedings to obtain compensation. It was proved that in the absence of her husband she had worked as an outdoor labourer in Poland, earning 9d. a day, and thus supporting herself with the assistance of her parents, who kept her child. The husband had only sent her one small sum (£1) since he left his native country. On these facts the Sheriff-Substitute held that the widow was wholly dependent upon her husband's earnings at the time of his death, and awarded her the maximum compensation.

On appeal, the Court of Session held that there is no presumption of law that a wife is wholly dependent upon her husband's earnings; it is a question of fact. On the facts proved in this case, the widow was not wholly, but only partially dependent. The matter was therefore remitted to the Sheriff-Substitute to award compensation accordingly. Birzstan v. Baird & Co., Court of Session, February 2nd, 1906.

(2) Merchant Shipping Acts.

AGREEMENT WITH SEAMAN: DURATION OF VOYAGE: PORT REQUIRED BY MASTER.

By the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, the agreement made by the master of a ship with the crew must contain (inter alia) either the nature, and, as far as practicable, the duration of the intended voyage or engagement, or the maximum period of the voyage or engagement and the places or parts of the world, if any, to which the voyage or engagement is not to extend.

A fireman signed articles on a steamship for "a voyage of not exceeding one year's duration to any ports or places within the limits of 75 degrees N. latitude and 60 degrees S. latitude, commencing at Cardiff, proceeding thence to Malta, thereafter trading to ports in any rotation, and to end at such port in the United Kingdom or Continent of Europe (within home-trading limits) as may be required by the master."

The ship proceeded to Malta and thence to the Black Sea where she loaded corn for Southampton. At Southampton the cargo was discharged, and the fireman claimed his discharge. The master, however, refused to give it, and required him to proceed with the ship to Cardiff. The fireman then began proceedings before the magistrates at Southampton to recover his wages and compensation he claimed to be due to him. The magistrates referred the matter to the High Court, and the Judge decided in favour of the fireman. The master appealed, and the Court of Appeal reversed the decision of the Judge. The Court holding that the master, by the terms of the agreement, might fix the termination of the voyage at any port within certain limits: that the voyage was the voyage of the ship not of the cargo; that the agreement satisfied the requirements of the Act, and that the master was entitled to refuse the seaman his discharge.—The Scarsdale, Court of Appeal, January 31st and February 1st and 2nd, 1906.

(3) Trade Union Acts.

TRADE UNION: LEGAL AID TO MEMBER: MAINTENANCE AND INSTIGATION.

A shop assistant was a member of a trade union, one of the objects of which, according to the rules, was "to give legal aid to members when necessity arises in their relation with employers." He was dismissed summarily without a week's wages due and without notice. He accordingly applied to the trade union for help. The secretary of the union then wrote to the employer claiming the week's wages due and another week's wages in lieu of notice. After some correspondence, in the course of which the secretary of the union invited the employer to explain why he refused to pay the sum claimed, the employer wrote to the secretary to the effect that the man had been dismissed for dishonesty, and therefore he refused to pay. The union then, in the name of the dismissed man, took proceedings in the County Court to recover the sums claimed, and the employer (to save trouble, as he afterwards alleged) paid the money into Court. The committee of the union then asked the man if he were willing that an action should be commenced against the employer for defamation of character. On his consent being obtained, an action for libel was begun in the High Court, the claim being based on the letter imputing dishonesty. The defence was that the letter was privileged, being written in answer to a request for information. The proceedings were conducted up to a certain point by the solicitors to the union acting on the instructions of the committee, but the solicitors were then instructed not to continue on behalf of the dismissed man. The case, in due course, came on for trial, but was struck out with costs, as no one appeared for the plaintiff. The employer then brought an action for damages against the trade union for maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause, and without having any interest in the suit, instigating and stirring up the dismissed man, then being a person in indigent circumstances, to prosecute an action for libel against the plaintiff and for wrongfully maintaining the action against the plaintiff by undertaking to pay and paying the costs thereof. There was no dispute as to the facts, but the question was argued whether the action against the union would lie. The Lord Chief Justice held that there had been both wrongful instigation and wrongful maintenance on the part of the union. The original intervention of the union on behalf of their member was perfectly legitimate and justifiable. Subsequently, however, they had acted without reasonable or probable cause, as the letter imputing dishonesty was written in answer to a request by the committee for information. The union had no common interest with their member in bringing the action; and as it was brought without reasonable and probable cause, and their member had not applied to them to bring the action, they were liable in damages to the plaintiff to the amount of the costs he had been put to by bringing the action brought against him.—Greig v. The National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, King's Bench Division, February 7th, 1906.

INDUCING TO BREAK CONTRACTS OF SERVICE: PICKETING: EVIDENCE OF UNLAWFUL PURPOSE.

An action was brought by a printing and publishing company, who professed only to employ non-union men, against a trade union and the secretary of the union to recover damages from the defendants for inducing workmen employed by the plaintiffs to break their contracts of service. They also sought an injunction to restrain the defendants from picketing the premises of the plaintiffs for the purpose of preventing persons working for the plaintiffs. The facts are set out in the Labour Gazette for August, 1905, at page 248. The trial, before a judge and jury, occupied the court for eight days, and the judge left the following questions to the jury:—(1) Did the defendants or either of them watch and beset, or cause to be watched and beset, the premises of the plaintiffs or the approaches thereto so as to cause a nuisance to the plaintiffs? (2) Did they do so for the purpose of compelling the plaintiffs or any person or persons in their employ to abstain from doing or to do any act which they or he had a legal right to do or abstain from doing? (3) Did the defendants or either of them cause or procure any of certain named persons to commit a breach of contract? (4) Did the defendants or either of them cause or procure men in the plaintiffs' employ to retard the plaintiffs' work or spoil or injure the plaintiffs' work or materials? (5) Did the defendants conspire and combine with other persons to procure the commission of the unlawful acts set out in the previous questions? The jury answered all the questions in the affirmative, and they assessed the damages as follows:—On question (1) £100, on question (2) £100, on question (3) £100, on question (4) £150, and on question (5) £200, making a total of £650. The learned judge directed judgment to be entered for the plaintiffs in accordance with the findings of the jury.

The defendants then appealed to the Court of Appeal, asking that judgment might be entered for them, or alternatively, that a new trial might be ordered, on the ground that the findings were against the weight of evidence, and also on the ground that there was no evidence to support the findings, and that the damages were excessive and assessed on a wrong basis, and on the ground that in the summing-up and also in his observations the learned judge had misled the jury as to the true issues in the action and as to the nature and effect of the evidence before them and the inferences to be drawn from it in regard to the issues to be tried.

The hearing of the appeal lasted for several days, and in the result the court set aside the verdict and judgment given in the court below, and ordered judgment to be entered for the defendants. The court held that the judgment was bad, since it gave damages in respect of the answers to each question, and on the ground that in the summing-up and also in his observations the learned judge had misled the jury as to the true issues in the action and as to the nature and effect of the evidence before them and the inferences to be drawn from it in regard to the issues to be tried.

(4) Miscellaneous. COMMON EMPLOYMENT: PAUPER IN WORKHOUSE.

By the operation of what is known as the doctrine of common employment, a master is not liable at common law for damages for injuries wrongfully caused by his servant to a fellow servant in a common employment with the first-mentioned servant.

A man who was by trade a cigar-box maker, became an inmate of a workhouse. He was first put to work at breaking stones, then at helping in the bakery, and then to various odd jobs. One day, the assistant electrician to the infirmary was doing some work in connection with the electric installation, and in order to reach a part of the work he erected a scaffold 6 feet from the ground. The man in question was ordered to assist in this work, and while on the scaffold it gave way and the man fell to the ground and was so seriously injured that one of his legs had to be amputated.

He then brought an action against the guardians of the Union for damages for negligence at common law. The County Court judge, however, decided that he could not recover, as his injuries were caused by the negligence of the electrician, who was a fellow-servant in a common employment with him.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries: Spinning and Weaving Flax.—Under the powers conferred upon the Home Secretary by Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, he has made Regulations,\* dated February 26th, 1906, in respect of the processes of spinning and weaving flax and tow and the processes incidental thereto—these processes having been certified to be dangerous. The Regulations provide for the ventilation of rooms in which the processes are carried on, for the removal of dust, for the regulation of temperature and humidity, for the protection of those persons employed in rooms in which wet-spinning is carried on, and for other matters.

\* Statutory Rules in Orders. No. 177.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during February, 1906, was 211, a decrease of 42 as compared with January, and an increase of 22 as compared with February, 1905. The mean number for February in the years 1901-1905 was 209, the maximum year in this period being 1904, with 225 deaths, and the minimum year 1905, with 189 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in February, 1906, was 153. The number reported in February of the years 1901-1905 varied from 79 to 144, the mean for the five years being 111.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Feb., 1906, Jan., 1906, Feb., 1905), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1906, as compared with (Month ago, Year ago).

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A copy of a monthly Return showing names of seamen whose deaths have been reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may be seen at any Free Library, Mercantile Marine Office, or Sailors' Home throughout the country.

\* Including accidents in workshops.

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 Workshop Act during February was 50, consisting of 44 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of arsenic poisoning, and 5 of anthrax. Six deaths were reported, 4 due to lead poisoning and 2 to anthrax.

During the two months ended February, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 117, as compared with 105 in 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 13 in 1906, as compared with 7 in 1905. The number of deaths directly or indirectly attributed to lead poisoning rose from 3 in 1905 to 9 in 1906. The number of deaths due to anthrax was the same in both periods.

[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.]

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Cases (Month of Feb., 1906, Two Months ended Feb., 1906, 1905), Deaths (Month of Feb., 1906, Two Months ended Feb., 1906, 1905).

\* Of the 10 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in February, 1906, 5 were females. † House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 12 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during February, 1906, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the two months ended February, 1906, was 28 (including 6 deaths), and for 1905, 20 (including 3 deaths).

EMIGRATION FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

DURING February 24,459 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe. Of this number 13,346 were of British or Irish origin, and 11,113 were foreign passengers or those whose nationality was not stated. As compared with February, 1905, there was an increase of 1,258 in the number of British or Irish passengers, and a decrease of 2,093 in the number of foreign passengers. There was thus a net decrease of 835 in the number of passengers.

During the two months ended February, 1906, the total number of passengers was 42,005, as compared with 48,030 during the corresponding period in 1905.

The following Table shows the destination of the passengers:—

Table with columns: Destination (Country in which passenger contracted to land.), February (1906, 1905), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906, Two months ended February (1906, 1905), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended March 3rd, 1906, amounted to £4,278,197, an increase of 3.9 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the nine weeks ended March 3rd, 1906, the total amount was £9,201,542, an increase of £275,441, as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

Table with columns: Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905, 4 weeks ended March 3rd, 1906, 9 weeks ended March 3rd, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905.

RECENT STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN GERMANY.

ACCORDING to a preliminary report published in the journal of the German Labour Department, 369 strikes and 41 lock-outs came to an end in Germany in the last quarter of 1905. The strikes affected 41,317 workpeople directly and 1,664 indirectly, while the lock-outs affected 44,441 workpeople directly and 1,104 indirectly. The group of trades in which the greatest number of workpeople was directly affected by disputes was the engineering trades, in disputes in which 32,372 were involved, while 19,459 were directly affected in the textile industry. The strikes terminated in favour of the workpeople in 86 cases, and in favour of the employers in 162, while in 121 a compromise was arrived at. Eight lock-outs resulted in favour of the employers, in one the workpeople were successful, while the other 32 were compromised.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—An important dispute occurred at Dundee affecting 20,000 operatives in the Jute industry. Besides this, 28 other new disputes began in February, making a total of 29, which compares with 17 in January, 1906, and 18 in February, 1905. By the 29 disputes, 22,804 workpeople were directly and 514 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 29,867 workpeople involved in trade disputes during February, 1906, compared with 10,958 in January, 1906, and 7,176 in February, 1905.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ... ..	2	30	...	30
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	5	857	277	1,134
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	5	595	85	680
Jute ... ..	1	20,000	...	20,000
Other Textile ... ..	7	1,072	20	1,092
Clothing ... ..	5	152	72	224
Other Trades ... ..	4	98	60	158
<b>Total, February, 1906</b> ... ..	<b>29</b>	<b>22,804</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>23,318</b>
<b>Total, January, 1906</b> ... ..	<b>17</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>2,465</b>
<b>Total, February, 1905</b> ... ..	<b>18</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>3,954</b>

**Causes.**—Of the twenty-nine new disputes, six arose on demands for increased wages, six on objections to reduction in wages, six on other wages questions, four on details of working arrangements, three on questions of Trade Union principle, and four on other questions.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in February in the case of 22 new disputes, affecting 22,675 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, affecting 3,538 workpeople. Of these 32 new and old disputes, 10, involving 1,055 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10, involving 1,674 persons, in favour of the employers;

and 12, involving 23,484 persons, were compromised. In the case of two other disputes, involving 1,032 persons, settled during February, certain points are still under consideration.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in February of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 114,700 working days. In addition, 78,700 working days were lost during February owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in February of all disputes, new and old, was 193,400 working days, as compared with 213,600 in the previous month, and 73,500 in the corresponding month of 1905.

**Summary for the First Two Months of 1906 and 1906†.**—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the two months January-February, 1905 and 1906, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January and February.					
	1905.			1906.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ... ..	2	22	900	4	490	23,300
Mining and Quarrying... ..	12	4,819	77,600	8	2,136	243,700
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ... ..	10	1,187	33,100	10	959	23,600
Textile ... ..	9	2,355	29,000	18	22,219	115,200
Clothing ... ..	7	326	4,600	8	470	10,600
Transport ... ..	1	100	1,500	...	...	...
Other Trades ... ..	5	696	11,600	5	173	2,800
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>9,505</b>	<b>158,300</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>26,446</b>	<b>419,200</b>

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations †	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. ‡	Result. ‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly. †				
<b>Building—</b> Plasterers ... ..	Newcastle and District	200	...	1905. 1 May	254	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. per hour and other alterations in working rules	Wages reduced ½d. per hour, and other rules arranged.
		400	...	1906. 15 Jan.	27	Against proposed reduction in wages from 10d. to 9½d. per hour	Reduction accepted.
<b>Coal Mining—</b> Hewers, Putters, Drivers, &c., <i>Labourers</i> Hewers, &c., <i>Datallers, Hauliers, Surface Workers, &amp;c.</i>	Sunderland ... ..	994	25	1905. 4 Dec.	50	Alleged shortage in number of "tubs" recorded for one putter	Matter referred to Conciliation Board.
	Wigan ... ..	888	1,471	1 Aug.	129	Dispute as to tonnage rates to be paid on alteration in system of drawing coal	Work resumed in nearly all cases at the old rates, but a few men were granted advances.
<b>Shipbuilding—</b> Riveters and Holders-up ... ..	Newcastle-on-Tyne	336	...	1906. 5 Feb.	5	Because certain men were fined for leaving work before whistle sounded	Work resumed unconditionally.
<b>Cotton Weaving—</b> Weavers ... ..	Preston ... ..	300	...	5 Feb.	2	On account of dismissal of manager	Manager not reinstated.
	Preston ... ..	350	...	19 Feb.	1	Alleged excessive fining and inferior material	Amicable arrangement arrived at.
<b>Jute—</b> § Spinners and Preparers, Weavers, &c.	Dundee ... ..	20,000	...	20 Feb.	14	For advance in wages of 5 per cent.	Spinners and Preparers granted an advance of 5 per cent. Weavers returned to work on old conditions.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.  
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.  
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.  
§ This dispute began on February 20th with a strike on the part of the preparers and spinners for an increase in wages of 5 per cent. This demand was granted by the mill owners on February 27th, but the weavers who had been thrown out by the action of the preparers and spinners thereupon claimed a similar advance. They failed, however, to achieve their object and gradually returned to work.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

Wages.

**Changes reported in February.**—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in February was an increase of £2,148 per week, as compared with an increase of £3,566 per week in January, 1906, and a decrease of £261 per week in February, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 130,913, of whom 130,113 received advances amounting to £2,231 per week, and 800 sustained decreases amounting to £83 per week. The total number affected in January, 1906, was 117,702, and in February, 1905, 10,775.

Five changes, affecting 112,852 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards or mediation, two changes affecting 3,509 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales, and the remaining changes, affecting 14,552 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In two cases, affecting 465 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

**Summary for the Two Completed Months of 1906.**—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since 1st January was 258,701, as compared with 99,265, for the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 255,852 workpeople a net increase of £6,537 per week, and 2,849 workpeople a net decrease of £199 per week. The net effect of all the changes reported was an increase of £6,338 per week, as compared with a decrease of £3,895 per week in the corresponding period of 1905.

Summarised by trades the number of workpeople

affected by these reported changes and the net result of the changes on their weekly wages were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—February.			
	1905.		1906.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building ... ..	180	— 20	800	— 83
Coal Mining ... ..	38,600	— 955	148,650	+ 1,871
Iron Mining ... ..	—	—	7,100	+ 183
Quarrying ... ..	—	—	2,556	— 85
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	392	— 23	11,690	+ 699
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	27,611	— 827	44,870	+ 1,420
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	27,067	— 2,150	42,584	+ 2,247
Other Metal Trades ... ..	100	— 19	—	—
Textile Trades ... ..	305	— 5	140	+ 4
Other Trades ... ..	940	+ 61	155	+ 11
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	1,601	+ 81	150	+ 11
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>99,265</b>	<b>— 3,898</b>	<b>258,701</b>	<b>+ 6,338</b>

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during February, 1906, affected 3,298 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 10,568 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since 1st January last was 12,195, the net decrease in their working time being 19,925 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in February.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1906.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change (Decreases in Italics.)	
					In-crease.	De-crease.
I.—RATES OF WAGES.						
Coal Mining ...	Durham ...	5 & 12 Feb.	(Underground Workers, Banksmen, Cokemen, Enginemen, and Mechanics Other Surface Workers ...)	110,000 ...	...	Advance of 1½ per cent., making wages 28½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Pig Iron Manufacture	South Staffordshire	1st pay in Feb.	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	1,000 ...	...	Advance of 1½ per cent., making wages 25½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Advance of 2½ per cent.
Iron and Steel	Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland, Cumberland, N. Lancs., S. Yorks, Midlands & Lincs.	4 Feb.	{ Steel Melters and Pitmen ... .. Gas Producers and Charge Wheelers ... ..	{ 1,426 ... 621 ... 25 ...	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale. Advance of ½ per cent. Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale.
	Lincolnshire ... .. Midlands and Lincolnshire ... .. Scotland ... .. South Wales and Monmouthshire	4 Feb. 4 Feb. 4 Feb. 5 Feb.	Enginemen, Mechanics, &c. ... .. Steel Millmen ... .. Steel Melters and Pitmen ... .. Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen, Enginemen, Cranemen, Labourers, &c.	368 ... 466 ... 972 ... 1,557 ...	...	Advances of 1½ and ½ per cent. Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale. Advance of 2½ per cent.
Engineering †	North-East Coast ‡	1st full pay in Feb.	{ Patternmakers † ... .. Ironfounders ... .. Smiths ... .. Brass Moulders ... .. Brass Turners, Fitters & Finishers ... .. Enginemen, Cranemen, &c. ... ..	{ 1,260 ... 2,500 ... 700 ... 500 ... 800 ... 550 ...	...	Advance of 1s. per week. Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates. Advance of 1s. per week on rates of 25s. and over, and of 6d. on rates of 22s. and under 25s. Advance of 1s. per week.
			{ Joiners in non-Marine Engineering Works ... .. Smiths' Strikers and General Labourers ... ..	{ 200 ... 5,000 ...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates of 25s. per week and over, and of 6d. on rates of 20s. and under 25s.
II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.						
Clothing ...	Leeds ...	Feb	Clothiers' Pressers, Machinists, Finishers, &c.	{ ... 1,993 ... ... 860 ...	...	Decrease of 3 hours per week (52½ to 49½). Decrease of 3½ hours per week (52½ to 49).

\* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.  
† The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.  
‡ Advances in addition to those recorded in the FEBRUARY GAZETTE have also taken place in the wages of shipyard workers on the North-East Coast dating from the pay commencing on or after 7th March. Particulars of these advances will appear in the APRIL GAZETTE.  
§ Including patternmakers employed in Tyneshipyards.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

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

The number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in February corresponded to a rate of 236 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with January, 1906, the total number of persons relieved increased by 5,039 (1.2 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 3. There was an increase of 1,733 (1.0 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, and of 3,306 (1.4 per cent.) in the total number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 27 districts, decreases in 3 districts, and 5 districts showed no change.

Compared with February, 1905, the total number of persons relieved decreased by 3,074 (0.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 4. There was an increase of 2,096 (1.2 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, but the total number of outdoor paupers decreased by 5,170 (2.1 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 17 districts, increases in 14 districts, and 4 districts showed no change. The most marked decreases were shown by the Wolverhampton (42 per 10,000) and West Ham (30 per 10,000) districts.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Feb., 1906 (Indoor, Outdoor, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

TWENTY-ONE Bureaux furnished Returns, of which thirteen can be compared with similar Returns for a year ago. The figures for the remaining eight are not available for February, 1905.

(I.) Work done in February, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during (Feb. 1906, Feb. 1905), Situations offered by Employers during (Feb. 1906, Feb. 1905), Workpeople found Work during (Feb. 1906, Feb. 1905). Rows include London, Provincial, and Total of 13 Bureaux.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during February, 1906.

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

(III.) Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 21 Bureaux at the end of February, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, Men (Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Porters, Messengers, Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, Women and Girls. Rows include London, Provincial, and Total.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February 887 fresh applications (488 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by eight Bureaux furnishing returns, and 708 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 196 persons, of whom 120 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 196 situations found for applicants 153 were of a more or less permanent character, while 43 were temporary only. The work done by the Bureaux during February is shown by the following Table.

WORK DONE IN FEBRUARY.

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during (Feb. 1906, Feb. 1905), Situations offered by Employers during (Feb. 1906, Feb. 1905), Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily). Rows include Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for February.

Table with columns: Month ended 28th February, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with 1905, 1904. Rows include I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post); EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,405,341 in February, 1904; £7,619,723 in February, 1905; and £7,995,860 in February, 1906.

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

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) IN OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1905.

THE monthly statement of Pauperism for December recently issued by the Local Government Board contains detailed figures relating to December, 1905, and also particulars for each week of the fourth quarter of 1905. The figures given show a continuous increase from the first week in October, when the total number of indoor and outdoor paupers was 765,413, to the third week in December, when the total was 812,811. The totals for the 4th and 5th weeks of December were 812,290 and 805,302 respectively. The Board states that the increase in pauperism, as shown by the figures, which commonly occurs during the last quarter of the year, was not noticeably above the normal, and was in the aggregate considerably lower than in the corresponding period of 1904. The aggregate increase between the end of September and the end of December, 1905, amounted to 39,104 persons, or 5.1 per cent., and the corresponding increase in the last quarter of 1904 was at the rate of 9.4 per cent.

The number of indoor paupers is higher than in any previous year, and continues to show a slight increase. This increase, however, only just keeps pace with the estimated increase in population, the ratio of indoor pauperism to population remaining at 7.6 per 1,000, the same figure as at the end of 1904. The number of paupers receiving outdoor relief at the end of December was 2.6 per cent. lower than in 1904.

A chart is given showing the proportion per 1,000 of population of the numbers relieved in each month of 1905, 1904, and the average of the period 1900-1904.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in February was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 13; under the Friendly Societies Act, 50 (including 28 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all 67.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—1, viz., Process Provers and Mounters' Assoc., Welsh Harp, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—8, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Distribution: 1, viz., Finborough Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Finborough, Stowmarket. Co-op. Agric. Soc.: 2, viz., Anglesey Eastern Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Ty Fry, Pentraeth, Anglesey; Llangadock and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Banhylan, Llansadwrn, Llanwrda, Carm. Misc. Soc.: 5. Scotland.—1, viz., Co-op. Agric. Soc.: Denholm Co-op. Dairy Soc., Ltd., Denholm. Ireland.—4, viz., Co-op. Agric. Soc.: 3, viz., Tamnaskenny Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Tamnaskenny, Cookstown, co. Tyrone; Aghabog Co-op. Agric. Soc. Ltd., Lattinam, Newbliss, co. Monaghan; Drumcharley Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Drumcharley, Tulla, co. Clare. Home Industries Soc.: 1, viz., Carrickmore Co-op. Home Industries, Ltd., Carrickmore, co. Tyrone.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—15, viz., Yorkshire Road Club and Records Assoc., York; National United Free Gardeners' Fidelity Guarantee Soc., Middlesboro'; Blaengarw Musical Inst., Blaengarw, Glam.; Barry Dist. Mutual Investment Soc., Barry Dock, Glam.; Crews South End Working Men's Club and Inst., Crews; Priory Working Men's Club, Mansfield; Ashwood Road Working Men's Club, Parkgate, Rotherham; Armlay and Wortley Socialists Club and Inst., Wortley, Leeds; Don Working Men's Club and Inst., Mexboro'; Rotherham; Caerau Working Men's Club and Band Musical Inst., Caerau, Maesteg, Glam.; Ribblesdale past and present Officers' Lodge of the Clitheroe Dist. I.O.O.F., M.U. Friendly Soc., Clitheroe, Lancs.; Fitzjohn's Parade Sick and Benefit Club, Finchley Road, N.W.; South Norwood Baptist Church P.S.A. Brotherhood Benefit and Sharing Out Soc., South Norwood, S.E.; Barnsley and Dist. Friendly and Trades Soc., Medical Assoc., Barnsley; Trade Union Friendly Collecting Soc., Middlesboro'. Ireland.—7, viz., Roben Credit Soc., Roben, co. Mayo; Caherlistrane Credit Soc., Caherlistrane, Tuam, co. Galway; St. Andrew's Loan Fund Soc., Dublin; Kiltyclogher Credit Soc., Kiltyclogher, co. Leitrim; Carramore Credit Soc., Taughen National Schools,



Carrowkeel, Claremorris, co. Mayo; Glenfarne Credit Soc., Glenfarne, co. Leitrim; Crossmolina Credit Soc., Crossmolina, co. Mayo.

## (2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as dissolved, or as wound up, or as having had registration cancelled, in February was as follows:— Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 5; under the Friendly Societies Act, 40 (including 14 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 12; in all 58.

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

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

## UNITED KINGDOM.

*Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1904. Part II. Statistics.* Accident Statistics of 1904. Tables showing the number of persons employed in Non-Textile factories in 1901, by County and Industry; number of Half-Timers in all factories 1889-1901. [Cd. 2,848: pp. xii. + 58: price 7d.]

*Notice of Accidents Bill.* Copy of memorandum explanatory of the Objects of the Bill. [H.C. 62: pp. 3: price ½d.]

*Railway Accidents.* Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the three months ended September 30th, 1905, together with Reports of Inspecting Officers upon certain accidents which were inquired into. [Cd. 2827: pp. 177: price 1s. 7d.]

*Royal Commission on Trade Disputes and Trade Combinations.* Report. [Cd. 2826: pp. iv. + 132: price 1s. 1d.] Minutes of Evidence, with Index and Appendices. [Cd. 2826: pp. xii. + 350 + vii. + 93: price 3s. 8d.]

*Seamen's Savings Banks (Money Orders and Transmission of Wages.)* Accounts and Statements to 31st March, 1905. [H.C. 38: pp. 5: price 1d.]

*Wages and Effects of Deceased Seamen.* Account of the Sums Received and Paid by the Board of Trade from 1st April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905. [H.C. 43: p. 1: price ½d.]

*Army and Militia. Annual Report of the Director of Recruiting and Organisation for the year ended September, 30th 1905.* Contains tables showing the various classes of occupations from which recruits are drawn, proportion rejected, &c.; statistics of civil employment of discharged soldiers, &c. [Cd. 2693: pp. 54 with tables: price 8d.]

*Pauperism. Comparative Statement of Pauperism and Cost of Relief of the Poor in certain years from 1848-9 to 1904-5.* [Cd. 2835: pp. 4: price ½d.]

*Monthly Statement for December, 1905.* Contains Chart showing the number of Paupers in proportion to estimated population at the end of each month of the years 1903-1904, and the average of the five years 1900-1904. [H.C. 40-xi.: pp. 10: price 2d.]

## BRITISH COLONIES AND INDIA.

*Further Correspondence relating to Labour in the Transvaal Mines.* Statistics of numbers employed, distinguishing Whites, Coloured and Chinese. [Cd. 2819: pp. x. + 178: price 1s. 6d.]

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

## Canada.

*The Canadian Labour Gazette.* Issued by the Department of Labour. February, 1906. Contains special articles—Labour Organisation during 1905; changes in rates of wages and hours of labour during 1905; Illegal Trade Combinations in Canada—prosecution of manufacturers at Toronto and Hamilton (Ontario). [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, King's Printer: price 1½d.]

## New Zealand.

*Journal of the Department of Labour.* December, 1905. Number of artisans and labourers employed on co-operative works, roads and railways; disputes and awards under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; cases under the Workers' Compensation Act, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: price 2d.]

*The New Zealand Official Year Book, 1905.* Special article on "Old Age Pensions in New Zealand"; table showing average prices of produce, provisions, &c., in each provincial district in 1904; table showing average rates of wages by industries in each provincial district in 1904; Labour Laws of New Zealand; number of men found employment by the Labour Department, June, 1891, to March, 1905, &c. [Wellington, N.Z., John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 771.]

## India.

*Variations in Indian Price Levels since 1861 expressed in Index Numbers.* Issued by the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, 1905. Prices of metals, foodstuffs, textiles, &c. [Calcutta, Government Printing Office: pp. 20, with diagrams: price 1s.]

## FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

## United States.

*Bulletin of the United States Department of Labour.* No. 61. November, 1905. Contains "Labour Conditions in Porto Rico," by Dr. W. E. Weyl; "A Documentary History of the Early Organisations of Printers," by Ethelbert Stewart. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

*28th Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour and Industries of New Jersey for the Year ending 31st October, 1905.* Statistics of manufactures—wages, earnings, &c.; cost of living; wages and hours of labour in the glass and pottery industries; recent labour legislation. [Trenton, N.J.: Mac Crellish & Quigley, State Printers: pp. iv. + 429.]

## France.

*Statistics of Mines in France during 1904.* [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. 202 + 108: price 8s.]

*Apprenticeship in the Furnishing Trades.* Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Posts and Telegraphs. 1905. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. xxiii. + 655.]

*Monthly Journal of the French Labour Department.* February, 1906. Co-operative Societies (Distributive and Credit) on January 1st, 1905; Industrial Census of 1901. Part III. [Price 2d.]

## Germany.

*Sickness Insurance in Germany in 1903.* Imperial Statistical Office. 1905. [Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht: pp. 62 + 192: price 5s.]

*Monthly Journal of the German Labour Department.* February, 1906. Wages and Hours of Labour of Home Workers; latest investigations as to Insurance against Unemployment; Wages of Miners in Rhenish-Westphalia; Wages and Hours of Labour in Admiralty Workshops in 1904. [Price 1d.]

## Austria.

*Monthly Journal of the Austrian Labour Department.* January, 1906. Trade Unions in Austria in 1906. [Price 2d.]

## Italy.

*Report on Work of Labour Department and Higher Council of Labour from 16th July, 1903, to 30th June, 1905.* Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. 1905. [Rome: pp. 45.]

*Monthly Journal of the Italian Labour Department.* February, 1906. Housing of Working Classes and Workmen's Trains at Genoa; establishment of Board of Arbitration at Milan. [Price 3d.]

## Belgium.

*Fortnightly Journal of the Belgian Labour Department.* February 15th and 28th. [Price 2d.]

## Holland.

*Municipal Support for Unemployed Benefit Funds in Amsterdam.* 1905. [Amsterdam: J. Muller: pp. viii. + 119: price 1s. 3d.]

*Quarterly Journal of the Dutch Labour Department.* No. 14. Provisional Statistics of Labour Disputes begun in 1905; Accident Insurance in 1904. [Price 5d.]

## Sweden.

*Quarterly Journal of Swedish Labour Department.* No. 1 of 1906. Labour Disputes in 1903-1905. [Price 3½d.]

## Spain.

*Monthly Journal of the Spanish Labour Department.* February, 1906. Prices of Commodities in 4th Quarter of 1905. [Price 2½d.]

## Denmark.

*The Population of Denmark during the 19th Century.* Government Statistical Office. 1905. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel: pp. 181.]

## Portugal.

*Population of Portugal: Census of December, 1900. Vol. I.* 1905. [Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional: pp. 342.]

*Portuguese Emigration in 1902.* 1905. [Lisbon: pp. 75.]

## Russia.

*First Statistical Year Book of Russia, 1904.* Contains tables relating to numbers employed in factories and workshops in 1901, savings banks in 1903, &c. Central Statistical Committee. 1905. [St. Petersburg: pp. 404.]

## Finland.

*Statistics of Finland.* [Helsingfors. 1905.] 5 vols. Post Office Savings Banks in 1904: pp. 38. Population of Finland on Dec. 31st, 1900: pp. 205 + 152. Industrial Statistics for 1903: pp. ix. + 202. Report on Savings Banks in 1904: pp. xxxii. + 168. Emigration Statistics in 1900-1902: pp. xlvi. + 88.

*Industrial Statistics of Finland. III. Bakeries.* 1905. [Helsingfors. G. R. Snellman: pp. viii. + 125 + 106 + 18.]

*Statistical Year Book of Finland for 1905.* Central Statistical Office. [Helsingfors: pp. xxii. + 408.]

**Consular Reports. Miscellaneous Series.** No. 643. *Coal Industry of the United States in 1904.* Number of men employed in Anthracite and Bituminous mines, with the total days worked, and yearly and daily production per man, 1890-1904; production by coal cutting machines, and number of machines in use; wages paid in certain districts; accidents, &c. [Cd. 2683-7: pp. 61: price 3d.]

No. 645. *Agriculture in Germany.* Proportion of persons engaged in agriculture and kindred pursuits to total population; wholesale and retail prices of important foodstuffs and domestic produce, &c. [Cd. 2683-9: pp. 21: price 1½d.]

*Annual Series.* No. 3530. *Trade of South Italy for the year 1905.* Railway strike of May, 1905; Sunday rest law; emigration; school of weaving at Naples, &c. [Cd. 2682-55: pp. 22: price 1½d.]

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

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