

THE

# Board of Trade

## LABOUR GAZETTE.

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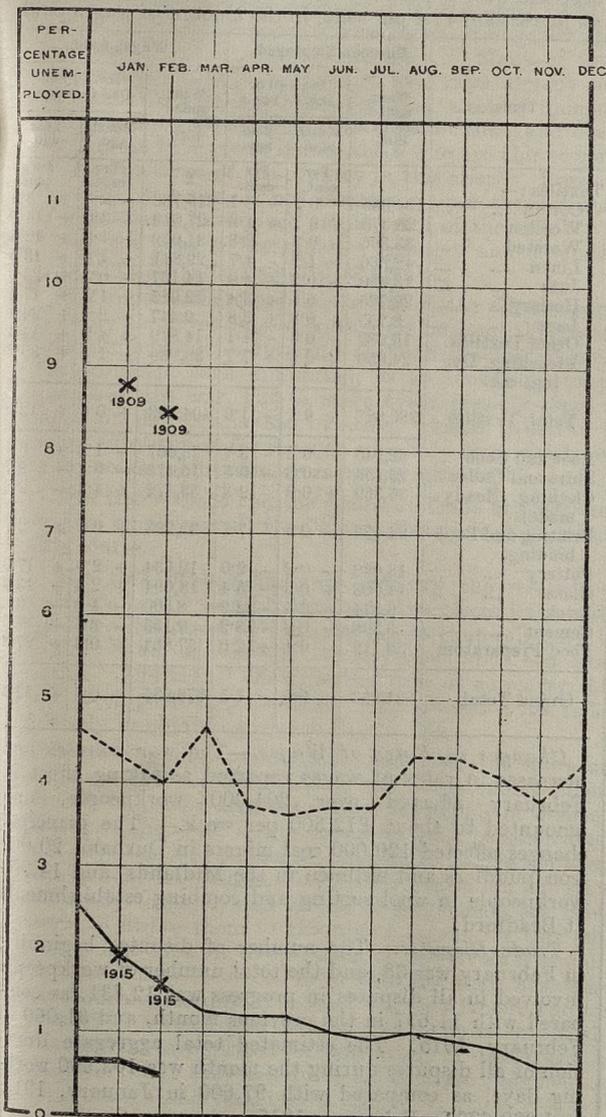
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

### EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1916. — Thin Curve = 1915.  
 ----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1906-15.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1906-15.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

### THE LABOUR MARKET.

In February the high level of employment was fully maintained, and the percentage of unemployed among the Trade Union members was the lowest ever recorded by the Department. Owing to the number of male workers now in the Forces, the labour requirements are not being met, and special steps are now being taken to increase the number of women workers both in industry and agriculture. The measures in regard to industry are set forth on page 83; those for agriculture were given on page 43 of the February issue of the GAZETTE.

Employment in the coal mining industry continued very good; at shale mines it was also very good; at iron and lead mines it continued good; and in tin mines, fair. In the quarrying industry employment was fair on the whole, except at slate quarries, where it remained quiet.

In the pig iron industry employment continued good, though increasingly hampered by shortages of labour and raw materials. At iron and steel works employment continued very good, and much overtime was worked. The engineering and shipbuilding trades continued to work at high pressure, with much overtime and an unsatisfied demand for labour. The tinplate and steel sheet trades laboured under shortage of material and transport difficulties, but most of the other metal trades continued active, and much overtime was worked.

In the cotton trade the shortage of labour became still more acute, but employment remained fairly good in the spinning sections, and somewhat irregular in the weaving department. Much activity prevailed in the woollen trade, and employment was better than a month ago; in the worsted trade it continued good. Employment remained active in the hosiery trade, and good in the jute trade. In the linen industry, employment, though still quiet in Ireland, showed some improvement; in Scotland it continued good. In the bleaching trade employment continued fair; in the dyeing industry it continued good; with calico printers it was irregular in England and fair in Scotland. Employment was good in the lace trade, and fairly good in the silk and carpet trades.

The boot and shoe trades remained very active, and the shortage of labour became more acute. Employment in the leather trades showed an improvement, and overtime was worked in certain districts. The bespoke tailoring showed a seasonal improvement, but employment was still slack; in the ready-made branch it was fairly good. In millinery and with retail dress-making firms in London employment continued fair; with Court and private dressmakers it was slack. Employment continued good in the corset trade, and fairly good generally in the wholesale mantle, costume, and blouse trades; in the shirt and collar and felt hat trades it was fairly good, but in the silk hat trade it continued bad, with much short time.

In the building trades employment remained quiet on private work; many workpeople have gone to other trades, but those remaining were well employed, mainly on Government work, and the percentage unemployed remained small. Brickworks showed some decline, partly owing to bad weather conditions; in the cement

trade employment also showed some falling off, but was still good. Employment in the furnishing trades continued fairly good; in the woodworking trades it was good on the whole.

In the printing and bookbinding trades employment improved, and was good; in the paper trades it continued good. A shortage of labour was reported in all three trades.

The glass trade continued well employed; the pottery trade showed a slight improvement, and employment was good generally. The food preparation trades suffered from a shortage of male and female labour and of raw materials, and from difficulties of transport, but employment continued to be very good. In agriculture unsettled weather hindered work on the land, and thus minimised to some extent the effects of the general shortage of labour.

Employment with dock labourers continued good generally. The supply of seamen for mercantile ships was reported to be not quite equal to the demand.

Compared with the good conditions of February, 1915, employment showed a marked improvement in all the chief industries.

#### TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 947,104 reported 4,972 (or 0.5 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1916, compared with 0.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1916, and 1.6 per cent. at the end of February, 1915.

Trade.	Membership at end of Feb., 1916, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces.	Unemployed at end of February, 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Percentage.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building* ...	82,340	1,258	1.5	- 0.1	- 1.1
Coal Mining† ...	131,874	53	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.9
Iron and Steel ...	36,091	271	0.8	...	- 1.4
Engineering ...	260,712	842	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.4
Shipbuilding ...	71,577	199	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.5
Miscellaneous Metal	38,788	41	0.1	...	- 0.7
Textiles† :-					
Cotton ...	79,159	770	1.0	- 0.2	- 1.2
Woolen & Worsted	8,421	15	0.2	- 0.3	- 0.7
Other ...	52,965	149	0.3	+ 0.1	- 1.9
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	57,512	604	1.1	- 0.1	- 3.1
Furnishing ...	14,644	374	2.6	- 0.2	- 3.9
Woodworking ...	29,006	269	0.9	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Clothing ...	70,162	40	0.1	...	- 0.6
Leather ...	4,291	58	1.4	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Glass ...	781	4	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.5
Pottery ...	6,510	1	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.5
Tobacco ...	2,271	24	1.1	- 0.2	- 2.6
Total ...	947,104	4,972	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.1

\* This percentage is based mainly on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

† In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is usually met by short time working.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of February, 1916, was 0.8, compared with 1.0 at the end of January, 1916, and 2.0 at the end of February, 1915.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces	Unemployed at end of February, 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed on a	
		Number	Percentage	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building ...	550,973	9,971	1.8	- 0.6	- 2.0
Construction of Works.	113,427	470	0.4	...	- 1.0
Engineering and Iron-founding.	846,009	3,395	0.4	...	- 0.5
Shipbuilding ...	222,870	1,067	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Construction of Vehicles.	167,075	936	0.6	...	- 0.8
Sawmilling ...	8,239	61	0.7	...	- 0.8
Other Insured Workpeople.	43,224	121	0.3	...	- 0.4
All Insured Workpeople	1,951,817	16,021	0.8	- 0.2	- 1.2

#### EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 719,637 workpeople in February, 1916 :-

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for February, 1916.	February, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	540,962	5.70	- 0.02	+ 0.07
Iron " ...	13,047	5.83	+ 0.06	- 0.05
Shale " ...	3,063	5.97	+ 0.10	- 0.03
		Furnaces in Blast.	No.	No.
Pig Iron ...	25,375	265	-	- 9
		Mills Working.		
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	25,600	483	- 2	+ 35
		Shifts Worked (One Week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel	111,590	646,574	+ 0.3	+ 13.0

#### EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 621,953 workpeople in the week ended 26th February, 1916, showed practically no change in the number employed, and an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 11.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trade.	Number Employed.			Wages Paid.		
	Week ended 26th Feb. 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb. 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles :-						
Cotton ...	194,935	- 0.2	- 3.1	215,732	- 0.3	+ 8.5
Woolen ...	23,375	+ 0.2	+ 1.8	27,619	+ 3.0	+ 14.4
Worsted ...	33,306	- 0.3	- 2.8	31,952	+ 1.3	+ 12.6
Linen ...	42,966	+ 1.2	- 4.7	29,841	+ 1.4	+ 13.5
Jute ...	13,630	+ 0.2	+ 4.0	14,167	- 0.3	+ 23.0
Hosiery ...	22,725	+ 0.8	+ 3.4	22,085	+ 1.3	+ 17.4
Lace ...	8,755	+ 0.8	+ 3.8	9,447	+ 2.1	+ 24.1
Other Textiles ...	16,287	+ 0.0	- 4.1	14,810	+ 4.9	+ 14.4
Bleaching, Dyeing, etc.	24,850	+ 0.5	+ 7.7	38,930	+ 1.1	+ 30.2
Total, Textiles ...	380,829	+ 0.1	- 1.6	404,583	+ 0.6	+ 12.9
Boot and Shoe ...	62,945	- 0.2	- 3.4	78,667	- 1.2	+ 6.4
Shirt and Collar ...	20,455	- 0.6	- 0.5	15,473	- 0.4	+ 9.7
Clothing (Ready-made).	36,359	+ 0.9	- 2.3	33,472	+ 4.3	- 2.2
Printing and Book-binding.	24,476	- 0.5	- 7.8	31,393	+ 0.0	+ 2.7
Pottery ...	18,092	- 0.2	- 2.0	19,634	+ 2.0	+ 17.0
Glass ...	11,003	+ 0.5	- 5.4	18,094	+ 2.4	+ 13.6
Brick ...	6,374	- 2.4	- 22.9	8,600	- 4.0	- 8.5
Cement ...	5,308	- 0.2	- 13.2	9,155	- 2.5	+ 2.5
Food Preparation	56,112	- 0.1	+ 12.0	57,864	+ 0.6	+ 27.8
Grand Total ...	621,953	+ 0.0	- 1.5	676,935	+ 0.5	+ 11.4

*Changes in Rates of Wages.*—The war bonuses and increases in rates of wages reported as taking effect in February affected over 204,000 workpeople, and amounted to about £12,500 per week. The principal changes affected 120,000 coal miners in Durham, 20,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, and 14,000 workpeople in wool sorting and combing establishments at Bradford.

*Trade Disputes.*—The number of disputes beginning in February was 38, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 12,831, as compared with 11,697 in the previous month, and 31,060 in February, 1915. The estimated total aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was 102,600 working days, as compared with 97,600 in January, 1916, and 208,600 in February, 1915.

*Labour Exchanges.*—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 11th February was 45,948, as compared with 31,572 in the five previous weeks, and with 34,006 in the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915. The average weekly number of vacancies filled for the same periods was 28,902, 23,352, and 24,966 respectively.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

The following appeal, signed by the Home Secretary and by the President of the Board of Trade, has recently been issued to employers :-

We desire to call the attention of employers in the manufacturing industries to the urgent necessity of concerted action for the purpose of making good the loss of labour caused by withdrawal of men for the forces.

The maintenance in the fullest vigour of the manufacturing industries which are necessary to the provision of Government supplies, the support of the population and our export trade, is of vital importance to the country at the present time. On it hang very largely the successful conclusion of the war and the continued prosperity of the nation in the years which will follow the war.

The manufacturing industries are face to face with a situation which demands prompt and vigorous action. Men are rapidly being withdrawn—the Board of Trade returns show that a large amount of plant is already standing idle—and many complaints are being received from manufacturers that the necessary labour cannot be got.

There is one source, and one only, from which the shortage can be made good—that is, the great body of women who are at present unoccupied or engaged only in work not of an essential character. Many of these women have worked in factories and have already had an industrial training—they form an asset of immense importance to the country at the present time, and every effort must be made to induce those who are able to come to the assistance of the country in this crisis. Previous training, however, is not essential; since the outbreak of war women have given ample proof of their ability to fill up the gaps in the ranks of industry and to undertake work hitherto regarded as men's.

We appeal, therefore, on behalf of the Government, to every employer who is finding his business threatened with diminished productivity through the loss of men, not to accept such diminution as an inevitable consequence of the war, but to make every possible effort to maintain his production by using women, whether in direct substitution for the men who have been withdrawn or by some subdivision or rearrangement of his work.

The Home Office and the Board of Trade are prepared to give employers all the help in their power in taking this course.

The task of bringing into industry the reserves of women's labour to fill temporarily the places left vacant by the withdrawal of the men is one that can only be rapidly and successfully accomplished by concerted action. Individual effort on the part of employers has only been partially successful; in some cases it has failed entirely in obtaining women substitutes.

If overlapping, competition, and waste of effort are to be avoided, recourse must be had to central machinery in each industrial area to organise the supply of women's labour. The needs of the industries must be ascertained and steps taken to attract the number of women required. The Labour Exchanges, with their organisation and staff, are ready to hand, and special arrangements are being made to utilise them to the fullest extent for this purpose. But the full co-operation of employers is equally necessary; they alone can determine how their businesses can be reorganised on a basis of women's labour and the number of women they will require. It is only if the Government are placed in possession of the needs of employers that they can form an accurate judgment of the situation and take useful action.

We urge every employer, therefore, who has not already done so to do two things :-

1. To review the organisation of his works in order to ascertain how it is possible by rearrangement of work and other measures profitably to employ, as temporary substitutes, as large a number of women workers as possible.

2. To send to the local Labour Exchange at once—and from time to time as the situation develops—particulars of his requirements for women labour, with the fullest possible details as to the classes of work and the qualifications required.

It is necessary to know what the demands of employers in an industry are likely to be before women can be invited to offer themselves for work in the industry.

For the work of canvassing and drawing in the reserves of women it is proposed to invite local assistance of persons qualified by their experience of industry and social work, and steps are already being taken to make arrangements for this.

The introduction of women into a factory or a department where previously men have been employed may cause the employer some difficulties in the matter of arranging for conditions of work suitable to women, or complying with the requirements of the Factory Acts, but in many industries these have already been overcome as a result of discussion between the employers or their associations and the officials of the Home Office, and every effort will be made by the Home Office and the factory inspectors to advise and assist employers in meeting such difficulties.

We are confident that the women of the country will respond to any call that may be made, but the first step rests with the employers—to reorganise their work and to give the call.

#### EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN JANUARY.\*

The following is the general conclusion arrived at by the German Department of Labour Statistics as to the course of employment in Germany during January :-

"On the whole, there was no change during the eighteenth month of the war, employment being generally fair, and in many places good to very good. The usual seasonal depression which sets in after Christmas in a number of trades was observable, but it was less marked than in times of peace. With the exception of the textile and clothing trades and the building trades there was a general improvement as compared with January, 1915.

"As in previous months, the industries most busily employed were mining and smelting and most branches of the metal and engineering trades. The electrical and the woodworking trades showed no change. An improvement was recorded in some branches of the chemical trades. On the other hand, employment perceptibly declined in certain branches of the food preparation trades and also in the textile trades."

*Returns from Trade Unions.*—Returns relating to unemployment were furnished by 37 Trade Unions, the membership covered being 838,845. Of these, 21,498 (or 2.6 per cent.) were out of work at the end of January, this being the same percentage as in December. In the corresponding month of 1915 the percentage out of work was 6.5.

*Returns from Labour Exchanges.*—Returns relating to the operations of Labour Exchanges during January show the proportion of applications for employment to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been as follows :-

	January, 1916.	December, 1915.	January, 1915.
Males .. .. .	84	90	125
Females .. .. .	163	151	167

From these figures it would appear that in January the demand for men increased somewhat as compared with December, and was considerably stronger than in January, 1915. For women the demand declined as compared with the preceding month, but was about the same as in January, 1915.

\* Reichsarbeitsblatt, February, 1916.

## RETAIL FOOD PRICES.

UNITED KINGDOM AT 1st MARCH, 1916.

COMPARISON WITH 1st FEBRUARY.

RETAIL prices of food on 1st March were higher than on 1st February by about 1 per cent. Mutton showed an advance of over 3 per cent. on the average, but beef showed a comparatively small increase. Flour and bread prices rose about 2½ per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. last month. There was an increase of 7½ per cent. in the price of granulated sugar, of 4 per cent. in the price of margarine, and of 3 per cent. in that of cheese. Butter increased slightly on the average, as also did potatoes, while milk, tea and bacon remained practically unchanged in price. Eggs and fish were the only articles for which a decline was recorded, the average percentage changes for these being 12 and 4 respectively.

COMPARISON WITH A YEAR AGO.

As compared with 1st March, 1915, the general level of prices showed an increase of about 19 per cent. Fish prices rose during the year about 40 per cent. on the average, and those of granulated sugar about 30 per cent. The prices of meat, bacon and tea increased about 25 per cent., and of milk, butter, cheese and eggs about 15 to 20 per cent. Bread and flour were dearer than a year ago by 14 and 11 per cent. respectively. Margarine showed an advance of 10 per cent., and potatoes 4 per cent.

COMPARISON WITH JULY, 1914.

In the following Table is given a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st March, 1916, in relation to the normal prices of July, 1914:—

Article.	Percentage Increase since July, 1914.			Article.	Percentage Increase since July, 1914.		
	Large Towns.	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.		Large Towns.	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.
Beef, British—				Bread .. ..	59	49	54
Ribs .. ..	39	36	37	Tea .. ..	49	48	48
Thin flank ..	55	43	49	Sugar (granulated) ..	125	112	119
Beef, Imported—				Milk .. ..	32	29	31
Ribs .. ..	55	47	51	Potatoes .. ..	5	6*	1*
Thin flank ..	74	63	68	Margarine .. ..	18	12	15
Mutton, British—				Butter—			
Legs .. ..	33	33	33	Fresh .. ..	32	37	35
Breast .. ..	58	40	49	Salt .. ..	30	34	32
Mutton, Frozen—				Cheese .. ..	41	41	41
Legs .. ..	54	46	50	Eggs (fresh) ..	48	50	49
Breast .. ..	85	70	78				
Bacon (streaky) ..	36	29	32	ALL ABOVE ARTICLES†	51	45	48
Fish .. ..	115	78	96				
Flour (households)	59	65	62				

Owing to a further advance this month, the usual price of granulated sugar has now reached 4½d. per lb., as compared with 2d. per lb. in July, 1914. Flour and bread are dearer by 62 and 54 per cent. respectively. Tea prices have advanced nearly 50 per cent., an increase of 9d. per lb., 7d. of which is accounted for by increased duty. British meat has risen 40 per cent., and imported meat 60 per cent. Cheese is about 40 per cent., and butter, bacon and milk are about 30 per cent. dearer. Margarine prices show an increase of about 15 per cent. The price of fish averages slightly less than double that for July, 1914, but there are wide variations according to locality. Potatoes and eggs are subject to seasonal fluctuations.

Taking the country as a whole, and making allowance for the relative importance of the various articles in working-class household expenditure, the average increase in the retail prices of food since the beginning of the war may be put at 48 per cent. This figure relates to food only, and in estimating the increased cost of living this percentage must not be applied to the total family expenditure, but only to that proportion which is expended on food.

\* Decrease.  
† Weighted net percentage increase.

## BERLIN IN JANUARY.

During January a rise of 2·8 per cent. was recorded in retail food prices in Berlin, and the general level of certain of the more important articles of food was 88·5 per cent. above that of July, 1914. In arriving at these results allowance is made for the relative importance of the various articles in working-class consumption. The following Table is based upon returns published in the Prussian official journal *Statistische Korrespondenz*\*:—

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in January, 1916, as compared with	
	December, 1915.	July, 1914.
Rye bread .. ..	No change.	+ 42·9
Wheat bread .. ..	No change.	+ 27·7
Rye flour .. ..	No change.	+ 60·0
Wheat flour .. ..	No change.	+ 28·6
Butter .. ..	+ 2·5	+106·2
Lard .. ..	No change.	+224·7
Sugar .. ..	+ 5·0	+ 20·0
Coffee .. ..	- 3·7	+ 35·5
Eggs .. ..	No change.	+271·4
Milk .. ..	+ 20·8	+ 36·4
Beef .. ..	+ 26·1	+105·9
Mutton .. ..	+ 23·7	+102·9
Veal .. ..	No change.	+100·0
Pork .. ..	No change.	+ 72·8
Bacon .. ..	No change.	+154·2
Potatoes .. ..	No change.	No change.
Rice .. ..	- 5·0	+340·0
Split peas .. ..	- 4·1	+187·5
Haricot beans ..	- 2·0	+134·0
Lentils .. ..		+148·3
ALL ARTICLES TOGETHER (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	+ 2·8	+ 88·5

For eleven of the twenty articles shown in the Table the prices recorded are the same for January as for the preceding month. In spite of this, and although eggs, peas, beans and lentils appear to have become cheaper, the prices of beef, mutton and veal showed such substantial rises that the general level of prices was perceptibly raised.

As has already been pointed out (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, January, p. 7, and February, p. 43), these percentages can no longer be said to indicate the full extent to which the normal food supplies of Berlin have been reduced owing to the war. Some of the prices recorded are maximum prices beyond which retail dealers are not allowed to charge. Some articles, again, such as bread, flour, butter, pork, milk and lard are purchasable only in strictly limited quantities, while others, such as beans, peas and lentils, would appear to be practically unobtainable at the ordinary shops.

## AUSTRALIA IN NOVEMBER.†

During November, the latest month for which figures are available, the index numbers of retail food prices for the thirty principal towns in the Australian Commonwealth show a fall of 2·1 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 30·5 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. In obtaining these figures account is taken of the extent to which each of the various articles of food entering into the computation of the index numbers is consumed throughout the Commonwealth, and also of the respective populations of the thirty towns.

The following Table shows the extent of the rise in food prices during each of the last six months for which figures are given in the source, as compared with July, 1914:—

Month (1915).	Increase in Price of Food as compared with July, 1914.
June .. ..	Per Cent. 24·9
July .. ..	30·7
August .. ..	39·4
September .. ..	32·6
October .. ..	33·3
November .. ..	30·5

\* The prices of beef, mutton, veal and lard in January, however, have been calculated from data published weekly in *Vossische Zeitung*, but derived from returns collected by the Berlin Municipal Statistical Office.  
† *Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics*, November, 1915. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne.

## RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING IN COPENHAGEN.\*

In the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September last (pp. 315-316) certain particulars were given as to the rise in the cost of living in Copenhagen since the beginning of the war. The returns upon which these figures were based have since been brought up to a more recent period by the Statistical Department of Denmark.

The retail prices of a number of articles of domestic consumption are given, and then, in order to show the effect of the rise in prices upon the cost of living of a typical working-class family in Copenhagen (that is, a family assumed to have an annual income of £111), the sum required by such a family to meet the cost under each head in July, 1914, July and October, 1915, and February, 1916, is calculated at the prices prevailing in each of those months, it being assumed for this purpose that the standard of living at all four periods was identical.

The aggregate increase in the cost of a fixed standard of living between July, 1914, and July, 1915, was shown in the previous article to have been 16·3 per cent.

From the most recently collected data it is found that by October, 1915, the cost had risen to 20 per cent., and by February, 1916, to 24·2 per cent. over that of the month immediately before the outbreak of war. For food alone the advance amounted to 33·4 per cent. by February.

The percentage changes under various heads and sub-heads of expenditure are distinguished in the following Table:—

Group of Expenditure.	Increase in Cost as compared with July, 1914.	
	October, 1915.	February, 1916.
Food:—	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Beef and pork .. ..	38·5†	43·6†
Butter, milk, cheese, and eggs .. ..	57·1	49·3
Margarine and fat .. ..	26·0	30·1
Fish .. ..	10·0	40·0
Bread .. ..	25·5	24·2
Flour, oatmeal, &c. .. ..	60·6	69·7
Potatoes, vegetables, and fruit .. ..	1·8	7·4
Sugar, groceries, oil, &c. .. ..	5·1	6·4
Total Food .. ..	32·0	33·4
Clothes, boots, and washing .. ..	18·5	33·3
Rent and cost of repairs .. ..	No change	3·6
Coal, coke, firewood, and petroleum ..	58·3	66·7
Gas and electricity .. ..	No change	No change
Medical attendance, Trade Union subscriptions, taxes .. ..	No change	No change
Other expenditure .. ..	7·1	17·9
Total all groups .. ..	20·0	24·2

It appears, therefore, that the groups of articles chiefly affected by the rise in prices are, firstly, flour, oatmeal, &c., and secondly fuel. Butter, milk, cheese and eggs together cost practically half as much again as in July, 1914.

The foregoing figures relate to Copenhagen only, but it is stated that they can also be taken as applicable to provincial towns generally.

## NEW NORWEGIAN FACTORY ACT.

The Norwegian Factory Act of September 10th, 1909 (a notice of which was published in THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1910, p. 42), together with amending laws dated respectively 25th July, 1910, and 29th July, 1911, has been superseded by a law dated 18th September, 1915.

With the exception of new provisions relating to daily working hours and nightwork, the 1915 Act is practically identical with that of 1909. The most important change introduced by the new clauses is the limitation of the working hours of adults employed in factories, irrespective of sex, to 10 hours per day, or 54 weekly. In the previous law no regulations whatever were included

\* *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 25th February, 1916.

† A somewhat greater rise would probably have been recorded for this group but for the action of the Government in fixing maximum prices for pork.

with regard to working hours of adults (defined as persons over 18 years of age). In the case of persons employed in mines (so far as concerns underground work), foundries, and book and newspaper printing works, the hours of labour as a general rule are not to exceed 48 per week. In the case of establishments which at present work longer hours than those fixed by the new law, it is provided that the King may determine that such hours be gradually reduced, so that by the end of 1920 they shall coincide with the maximum as laid down in the present law. In factories engaged in seasonal occupations the hours to be worked under the present law may, on permission being given, be so arranged that the working time shall be longer in summer than in winter. As regards the weekly rest the principle to be followed is that the working time of each person shall permit of a period of leisure consisting of at least 24 consecutive hours.

For the first time in Norwegian factory legislation the law makes general regulations as to nightwork, which is defined as work performed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. As a rule, special permission is required for nightwork, except with regard to adult workers in continuous trades.

The provisions as to hours of labour and nightwork do not apply to adults employed in stores and warehouses, building works and yards, wharves, loading and unloading steamships, and analogous occupations, or to those employed in handicraft workshops not using mechanical power; nor are adults employed in paper, cellulose and wood pulp factories in which work is continuous affected by the new provisions as to the length of the working day.

As regards overtime, no adult workers other than those employed in seasonal trades may be employed in excess of the legal daily maximum hours during more than 10 hours in any one week, and in no case may workers be so employed for more than 30 hours in four consecutive weeks. Overtime is to be paid at a higher rate than normal time except in the case of persons receiving monthly or yearly wages, or employed on piece-work, unless otherwise agreed upon.

A new provision with regard to the employment of women directs that they are to be released from work in a factory four weeks before the time of their confinement on producing a certificate from a doctor or midwife. As under the earlier law, women may not be employed during the six weeks following confinement. They are also to be afforded opportunities of nursing their children.

A further amendment provides that children who have not completed their schooling may not be employed in factories during the two hours preceding their attendance at school. The limit in the former law was one hour.

The new law became effective on 1st January last, with the exception of the provisions as to working hours and nightwork, which are not to come into operation until 1st January, 1917.

## LABOUR IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVER-SEA AND IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

## CANADA.\*

*Employment in December.*—Employment during December, while showing a falling-off from the level of November, was fairly well maintained. The conclusion or discontinuance of threshing in parts of the West left a number of men out of work, and in Eastern Canada severe winter weather adversely affected civic and other outside construction work. On the other hand, ice-cutting and snow-shovelling gave employment to numbers of men, and in some parts lumbering operations continued to absorb a considerable amount of labour. Demands upon charity societies and employment agencies were light as compared with the same month last year, and very little distress was reported.

\* *The Labour Gazette*, published by the Canadian Department of Labour, January, 1916.

**Labour Disputes in December.**—During December 2 new disputes were recorded, by which 160 workpeople were directly affected, and approximately 1,320 working days lost. In addition, 2 disputes, directly affecting 68 workpeople and resulting in a loss of 1,768 working days, were continued from November. During December one of the 4 disputes was amicably settled.

**Retail Prices and Cost of Living in December.**—The total weekly expenditure of a family in December, as computed from returns of prices of food, fuel, lighting, and housing in sixty cities of Canada, amounted to 58s. 3d., as compared with 57s. 9d. in the previous month, and 59s. in July, 1914. Thus, on the assumption that the standard of living has been identical for all three periods, there was an increase in the cost of that standard of 0.9 per cent. as compared with November, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. The sum spent upon food alone at the retail prices prevailing in the respective months was 33s. 10d. in December, 33s. 5d. in November, and 30s. 11d. in July, 1914, showing for the month under review an increase of 1.4 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, and of 9.6 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.\***

**Employment.**—The percentage of persons unemployed in the Commonwealth owing to lack of work, according to returns received from Trade Unions, decreased from 11.1 in the first quarter to 8.4 in the second quarter of 1915. The percentage in the second quarter of 1914 was 4.3.

**Industrial Disputes.**—The total number of labour disputes which began in the Commonwealth during the second quarter of 1915 was 51, as compared with 67 in the preceding quarter and 83 in the second quarter of 1914. In the new disputes 9,050 workpeople were either directly or indirectly involved, the corresponding total for the preceding quarter being 14,932, and, for the second quarter of 1914, 16,859. The number of working days lost through new disputes amounted to 67,544, as compared with 56,308 and 261,741 respectively. The number of days lost by reason of disputes which began prior to the beginning of the quarter and continued into the quarter under review was 83,302, giving a total of 150,846 working days lost during the quarter owing to strikes and lock-outs.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—During the second quarter of 1915 particulars were collected concerning 74 changes in rates of wages, 37 of which occurred in New South Wales. The total number of workpeople affected was 18,987, and the net average increase amounted to 5s. per head per week. The largest number of persons affected in any single trade group was in the building group, in which 3,287 persons obtained increases aggregating £680 per week.

**Variations in Prices and Cost of Living.**—The cost of living (retail prices and house rent) index number for thirty of the more important towns in the Commonwealth showed an increase in the third quarter of 1915, as compared with the index number for the preceding quarter. Assuming the cost of living for the whole of the year 1912 to be represented by 100, the corresponding figure for the third quarter of 1915 was 123.4, as compared with 113.4 for the preceding quarter and 104.0 for the third quarter of 1914. Thus there was an increase of 8.8 per cent. as compared with the previous quarter and of 18.7 as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1914. The index numbers show that the cost of living increased continuously since the first quarter of 1915 in all the States of the Commonwealth. Taking the six capital towns only, the amount necessary on the average to purchase what would have cost £1 in the year 1911 was £1 7s. 2d. during the third quarter of

1915, £1 4s. 11d. in the previous quarter, and £1 3s. in the third quarter of 1914. The rise since the commencement of the war is therefore about 18 per cent.

**Immigration.**—During the second quarter of 1915 1,378 assisted immigrants (including 745 dependants) arrived in the Commonwealth. The greatest number are reported from New South Wales (474) and Queensland (461). As regards occupations, 154 males were classified as following agricultural, pastoral, rural, &c., pursuits, while 326 of the females were domestic or hotel servants, &c.

**HOLLAND.\***

**Employment in January.**—Returns relating to unemployment in January were received by the Dutch Government Statistical Office from Trade Unions and municipal unemployment funds with a total membership of 116,154. The percentage of members out of work during the month was 9.8, as compared with 10.3 in the previous month and 27.1 in January, 1915.

Group of Trades.	Number of Members insured against unemployment in Jan., 1916.	Percentage actually Unemployed.			Average Days Lost per Week, per Member Unemployed.		
		Jan., 1916.	Dec., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Jan., 1916.	Dec., 1915.	Jan., 1915.
All Unions paying Unemployment Benefit and all Municipal Unemployment Funds making Returns	116,154	9.8	10.3	27.1	5.3	5.4	4.8
Do. do., excluding Diamond Workers ..	105,929	6.0	6.4	18.8	4.8	4.9	3.9
Working in Diamonds and other Precious Stones.	10,225	46.6	47.0	89.7	5.9	6.0	6.0
Printing, Lithography, &c.	11,943	1.5	2.5	22.0	4.1	5.0	2.8
Building Trades (Including Roadmaking).	23,290	16.8	17.3	28.9	5.4	5.4	5.2
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	17,361	3.1	3.0	20.0	4.5	5.3	3.2
Textile ..	8,296	5.1	6.5	19.1	1.8	2.1	2.4
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	18,380	0.5	0.5	6.2	3.9	4.2	3.3
Woodworking, &c.	4,211	4.3	5.7	32.1	4.8	5.3	4.4
Leather, Oilcloth, &c.	2,478	0.2	0.1	10.0	5.2	3.0	3.0

The comparison between January, 1916, and the previous month yields slightly different results when based upon data furnished by Trade Unions only (irrespective of whether they pay unemployed benefit or not), and when further limited to data received from Trade Unions making returns for both months. On this basis the percentage of unemployed is found to be 9.6 in January, as compared with 10.1 in December. Among the members of these unions the average number of working days lost owing to unemployment was in January 8.4 per cent., and in December 8.6 per cent., of the number of days that could have been worked in the respective months.

**DENMARK†.**

**Employment in December, 1915.**—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Office, 11.9 per cent. of the 133,800 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 7.2 per cent. in the previous month and 16.1 per cent. in December, 1914. The average time lost through unemployment during December was 2 days per member, as compared with 1.2 days in the previous month.

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.**

**Employment in Budapest, July, 1914, to August, 1915.**—The following Table relating to employment in Budapest is summarised from data published in the Journal of the Union of German Labour Exchanges.\* The figures relate entirely to persons in receipt of incomes not exceeding £100 per annum who are insured against accidents in the society established under the Hungarian law. †

\* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau of Holland), 29th February, 1916.  
 † Statistische Efterretninger, 25th February, 1916. Danish Statistical Office.  
 ‡ Der Arbeitssachweis in Deutschland, 20th January, 1916. Berlin.  
 § An account of the provisions of the Hungarian law on insurance of workpeople against accidents was given in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, 1907, pp. 358-359.

Date.	Members (i.e., Persons Insured).	
	Number.	Relative Number compared with July 26th, 1914.
1914.		
July 26th ..	238,314	100.00
August ..	170,033	71.35
September ..	188,445	79.08
October ..	201,912	84.73
November ..	206,254	86.55
December ..	206,576	86.69
1915.		
January ..	209,973	88.12
February ..	211,787	88.87
March ..	210,843	88.48
April ..	215,908	90.60
May ..	217,476	91.25
June ..	217,114	91.11
July ..	216,111	90.67
August ..	223,462	93.77

From these figures it appears that since the sudden fall in membership consequent upon the outbreak of war, there has been, on the whole, a steady increase in the number of persons insured in Budapest, indicating a corresponding improvement in employment.

The value of these statistics as an index to industrial employment is derived from the fact that under the Hungarian law all workpeople in factories and workshops where at least 20 persons are employed are required to be insured against accidents.

**NORWAY.\***

**Employment in January.**—The following Table shows the percentage of members unemployed at the end of January in certain trade unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures being added for the previous month, and for January, 1915:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	31st Jan., 1916.	31st Dec., 1915.	31st Jan., 1915.	31st Jan., 1916.	31st Dec., 1915.	31st Jan., 1915.
Bricklayers and masons (Christiania)	759	725	669	4.6	5.5	8.5
Carpenters, &c.	1,649	1,649	1,391	5.5	3.8	11.8
Painters (Christiania) ..	389	383	381	20.3	20.6	29.1
Metal workers ..	9,242	8,853	8,102	0.6	1.0	1.5
Boot and shoe makers ..	945	855	788	1.4	1.9	2.2
Wood pulp and papermakers	783	724	678	0.1	..	4.4
Printers ..	2,183	2,080	2,115	1.1	2.5	2.6
Bookbinders (Christiania) ..	656	650	597	2.0	0.9	1.3
Cabinet makers ..	613	633	558	..	2.2	5.0
Bakers (Christiania) ..	400	420	440	7.0	6.2	13.9
Tinned goods (Stavanger) ..	557	537	479	6.1	4.7	2.1
TOTAL ..	18,176	17,509	16,198	2.1	2.3	4.1

**UNITED STATES.**

**Employment in December.** †—Returns furnished to the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics by representative manufacturers enable a comparison to be made as to the volume of employment in identical establishments in December, 1915, as compared with the preceding month and also with December, 1914.

(a) Comparison of November and December, 1915.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Aggregate Earnings.		
		Nov., 1915.	Dec., 1915.	Increase per cent.	Nov., 1915.	Dec., 1915.	Increase per cent.
Iron and Steel ..	80	111,261	116,260	4.5	791,138	856,682	8.3
Cotton Finishing ..	8	7,580	7,680	1.3	17,370	17,828	2.6
Cotton Goods ..	47	37,099	37,365	0.7	63,586	62,405	1.9†
Hosiery & Underwear ..	44	23,506	23,940	1.4	44,088	46,690	5.9
Boots and Shoes ..	55	39,609	43,166	9.0	103,821	113,471	9.3

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry, and Fisheries.

† Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, February, 1916. Washington.

‡ Decrease.

In December, 1915, there was a material improvement on the previous month. Each industry shows an increase in the number of persons employed, and each industry, except cotton goods, shows an increase in the earnings of its employees.

(b) Comparison of December, 1915, and December, 1914.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Aggregate Earnings.		
		Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Increase per cent.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1915.	Increase per cent.
Iron and Steel ..	89	90,562	123,257	36.0	521,410	897,463	72.1
Cotton Finishing ..	8	6,864	7,680	10.0	14,263	17,828	25.0
Cotton Goods ..	54	42,178	43,111	2.2	67,813	71,210	5.0
Hosiery & Underwear ..	42	21,827	23,581	8.0	37,125	46,454	25.1
Silk ..	31	17,307	18,151	3.7	64,612	80,328	24.3
Woolen ..	14	6,452	7,196	11.5	13,049	16,180	24.0
Boots and Shoes ..	59	39,662	44,562	12.3	95,126	118,650	24.7

There was a most pronounced increase in December, 1915, as compared with December, 1914. More men were employed in each industry, the increase varying from 2.2 per cent. in cotton goods to 36 per cent. in the iron and steel industry. Aggregate pay rolls increased to a far greater extent, from 5 per cent. in the cotton industry to 72.1 per cent. in iron and steel. Many establishments reported short-time work in December, 1914, but nearly all were on full time in December, 1915.

In addition to the data presented in the above Table as to the number of employees on the pay roll, 87 establishments in the iron and steel industry returned 120,676 employees as actually working on the last full day of the pay period reported for December, 1915, as against 85,842 for the reported pay-roll period in December, 1914, an increase of 40.6 per cent.

**Labour Exchanges in the United States: Federal Organisation.\***—The February issue of the Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics contains a summary of the operations during December of the labour exchanges which work under the control of the Division of Information. (For an account of these exchanges and for data as to their work from February, 1915, onward, see p. 436 of the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for December.)

The following Table shows the number of applications for employment and situations obtained, and the number of applications per 100 situations filled during December and the two preceding months:—

Month.	No. of Applications for Employment.	No. of Situations Filled.	No. of Applications per 100 Situations Filled.
October ..	12,215	5,006	244
November ..	11,908	4,146	287
December ..	11,902	2,170	549

**Employment in New York State in January.** †—According to the report compiled by the New York State Bureau of Statistics and Information, the remarkable gain in activity among the manufacturing industries of the State in December was maintained in January, the volume of business being practically the same in both months. January pay-rolls, however, recorded 18 per cent. more workpeople and 28 per cent. more wages than the pay-rolls of January, 1915, this comparison being slightly more favourable than a similar comparison between December, 1915, and December, 1914. These particulars are based on returns from 1,300 representative manufacturers employing approximately 500,000 workpeople throughout the State.

Improvement in January as compared with the preceding month was shown by the metal working and machinery groups of industries, the chemicals, oils and paints group, and by the paper-making, textile and clothing groups of industries.

\* Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, February, 1916. Washington.

† Bulletin of New York State Industrial Commission, February, 1916. Albany, N. Y.

\* Labour Bulletin, No. 10, the quarterly journal of the Bureau of Census and Statistics of the Commonwealth of Australia, Melbourne, October, 1915.  
 † These percentages are based, not on the numbers unemployed on a given day of the month, but on the numbers unemployed "for any three or more days during a specified week." For this reason, apart from the fact that accurate and complete records of unemployment are difficult to obtain in Australia, owing to few of the unions paying unemployed benefit, the figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom given on p. 82.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING FEBRUARY.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during February, and the number of days worked by the collieries showed little change from either a month ago or a year ago. As regards the number of workpeople employed, there was a decrease of 3,288, or 0.6 per cent., on a month ago, and of 19,153, or 3.4 per cent., on a year ago.

Of the 540,962 workpeople included in the returns, 258,130, or 47.7 per cent., were employed at pits working 12 days\* during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while a further 225,723, or 41.7 per cent., were employed at pits working 11 days, but less than 12 days.

The highest average number of days worked were in South Yorkshire and in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.88 days), and the lowest averages were in Ireland (5.15 days) and in West Scotland (5.37 days).

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in Feb., 1916, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1916, on a	
		26th Feb., 1916.	22nd Jan., 1916.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	43,677	5.49	5.43	5.36	+ 0.06	+ 0.13
Northumberland ..	87,308	5.69	5.58	5.38	+ 0.01	+ 0.21
Durham .. .. .	6,324	5.70	5.86	5.74	- 0.16	- 0.04
Cumberland ..	68,038	5.88	5.84	5.88	+ 0.04	..
South Yorkshire ..	27,001	5.69	5.40	5.68	+ 0.29	+ 0.01
West Yorkshire ..	47,041	5.82	5.84	5.74	- 0.02	+ 0.08
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	31,258	5.79	5.82	5.74	- 0.03	+ 0.05
Derbyshire .. ..	31,405	5.47	5.48	5.13	- 0.01	+ 0.34
Nottingham and Leicester ..	24,459	5.62	5.77	5.68	- 0.15	- 0.06
Staffordshire ..	7,109	5.67	5.84	5.68	- 0.17	+ 0.09
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop .. .. .	5,615	5.85	5.93	5.76	- 0.08	+ 0.09
Gloucester and Somerset ..	10,573	5.87	5.87	5.92	..	- 0.05
North Wales .. ..	105,075	5.88	5.86	5.93	- 0.08	- 0.05
South Wales and Mon. ..	494,883	5.73	5.75	5.65	- 0.02	+ 0.08
ENGLAND AND WALES..						
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland .. ..	19,581	5.37	5.30	5.18	+ 0.07	+ 0.19
The Lothians .. ..	2,037	5.43	5.32	5.31	+ 0.11	+ 0.12
Fife .. .. .	23,986	5.51	5.48	5.46	+ 0.05	+ 0.05
SCOTLAND .. .. .	43,614	5.43	5.38	5.34	+ 0.07	+ 0.11
IRELAND .. .. .	485	5.15	5.55	4.60	- 0.41	+ 0.55
UNITED KINGDOM ..	540,962	5.70	5.72	5.63	- 0.02	+ 0.07

Employment was good or very good in every district. It showed an improvement on the previous month in Northumberland and West Yorkshire. In the Cumberland, Staffordshire, Warwick, Worcester and Shropshire, Gloucester and Somerset, and South Wales and Monmouthshire districts, however, it showed a decline. In Scotland there was a general improvement, but in Ireland there was a decline.

Compared with a year ago employment showed an improvement in almost every district, and was most marked in Durham, Nottingham and Leicester, and in Ireland.

Description of Coal.	No. of Work-people employed in Feb., 1916, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1916, on a	
		26th Feb., 1916.	22nd Jan., 1916.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite .. ..	6,319	5.36	5.26	5.78	- 0.50	- 0.42
Coking .. .. .	27,265	5.78	5.77	5.63	+ 0.01	+ 0.15
Gas .. .. .	36,799	5.54	5.55	5.34	- 0.01	+ 0.20
House .. .. .	57,337	5.57	5.68	5.51	- 0.11	+ 0.06
Steam .. .. .	195,183	5.78	5.78	5.70	..	- 0.08
Mixed .. .. .	220,059	5.70	5.68	5.64	+ 0.02	+ 0.06
ALL DESCRIPTIONS ..	540,962	5.70	5.72	5.63	- 0.02	+ 0.07

Compared with a month ago employment showed a marked decline at anthracite coal pits; at the other pits

\* The figures in this article and the following only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day that the mines or works were open.

there was little or no change. Compared with a year ago there was also a decline at pits producing anthracite coal, but an improvement at pits producing all other classes of coal.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during February amounted to 3,310,000 tons, a decrease of 73,000 tons on a month ago, and of 475,000 tons on a year ago.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT continued good at iron and lead mines; it was very good at shale mines. In tin mines it was fair. In slate quarries employment continued quiet; at other quarries it was fair on the whole.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods named below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that the number of workpeople employed in February, 1916, was 13,047, a decrease of 143 (or 1.1 per cent.) compared with a month ago, and of 793 (or 5.7 per cent.) compared with a year ago.

Districts.	Work-people employed in Feb., 1916.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1916, on a	
		26th Feb., 1916.	22nd Jan., 1916.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland .. .. .	5,663	5.79	5.64	5.92	+ 0.15	- 0.13
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	4,471	5.94	5.87	5.93	+ 0.07	+ 0.01
Scotland .. .. .	688	5.84	5.60	5.28	+ 0.24	+ 0.56
Other Districts .. ..	2,227	5.71	5.93	5.87	- 0.22	- 0.16
ALL DISTRICTS .. ..	13,047	5.83	5.77	5.88	+ 0.06	- 0.05

The weekly average number of days\* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.83, compared with 5.77 a month ago and 5.88 a year ago.

Shale.—According to the returns received there were 3,063 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 26th February, 1916, at mines which worked, on the average, 5.97 days per week, compared with 3,105 workpeople in January at mines working 5.87 days per week, and 3,301 workpeople a year ago at mines working 6.00 days per week.

Tin.—Employment in Cornwall continued fair generally; the labour shortage was more acute than in the previous month.

Lead.—In Weardale employment was fair and not so good as a year ago. It was very good in Flintshire and good in Darley Dale (Matlock).

QUARRYING.

Slate.—In North Wales employment was still slack, but a slight improvement on a year ago was reported. At Delabole (Cornwall) employment was fairly good.

Granite.—In Cornwall employment was dull generally, and not so good, on the whole, as a year ago. In the Aberdeen district the scarcity of labour delayed the execution of orders.

Limestone.—In the Cleveland and Buxton districts employment was good and better than a year ago. In the Weardale quarries it continued good and was about the same as a year ago. In the Plymouth district it continued quiet.

Other Stone.—Much overtime was worked at the Bakedwell chert quarries. In the Cleve Hill road material (basalt) quarries employment continued good. In the grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district it was bad and worse than a year ago; short time was worked. The depression in the Forfarshire sandstone quarries continued.

Sett-making.—In Scotland employment was fair generally, but interrupted at some places by unfavourable weather. In the Cleve Hill quarries it was quiet.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell and Shaugh and Lee Moor districts employment was fair; at the St. Austell works it was better than a year ago.

\* See note \* in previous column.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

Employment continued good. The industry was hampered to a considerable degree by the shortage of labour and by the difficulty in obtaining delivery and supplies of materials, such as coke, iron ore, limestone, &c. The reports indicate that, in several instances, these difficulties had recently become more pronounced.

Returns received show that 265 furnaces were in blast at the end of both January and February, 1916, as compared with 274 furnaces at the end of February, 1915.

District.	Number of Furnaces included in the Returns in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1916, on a	
	February, 1916.	January, 1916.	February, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Cleveland .. .. .	69	67	70	+ 2	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	29	29	27	..	+ 2
S. and S.W. Yorks.	11	11	10	..	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham	27	27	34	..	- 7
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	27	27	29	..	- 2
Staffs & Worcester..	29	30	30	- 1	- 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	11	11	12	..	- 1
Other districts .. ..	5	5	3	..	+ 2
ENGLAND & WALES -	208	207	215	+ 1	- 7
SCOTLAND .. .. .	57	58	59	- 1	- 2
TOTAL .. .. .	265	265	274	..	- 9

The imports of iron ore in February amounted to 404,000 tons, as compared with 526,000 tons a month ago, and 380,000 tons in February, 1915.

The exports of pig iron totalled 84,000 tons during February, an increase of 6,000 tons on the previous month, and of 62,000 tons on a year ago.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very good, and showed little change on the whole from a month ago; it was much better than a year ago. Overtime was reported as being worked at Wolsingham, at Sheffield, in North and South Wales, and in Scotland.

According to returns relating to 111,590 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 26th February, 1916, was 646,574, showing an increase of 1,969 (or 0.3 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 74,394 (or 13.0 per cent.) on a year ago.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of shifts worked.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	10,716	+ 0.3	64,009	+ 0.0
Crucible Furnaces ..	597	+ 4.2	3,538	+ 4.8
Bessemer Converters ..	1,602	+ 11.8	8,844	+ 10.6
Puddling Forges .. ..	7,222	+ 0.5	36,984	- 1.3
Rolling Mills .. .. .	31,447	+ 0.7	170,799	+ 0.2
Forging and Pressing ..	5,372	+ 0.4	30,948	+ 1.0
Founding .. .. .	17,754	- 1.1	113,639	- 0.9
Other Departments ..	15,602	+ 0.7	90,539	+ 0.7
Mechanics, Labourers ..	21,278	+ 0.8	127,274	+ 0.9
TOTAL .. .. .	111,590	+ 0.5	646,574	+ 0.3
DEPARTMENTS.				
Northumberland & Durham	12,208	+ 1.5	70,271	+ 1.5
Cleveland .. .. .	9,680	+ 0.9	56,627	+ 0.2
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	28,467	+ 0.5	176,056	+ 1.0
Leeds, Bradford, &c.	3,833	- 2.9	21,474	- 3.4
Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire .. .. .	8,466	- 0.9	47,336	- 1.7
Staffordshire .. .. .	9,459	- 0.1	50,959	- 2.6
Other Midland Counties ..	5,426	- 3.3	29,976	- 4.7
Wales and Monmouth ..	12,661	+ 2.9	70,322	+ 3.6
TOTAL, England & Wales	90,200	+ 0.4	523,061	+ 0.2
Scotland .. .. .	21,390	+ 0.8	123,513	+ 0.9
TOTAL .. .. .	111,590	+ 0.5	646,574	+ 0.3

Compared with a month ago employment showed a decline in the Leeds and Bradford, Staffordshire, and "other Midland counties" districts, but an improvement in Wales and Monmouth; in the other districts

there was not much change. There was a marked increase in the number employed and in the aggregate number of shifts worked at Bessemer converters and at crucible furnaces; in the other departments there was not much change.

Compared with the corresponding period of 1915, there was a marked reduction in the number employed in the Leeds and Bradford, and in the Cumberland and Lancashire districts; but these reductions were partly compensated by the working of an increased number of shifts per man. In every other district, except Staffordshire, where there was practically no change, there was an improvement both in numbers employed and in the number of shifts per man. This was greatest in the Sheffield and Rotherham district, where the aggregate number of shifts worked increased by 34.7 per cent., the average number of shifts per man being 6.2. The improvement affected all the departments except puddling forges, and was most marked at foundries and at crucible furnaces.

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during February, 1916, amounted to 62,000 tons, compared with 68,000 tons a month ago, and 49,000 tons a year ago.

The exports (excluding pig iron, black plates, tin-plates, and galvanised sheets) totalled 133,000 tons, a decrease of 16,000 tons on a month ago, but an increase of 10,000 tons on the figure for February, 1915.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades remained very good, with much overtime and an unsatisfied demand for labour, notwithstanding the "dilution of labour" which has taken place. Trade Unions with 260,712 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 0.4 per cent. in January and 0.7 per cent. in February, 1915.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 846,009, of whom 0.4 per cent. were reported as unemployed at the end of February, the same percentage as in January, 1916, and in December, 1915. In only two areas (London and Ireland) was the percentage unemployed in excess of 0.4. In February, 1915, the general percentage unemployed was 0.9 and in February, 1914, 3.2.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1916, on a	
		25th Feb., 1916.	28th Jan., 1916.	26th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties ..	83,766	0.2	0.2	0.4	..	
North-Western .. ..	161,829	0.4	0.4	1.0	..	
Yorkshire .. .. .	108,028	0.3	0.2	0.9	+ 0.1	
East Midlands .. ..	52,535	0.3	0.2	0.8	+ 0.1	
West Midlands .. ..	101,946	0.4	0.4	0.7	- 0.3	
Eastern and S.E. Counties	58,106	0.2	0.3	0.7	- 0.1	
South-Western .. ..	36,315	0.3	0.3	0.9	..	
Wales .. .. .	16,457	0.1	0.1	1.0	..	
Scotland .. .. .	121,827	0.2	0.2	0.8	..	
Ireland .. .. .	18,326	1.8	1.5	2.7	+ 0.3	
UNITED KINGDOM ..	846,009	0.4	0.4	0.9	..	

The only noticeable exceptions to the general state of employment as described above were as follows:—

In several places employment with ironmoulders was only fair, and worse than a month ago. Makers of textile machinery and tools were not very well employed, but a large proportion of the workpeople normally engaged in such work have been transferred to other engineering work.

The imports of machinery during February were valued at £614,000, compared with £701,000 a month ago and £574,000 a year ago.

The exports (British and Irish) of machinery were valued at £1,525,000, compared with £1,480,000 a month ago and £1,286,000 a year ago.

## SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

THE shipbuilding trades continued to work at high pressure. There was still a shortage of labour, and much overtime was worked. During the month outdoor work was interrupted by bad weather.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and of shipwrights with 71,577 members reported 0.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 0.4 per cent. at the end of January, 1916, and December, 1915, and with 0.8 per cent. at the end of February, 1915.

The percentage unemployed among the 222,870 workpeople in the shipbuilding industry who are insured under the National Insurance Act was reported as 0.5 at the end of February, compared with 0.6 a month ago and 1.1 a year ago and 3.6 two years ago.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1916, compared with a	
		25th Feb., 1916.	28th Jan., 1916.	26th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	9,882	1.9	1.2	2.1	+ 0.7	- 0.2
Northern Counties ..	48,779	0.2	0.2	0.6	..	- 0.4
North-Western .. ..	34,266	0.2	0.2	0.6	..	- 0.4
Yorkshire .. .. .	5,480	0.2	0.3	0.6	- 0.1	- 0.4
East Midlands .. ..	1,424	1.2	1.2	5.0	..	- 3.8
West Midlands .. ..	418	0.5	1.0	1.1	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Eastern & S.-E. Counties	7,085	0.4	0.5	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.7
South-Western .. ..	22,351	0.5	0.9	1.9	- 0.4	- 1.4
Wales .. .. .	10,273	0.1	0.3	1.0	- 0.2	- 0.9
Scotland .. .. .	67,049	0.1	0.2	0.9	- 0.1	- 0.8
Ireland .. .. .	16,173	2.8	3.6	3.3	- 0.8	- 0.5
UNITED KINGDOM	222,870	0.5	0.6	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.6

The principal variations as compared with the preceding month, or exceptions to the general state of employment as described above, were as follows:—

An improvement on a month ago was reported by joiners on the Clyde and by painters on the Mersey. At Hartlepool and Middlesbrough employment with joiners on repair work continued only fair. At Belfast it remained bad with carpenters and declined with painters; it was also reported as only fair, and worse than a year ago with labourers. A slight decline on a month ago was reported at Southampton, and not much overtime was worked by shipwrights at Aberdeen.

## TINPLATE, AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of February, 1916, at the works covered by the returns, together with the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 25,600 workpeople.

Works.	Number of Works open.			Number of Mills in operation.		
	At end of Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate .. .. .	75	- 1	+ 3	397	- 1	+ 30
Steel Sheet .. .. .	12	..	..	86	- 1	+ 5
TOTAL .. .. .	87	- 1	+ 3	483	- 2	+ 35

## TINPLATE.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change compared with January.

The demand for tinplate was good, but production was retarded by the shortage in supplies of raw materials; in addition, transport difficulties became more acute, the congestion on the railways and at the docks resulting in huge stocks being held up in the various warehouses and on the railway sidings. Many firms reported a scarcity of suitable workpeople.

The exports of tinned plates and tinned sheets during February showed an increase on both a month ago and a year ago. Compared with a month ago there were large

increases in the quantities sent to British East Indies, Australia, Portugal and France; exports to China and Japan showed a marked decrease.

To	Feb., 1916.	Jan., 1916.	Feb., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in February, 1916, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
United States .. ..	85	26	71	+ 59	+ 14
British East Indies ..	5,085	3,775	2,487	+ 1,310	+ 2,598
France .. .. .	4,174	3,329	3,312	+ 845	+ 862
Netherlands .. .. .	2,258	2,302	1,975	+ 44	+ 283
Russia .. .. .	435	1,383	3,730	- 817	- 2,654
Norway .. .. .	1,076	912	581	+ 977	+ 1,308
Portugal .. .. .	1,889	500	1,740	+ 206	- 1,034
Italy .. .. .	2,406	4,068	1,182	- 1,662	+ 1,224
China and Japan .. ..	4,024	2,875	5,121	+ 1,149	- 1,097
Australia .. .. .	51	13	199	+ 38	- 148
Canada .. .. .	187	403	458	- 216	- 271
Argentina .. .. .	4,913	6,176	4,233	- 1,262	+ 680
Other Countries .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL .. .. .	27,289	26,271	25,101	+ 1,018	+ 2,188
Black Plates for Tinning.					
TOTAL .. .. .	18,811	17,572	1,827	+ 1,239	+ 16,884

## STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

In this branch of the trade there was not much change on a month ago, but a slight improvement on a year ago. There was a shortage of material, especially steel bars. The demand continued good, the orders being chiefly for sheets for military purposes.

The number of sheet mills in operation at the end of February was 86, a decline of 1 on a month ago, but an increase of 5 on a year ago.

The imports of crude zinc amounted to 3,771 tons, compared with 2,852 tons a month ago, and 11,608 tons a year ago.

The exports of galvanised sheets totalled 14,300 tons, compared with 15,800 tons a month ago, and 21,700 tons during February, 1915.

## MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

MOST of these trades continued active during February. There was a shortage of labour in some branches, and much overtime was worked, especially in the brass-working, sheet metal working, and cutlery trades. Trade Unions with 38,788 members reported 0.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 0.1 per cent. a month and 0.8 per cent. a year ago.

*Brasswork and Bedsteads.*—Brassworkers continued exceptionally busy, and much overtime was worked, mainly on Government orders. With bedstead workers employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

*Nuts, Bolts, Nails &c.*—Nut and bolt makers continued well employed. With shoe rivet and wire nail makers at Birmingham employment was very good.

*Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups &c.*—All branches of the cutlery trades at Sheffield continued active, and much overtime was reported. With machine knife grinders employment was fair, and better than a month ago. With edge tool makers at Birmingham and Wednesbury it continued good. There was some slackness with hoe makers at Wednesbury, owing to lack of materials. At Walsall makers of saddle and harness furniture were well employed; bit and stirrup makers, however, reported employment as bad. At Redditch it continued good with needle makers and with fish-hook makers.

*Tubes.*—At all the principal centres employment remained good. A scarcity of skilled workers was reported.

*Chains, Anchors, Springs &c.*—At Cradley employment was good with anchor, chain and block makers, and, on the whole, better than a month ago; on the Tyne and Wear it continued moderate with anchor smiths. It was good with case hame and cart gear and motor chain makers at Walsall. Axle and spring makers at Wednesbury were fairly well employed; workpeople engaged on steel springs and small steel parts at Redditch and West Bromwich continued busy. At Dudley anvil and vice makers continued to be well employed.

*Sheet Metal Workers.*—The brazing and sheet metal

working trades continued very busy, and much overtime was worked. At Aberdeen, Blackburn, Warrington and Grimsby employment was fair. With ironplate workers it was very good in the Lye district and at Birmingham, and better than a year ago; at Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton it was fairly good. With aluminium workers at Stoke-on-Trent employment continued good.

*Wire.*—With wire drawers employment was very good at Newport and Hadley; good at Halifax, Sheffield and Manchester; and fairly good at Warrington and Ambergate. At Halifax much overtime was worked. With wire rope makers on the Tyne and Wear employment continued good.

*Locks, Hollow-ware &c.*—Employment with lock makers at Wolverhampton and Willenhall was good, and better than a year ago; some overtime was worked. In the cast iron hollow-ware trade employment was moderate at Wolverhampton and West Bromwich. Tin and enamel hollow-ware makers at Wolverhampton continued busy. Galvanised hollow-ware makers in the Midlands, though well employed generally, reported a little short time owing to scarcity of material. Makers of builders' ironmongery at Wolverhampton reported an improvement on a month ago.

*Stoves, Grates &c.*—At Rotherham employment was fair and rather better than a year ago. There was a scarcity of labour, and some overtime was worked. At Leeds employment continued good; at Luton it was fair; at Thornaby, moderate, and at Sheffield, slack, with much short time. In Scotland employment continued fairly good generally.

*Jewellery, Plated Ware &c.*—At Birmingham employment was good with jewellers, and there was a shortage of labour; with silversmiths and electro-platers it was fairly good. At Sheffield employment continued good and was better than a year ago. In London it was good and much better than a year ago; a shortage of labour was reported.

## COTTON TRADE.

DURING February the labour problem became more acute, but otherwise there was little change in the general situation. Employment was fairly good in the spinning section, and somewhat irregular in the weaving department. Comparison with a year ago so far as wages are concerned is affected by war bonuses.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*		
Preparing .. .. .	23,841	- 0.5	- 3.9	24,229	+ 0.1	+ 5.4	..	..
Spinning .. .. .	41,453	- 0.5	- 3.9	46,172	+ 0.4	+ 8.7	..	..
Weaving .. .. .	93,603	+ 0.1	- 2.8	100,296	- 0.2	+ 9.4	..	..
Other .. .. .	16,784	+ 0.0	- 0.2	22,712	- 0.9	+ 7.5	..	..
Not specified .. .. .	19,254	- 0.6	- 4.1	22,323	- 1.9	+ 9.0	..	..
TOTAL .. .. .	194,935	- 0.2	- 3.1	215,732	- 0.3	+ 8.6	..	..
DISTRICTS.								
Ashton .. .. .	10,159	- 0.6	- 2.6	11,222	- 0.6	+ 9.0	..	..
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde .. .. .	14,184	+ 0.3	- 1.3	14,709	+ 0.9	+ 12.6	..	..
Oldham .. .. .	22,869	- 0.5	- 4.9	23,319	+ 0.5	+ 6.5	..	..
Bolton and Leigh .. ..	23,922	- 0.1	- 1.6	23,988	- 0.2	+ 12.3	..	..
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden .. .. .	17,875	- 0.3	- 4.2	19,711	- 0.8	+ 4.2	..	..
Manchester .. .. .	14,253	+ 0.4	- 4.5	14,633	+ 0.0	+ 6.3	..	..
Preston and Chorley .. ..	14,822	+ 0.9	- 3.6	15,877	+ 1.1	+ 14.3	..	..
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen .. .. .	33,491	- 0.6	- 3.1	38,633	- 0.7	+ 1.2	..	..
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson .. .. .	22,872	- 0.6	- 4.5	29,595	- 1.6	+ 15.6	..	..
Other Lancashire Towns .. ..	7,034	+ 0.6	- 1.2	5,921	+ 0.9	+ 7.7	..	..
Yorkshire Towns .. .. .	6,491	+ 0.4	+ 1.6	6,824	+ 0.6	+ 12.8	..	..
Other Districts .. .. .	6,953	- 1.2	- 0.9	7,050	+ 0.5	+ 14.3	..	..
TOTAL .. .. .	194,935	- 0.2	- 3.1	215,732	- 0.3	+ 8.6	..	..

Returns from firms employing 194,935 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 8.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Oldham district employment in the spinning section continued good. It was reported that the withdrawal of labour during the month had led to further stoppages, in addition to loss of production through short and inefficient staffing of the machinery still in action. The weaving section in this district, though not so directly affected by the withdrawal of men, was, however, affected by the reduced supply of yarns resulting from the stoppage of spinning room machinery, owing to want of labour. Employment, however, was good.

In the Bolton district employment was reported as fair in all departments, but hampered by the labour problem: fully 20 per cent. of the machinery was standing on this account.

In the Manchester district employment was reported as fair with spinners, and good with weavers.

In the Blackburn and Darwen districts employment was slack in the weaving branch and worse than a month ago; the slackness was to some extent due to want of labour. At Preston and Clitheroe it was fair. In the Burnley district employment was not as good as a month ago, partly owing to bad trade and partly owing to the labour shortage, but it was on the whole better than a year ago.

The imports of raw cotton during February, 1916, totalled 2,165,000 centals, an increase of 113,000 centals on a month ago, but 1,018,000 centals less than in February, 1915.

The exports of cotton yarn amounted to 15,763,000 lb., compared with 13,634,000 lb. in January and 16,118,000 lb. in February, 1915. The quantity of cotton piece goods exported during February, 1916, amounted to nearly 417,000,000 yards, compared with 424,000,000 yards a month ago, and 310,000,000 yards a year ago.

## COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

Description of Cotton.	Feb., 1916.	Jan., 1916.	Feb., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American .. .. .	Bales 232,691	Bales 230,626	Bales 284,605	+ 2,065	- 51,914
Brazilian .. .. .	7,167	5,552	6,494	+ 615	+ 673
East Indian .. .. .	4,255	4,684	5,859	- 408	- 1,613
Egyptian .. .. .	31,752	27,238	31,897	+ 4,514	- 115
Miscellaneous .. .. .	14,828	13,519	6,357	+ 1,309	+ 8,471
TOTAL .. .. .	290,694	282,599	335,192	+ 8,095	- 44,498

## PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

Description of Cotton.	February, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in February, 1916, on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
MIDDLING AMERICAN:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Monthly average of Daily Quotations .. .. .	7.87	- 0.27	+ 2.86
Highest price on any one day .. .. .	8.11	- 0.24	+ 3.00
Lowest .. .. .	7.66	- 0.16	+ 2.77
GOOD FAIR EGYPTIAN:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Monthly average of Daily Quotations .. .. .	11.31	+ 0.46	+ 4.83
Highest price on any one day .. .. .	11.70	+ 0.35	+ 5.15
Lowest .. .. .	10.05	- 0.05	+ 3.75

## WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

FOR the purpose of dealing with the exceptional conditions arising out of the war, an Agreement with regard to the further employment of women as substitutes for the men who have joined the Forces has recently been arrived at between the representatives of employers and workpeople engaged in the woollen and worsted industries of the West Riding. The Agreement is to operate for the period of the war only.

## WOOLLEN TRADE.

Much activity prevailed in this trade, and employment was better than a month ago. About 12 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime during the month, as compared with 27 per cent. a year ago. An increasing shortage of labour was reported.

Returns from firms employing 23,375 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 14.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Comparison with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Wool Sorting..	541	+ 0.2	- 0.4	682	+ 4.3	+14.8
Spinning ..	5,772	+ 0.5	+ 5.3	7,293	+ 4.0	+21.0
Weaving ..	8,768	+ 0.5	- 2.0	9,257	+ 2.5	+ 7.6
Other Departments..	5,289	- 0.1	+ 4.4	7,555	+ 4.3	+18.5
Not specified..	2,465	- 0.6	+ 2.4	2,332	- 1.2	+11.5
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>23,375</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 1.8</b>	<b>27,619</b>	<b>+ 3.0</b>	<b>+14.4</b>

In the Huddersfield district employment continued good, largely owing to Government contracts, and there was a difficulty in getting sufficient workpeople to run the machinery. In the Dewsbury and Batley district a very serious shortage of operatives is anticipated in the event of further enlistments. In the Leeds district employment was good, but was hampered in some departments by the increasing shortage of labour, especially willeys and fettlers; this difficulty has been partly met by overtime. In "Other Districts" (which include Rochdale and other flannel centres) more workers are urgently needed to meet the Government demands for an increased output; practically all the machinery is engaged on war work.

In Scotland employment was good, and above the level of a month ago and a year ago.

**WORSTED TRADE.**

Employment continued good. About 5 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime, as compared with 14 per cent. a year ago. Compared with a year ago there was a general decline in the numbers employed owing to enlistments, but a general increase in wages, largely owing to war bonuses.

Returns from firms employing 33,306 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 12.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Wool Sorting & Combing ..	3,948	- 0.4	- 3.7	5,448	+ 3.5	+17.0
Spinning ..	16,366	- 0.1	- 2.2	11,929	- 0.1	+10.8
Weaving ..	7,517	- 1.0	- 2.9	8,187	+ 3.0	+13.0
Other Departments..	3,483	+ 0.2	- 2.3	4,423	- 0.8	+16.2
Not specified ..	1,992	- 0.9	- 7.2	1,967	+ 2.4	+ 5.9
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>33,306</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>31,952</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>	<b>+12.6</b>

Comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

In the Bradford district employment was good; there was a marked shortage of labour, especially in the spinning branch; in connection with the shortage in the wool-combing branch, the employment of women on nightwork has recently been the subject of conferences between representatives of the Home Office, trade union officials, and employers. In the Keighley, Halifax and Huddersfield districts the numbers employed, owing to enlistments, showed a decline of between 4 and 5 per cent. as compared with a year ago, while there was a general increase in the amount of wages paid owing to war bonuses; in these three districts also there was an insufficient supply of labour, but the shortage was not quite so extensive as in the Bradford area.

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF WOOL.**

The imports of wool (sheep's or lambs') amounted to nearly 76,000,000 lb. during February, compared with about 64,000,000 lb. in the previous month and with nearly 123,000,000 lb. a year ago.

The exports of tops and of woollen and worsted yarn in February totalled 6,165,000 lb., compared with 6,378,000 lb. in January, and with 1,869,000 lb. a year ago. Exports of woollen tissues were 9,330,000 yards in February, 1916, 9,631,000 in January, 1916, and 5,951,000 yards in February, 1915. Corresponding figures for worsted tissues were 4,338,000 yards; 4,255,000 yards and 4,488,000 yards respectively.

**PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.**

	Feb., 1916	Jan., 1916.	Feb., 1915.
<b>AVERAGE PRICES:</b>			
Lincoln Hoggs ..	20½	19½	17½
40's Crossbred tops ..	28½	27½	22
60's Super Botany tops ..	45	45	29
<b>COURSE OF PRICES:</b>			
Lincoln Hoggs ..	20½	18½, 20½	14½, 17
40's Crossbred tops ..	29, 28½	26, 29	21, 23
60's Super Botany tops ..	46, 44	44, 46	28, 30

**LINEN TRADE.**

EMPLOYMENT continued quiet generally in Ireland, though showing some improvement on a month ago. In Scotland employment continued good. There was a shortage of both male and female labour.

Returns from firms employing 42,966 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 13.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Preparing ..	6,007	- 0.7	- 2.7	3,966	- 1.0	+17.1
Spinning ..	11,452	+ 0.2	- 3.4	6,468	+ 0.4	+16.5
Weaving ..	13,670	+ 2.6	- 8.0	9,785	+ 1.2	+ 8.4
Other ..	6,485	+ 0.9	- 0.3	6,052	+ 3.1	+14.4
Not specified..	5,352	+ 1.9	- 5.9	3,570	+ 3.4	+17.1
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>42,966</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>- 4.7</b>	<b>29,841</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>+13.5</b>

In the Belfast district much short time was worked; but there was also a shortage of labour in some departments. Flax roughers reported employment as good; flax dressers as fair, and power loom tenters and

weavers as moderate. In other parts of Ireland there was an improvement, but a good deal of short time was still worked.

At Brechin employment continued good. At Dunfermline it was good in the home trade, but the foreign orders showed some slackening; female workers were scarce.

At Barnsley employment was reported as slack.

**JUTE TRADE.**

EMPLOYMENT remained good and was better than a year ago. The shortage of labour continued, and was very marked in the preparing and spinning branches.

Returns from firms employing 13,630 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 23.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. This large increase in wages is mainly due to war bonuses and to increases in rates of pay.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing ..	3,093	+ 0.4	+ 7.6	3,019	- 1.2	+24.3
Spinning ..	3,709	- 0.6	+ 2.9	3,450	- 0.6	+24.8
Weaving ..	4,836	+ 0.9	+ 2.4	5,062	+ 0.9	+22.2
Other ..	1,992	- 0.5	+ 4.4	2,606	- 1.3	+20.6
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>13,630</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 4.0</b>	<b>14,167</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>+23.0</b>

In the Dundee district, in which are employed 91 per cent. of the total number of workpeople reported on, employment continued good. At Arbroath employment was better than a month ago. The works at Forfar and Kirkcaldy continued busy.

The imports of jute during February, 1916, amounted to 22,000 tons, compared with 39,000 tons a month ago and with 30,000 tons a year ago.

The quantity of jute yarn exported was 3,585,000 lb., compared with 2,098,000 lb. a month ago and 2,274,000 lb. a year ago. The exports of jute piece goods amounted to 9,820,000 yards during February, 1916, as compared with 8,109,000 yards a month ago and 9,160,000 yards a year ago.

**LACE TRADE.**

EMPLOYMENT generally was good, and much above the level of a year ago, when a large number of operatives in all the principal districts were on short time.

Returns from firms employing 8,755 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 24.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lavers ..	1,940	+ 0.3	+ 5.4	2,447	+ 6.5	+ 49.1
Curtain ..	2,398	+ 1.7	+ 0.6	2,663	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
Plain Net ..	3,339	+ 0.2	+ 5.5	3,415	+ 1.7	+ 36.4
Others ..	1,078	+ 0.7	+ 3.6	922	- 2.3	+ 8.7
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>8,755</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>+ 3.8</b>	<b>9,447</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>	<b>+ 24.1</b>

At Nottingham, owing to the shortage of labour and the improved demand for lace goods, there was very little irregular time in the levers section, and the

curtain and plain net branches were fully employed; employment generally was better than a month ago and a year ago. At Long Eaton also employment was good, and much above the level of a year ago; some overtime was reported. In the West of England employment in the plain net branch was much better than in February, 1915. At Newmilns employment was reported as good, and about 10 per cent. of the operatives were working overtime to the extent of three hours per day.

**SILK TRADE.**

In this trade employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago, when much short time was reported.

Returns from firms employing 9,813 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 13.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Throwing ..	1,258	+ 0.2	- 0.7	692	+ 4.4	+11.3
Spinning ..	2,460	- 0.4	- 11.3	2,349	+11.1	+ 7.9
Weaving ..	3,910	- 0.9	- 3.0	3,125	+ 1.0	+15.9
Other ..	1,284	- 0.2	+ 8.3	1,125	+ 3.6	+23.0
Not specified ..	911	- 1.4	- 0.5	913	+ 3.0	+15.1
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>- 3.4</b>	<b>8,199</b>	<b>+ 1.9</b>	<b>+13.9</b>

At Macclesfield employment was good with throwsters and spinners, and moderate with weavers. At Leek and Congleton it continued good in all the principal branches.

Employment in the Eastern Counties was reported as good at Norwich and Yarmouth, as fair at Sudbury and Halstead, and as slack at Braintree. In the West Riding employment was moderate. With artificial silk workers at Coventry it continued fairly good.

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

THERE continued to be great activity in this trade during February, and employment was above the level of a year ago. An increasing difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of labour was reported.

Returns from firms employing 22,725 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 17.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Leicester ..	13,385	+ 0.9	+ 3.6	13,713	+ 0.6	+ 18.0
Leicester Country District..	2,324	- 0.2	- 0.3	2,118	- 1.1	+ 14.2
Notts and Derbyshire ..	3,281	- 0.1	- 0.4	2,991	+ 0.2	+ 16.8
Scotland ..	3,222	+ 1.9	+ 7.5	2,893	+ 8.5	+ 18.4
Other Districts ..	513	+ 2.4	+ 18.2	370	+ 0.8	+ 25.9
<b>TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<b>22,725</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>+ 3.4</b>	<b>22,085</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>	<b>+ 17.4</b>

\* The comparison of wages with a year ago is somewhat affected by war bonuses and increases in rates of wages.  
† The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

At Leicester employment continued very brisk. The continued depletion of male labour and the increased difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of women and girls caused much idle machinery and interfered with the full production of hosiery for Army and Navy contracts. At Hinckley most departments were fully employed, and there was a shortage of menders and male labour for counter and warehouse; at Loughborough employment was also good.

In the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire districts employment with power-frame workers continued good, and was much better than a year ago; in the Nottingham district about 25 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of 8 to 10 hours per week during the month. With hand-frame workers in the country districts of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment on the whole was moderate.

In Scotland employment was good and better than a month ago.

#### CARPET TRADE.

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

Returns from firms employing 6,474 workpeople and paying £6,611 in wages in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 5.1 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 15.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Short time was worked by about 7 per cent. of the operatives, as compared with 20 per cent. a year ago.

In the Kidderminster district employment was fairly good, but output was restricted by want of labour, and by the difficulty of securing adequate supplies of raw material. In the Halifax district employment was good; although somewhat quiet in the regular carpet trade, a number of firms were engaged in weaving Army blankets, and in spinning yarns for military purposes. In Scotland employment continued good.

#### BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

DURING February employment continued good on the whole, and was above the level of a year ago. There was a pronounced shortage of labour. In several cases, however, the actual number required was small.

**Bleaching.**—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire continued fair, and was better than a year ago. At Basford overtime was reported in the hosiery section, and full time was worked in the lace section. In the Dundee district workers continued fairly well employed.

**Printing.**—With machine calico printers in England employment was very irregular. Some shops worked full time, with only half the machinery running, while others had two-thirds of their machines in work. With engravers to calico printers employment was very bad. In Scotland it was fair with machine printers and engravers.

**Dyeing.**—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers continued good, and was much better than a year ago, when more than half the operatives were on short time. During February, 1916, 86 per cent. of the workers were on overtime, partly due to shortage of labour. With cotton dyers employment was also good. With silk dyers employment was good at Macclesfield and Leek and moderate at Congleton. Hosiery dyers at Nottingham and Basford were well employed, and some overtime was reported.

**Trimming, Finishing, &c.**—At Leicester and Loughborough employment with hosiery trimmers, &c., continued good; at Hinckley it was rather less regular owing to a shortage of dyed cotton goods. At Basford overtime and short time were reported, the latter being caused by waiting for material owing to shortage of labour on preparatory stages. At Dundee employment with calender workers continued very brisk.

Returns from firms employing 24,850 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 7.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 30.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Thirty per cent. of the operatives were reported to be on overtime during the month, while 13 per cent. were on short time.

	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
<b>TRADES:</b>						
Bleaching .. .. .	2,698	- 0.0	+ 0.3	3,310	- 0.3	+ 16.2
Printing .. .. .	722	- 0.8	+ 6.0	1,139	- 0.3	+ 30.6
Dyeing .. .. .	13,140	+ 0.5	+ 10.3	23,222	+ 0.7	+ 35.2
Trimming, Finishing and other Departments	7,302	+ 0.5	+ 5.8	9,887	+ 2.6	+ 23.6
Not specified .. .. .	988	+ 2.0	+ 12.5	1,572	+ 0.8	+ 34.6
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>24,850</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>+ 7.7</b>	<b>38,930</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>+ 30.2</b>
<b>DISTRICTS:</b>						
Yorkshire .. .. .	12,353	+ 0.4	+ 10.4	22,129	+ 1.0	+ 34.2
Lancashire .. .. .	7,629	+ 0.3	+ 8.7	10,673	+ 2.4	+ 31.3
Scotland .. .. .	1,675	+ 0.5	+ 6.6	1,888	- 3.3	+ 7.9
Ireland .. .. .	724	+ 0.7	+ 8.5	613	- 1.1	+ 5.1
Other Districts .. .. .	2,569	+ 0.8	+ 8.9	3,622	+ 0.5	+ 22.4
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>24,850</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>+ 7.7</b>	<b>38,930</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>+ 30.2</b>

#### LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was good on the whole, and showed a marked improvement on the previous month. Overtime was worked in certain districts, and some shortage of labour was reported. Curriers in London and Edinburgh and some branches of the saddlery and harness trades at Walsall were, however, still not well employed.

Trade Unions with 4,291 members, exclusive of those serving with the colours, reported 1.4 per cent. as unemployed at the end of February, compared with 3.1 per cent. at the end of January and 1.3 per cent. a year ago. The improvement compared with a month ago was most marked in the saddlery and harness trades. In the Birmingham district some short time was worked in these trades at the beginning of the month, whereas at the end of the month most of the men were on regular overtime.

The imports of raw hides amounted to 72,000 cwts., compared with 57,000 cwts. in January, 1916, and 140,000 cwts. in February, 1915.

The exports (British and Irish) of leather in February, 1916, amounted to 15,000 cwts., compared with 16,800 cwts. in January, and 5,700 cwts. a year ago. Exports of leather manufactures were valued at £126,000, or £12,000 more than in January, and £10,000 more than a year ago.

#### BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

MUCH activity prevailed in all the principal districts during the month, and the shortage of labour became more acute.

In the Leicester district it was reported that output was becoming daily more curtailed, and much difficulty was experienced in balancing the various grades of labour still remaining.

In some districts a fair proportion of women have been transferred to certain occupations previously reserved for men, but in the Northampton district it was reported that there was much scope for further adjustment in this direction.

Returns from firms employing 62,945 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 6.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

\* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
London .. .. .	2,206	- 1.1	- 6.1	3,111	- 1.8	+ 10.1
Leicester .. .. .	11,491	- 0.8	- 5.9	16,180	+ 2.3	+ 5.2
Leicester Country District	3,047	- 1.2	- 3.9	3,672	- 2.3	+ 8.0
Northampton .. .. .	10,238	- 1.5	- 2.7	13,093	- 4.4	+ 2.9
Northampton Country District	9,109	+ 0.7	- 3.3	11,087	- 4.6	+ 7.3
Kettering .. .. .	3,822	+ 0.9	- 3.6	4,886	- 3.7	+ 5.3
Stafford & District .. .. .	2,548	- 2.1	- 5.4	3,046	- 1.6	+ 10.7
Norwich & District .. .. .	4,010	+ 2.3	- 3.8	4,355	+ 6.3	+ 11.3
Bristol & District .. .. .	1,773	+ 1.1	+ 6.9	1,969	- 0.2	+ 13.2
Kingswood .. .. .	1,611	- 2.0	- 4.1	1,946	- 0.5	+ 1.7
Leeds & District .. .. .	2,075	- 0.3	- 4.6	2,452	- 2.6	+ 1.7
Manchester & District .. .. .	3,180	+ 0.9	+ 4.1	3,831	+ 0.7	+ 13.5
Birmingham & District .. .. .	1,032	+ 0.1	+ 3.7	1,056	- 0.5	+ 8.3
Other parts of England and Wales	5,212	+ 1.1	+ 2.3	3,396	- 0.7	+ 7.8
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES .. .. .</b>	<b>59,354</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>- 3.1</b>	<b>74,259</b>	<b>- 1.3</b>	<b>+ 6.7</b>
<b>SCOTLAND .. .. .</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>- 10.8</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>+ 1.7</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>
<b>IRELAND .. .. .</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>+ 9.4</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>+ 3.0</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM .. .. .</b>	<b>62,945</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>- 3.4</b>	<b>78,667</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>	<b>+ 6.4</b>

#### TAILORING TRADE.

##### BESPOKE.

London.—During February employment was slack, as is usual at this time of year; there was, however, a seasonal improvement as compared with a month ago, and little change was shown as compared with a year ago. Returns from firms paying £8,341 in wages to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 26th February, showed an increase of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment in the provincial centres was slack. It was reported as quiet at Liverpool, bad at Manchester, slack at Glasgow, and moderate at Belfast.

##### READY-MADE.

In this branch employment was better than a month ago; it was not so brisk as a year ago.

About 16 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time during the month, and about 13 per cent. were on overtime; in February, 1915, 55 per cent. were working more than the usual hours.

Returns from firms employing 36,359 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Indoor Workpeople.					
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Number.		Earnings.		
		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leeds .. .. .	9,026	- 1.2	- 7.8	8,694	+ 2.8	- 2.9
Manchester .. .. .	3,496	+ 7.8	+ 1.1	3,700	+ 6.8	+ 4.9
Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs. & Cheshire	4,466	- 0.1	- 8.1	3,862	+ 7.0	- 11.0
Bristol .. .. .	1,865	- 5.7	- 11.8	1,357	- 8.4	- 14.4
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	3,656	- 0.4	- 8.2	2,814	+ 5.3	- 17.6
South Midland & Eastern Counties	2,998	+ 4.2	+ 3.0	2,528	+ 14.2	- 0.4
London .. .. .	4,915	+ 1.8	+ 20.7	5,567	- 0.6	+ 15.3
Glasgow .. .. .	1,975	+ 5.6	- 10.0	1,851	+ 12.9	- 9.5
Rest of United Kingdom	3,962	+ 0.3	+ 3.3	3,099	+ 5.0	+ 3.9
<b>TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<b>36,359</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>- 2.3</b>	<b>33,472</b>	<b>+ 4.3</b>	<b>- 2.2</b>

The total amount of wages paid to outworkers by the above firms showed an increase of 5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 67 per cent. compared with a year ago.

At Leeds there was an improvement compared with a month ago, owing to further Government contracts and the usual making for stock for the Easter trade; there was difficulty in securing the necessary labour, especially male cutters and female machinists.

At Manchester employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago; the amount paid to indoor workers showed an increase compared with a year ago, but less was paid for outwork. At Hebden Bridge employment continued good, at Huddersfield it was moderate, and at Liverpool it was fair.

At Bristol employment was moderate, and not so good as a month ago or a year ago; a considerable amount of short time was reported. At Stroud employment continued fair. At Walsall and Tamworth employment was fairly good, at Colchester and Plymouth it was fair, and at Norwich it was slack.

At Glasgow employment was fair, and better than a month ago, although below the level of a year ago.

In London employment was fairly good, but not so brisk as in February, 1915; the increase shown in the indoor wages was more than counterbalanced by the decrease in the amount paid to outworkers—the net result being a decline of about 28 per cent.

#### HAT TRADE.

Silk.—Employment continued bad in London and in the provincial centres; all the operatives were on short time. Owing to enlistments, unemployment was less than a year ago.

Felt.—In this branch employment on the whole was fairly good. There was practically no unemployment, largely owing to enlistments, and much less short time than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 0.1, compared with 0.3 a month ago and 4.8 a year ago. At Denton about 20 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, as compared with 90 per cent. a year ago; a shortage of labour was experienced in some departments, to which some of the short time was due. At Stockport employment was reported as fair, with about 25 per cent. of the workpeople on short time; there was a decided improvement compared with February, 1915, when all the Trade Union operatives were working reduced hours. In Warwickshire employment continued good.

#### SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good and was better than a year ago. An insufficient supply of labour was reported; the demand being chiefly for female machinists and male cutters. The shortage was more or less general, but appeared to be greatest in London, Glasgow and Manchester. There was a small amount of short time during the month, affecting 8 per cent. of the total employed.

Returns from firms employing 20,455 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 9.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London .. .. .	4,752	- 2.9	- 1.8	4,200	- 3.0	+ 4.3
Manchester .. .. .	3,285	- 0.3	- 1.1	2,869	+ 2.6	+ 5.4
Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	2,963	+ 1.9	+ 4.8	1,428	+ 2.5	+ 15.4
S.W. Counties .. .. .	2,671	+ 0.8	+ 5.0	1,796	- 0.3	+ 17.9
Rest of England and Wales	1,476	- 2.3	- 2.3	1,037	- 8.3	+ 5.6
Glasgow .. .. .	2,514	- 0.1	- 6.8	1,748	+ 0.5	+ 1.7
Londonderry .. .. .	1,986	+ 2.1	- 1.9	1,221	+ 1.8	+ 14.8
Belfast .. .. .	1,006	+ 0.3	+ 3.7	750	+ 4.2	+ 24.0
Rest of Ireland .. .. .	703	- 3.8	+ 2.3	424	- 1.2	+ 23.3
<b>TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<b>20,455</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>- 0.5</b>	<b>15,473</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>+ 9.7</b>

In London employment on the whole was fair, but not so good as a month ago. At Manchester it was fairly good and better than a month ago. In the South-Western Counties about 23 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, but employment was above the level of a year ago; in the collar and cuff factories at Bideford employment continued fairly good, and at Barnstaple it was good and better than last month. At Glasgow employment was fairly good.

In Ireland generally employment continued fair and was above the level of a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

In London employment with dressmakers in retail firms continued fair and was better than a year ago; about 14 per cent. of the workers were on short time as compared with 52 per cent. a year ago. Returns from firms, chiefly in the West End, employing 2,009 dressmakers, in the week ended 26th February showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 11.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. A scarcity of experienced workers and juveniles was reported.

With court and private dressmakers employment was slack, but slightly better than a month ago; compared with a year ago fewer workers were employed, but less short time was reported. Firms employing 700 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 7.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decline of 10.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; 22 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time during the month as compared with 53 per cent. a year ago.

With milliners in the West End employment was fair and showed little change as compared with a year ago.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and millinery trades returns from firms in London employing 5,224 workpeople in the week ended 26th February on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment was good in the blouse branch, and fairly good in the other branches. A shortage of labour was reported.

At Manchester returns from firms employing 5,113 workpeople in the week ended 26th February in the costume, blouse, mantle, &c., trades showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The supply of women machinists, &c., was inadequate.

At Glasgow employment continued fair. Returns from firms employing 2,454 workpeople in the week ended 26th February in the mantle, costume and under-clothing trades showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. There was a shortage of machinists.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment continued good at all the principal centres and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms (mainly in England) employing 6,246 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 26th February showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 10.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. There was some shortage of labour.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT on private building work remained quiet, and with plasterers there was a high percentage unemployed, notwithstanding the transference of many men to non-building occupations. Men in other building occupations remained well employed, largely owing to Government requirements. In the case of painters there was a general improvement compared with a month ago, the remaining occupations showing little change. The general percentage unemployed was 1.6, compared with 2.0 in January and 3.5 a year ago. In the case of carpenters, navvies and labourers, the percentage was 1.1 or less.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 664,400 workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act at the end of February, 1916:—

Occupations.	Number Insured at end of February, 1916	Percentage Unem-ployed at end of February.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters .. .. .	121,214	1.1	- 0.2	- 1.0
Bricklayers .. .. .	55,298	1.7	- 0.1	- 3.0
Masons .. .. .	32,043	2.6	- 0.1	- 3.4
Plasterers .. .. .	15,747	5.6	..	- 3.0
Painters .. .. .	97,428	3.5	- 3.1	- 3.9
Plumbers .. .. .	31,105	1.3	+ 0.3	- 1.0
Other skilled occupations ..	35,687	1.1	+ 0.1	- 2.8
Navvies .. .. .	91,675	0.4	..	- 1.0
Labourers .. .. .	184,203	1.0	..	- 1.3
<b>ALL OCCUPATIONS</b> .. .. .	<b>664,400</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>

The next Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in the above occupations in each division. The percentage for all occupations taken together was 0.7 or less in six divisions and 1.3 or 1.4 in three divisions; in London, however, it was 2.7 and in Ireland 8.1. Except in the Northern counties (where no change was shown), there was a decrease in the percentage unemployed in every district as compared with the previous month. Taking the occupations separately, painters showed a decreased percentage in all districts, other occupations showing little change on the whole. In Ireland the percentage unemployed was above the general average for the United Kingdom in every occupation; in the case of painters the percentage was 21.7 and in the case of masons 14.4. Plasterers in London had 9.5 per cent. unemployed.

Compared with a year ago there were (except in Ireland) reductions in the percentages unemployed in every district in practically every occupation.

Districts.	Number Insured.	Per-cent- age Un- em- pl'y'd.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Number Insured.	Per-cent- age Un- em- pl'y'd.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Mnth ago.	Year ago.			Mnth ago.	Year ago.
<b>Carpenters.</b>								
London .. .. .	22,702	1.7	+ 0.1	- 1.1	10,337	4.3	- 0.8	- 3.0
Northern Counties ..	5,453	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.5	2,587	0.7	+ 0.3	- 2.2
North-Western .. ..	14,113	0.6	- 0.1	- 1.8	6,653	0.6	- 0.1	- 5.0
Yorkshire .. .. .	9,417	0.6	+ 0.1	- 1.4	4,742	0.8	+ 0.4	- 2.7
East Midlands .. ..	5,853	0.4	..	- 1.3	4,094	0.7	+ 0.2	- 4.5
West Midlands .. ..	8,482	0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.6	6,289	0.1	- 0.1	- 2.4
Eastern & S.E. Count.	16,497	0.6	- 0.2	- 0.7	10,691	1.8	..	- 2.6
South-Western .. ..	15,823	0.9	- 0.2	- 0.2	4,828	1.6	- 0.1	- 1.0
Wales .. .. .	6,175	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.6	1,717	0.2	- 0.1	- 3.1
Scotland .. .. .	10,817	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.3	1,810	0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.8
Ireland .. .. .	5,877	7.6	+ 1.7	+ 1.7	1,550	6.3	- 1.9	- 3.5
<b>Bricklayers.</b>								
London .. .. .	22,702	1.7	+ 0.1	- 1.1	10,337	4.3	- 0.8	- 3.0
Northern Counties ..	5,453	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.5	2,587	0.7	+ 0.3	- 2.2
North-Western .. ..	14,113	0.6	- 0.1	- 1.8	6,653	0.6	- 0.1	- 5.0
Yorkshire .. .. .	9,417	0.6	+ 0.1	- 1.4	4,742	0.8	+ 0.4	- 2.7
East Midlands .. ..	5,853	0.4	..	- 1.3	4,094	0.7	+ 0.2	- 4.5
West Midlands .. ..	8,482	0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.6	6,289	0.1	- 0.1	- 2.4
Eastern & S.E. Count.	16,497	0.6	- 0.2	- 0.7	10,691	1.8	..	- 2.6
South-Western .. ..	15,823	0.9	- 0.2	- 0.2	4,828	1.6	- 0.1	- 1.0
Wales .. .. .	6,175	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.6	1,717	0.2	- 0.1	- 3.1
Scotland .. .. .	10,817	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.3	1,810	0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.8
Ireland .. .. .	5,877	7.6	+ 1.7	+ 1.7	1,550	6.3	- 1.9	- 3.5
<b>Masons.</b>								
London .. .. .	2,183	4.6	+ 0.6	- 4.1	3,291	9.5	- 0.9	- 3.2
Northern Counties ..	2,172	0.5	+ 0.3	- 1.8	615	1.2	- 0.4	- 3.4
North-Western .. ..	3,041	3.0	- 0.2	- 7.7	1,732	4.7	+ 0.4	- 3.5
Yorkshire .. .. .	3,930	0.9	..	- 4.2	1,698	2.3	+ 0.5	- 6.4
East Midlands .. ..	767	1.8	- 0.9	- 6.0	366	6.0	+ 0.3	- 8.9
West Midlands .. ..	665	0.9	- 0.5	- 3.9	767	4.1	+ 1.2	- 4.5
Eastern & S.E. Count.	888	3.7	- 0.1	- 5.5	1,192	3.0	- 1.6	- 1.1
South-Western .. ..	5,683	2.5	+ 0.1	- 2.0	1,325	3.7	- 0.7	+ 4.0
Wales .. .. .	4,948	0.7	- 0.2	- 1.6	1,400	1.0	- 0.1	- 4.4
Scotland .. .. .	5,827	1.9	- 0.2	- 3.8	1,600	2.4	- 0.2	- 2.1
Ireland .. .. .	1,939	14.4	- 0.2	+ 0.5	1,241	12.6	+ 3.3	+ 1.7
<b>Plasterers.</b>								
London .. .. .	2,183	4.6	+ 0.6	- 4.1	3,291	9.5	- 0.9	- 3.2
Northern Counties ..	2,172	0.5	+ 0.3	- 1.8	615	1.2	- 0.4	- 3.4
North-Western .. ..	3,041	3.0	- 0.2	- 7.7	1,732	4.7	+ 0.4	- 3.5
Yorkshire .. .. .	3,930	0.9	..	- 4.2	1,698	2.3	+ 0.5	- 6.4
East Midlands .. ..	767	1.8	- 0.9	- 6.0	366	6.0	+ 0.3	- 8.9
West Midlands .. ..	665	0.9	- 0.5	- 3.9	767	4.1	+ 1.2	- 4.5
Eastern & S.E. Count.	888	3.7	- 0.1	- 5.5	1,192	3.0	- 1.6	- 1.1
South-Western .. ..	5,683	2.5	+ 0.1	- 2.0	1,325	3.7	- 0.7	+ 4.0
Wales .. .. .	4,948	0.7	- 0.2	- 1.6	1,400	1.0	- 0.1	- 4.4
Scotland .. .. .	5,827	1.9	- 0.2	- 3.8	1,600	2.4	- 0.2	- 2.1
Ireland .. .. .	1,939	14.4	- 0.2	+ 0.5	1,241	12.6	+ 3.3	+ 1.7

Districts.	Number Insured.	Per-cent- age Un- em- pl'y'd.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Number Insured.	Per-cent- age Un- em- pl'y'd.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Mnth ago.	Year ago.			Mnth ago.	Year ago.
<b>Painters.</b>								
London .. .. .	27,956	4.0	- 2.5	- 4.0	6,919	3.5	+ 1.1	- 0.2
Northern Counties ..	3,224	0.7	- 0.9	- 5.5	1,593	0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.3
North-Western .. ..	12,202	4.0	- 5.6	- 5.8	4,494	0.4	..	- 2.0
Yorkshire .. .. .	6,416	1.3	- 3.7	- 5.3	2,702	0.5	+ 0.2	- 1.7
East Midlands .. ..	3,335	1.6	- 1.9	- 6.4	1,239	0.4	..	- 3.8
West Midlands .. ..	6,553	1.2	- 1.3	- 4.6	1,504	0.4	+ 0.2	- 1.2
Eastern & S.E. Count.	13,911	2.6	- 2.8	- 3.7	3,069	0.9	+ 0.2	- 0.6
South-Western .. ..	9,470	2.8	- 2.4	- 1.4	2,548	0.5	- 0.4	- 0.7
Wales .. .. .	3,082	0.9	- 1.7	- 3.5	900	0.1	- 0.1	- 1.2
Scotland .. .. .	7,273	1.9	- 3.1	- 2.7	4,591	0.1	- 0.2	- 1.1
Ireland .. .. .	3,506	21.7	- 9.1	+ 2.4	1,151	6.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
<b>Plumbers.</b>								
London .. .. .	27,956	4.0	- 2.5	- 4.0	6,919	3.5	+ 1.1	- 0.2
Northern Counties ..	3,224	0.7	- 0.9	- 5.5	1,593	0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.3
North-Western .. ..	12,202	4.0	- 5.6	- 5.8	4,494	0.4	..	- 2.0
Yorkshire .. .. .	6,416	1.3	- 3.7	- 5.3	2,702	0.5	+ 0.2	- 1.7
East Midlands .. ..	3,335	1.6	- 1.9	- 6.4	1,239	0.4	..	- 3.8
West Midlands .. ..	6,553	1.2	- 1.3	- 4.6	1,504	0.4	+ 0.2	- 1.2
Eastern & S.E. Count.	13,911	2.6	- 2.8	- 3.7	3,069	0.9	+ 0.2	- 0.6
South-Western .. ..	9,470	2.8	- 2.4	- 1.4	2,548	0.5	- 0.4	- 0.7
Wales .. .. .	3,082	0.9	- 1.7	- 3.5	900	0.1	- 0.1	- 1.2
Scotland .. .. .	7,273	1.9	- 3.1	- 2.7	4,591	0.1	- 0.2	- 1.1
Ireland .. .. .	3,506	21.7	- 9.1	+ 2.4	1,151	6.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
<b>Other Skilled Workers.</b>								
London .. .. .	8,089	2.5	+ 0.1	- 2.1	10,351	0.8	- 0.3	- 1.8
Northern Counties ..	2,417	0.2	..	- 0.3	5,447	0.2	..	- 0.2
North-Western .. ..	4,772	0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.7	11,952	0.5	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Yorkshire .. .. .	2,626	0.3	..	- 1.1	11,897	0.1	..	- 1.0
East Midlands .. ..	1,394	0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.2	4,487	0.5	..	- 1.3
West Midlands .. ..	2,829	0.6	+ 0.1	- 0.6	6,599	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.6
Eastern & S.E. Count.	2,539	0.4	- 0.4	- 0.8	9,030	0.4	..	- 1.6
South-Western .. ..	2,313	0.8	..	- 0.4	7,211	0.2	..	- 1.2
Wales .. .. .	1,353	0.3	..	- 0.4	9,816	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
Scotland .. .. .	6,219	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.7	11,511	0.2	..	- 0.6
Ireland .. .. .	1,137	4.5	+ 2.1	- 0.3	3,364	1.9	+ 0.3	- 5.7
<b>Navvies.</b>								
London .. .. .	8,089	2.5	+ 0.1	- 2.1	10,351	0.8	- 0.3	- 1.8
Northern Counties ..	2,417	0.2	..	- 0.3	5,447	0.2	..	- 0.2
North-Western .. ..	4,772	0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.7	11,952	0.5	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Yorkshire .. .. .	2,626	0.3	..	- 1.1	11,897	0.1	..	- 1.0
East Midlands .. ..	1,394	0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.2	4,487	0.5	..	- 1.3
West Midlands .. ..	2,829	0.6	+ 0.1	- 0.6	6,599	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.6
Eastern & S.E. Count.	2,539	0.4	- 0.4	- 0.8	9,030	0.4	..	- 1.6
South-Western .. ..	2,313	0.8	..	- 0.4	7,211	0.2	..	- 1.2
Wales .. .. .	1,353	0.3	..	- 0.4	9,816	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
Scotland .. .. .	6,219	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.7	11,511	0.2	..	- 0.6
Ireland .. .. .	1,137	4.5	+ 2.1	- 0.3	3,364	1.9	+ 0.3	- 5.7
<b>Labourers.</b>								
London .. .. .	43,570	1.7	- 0.1	- 2.3	135,408	2.7	- 0.6	- 2.6
Northern Counties ..	7,845	0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.3	31,188	0.4	..	- 1.3
North-Western .. ..	21,583	0.5	..	- 0.7	80,542	1.3	- 0.8	- 1.9
Yorkshire .. .. .	15,234	0.3	..	- 1.2	58,712	0.6	- 0.4	- 2.2
East Midlands .. ..	7,925	0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.7	29,955	0.7		

MISCELLANEOUS.

**Brushmaking.**—Employment was good in all branches of the brushmaking industry, and overtime was reported. There was an improvement with painting brushmakers.

Trade Unions with 1,380 members reported no unemployed at the end of February, 1916; at the end of the previous month and of February, 1915, the percentages unemployed were reported as 0.3 and 0.2 respectively.

**Other Trades.**—Employment was fairly good with wheelwrights and smiths. Packing case makers continued well employed generally. Employment was only fair, however, at Bristol and Belfast, and some short time was reported in London; but overtime was worked at Manchester, Nottingham, and Dundee. With ship and basket makers employment was very good at Oldham, and good in London and Manchester.

**PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES. PRINTING TRADES.**

EMPLOYMENT was good in February, and rather better than a month ago, with a continued scarcity of labour, largely owing to enlistments, the shortage of machine-men being particularly noticeable. A considerable amount of overtime was worked, especially in London. Employment was decidedly better than a year ago, when much short time was reported.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 47,716 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of February was 1.2, compared with 1.3 at the end of each of the previous three months. For February, 1915, the percentage was 4.5.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb. 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	21,552	0.5	0.7	4.8	- 0.2	- 4.3
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	4,921	0.7	0.9	3.7	- 0.2	- 3.0
Lancashire and Cheshire	6,113	2.0	2.1	5.2	- 0.1	- 3.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,270	0.9	1.2	2.7	- 0.3	- 1.8
West Midlands .. .. .	2,449	0.6	1.3	3.8	- 0.7	- 3.2
S. & S.-W. Counties and Wales	3,757	0.8	0.7	2.2	+ 0.1	- 1.4
Scotland .. .. .	4,511	1.6	1.7	3.6	- 0.1	- 2.0
Ireland .. .. .	2,143	7.1	6.3	9.7	+ 0.8	- 2.6
UNITED KINGDOM ..	47,716	1.2	1.3	4.5	- 0.1	- 3.3

According to returns received from firms employing 14,658 workpeople in the week ended 26th February, the number of persons employed showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. on a month ago, while the amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 8.0 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
London .. .. .	5,623	- 1.1	9,507	- 0.6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	1,160	- 0.2	1,535	+ 0.7
Lancashire and Cheshire	1,999	- 0.9	2,916	+ 1.2
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,348	+ 0.8	3,138	+ 0.1
Scotland .. .. .	1,944	- 1.0	2,549	- 0.6
Other Districts .. ..	1,784	- 1.9	2,035	- 2.3
UNITED KINGDOM ..	14,658	- 0.8	21,880	- 0.3

**BOOKBINDING TRADES.**

Employment continued good, with a shortage of labour and a considerable amount of overtime, especially in London. It was rather better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,818 workpeople in the week ended 26th February showed practically no change in the total number employed compared with

a month ago, the amount of wages paid showing an increase of 0.8 per cent. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 7.5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 7.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 26th Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
London .. .. .	3,552	+ 1.9	4,296	+ 3.3
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	664	- 1.6	597	+ 3.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	1,658	- 2.2	1,409	- 4.1
Midland and Eastern Counties	984	- 1.0	802	+ 0.6
Scotland .. .. .	2,049	+ 1.2	1,672	+ 0.7
Other Districts .. ..	911	- 3.5	757	- 2.1
UNITED KINGDOM ..	9,818	- 0.0	9,513	+ 0.8

Trade Unions with a membership of 5,592 had 0.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, 1916, compared with 1.0 per cent. a month ago and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	2,988	0.5	0.9	4.4	- 0.4	- 3.9
Other Districts .. ..	2,604	0.7	1.0	2.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM ..	5,592	0.6	1.0	3.4	- 0.4	- 2.8

**PAPER TRADES.**

Employment remained good, with a continued shortage of male labour. It was much better than a year ago, when short time was in operation at many mills, particularly in Scotland.

Returns from firms employing 14,633 workpeople in the last week of February showed an increase in the number employed of 0.5 per cent. compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	2,988	0.5	0.9	4.4	- 0.4	- 3.9
Other Districts .. ..	2,604	0.7	1.0	2.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM ..	5,592	0.6	1.0	3.4	- 0.4	- 2.8

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	2,988	0.5	0.9	4.4	- 0.4	- 3.9
Other Districts .. ..	2,604	0.7	1.0	2.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM ..	5,592	0.6	1.0	3.4	- 0.4	- 2.8

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	2,988	0.5	0.9	4.4	- 0.4	- 3.9
Other Districts .. ..	2,604	0.7	1.0	2.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM ..	5,592	0.6	1.0	3.4	- 0.4	- 2.8

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	2,988	0.5	0.9	4.4	- 0.4	- 3.9
Other Districts .. ..	2,604	0.7	1.0	2.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM ..	5,592	0.6	1.0	3.4	- 0.4	- 2.8

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London .. .. .	2,988	0.5	0.9	4.4	- 0.4	- 3.9
Other Districts .. ..	2,604	0.7	1.0	2.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM ..	5,592	0.6	1.0	3.4	- 0.4	- 2.8

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Feb. 1916.	Jan. 1916.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
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Other Districts .. ..	2,604	0.7	1.0	2.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
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## DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in London and Liverpool; at the other principal ports it was fairly good on the whole.

## LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—Employment continued good generally, but showed a decline on the previous month and on a year ago. There was again a certain amount of congestion at the docks due largely to the shortage of river craft and the means of land transport.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves was 18,390, a decrease of 2.7 per cent. on a month ago and of 4.1 per cent. on a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total In Docks and at Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners.	Total.		
Week ended Feb. 5th	7,861	3,393	11,254	7,985	19,239
" " " 12th	7,288	3,106	10,394	8,066	18,460
" " " 19th	6,922	3,218	10,140	7,948	18,088
" " " 26th	7,080	2,970	10,050	7,720	17,770
Average for 4 weeks ended 26th Feb., 1916	7,288	3,172	10,460	7,930	18,390
Average for Jan., 1916	7,804	3,209	11,013	7,888	18,901
" " Feb., 1915	7,887	3,746	11,633	8,048	19,681

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day\* in February, 1916, were as follows:—

Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.
1	19,400	11	16,933	22	18,311
2	19,339	12	12,059	23	18,373
3	19,326	14	18,606	24	16,464
4	19,150	15	18,607	25	18,283
5	18,553	16	17,979	26	17,156
6	18,370	17	18,234	28	18,320
7	18,802	18	17,352	29	18,622
8	19,102	19	17,742		
9	19,196	21	18,032		

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during February was 2,281, compared with 2,404 a month ago and 2,308 during February, 1915.

## OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—On the Tyne dock labourers continued well employed on cargoes of grain and iron ore, but on other cargoes employment was quiet on the whole. Trimmers and teamers were fully employed on both the Tyne and Wear. Employment continued good at Hartlepool, and very good at Middlesbrough. There was a general decline at Hull, Grimsby and Goole, and employment was slack at all three ports. It continued slack at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Lynn and Harwich, and fair at Ipswich.

South and West Coasts.—Employment was fair at Plymouth and fairly good at Falmouth, with a slight decline at both ports; it continued very good at Dartmouth. At Bristol employment was good, and at Gloucester fair, and slightly worse than a month ago. At the South Wales ports dock labourers were again well employed, and coal trimmers were exceptionally busy. Employment continued good at Liverpool.

## SCOTTISH AND IRISH PORTS.

Employment was good at Leith, a certain amount of overtime being reported. It was fair and better than a month ago at Dundee. There was an improvement at Glasgow, where employment was fair; it was very good at Greenock and good at Ayr and Troon. It was bad at Cork and Limerick.

## FISHING INDUSTRY.

## FISH LANDED IN FEBRUARY, 1916.

EMPLOYMENT was again fair on the whole, but fishing was hindered to a considerable extent by unfavourable weather.

East Coast.—At Hartlepool fishing operations were hindered by the weather conditions. Employment con-

\* Sundays are omitted.

tinued good generally at Hull; at Grimsby it was good with fishermen, fair with labourers, and bad with fish curers. Fishing operations were practically suspended at Yarmouth, and most of the men had found other employment. Employment was quiet at Lowestoft and Brightlingsea.

South Coast.—Fishing operations off the coasts of Devon and Cornwall were greatly hindered by unfavourable weather, and a shortage of labour was reported; fish curers, packers, and carters were well employed.

Scotland.—Employment continued to improve, at Aberdeen; it was good with fishermen and fair with labourers and curers. At Peterhead and Macduff fishermen were moderately busy, but there was little employment for labourers and curers. Employment was bad generally at Fraserburgh, but the situation was relieved to some extent by the shortage of labour. It continued good at Arbroath, but was affected by stormy weather at Montrose. There was a further decline at Dundee.

Ireland.—The total quantity of fish (other than shell fish) landed decreased by nearly 3,000 cwt., but the value showed an increase of nearly 45 per cent.

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Feb., 1916	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Feb., 1915.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Fish (other than shell):				
England and Wales ..	223,360	- 164,422	447,427	- 25,610
Scotland .. .. .	254,652	+ 57,176	267,208	+ 119,314
Ireland .. .. .	16,883	- 2,956	18,475	+ 5,681
TOTAL .. .. .	494,895	- 110,202	733,110	+ 99,385
Shell Fish .. .. .			22,959	+ 1,590
TOTAL VALUE .. .. .			756,069	+ 100,975

## SEAMEN.

THE supply of seamen for mercantile ships during February was again not quite equal to the demand. Shortage of men was reported from Newcastle, Sunderland, Avonmouth and Portishead, Newport (Mon.), Barry, Penarth, Poplar (London), and Dock Street (London), but at all the other ports the supply was quite equal to the demand.

Returns received from certain selected ports show that 29,492 seamen\* shipped on foreign-going vessels during February, a decrease of 5,116 (or 14.8 per cent.) on January, and of 3,891 (or 11.7 per cent.) on the total for the corresponding period of 1915.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Two months ended		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1916.
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1916.	Feb., 1915.	
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES:</b>						
East Coast—						
Tyne Ports .. .. .	1,711	- 139	+ 40	3,426	3,561	+ 135
Sunderland .. .. .	325	+ 40	- 6	606	610	+ 4
Middlesbrough .. .. .	174	- 368	- 55	320	736	+ 416
Hull .. .. .	965	- 69	- 270	2,751	2,059	- 692
Grimsby .. .. .	8	- 67	- 93	168	83	- 85
Bristol Channel—						
Bristol .. .. .	793	- 183	- 194	1,944	1,769	- 175
Newport, Mon. .. .. .	912	+ 137	- 419	2,392	1,687	- 705
Cardiff .. .. .	3,426	- 1,358	- 685	9,398	8,210	- 1,188
Swansea .. .. .	134	- 226	- 185	834	493	- 341
Other Ports—						
Liverpool .. .. .	10,819	+ 10	- 352	24,643	21,628	- 3,015
London .. .. .	6,513	- 1,566	- 359	15,435	14,592	- 843
Southampton .. .. .	813	- 321	- 487	3,468	1,947	- 1,521
<b>SCOTLAND:</b>						
Leith .. .. .	589	- 223	+ 228	779	1,401	+ 622
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth .. .. .	54	- 41	- 41	259	14	- 110
Glasgow .. .. .	2,042	- 611	- 716	5,269	4,695	- 574
<b>IRELAND:</b>						
Dublin .. .. .	92	- 21	+ 4	137	205	+ 68
Belfast .. .. .	92	- 91	- 301	1,705	275	- 1,430
TOTAL .. .. .	29,492	- 5,116	- 3,891	73,534	64,100	- 9,434

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

## STATISTICAL TABLES.

## TRADE DISPUTES.\*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

## (a) DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes beginning in February was 38, as compared with 38 in the previous month, and 47 in February, 1915. In these new disputes 9,352 workpeople were directly, and 503 indirectly, involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 12,831 workpeople involved in trade disputes in February, 1916, as compared with 11,697 in January, 1916, and 31,060 in February, 1915.

New Disputes in February, 1916.—In the following Table the new disputes for February are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building .. .. .	2	100	..	100
Coal Mining .. .. .	3	3,245	12	3,257
Engineering .. .. .	10	1,084	70	1,154
Other Metal .. .. .	5	298	41	339
Textile .. .. .	3	1,106	70	1,176
Clothing .. .. .	1	14	..	14
Transport .. .. .	8	170	..	170
Miscellaneous .. .. .	8	2,933	210	3,143
Employees of Public Authorities .. .. .	3	402	100	502
TOTAL, FEBRUARY, 1916 .. .. .	38	9,352	503	9,855
TOTAL, JANUARY, 1916 .. .. .	38	9,044	172	9,216
TOTAL, FEBRUARY, 1915 .. .. .	47	26,129	2,878	29,007

Causes.—Of the 38 new disputes, 25, directly involving 3,121 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 3, directly involving 2,318 workpeople, on other wages questions; 6, directly involving 940 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 3, directly involving 2,956 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and one on a question affecting hours of labour.

## (c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1916.

Occupations and Locality.†	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Cause or Object.†	Result.†
	Directly.	Indirectly.†				
COAL MINING:— Coal miners, etc.—Pontypridd (near) ..	2,691	..	1916. 3rd Feb.	1	Against prosecution of two men for an alleged breach of the Mines Act.	Work resumed.
ENGINEERING:— Fitters, turners and machinemen— Glasgow (near) .. .. .	365	..	1st Feb.	6	Dispute arising out of the introduction of female labour.	Work resumed.
TEXTILE:— Cardroom hands, spinners, weavers, winders and warpers—Bristol ..	850	..	1st Feb.	..	Alleged bad material and demand for advance in wages.	No settlement reported.
OTHER TRADES:— Co-operative employees—Manchester ..	690	..	27th Feb.	14	For increased war bonus and other concessions.	Agreement effected, fixing amount of war bonus, conditions of employment of substituted female labour, etc.
Bullet and cartridge makers (female) and other workpeople—Leeds ..	2,000	200	17th Feb.	3	Dispute as to wages.	Amicable settlement effected.
EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES:— Municipal employees—Portsmouth ..	350	..	3rd Feb.	..	For a war bonus. †	No settlement reported.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—31 disputes, involving about 4,600 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

\* 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 (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. † The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved" (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes). The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.\*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

THE war bonuses and increases in rates of wages reported to the Department as taking effect in February amounted to over £12,500 per week, and affected over 204,000 workpeople. This number includes 120,000 coal miners in Durham, over 37,000 workpeople employed in the pig iron industry and in iron and steel manufacture, 14,000 workpeople in wool sorting and combing establishments at Bradford, nearly 11,000 dock labourers and carters, and 4,000 bakers in London.

Changes in January-February.—During these two months changes in wages have been reported to the Department affecting over 700,000 workpeople, all of whom, with the exception of 48,700 coal miners in Northumberland, obtained increases. The extent to which different

groups of trades contributed to the total is shown in the following Table:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Workpeople affected.	Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) per week.
Building .. .. .	10,827	+ 1,163
Coal Mining .. .. .	168,700	+ 1,343
Iron, &c., Mining .. .. .	10,127	+ 724
Quarrying .. .. .	2,000	+ 58
Pig Iron Manufacture .. .. .	18,919	+ 1,630
Iron and Steel Manufacture .. .. .	49,903	+ 4,704
Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .. .	30,289	+ 1,627
Other Metal .. .. .	17,205	+ 1,700
Textile .. .. .	354,117	+ 16,557
Clothing .. .. .	2,209	+ 187
Transport .. .. .	22,960	+ 3,809
Printing, Paper, &c. .. .. .	3,313	+ 276
Glass, Brick, Pottery, Chemical, &c. .. .. .	5,102	+ 517
Other Trades .. .. .	8,135	+ 575
Local Authority Services .. .. .	3,884	+ 240
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>707,650</b>	<b>+ 35,515</b>

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES IN FEBRUARY, 1916.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
Building	Leeds .. .. .	26 Feb.	Plasterers .. .. .	120	Increase of ¼d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.).
	Bury .. .. .	4 Feb.	Bricklayers .. .. .	100	Increase of ¼d. per hour (10½d. to 11d.).
		2 Feb.	Masons .. .. .	65	Increase of ¼d. per hour (7d. to 7½d.).
Coal Mining	Durham .. .. .	18 Feb.	Bricklayers, slaters' and plasterers' labourers	200	Increase of 1d. per hour (6d. to 7d.).
		7 Feb.	General builders' labourers and navvies		
Iron Mining	North Lincs. .. .. .	7 Feb.	Yard labourers .. .. .	120,000	Increase of 1d. per hour (5½d. to 6½d.).
		7 Feb.	Hewers, other underground workers, deputies, enginemen, boiler-minders, mechanics, cokemen, and other surface workers		
Pig Iron Manufacture	South Staffs. .. .. .	6 Feb.	Ironstone quarrymen .. .. .	900	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3 per cent., making wages 29½ per cent. above the standard of May, 1909.
	North Lincs. .. .. .	7 Feb.	Blast-furnacemen .. .. .	1,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 7½ per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	West Scotland .. .. .	1 Feb.	Blast-furnacemen and labourers .. .. .	3,500	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3 per cent., making wages 29½ per cent. above the standard of May, 1909.
	England and Scotland	6 Feb.	Blast-furnacemen .. .. .	1,600	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent., making wages 60 per cent. above the standard of Jan., 1899.
Engineering	Midlands .. .. .	7 Feb.	Gas producers and charge wheelers	2,400	Increase, under sliding scale, of 7½ per cent.
	West Scotland .. .. .	28 Feb.	Iron millmen .. .. .	2,750	Increase, under sliding scale, of 9d. per ton, making wages 13s. 6d., plus bonus of 6d.
Chain Making	Manchester and District	4 Feb.	Steel millmen .. .. .	1,850	Increase, under sliding scale, of 7½ per cent.
	Stoke-on-Trent .. .. .	1 Feb.	Enginemen, cranimen, etc. .. .. .	1,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.
Wool Combing	Bradford .. .. .	1 Feb.	Gas producers and charge wheelers	250	Increase of 10 per cent.
	London (West) .. .. .	14 Feb.	Other workpeople .. .. .	800	Increase of 1s. per week.
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine-men, patternmakers, smiths strikers, enginemen, cranimen, labourers, etc.	800	Increase of 4s. per week, in substitution for war bonus of 3s. per week granted in March, 1915.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Coremakers .. .. .	600	Increase of 1s. per week on time rates, and of 2½ per cent. on piece rates.
Transport	Bradford .. .. .	1 Feb.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine-men, patternmakers, ironmoulders, brass moulders and finishers, and coppermiths	1,500	Increase of 20 per cent.
	London (West) .. .. .	14 Feb.	Hammered chain makers .. .. .	2,500	War bonus of 6d. per day, granted in April, 1915, increased to 9d. per day.
Furnishing	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Fitters, pattern makers, smiths and labourers	2,000	War bonus of 10 per cent.† to sorters, and of 2s. 6d. per week to warehousemen.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Sorters and warehousemen .. .. .	12,000	Increase of 1s. per week.
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Combers and warehousemen .. .. .	400	Increase of 5 per cent. on ground work rates.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Makers .. .. .	3,000	Increase of 5 per cent. on earnings.
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Carters .. .. .	250	War bonus of 2s. 6d. per week.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Carters .. .. .	250	War bonus of 4d. per day, granted in March, 1915, increased to 8d. per day.
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Dock labourers:—	5,000	Increases of 1d. per hour on time rates, and of 15 to 20 per cent. on piece rates.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	General cargo workers .. .. .		
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Grain workers .. .. .	1,000	Increase of 6d. or 1s. per day, and 1s. or 1. 6d. per night, on time rates, and of ¼d. or ½d. per 100 bushels on piece rates.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Carters .. .. .	650	War bonus of 2s. per week.
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Carters employed by carting contractors	500	War bonus of 2s. per week.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Upholsterers (retail trade) .. .. .	4,000	Increase of 5 per cent., except on "war work."
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Cabinet makers, upholsterers, french polishers, chair makers, wood-carvers, and machinemn	1,800	Increase of 2s. per week or ½d. per hour on time rates, and 5 per cent. on piece rates.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Bakers .. .. .	4,000	War bonus of 2s. per week, granted in April, 1915, increased to 4s. per week.
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Fakers and confectioners .. .. .	250	Increase of 5s. per week to adults in factories, of 5s. and 6s. to adults in workshops, and of various amount to juveniles.
	London .. .. .	15 Feb.	Fakers and confectioners .. .. .	250	Increase on time rates of 1s. per week; and on piece rates for hand printing of 2½ per cent.
Baking	Leicester .. .. .	5 Feb.	Fakers and confectioners .. .. .	250	Increase on time rates of 1s. per week; and on piece rates for hand printing of 2½ per cent.
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Baking	Leicester				



ing those on the Registers at the beginning of the period) in the principal groups of trades:—

Trades.	Proportion of Vacancies filled to Vacancies notified.		Proportion of Vacancies filled to Registrations.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<b>Insured Trades—</b>				
Building, Construction of Works and Sawmilling	79.3	96.1	36.3	94.7
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles.	79.8	89.7	59.3	94.8
<b>Uninsured Trades—</b>				
Textiles	9.6	17.5	50.0	46.4
Dress	19.7	42.1	18.5	25.1
Transport	65.8	86.8	37.1	15.7
Agriculture	30.7	65.2	22.7	19.0
Paper, Prints, &c.	11.9	42.5	29.4	39.5
Chemicals, Explosives, &c.	44.9	94.4	40.6	10.3
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	43.2	85.1	40.3	32.9
Commercial and Clerical	61.6	81.3	12.8	12.3
Domestic	55.3	66.9	23.3	25.7
General Labourers	81.6	—	30.5	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>19.6</b>

The average daily number of registrations and vacancies filled for the periods stated are shown below:—

District or Department.	Insured Trades.			Uninsured Trades.		
	4 weeks ended 11 Feb., 1916.	5 weeks ended 14 Jan., 1916.	4 weeks ended 12 Feb., 1915.	4 weeks ended 11 Feb., 1916.	5 weeks ended 14 Jan., 1916.	4 weeks ended 12 Feb., 1915.
	<b>REGISTRATIONS.*</b>					
London	593	553	852	2,458	2,034	1,719
South-Eastern	238	215	290	619	522	380
South-Western	227	208	315	476	418	335
West Midlands	291	228	249	569	532	422
East Midlands	160	124	176	297	255	283
Yorkshire	217	201	330	696	578	453
North-Western	435	420	569	1,152	966	906
Northern	143	113	228	522	345	298
Scotland	280	215	303	872	714	534
Wales	169	168	274	295	267	199
Ireland	179	178	178	351	275	233
<b>Men</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>3,668</b>	<b>11,693</b>	<b>11,489</b>	<b>11,963</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>4,119</b>	<b>2,524</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>565</b>
<b>Girls</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>774</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,942</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>3,754</b>	<b>18,335</b>	<b>16,906</b>	<b>15,826</b>
	<b>VACANCIES FILLED.</b>					
London	296	223	259	928	797	692
South-Eastern	141	92	138	209	189	154
South-Western	152	128	343	171	167	183
West Midlands	266	163	117	240	211	186
East Midlands	144	98	80	104	96	109
Yorkshire	204	124	168	208	184	222
North-Western	265	183	153	370	328	394
Northern	137	96	152	123	88	109
Scotland	306	201	156	302	248	221
Wales	130	108	152	50	77	85
Ireland	32	23	29	49	57	58
<b>Men</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>881</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>314</b>
<b>Girls</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>306</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,747</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>2,413</b>

INSURED TRADES.†

**Registrations.**—The number of registrations effected during the period was 67,351 (men 61,229, women 4,061, boys 1,844, and girls 217). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 93,775 (men 83,930, women 7,144, boys 2,257, and girls 444). These figures exclude 3,265 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

Of the registrations among men, 52.5 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 36.0 per cent. in engineering, and 8.3 per cent. in shipbuilding.

The number of workpeople on the Register at 11th February was 23,736, as compared with 26,432 on 14th January, 1916, and 39,202 on 12th February, 1915.

**Vacancies Notified and Filled.**—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 59,820, a daily average of 2,493, as compared with 1,980 in the previous five weeks, and 2,112 in the four

\* Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period.  
† The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act.

weeks ended 12th February, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 48,549, a daily average of 2,023, as compared with 1,450 in the previous five weeks, and 1,747 in the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915.

Building and construction of works account for 44.9 per cent. of the total vacancies notified for men, and 45.7 per cent. of the total vacancies filled by men, the corresponding figures for engineering and shipbuilding being 42.4 and 10.3 per cent. of the vacancies notified, and 43.3 and 9.5 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

UNINSURED TRADES.

**Registrations.**—The number of registrations during the period was 194,190 (men 39,072, women 118,756, boys 15,757, and girls 20,605). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 293,553 (men 55,867, women 187,189, boys 20,563, and girls 29,934). These figures exclude 5,853 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

Among men 21.5 per cent. of the total registrations were in the transport, &c., trades, and 33.9 per cent. as general labourers, while of the women registered, 25.8 per cent. were in domestic offices or services and 28.4 per cent. in explosives, etc. Commercial and clerical occupations accounted for 8.3 per cent. of the registrations among men, and 7.3 per cent. among women.

The number of workpeople on the Register at 11th February was 106,418 (men 16,550, women 75,682\*, boys 4,852, girls 9,334), as compared with 99,280 on 14th January, 1916, and 61,414 on 12th February, 1915.

**Vacancies Notified and Filled.**—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 123,971, a daily average of 5,165, as compared with 3,282 in the previous five weeks, and 3,555 in the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 67,059, a daily average of 2,794, as compared with 2,442 in the preceding five weeks, and 2,413 in the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915.

Of the vacancies notified for men, 16.6 per cent. were in conveyance of men, goods, &c., and 16.5 per cent. as general labourers. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 23.9 per cent. and 29.4 per cent. Among women, 29.6 per cent. of the vacancies notified were in domestic offices or services, 26.9 per cent. in the textile trades, and 11.1 per cent. in explosives, etc. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 35.8 per cent., 8.5 per cent. and 18.9 per cent.

Of the vacancies filled 4,699 (men 1,827, women 2,629, boys 128, and girls 115) were known to be for less than a week's employment, while of the 16,381 vacancies filled by boys and girls 4,027 (boys 1,826 and girls 2,201), or 24.6 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men who obtained casual employment through the Exchanges was 337, and the number of casual jobs found for them was 2,551 (2,210 for dock labourers, and 341 for cloth porters at Manchester), a daily average of 106, compared with 118 in the preceding five weeks, and 263 in the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915. During the period there were also 4,273 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

The most pronounced shortages were for fitters, turners, etc., in the engineering and shipbuilding trades; labourers of all kinds; colliery and quarry workers; navvies; carpenters; chemical workers; transport workers; textile operatives; female domestic servants, and boy and girl messengers.

In addition, there was a shortage in several towns in particular trades, e.g., Kingswood and Northampton, boot and shoe workers; Grays, cement trade; Yeovil, glove workers; Birmingham, jewellers and steel pen makers; and Nottingham, lace workers.

\* Of the women on the Register, about 15 per cent. were known to be in employment, and a further 17 per cent. were reported to have never been in employment.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES—FOUR WEEKS ENDED 11th FEBRUARY, 1916.  
Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 11th February, 1916.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.†	ADULTS.				JUVENILES.			
	REGISTRATIONS.		VACANCIES.	FILLED during Period.	REGISTRATIONS.		VACANCIES.	FILLED during Period.
	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registrations during Period.*			On Register at End of Period.	Registrations during Period.*		
<b>Building:—</b>								
Carpenters, Joiners, &c.	2,212	6,784	2,202	3,993	8	41	16	31
Bricklayers	1,136	2,918	1,216	1,037	—	4	1	1
Masons	883	948	710	118	—	—	1	1
Painters, Decorators &c.	7,739	7,148	4,243	1,936	3	2	5	5
Plumbers and Glaziers	352	1,038	404	340	4	14	5	17
Other skilled occupations	907	1,612	862	244	—	2	—	5
Labourers	1,670	7,477	1,652	4,101	12	33	6	62
<b>Construction of Works</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>5,970</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sawmilling</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Shipbuilding:—</b>								
Platers and Riveters	322	2,224	273	1,898	13	67	23	32
Shipwrights	54	712	72	641	3	1	4	4
Labourers	345	2,410	361	1,369	33	142	41	145
<b>Mechanical Engineering:—</b>								
Moulders (Iron and Steel)	537	1,481	592	567	3	33	6	33
Smiths	250	692	240	346	3	14	4	10
Erectors, Fitters and Turners	1,497	8,062	1,514	6,562	176	691	221	605
Metal Machinists	764	2,995	658	2,049	47	338	77	264
Wiremen	157	969	157	625	15	35	33	43
Other skilled occupations	779	779	751	1,504	30	109	23	86
Labourers	1,295	6,210	1,395	5,640	45	226	59	165
<b>Making of Vehicles</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>
Cabinet Making &c.	291	399	242	72	—	9	2	3
<b>TOTAL MALES</b>	<b>22,714</b>	<b>64,400</b>	<b>19,350</b>	<b>39,937</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>1,867</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>1,469</b>
<b>TOTAL FEMALES ‡</b>	<b>3,086</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>6,843</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>25,800</b>	<b>68,532</b>	<b>22,968</b>	<b>46,780</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>2,084</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>1,769</b>

\* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.  
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.  
‡ These figures are mainly in respect of the Engineering and Vehicle Trades.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.	ADULTS.									JUVENILES.					
	On Register at Beginning of Period.			Registrations during Period.*			On Register at End of Period.			Vacancies Filled during Period.			Vacancies Filled during Period.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying	75	10	85	350	4	354	94	12	106	256	8	264	17	1	18
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	207	386	593	1,883	882	2,765	168	335	503	1,913	855	2,628	269	413	682
<b>Textile:—</b>															
Cotton	171	778	949	571	2,424	2,995	138	796	934	371	1,120	1,491	92	153	245
Wool and Worsted	66	154	220	247	501	748	65	134	199	138	217	355	48	62	110
Silk, Flax, Linen, &c.	86	648	734	288	1,340	1,628	98	611	707	206	1,376	1,582	85	302	387
<b>Dress:—</b>															
Boot and Shoe Workers	117	89	206	328	245	573	106	66	172	133	215	348	68	74	142
Tailors	258	825	1,083	390	1,357	1,747	208	568	776	64	484	548	17	180	197
Dressmakers and Milliners	—	865	865	—	1,370	1,370	—	652	652	—	404	404	—	189	189
Seamstresses	—	983	983	—	3,474	3,474	—	1,193	1,193	—	1,194	1,194	—	261	261
Others	42	117	159	77	804	881	38	273	311	25	243	268	27	52	79
<b>Conveyance of Men, Goods, &amp;c.</b>															
On Railways	{ 126 }	—	126	{ 215 }	—	215	{ 106 }	—	106	{ 561 }	—	561	{ 131 }	—	131
On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c.	{ 3,146 }	1,541	4,687	{ 8,541 }	2,910	11,451	{ 3,094 }	1,507	4,707	{ 3,903 }	698	5,162	{ 1,884 }	887	2,902
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	117	380	497	284	912	1,196	129	380	509	118	511	629	144	89	632
Wood, Furniture, Fittings, &c.	249	123	372</												

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.]

The number of paupers relieved on a day in February, 1916, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 162 per 10,000, the same rate as in January.

Compared with the previous month the total number of paupers relieved increased by 155 (or 0.1 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers increased by 736 (or 0.5 per cent.), but the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 581 (or 0.4 per cent.). Nine districts showed no change in the rate per 10,000 of population, and 13 showed increases, the largest being in the Wigan district (11 per 10,000). The other 13 districts showed decreases. The largest decrease was in the Newcastle district (6 per 10,000).

Compared with February, 1915, the total number of paupers decreased by 46,565 (or 13.5 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 26. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 22,063 (or 13.4 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers by 24,502 (or 13.6 per cent.). Every district showed a decrease. The largest decreases in the rate per 10,000 of population were in the Central Metropolitan district (48) and in the East Metropolitan district (42). Nine districts showed a decrease of 30 and under 40 per 10,000, 14 districts a decrease of 20 and under 30 per 10,000, and 10 other districts a decrease of under 20 per 10,000.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in a week in February, 1916			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.			
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<i>Metropolises.</i>						
West District .. ..	10,329	1,775	12,104	149	..	- 30
North District .. ..	13,000	5,958	18,958	188	..	- 35
Central District .. ..	3,904	1,284	5,188	363	+ 4	- 48
East District .. ..	11,826	4,461	16,287	244	..	- 42
South District .. ..	20,677	12,037	32,714	173	..	- 31
<b>TOTAL, Metropolises ..</b>	<b>59,736</b>	<b>25,495</b>	<b>85,231</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>- 34</b>
West Ham .. ..	4,430	9,994	14,424	189	+ 1	- 27
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,063	3,567	5,630	116	- 6	- 35
Stockton & Tees District	1,149	3,179	4,328	172	+ 1	- 39
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ..	4,041	3,257	7,298	90	..	- 18
Wigan District .. ..	1,898	4,538	6,436	146	+11	- 25
Manchester District ..	8,981	5,729	14,710	143	- 1	- 29
Liverpool District .. ..	10,275	10,516	20,791	183	+ 1	- 24
Bradford District .. ..	1,939	1,581	3,520	94	..	- 13
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,196	2,393	3,589	93	- 1	- 16
Leeds District .. ..	2,469	2,946	5,415	113	..	- 20
Barnsley District .. ..	837	2,855	3,692	119	- 1	- 3
Sheffield District .. ..	2,842	3,229	6,071	123	- 1	- 22
Hull District .. ..	1,813	5,067	6,880	217	+ 1	- 29
North Staffordshire ..	2,102	4,656	6,758	166	- 1	- 31
Nottingham District ..	1,917	3,375	5,292	124	+ 1	- 26
Leicester District .. ..	1,373	2,455	3,828	164	..	- 27
Wolverhampton District	3,366	6,208	9,574	138	- 1	- 28
Birmingham District ..	6,459	4,392	10,851	127	- 1	- 30
Bristol District .. ..	2,711	3,612	6,323	161	..	- 17
Cardiff & Swansea .. ..	2,232	5,369	7,601	170	- 1	- 28
<b>TOTAL, "Other Districts" ..</b>	<b>59,679</b>	<b>79,554</b>	<b>139,233</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>- 25</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District .. ..	3,451	17,241	20,692	217	- 1	- 24
Paisley & Greenock District	731	2,591	3,322	173	- 2	- 13
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,432	4,856	6,288	186	+ 2	- 13
Dunfermline .. ..	645	2,028	2,673	133	+ 1	- 19
Aberdeen .. ..	432	2,682	3,114	186	+ 1	- 21
Coatbridge & Airdrie ..	301	1,520	1,821	176	+ 1	- 30
<b>TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts ..</b>	<b>6,992</b>	<b>30,918</b>	<b>37,910</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>- 20</b>
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District .. ..	5,748	4,616	10,364	282	+ 4	- 27
Belfast District .. ..	2,584	853	3,437	80	..	- 15
Cork, Waterford and Limerick District ..	3,313	4,203	7,516	303	+ 6	- 14
Galway District .. ..	297	145	442	128	- 4	- 37
<b>TOTAL for the above Irish } Districts ..</b>	<b>11,942</b>	<b>9,817</b>	<b>21,759</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>- 20</b>
<b>TOTAL for above 35 Dis- } tricts in February, 1916 }</b>	<b>142,779</b>	<b>158,778</b>	<b>298,557</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>- 26</b>

\* Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox 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.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I.—IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY.

[Note.—Certain goods which, at the time of importation, were the property of H.M. Government or of the Governments of the Allies, are not included in the imports.]

(a) VALUES.

The total value of the imports (less re-exports) in February, 1916, was £58,818,447, an increase of £427,685 (or 0.7 per cent.) compared with February, 1915, and of £6,993,777 (or 13.5 per cent.) compared with February, 1914. The value of the net imports in February, 1916, was about £7,000,000 less than the value for January, 1916. Compared with a year ago there were large increases in the value of grain and flour, and of chemicals, drugs, dyes, &c., imported; in the case of wool, and leather and manufactures thereof, there were marked decreases. Compared with February, 1914, there were large increases in food and drink, oil seeds, nuts, &c., and chemicals, drugs, dyes, &c.

The figures for the four principal groups into which the imports are classified are shown below:—

Groups.	Value of Imports (less re-exports) in Feb., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in February, 1916, compared with	
		February, 1915.	February, 1914.
Food, Drink and Tobacco .. ..	£ 26,513,544	+ £ 250,949	+ £ 6,904,381
Raw Materials and Articles mainly un-manufactured .. ..	19,935,798	- 1,188,689	+ 1,728,284
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured .. ..	11,880,997	+ 1,014,331	- 1,859,945
Miscellaneous .. ..	488,108	+ 311,094	+ 221,057
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>£ 58,818,447</b>	<b>+ £ 427,685</b>	<b>+ £ 6,993,777</b>

(b) QUANTITIES.

The following Table gives the quantities of some of the principal articles imported during February, 1916:—

Principal Articles.	Quantity imported (less quantity re-exported) during February, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in February, 1916, compared with	
		February, 1915.	February, 1914.
Food, Drink and Tobacco:—			
Grain and Flour .. .. cwt.	12,665,410	+ 496,352	+ 491,657
Dead Meat .. .. cwt.	1,596,845	- 205,962	- 252,015
Butter and Margarine .. cwt.	409,210	- 106,403	- 69,608
Cheese .. .. cwt.	160,807	- 38,949	- 29,299
Eggs .. .. Great Hundreds (120's)	545,584	- 31,276	- 624,360
Cocoa, Raw .. .. lb.	27,630,183	+ 16,230,334	+ 18,004,430
Sugar .. .. cwt.	2,011,097	- 942,662	- 438,983
Tea .. .. lb.	14,327,903	- 10,296,101	- 5,363,894
Tobacco .. .. lb.	5,261,803	- 5,226,988	- 2,624,066
Metals and Manufactures of Metals:—			
Iron Ore .. .. tons	403,973	+ 23,476	+ 107,902
Other Metallic Ores .. .. tons	109,408	+ 12,807	+ 6,408
Iron and Steel Manufactures .. tons	69,493	+ 11,597	+ 118,102
Copper, Lead, Tin and Zinc .. tons	34,616	- 12,620	- 14,631
Machinery .. .. tons	5,333	+ 376	+ 1,931
Textiles:—			
Raw Cotton .. .. centals of 100 lbs.	1,834,540	- 1,072,574	- 266,292
Sheep's or Lambs' Wool .. lb.	70,511,106	- 48,914,673	- 14,319,639
Flax, Hemp and Jute .. .. tons	26,030	- 10,994	- 26,226
Silk Broadstuffs, wholly of Silk yds.	2,982,652	+ 3,520,211	+ 3,601,076
" " mixed materials yds.	3,484,374	+ 1,496,145	+ 1,437,347
Miscellaneous:—			
Wood, hewn, sawn or split .. loads	284,491	- 6,597	+ 13,657
Flax or Linseed .. .. qrs.	145,661	+ 56,776	+ 20,155
Petroleum .. .. galls.	32,249,866	- 21,539,134	- 13,641,037
Hides, wet and dry .. .. cwt.	43,934	- 77,831	- 46,601
Wood Pulp .. .. tons	62,427	+ 40,689	+ 40,391
Rubber .. .. centals of 100 lbs.	9,322	- 19,432	- 45,979
Leather .. .. cwt.	39,302	+ 113,467	+ 32,481
Paper .. .. cwt.	1,020,864	+ 307,123	+ 101,712

Compared with February, 1915, there were increases in the quantity of wheat received from the United States and Canada, but the quantity from the British East Indies and Australia showed a considerable decrease. Imports of barley and oats from the United States increased largely; but oats from the Argentine Republic decreased by over 400,000 cwt., and maize from the same source declined in quantity by practically 50 per cent. The quantity of rice received from the British East Indies was 234,000 cwt. in February, 1915, but only 110,000 cwt. in February, 1916. A large decrease in the quantity of frozen beef from Australia was about compensated for by increased supplies from other sources. There was a decrease in bacon imports from Denmark, but a large increase in the quantity received from the United States. Butter imported from Denmark and the Netherlands decreased by nearly 61,000 cwt., and that from Australia by over 40,000 cwt. There was a decline of 20,000 cwt. in the quantity of cheese from the Netherlands and of 14,000 cwt. in the quantity from New Zealand. The decline in the receipts of eggs was mainly due to the entire absence of supplies from Russia, from which country nearly 213,000 great hundreds were imported during February, 1915. Margarine imports from the Netherlands increased by over 40,000 cwt. Raw cocoa imported from British West Africa increased from 5,000,000 lbs. to over 25,000,000 lbs. There were great reductions in the quantity of refined sugar from the Netherlands, Java, and Mauritius, but 303,000 cwt. came from the United States, as against practically nothing in February, 1915. Unrefined sugar from Cuba and Mauritius showed a considerable increase, and compensated for the absence of receipts from Java and for a reduction of 190,000 cwt. in the quantity from the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras. Tea imports from the British East Indies, Ceylon, and China dropped considerably.

Raw cotton imported from the United States declined from 2,396,000 centals to 1,494,000 centals. Sheep's and lambs' wool from Australia and New Zealand decreased by 50 per cent.; other sources of supply also showed a drop. Raw silk from China and Japan decreased by over 85,000 lb. Petroleum lamp oil and lubricating oil increased considerably, but there were large decreases in the quantity of gas and fuel oil imports, the latter totalling only one-ninth of the import in February, 1915. Dry hides from British South Africa and British India decreased, but there was a large increase in the quantity of wet hides from the Argentine Republic and Uruguay.

During February, 1914, about 1½ million cwt. of wheat were received from European countries, as against nil in February, 1916, but the deficiency in the supply from these and other sources was more than counterbalanced by an enormous increase in the receipts from the United States. Barley from the United States increased by 640,000 cwt., and oats by 542,000 cwt. Chilled beef imports from the Argentine decreased by nearly 370,000 cwt., but frozen beef showed some increase. Frozen mutton from the Argentine and Australia decreased, but that from New Zealand increased by 17,000 cwt. The total imports of bacon and hams increased by 190,000 cwt., due to largely increased supplies from the United States and Canada; receipts from Denmark decreased by 86,000 cwt. No butter came from Russia during February, 1916, compared with nearly 30,000 cwt. in February, 1914; other sources of supply which showed a big decrease were Sweden, Denmark, and Australia; the Argentine and New Zealand both showed an increase. Cheese imports from Australia and New Zealand dropped by 50,000 cwt. The imports of eggs from Russia, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, and Italy showed a total decline of 467,000 great hundreds. Raw cocoa imports from British West Africa increased by 22,000,000 lb. The virtual absence of imports of refined sugar from European countries more than accounted for the decrease of 715,000 cwt. in the total quantity imported. Imports of unrefined sugar from Cuba and Mauritius were more than doubled. Imports of sawn or split fir from Sweden and Norway increased from 18,000 loads to 76,000 loads; the Russian supply decreased by 34,000 loads. There was a large increase in the receipts of raw cotton from Egypt. The quantity of flax and tow received from Russia decreased from over 13,000 tons to less than 1,000 tons. The decrease in the quantity of iron and steel manufactures imported was principally under the headings bars, angles, rods and sections, plates, blooms, billets and slabs, sheet bars and tinplate bars. Block tin imports from the Straits Settlements decreased by 3,000 tons. Silk broadstuffs imported decreased by 1,600,000 yards.

II.—EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY.

(a) VALUES.

The value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom during February, 1916, amounted to £36,335,782, an increase of £10,158,845 (or 39 per cent.) compared with February, 1915, but a decrease of £4,926,015 (or 12 per cent.) compared with February, 1914.

The value of the exports in February, 1916, was higher than for any month of 1915, and only £400,000 less than during January, 1916, in which month there were twenty-six working days as compared with twenty-five in February.

The increase compared with February, 1915, occurred mainly under the headings of metals and metal manufactures, cotton and woollen manufactures and coal. Compared with February, 1914, the total values of the exports of cotton manufactures, machinery and coal showed substantial decreases.

Groups.	February, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in February, 1916, compared with	
		February, 1915.	February, 1914.
Food, Drink and Tobacco .. ..	£ 2,199,092	+ £ 363,820	- £ 139,631
Raw Materials and Articles mainly un-manufactured .. ..	4,885,398	+ 1,317,176	- 787,494
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured .. ..	28,104,445	+ 8,129,054	+ 4,346,070
Miscellaneous .. ..	1,146,857	+ 348,795	+ 347,180
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>£ 36,335,782</b>	<b>+ £ 10,158,845</b>	<b>- £ 4,926,015</b>

(b) QUANTITIES.

Compared with February, 1915, the quantity of sheep's or lambs' wool exported to the United States increased from 33,500 lb. to over 1,250,000 lb. The exports of pig iron to France and Italy showed a large increase. Railroad material declined by over 16,000 tons. Steel bars, angles, rods, shapes and sections sent to France increased by 22,000 tons. Exports of cotton piece goods increased by 107,000,000 yards owing mainly to increased quantities sent to China, South America, India, and the Straits Settlements. The increase in the case of woollen tissues was under the heading of light woollens to South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Shipments of jute piece goods to the Argentine fell off considerably, but this deficiency was more than made up for by increases to the United States and Canada. There was a big increase in the exports of linen piece goods to the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Compared with February, 1914, the quantity of herrings exported declined by 138,000 cwt. Exports of steam coal dropped from over 4 million tons to about 2½ million tons. The quantity of pig iron sent to France and Italy showed a total increase of over 36,000 tons. Rails exported declined by nearly 32,000 tons. There was a reduction of 29,000 tons in the quantity of galvanised sheets sent to British India. Cast pipes and fittings to the Argentine declined from 15,000 tons to less than 1,500

tons. Steel bars, angles, rods, shapes and sections shipped to France increased from 345 tons to nearly 47,000 tons. Exports of hollow-ware articles showed a marked decrease. Machinery exports showed a decrease under all the principal headings. Cotton yarn to France totalled only 405,000 lb. in February, 1914, whilst in February, 1916, the amount was 2,915,000 lb. The decline of 166,000,000 yards in the total exports of cotton piece goods was due principally to cessation of exports to enemy countries, and to decreased shipments to China, Egypt, British West Africa, and India. The stoppage of exports to Germany accounted for the drop in the quantity of wool tops and worsted yarns exported. The United States in February, 1914, took nearly 2½ million yards of worsted tissues; in February, 1916, the quantity was less than one million yards.

The following Table gives the quantities of some of the principal articles exported during February, 1916:—

Principal Articles.	February, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in February, 1916, compared with	
		February, 1915.	February, 1914.
Coal and Metals and Metal Manufactures:—			
Coal—Steam .. .. tons	2,248,477	- 406,246	- 1,938,291
" Other sorts .. .. tons	838,218	- 136,549	- 700,891
<b>Total of Coal—tons</b>	<b>3,086,695</b>	<b>- 542,795</b>	<b>- 2,639,182</b>
Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof:—			
Pig Iron .. .. tons	84,351	+ 62,417	+ 24,519
Railroad Materials .. .. tons	6,720	- 16,723	- 37,244
Plates and Sheets (except galvanised and tinned) .. tons	38,132	+ 27,129	+ 22,245
Galvanised Sheets .. .. tons	14,334	- 7,398	- 53,461
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets .. .. tons	27,289	+ 2,188	+ 14,465
Tubes and Pipes and Fittings, wrought and cast .. .. tons	11,525	- 8,043	- 22,416
Steel Bars, Angles, Rods and Shapes or Sections .. .. tons	56,917	+ 23,520	+ 41,383
Other Iron and Steel Manufactures .. .. tons	38,436	+ 672	+ 29,170
<b>Total Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof tons</b>	<b>277,704</b>	<b>+ 83,762</b>	<b>- 68,599</b>
Copper and Manufactures thereof .. .. tons	1,586	- 339	- 2,605
Lead, Tin and Zinc and Manufactures thereof .. tons	2,979	+ 1,498	+ 2,217
Cutlery and Hardware .. .. tons	36,831	+ 1,606	+ 49,207
Machinery .. .. tons	25,317	+ 1,606	+ 33,868
Textiles:—			
Wool, Sheep's or Lambs' .. lb.	3,268,700	+ 2,831,100	+ 582,800
Cotton Yarn .. .. lb.	15,763,200	- 354,800	- 2,310,900
" Piece Goods .. .. yds	416,784,500	+ 106,802,200	+ 166,667,100
Woollen Tissues .. .. yds.	9,330,200	+ 3,375,500	+ 999,000
Worsted Tissues .. .. yds.	4,337,500	+ 150,000	+ 2,391,500
Jute Piece Goods .. .. yds.	9,820,200	+ 680,200	+ 639,100
Linen Piece Goods .. .. yds.	14,7		

## LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &amp;c.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

## (1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

## ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: WORKMAN DRINKING FROM ANOTHER'S CAN: CAN CONTAINING HARMFUL LIQUID.

A workman who is injured by accident is entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only where the accident was one arising out of the employment as well as in the course of the employment.

A ship was lying in harbour in a foreign port. The seamen aboard were in the habit of drawing water from the pump into their cans, and placing the cans in a cool part of the ship till they required to drink it. One of the men drank from a can which was not his own, and which he thought contained drinking water. This can, in fact, contained a solution of caustic soda, which its owner had put into the can to clean it. The man was seriously burnt, and so injured that he was permanently incapacitated from work. He claimed compensation under the Act.

At the hearing in the county court, evidence was given that the practice of the men in putting their drinking water to cool in certain places was well known to and sanctioned by the officers. There was no evidence that the claimant mistook the can from which he drank for his own, or that it resembled his own. The Sheriff held that the accident arose out of the claimant's employment, as well as in the course of the employment, and made an award of compensation. This decision was upheld on appeal by the Court of Session, and the shipowners appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords allowed the appeal, holding that, although the seamen acted reasonably in putting their water to cool as they did, and the officers acted reasonably in raising no objection to the course they pursued, still the claimant was not justified in assuming, at the risk of his employers, that a can which was not his own contained water set out to cool in the usual way. There was therefore no evidence to support the decision that the accident was one arising out of the employment.—*McKinnon v. J. & P. Hutchinson*.—House of Lords.—2nd February, 1916.

## ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE OF SEAMAN FROM SHIP: INFERENCE OF FACT.

Whilst on a voyage from Petrograd to Hull, the chief engineer of a steamship disappeared early one morning, and no explanation of the cause could be discovered. His dependants claimed compensation under the Act. At the hearing in the county court evidence was given that on the night before he gave orders that he was to be called two hours earlier than usual; that he got up, dressed, and went on deck; that he was seen walking aft, and that was the last that anyone saw of him. It was also proved that he had been very worried about the state of his propeller and his engines, and it was suggested that he got up early, and put himself on duty—as he was entitled to do—in order to examine the propeller, which he could see, though at some risk, by getting over the stern rail. The shipowners, on the other hand, suggested that the deceased was in an abnormal mental condition, and that it was just as likely that he committed suicide. They contended therefore that as there was no evidence whatever as to the cause of death, and as the burden of proof was on the claimants, the judge was not entitled, as an inference of fact, to find that the deceased had met with an accident arising out of his employment, and that any such finding would be merely "surmise, conjecture, or guess." The judge, however, decided that the death was due to an accident arising out of, as well as in the course of, the employment, and made an award of compensation. This decision was affirmed by the Court of Appeal, and the shipowners appealed to the House of Lords.

Their Lordships dismissed the appeal, holding that there was evidence upon which the judge could reasonably find as he had found, and therefore they were not entitled to interfere with his decision.—*Owners of ss. "Sarbino" v. Procter*.—House of Lords.—31st January, 1916.

## PARTIAL INCAPACITY: AMOUNT OF WEEKLY PAYMENTS: OFFER OF LIGHT WORK: UNREASONABLE REFUSAL: ONE-EYED MAN: OBJECTION OF WORKMAN TO CHANGE RESIDENCE TO OBTAIN WORK.

Where a workman is injured in circumstances entitling him to compensation, the Act provides that, in case of total or partial incapacity for work, the compensation must not exceed 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings before the accident; and, in the case of partial incapacity, it must in no case exceed the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average weekly amount which he is earning, or is able to earn, in some suitable employment or business after the accident, but is to bear such relation to the amount of that difference as in the circumstances of the case the arbitrator shall decide to be proper.

A workman employed in a chemical factory, in June, 1914, fell into a vat of caustic fluid, with the result that his eyes were injured, one being rendered useless. His wages were 25s. a week, and his employers paid him 12s. 6d. a week till Novem-

ber, 1915. The employers then offered him work at his old wages, but he refused it. The employers thereupon asked for a review of the compensation.

The Sheriff-Substitute found as facts that the work offered to the workman was such as he was well able to do, and such as he should reasonably have accepted; that there was plenty of light work open to a one-eyed man; that he could have got work elsewhere at 15s. to 20s. a week, but that his efforts to find suitable employment elsewhere were not *bona fide*. He therefore reduced the compensation to 7s. 6d. a week.

The employers appealed, on the ground that the payments should have been suspended entirely. The Court of Session allowed the appeal, holding that, as long as the then existing state of facts continued—namely, that the employers were willing to find suitable work for the man and to pay him the same wages as before the accident—the weekly payments should have been entirely suspended.—*Nelson v. Robert Young & Co., Ltd.*—Court of Session.—4th February, 1916.

In another case a miner who had been injured in an accident in May, 1914, and admittedly entitled to compensation, had been earning 39s. 6d. a week, and his employers paid him 19s. 6d. as for total incapacity down to August, 1915. In September, 1915, he asked the employers for light work, and was given work which he was well able to do. However, after working for two days, he refused to continue, on the ground that the pit was too far from his home, and he alleged that he was not able to walk there and back. He could have obtained a house near the pit if he had chosen to move, and the employers were prepared to pay him at his old rate of wages. In these circumstances the employers asked for a review. The Sheriff-Substitute found that he was an intelligent workman who, in his injured condition, could earn about 20s. a week, and that work of the kind he was able to do would be beneficial to him. He could not obtain in the open market the high wages which his employers offered to him, and which he could have by a change of residence, which he gave no reason for objecting to make. He was accordingly awarded compensation at the reduced rate of 15s. a week, against which award he appealed.

The Court of Session held that his incapacity for work at his old wages was the result rather of his unreasonable refusal to change his residence than of the accident, and they refused to interfere with the award. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Pearson v. Archibald Russell, Ltd.*—Court of Session.—23rd February, 1916.

## QUESTION ARISING UNDER THE ACT: NO DISPUTE: DEMAND OF ARBITRATION: PREMATURE PROCEEDINGS.

It is provided by the Act that if any question arises in any proceedings under the Act as to the liability to pay compensation, or as to the amount or duration of compensation, such question, if not settled by agreement, is to be settled by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

A fireman on board a steamship met with an accident at sea on 30th September, 1915. On 4th November his legal adviser sent a claim for compensation to the shipowners, who on 8th November requested that the claimant should call at a named place to be medically examined, so that they might be in a position to deal with the claim. The claimant attended as requested the next day. Legal proceedings for an award were commenced on 22nd November, and came on for hearing in the Sheriff's Court on 30th November. When the case was called the employers admitted liability to pay compensation, but objected to the proceedings as premature, on the ground that no question whatever had arisen. It was contended for the claimant that he was justified in commencing proceedings, as he had received no communication from the shipowners by the 22nd. The Sheriff-Substitute decided that, as it had not been proved that any question had arisen, the proceedings ought not to have been commenced, and that he had no jurisdiction to make an award. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Session held that, though the employers allowed a somewhat unreasonable time to elapse before coming to a decision, their delay did not necessarily imply that they were prepared to dispute anything, and they ought to have been asked for a reply within, say, three days, before proceedings were commenced. That would have brought matters to a head, but the course which had been followed was not reasonable, and as there was really no question between the parties, the Sheriff-Substitute was right. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Crone v. Owners of ss. "Cabotia"*.—Court of Session.—22nd February, 1916.

## (2) COAL MINES ACTS.

## MINIMUM WAGE ACT: COLLIER AS FILLER: WAGES PAID BY EMPLOYER ONLY TO COLLIER: FILLER PAID BY COLLIER, BUT ENGAGED BY EMPLOYER: RIGHT OF FILLER TO MINIMUM WAGE.

By the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, it is provided that it is an implied term of every contract for the employment of a workman underground in a coal mine that the employer shall pay to the workman wages at not less than the minimum rate fixed according to the Act. In a colliery payment was made according to the amount of coal sent up from the pit. The men

worked in pairs—a collier and a filler. The collier alone was paid by the company, and he paid the filler out of what he received, dividing the total amount between himself and the filler in proportions varying with the part of the pit in which they were engaged. Before any person was allowed to work in the mine he had to sign three documents. The first contained the name and occupation of the man signing and a statement whether he was competent to work by himself under one of the general rules. The second was an agreement which entitled the company to make deductions from wages in respect of certain specified matters. The third was headed "Contract," and contained the bye-laws of the colliery.

A workman signed all these documents, describing himself as a filler, not fit to work by himself. He was then taken into the pit, and introduced to a collier who required a filler with the words: "There is a filler here for you." On 23rd July, 1913, the collier was paid by the company, and he divided what he received according to the established practice, handing to the filler £1 2s. 3d. According to the scale of minimum wages in force the filler should have received £1 12s. 11d. He accordingly sued the company for the difference. He obtained a judgment in his favour in the King's Bench Division, but this judgment was reversed by the Court of Appeal. He then appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords held that, according to the company's own admissions, the relationship between them and the filler was as follows:—(1) They and they only engaged him; (2) dismissed him; (3) directed where he worked and moved him from stall to stall; (4) granted him holidays; (5) paid the employee's contribution under the Insurance Act; (6) were responsible under the Workmen's Compensation Act for any damage which he might suffer; and (7) took proceedings against him under the Employers and Workmen's Act, 1875. The only element lacking for determining the conditions of employment was the payment of wages. The company employed two men to work together to do a piece of work on terms that the company were to provide the wage which the men were to divide between them, and the fact that the money was handed to the collier, and divided by him, did not prevent the filler from being entitled to wages from the company. Hence, under the Act, the company were bound by their contract with the filler to pay him at the minimum rate. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Churm v. Dalton Main Colliery Company*.—House of Lords.—28th January, 1916.

## (3) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACTS.

## LOAN TO MEMBER OF SOCIETY: MAXIMUM LOAN ALLOWED: ILLEGALITY.

It is provided by the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, that a registered society may, from a special loan fund formed out of contributions or deposits of members, make loans to members on their personal security, with or without sureties, to such extent as is allowed by the rules; but no loan may be made which, together with any money owing by the borrowing member to the society, exceeds £50. It is an offence for the society to do anything forbidden by the Act, and for making such a loan as is forbidden a society may be fined £5.

A society lent one of its members the sum of £200, on the security of a promissory note given by him, in which another person joined as surety. The trustees of the society sued this other person on the note for the sum of £130, the balance of the loan not repaid. The maximum amount which could be lent to any member was fixed at £50 by the rules of the society. At the trial it was contended for the defendant that the plaintiffs were not entitled to succeed, as the transaction was rendered illegal by the Act. The judge accepted this view, and gave judgment for the defendant, holding that, as the Act expressly prohibited a loan such as had been made, the transaction was an illegal one, and therefore the plaintiffs were not able to recover the amount lent.—*Longhu and Others v. Molyneux*.—King's Bench Division.—8th February, 1915.

## RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

## CASES UNDER CONCILIATION ACT, 1896, AND MUNITIONS OF WAR ACTS, 1915 AND 1916.

The following are among the conciliation and arbitration cases dealt with under the above Acts during the preceding month:—

UPHOLSTERERS, LONDON.—The Cabinet Trades Federation and the Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers being unable to agree respecting a claim made by the latter for an increase of wages on behalf of their members employed in retail work in London, the parties agreed to refer the matter to Sir George Askwith for decision. Sir George accordingly heard the parties on 21st February, and issued his award on 24th February, deciding that the men concerned should receive an advance of wages of 5 per cent., except that the advance should not apply to men working on (a) existing Government contracts for ordinary upholstery work, and (b) present and future contracts for what is known as "war work," such work not being ordinary upholstery work.

IRON AND STEEL WORKERS, CONSETT.—A section of the work-people employed at the Consett Iron Works, and formerly members of the Northern United Enginemen's Association, being dissatisfied

with the action of their Executive Committee, decided to become, and were accepted as, members of the British Steel Smelters, Mill, Iron, Tinsplate, and Kindred Trades' Association. The former Association protested against this as being contrary to the custom of the trade, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the remaining members of the Northern United Enginemen's Association in the firm's employ threatened to cease work.

The matter was brought to the notice of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who invited representatives of both Associations to meet him on 2nd March, when the matter was amicably adjusted.

DOCK WORKERS, BARRY RAILWAY COMPANY.—The Barry Railway Company and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union being unable to agree on proposals for changes in the existing tariff of rates for workmen employed at the transit warehouse, they jointly referred the matter to Sir George Askwith for settlement. Sir George heard representatives of the parties, and issued his award on 9th March, making certain revisions in the tariff.

FERRY WORKERS, BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION.—In January, 1916, the National Union of Sailors and Firemen applied to the Birkenhead Corporation for an advance of wages of 6s. a week on behalf of the staff, afloat and ashore, of the Corporation's Woodside Ferries, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to the decision of an arbitrator appointed by the Department. The Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 4th March, granting increases of wages as follows:—Captains, mates, engineers, firemen and seamen, an advance of 4s. per week; seamen (boys), an advance of 2s. per week; chief inspectors, an advance of 3s. per week; inspectors (other than chief inspectors), an advance of 2s. per week; turnstile collectors, coalmen, stagemen, cleaners, caretakers and watchmen, an advance of 1s. 6d. per week. Such advances to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

ENGINEERING LABOURERS, LUTON.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. George Kent, Ltd., Luton, and the Workers' Union respecting a claim made by the latter for a minimum rate of wages of 38s. per week to their members in the firm's employ engaged in filling Nos. 44 and 18 fuzes, and negotiations between the parties failing to effect a settlement, Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., was appointed by the Department to act as arbitrator to determine the matter. Mr. Macassey issued his award on 15th February, disallowing the claim made by the Union, but ordering that the employers' present premium bonus system shall be founded on a basis weekly rate of 30s., and providing for the payment of bonus in the event of time being lost owing to shortage of material or similar cause.

SMITHS' STRIKERS, ACCRINGTON.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Lang Bridge, Ltd., Accrington, and the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers regarding a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of smiths' strikers in the firm's employ to the Blackburn rate, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., was appointed to decide it. In his award, dated 12th February, Mr. Macassey granted increases of 1s. 6d. per week on the rates of wages paid to smiths' strikers engaged on single and double fire, while deciding that he was unable to find that Accrington is or should be treated as part of the Blackburn district in regard to wages and conditions of employment in the engineering trade.

SHUNTERS, &c., SWANSEA.—The shunters, drivers and firemen in the employ of the Swansea Harbour Trust struck work in consequence of the suspension by the trust of a shunter who refused to obey an order to take a train consisting of wagons of ashes along the sea embankment for the purpose of being tipped. The shunter claimed that the line to be traversed was not lighted and consequently dangerous. Negotiations between the parties resulted in the men resuming work on the understanding that the Board of Trade should decide (a) whether in the circumstances the line in question ought to have been lighted; (b) was the shunter justified in refusing to carry out the order given him; (c) were the remainder of the men justified in striking. His Honour Judge H. Y. Stanger, K.C., was accordingly appointed to decide the points set out above, and issued his award on 6th March, finding that his answer to each question was in the negative, although it was desirable that the line should have been lighted.

LABOURERS IN STEEL WORKS, WEST OF SCOTLAND.—The Scottish Steelmakers' Wages Association, on the one hand, and the Amalgamated Society of Steel and Iron Workers and the British Steel Smelters' Mill, Iron, Tinsplate and Kindred Trades Association on the other hand, being unable to agree upon a claim made on behalf of bricklayers' labourers and general labourers employed in steel works in the West of Scotland, for an advance of wages of 2d. an hour, and for increased payments for work on holidays, night shift and overtime, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to a court of arbitration. A court was accordingly appointed, consisting of Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. George Pate and Mr. Robert Smillie. The Court issued its award on 15th February, deciding that the men's claim had not been established.

IRON AND STEEL DRESSERS, BATHGATE.—In October, 1915, the Associated Iron, Steel, and Brass Dressers of Scotland made application for an advance of wages and revised overtime rates of

payment on behalf of their members in the employ of certain firms at Bathgate, and subsequently the men ceased work in support of their claims. The Chief Industrial Commissioner had previously been in correspondence with the parties, and after further negotiations it was agreed that work should be resumed and the difference should be arbitrated upon. Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 16th February, granting an increase in wages of 1s. per week, such increase to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war, and deciding that overtime on ordinary week days should be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half.

**GASWORKERS, PERTH.**—In September, 1915, the National Union of Gas and General Workers made an application to the Perth Corporation for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed in the Corporation's gasworks, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was referred to the Department, and Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbiter to decide it. In his award, dated 29th February, Sheriff Mackenzie disallowed the claim in respect of certain classes of employees who had already received an increase since August, 1914, and granted an increase of 2s. per week in respect of the other grades of workpeople covered by the application; such increase to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent upon the existence of the abnormal circumstances now prevailing in consequence of the war.

**GASWORKERS, FALKIRK.**—A difference having arisen respecting a claim made by the workpeople employed at the gasworks of the Falkirk Corporation for an advance of wages of 6d. per shift, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, and Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to decide it. Sheriff Mackenzie issued his award on 18th February, and decided that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be increased by 3d. per shift, such increase to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

**AEROPLANE WORKERS, MANCHESTER.**—A dispute arose between Messrs. A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Aeroplane Manufacturers, of Manchester, and the Manchester and Salford Building Trades' Federation regarding the employment of female labour at the firm's works. The Federation claimed that in violation of the agreed rules of the societies in the district, women were being introduced to do the work of *bona-fide* painters and polishers, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to the decision of an arbitrator appointed by the Department. Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 21st February, deciding that the claim had not been established.

**BRASSWORKERS, EDINBURGH.**—Messrs. Peebles & Co., Ltd., Bonnington, Edinburgh, and the Brassfounders', Turners', Fitters', Finishers' and Copper-smiths' Association, being unable to agree with respect to a proposed reduction by the employers of the rate of pay of certain of their workers, members of the association, engaged in the work of screwing and sliding fuse plugs, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to act as arbitrator in the matter. Mr. Mackenzie issued his award on 17th February, determining the rates of wages to be paid for the operations in question.

**TRAMWAYMEN, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.**—The British Electric Traction Co., Ltd., and the Municipal Employees' Association being unable to agree respecting a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of workpeople employed on the Barrow-in-Furness Tramways, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration under the auspices of the Department. Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 3rd March, granting certain increases of wages.

**FOUNDRY WORKERS, STOWMARKET.**—The Suffolk Ironfoundry Co., Ltd., Stowmarket, and their workpeople being unable to come to terms in respect of a claim made by the latter for a war bonus, it was agreed between the parties to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Department. Mr. Charles Doughty, the arbitrator appointed, met the parties in conference on 23rd February, and succeeded in effecting a settlement of the points in dispute.

**LEAD WORKERS, BAGILLT.**—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., Bagillt, and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union respecting an application made by the latter for an advance of wages and increased overtime rates on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to act as arbitrator in the matter. Mr. Doughty issued his award on 14th February, deciding that the claim had not been established, substantial advances of wages having been given by the firm to their employees in the first half of 1915, and a war bonus of 2s. 6d. a man per week in September, 1915, and the Union's application having been made without knowledge of this bonus.

**CONSTRUCTIONAL ENGINEERS, BIRMINGHAM.**—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Thomas Piggott & Co., Ltd., Birmingham, and certain of their employees regarding an additional meal time interval instituted by the firm during the night shift, and negotiations between the parties having proved unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to decide the matter. Mr. Doughty met the parties in conference on 19th February, when an amicable settlement of the points in dispute was arrived at.

**BLANKET WEAVERS, GLASGOW.**—A dispute arose between Messrs. J. Templeton & Co., Glasgow, and the Glasgow and District Textile Workers' Union respecting the rate of wages to be paid for weaving Army blankets, and, after a short stoppage of work, the matter was referred to the Department, and arrangements were made for work to be resumed and the question in dispute to be referred to arbitration. Mr. Charles Doughty was accordingly appointed to act as arbitrator, and issued his award on 1st March, deciding that the piece rate price paid by the firm is a fair one.

**STUFF AND WOOLLEN WAREHOUSEMEN, BRADFORD.**—A difference having arisen between Messrs. A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Bradford, and the Amalgamated Society of Stuff and Woollen Warehousemen respecting a claim made by the latter for an increase of wages on behalf of their members employed in the stock, grey and pattern rooms, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the men ceased work. The matter was then brought to the notice of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who got into touch with the parties and arrangements were made for work to be resumed pending the reference of the matter to arbitration. Mr. Charles Doughty was accordingly appointed, and met the parties in conference on 26th February, when an amicable settlement of the points in dispute was arrived at.

**IRONFOUNDERS, YEovil.**—Messrs. Petters, Ltd., Yeovil, and the Friendly Society of Ironfounders being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, it was ultimately agreed to submit the matter to the decision of a Court of Arbitration, and a Court was accordingly appointed consisting of Sir William Collins, K.C.V.O. (chairman), Mr. F. W. Gibbins, and Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P. The Court issued its award on 9th February, deciding that the rate of wages of iron moulders shall be increased by 2s. per week of fifty-four hours, and that of iron moulders' apprentices by 1s. per week.

**PAINTERS, ECCLES.**—On 24th January, joint application was made to the Department by the master and operative painters at Eccles for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide an application of the operatives for an advance of wages of 1½d. per hour. Sir William Collins, K.C.V.O., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 2nd March, deciding that the rate of 10d. per hour should be substituted for the present rate of 9½d.

**CARTERS, DUNDEE.**—The Dundee Carting Contractors' Association and the North of Scotland Horse and Motormen's Association being unable to agree upon an application made by the latter for a war bonus of 2s. per week on behalf of their members, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration. Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C., the arbiter appointed, issued his award on 12th February, deciding that a war bonus of 2s. per week should be paid, subject to the condition that the carters have worked 56 hours per week and performed their stable duties during the week.

**FURNACEMEN, KINLOCHLEVEN.**—A difference having arisen respecting an application made by the workpeople employed at the Kinlochleven works of the British Aluminium Co., Ltd., for an advance of wages, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C., to decide it. In his award, dated 25th February, the arbiter decided that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be increased by 3d. per shift, and that time-and-a-half should be paid to men working shifts in excess of the normal shifts.

**STEEL WORKS LABOURERS, &c., SPRINGFIELD AND COLTNESS.**—The Scottish Steel Founders' Wages Association and the British Steel Smelters, Mill, Iron, Tinplate and Kindred Trades' Association being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of cranesmen, sawmen, and general labourers, &c., employed at the Springfield Steel Foundry and the Coltness Foundry respectively, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C., to act as arbitrator in the matter. In his award, dated 7th March, Mr. Sandeman decided that the claim had not been established.

**BOILER COVERERS, LONDON.**—A difference having arisen between the Master Boiler Coverers' Federation, of London, and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour respecting an application made by the latter for an increase in the minimum rate and in the country allowance paid to their members employed in the London district, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed to decide it. Mr. Willis issued his award on 8th March, increasing the minimum rate of wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour, and the travelling allowance from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per day, such increases to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

**PAINTERS, STOCKPORT.**—Sir William Robinson, the arbitrator appointed to deal with certain matters in dispute between the master and operative painters at Stockport (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 78), issued his award on 18th February, increasing the rate of wages from 9½d. per hour to 9¾d. per hour, and making certain alterations in the working rules.

**SMELTERS' HELPERS, PORT TALBOT.**—On 15th February, joint application was made to the Department by the Steel Smelters' Association and the South Wales Siemen's Steel Association for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with a dispute that had arisen between them with respect to the rate of wages to be paid to helpers on the steel smelting furnaces at the Port Talbot Steel

Works, His Honour Judge H. Y. Stanger, K.C., has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

**ELECTRICIANS IN STEEL WORKS, PORT TALBOT.**—A difference having arisen between Messrs. The Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., and the Electrical Trades Union respectively, an application made by the latter for an advance of wages, and negotiations between the parties failing to result in a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Department. His Honour Judge H. Y. Stanger, K.C., has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

**CORRUGATED IRON WORKS, WARRINGTON.**—A difference having arisen between the Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside, and General Workers' Union, regarding an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who have appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to decide it.

**ELECTRICAL WORKERS, DUNDEE.**—The Dundee Electrical Contractors' Association and the Electrical Trades Union being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour on behalf of their members, the matter was referred to the Department, who have appointed Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing to act as arbiter in the matter.

**GAS WORKERS, LEITH.**—A difference having arisen between the Edinburgh and Leith Corporation's Gas Commissioners and the firemen who attend to the Stirling boilers at Granton Gas Works in connection with an application for an advance of wages, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Department. Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

**MINERS, FALKIRK.**—A dispute having arisen between the Carron Company, Falkirk, and the men employed in the soft coal seams at Craighend Colliery, Polmont, in connection with an application for an advance on tonnage rates, Mr. David Burns, Professor of Mining at Glasgow Technical College, has, with the concurrence of the parties, been appointed by the Department to act as arbiter in the matter.

**PAINTERS, BRADFORD.**—On 28th February joint application was made to the Department for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with certain questions in dispute between the master and operative painters at Bradford, and Sir William Robinson has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

#### COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION.

The Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, and whose reference was subsequently extended to deal with the avoidance of stoppages on work for Government purposes (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1915, page 83, and August, 1915, page 280), have issued decisions on further cases which have been referred to them. Full particulars of these summaries of certain of the cases:—

**ISLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (ISSUED 31ST JANUARY).**—During 1915 applications for an advance of wages or a war bonus were made by, or on behalf of, the employees of the Islington Borough Council, and in November, 1915, the Council conceded a war wage advance varying according to wages earned, and limited to men in the Council's electricity supply undertaking earning not more than 40s. per week. Subsequently application was made that the advance should be increased to 4s. per week, and should be applied to the workmen in all departments of the Council's service. The Committee decided that, in substitution for the scheme of advances agreed upon by the Council in November, the workpeople (over 19 years of age), both in the electricity undertaking and in the other departments covered by the application, should be given advances as follows:—

Those having a standard wage (exclusive of overtime) of 30s. per week or under, 3s. per week.

Those having a standard wage (exclusive of overtime) of over 30s. per week, and not more than 40s., 2s. per week.

Those with a standard wage (exclusive of overtime) of between 40s. and 42s. per week to be made up to the latter sum.

**MESSRS. REDPATH, BROWN & Co., LTD., GREENWICH, S.E. (ISSUED 31ST JANUARY).**—Since the opening of these works in 1902 overtime has been reckoned as any time worked during the week beyond the normal 50 hours, and has been paid for at the rate of time-and-a-quarter. The application before the Committee was that each day should stand by itself for the purpose of computing overtime payments; that payment should be made at the rate of time-and-a-half after the first two hours' overtime; that a worker should not suffer in respect of overtime payments owing to time lost through no fault of his own, and that overtime allowances should be extended to pieceworkers. At a meeting between the parties the firm agreed that, subject to the consent of the Minister of Munitions, overtime should be limited to 8 p.m., but if exceptional circumstances required any time to be worked beyond that hour, it should be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half. The Committee's finding is that the claim for an alteration of the present practice has not been established, but they consider that, where a man fails to work a full week of 50 hours because of sickness, breakdown of machinery, stock-taking, public holidays, and similar causes, his overtime payment for the days of that week should be calculated as if the period

of absence owing to sickness, &c., had actually formed a portion of the 50 hours. The finding is not to interfere with the abovementioned agreement for the payment of time-and-a-half for work done after 8 p.m.

**CARTERS, MANCHESTER (ISSUED 2ND FEBRUARY).**—The rates of wages for carters in Manchester were fixed by an agreement between the Manchester Team Owners' Association, Ltd., and the United Carters' and Motormen's Union in April, 1915. In December, 1915, application was made by the Union for an advance of wages, and, after negotiations, the employers offered a "war bonus" of 2s. per week to one-horse drivers and 3s. per week to two-horse drivers, with the condition that the bonus would be payable only to the man who put in a full week's work or gave a satisfactory reason to his employer for lost time. The Union were willing to accept the amount of bonus offered, but declined to accept the condition attached to the employers' offer. The Committee decided that the men should receive a "bonus" of 4d. per day worked in the case of one-horse drivers and 6d. per day worked in the case of two-horse drivers.

**CARTERS, WARRINGTON (ISSUED 2ND FEBRUARY).**—In March, 1915, the members of the Warrington Team Owners' Association gave to the carters in their employ a "bonus" of 2s. per week, computed on the basis of 4d. per day, above the rates fixed by agreement in April, 1913. In November, 1915, application was made by the United Carters' and Motormen's Union for an advance of wages, and after negotiations the employers offered "a further or supplemental bonus" of 2s. per week, payable on condition of the carter giving a full week's work, unless prevented from so doing through sickness, or having previously obtained leave of absence from his employer, and on condition of a week's notice being given on either side to terminate employment. The Unions concerned were prepared to accept the amount offered, but were not willing to agree to the conditions attached to the employers' offer. The Committee decided that the men concerned should be given a "supplemental bonus" of 4d. per day worked.

**SHIP JOINERS, BRISTOL (OLD PORT), AVONMOUTH AND PORTISHEAD (ISSUED 7TH FEBRUARY).**—The rates of wages of the workmen concerned were settled by agreement in September, 1914, between the Bristol, Avonmouth and Portishead Association of Ship-building, Ship-repairing and Marine Engineering Employers and the United Trade Committee of Carpenters and Joiners, Bristol District. In April, 1915, the employers conceded the men a "war wage" advance of 4s. per week. In December the United Trade Committee made application for a further advance of 10d. per day, or 5s. per normal week. The Committee decided that the claim had not been established.

**MESSRS. BRITISH PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS, LTD., MAGHERAMORNE (ISSUED 7TH FEBRUARY).**—This case related to an application for an advance of wages made by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour to the British Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., Magheramorne, Co. Antrim. The Committee decided that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be advanced ¼d. per hour.

**IRONFOUNDERS, ST. HELENS (ISSUED 10TH FEBRUARY).**—This case related to an application for an advance of wages made to the St. Helens Engineering Employers' Association by the St. Helens branch of the Friendly Society of Ironfounders. The Committee decided that the time rate of wages of the men concerned should be advanced 1s. per week. This advance is not intended to apply to or affect piece prices.

**IRONFOUNDERS, BRADFORD (ISSUED 10TH FEBRUARY).**—In September, 1915, the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, in conjunction with the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and Allied Trade Unions, made application to the Bradford and District Engineering Employers' Association for a "war bonus," and the matter was discussed at local conference, but no settlement was arrived at. The application, so far as regards the engineers and allied trades proceeded to Central Conference in accordance with the usual procedure, and thence was referred to the Committee on Production, who decided in a finding dated 10th December that the claim for a "war bonus" had not been established. The Ironfounders' Society were not represented at the Central Conference, not being party to the Engineering Trades Provisions for avoiding disputes, and no representatives on their behalf attended at the subsequent hearing before the Committee. In January, 1916, the Ironfounders' Society made application to the Employers' Association for a local conference to discuss their claim, to which application the Employers' Association declined to agree, as they understood that the finding of 10th December had settled the claim. After negotiations the Committee heard the case of the ironfounders on 3rd February, and decided that the decision of 10th December should be applied to the members of the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, as well as to the members of the other unions who were parties to the original claim.

**CAULKERS, WATER TESTING, MESSRS. WM. BEARDMORE & Co., LTD., DALMUIR (ISSUED 11TH FEBRUARY).**—In October, 1915, there being too great a pressure of work in the yard for the regular water-testing squad of caulkers to cope with it, the firm, in accordance with what they regarded as their past position, transferred a number of piecework caulkers to water-testing; the transferred men claimed that, in place of the water-testing rate, they should be paid for water-testing their average piecework earnings as piecework caulkers. The Committee upheld the firm's contention that they are not required to pay piecework caulkers transferred to water-testing their average piecework earnings.

**LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY Co., EASTLEIGH WORKS (ISSUED 14TH FEBRUARY).**—In May, 1915, the company commenced to make certain howitzer axles, and agreed to pay the rate of 31s. 6d. per axle. As a result of the experience in the case of the

first bloom, the company decided that a portion of the operation should be done by slotting the blooms in a machine in another department of the works, thus reducing the amount of work required on the part of the smiths, and this process was continued in subsequent orders. No immediate change in the rate of payment to the smiths was made as a result of the alteration in the quantity of work required from them, but after some 120 axes had been made, the company intimated that the estimated cost of slotting the blooms (4s.) would be deducted from the price originally agreed upon for the unslotted blooms, making the price 27s. 6d. per axle. The Associated Blacksmiths and Ironworkers' Society made complaint against what they claimed was a reduction in piece rates. The Committee decided that the claim advanced by the Union had not been established.

**MESSRS. VICKERS, LTD., IPSWICH (ISSUED 15TH FEBRUARY).**—Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., took over these works in the early part of 1915 when the district rate of wages for engineers was 32s. per week, and in March, 1915, the rate was raised to 34s. per week, and in July to 36s. per week. In November, 1915, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers made application in respect of certain matters, including a request for an increase of wages of 1½d. per hour on existing rates, and for each day to stand by itself for the purpose of computation of overtime payments, the present practice of the firm being that overtime rates become payable for any week only after the full normal weekly hours (i.e., fifty-two and a half hours) have been worked. The Committee decided that the claims advanced have not been established, but they consider that if a man fails to work a full week of fifty-two and a half hours owing to sickness, breakdown of machinery, or public holidays, his overtime payment should be calculated in that week as if he had been at work during the time lost owing to sickness, etc.

**MESSRS. THE STAVELEY COAL AND IRON CO., LTD., NEAR CHESTERFIELD (ISSUED 15TH FEBRUARY).**—This case relates to a difference between Messrs. The Staveley Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., near Chesterfield, and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, in regard to the members of the Union employed in the following sections of the firm's employment:—Coke ovens and bye-product plant, blast furnaces, fitting department, acid plant, electric shop, carting and mess room. During the period of the war the workpeople concerned have been given advances of wages—viz., an advance of 5 per cent. in February, 1915, a "war bonus" of 2s. per week in March, 1915, subject to good time-keeping, and an advance of 10 per cent. in June, 1915. In November the Union made application on behalf of their members for a further advance of 10 per cent., and they subsequently intimated that they also desired to raise the question of fining and of irregular payments in connection with the 2s. "war bonus." The Committee decided that the claims advanced had not been established.

**IRONFOUNDERS AND BRASSWORKERS, LONDON (ISSUED 15TH FEBRUARY).**—The men concerned received an advance of wages of 4s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates, under a finding of the Committee, dated 17th April, 1915. In December they made application for an advance of 7s. per week on existing rates, which claim the Committee decided had not been established.

**NATIONAL SHELL FACTORY, EBBW VALE (ISSUED 16TH FEBRUARY).**—The men concerned received an advance of wages of was a stoppage at the factory, owing to shortage of material, and about 100 of the men lost time, amounting in some instances to four shifts. Application was made to the management for discharge certificates, and, failing this, for payment for lost time. On the matter being referred to the Committee, they decided that the claim had not been established.

**ENGINEERING TRADES, NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE (ISSUED 17TH FEBRUARY).**—This case relates to an application for an advance of wages of 5s. per week on time rates and 12½ per cent. on piece rates, made to the North Staffordshire Engineering Employers' Association by the engineers' and allied trade unions. At the expiration of a three years' agreement the men concerned had received an advance of 2s. per week on time rates and 5 per cent. on piece rates as from March, 1915, and an advance of 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates as from June, 1915. The Committee decided that the wages should be advanced a further 1s. per week, and 2½ per cent.

**ENGINEERS, LONDONDERRY (ISSUED 22ND FEBRUARY).**—In March, 1915, the engineers, in common with the other trades in the establishments concerned, received an advance of wages of 3s. per week. The application before the Committee was for a further advance of 1d. per hour or 4s. 6d. per week; they decided that the war wage of 3s. per week should be increased to 4s. per week.

**SHIPWRIGHTS, NORTH OF IRELAND SHIPBUILDING CO., LTD., LONDONDERRY (ISSUED 22ND FEBRUARY).**—In March, 1915, the men concerned, in common with other trades at the establishment, received an advance of 3s. per week. Upon the men's application for a further advance being referred to them, the Committee decided that the war wage of 3s. per week should be increased to 4s. per week.

**JOINERS, MESSRS. VICKERS, LTD., ERITH, & CO. (ISSUED 22ND FEBRUARY).**—This case related to an application for an advance of wages of ½d. per hour, made by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners to Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Erith, Dartford and Crayford, members of the London and District Association of Engineering Employers. In 1913 a difference arose between the parties on an application for an advance of wages, resulting in a stoppage of work, and men who were subsequently engaged were employed in accordance with the Association's offer, and the majority rate for carpenters and joiners employed by members of the Association after January, 1914, was 10d.

per hour. In April, 1915, the men in question, in common with the other grades in the establishment, received a war wage advance of 4s. per week. The Committee decided that the claim for a further advance had not been established.

**GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY AND UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY OF LONDON, LTD., ENGINEERS, & CO. (ISSUED 22ND FEBRUARY).**—The matter referred to the Committee was a claim made by certain trade unions that the companies should pay to the engineers and other craftsmen employed in shops or sheds in the London, Erith and Southall districts the minimum trade union rates of the district for the various classes of mechanics (i.e., fully qualified craftsmen). The Committee decided that the claim advanced had not been established.

**BUILDERS' LABOURERS, MESSRS. CREED, BILLE & CO., LTD., CROYDON (ISSUED 25TH FEBRUARY).**—The firm are an engineering firm, who recently engaged a number of men temporarily for the purpose of making some extensions to their works to accommodate special processes. The United Builders' Labourers' Union made application on behalf of their members employed on this work for the payment of a war bonus. The Committee decided that the claim had not been established.

**ENGINEERING TRADES (UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS), NEWARK (ISSUED 25TH FEBRUARY).**—In April, 1915, the firms gave their workpeople an advance of wages of 2s. per week and a war bonus of 2s. per week, making the minimum rate for labourers 22s. per week, plus 2s. per week war bonus, for a week of fifty-four hours. An application for a further advance of wages of 2s. per week was referred to the Committee, who decided that the wages of the workpeople concerned at 29s. per week and under should be advanced by 1s. per week.

**COREMAKERS, MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT (ISSUED 29TH FEBRUARY).**—At the expiry of a five years' agreement these men received by agreement, in March, 1915, a war bonus of 3s. per week, making the rate 37s. per week, plus 3s. per week bonus. Subsequently they made application for an advance of 6s. per week on the bonus. The Committee decided that they should be given an advance of wages of 4s. per week in substitution for the bonus of 3s. per week.

**BAKERS, LONDON (ISSUED 29TH FEBRUARY).**—In March, 1915, an agreement between the parties determined the rates of wages and working conditions, and in May, 1915, a supplementary agreement was arrived at, whereby the workpeople received a bonus of 3s. per week for the duration of the war. In January, 1916, the Union made application for an advance of wages of 5s. per week. The Committee decided that the war bonus of 3s. per week should be increased to 4s. per week.

#### COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

**EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATES AS MANAGER AND UNDER-MANAGER, AND FOR CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION AS SURVEYOR OF MINES.**

An Examination for First and Second-Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-Manager of Mines will be held on the 23rd May, 1916, at Edinburgh, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sheffield, Wigan, Cardiff, and Birmingham.

An Examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyor of Mines will be held at the same places on the 24th May.

Candidates must, on or before the 8th April, send their names and state the district in which they are employed to the Secretary at the Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W., from whom all particulars can be obtained.

W. W. WARE,

Secretary to the Board for Mining Examinations.

#### TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

**SUGAR CONFECTIONERY AND FOOD PRESERVING TRADE.**

##### IRELAND.

###### OBLIGATORY ORDER.

In pursuance of their powers under the above Act, the Board of Trade have made an order, dated 14th March, 1916, making obligatory, in cases in which they are applicable, the minimum rates of wages for male and female workers, fixed by the Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Ireland), which came into limited operation on 13th September, 1915.\*

Any agreement for the payment of wages at less than the above-mentioned minimum rates, clear of all deductions (except those made in accordance with the National Insurance Acts), will henceforth be void. The penalty for paying wages after 14th March at rates less than those which have now been made obligatory by the Board of Trade is a fine not exceeding £20 for each offence. In certain circumstances, however, the Trade Board may, in the case of time-workers who are affected by infirmity or physical injury, grant permits exempting their employment from the operation of the minimum time-rates.

##### GREAT BRITAIN.

###### PROPOSAL TO VARY MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

The Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain) have resolved to give notice that they propose to vary the minimum rates of wages for female workers fixed by them on 7th June, and made obligatory by order of the Board of Trade on 8th December, 1915.†

The minimum rate at present in force for female workers over 18 years of age (except those who have had less than 12 months' experience in the trade) is 3d. per hour (13s. per week of 52 hours), and the Trade Board's proposal is to vary this rate to 3½d. per hour (14s. 1d. per week of 52 hours).

\* See LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1915, page 349.  
† See LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1915, pages 192 and 193, and December, 1915, page 462.

experience in the trade) is 3d. per hour (13s. per week of 52 hours), and the Trade Board's proposal is to vary this rate to 3½d. per hour (14s. 1d. per week of 52 hours).

For female workers over 18 years of age who have had less than 12 months' experience in the trade, and the character of whose employment satisfies certain conditions, it is proposed to fix a minimum rate of 12s. per week of 52 hours in lieu of the present rate of 11s.

For female workers of 17 and under 18 years of age it is proposed to fix a minimum rate of 11s. 6d. per week of 52 hours in lieu of the present rate of 11s.

Notices giving full particulars of the proposed variations will shortly be issued by the Trade Board for the information of employers and workers affected.

#### FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD AND DISTRICT TRADE COMMITTEES.

In accordance with the regulations with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain), eight representatives of employers and eight representatives of workers retired on 11th February. After considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade selected the following persons to be members of the Trade Board for the period commencing 11th February, 1916:—

**Representatives of Employers.**—\*Mr. A. W. Beach, Mr. J. E. Benniston, \*Mr. H. E. Evans, \*Mr. A. Horn, \*Sir T. Pink, \*Mr. B. S. Rowntree, \*Mr. W. P. Shave, \*Mr. E. Turner.

**Representatives of Workers.**—\*Miss M. A. Bryson, \*Miss M. R. Macarthur, \*Miss E. McElroy, \*Miss K. Milsom, Mrs. E. Newman, \*Miss E. C. Phillips, \*Mrs. A. E. Reeves, Miss E. Robinson.

One-third of the representatives of local employers and one-third of the representatives of local workers on the five District Trade Committees established by the above Trade Board were drawn to retire on 21st January, in accordance with the regulations as to the constitution of District Trade Committees, and, after considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade appointed members of the committees for the period commencing 21st January, 1916, to fill the vacancies thus caused.

#### SHIRTMAKING TRADE.

##### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD AND DISTRICT TRADE COMMITTEES.

In accordance with the regulations with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Shirmaking Trade Board (Great Britain), six representatives of employers and six representatives of workers retired on 11th February. After considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade selected the following persons to be members of the Trade Board for the period commencing 11th February, 1916:—

**Representatives of Employers.**—\*Mr. F. H. Bassett, \*Mr. J. M. Grant, Mr. R. H. Green, \*Mr. J. Hill, \*Mr. C. H. Nicholls, Mr. A. Rice.

**Representatives of Workers.**—\*Miss E. Barber, Mrs. H. Copeland, \*Mr. W. J. Donohue, \*Mr. J. J. Mallon, \*Miss R. Shannon, \*Mrs. Sterling.

One-third of the representatives of local employers and one-third of the representatives of local workers on the four District Trade Committees established by the above Trade Board were drawn to retire on 5th January, in accordance with the regulations as to the constitution of District Trade Committees, and, after considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade appointed members of the committees for the period commencing 5th January, 1916, to fill the vacancies thus caused.

#### PAPER BOX TRADE.

##### IRELAND.

#### FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD.

In accordance with the regulations as to the constitution and proceedings of the Paper Box Trade Board (Ireland), one representative of employers and one representative of workers retired on 8th February. After considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade have appointed Mr. W. J. Smalldridge to be a representative of employers and Mrs. A. Carley to be a representative of workers on the Trade Board for a further period commencing 8th February, 1916.

#### NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1915.

##### PART II.—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

###### APPLICATIONS TO THE UMPIRE.

In pursuance of Regulations made by the Board of Trade and dated 26th day of March, 1912, notice is hereby given that the Umpire (Unemployment Insurance) has received application for a decision as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following classes of persons:—

355. Workmen engaged in making steel tubes into bottles or cylinders for containing gases.

\* Retiring member appointed for a further term.

356. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of small machine tools, e.g., milling cutters, machine reamers, twist drills, &c.

(This involves reconsideration of Decisions B. 595 and B. 1103.)

357. Workmen (and women) engaged in filling shrapnel shells with bullets, resin, &c.

#### DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE.

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, the Board of Trade hereby give notice of the following decisions by the Umpire on questions whether contributions are payable:—

A. The Umpire has decided that contributions are payable in respect of:—

1539. Storekeepers and assistants employed wholly or mainly by way of manual labour in connection with factories and workshops which are engaged in carrying on insured trades.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*
Barrow-in-Furness (Lancs.)	E. Allan, 55, East Mount, Barrow-in-Furness	Surgery, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness, weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Castleknock (Dublin)	W. J. Merrick, The Cottage, Castleknock.	Surgery, Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
Fintona (co. Tyrone)	F. Bradley, Fintona, co. Tyrone	(1) Residence, Saturday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (2) Glaslough Dispensary, Tuesday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Glaslough (co. Monaghan)	T. J. Leonard, Ennyvale, co. Monaghan	(1) Residence, weekdays, except Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. (2) 19/21, Pitfield Street, Shoreditch, Friday, 2-3 p.m.
Hackney (London)	J. H. Mayston, 164, Upper Clapton Road, N.E.	Surgery, 57, High Street, Hoddesden, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Hoddesden (Herts)	G. V. Bull, Montague House, Hoddesden	Surgery, 57, High Street, Hoddesden, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Llanberis (Carnarvon)	J. Roberts, Bryngwyddfan, Llanberis	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Staplehurst (Kent)	R. J. Love, Bangweols, Staplehurst	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.

\*NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.

\* Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

#### PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any Bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Peter Lane, Lond. n. E. C. 4, and 64, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; L.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. Penson, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of F. Fisher Unwin, London, W. C.]

#### UNITED KINGDOM.

Report on Recruiting in Ireland. [Cd. 8168: price ½d.]  
Health of Munition Workers' Committee, Memoranda: No. 4, Employment of Women. [Cd. 8185: price 1½d.] No. 5, Hours of Work [Cd. 8186: price 1½d.] No. 6, Canteen Construction and Equipment. Ministry of Munitions. [Cd. 8199: price 4d.]

Output of Munitions in France. Report by Mission appointed by the Director-General of Recruiting for Munitions Work. [Cd. 8187: price 1½d.]

Notes on the Employment of Women on Munitions of War, with an Appendix on Training of Munition Workers. Ministry of Munitions. [Stationery Office publication: price 1s.]

Land Settlement for Sailors and Soldiers. Introduction and Part I of the Final Report of the Departmental Committee. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 8182: price 6d.]

British Trade after the War. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence with respect to measures for securing the position, after the War, of certain branches of British Industry. [Cd. 8181: price 2½d.]

Railway Accidents: Summary of Accidents and Casualties during the three months ended 30th September, 1915. With Reports to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into. [Cd. 8184: price 5½d.]

Departmental Committee on Lighting in Factories and Workshops. First Report, Vol. 3: Records of Observations in Factories. Home Office. [Stationery Office publication: price 7s. 6d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1913. Part A. Appendix (A). Particulars of Valuation Returns. [H.C. 121-1: price 4½d.] Year 1914. Part A. General Report. [H.C. 139: price 2s.]

Agricultural Statistics, Scotland, 1914. Part III. Prices and Supplies of Grain, Live Stock, and other Agricultural Produce in Scotland. Board of Agriculture for Scotland. [Cd. 8183: price 3d.]

Sixtieth Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland. Births, deaths, and marriages registered in Scotland during the year 1914. [Cd. 8160: price 2s. 5d.]

*Food Production in Ireland.* Departmental Committee. Minutes of Evidence, Minutes of Deliberative Conferences, and Appendices. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 8158: price 9½d.]

## BRITISH DOMINIONS.

CANADA.—*The Labour Gazette, January, 1916.* Industrial and labour conditions in December and during 1915, proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during December; prices, trade disputes and accidents in December; review of prices in 1915. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Census and Statistics Monthly, November, 1915.* Field crops of Canada, world's grain production and consumption, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Ontario. Report of the Ontario Commission on Unemployment.* [Toronto: A. T. Wilgress, King's Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, October, 1915.* Trade Unions, unemployment, wages, rents, prices &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co.]

—(1) *Returns of Food Stocks under the War Precautions Act, 1914-15.* (2) *New Wheat Crop.* Statement of the Prime Minister relating to the Scheme for dealing with the New Wheat Crop. [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett, Government Printer.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Gazette, November, 1915.* Employment and unemployment, industrial arbitration proceedings, dislocations in industries, labour exchanges, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

—*Report on the Working of the Factories and Shops Act (1912) during the year 1914.* Inspection, employment of children, accidents, overtime in factories, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

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