

THE

# Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

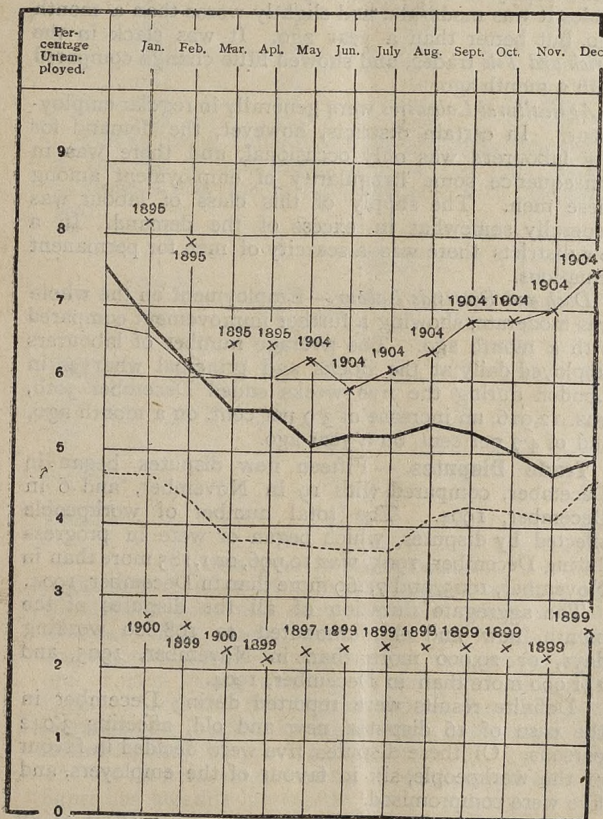


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve—1905  
— Thin Curve—1904.  
----- Dotted Curve—Mean of 1895-1904.

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

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[Based on 7,787 returns, viz.: 3,752 from Employers or their Associations; 3,516 from Trade Unions; 444 from Local Correspondents; and 75 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in December showed very little change as compared with the previous month.

As compared with a year ago, employment in nearly all the principal trades showed a considerable improvement. The building trades, however, showed no change.

In the 270 Trade Unions, with a total membership of 581,630 making returns, 28,734 (or 4.9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 4.7 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 7.6 per cent. at the end of December, 1904. The slight increase in the percentage unemployed at the end of December, as compared with November, is largely due to the Christmas holidays.

**Employment in various Industries.**—*Building Trades.*—Employment in this industry in December remained dull, and showed no marked change either as compared with November, 1905, or December, 1904.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in the coal mining industry in December showed an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. A further considerable improvement in employment took place in house coal pits, and in steam coal pits employment partly recovered from the decline of the previous month. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 23rd December, 1905, was 5.39, compared with 5.28 in the four weeks ended 25th November, and 5.30 in December, 1904. The average for December in the ten years 1895-1904 was 5.37 days per week.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment was good, and rather better, on the whole, than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. At the 117 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 23rd was 5.88, as compared with 5.81 for the four weeks ended November 25th, 1905, and 5.87 for the four weeks ended December 24th, 1904.

*Pig Iron Industry.*—Employment in this industry during December continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns received relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that 336 furnaces, employing about 23,800 workpeople, were in blast at the end of December—one more than in November, and 34 more than a year ago. The number of furnaces now in blast is greater than in any month since November, 1900.

*Iron and Steel Works.*—Employment at iron and steel works continued good; it was better than a month ago, and showed a great improvement as compared with a year ago, the number employed in 201 works from which returns have been received having risen from 87,151 to 95,467, an increase of 8,316 or 9.5 per cent. The returns show that the volume of employment (shifts worked multiplied by numbers employed) in the week ended December 16th, 1905, was 0.9 per cent. greater than during the week ended November 25th, 1905, and 12.9 per cent. greater than a year ago.

*Tinplate Manufacture.*—Employment during December showed some falling off, due chiefly to the execution of repairs, but was much better than a year ago. At the end of December 417 mills were working, compared with 427 at the end of November, 1905, and with 397 at the end of December, 1904.

*Engineering Trades.*—Employment generally was good, showing little change on the previous month. It was less affected than is usual in December by holidays. Employment was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 3.7, as compared with 3.6 in November, 1905, and 8.4 in December, 1904.

*Shipbuilding Trades.*—Employment showed some improvement as compared with November, and was considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 10.2, as compared with 11.8 per cent. at the end of November, and 16.4 per cent. at the end of December, 1904.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment continued very brisk, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 130,389 workpeople in the last full week in December showed an increase of 2·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in November, and of 7·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 22,643 workpeople in the last full week in December showed an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in November, and of 4·9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment, although still only moderate, was slightly better than a month ago and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 40,091 workpeople during the last full week in December showed an increase of 1·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in November, and of 4·8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax (Linen) Trade.**—Employment was fair, showing an improvement compared with the previous month and with a year ago, especially in the weaving department. Returns from firms employing 46,228 workpeople during the last full week in December showed an increase of 4·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in November, and of 5·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment in this industry was fairly good, and about the same as a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 21,527 workpeople in the last full week in December showed an increase of 0·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the last week in November, and a decrease of 1·1 per cent. compared with December, 1904.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment in the silk industry showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,882 workpeople showed an increase of 2·3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2·6 per cent. compared with a year ago in the number of throwing and spinning spindles at work; the number of looms working in December showed a decrease of 0·8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1·9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment was fairly good, and showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago; it was much better than a year ago. Firms employing 17,912 workpeople in the week before Christmas, 1905, showed an increase of 0·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in November, and of 9·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment was fair, being better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. Returns from 485 firms, employing 65,209 workpeople, showed an increase of 6·8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid on the last pay-day before Christmas, compared with the last week in November, and of 12·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment during December was still quiet on the whole, but showed some improvement on the previous month. Compared with a year ago it was considerably better. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,569 had 6·1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 6·8 per cent. in November, and 11·9 per cent. in December, 1904.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed a marked seasonal decline, and was bad; it was about the same as a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago.

**Hat Trades.**—Employment on the whole was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed in December in the *Silk Hat* trade was 15·8, compared with 15·4 in November, and 14·0 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 7·9, 7·2, and 4·0.

**Papermaking Trade.**—Employment in machine mills remained fairly good in England and good in Scotland, where it was better than a year ago. In the hand-made trade employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment remained fairly good in these trades. In the printing trades the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of December was 4·8, as compared with 3·2 at the end of November and 4·8 in December, 1904; in the bookbinding trades the percentages at the same periods were 3·4, 2·5, and 5·0 respectively.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment was generally slack, and was worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 7·1, compared with 5·4 at the end of November, 1905, and 9·8 at the end of December, 1904.

**Glass and Pottery Trades.**—Employment in the *Glass* trades continued moderate on the whole, but was considerably better than a year ago. In the *Pottery* trades it was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. It was slack in the *Brick and Tile* trades, and showed little change compared with a month ago.

**Agricultural Labourers** were generally in regular employment. In certain districts, however, the demand for day labourers was only occasional, and there was in consequence some irregularity of employment among these men. The supply of this class of labour was generally somewhat in excess of the demand. In a few districts there was a scarcity of men for permanent situations.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment on the whole was moderate, showing a further improvement compared with a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended December 30th, was 12,926, an increase of 3·9 per cent. on a month ago, and of 4·7 per cent. on a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—Fifteen new disputes began in December, compared with 19 in November, and 6 in December, 1904. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes, which began or were in progress during December, 1905, was 10,996, or 1,185 more than in November, 1905, and 7,269 more than in December, 1904.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 198,800 working days, or 29,000 more than in November, 1905, and 151,900 more than in December, 1904.

Definite results were reported during December in the case of 16 disputes, new and old, affecting 3,042 persons. Of these disputes, five were decided in favour of the workpeople, six in favour of the employers, and five were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported in December was an increase of £660 per week. The changes affected 26,400\* workpeople, of whom 20,000 received advances, while 6,400 sustained decreases. The changes of the previous month affected 25,700 workpeople, the net result being an increase of £1,250 per week. During December, 1904, the number of workpeople affected was nearly 39,600, and the net result a decrease of over £2,100 per week.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting 5,000 iron and steel workers and 1,250 blastfurnacemen in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 3,500 steel millmen in the West of Scotland, 2,500 coal miners in the Bristol district, and 1,350 blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland, and decreases affecting 5,650 slate quarrymen in North Wales.

One change, affecting the 3,500 steel millmen referred to above, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and seven changes affecting over 9,900 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting about 13,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and the workpeople, or their representatives.

\* These figures are in addition to 87,000 cotton card and blowing-room and spinning operatives, whose bonus of 5 per cent. granted for twelve weeks from the first pay-day in September has now lapsed.

## EMPLOYMENT IN 1905.

## Summary.

THE general state of employment in 1905 showed considerable improvement compared with the previous year. The downward movement which commenced in the latter part of 1900 was checked early in 1905, and the comparison of each month with the corresponding month of 1904 became more favourable as the year advanced. By the end of the year many of the chief industries showed an improvement. In the building trade, however, employment was very slack, and rather worse than in 1904. In coal mining there was but little change.

Returns relating to about 580,000 members of Trade Unions show that the mean percentage of members unemployed at the end of each month of 1905 was 5·4, as compared with 6·5 in the previous year. The fluctuations in the percentage returned as unemployed in the period 1888-1905, during which the returns have been received, are shown in the Table below:—

1888	...	4·9	1897	...	3·5
1889	...	2·1	1898	...	3·0
1890	...	2·1	1899	...	2·4
1891	...	3·5	1900	...	2·9
1892	...	6·3	1901	...	3·8
1893	...	7·5	1902	...	4·4
1894	...	6·9	1903	...	5·1
1895	...	5·8	1904	...	6·5
1896	...	3·4	1905	...	5·4

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed at the end of each month of 1904 and 1905, with the increase or decrease in 1905 compared with the previous year.

Month.	Percentage returned as Unemployed.		Increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1905 compared with 1904.
	1905.	1904.	
January	6·8	6·6	+ 0·2
February	6·2	6·1	+ 0·1
March	5·6	6·0	- 0·4
April	5·6	6·0	- 0·4
May	5·1	6·3	- 1·2
June	5·2	5·9	- 0·7
July	5·2	6·1	- 0·9
August	5·4	6·4	- 1·0
September	5·3	6·8	- 1·5
October	5·0	6·8	- 1·8
November	4·7	7·0	- 2·3
December	4·9	7·6	- 2·7

## Details for Principal Trades.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continued very slack throughout 1905 and showed on the whole a further decline. The mean percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners and plumbers unemployed at the end of each month was 8·3, as compared with 7·6 in 1904. These are the highest figures for the period (commencing in 1888) for which these percentages have been recorded, the previous highest being 5·5 in 1888. The lowest percentage was 1·3 in 1898, since when the figure has steadily increased.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment generally with coal miners was moderate, and on the whole showed little change as compared with the previous year. Returns covering over half a million workpeople showed that the average number of days worked by the pits was 5·03 per week, the lowest figure since 1896, but not as low as in that year or in 1895. This will be seen from the following summary:—

	Days.		Days.
1895	4·74	1901	5·12
1896	4·92	1902	5·22
1897	5·13	1903	5·09
1898	5·25	1904	5·07
1899	5·46	1905	5·03
1900	5·47		

The districts showing most decline in 1905 in the number of days worked, as compared with 1904, were South Wales and Monmouth (where there was a falling-off of a quarter of a day per week), Staffordshire and Salop, Warwick and Worcester. There were slight increases shown in Durham and Yorkshire, while in other districts there was but little change.

**Iron Mines and Open Works.**—Employment continued good, and showed practically no change on the previous year. Monthly returns relating to over 15,000 workpeople showed that the average number of days worked by the mines in 1905 was 5·77 per week, compared with

5·79 in 1904. The figures for these two years were higher than those for any other year in the period commencing in 1896, during which returns have been received. Compared with 1904, there was some decline in Cleveland and Scotland; other districts showed a slight increase.

**Pig Iron Manufacture.**—Employment in this industry, which had been bad in 1904, improved steadily throughout 1905, and at the end of the year was good. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, and covering nearly all the blastfurnaces in the United Kingdom, showed that 302 furnaces were in blast at the end of 1904. The number gradually increased during 1905 to 336 at the end of the year, the average being 323, as compared with 302 for 1904. The average for 1905 was about the same as the averages for 1902 and 1903, and above that for 1901.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—The numbers employed by the 195 employers who furnished returns as to the state of employment in this industry in 1905 showed an increase each month since March, 1905. The numbers employed in December last were 9·5 per cent. greater than in December, 1904. The mean number employed in 1905 was 90,613, and, in 1904, 86,224. The average weekly number of shifts worked per man in 1905 was 5·51, as compared with 5·40 per man in 1904 and 5·43, the mean of the eight years 1898-1905.

**Tinplate Manufacture.**—Employment in this industry showed a further improvement in 1905, and was very good throughout the year. The mean number of mills in operation at the end of each month was 413, compared with 374 in 1904, and 359 in 1903. The figure for 1905 was the highest in the period beginning with 1896 for which the numbers have been recorded, the previous highest being 387 in 1902. The average for the ten years 1896-1905 was 359.

**Engineering.**—Employment steadily improved during 1905, and in the latter part of the year was fair and much better than in the corresponding months of 1904. Taking the whole year, every district showed improvement except the South Coast. The greatest improvement in employment was shown in the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn district, where the percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed fell from 11·4 in 1904 to 5·7 in 1905. Considerable improvement was also shown in Scotland, the West Riding and the Manchester and Liverpool District, and in Hull and Lincolnshire. In the East Midlands, London, and the South Wales and Bristol district little change was shown. For the United Kingdom as a whole the mean percentage unemployed was 5·1, as compared with 7·0 in 1904. For the ten years 1896-1905 the mean was 4·1 per cent.

**Shipbuilding.**—In this industry employment showed a gradual improvement, and was better than in 1904, especially in the latter part of the year. Compared with the previous year the districts showing most improvement were the North of England and Scotland. There was also an improvement at Belfast. The South Coast and the Mersey, however, showed a considerable decline, and there was also a falling off in the Thames and Bristol Channel districts. The mean percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of each month was 11·9, as compared with 14·0 in 1904. The mean for the ten years 1896-1905 was 7·6, the lowest figures in that period being 2·3 in 1899 and 2·5 in 1900.

The gross tonnage of merchant vessels (sail and steam) under construction at the end of December, 1905, was 1,355,756, as compared with 1,049,860 tons at the end of December, 1904. The tons displacement of war vessels under construction at the same two dates were 262,025 and 282,810 respectively.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment in this industry which had been bad in the first half of 1904, but improved during the latter half, showed a further improvement during 1905, and was very brisk in that year. Returns received from employers employing about 130,000 operatives indicated an increase in December, as compared with January, of over 1 per cent. in the numbers employed, and of nearly 10 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment was good throughout the year and better than in 1904. In the later months of the year the returns received from employers employing about 22,000 operatives showed an upward tendency in numbers employed and wages paid, and employment was very good. As between January and December there was an increase in the numbers employed of 2·3 per cent., and of 6·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment, although improving towards the end of the year, was quiet for the greater part of 1905, but was better than in 1904. The number employed (about 40,000) by the firms making returns was fairly constant throughout the year, but the weekly amount of wages paid showed some considerable improvement, especially in the last 4 months, in which the amount was nearly 5 per cent. in excess of that for January.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment showed some improvement as compared with 1904, but was quiet on the whole. There was an improvement in the numbers employed from January to June and a decline from June to August, since when there has been a continuous improvement.

**Agriculture.**—Agricultural labourers in England were regularly employed in 1905, the weather being, on the whole, favourable. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient and, in some cases, was in excess of the demand. A scarcity of men for permanent positions was reported in parts of the Midland and South Western counties.

## CHANGES IN WAGES & HOURS IN 1905.\*

### Changes in Rates of Wages.

Wages on the whole showed a slight decline in 1905, a result due mainly to reductions in the coal mining industry. Apart from coal mining, quarrying and the building trades, there was an upward tendency in wages during the second half of the year. This was especially noticeable in the cotton and metal trades. In the latter group, wages in many instances are determined by sliding scales, based on the selling prices of the iron or steel produced.

The net result of all the changes in wages during the year was a decrease of £8,000 per week, a decrease which was much smaller than in any of the four preceding years. In the five years 1901—5, wages fell, while in the previous five years, 1896—1900, net increases were recorded. As will be seen from the following Table, the aggregate of increases during the first period was considerably greater than that of decreases during the second, the net amount of increase during the decade being approximately £197,000 per week. The figures are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees, and only take into account changes in rates of wages and not fluctuations in the total amount of wages paid owing to changes in the amount of employment available, or altered conditions of work.

Year.	No. of Workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages.	Computed amount of change in weekly wages as compared with each preceding year.	
		Net Increase per week.	Net Decrease per week.
1896	598,865	26,152	—
1897	582,333	30,494	—
1898	1,010,957	80,572	—
1899	1,165,478	89,816	—
1900	1,110,031	206,772	—
1901	907,199	—	77,902
1902	883,191	—	72,865
1903	892,923	—	38,557
1904	799,959	—	39,278
1905†	571,855	—	8,029
Total for ten years, 1896—1905.†	—	433,806	36,531

\* Preliminary figures, subject to revision.

† It will be understood that although the same workpeople are counted once only in each year, many of them appear in several years, and therefore no total can be made for the ten years, 1896—1905.

The number of workpeople affected by wages-changes in 1905 was less than in any previous year of the decade. Of the total number affected in 1905 nearly 204,000 received net increases amounting to £10,000 per week, and about 248,000 sustained net decreases amounting to £18,000 per week, while about 120,000 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. In the three years 1902-4 the changes in the coal mining industry were the predominant factor, while in 1905 the changes in the textile trades as well as in the coal trade were important.

The Table below gives separate figures for each of the principal groups of trades in 1905, the figures for 1903 and 1904 being also given for comparison:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople* whose Wages were changed in			Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in the Weekly Wages of those affected as compared with each preceding year.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.†	1903.	1904.	1905.†
Building ... ..	4,638	10,819	10,221	+ 304	— 884	— 967
Coal Mining ... ..	752,190	658,390	202,746	— 32,488	— 31,294	— 13,471
Other Mining (Iron, &c.)	9,361	10,753	7,628	— 429	— 531	+ 380
Quarrying ... ..	3,160	2,701	8,434	— 222	— 92	+ 1,068
Pig Iron Manufacture ...	13,809	11,295	16,900	— 607	— 615	+ 932
Iron and Steel ... ..	9,683	48,802	47,227	— 469	+ 2,827	+ 1,172
Engineering and Shipbuilding	74,680	31,094	48,209	— 4,281	— 2,614	— 1,766
Other Metal Trades ...	1,934	1,973	719	— 178	— 42	— 39
Textile ... ..	7,001	3,939	221,437	+ 18	+ 109	+ 5,977
Clothing ... ..	3,496	333	60	— 86	+ 27	+ 14
Glass, &c., Trades ...	6,386	7,318	1,544	— 600	— 823	— 137
Other Trades ... ..	7,610	4,966	3,898	+ 199	— 83	+ 240
Employees of Local Authorities	4,974	7,546	5,124	+ 282	+ 609	+ 404
Total† ... ..	892,922	799,959	571,855	— 38,557	— 39,278	— 8,029

In the coal mining industry changes in wages took place in 1905 in Northumberland, where there were decreases amounting to 3½ per cent. on "standard," and in South Wales with decreases amounting to 8½ per cent. In the Forest of Dean there was a reduction of 5 per cent. on "standard." There was, however, no change in the Federated districts, in Durham or in Scotland. In the textile trades the weavers, winders and warpers in the principal cotton manufacturing districts of the North of England received an advance of 5 per cent., while the card and blowing room and spinning operatives were granted a bonus of 5 per cent. for twelve weeks from the first pay-day in September. In the other principal groups of industries, the net effect of the changes was an advance in rates of wages in the iron and steel trades and a decline in the engineering and shipbuilding, quarrying and building trades.

Changes in wages affecting 307,000 workpeople were arranged by permanent Conciliation Boards, or by other agencies for conciliation, mediation or arbitration, and changes affecting about 29,000 took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes affecting nearly 236,000 workpeople were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives. In the case of 12,000 of the workpeople affected a stoppage of work preceded the settlement.

### Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in the weekly hours of labour reported during 1905 affected 92,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net reduction in their working time amounting in the aggregate to nearly 65,000 hours per week. The bulk of these changes were in the building trades, the two most important changes were re-arrangements of winter

\* Including workpeople affected by changes during the year, but whose wages stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning.

† Exclusive of Agricultural Labourers, Seamen, Police, Government Employees, and Railway Servants.

‡ The figures for 1905 are preliminary, and subject to revision.

working hours in the various branches of the building trades, affecting over 70,000 workpeople in the London district and about 3,000 in the Cardiff district, and resulted in each case in an average reduction of about half-an-hour per week.

## RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

### CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

#### Nottingham Lace Trade.

In his final award, dated September 27th, 1905, Mr. G. R. Askwith, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade to settle questions in dispute between the Nottingham Lace Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Operative Lace Makers (see GAZETTE for October, p. 291), made provision that matters of dispute upon omitted details, clerical errors, anomalies, or questions of construction, not settled by agreement before December 1st, might be referred to him. The decisions as regards the points brought forward by the Plain Net and Curtain Sections were noted in the GAZETTE for December (see p. 359). The matters referred to the arbitrator by the Levers Section have since been dealt with.

Among the questions and decisions on points of construction were the following:—

Under the headings "Alterations" and "Short Alterations" it is asked:—

- Whether a man shall claim for accumulative hours made during the whole of one week.  
The answer is in the negative.
- Whether a man shall claim for an alteration which he makes while on his shift.  
The answer is in the affirmative, if it comes to five hours.
- When two men working together make 2½ hours, shall they claim half a day for one man.  
The answer is in the negative.
- When shall an alteration cease.  
The answer is when instructions are given for rack making.
- In the event of a man claiming alteration for the whole of the time that a draughtsman is with him, who shall take the racks made during such time.  
The answer is that if such a case occurs and there is dispute, it must be decided by the Joint Committee.

In answer to a query on Cards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, as to whether the standard gauge should be 9½ and 10 points, the reply is that it is unnecessary, as 9½ and 10 points are paid the same, the full gauge not being reached.

In answer to a query on Cards 1 and 11 with reference to net bars traversing more than five gaits and the clause in "General Instructions" that no bars are to be counted twice, the answer is that the standard is exclusive of these net bars, and they are not intended to be counted in the bars of which the standard is made up. After the words "All top net bars" in the standard, the words "not inclusive of net bars traversing more than 5 gaits" can be inserted to make the meaning clear.

In addition to questions of construction, a few clerical errors, the position of certain clauses, and omissions have been corrected, and it was agreed that certain clauses ought to be inserted. It was also agreed that there should be a minimum price on all cards where such price had not been fixed, and these prices have accordingly been fixed.

Certain points brought up and discussed by the parties were ruled out by the arbitrator as alterations of the award which could not be made.

#### Coal Miners, near Chesterfield.

On January 2nd, joint application to the Board of Trade was made on behalf of the Clay Cross Iron and Coal Company and the Derbyshire Miners' Association, for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with a question in dispute between the Company and their workmen employed in the Tupton seam. The difference

relates to the liability for removing the holing dirt where the coal is underholed by coal-cutting machines.

The Board of Trade on January 8th appointed Mr. Thomas Bell, ex-Inspector of Mines, to act as arbitrator.

### OTHER CASES.

#### Wages Agreement in the South Wales Coal Trade.

On March 31st, 1903, an agreement was signed by representatives of the Coal Owners and Miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, regulating the wages of the workpeople and establishing a Conciliation Board. (See LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1903, p. 91.) This agreement expired on December 31st, 1905, but prior to that date conferences were held between the parties concerned, and a new agreement was signed on December 11th to continue in force for a period of three years from January 1st, 1906. Certain clauses of the old agreement have been slightly altered, but the minimum and maximum wage have not been changed. The wages of about 150,000 miners are regulated by this agreement.

## CO-OPERATION IN 1904.\*

### Summary.

Returns from Workmen's Co-operative Societies for Production and Distribution in the United Kingdom show that 2,101 such societies were at work in 1904. These societies had a total membership of 2,183,382, which is equal to 8·8 per cent. of the total population of the United Kingdom over 20 years of age. Their total capital amounted to £38,802,272, being made up of £27,739,123 shares, £8,385,729 loans, and £2,677,420 reserve and insurance funds. On a total trade of £102,556,049 the profit for the year was £10,309,086, which is equal to 37·2 per cent. upon the total share capital of all the societies. The total number of persons employed by the 2,101 societies was 101,992.

The societies fall into three groups, viz:—(1) Societies established primarily for Production; (2) Societies established primarily for Wholesale Distribution; and (3) Societies established primarily for Retail Distribution; but as many of the societies in the latter two groups produce goods distributed by them, it will be convenient to group the work of the societies, thus:—(1) Production; (2) Wholesale Distribution; and (3) Retail Distribution.

The following Table shows the trade in each group for each of the ten years, 1895—1904, together with the total trade of all the groups, and the increase and percentage increase in the ten years:—

Year.	Production.†	Wholesale Distribution.	Retail Distribution.	Total Trade.
1895	6,278,837	13,668,985	33,905,962	53,853,784
1896	7,437,770	15,048,363	36,715,191	59,201,333
1897	9,231,361	16,456,676	40,175,774	65,863,811
1898	10,208,598	17,440,095	42,644,704	70,293,397
1899	10,841,239	19,422,470	45,116,797	75,380,506
1900	12,183,279	21,721,489	50,141,998	84,046,766
1901	13,201,709	23,556,439	52,851,164	89,609,312
1902	14,545,356	24,694,457	55,488,570	94,728,383
1903	15,302,062	25,980,268	57,727,815	99,010,145
1904	16,135,716	26,539,135	59,581,198	102,256,049
Increase in 1904 over 1895	9,856,879	13,170,150	25,675,236	48,702,265
Percentage Increase	157·0	96·4	75·7	90·4

It will be seen that the increase in each group has been continuous over the 10 years. Comparing 1904 with 1895, the rate of increase in production is more than double the rate in retail distribution, and more than one and a-half times the rate in wholesale distribution.

\* Based upon Returns made direct to the Department by the societies concerned, and upon Returns made to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, the Co-operative Union, and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

† The goods produced by the societies for Wholesale and Retail Distribution are not usually sold direct by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

Production.

In considering the productive work of the co-operative societies, it will be convenient to adopt the three-fold classification into (1) Societies established primarily for Production; (2) Societies established primarily for Wholesale Distribution; and (3) Societies established primarily for Retail Distribution; and to sub-divide the first class into Societies established for Corn-Milling, and Societies established for other forms of Productive Industry.

The following Table shows the growth in the value of production by these classes of societies in each of the 10 years, 1895-1904, together with the total production, and the increase and percentage increase in the 10 years:-

Table showing Value of Production by Societies established primarily for Production, Wholesale Distribution, and Retail Distribution from 1895 to 1904, including total production and percentage increase.

From this Table it appears that, except with the Corn-Milling Societies, the increase has been continuous for the ten years. Comparing 1904 with 1895, an increase of 157.0 per cent. is shown in the total production, the most rapid advance being made by the Societies for Wholesale Distribution, which show an increase in production of 270.4 per cent.

The Returns received for the year 1904 show that 3 wholesale societies and 862 retail societies for distribution, 8 corn mills and 412 other productive societies, or a total of 1,285 societies of all classes, with 44,504 productive employees, were engaged in the production of goods amounting in value to £16,135,716, upon which a profit of £403,152 was made. Of these societies, 809, with a total production of £10,481,360, and 29,771 productive employees, were in England and Wales, 211, with a production of £4,546,080, and 12,798 employees, were in Scotland, and 265, with a production of £1,108,276, and 1,935 employees, were in Ireland.

In the following Table the total production (£16,135,716) of all classes of societies in 1904, is split up so as to show the nature and extent of the principal industries carried on by each class of society separately:-

Table showing Industries carried on by Societies of all Classes, categorized by Association for Production, Wholesale Distribution, and Retail Distribution, from 1895 to 1904.

It will be seen that Food and Tobacco account for more than one-half of the total production, followed by the Clothing group, which accounts for about one-sixth. The next Table shows the number of productive employees and the productive wages paid in the same groups of industries by the various classes of societies during 1904.

Table showing Associations for Production, Wholesale Distribution, and Retail Distribution, categorized by Industry, from 1895 to 1904.

It will be seen that more than one-half of the total employees were engaged in the clothing and textile industries, and more than one-fifth in the food and tobacco industries. Of the total, 25,570, or 57.4 per cent. were men, 12,514, or 28.2 per cent., women, and the remaining 6,420, or 14.4 per cent., young persons under 18 years of age.

Of the 1,285 societies of all classes, 181 allotted sums to their employees out of the profits of the year. The total amount thus allotted was £31,153 among 12,947 employees of societies paying £685,746 in wages. Thus the profit allotted amounted to about £2 8s. per head, and to 4.5 per cent. on the wages paid.

Wholesale Distribution.

The four wholesale societies are Federations for the wholesale purchase and manufacture of the goods required by the retail distributive societies. The two in Ireland are entirely connected with the agricultural industry, marketing the produce as well as supplying the requirements of their constituent societies.

The following Table shows the growth in the distributive trade of the societies for Wholesale Distribution of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, during each of the 10 years, 1895-1904, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the increase and percentage increase in the 10 years:-

Table showing Wholesale Distribution in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom from 1895 to 1904.

This Table shows that the English and Scottish societies have both nearly doubled their distributive trade during the 10 years, while in Ireland, where the societies are much younger, the trade has been nearly trebled.

In 1904 the societies for Wholesale Distribution had a total membership of 2,033, consisting of 518 individuals and 1,515 societies, and a total distributive capital (share, loan and reserve) of £4,150,625, and sold goods to the value of £26,839,135, upon which a profit of £493,448 was made. Their total number of employees engaged in distribution was 5,024.

Retail Distribution.

The work of Retail Distribution is carried on mainly by retail stores with a general trade, and partly by societies connected with agriculture, the latter being almost entirely a growth of the past ten years.

The following Table shows the sales of the retail stores only in each country for each of the 10 years,

1895-1904, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the increase and percentage increase in the 10 years:-

Table showing Retail Distribution in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom from 1895 to 1904.

It will be seen that, with the exception of one year for Ireland, the increase in each country has been continuous for the past 10 years.

The Returns for 1904 show that 1,454 retail stores were trading in that year. Their total membership was 2,078,178, their total share, loan and reserve capital £30,408,380, their total sales amounted to £59,311,885, and their total profit was £9,411,348. The total number of employees engaged by these stores in the work of distribution was 52,132.

The miscellaneous societies engaged in distribution, and mainly connected with agriculture, numbered 223 in 1904, 59 being in England and Wales and 164 in Ireland. They had a total membership of 24,437, and a total share, loan and reserve capital of £61,454. They sold goods to the value of £269,313, upon which a profit of £1,138 was made. The total number of their employees was 332.

RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN DECEMBER.

ACCORDING to the Returns received from the Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, and from the Local Correspondents of the Department, the amount of distress due to unemployment in December showed little change as compared with November, and was much less than a year ago.

Exceptional distress was reported in about half the 36 districts of London and neighbourhood, and in 39 out of a total of 87 Provincial towns from which Returns have been received.

The total number of unemployed persons registered by 36 Distress Committees in London and neighbourhood and by 61 Committees in the rest of England and Wales and in Scotland up to the end of December, was 63,780, including 33,035 in London and neighbourhood, and 2,127 in Scotland. The number of cases investigated was 30,593 and in the case of 27,530 of these 7,775 were found to be ineligible for assistance under the Act. The returns indicate the ages of 43,838 persons, and of these 1,044 were under 20 years of age, 22,901 were between 20 and 40, 10,154 between 40 and 50, 6,658 between 50 and 60, and 3,081 were 60 years of age or over. Information as to the occupations of 50,505 persons registered shows that 31,903 were labourers of various classes. Of the 18,602 returned as skilled men 8,164 were classified under building trades. The total figures include, in occupations other than building, 258 men in the engineering trade at Leeds, and 298 at West Ham, 285 boot and shoe operatives at Northampton, and 474 at Leicester, and 252 woollen operatives at Bradford, and 634 dock labourers at Southampton.

Temporary work was provided by the Central Body for London, and by 24 Distress Committees outside London for 3,652 men during December, the average number of days worked by the 3,412 persons regarding whom the information was received being about 5. The work was in most cases done for the Municipal Authorities, but 280 men were employed on farm colonies by the Central Body for London and the West Ham Committee.

In addition 8,110 men were given employment-relief by the Local Authorities of 19 areas in London and neighbourhood, 27 towns in the rest of England and

Wales, one town in Scotland and one in Ireland, on work which would not in the ordinary course have been put in hand at this time. The men were in most, but not all, cases selected from those registered by the Local Distress Committees.

Altogether the Returns show that 11,762 persons received employment-relief in December, the average number of days' work given in the month being 6.9 in the case of 10,365 persons regarding whom particulars have been received. In December, 1904, the Returns showed that 30,496 persons received employment-relief, the average number of days worked being 7.2.

Number of Unemployed Registered.

London and Neighbourhood.—The total number of unemployed persons registered up to the end of December by the Distress Committees of 27 Metropolitan Boroughs was 23,709, including 323 women. In addition, the Distress Committees of nine localities bordering on the Metropolis registered 9,326 persons. Information as to the occupations of 23,105 persons registered in London and neighbourhood has been given, and shows that 13,980 were labourers, the remainder being returned as skilled men. Of the latter 4,465, or nearly one half, are classified under building trades, 697 under engineering, 338 under woodworking and furnishing.

Provinces.—Of the 30,745 applicants registered in the Provinces of England and Wales, and in Scotland, 1,089 were resident in the Northern Counties, including 319 at Sunderland and 304 at Newcastle. In Yorkshire 6,600 were registered, including 1,858 at Leeds, 1,801 at Sheffield, 1,295 at Bradford, and 749 at York. In Lancashire and Cheshire 6,137 were registered, including 1,700 at Liverpool, and 1,533 in Manchester and Salford. In the Midland Counties 3,632 were registered, including 1,174 at Leicester, and 541 at Northampton. In the Eastern Counties 1,239 were registered at Norwich. In the South-Eastern Counties 1,349 were registered at Brighton, over 900 at Hastings, and 508 at Chatham. In the Southern and South-Western Counties 6,084 were registered, including 1,989 at Bristol, 1,311 at Portsmouth, and 1,251 at Southampton. In Wales and Monmouth 1,076 were registered, almost entirely at Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport, and in Scotland, out of a total of 2,127 registered, 1,473 were in Glasgow and 533 in Aberdeen. The figures relating to the number of applicants registered in London and the Provinces are summarised in the Table below:-

Table showing Number of Unemployed Registered up to end of December, categorized by District, Boroughs or Towns, and Applicants Registered up to end of December.

Employment-Relief.

London and Neighbourhood.—Work for the unemployed was provided by 18 Metropolitan Borough Councils, mainly on road repairing and sweeping, sewer, and painting works, which would not in ordinary circumstances have been put in hand at this date. In the majority of cases six days' work per week was given, and the men employed were mostly selected from the registers of the Distress Committees. In the case of 16 of these Boroughs returns have been received which show that 2,807 men received employment-relief during December. In addition the Central Body for London provided work for 251 men at Hollesley Bay Farm Colony, and for 22 men in the latter part of the month at Chingford, under contract with the City Corporation.

In seven areas bordering on London the Distress Committees provided, or contributed towards the provision of, work for 1,020 men. In addition the Local

Authorities of three districts gave employment-relief to 436 men at painting and other work.

*Rest of United Kingdom.*—Work for the unemployed was provided by the Local Distress Committees in 17 towns, being wholly or partly paid for by them, and by the Local Authorities in 29 towns. In the case of 9 of these towns work was provided by both the Distress Committees and the Local Authorities. In the Northern Counties employment-relief was given in four towns, 344 being employed, including 260 in Newcastle. In Yorkshire 663 were given employment in Bradford (of these 645 had only one day's work); 455 at Sheffield, and 40 at York. In Lancashire and Cheshire 1,057 were given employment-relief, including 475 at Manchester and Salford, 228 at Stockport, and 166 at Bolton. In the Midland Counties 509 were given employment-relief, and in the Eastern Counties 361 (Norwich). In the South-Eastern Counties 713 were given employment at Brighton, 170 at Chatham, and 151 at Hastings. In the Southern and South-Western Counties 2,174 were employed, including 177 at Bristol, 219 at Devonport, 550 at Plymouth, 570 at Portsmouth, and 452 at Southampton. In Wales 228 were given employment-relief at Cardiff and 53 at Swansea. In Scotland 225 were employed at Glasgow and 47 at Aberdeen. In Ireland 36 men were given employment-relief at Clonmel, although at this town no register was opened for the unemployed.

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

District.	No. of Boroughs or Towns.	Total No. of Men to whom Employment Relief was given in December.	No. of Men for whom particulars as to days worked were furnished.	Average No. of Days worked per man in December.
London Central Body	—	273	273	15.7
London Boroughs	16	2,807	2,641	9.5
Outer London	8	1,456	1,033	4.4
Northern Counties	—	344	344	10.4
Yorkshire	3	1,158	703	1.4
Lancashire and Cheshire	8	1,057	898	4.6
Midland Counties	6	509	509	11.4
Eastern Counties	1	361	361	8.2
South-Eastern Counties	3	1,034	996	6.6
Southern and South-Western Counties	7	2,174	1,968	5.4
Wales and Monmouth	2	281	281	6.0
Scotland	2	272	272	2.2
Ireland	1	36	36	22.0
Total	61	11,762	10,365	6.9

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN HUNGARY.

The information contained in Volume VI. of the Report of the Census of 1900,\* recently issued by the Central Statistical Department of Hungary, consists of a summary of the replies to questions respecting their wages and hours of labour furnished on the ordinary census schedules by persons working for a wage or salary, or serving as apprentice in any kind of industrial undertaking. The total number of persons coming within this definition was found to be 603,564, viz:—536,586 males and 66,978 females. In the tabulation of the results 4 classes of employees are distinguished: (1) higher administrative officers, (2) foremen, overseers, subordinate officers and enginemen, (3) workpeople of the rank and file, subordinate clerks, &c., and (4) apprentices. The particulars which follow relate only to the third of these groups, viz.—that of workpeople of the rank and file, subordinate clerks, &c., which comprises 438,705 persons of sixteen years of age and over. Data capable of being used were secured with regard to the wages of 56.8 per cent., and with regard to the hours of labour of 55.4 per cent. of these persons.

Wages.

As regards wages of workers of 16 years and over, the results of the enquiry are summarised below:—

\* *Dénoyement de la Population des Pays de la Couronne Hongroise en 1900, Sixième Partie.* (Issued by the Central Statistical Department of the Kingdom of Hungary.)

Wages returned per week.	Males.	Females.
5s. and less	Per cent. 15.0	Per cent. 41.3
Over 5s. od. up to 6s. 8d.	8.7	25.6
" 6s. 8d. " 8s. 4d.	13.6	18.5
" 8s. 4d. " 11s. 8d.	29.5	11.3
" 11s. 8d. " 16s. 8d.	27.5	3.0
" 16s. 8d. " 25s. od.	7.7	0.3
" 25s. od. " 33s. 4d.	0.9	0.0
" 33s. 4d. "	0.3	0.0
	100.0	100.0

It will be seen that for more than half the male wage-earners the weekly wages range from 8s. 4d. to 16s. 8d., while over 40 per cent. of the female workers receive less than 5s. per week.

An examination of the details given in the Report with regard to various trades shows that boot and shoemakers receive the lowest wages of any large group of male workers, 36 per cent. of those who furnished the requisite data in this trade returning wages of less than 5s. per week. On the other hand, of the males employed in the printing trades, over 35 per cent. returned wages ranging from 11s. 8d. to 16s. 8d., while the wages returned by nearly 33 per cent. ranged from 16s. 8d. to 25s. per week.

Hours of Labour.

The results of the enquiry in respect of hours of labour of workpeople of 16 years and above are shown in the following percentage statement:—

Hours of Labour per day (exclusive of intervals).	Males.	Females.
8 hours and less	Per cent. 8.8	Per cent. 12.4
Over 8 hours up to 9 hours	4.0	14.2
" 9 " " 10 " "	40.7	41.8
" 10 " " 11 " "	11.4	12.9
" 11 " " 12 " "	28.0	15.5
" 12 " " 13 " "	2.3	1.1
" 13 " " 14 " "	3.0	1.4
" 14 hours	1.8	0.7
	100.0	100.0

From this it is seen that the most frequent duration of the working day for both sexes is from 9 to 10 hours.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

It is too early in the year for emigrants to go to Canada: they should prepare to start in March or April, when the winter is over. The strike of printers at Winnipeg was still unsettled on November 30th, last: about 70 printers have arrived from Great Britain, and have overstocked the market. The December Labour Gazette of the Dominion Department of Labour states, "on the whole, the prospect for general labour during the winter season, which was inaugurated during the closing week of November, may be regarded as more favourable than in many years past at a similar period, all provinces of the Dominion being included in this statement, though activity was most pronounced in Ontario and the provinces of the middle west. . . . Labour conditions for lumberers in the woods were reported favourable, wages being somewhat higher than last year and the supply of men plentiful." In Western Canada clerks, stenographers, &c. were in excess of the demand, and owing to the conclusion of outdoor work there was some surplus of unskilled labourers.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Among persons without capital, farm labourers and female servants are in most demand, and men competent to work in vineyards or orchards. The demand for mechanics is met for the most part by the local supply, and emigrants of this class must be possessed of special skill, or of means of their own, to be certain of success. They, as well as other emigrants, must be careful not to enter into any contract of labour before arrival, as, if they do, they will not be allowed to land, except under

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

special circumstances. The lowest wages payable in Victoria to compositors, stereotypers, lithographers and bookbinders, have just been fixed at 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1d. an hour. Queensland and Western Australia grant assisted or nominated passages to approved emigrants, and New South Wales also is now beginning to give emigrants money assistance to a limited extent.

New Zealand.

This is the busy time of the year in New Zealand, and competent mechanics, and farm and general labourers in country districts have no difficulty in finding employment, but there does not seem to be much demand for more persons from the United Kingdom, unless they have capital. Persons with capital can obtain reduced passages to New Zealand, and will find good openings in farming after they have acquired some local experience.

South Africa.

*Cape Colony.*—No one is allowed to enter Cape Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured employment beforehand according to a prescribed form of agreement. There is a slight general improvement in the labour market at Cape Town, especially in the tanning, saddlery, and furniture trades, and in the demand for granite dressers, plasterers, bricklayers, and engineering blacksmiths; but there is still a considerable number of second-class and indifferent mechanics (especially carpenters, fitters, erectors, and boiler makers), unskilled labourers, and clerks out of employment there; first-class workmen are fairly well employed, but there is no opening for more. In country districts there is some improvement at King William's Town, and Somerset East, but both at these places and at Aliwal North, Cradock, East London, Port Elizabeth and elsewhere the supply of labour exceeds the demand. Female servants are wanted in many districts, but the demand for nurses for hospital and private work has been less than usual.

*Natal.*—There has been no improvement in the building trade at Durban, and labour is plentiful. The ordinary emigrant is not recommended to go to Natal at the present time.

*Transvaal.*—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit; no permit is granted to anyone unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured *bona fide* employment beforehand. At Johannesburg there is a very large number of unemployed, and there does not appear to be any sign of improvement. All mechanics and labourers therefore are warned against going there at the present time in search of work. The price of meat has been recently raised, and the cost of living is very high. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The supply of hospital and private nurses is now more than sufficient, and there is no opening whatever for those that are half-trained.

*Orange River Colony.*—No one may enter the Colony without a permit, and no emigrant can obtain such permit, unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has obtained *bona fide* employment in the Colony. A recent report states:—"All should be done to stop emigrants from coming to the Orange River Colony, unless they come to a definitely assured job. The number of white men unemployed and tramping the country is very large. . . . There is no Poor Law, and the position of the unemployed here is particularly hard. Labouring work is done by Kaffirs." Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society mentioned above.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.\*

*Employment in November.*—Employment in the building trades showed an appreciable decline compared with last month. In the metal trades it continued on the whole very plentiful. Employment in the textile trades

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

continued good in the Vosges, at Rheims, and at the western centres, while in the north it remained indifferent. A slight improvement, however, was perceptible in most of the cotton centres in Normandy and in the Roanne district, and a general revival took place in the silk weaving industry in the Loire district, causing an appreciable decline in the number of unemployed. The garment-making trades and the boot and shoe trades continued well employed, and work was plentiful for glove makers, of whom, except at St. Junien, there were practically none out of work. There was an increase of work for printers and bookbinders, especially in Paris. Employment for vineyard labour in the south showed very little improvement, while there was increased scarcity of work among wood cutters. Gardeners in and about Paris continued as busy as the short days would permit.

Out of 178,059 members of 1,054 Trade Unions which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment, 18,536, or 10.4 per cent., were out of work in November, as compared with 8.9 per cent. in the previous month and 11.6 per cent. in November, 1904. These figures are exclusive of the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais and Nord departments.

*Coal Mining in November.*—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground was 6.03 during November, as compared with 5.97 in the previous month and with 5.86 in November, 1904. Taking surface and underground workers together, 92.92 per cent. worked full time (six days and over per week), and 7.08 per cent. from five to six days per week, the corresponding percentages for the previous month being 86.92 and 13.08 respectively, and for November, 1904, 62.00 and 37.00 respectively. The foregoing figures relate to more than 157,000 workpeople, or over three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines, and were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners.

*Labour Disputes in November.*—Sixty-three disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, as compared with 51 which began in the preceding month, and with 51 also in November, 1904. The number of persons who took part in 60 of the new disputes was 22,930, as compared with 4,605 in 49 of the disputes in the previous month, and with 22,972 in the disputes of November, 1904. The trades in which disputes were most frequent were those comprised in the metal group, in which 14 disputes were reported. Nine disputes occurred in the leather trades, 8 in the textile trades, 6 each in the wood-working and printing trades, and 5 in the building trades. Out of 57 new and old disputes which came to an end in November, 8 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 18 in favour of the employers, and 31 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in November.*—Six cases of recourse to the law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in November, the Justices of the Peace taking the initiative in 3 cases, the workpeople in 2 cases, and the employers in 1 case. Committees of conciliation were formed in 4 cases, resulting in the settlement of 3 disputes. In one of the remaining cases the employer declined mediation, and in the other case the workpeople came to an understanding with the employer before a committee could be formed.

GERMANY.

*Employment in November.*\*—The salient feature of the labour market in November consisted in the fact that the strong decline in employment, which always characterises that month, was much less marked than usual, partly because of a continuance of favourable trade conditions on the whole, but mainly owing to the mildness of the weather, which permitted of open-air work of every description being carried on without interruption, and thus proved advantageous to the building and allied trades, horticulture and internal navigation. Employment for coalminers was on the

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



twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended December 23rd, as compared with 90.4 per cent. a month ago, and 92.9 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At 27 mines respecting which returns have been received, 2,993 men were employed in the four weeks ended December 23rd, as compared with 2,947 a month ago, and 2,968 a year ago.

Lead Mining.—Lead miners in Denbighshire and Flintshire were fully employed. In Weardale rather less than full time was worked.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack in North Wales, some quarries in the Festiniog district working only four days a week; in Argyllshire employment continued bad.

Granite.—Employment was dull, on the whole, in Aberdeenshire, and bad in Devonshire and Cornwall. A decline from a month ago took place in Leicestershire, where employment is reported as rather dull.

Limestone.—Employment was good in Weardale. It showed no change in the Buxton district. In the Somerset blue lias quarries and in Bath stone quarries in the Bristol district employment was bad, and it was dull in the Plymouth district.

Other Stone.—Employment was fairly good in the Sheffield district, moderate at Barnsley, and slack at Normanton. Chert quarrymen in the Bakewell district were fully employed. In the Cleve Hill road-material quarries and in grindstone and building-stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate. No improvement was shown in the pennant stone quarries in the Bristol district and employment remained bad in Forfarshire.

Sett-making.—Employment was dull and worse than a month ago in Aberdeenshire and at Airdrie. It continued fair on the whole at Edinburgh and in North Wales. In the Cleve Hill district employment was moderate. It was bad at Rowley Regis (Staffs.) and at Belfast.

China Clay.—Employment in the St. Austell district was fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 116 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, 4 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good and was much better than a year ago. The number of furnaces now in blast is greater than in any month since November, 1900.

Returns have been received relating to the works of 108 ironmasters. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of December was 336, as compared with 335 in November, one furnace having been relit in Cumberland. Compared with December, 1904, an increase of 34 is shown. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the returns which are summarised below is estimated at 23,800.

Table showing number of furnaces included in the returns, in Blast at end of Dec., 1905, Nov., 1905, Dec., 1904, and increase (+) or decrease (-) in Dec., 1905, as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Districts listed include England & Wales, Cumberland & Lancs., Derby & Nottingham, Stafford & Workeston, etc.

The Imports of iron ore in December amounted to 663,912 tons, or 120,102 tons more than in December, 1904, and 150,982 tons more than in December, 1903.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during December, 1905, amounted to 65,122 tons, as compared with 61,029 tons in December, 1904, and 54,281 tons in December, 1903.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 221 Returns—201 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 6 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued to improve and was much better than a year ago, 9.5 per cent. more workers being employed at the works covered by the Returns received.

The total volume of employment (i.e. numbers employed multiplied by the average number of shifts worked) during the week ended December 16th, 1905, at the 201 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.9 per cent. greater than during the week ended November 25th, 1905, and 12.9 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was approximately 537,100, as compared with 532,200 a month ago, and 475,500 a year ago.

Table showing Average Number of Shifts worked per man and Number of Workpeople employed by firms making returns. Departments include Open-Hearth Melting Furnaces, Crucible Furnaces, Bessemer Converters, etc. Districts include Northumberland & Durham, Cleveland, Sheffield and Rotherham, etc.

Compared with a month ago, the largest increases in the number of workpeople employed were 450 at rolling mills, and 127 at Bessemer converting departments. Most of the increase at rolling mills was in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire. Compared with a year ago, every department showed a considerable improvement, the greatest increases being 2,168 employed at rolling mills, 1,931 at other departments, and 1,374 mechanics and labourers.

Taking the various districts, Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire shows the greatest increase in numbers employed as compared with November. On the other hand, there was a decrease of 329 in the number of workpeople employed in Wales and Monmouth.

Compared with a year ago, all districts show increases, the greatest being 2,123 in the Sheffield and Rotherham district, 1,987 in Scotland, and 1,079 in Wales and Monmouth.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week remained about the same as a month ago, the most considerable increases being 0.17 of a shift at Bessemer converting departments and puddling forges, while the only departments showing any decrease were rolling mills (0.01 of a shift).

Compared with a year ago, all departments showed an increase, the greatest being 0.45 of a shift at puddling forges and 0.36 of a shift at crucible furnaces.

Compared with a month ago, there were slight decreases in Northumberland and Durham, Cleveland, and Scotland, but every district showed an increase compared with a year ago. The Midlands counties other than Staffordshire showed the greatest increases compared with both a month ago and a year ago, 0.17 and 0.36 of a shift respectively.

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on 80 Returns—54 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December showed some falling off as compared with November, due chiefly to the fact that advantage was taken of the holiday season to carry out repairs. It was much better than a year ago.

At the end of December 417 mills were working, a decrease of 10 (or 2.3 per cent.) as compared with the previous month, but an increase of 20 (or 5.0 per cent.) as compared with December, 1904. The number of workpeople employed at the 417 mills was about 20,850.

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

Table showing No. of Mills in such Works (Working, Not Working, Total) for Works giving full employment, Works giving partial employment, and Corresponding Total for Nov., 1905\* and Dec., 1904\*.

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and blackplates for tinning are given in the Table below for the three periods stated. It will be seen that of the total exports of tinplates during the year 1905, 63,052 tons, or nearly 18 per cent., went to the United States. The British East Indies took 44,141 tons, Germany 29,706 tons, and the Netherlands 26,743 tons. Of the blackplates for tinning exported in 1905, 31,060 tons went to Russia, and 8,579 tons to Germany.

Table showing Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets, and Black Plates for Tinning. Columns include Tons Gross, Tons Net, and Tons Displacement for To United States, Other Countries, and Total for 1904 and 1905.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 261 Returns—8 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 238 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement as compared with a month ago and was again considerably better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 55,307 members had 5,639 (or 10.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 11.8 per cent. at the end of November, and 16.4 per cent. a year ago.

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

As compared with a month ago, the greatest improvement was shown in the Bristol Channel Ports, on the Mersey, and on the Thames and Medway.

As compared with a year ago, there was considerable improvement in the Tees and Hartlepool district, on the Tyne and Wear, and at the Scottish Ports.

Table showing Percentage returned as unemployed at end of Dec., 1905, Nov., 1905, Dec., 1904, and increase (+) or decrease (-) in percentage for Dec., 1905, as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Districts include Tyne and Blyth, Wear, Tees and Hartlepool, etc.

Employment on the Tyne and Wear continued fair and better than a month ago. The improvement in the Tees and Hartlepool district continued, except with ship joiners, and employment was much better than a year ago.

On the South Coast there was little change compared with last month, employment on the whole being fair. At Southampton employment remained moderate; on the Thames and Medway it was still slack, though better on the whole. At the Bristol Channel Ports and on the Mersey employment improved, and was fair generally. On the Clyde employment continued fair. At Leith it was bad, but at Aberdeen and Dundee it improved, and was fair. At Belfast employment was fair, and at Dublin it remained bad. At Barrow it continued moderate. With London sailmakers it was good, and better than a month and a year ago.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's quarterly return for December, 1905, there is an increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction of 30,428, or 2.3 per cent., as compared with September, and of 305,896, or 29.1 per cent., as compared with a year ago. With regard to war vessels, the figures show a decrease as compared with the September quarter and with December, 1904.

The district figures are given below:—

Table showing Merchant Vessels and War Vessels. Columns include Dec., 31st, 1905; Sept., 30th, 1905; Dec., 31st, 1904; and Tons Gross, Tons Displacement for Districts like Clyde, Belfast, Tyne, etc.

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with September, increases are shown in the Clyde, Wear, Hartlepool and Whitby, Middlesbro' and Stockton, and Barrow, Maryport and Workington districts. A decrease is shown at Belfast, while in the Tyne district the tonnage under construction is about the same.

As compared with December, 1904, the figures show increases for all the principal districts, except the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district, where a decrease of 5,440 tons appears.





The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on January 5th, 1906, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,254,970 bales, as compared with 1,091,980 bales on January 6th, 1905.

**Exports of Cotton Goods.**

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

Description.	Month ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with December, 1904.		Twelve months ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
	Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.
Grey ... ..	15,370	+ 1,218	+ 3,064	164,588	+ 30,421	+ 48,449		
Bleached and Dyed	3,488	+ 679	+ 307	40,413	+ 10,579	+ 5,794		
Total ... ..	18,858	+ 1,897	+ 3,371	205,001	+ 41,000	+ 54,243		
Cotton Piece Goods—	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.	1000's yds.
Grey or Unbleached	202,777	- 15,111	+ 62,848	2,356,018	+ 302,035	+ 455,889		
Bleached ... ..	160,745	+ 5,102	+ 47,183	1,710,742	+ 184,626	+ 384,184		
Printed ... ..	56,370	+ 4,481	+ 11,597	1,053,900	+ 17,167	+ 25,887		
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	95,289	+ 9	+ 14,975	1,097,540	+ 104,552	+ 174,929		
Total ... ..	555,181	- 5,537	+ 136,603	6,198,200	+ 606,380	+ 1,010,889		

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 299 Returns—285 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1 from a Trade Union, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *Woollen* and *Worsted* trades showed a slight improvement, and was better than a year ago. The prices of raw material showed a slight decline, but were generally higher than a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**

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

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the week ended December 23rd was 30,119, an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 22,643 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with a month ago the number employed by these firms showed no change, and the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	Number employed in week before Christmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day before Christmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
					A month ago.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting ... ..	473	- 1.3	4.81	- 0.4	- 7.1
Spinning ... ..	4,057	+ 0.4	3,524	- 1.2	+ 6.3
Weaving ... ..	8,765	+ 0.1	7,757	+ 0.3	+ 8.3
Other Departments ... ..	6,711	+ 0.3	6,982	+ 1.3	+ 2.7
Unspecified ... ..	2,629	- 2.3	2,422	- 1.2	+ 1.8
Total ... ..	22,643	+ 1.3	21,166	+ 0.2	+ 4.9
Districts.					
Huddersfield District ... ..	5,071	+ 0.1	5,448	+ 1.2	+ 5.4
Leeds District ... ..	2,394	+ 0.5	2,212	+ 3.7	+ 15.7
Dewsbury & Batley District ... ..	3,173	- 0.5	2,922	- 2.8	+ 1.2
Other Parts of West Riding ... ..	1,520	+ 0.9	1,296	+ 2.9	+ 4.4
Total West Riding ... ..	12,158	+ 0.1	11,878	+ 0.8	+ 6.0
Scotland ... ..	6,483	- 0.6	5,988	- 1.1	+ 4.7
Other Districts ... ..	4,002	+ 0.8	3,300	+ 0.4	+ 1.7
Total Woollen ... ..	22,643	+ 1.3	21,166	+ 0.2	+ 4.9

Employment was very good in the Huddersfield district, overtime and night work being frequent, especially in the Colne Valley; workpeople were in great demand, and in some cases machinery had to stand for want of operatives. In the Leeds district employment was good, more particularly on the cheaper class of woollen cloths and tweeds; it was much better than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district there was a slight decline, but on the whole employment was fairly good. It was good in all branches in Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels.

**Worsted Trade.**

Employment, although still only moderate, was slightly better than a month ago and was better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last full week in December was 53,528, a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 40,091 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with a month ago, the number employed by these firms showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.1 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. employed in week before Christmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day before Christmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
					A month ago.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting & Combing ... ..	3,722	+ 0.5	3,595	+ 3.2	+ 5.2
Spinning ... ..	19,952	- 0.2	10,432	- 0.5	+ 2.0
Weaving ... ..	8,860	+ 0.3	8,530	+ 2.6	+ 10.6
Other Departments ... ..	5,152	+ 0.1	5,984	+ 1.1	+ 2.7
Unspecified ... ..	4,425	- 0.5	4,670	- 0.7	+ 1.8
Total ... ..	40,091	- 0.1	30,211	+ 1.1	+ 4.8
Districts.					
Bradford District ... ..	20,220	+ 4.1	14,198	+ 1.9	+ 7.4
Keighley District ... ..	5,319	- 0.7	3,827	- 1.3	- 1.3
Halifax District ... ..	3,527	- 0.4	2,040	- 3.7	- 2.1
Huddersfield District ... ..	6,155	- 0.1	7,150	+ 1.9	+ 7.9
Other Parts of West Riding ... ..	2,434	+ 0.2	1,424	+ 1.7	+ 4.8
Total West Riding ... ..	37,655	+ 0.1	28,610	+ 1.0	+ 5.4
Other Districts ... ..	2,436	- 0.2	1,592	+ 2.0	- 5.4
Total Worsted ... ..	40,091	- 0.1	30,211	+ 1.1	+ 4.8

Employment in the Bradford district showed a slight improvement in all branches; six firms reported a deficiency of weavers, and three reported a deficiency of spinners. The decline in the Keighley district occurred in the combing and spinning branches, a slight improvement being apparent in the weaving branch; in the Halifax district the decline was in the spinning branch. In Huddersfield employment continued very good, many firms working overtime.

**Prices of Raw Material.**

The course of prices showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was generally higher than a year ago.

	Dec., 1905.	Nov., 1905.	Dec., 1904.
<b>Average Prices:</b>	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	13 1/2	13 1/2	12 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ... ..	15 1/2	16	16 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ... ..	25 1/2	26	24 1/2
<b>Course of Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	13 1/2	14 to 13 1/2	12 to 12 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ... ..	16 to 15 1/2	16 1/2 to 16	16 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ... ..	25 1/2 to 25 1/2	26 1/2 to 26	24 1/2

**Imports and Exports.**

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

Description.	Month ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with December, 1904.		Twelve months ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
<b>Sheep and Lambs' Wool</b>								
Imports (less Re-Exports)	26,224	- 1,540	+ 4,949	338,606	+ 28,643	+ 23,677		
Exports	2,746	- 3,358	- 276	35,238	- 2,620	- 712		
<b>Yarn:—</b>								
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.								
Woolen ... ..	191	- 82	+ 35	2,119	- 171	+ 112		
Worsted ... ..	3,857	- 357	- 944	47,466	- 4,622	- 10,331		
Alpaca and Mohair	1,095	- 123	+ 107	14,466	+ 1,520	+ 1,137		
Total ... ..	5,143	- 562	- 1,016	64,051	- 3,273	- 9,082		
<b>Piece Goods:</b>								
Woolen ... ..	6,685	- 496	+ 1,812	72,293	+ 5,172	+ 21,562		
Worsted ... ..	10,825	- 7	+ 326	106,543	+ 2,612	+ 117		
Total ... ..	17,510	- 503	+ 2,138	178,836	+ 7,784	+ 21,679		

Compared with a month ago, there was a general improvement in employment, which was reported as good in Belfast and Ulster. In Dunfermline a further improvement was shown, all mills being on full time. Compared with a year ago, all districts showed an improvement.

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	Month ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with December, 1904.		Twelve months ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
	Imports:							
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) Tons	7,437	- 1,283	- 751	90,098	+ 15,181	- 4,603		
Exports:								
Linen Yarn 100 Lbs.	12,277	- 598	- 1,028	146,907	- 598	+ 6,003		
Linen Piece Goods 100 Yds.	181,487	+ 6,019	+ 30,974	1,833,942	+ 216,310	+ 284,473		

**JUTE TRADE.**

(Based on 71 Returns: 66 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was reported as fairly good, and about the same as a month ago. Better supplies of raw material have been obtained, but the price remains very high.

The number of workpeople employed in the last full week in December, by firms making Returns, was 27,214, the same as in November, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. upon the number employed by the same firms in December, 1904. Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns (which includes a return from Ireland) 22,668, or 83.3 per cent., were employed in Dundee.

Firms employing 21,527 workpeople supplied particulars of the wages paid, as well as numbers employed, in the last full week of December, 1905. From these Returns it appears that, compared with the previous month, the number employed and amount of wages paid showed very little change, while compared with December, 1904, there was a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The following Table summarises these Returns:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	Number employed in last full week of Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in last full week of Dec., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
					Month ago.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Preparing ... ..	4,646	- 0.4	2,921	+ 0.9	- 1.0
Spinning ... ..	5,936	+ 1.0	3,396	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Weaving ... ..	7,071	+ 0.3	4,836	+ 1.3	- 0.5
Other ... ..	2,241	+ 0.1	2,212	...	- 1.5
Departments not specified	1,633	- 1.9	1,152	- 1.0	- 4.0
Total ... ..	21,527	+ 0.1	14,517	+ 0.7	- 1.1

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

The quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated were as under:—

Description.	Month ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with December, 1904.		Twelve months ended Dec. 31st, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
	Imports:							
Jute ... .. Tons	68,045	+ 8,874	+ 4,041	336,855	+ 30,422	+ 96,765		
Exports:								
Jute Yarn 100 Lbs.	49,314	+ 5,601	+ 1,659	462,129	+ 2,646	- 7,998		
Jute Piece Goods 100 Yds.	139,255	- 22,118	- 80,314	1,793,905	- 266,410	- 405,838		

\* Including 7 returns from England.

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on 81 Returns—78 from Employers and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago.

**Number of Workpeople.**

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of December was 10,882, an increase upon the numbers employed by the same firms of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Little change is shown in the numbers employed in the different departments compared with a month ago. All departments showed an increase compared with a year ago.

As compared with a month ago the figures show an increase in the number employed in the Eastern Counties. Little change is shown in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, while a decrease is shown in the Macclesfield district. Compared with a year ago marked increases appear in the Macclesfield and "Other" districts.

Districts.	Number employed in Dec., 1905, by firms making Returns.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lancashire and W. Riding of York	3,629	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	3,005	- 1.5	+ 4.6
Leek	455	- 1.3	- 0.2
Eastern Counties	2,063	+ 3.0	- 0.7
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,730	+ 0.5	+ 8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,882</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 2.6</b>

**Number of Spindles and Looms.**

The number of spindles returned, by the firms making returns, as working in December shows an increase compared with a month ago. Both spindles and looms show an increase compared with a year ago.

Spindles and Looms.	Number of Spindles and Looms working in last week of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Dec., 1905.	Nov., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing Spindles	101,526	96,555	99,007	+ 5.1	+ 2.5
Spinning Spindles	134,828	134,552	131,389	+ 0.2	+ 2.6
Looms	4,617	4,655	4,529	- 0.8	+ 1.9

As compared with a month ago, the number of throwing and spinning spindles working increased in the Eastern Counties, and showed little difference in other districts. There was a decrease in the number of looms working in the Macclesfield district. Compared with a year ago an increase took place in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, and in the Eastern Counties, while a decrease in the number of throwing spindles occurred in the Macclesfield district.

**Imports and Exports.**

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

Description.	Month ended Dec. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with December,		Twelve Months ended Dec. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
<b>Imports:—</b>						
Raw Silk	44,654	- 70,825	- 42,080	1,160,265	- 177,314	+ 50,335
Thrown Silk	42,364	- 1,524	+ 2,860	538,787	- 8,326	- 6,151
Spun Silk Yarn	31,731	- 1,883	+ 16,834	340,063	+ 117,879	+ 222,324
<b>Exports:—</b>						
Thrown Silk, Twist & Yarn	93,203*	+ 10,384	+ 24,772	840,802	+ 257,962	+ 105,108
Silk Broad-stuffs	588,877	- 162,537	+ 132,505	6,729,273	+ 1,806,780	+ 1,026,190

\* Yarn, 92,702 lbs.

† Yarn, 825,631 lbs.

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 128 Returns—123 from Employers, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued fairly good, and showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago; it was much better than a year ago.

Firms employing 17,912 workpeople, and paying £13,079 in wages on the last pay-day before Christmas, 1905, made Returns, which are summarised in the Table below. From these it appears that there was a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 6.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Leicester employment was only fair, but much better than a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough it continued good. In Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was reported as good. In Scotland employment was good and much better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages on last pay-day before Christmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with A month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day before Christmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with A month ago.
Leicester	8,669	- 1.2	£ 6,856	+ 7.2
Leicester Country District	2,958	- 0.9	2,373	- 0.4
Notts. and Derbyshire	2,427	+ 1.4	1,826	+ 4.2
Scotland	2,774	+ 2.0	1,682	- 1.5
Other Parts of United Kingdom	1,084	+ 0.8	612	+ 2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,912</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>13,079</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

**Lace Trade.**

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

EMPLOYMENT was fair in England, and good in Scotland; it was generally better than a month ago and a year ago. In Nottingham it was, on the whole, better than a month ago and a year ago; it was fair in the curtain and levers sections; good in the plain net branch. At Beeston it showed a slight improvement. At Ilkeston employment was more regular, and was better than a year ago. Employment was good at Glasgow and Newmilns, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

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

(Based on 15 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations; 4 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

**Woolen and Worsted Dyers.**—Employment in the West Riding was on the whole moderate. The Trade Union dyers reported an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago; about two-fifths of their members worked short time, and about one-third worked overtime.

**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

**Calico Printers, etc.**—Employment was reported as fair at Manchester and New Mills; at both places it showed little change compared with a year ago; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it continued quiet. At Glasgow it was reported as fairly good with calico printers, as good with engravers to calico printers; with block printers it was bad, and worse than a month ago.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.**—At Leicester employment showed a further slight improvement, and was moderate. At Hinckley it was fairly good; at Loughborough an improvement was shown as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Nottingham and Basford was reported as good with silk dyers and bleachers, moderate with lace dyers, improved with hosiery trimmers; it was generally better than a year ago.

\* The figures given in this article for the three periods are strictly comparable, as the returns for December, 1905, also give the figures for November, 1905, and December, 1904. The returns do not cover the whole trade in any month, but a sufficiently large sample to indicate the state of the industry.

**Calenderers, etc.**—In Glasgow employment was good, with a considerable amount of overtime; it was better than a month ago and a year ago. In Dundee it was quiet in the finishing department, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on 140 Returns—112 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch showed a marked seasonal decline, and was bad; it was about the same as a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

**London.**—Employment showed a marked seasonal decline, and was about the same as a year ago.

Firms paying £10,592 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended December 23rd, showed a decrease of 14.0 per cent. in the amount paid compared with the four weeks ended November 25th, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. on the corresponding period a year ago.

**Other Centres.**—Employment in Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Belfast was reported as bad.

**Ready-made Branch.**

**London.**—Employment continued moderate, and was rather better than a year ago.

**Leeds.**—Employment during the month was moderate, and was better than a year ago. According to Returns received from firms employing over 8,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment before Christmas was good with firms employing 47 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 45 per cent., and bad with firms employing 8 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 40 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 15 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 45 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 7.8 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 16 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 6 per cent. as worse.

The Trade Union operatives reported a considerable decline in the number unemployed, compared with a year ago, but several firms were on short time at the end of the month.

**Other Centres.**—In Manchester employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago. In Bristol employment was irregular, with most factories working short time; but it was on the whole better than a year ago. At Stroud employment was good. At Norwich employment showed a decline; at Ipswich and Colchester it was dull. In Glasgow employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago; the Trade Union cutters reported it as fair.

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on 596 Returns—582 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 4 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair, being better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

The number employed in the week ended December 23rd by 582 firms making Returns was 76,015, an increase of 0.8 per cent., compared with a month ago, and of 5.0 per cent., compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 485 firms, employing 65,209 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. These Returns showed an increase of 6.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 12.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago every district showed an improvement in the amount of wages paid except the Bristol and Manchester districts, the improvement being especially marked in Kingswood and Leicester.

Compared with a year ago every district showed an improvement in the amount of wages paid except the Birmingham district. The improvement was greatest in the Bristol, Kettering, Norwich, Kingswood, Leicester country, and London districts.

The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as still quiet in London; as improving continuously throughout Leicestershire and Northamptonshire; as fairly good in Stafford, with three firms working overtime; as moderate in Norwich and good in Ipswich; as fair at Kingswood; as good at Kendal, Bishop Auckland and Chesterfield, fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Mansfield, bad at Birmingham, Manchester, and Nottingham. In Scotland it was reported as fair at Maybole and Kilmarnock, and as improving at Glasgow.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed during last week before Xmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week in Nov., 1905.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day before Xmas, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week in Nov., 1905.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>				
London	2,918	- 2.2	£ 3,650	+ 5.3
Leicester	13,451	+ 2.3	14,023	+ 11.4
Leicester Country District	3,391	+ 0.9	3,187	+ 5.5
Northampton	9,146	+ 1.3	8,811	+ 7.7
Northampton Country District	8,987	+ 0.3	8,542	+ 4.3
Kettering	3,023	+ 1.8	3,126	+ 7.0
Stafford & District	2,335	+ 2.1	2,090	+ 6.7
Norwich & District	4,044	+ 1.0	3,496	+ 7.6
Bristol & District	1,861	- 2.0	1,686	- 3.8
Kingswood	2,576	+ 0.1	3,105	+ 13.2
Leeds & District	2,693	- 0.1	2,925	+ 11.0
Manchester & District	2,060	...	1,940	- 2.9
Birmingham & District	900	+ 0.9	748	+ 6.1
Other parts of England and Wales	3,627	+ 2.5	2,712	+ 7.0
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>60,622</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>60,041</b>	<b>+ 7.3</b>
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>4,058</b>	<b>- 0.9</b>	<b>4,050</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<b>65,209</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>64,511</b>	<b>+ 6.8</b>

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported during December, 1905, and the twelve months ended 1905, together with the increases or decreases, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1904 and 1903:—

	Month ended Dec. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with December,		Twelve months ended Dec. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
<b>Imports</b>						
Dozen pairs	14,918	+ 797	- 1,928	214,639	+ 6,737	- 11,527
Value	59,650	+ 4,484	- 3,301	833,821	+ 59,499	- 106,601
<b>Re-Exports</b>						
Dozen pairs	1,100	+ 155	- 513	14,696	+ 3,284	- 7,514
Value	3,364	+ 859	- 1,085	39,772	+ 9,898	- 19,584
<b>Exports (British and Irish)</b>						
Dozen pairs	63,755	- 821	+ 6,124	773,949	+ 98,280	+ 91
Value	158,035	+ 4,982	+ 21,733	1,882,294	+ 300,452	+ 36,914

**HAT TRADE.**

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

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 15.8, compared with 15.4 at the end of November and 14.0 a year ago. In London employment was still slack, and rather worse than a month ago; it showed little change compared with a year ago. In Denton employment was bad and worse than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 7.9, compared with 7.2 at the end of November, and 4.0 a year ago. Employment generally was bad, except in Stockport, where it was reported as good, and better than a year ago.

**OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.**

(Based on 225 Returns—190 from Employers; 10 from Local Correspondents; and 25 from other sources.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed a general seasonal decline in the dressmaking, blouse and millinery trades; it was better than a year ago. Firms employing 6,636 workpeople in the dressmaking, blouse, and millinery

trades in the week ended December 23rd employed 580 less than a month ago, and 170 more than a year ago. Employment in the shirt and collar trade was moderate, and worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the corset trade it continued moderate, and was about the same as a year ago.

**Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,407 dressmakers in the week ended 23rd December showed a decrease of 10·2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2·9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate. Court dressmakers, employing 1,467 workpeople, showed a decrease of 9·9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 8·8 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms employing 2,656 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 4·6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1·4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was much the same as a year ago. Firms employing 1,106 milliners showed a decrease of 10·6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5·4 per cent. compared with a year ago; the improvement in numbers compared with a year ago was in the wholesale branch, the retail branch showing a decline.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a decrease in the demand for dressmakers and milliners, and a decrease in the supply compared with a month ago and a year ago; the supply was greater than the demand.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was dull and worse than a month ago; it was a little better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was moderate and much the same as a year ago. Firms employing 1,514 workpeople in the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 4·6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,091 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) and paying £3,760 in wages during the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 5·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5·9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was moderate in London and Londonderry, fair in Glasgow and Belfast, good in Manchester.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,683 workpeople in their factories in the week ended December 23rd showed a decrease of 0·5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3·7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was reported as moderate during the month. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 17 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 61 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 22 per cent. as worse.

#### OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 42 Returns—1 from an Employers' Association, 26 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December was still quiet on the whole, but showed some improvement on the previous month. Compared with a year ago it was considerably better. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,569 had 6·1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 6·8 per cent. in November, and 11·9 per cent. in December, 1904.

**Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.**—Employment was quiet on the whole, but better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago.

**Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.**—Employment continued quiet, with short time. Horse collar makers generally continued slack.

**Miscellaneous Leather Workers.**—Employment with portmanteau and trunk makers in London continued fair. With fancy leather workers it was also fair, and better than in November.

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

(Based on 431 Returns—159 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 252 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fairly good, and better on the whole than a year ago.

##### PAPER TRADES.

In the *machine* trade employment remained fairly good in England and good in Scotland, where it was reported as better than a year ago. In the *hand-made* trade employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last full week of Dec., 1905, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties ... ..	6,295	- 0·6	+ 0·3
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ...	2,905	- 1·0	...
Southern Counties ... ..	6,485	- 0·4	+ 1·7
Scotland ... ..	4,990	- 0·7	+ 0·6
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	20,655	- 0·6	+ 0·8
Hand-made Paper ... ..	1,076	+ 1·2	+ 2·2
Total ... ..	21,731	- 0·5	+ 0·8

Returns received from firms employing 21,731 workpeople at the end of December showed that there was a decrease of 0·5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed as compared with November, and an increase of 0·8 per cent. as compared with December, 1904.

Trade Unions in the *machine* trade with 1,700 members had 2·5 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, against 2·8 a month ago and 1·8 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made* trade Trade Unions with 620 members had 5·5 per cent. unemployed, against 5·7 in November, 1905, and 6·6 in December, 1904.

##### PRINTING TRADES.

Employment with *letterpress printers* remained fairly good during December. Trade Unions with 40,054 members had 4·8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, against 3·0 per cent. in November, and 4·7 in December, 1904. The increase in the percentage unemployed as compared with November occurred chiefly in London, where, however, the principal trade unions reported employment as fairly good, and not worse than in November. In the Provinces overtime was reported as having been worked.

In the *lithographic* trade there was some decline compared with a month ago and a slight improvement compared with a year ago. Trade Unions of lithographic artists and printers with 6,443 members having 5·0 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4·1 a month ago, and 5·4 in December, 1904.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1905 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1905.	Nov., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	18,643	5·8	2·9	5·2	+ 2·9	+ 0·6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire ...	5,222	4·5	2·4	5·4	+ 2·1	- 0·9
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,478	4·8	5·2	6·2	- 0·4	- 1·4
East Midland and Eastern Counties ...	2,245	3·9	2·3	3·9	+ 1·3	- 0·3
West Midlands ... ..	2,329	3·5	3·3	5·3	...	- 1·8
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales ... ..	3,664	1·9	1·6	2·5	+ 0·3	- 0·6
Scotland ... ..	5,479	3·4	2·5	2·8	+ 0·9	+ 0·6
Ireland ... ..	2,437	6·8	6·1	5·5	+ 0·7	+ 1·3
United Kingdom ...	46,497	4·8	3·2	4·8	+ 1·6	...

London.—Employment remained fairly good generally during December, but at the end of the month the number of unemployed compositors and machine-minders showed an increase as compared with the end of November. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 16,719 members had 5·8 per cent. unemployed, as against 2·7 in November, and 5·0 per cent. in December, 1904. In the lithographic trade employment showed some decline as compared with a month ago.

**Other Centres.**—In Edinburgh the compositors reported employment as having improved at the end of the month; with press and machinemen employment was good, with overtime, and better than a year ago. At Glasgow overtime was worked. In other principal towns employment with letterpress printers was fairly good generally, and better than in November, overtime being frequently worked. The improvement was partly due to preparations for the general election. With lithographic printers employment was quiet generally, and showed some decline compared with a month ago.

##### BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was fairly good, and better than a year ago, but showed a decline in London as compared with November.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec., 1905, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Dec., 1905.	Nov., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	3,503	4·4	1·9	6·4	+ 2·5	- 2·0
Other Districts ... ..	3,307	2·4	3·2	3·3	- 0·8	- 0·9
United Kingdom ...	6,870	3·4	2·5	5·0	+ 0·9	- 1·6

In London employment was fairly good, overtime being worked. At Edinburgh every Trade Union bookbinder was in employment, and overtime was general. At Glasgow, Manchester and Leeds employment was better than a month ago and a year ago; but at Liverpool and Dublin it was not so good as in December, 1904.

#### BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1906 Returns—150 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,700 from Trade Unions and 56 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades continued dull in December. It showed no marked change as compared with a month or year ago.

Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 59 London employers showed that in the last week of December they paid wages to 9,399 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 9,931 in November and 10,672 in December, 1904. The state of employment was much the same as in the previous month, but compared unfavourably with a year ago. Bad weather interfered somewhat with outdoor work.

Returns were received from Employers' Associations for 84 districts outside London. In the great majority of districts there was little alteration. The following are the more important towns in which employment showed some improvement:—Ashton, Blackpool, Chester, Ipswich, Bath, and Portsmouth. In Bradford, Halifax, Birmingham, Norwich, Croydon, Newport, and Swansea there was some decline; and in the remaining districts there was little alteration. Compared with a year ago, employment was reported worse in 39 of the districts; in 37 it was about the same, and in 8, including Oldham, Bury, and Blackpool and the Potteries, it was better.

The following information is based on returns from 1,676 branches of 21 Trade Unions, covering 110,670 workpeople.

With *bricklayers* employment on the whole was about the same as a year ago. The highest proportions of

unemployed in December were shown in London and the Northern Counties; the proportions for Scotland, the East Midlands and Yorkshire were considerably less. Employment was bad generally, but was fair at Glasgow, Middlesbrough, Burslem, Chesterfield and Rotherham, and moderate at Stockton, St. Helen's and Dublin.

Employment with *stonemasons* was, on the whole, about the same as a month and a year ago. The proportion of unemployed Trade Union members was below the average for the whole country in the Eastern, Southern and Western Counties, and considerably above it in Yorkshire and the Midlands. Employment was reported moderate or fair at Sunderland, Bury, Salford, Huddersfield, Nottingham, Norwich, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Dublin, and Cork. At Aberdeen it was bad with granite masons, and much worse than a year ago.

With *carpenters* and *joiners* employment, except in Wales and Monmouth, was better than a year ago, the greatest improvement being shown in Lancashire and Cheshire, the East Midlands and Ireland. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 9·6, as compared with 8·3 in November, and 11·5 in December, 1904. Employment was still bad generally; but was fair or moderate at Oldham, Stockport, St. Helen's, Chester, Derby, and Rugby.

With *slaters* and *tilers* employment was rather better than a year ago. It was fairly good in the Tyne district and at Leicester, fair at Bolton and Dundee; elsewhere it was dull on the whole.

In the case of *plumbers* the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 10·5 at the end of December, as compared with 11·1 in November, and 10·2 in December, 1904. The Returns indicate considerable improvement in Scotland, compared with a month ago, and in Ireland compared with a year ago. Generally, employment was bad, but it was fair in the Tees district, moderate at Sunderland, Blackburn, Bolton, Birmingham, Swansea and Dublin, good at Paisley.

With *plasterers* employment was dull generally, but it was fair at Oldham, Cheltenham, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dublin. An improvement was reported in Scotland.

Employment with *painters* showed little change. A very large proportion were unemployed, and much short time was worked, as is usual at this season.

With *labourers* employment was moderate at Hartlepool and Nottingham. Elsewhere it was dull generally, the proportion of Trade Union members returned as unemployed being greatest in the London district.

#### FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 146 Returns: 4 from Employers' Associations, 115 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during December was generally slack. It was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades unemployed at the end of December was 7·1, compared with 5·4 at the end of November, 1905, and 9·8 at the end of December, 1904.

##### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was dull, and worse than a month ago. It was, however, much better than a year ago. Trade Unions, with a membership of 4,708, showed 238 (or 5·1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4·5 per cent. at the end of November, 1905, and 8·0 per cent. at the end of December, 1904. Employment was reported as fair in the Tees district and at Manchester, Lincoln, Gloucester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Belfast and Cork; as moderate at Bristol and Dundee; and as improving in the Shields district and at Birmingham.

**Furnishing Trades.**

In the furnishing trades employment continued slack, but was better than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 12,907, showed 1,281 (or 9.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, compared with 7.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1905, and 11.8 per cent. at the end of December, 1904.

**Coopers.**

Employment with coopers was slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. It continued good at Fraserburgh and Peterhead, and fair at Manchester and Glasgow.

**Coachbuilding.**

In the coachbuilding industry employment continued quiet, and was not so good as a month ago, but showed an improvement compared with a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 8,339, reported 441 (or 5.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4.4 per cent. at the end of November, 1905, and 7.6 per cent. at the end of December, 1904.

**Miscellaneous.**

**Brushmakers.**—Employment with brushmakers continued fair, but was much interrupted by the Christmas holidays; it was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,668 reported 167 (or 10.0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 4.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1905, and 20.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1904.

**Other Trades.**—With packing-case makers employment continued fair; with basket makers an improvement was shown on the previous month.

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

(Based on 63 Returns: 11 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 24 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Glass trades continued moderate on the whole, but was considerably better than a year ago. In the Pottery trades it was moderate and slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. It was slack in the Brick and Tile trades, and showed little change compared with November.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment with glass bottle-makers was moderate on the whole, and about the same as a month ago, but considerably better than a year ago. It continued good at Glasgow, but at Mexbro, Barnsley, and Dublin it was bad. Makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham were busy.

Employment with flint-glass makers was good at Stourbridge, Birmingham, Barnsley and Glasgow, but bad at Warrington and Edinburgh. With flint-glass cutters it continued fair generally, and was better than a year ago. Employment with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens continued good. It continued slack with pressed glass makers in the Tyne and Wear district, with much short time, and fair with plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham. With glass blowers in London employment was good.

**Pottery Trades.**—In Staffordshire employment on the whole was moderate, and rather worse than a month ago, being somewhat affected by stocktaking; it was generally better than a year ago. In the South Yorkshire and River Aire district it was fair, and better than the previous month and last year. In the Woodville district employment was improving in the sanitary ware branch, and quiet with conduit and chimney pipe makers. At Newcastle-on-Tyne and in North and South Devon it continued fair.

In Scotland employment generally was moderate, but better than a year ago. At Glasgow it continued bad with tobacco-pipe makers, but was fair with white hollowware potters.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment generally was very slack, with much short time, and about the same as a month ago. At Exeter, however, employment was good, and it was fair in South Staffordshire and South Wales.

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.**

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

EMPLOYMENT, on the whole, was regular. Little or no interruption was caused by the weather, which was generally mild and dry, but in certain districts there was only an occasional demand for day labourers, and a consequent irregularity of employment for such men. The supply of this class of labour was generally somewhat in excess of the demand: In some districts there was a scarcity of men for permanent situations.

Of the Returns received 176 gave a comparative statement of the rates of weekly cash wages paid to ordinary agricultural labourers in December, 1905 and 1904. In the case of 153 Returns the rates are the same for both periods, while a downward tendency is shown in 18 returns, and an upward tendency in 5 Returns.

**Northern Counties.**—Employment in Northumberland and Cumberland suffered little interruption from the weather, but there was little demand for extra labour on account of the forward state of farm work. In Westmorland and Lancashire employment was regular, and the supply of and demand for extra labour were about equal. Employment was irregular in Yorkshire, partly on account of the generally advanced state of work, and partly on account of the poor turnip crop. The supply of both permanent and casual labour was in excess of the demand.

**Midland Counties.**—In Cheshire and Derbyshire some day labourers lost time on account of the small amount of work offering. A scarcity of indoor farm servants is reported from the Tarvin Union of Cheshire. Employment was fairly regular in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. The supply of day labourers was in excess of the demand in Leicestershire. Employment was regular in Staffordshire and Shropshire. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire employment of day labourers was somewhat irregular, the supply being generally greater than the demand. In Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire employment was fairly regular. The supply of casual or day labourers somewhat exceeded the demand in both counties, but men for permanent situations were somewhat scarce in Oxfordshire. The demand for extra labour in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire was small, and was more than equalled by the supply.

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment was regular in Huntingdonshire. A scarcity of plough lads is reported in this county. In Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire employment of day labourers was fairly regular, but it was slightly interrupted by the weather in one or two districts. In Norfolk employment, on the whole, was fairly good. In Suffolk and Essex day labourers in certain districts were somewhat irregularly employed. The supply of this class of labour was somewhat in excess of the demand.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Farm labourers were well employed in Kent, only a few being in irregular employment. In Surrey employment was generally regular. Day labourers in Sussex were, on the whole, regularly employed. In some districts a number were employed on wood-cutting. Employment was regular in Hampshire. In some districts in both Sussex and Hampshire there was some scarcity of men for permanent situations. In Berkshire employment generally was regular, only a few men being in irregular work. There was but little irregularity of employment in Wiltshire. Employment was regular in Dorset, Somerset, and Herefordshire, in which counties the supply of labour was generally equal to the demand. In certain districts, however, men for permanent situations were scarce. In Gloucestershire the demand for extra labour was generally small, and in several districts employment was somewhat irregular. Employment was regular in Devonshire and Cornwall. The supply of extra labour in these counties was about equal to the demand, though in the Newton Abbot Union it is stated that there tends to be an over-supply of this class of labour owing to slackness in the local building trade. In both counties there was some scarcity of men for permanent situations.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 143 Returns—110 from Employers, 16 from Trade Unions, 9 from Local Correspondents, and 8 from other sources.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was moderate, showing a further improvement compared with a month ago.

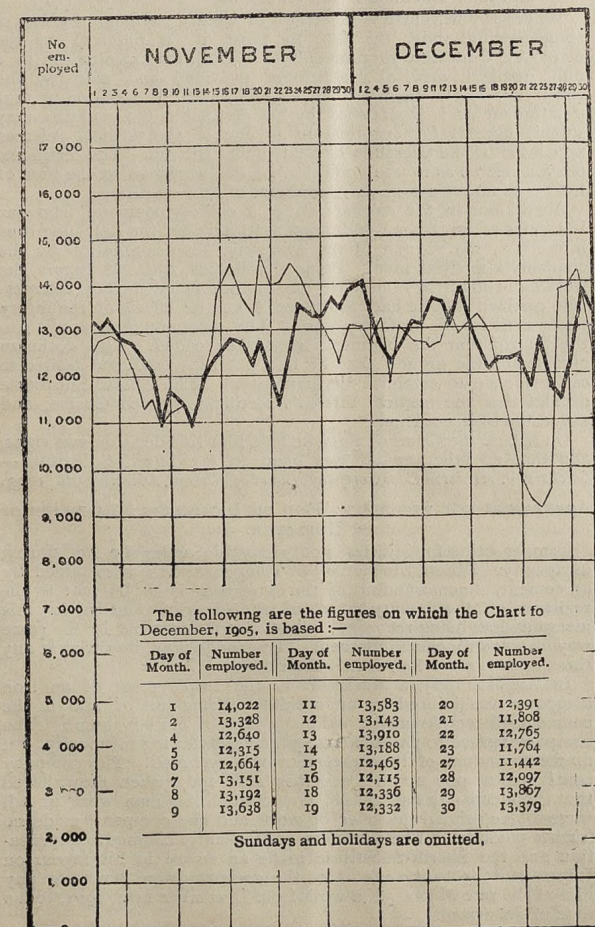
**London.\***—Employment generally remained moderate. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended December 30th was 12,926, an increase of 3.9 per cent. on a month ago and of 4.7 per cent. on a year ago.

The daily numbers in December ranged from 14,022 on the 1st to 11,442 on the 27th. During December, 1904, the numbers ranged from 9,162† on the 23rd to 14,295† on the 30th.

Period.	In Docks			At 108 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Dec 2nd	5,448	1,736	7,184	6,443	13,627
" " " 9th	4,955	1,592	6,547	6,386	12,933
" " " 16th	4,597	2,504	7,101	5,960	13,067
" " " 23rd	4,312	2,024	6,336	5,807	12,143
" " " 30th	4,499	2,576	7,075	5,621	12,696
Average for 5 weeks ended Dec. 30th	4,781	2,051	6,832	6,094	12,926
Average for Nov., 1905	4,297	1,929	6,226	6,280	12,506
Average for Dec., 1904	4,534†	1,884†	6,418†	5,926†	12,344†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 108 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of November and December, 1905. The corresponding curve for November and December 1904, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1905, and the thin curve to 1904.]



In Liverpool employment generally was better than a month ago. Dock labourers were well employed, and

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

employment was steady with quay and railway carters, and fair with Mersey flatmen.

**Other Ports.**—Employment, on the whole, continued fair. It was fair generally, and better than a month ago in South Wales, but at Cardiff there was slackness until the end of the month, when an improvement was shown. Employment was slack also at Leith, Aberdeen and Plymouth. At Grimsby it continued good.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN DECEMBER.**

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) showed that, during November, 32,004\* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 1,227 on the number shipped in December, 1904. The principal increases were at Glasgow and London. The most marked decrease was at the Tyne Ports.

During the year 1905, 440,198\* seamen were shipped, of whom 62,420 (or 14.2 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with 1904 the total number shipped shows an increase of 8,672. The greatest increases occurred at Liverpool, Glasgow, and London. The most marked decreases were at Southampton and Bristol.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
	December,		Twelve months ended December,	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>				
<b>East Coast.</b>				
Tyne Ports ...	2,509	2,144	- 365	33,793
Sunderland ...	497	485	- 12	5,000
Middlesbrough ...	130	207	+ 77	3,380
Hull ...	712	1,094	+ 382	13,109
Grimsby ...	31	49	+ 18	1,472
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>				
Bristol ...	641	677	+ 36	7,881
Newport, Mon. ...	679	671	- 8	9,849
Swansea ...	4,459	4,215	- 244	54,208
	457	332	- 125	5,423
<b>Other Ports.</b>				
Liverpool ...	10,800	10,079	+ 179	157,208
London ...	4,766	5,216	+ 450	71,089
Southampton ...	1,905	2,137	+ 232	25,720
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>				
Leith ...	311	354	+ 43	4,150
Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grange-mouth ...	132	163	+ 31	2,253
Glasgow ...	2,448	2,901	+ 453	34,486
<b>IRELAND.</b>				
Dublin ...	38	47	+ 9	837
Belfast ...	232	333	+ 101	2,609
Total ...	30,777	32,004	+ 1,227	431,526

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 19 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales, and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed during December showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value as compared with a year ago, as will be seen by the following Table:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Dec., 1905.	Dec., 1904.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	Cwts. 812,727	Cwts. 887,549	£ 580,779	£ 521,726
Scotland ...	204,249	306,340	119,963	108,455
Ireland ...	43,269	64,282	18,766	21,037
Total ...	1,060,245	1,258,171	719,508	651,218
Shell Fish ...			31,379	26,979
Total Value ...			750,887	678,197

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

From the Tyne, Blyth and Wear it is reported that fair catches of white fish were landed during the month, but only small catches of herrings.

At Hull employment continued good with fishermen, and was the same as a year ago. With fish dock labourers and fish curers it was fair. Compared with the previous month, it was the same with fish dock labourers, and better with fish curers, and compared with a year ago it was worse with fish dock labourers and the same with fish curers. Employment at Grimsby was good with all classes, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Yarmouth it continued good with all classes, and was the same as last year. Employment at Lowestoft was fair among fishermen, moderate with fish dock labourers, and bad with persons employed in fish curing.

Fishing from Brixham and Plymouth was light and irregular in the early part of the month, owing to bad weather, but improved later in the month. Large quantities of dog-fish were landed and sold at Plymouth, and fish packers and carters were consequently fairly busy. At Newlyn and St. Ives the catches of herrings were light generally. Fair catches were again made at Cardiff, Swansea, and Milford.

Employment in all branches continued good at Aberdeen, and was the same as a year ago. At Peterhead it continued good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. In all branches it was better than last year. At Fraserburgh employment was fair among fishermen, bad with fish dock labourers, and good with fish curers. Compared with a month ago and a year ago it was better with fishermen and fish curers, and the same with fish dock labourers. Employment at Macduff was fair among fishermen and fish curers, and better than the previous month and last year. At Dundee, Montrose and Arbroath it continued fair.

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

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: INFRACTION OF COLLIERY RULES.

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

A miner, in the employ of a colliery company, having drilled a shot hole, went to the powder box for a cartridge. Before opening the box he placed his lamp on the ground some six feet from the box. He then took out a cartridge and shut the box. Next, he replaced the lamp in his cap and proceeded to return to his work with the bare cartridge in his hand. As he was crawling through a low part of the road a spark from the lamp exploded the cartridge and his hand was injured. He claimed compensation. At the hearing before the Sheriff-Substitute, it was proved that in carrying the cartridge as he did he contravened an additional special rule made for the pit under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, which forbade a miner to have a lamp on his cap while carrying a cartridge not enclosed in a case. This additional special rule was exhibited in a glass case hung in the shed at the pithead. The miner knew of a rule forbidding a miner to have a lamp on his cap when taking powder out of a canister or charging a shot hole, but was not aware of the additional special rule. The Sheriff-Substitute was of opinion that the workman did not appreciate the danger he ran, and that his act did not amount to serious and wilful misconduct. He therefore made an award of compensation. On appeal the Court of Session held that if a workman breaks a colliery rule which has been properly posted, unless he can show some dominant reason for breaking the rule, the blame for any accident which occurs through breaking the rule rests on the workman. Here there was no such reason, and therefore the man was guilty of serious and wilful misconduct within the meaning of the Act and was not entitled to compensation.—*Dobson v. United Collieries, Ltd., Court of Session, December 16th, 1905.*

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION: LETTER OF LAW AGENT.

Proceedings to recover compensation under the Act are not maintainable unless the claim for compensation has been made within six months of the accident causing the injury, or in the case of a fatal accident within six months of the death. A workman was injured by an accident on August 16th, 1904. On September 20th, 1904, his law agent wrote to the workman's employer stating that he had been instructed to give formal notice of a claim for compensation under the Act in case proceedings

should be necessary. Proceedings were taken on August 4th, 1905, but objection was taken on the ground that no claim was made within six months of the accident. The Sheriff-Substitute held that the letter of September 20th, 1905, was a sufficient claim.

The Court of Session, however, overruled this decision, holding that the letter was not a claim, but merely an intimation of a claim, and that compensation must be refused.—*Maver v. Park, Court of Session, December 16th, 1905.*

AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION: ABILITY TO EARN AFTER ACCIDENT.

Where total or partial incapacity for work results from an injury, the maximum weekly compensation payable is fifty per cent. of the injured man's average weekly earnings during the twelve months previous to the accident. In fixing the amount of the weekly payment, the Act provides that regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident.

A miner in the employment of a colliery company was injured by an accident in March, 1900, to such an extent that one of his legs had to be amputated. His wages before the accident had averaged 36s. 8d. a week, and the company agreed to pay him compensation at the rate of 18s. 4d. a week. This was paid for some time, when the company ceased to pay on the ground that the man was able to do light work. Subsequently an application was made by the company for a review of the compensation. It was proved that the workman was earning 17s. a week as a night watchman. As the amount of his earnings, added to half the amount of his average earnings before the accident, did not equal the whole amount of his earnings before the accident, the Sheriff-Substitute decided that there was no sufficient ground for reducing the compensation, and awarded the man the same sum as before, namely, 18s. 4d. a week. A case was, however, stated for the opinion of the higher court. The Court of Session held that it was a fallacy to say that because 18s. 4d. was adequate compensation when the man was earning no wages, he was over-compensated when earning 17s. a week; for the 18s. 4d. was not full compensation, but merely the highest sum allowed by the Act. It was quite within the discretion of the Sheriff-Substitute to find that, although the man was in receipt of wages, still he was not fully compensated, because the two payments together did not amount to his earnings before the accident. The compensation and the wages earned must not together exceed the former earnings. So long as that were so, the court would not interfere with the discretion of the Sheriff-Substitute. The award, therefore, was approved.—*Bryson v. Dunn & Stephen, Ltd., Court of Session, December 14th, 1905.*

MEDICAL REFEREE: CONCLUSIVENESS OF CERTIFICATE.

Where any workman is in receipt of weekly payments by way of compensation under the Act, he must, if so required by the employer, from time to time submit himself for examination by a duly qualified medical practitioner provided and paid by the employer; but if the workman objects to an examination by that practitioner or is dissatisfied by his certificate, the workman may submit himself for examination to one of the medical referees appointed by the Secretary of State under the Act. The certificate of such referee as to the condition of the workman at the time of the examination is conclusive evidence of that condition.

A workman in the employment of a colliery company, who was in receipt of 12s. 6d. a week compensation under the Act, submitted himself, at the request of the company, for examination by the company's medical man. Being dissatisfied with his report, the workman submitted himself to one of the official medical referees, who certified that he had recovered from the effects of the injury and was fit for his ordinary work. The company then applied to the Sheriff that the payments should be ended. The workman objected on the ground that he had not recovered, and desired to call evidence to establish his contention. The Sheriff-Substitute decided that the medical referee's certificate was conclusive, and ended the compensation.

On appeal the Court of Session held that this decision was right, and that no other course was open to the Sheriff-Substitute.—*Gilchrist v. Arniston Coal Company, Court of Session, December 6th, 1905.*

AGREEMENT NOT RECORDED: END OF INCAPACITY: LIABILITY OF EMPLOYER.

Compensation for injuries is only payable under the Act during incapacity. Where the amount of compensation is ascertained by agreement, a memorandum of the agreement is to be sent to the registrar of the county court of the district, and upon this memorandum being recorded, it becomes enforceable in the same way as a county court judgment. The judge may, however, at any time, upon application, rectify the register.

In August, 1903, a workman in the employment of an iron company was injured by an accident arising out of, and in the course of the employment, and lost a joint of his left thumb. The company agreed to pay him 12s. 5d. a week during incapacity, but no memorandum of the agreement was recorded. The company continued to pay up to December 14th, 1903, when they alleged that the incapacity had ceased and offered the man work at full wages. He refused the offer of work and the company made no further payment. The workman subsequently claimed compensation and the Sheriff-Substitute made an award in his favour on July 12th, 1905, to the effect that the company were bound to pay him at the rate of 12s. 5d. a week from December 14th, 1903, to the date of the award.

On appeal the Court of Session set this award aside, holding that as the agreement had not been recorded there was no obligation upon the employers to continue payments for a single day after the incapacity had ceased.—*Tigue v. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Court of Session, December 6th, 1905.*

RECORDING AGREEMENT: VARIATION OF AGREEMENT.

A miner injured in an accident agreed with his employers in September, 1904, for compensation to be paid him at the rate of 16s. 6d. a week. This agreement was duly recorded. He subsequently agreed with his employers that the weekly payments should be reduced to 17s. 6d. This reduced sum not being paid, the workman sought to charge the employers with the amount in arrear at the reduced rate. The employers applied to the Court of Session for a suspension of the charge. The Judge held that each agreement for compensation or for variation of compensation is a separate agreement and to be binding in law must be recorded. If an agreement to vary is entered into and duly recorded, the previous agreement ceases to be operative. Until the agreement to vary is recorded, the previous agreement stands, and is the only agreement which is binding in law. Therefore in this case there could not be a charge upon the agreement to vary, as that agreement had no statutory force, and therefore the charge must be suspended.—*Davidson v. Fife Coal Co., Ltd., Court of Session, December 13th, 1905.*

(2) Merchant Shipping Acts.

NAVAL COURT: FINALITY OF DECISION: FORFEITURE OF SEAMAN'S WAGES AT FOREIGN PORT.

By the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, a 'Naval Court' may be summoned by any officer in command of any of His Majesty's ships on a foreign station (or in the absence of such officer by any consular officer), whenever a complaint which appears to that officer to require immediate investigation is made to him by the master of any British ship, or by a certificated mate, or by any one or more of the seamen belonging to any such ship. Amongst the various powers given to this court, after hearing and investigating a case, are the powers of discharging a seaman from his ship, and of ordering the wages of a seaman so discharged or any part of his wages to be forfeited. It is further provided that all orders duly made by a Naval Court under the powers given to it by the Act shall, in any subsequent legal proceedings, be conclusive as to the rights of the parties.

A crew shipped in the United Kingdom under articles for a voyage of three years for any ports within certain limits, which included Japan, and back to a final port of discharge in the United Kingdom. The vessel arrived at Port Arthur in January, 1904, during the siege, and there discharged a cargo of coals. She got away from Port Arthur, and proceeded to Moji in Japan, and thence to Hong-Kong. At Hong-Kong she was chartered by a Japanese company to carry cargo and passengers to certain parts of the world, including Japanese ports. It was provided by the charter-party that the ship should not be used to carry troops or contraband, and that she should fly at her mainmast head during her stay in port any private signal or home flag of the charterers. Under this charter she was ordered to go to Moji, and thence to Yokohama. On arriving at Yokohama certain of the crew objected to continuing the voyage on the ground that the ship was carrying contraband, and refused to work until some arrangements were made that, in the event of capture, they should be indemnified and their families compensated and cared for. While this matter was under discussion these members of the crew refused to work, but they did not in any other way refuse to discharge their duty. Upon the question raised by the men a Naval Court was summoned. It was alleged by the men at the hearing that the ship was carrying railway material which Russia had declared to be contraband of war. The court, after hearing evidence, decided that the men were guilty of continued wilful neglect of duty without good or sufficient cause. The judgment further stated that the sailors' plea that the carrying of contraband vitiated the agreement with them was without force, the voyage remaining an ordinary commercial venture, and the whole risk and responsibility being borne by the ship. The court further discharged the objecting seamen from the ship and forfeited their wages.

On returning to England one of these seamen sued the owners of the ship in the High Court to recover wages due to him, the action being considered a test case to decide also the rights of the other men in the same position. At the trial there was a contradiction of evidence as to whether railway material and other contraband was being shipped at Yokohama. The main contention, however, was on the question whether, in view of the decision of the Naval Court, the plaintiff had any right to maintain the action in England. The judge held that the Naval Court was a British court; that its orders had the effect of judgments; that its proceedings were required to be regular and were regular in this case; and that its decisions were final and conclusive between the parties. The judge also found that, whatever might have been the true facts, the decision of the Naval Court was justified on the evidence before it. The action was therefore dismissed.—*Hutton v. Ras S.S. Company, King's Bench Division, December 4th, 1905.*

CARRYING CONTRABAND: OBLIGATION ON CREW TO RUN RISK.

A seaman in April, 1904, signed articles for a voyage on a steamship not to exceed three years, to proceed to Hong-Kong and thereafter to any ports between the limits of 75 deg. north and 60 deg. south latitude. The wages were to be £4 a month. The ship loaded a cargo of coal at Cardiff and sailed therewith to Hong-Kong. The cargo was intended for the Japanese port of Sasebo as the master knew, but of this fact the crew were not made aware. Coal had been declared contraband of war by Russia. On arrival at Hong-Kong in July the crew discovered that the port of destination was Sasebo. They thereupon refused to proceed, although Sasebo was a port within the limits mentioned in the articles. An alteration in the agreement was then made, in accordance with the Act, between the master and the crew, by which it was agreed that the crew should be "left at Hong-Kong by mutual consent until the ship returned from Japan, their wages in the meantime to run on until they rejoin the ship

again." The crew were also informed by the master that the dispute should be settled by the authorities at the final port of discharge. The ship then proceeded to Sasebo with a Chinese crew and returned safely in four weeks to Hong-Kong. The crew then rejoined and the voyage terminated in March, 1905, at Cardiff. The seaman then demanded £4, a month's wages, and £2 4s. expenses incurred during the stay at Hong-Kong. On his demand being refused he took proceedings against the master for the amount in the Police Court. The magistrate gave judgment for the seaman for the sum claimed, but stated a case for the opinion of the High Court as to the rights of the parties. The court affirmed the decision of the magistrate, holding that as the voyage involved risks which the seaman had not agreed to undertake, and which had been concealed from him when he signed the articles, he was not bound to proceed. There had, therefore, been no unlawful refusal by the seaman to perform his duty, and the amount claimed was payable to him.—*Sibery v. Connelly, King's Bench Division, December 19th, 1905.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.\*

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

As compared with a month ago, no change in price was recorded at any of the towns included in the Table except Dublin, where a reduction of ½d. per 4 lbs. took place.

As compared with a year ago, the price per 4 lbs. is lower by ½d. in five towns in England and Wales; two in Scotland; and two in Ireland. The price in London shows a decrease of ¼d. per 4 lbs. At Newcastle and Gateshead the price is higher by ½d. per 4 lbs.; while at the remaining 15 towns the price is the same as at the beginning of January, 1905.

Place.	Present Price (Jan. 1st, 1906).	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't. per 4 lbs.
London	4½ & 5	...	- ½	Oct. '05	- ½
Birmingham	4½ to 5½	...	...	Aug. '04	- ½
Bolton	5	...	...	...	...
Bristol	5	...	- ½	Oct. '05	- ½
Cardiff	5½	...	...	...	...
Derby	4½ & 5	...	- ½	Feb. '05	- ½
Gateshead	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Nov. '05	+ ½
Huddersfield	5	...	...	...	...
Hull	4½ to 5½	...	...	Feb. '04	+ ½
Ipswich	5½	...	...	Aug. '03	+ ½
Leicester	4½	...	...	...	...
Liverpool	5	...	...	June '03	+ ½
Manchester	4½	...	...	Mar. '05	+ ½
Middlesbro'	6	...	...	Aug. '03	+ ½
Newcastle-on-Tyne	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Nov. '05	+ ½
Norwich	4½	...	...	July '04	- ½
Nottingham	5	...	...	...	...
Oldham	4½	...	...	Sept. '03	+ ½
Plymouth	5	...	- ½	Feb. '05	- ½
Potteries	4	...	- ½	Oct. '05	- ½
Wolverhampton	5	...	- ½	Nov. '05	- ½
Aberdeen	5½	...	...	Mar. '03	+ ½
Dundee	6½	...	...	Aug. '04	+ ½
Edinburgh	6	...	- ½	April '05	- ½
Glasgow	5½	...	- ½	May '05	- ½
Belfast	5½	...	- ½	June '05	- ½
Dublin	5½	...	- ½	Dec. '05	- ½

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) per Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1904.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
December	7 1	7 3½	10 4½	10 8½
1905.	6 7½	7 4½	10 4½	10 0
December	6 7½	7 5	10 2½	10 0

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

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September to 31st December, 1905, amounted to 29,564,322 cwts., or 7,502,278 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1904. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-December, 1905, amounted to 5,298,300 cwts., or 1,072,620 cwts. more than during September-December, 1904.

### DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during December was 53, consisting of 42 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of mercurial poisoning, and 10 of anthrax. Four deaths were reported, 1 of which was due to lead poisoning, and 3 to anthrax.

During the twelve months ended December, 1905, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 663, as compared with 656 in 1904. The number of deaths was 42, being 5 more than in 1904. The deaths due to lead poisoning show a decrease of 3, but those due to anthrax rose from 10 in 1904 to 18 in 1905.

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Dec., 1905.	Twelve Months ended Dec.,	Month of Dec., 1905.	Twelve Months ended Dec.,
		1905.		1904.
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>				
Smelting of Metals ... ..	1	24	33	—
Brass Works ... ..	1	5	10	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ... ..	—	19	7	—
Plumbing and Soldering ... ..	1	24	21	—
Printing ... ..	3	19	15	—
File Cutting ... ..	3	12	20	—
<b>Tinning and Enamelling of Iron</b>				
Hollow-ware ... ..	1	14	10	—
White Lead Works ... ..	7	90	116	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ... ..	1	10	11	—
China and Earthenware* ... ..	5	84	105	—
Litho-transfer Works ... ..	1	5	3	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ... ..	—	3	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ... ..	—	27	3	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ... ..	3	27	33	—
Paint and Colour Works ... ..	1	57	33	—
Coach Making ... ..	3	56	49	—
Shipbuilding ... ..	1	32	45	—
Paint used in other Industries ... ..	3	49	27	—
Other Industries ... ..	7	70	53	—
<b>Total Lead Poisoning†</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>				
Barometer and Thermometer making ... ..	1	1	1	—
Furriers' processes ... ..	—	3	—	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	4	2	—
<b>Total Mercurial Poisoning</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ... ..	—	—	3	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	1	2	—
<b>Total Arsenic Poisoning</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Anthrax—</b>				
Wool Sorting ... ..	1	4	2	—
Wool Combing ... ..	4	30	10	—
Handling of Horsehair ... ..	1	7	12	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ... ..	4	17	18	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	1	8	—
<b>Total Anthrax</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>4</b>

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 362, being 8 less than in December, 1904. During the year 1905 the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 4,787, as compared with 4,540 during 1904.

\* Of the 5 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in December, 1905, 3 were females.  
† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 14 cases of lead poisoning (including 3 deaths) were reported during December among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the twelve months ended December, 1905, was 163 (including 28 deaths), and for 1904, 227 (including 39 deaths).

### FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1905, was 247, being 6 more than in November, 1905, and 8 more than in December, 1904. The mean number for December in the years 1900-1904 was 246, the maximum year in this period being 1901, with 278 deaths, and the minimum year 1903, with 223 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in December, 1905, was 132. The number reported in December of the years 1900-1904 varied from 113 to 183, the mean for the five years being 144.

In the classes of industries in which the number employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 343, as compared with 326 in December, 1904. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents reported in December, 1905, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month a year ago:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Dec., 1905, as compared with a	
	Dec., 1905.	Nov., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards ... ..	5	3	8	+ 2	- 3
Engine Drivers ... ..	2	3	6	+ 1	- 2
Firemen ... ..	2	1	4	+ 1	- 2
Guards (Passenger) ... ..	—	—	1	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ... ..	8	9	13	- 1	- 5
Porters ... ..	2	2	5	—	- 3
Shunters ... ..	5	1	2	+ 4	+ 3
Miscellaneous ... ..	13	6	13	+ 7	+ 1
Contractors' Servants ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
<b>Total Railway Service</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>+ 9</b>	<b>- 15</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground ... ..	83	78	71	+ 5	+ 12
Surface ... ..	16	13	20	+ 3	- 4
<b>Total Mines</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>+ 8</b>	<b>+ 8</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>- 4</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Factories—</b>					
<b>Textile—</b>					
Cotton ... ..	6	5	2	+ 1	+ 4
Wool and Worsted ... ..	2	—	1	+ 2	+ 1
Other Textiles ... ..	1	—	—	+ 1	+ 1
<b>Non Textile—</b>					
Extraction of Metals ... ..	5	3	3	+ 2	+ 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals ... ..	13	15	5	- 2	+ 8
Marine and Locomotive Engineering ... ..	2	2	3	—	- 1
Ship and Boat Building ... ..	14	13	11	+ 1	+ 3
Wood ... ..	1	3	6	- 2	- 5
Chemicals, &c. ... ..	2	5	5	- 3	- 3
Other Non-Textile Industries ... ..	25	30	27	- 5	- 2
<b>Total Factories</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>- 5</b>	<b>+ 8</b>
<b>Workshops</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—</b>					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays ... ..	11	16	17	- 5	- 6
Warehouses ... ..	5	5	—	—	+ 5
Buildings to which Act applies ... ..	13	11	7	+ 2	+ 6
Laundries ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+ 4</b>	<b>+ 4</b>
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>+ 6</b>	<b>+ 8</b>
<b>Seamen—</b>					
<b>On Trading Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ... ..	42	81	35	- 39	+ 7
Steam ... ..	82	97	75	- 15	+ 7
<b>On Fishing Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ... ..	1	2	1	- 1	—
Steam ... ..	7	9	2	- 2	+ 5
<b>Total Seamen</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>- 57</b>	<b>+ 19</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>- 51</b>	<b>+ 27</b>

### TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Fifteen new disputes began in December, 1905, compared with 19 in November, 1905, and 6 in December, 1904. By the 15 disputes, 2,835 workpeople were directly and 356 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 10,996 workpeople involved in trade disputes during December, 1905, compared with 9,811 in November, 1905, and 3,727 in December, 1904.

**New Disputes in December, 1905.**—In the following Table the new disputes in December are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	6	2,098	325	2,423
Metal and Engineering ... ..	2	176	—	176
Cotton Spinning and Weaving ... ..	4	386	31	417
Other Trades ... ..	3	175	—	175
<b>Total, December, 1905</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>3,191</b>
<b>Total, November, 1905</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2,783</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>3,567</b>
<b>Total, December, 1904</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1,174</b>

**Causes.**—Of the fifteen new disputes, two arose on

#### Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1905.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.†
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.				
<b>Mining and Quarrying—</b>							
Hewers, Putters, Drivers, &c., <i>Labourers</i>	Sunderland ...	994	25	4 Dec.	...	Alleged shortage in the number of "tubs" recorded for one putter	No settlement reported.
Quarrymen ... ..	Nantle ...	716	—	4 Dec.	...	Dispute arising out of proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	No settlement reported.
<b>Shipbuilding—</b>							
Riveters, Platers, Cutters, Caulkers, Anglesmiths, Drillers, Labourers, &c.	West Hartlepool	300	250	27 Nov.	10½	Objection to employment of two squads of apprentices on rivetting tank top	Work resumed on old conditions.
<b>Cotton Weaving—</b>							
Weavers ... ..	Blackburn ...	400	—	29 Nov.	3	Alleged bad material ... ..	Satisfactory material promised.

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

#### AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

INFORMATION respecting rates of wages agreed upon at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland from August to December, 1905, has been furnished by a Correspondent who has made special enquiries for the Department on the subject.

The Correspondent states that the downward movement in wages, which was shown in certain districts in Scotland at the Autumn Hiring Fairs of 1904, became more general between August and December, 1905, and in some districts further reductions were made.

There has been an increase in the supply of farm servants, partly attributed to the lessened demand for labour, the fine autumn of 1905 having enabled farmers to get well forward with their work.

Not every class of labour, however, was affected to a like extent by the downward trend of wages. The wages of grieves, experienced shepherds, the best class of cattle-men, and of women servants, in general showed little or no change.

With these exceptions, however, there was a general fall in wages of from £1 to £1 10s. for the half year, which extended to most parts of Scotland.

In the Eastern Border Counties (Berwick, Roxburgh, and Selkirk) there was less variation in wages than in most other parts of the country. Good men, who could provide women workers, invariably got their previous rate of wages. In other cases there were a fair number of reductions in wages, which, however, did not exceed £1 for the half-year. In the Lothians the general downward tendency in wages was not so marked as in many other counties. In Fife, Stirling, and Kinross reductions in wages were more general than a year ago, many

demands for increased wages, three on objections to reduction in wages, two on other wages questions, four on questions of employment of particular classes or persons, two on details of working arrangements, and two from other causes.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in December in the case of seven new disputes, affecting 745 workpeople, and nine old disputes, affecting 2,297 workpeople. Of these sixteen new and old disputes, five, involving 950 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; six, involving 1,156 persons, in favour of the employers; and five, involving 936 persons, were compromised.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in December of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 59,900 working days. In addition, 138,900 working days were lost during December owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 198,800 working days, as compared with 169,800 in the previous month, and 46,900 in the corresponding month of 1904.

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

cases showing a fall of from £1 to £1 10s., while compared with two years ago, not a few showed a fall of from £2 to £2 10s. For women servants in these three counties wages showed little or no change. Similar reports come from Perth and Forfar, where reductions of £2 or more for the half-year are stated to have been of not infrequent occurrence in the wages of men servants. Last year's decline in wages continued in Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, some reductions of from £2 to £3 for the year being reported in Aberdeen. The large supply of men in these counties somewhat affected the wages of young lads. Women were not so scarce as in recent years, but their wages remained at their former level. In counties north of Moray, where rates of wages are generally lower than in the more southern counties, the downward movement in wages was felt to a slight extent only. In the South Western counties wages did not vary much from those of a year ago, though there was a slight downward tendency. There was a keen demand for dairymaids and byewomen, whose wages were well maintained.

Married ploughmen in many districts are paid from £32 to £40 a year, with such allowances as free house, garden, oatmeal, milk, potatoes, and coals, or free cartage of coals. In several cases they get up to £50 in cash with a free house, but no other allowances. Unmarried men get as a rule from £11 to £17 per half-year with board and lodging. Orramen get from £9 to £15 per half-year, and young lads from £5 to £15, with board and lodging. Experienced dairymaids get from £12 to £15, byre-women from £8 to £12, and general women servants £7 to £10 per half-year, with board and lodging.

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

## Wages.

Changes reported in December.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in December was an increase of £659 per week, as compared with an increase of £1,253 per week in November, and a decrease of £2,145 per week in December, 1904. The number of workpeople affected was 26,356†, of whom 20,006 received advances amounting to £1,231 per week, and 6,350 sustained decreases amounting to £572 per week. The total number affected in November, 1905, was 25,712, and in December, 1904, 39,553.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting 5,000 iron and steel workers and 1,250 blastfurnacemen in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 3,500 steel millmen in the West of Scotland, 2,500 coal miners in the Bristol

district, and 1,350 blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland, and decreases affecting 5,650 slate quarrymen in North Wales.

One change, affecting the 3,500 steel millmen mentioned above was arranged by a Conciliation Board; and seven changes affecting 9,952 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 12,904 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

## Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported in December, 1905, affected 8,825 workpeople, whose working time was reduced by 8,876 hours per week.

## Summary of Changes in 1905.

See article on p. 4.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
I.—RATES OF WAGES.						
Mining	Bristol District	1905 Last making-up day in Dec.	Coal Hewers and other underground and surface workers	2,500	...	Advance of 5 per cent., making wages of Hewers 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Quarrying	Festiniog	2 Dec.	Slate Quarrymen, Labourers, &c.	3,850	...	Decrease of 5 per cent.
		22 Nov. 1906	Slate Quarrymen, Labourers, &c.	1,800	...	Decrease of 10 per cent.
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland	Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	1,350	...	Advance of 18 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 37½ per cent. above the standard of 1889.
	Barrow-in-Furness	1 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	500	...	Advance of 15 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 32 per cent. above the standard.
	South Wales and Mon.	1 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	1,250	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 4 per cent. above the standard of 1895.
	Consett & Jarrow	1 Jan.	Steel Millmen	1,100	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 5 per cent. above the standard.
Steel	Barrow-in-Furness	1905 11 Dec.	Rail, Wire and Hoop Millmen	620	...	Decrease of 4 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 18 per cent. above the standard.
	Workington	Nov.	Steel Workers	600	...	Advance of 4 per cent., making wages 8½ per cent. above the standard.
Iron and Steel	West of Scotland	11 Dec. 1906	(Steel Millmen ... Gas Producers and Charge Wheelers	3,500 977	...	Advance of 5 per cent.
	South Wales and Mon.	1 Jan.	Enginemen, Cranemen, &c. Iron and Steel Workers	1,359 5,000	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 4 per cent. above the standard of 1895.
II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.						
Engineering	Barrow-in-Furness	1906 1 Jan.	Workpeople in Shipbuilding, Engineering & Ordnance Departments	8,782	...	Decrease of 1 hour per week (54 to 53)

\* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c. † These figures are exclusive of 87,000 cotton card and blowing-room, and spinning operatives, whose bonus of 5 per cent. granted for twelve weeks from the first pay-day in September has now lapsed.

## CATTLE INSURANCE SOCIETIES.

The following Table shows the position of Co-operative Cattle Insurance Societies in each of the four years 1901-4, and is compiled from returns furnished to the Labour Department by the societies concerned, supplemented in a few cases by particulars kindly supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The societies are registered under the Friendly Societies Act, and consist of small holders in agricultural districts of England and Wales,\* who have combined for mutual insurance against the loss by death of their cattle and pigs. The societies are distinguished from ordinary friendly societies, in that the amounts of the insurances are not limited by the Act. In practice, however, the insurances are for small amounts only. The officers and managing committees are usually

\* There were no societies of this class at work in Scotland or Ireland.

unpaid, and the working expenses are thus kept very low.

Table showing the Membership, Receipts, Expenditure, and Total Funds of Co-operative Cattle Insurance Societies for the years 1901, 1902, 1903, and 1904.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Number of Societies making returns...	53	52	52	52
Total Membership ...	3,505	3,362	3,253	3,233
Receipts during year:—				
Contributions ...	1,369	1,284	1,287	1,269
Other Receipts ...	377	398	311	290
Total Receipts ...	1,746	1,682	1,598	1,559
Expenditure during year:—				
Benefits to Members ...	1,375	1,267	1,306	1,160
Working Expenses ...	204	237	194	188
Total Expenditure ...	1,579	1,504	1,500	1,348
Total Funds at end of year ...	7,210	7,043	6,865	6,767

## EMIGRATION FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

DURING December 19,541 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe. Of this number 9,524 were of British or Irish origin, and 10,017 were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not stated. As compared with December, 1904, there was a decrease of 628 in the number of British or Irish emigrants, and of 3,909 in the number of foreign passengers or those whose nationality was not stated. There was thus a decrease of 4,537 in the total number of passengers.

During the twelve months ended December, 1905, the total number of passengers was 459,917,\* an increase of 6,040 on the figure for the year 1904. There was a decrease of 9,197 British and Irish passengers, but an increase of 15,237 foreigners, &c.

The following Table shows the destination of the passengers:—

Destination. (Country in which passenger contracted to land.)	December,		Twelve months ended December,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.
	1905.	1904.	1905.*	1904.	
British and Irish Passengers.					
<b>British Colonies and Possessions:</b>					
British North America ...	1,176	1,311	- 135	82,457	69,681 + 12,776
Australia and New Zealand ...	1,118	995	+ 123	15,181	13,910 + 1,271
British South Africa ...	1,673	1,687	- 14	26,283	26,818 - 535
India (including Ceylon) ...	308	408	- 100	4,716	4,694 + 22
Other British Colonies and Possessions	453	493	- 40	4,458	4,401 + 57
Total ...	4,728	4,894	- 166	133,095	119,504 + 13,591
<b>Foreign Countries:</b>					
United States ...	4,211	4,776	- 565	122,389	146,445 - 24,056
Other Foreign Countries ...	585	482	+ 103	6,754	5,486 + 1,268
Total ...	4,796	5,258	- 462	129,143	151,931 - 22,788
Total, British and Irish...	9,524	10,152	- 628	262,238	271,435 - 9,197
Foreigners and Nationality not stated.					
<b>British Colonies and Possessions:</b>					
British North America ...	1,048	1,063	- 15	25,688	22,003 + 3,685
British South Africa ...	541	393	+ 148	4,859	5,460 - 601
Other British Colonies and Possessions	419	444	- 25	5,729	5,202 + 527
Total ...	2,008	1,900	+ 108	36,276	32,665 + 3,611
<b>Foreign Countries:</b>					
United States ...	7,455	11,600	- 4,145	154,325	145,500 + 8,825
Other Foreign Countries...	554	426	+ 128	7,078	4,277 + 2,801
Total ...	8,009	12,026	- 4,017	161,403	149,777 + 11,626
Total, Foreigners, &c. ...	10,017	13,926	- 3,909	197,679	182,442 + 15,237
<b>Grand Total, all Passengers</b>	<b>19,541</b>	<b>24,078</b>	<b>- 4,537</b>	<b>469,917</b>	<b>453,877 + 6,040</b>

It will be noticed that during 1905 there was an increase of 16,461 in the number of passengers going to British North America (12,776 British and Irish passengers and 3,685 foreigners &c.). The total number of passengers going to the United States was less by 15,231 than in the year 1904 (British and Irish passengers showing a decrease of 24,056, but the foreigners, &c. an increase of 8,825).

## ALIEN IMMIGRATION FROM CONTINENT.

During December 11,904 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent, of whom 5,671 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 722 as compared with December, 1904. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,095 (exclusive of seamen), being 3,635 less than in December, 1904. In the following Table the figures for December, 1905 and 1904, and for the twelve months ended December, 1905 and 1904, are compared:—

	Month of December.		Twelve months ended December,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.
	1905.	1904.	1905.*	1904.	
<b>Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries:</b>					
Seamen	1,138	1,025	+ 113	13,773	12,863 + 910
Others	5,095	8,730	- 3,635	74,409	82,345 - 8,436
<b>Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries</b>	<b>5,671</b>	<b>4,949</b>	<b>+ 722</b>	<b>108,347</b>	<b>99,278 + 9,069</b>
Total ...	11,904	14,704	- 2,800	196,529	194,986 + 1,543

\* These figures are preliminary and subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

## FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

## Summary for December.

## IMPORTS.\*

	Month ended 31st December.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£ 20,968,847	£ 20,412,230	£ 20,412,252	+ £ 22	- £ 556,595
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	20,028,752	21,011,115	20,121,280	- 889,835	+ 92,528
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	11,186,294	11,254,394	12,416,208	+ 1,161,814	+ 1,229,914
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	135,725	167,627	170,746	+ 3,119	+ 35,021
Total value of Imports	£ 52,319,618	£ 52,845,366	£ 53,120,486	+ 278,120	+ 800,868

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

† Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds hides and skins, &c.

‡ Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.

## EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.\*

	Month ended 31st December.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£ 1,357,787	£ 1,461,202	£ 1,663,608	+ 202,406	+ 305,821
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	2,935,799	3,119,489	3,006,948	- 112,541	+ 71,158
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	19,812,313	23,035,798	23,367,065	+ 331,267	+ 3,554,752
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	506,613	455,645	614,573	+ 158,928	+ 107,960
Total value of Exports of British produce	£ 24,612,503	£ 28,072,134	£ 28,652,194	+ 580,060	+ 4,039,691

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £5,820,501 in December, 1903; £6,440,276 in December, 1904, and £7,093,109 in December, 1905.

\* The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" value. † Coal, wool, oil seeds, hides and skins, &c. ‡ Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, machinery, chemicals, &c.

## RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE receipts from goods and mineral traffic of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended December 30th amounted to £4,023,500, an increase of £212,917 (or 5.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1904.

During the fifty-two weeks ended December 30th, 1905, the total goods and mineral receipts amounted to £52,082,011, an increase of £679,099 (or 1.3 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period in 1904.

	4 weeks ended Dec. 30th, 1905.		52 weeks ended Dec. 30th, 1905.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.
<b>English Lines:—</b>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	£ 1,400,698	+ 97,982	£ 18,506,818	+ 475,800
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	447,851	+ 14,884	5,694,049	- 95,828
Lanes. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	895,466	+ 59,355	10,119,449	+ 199,418
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	544,700	- 2,100	7,735,600	+ 61,100
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	147,525	+ 5,151	1,964,557	- 10,147
<b>Scottish Lines:—</b>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	546,425	+ 35,599	6,614,468	+ 78,900
<b>Irish Lines:—</b>				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland G.W., & Gt. Northern	100,835	+ 2,046	1,447,070	- 30,144
Total ...	4,023,500	+ 212,917	52,082,011	+ 679,099

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

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in December corresponded to a rate of 234 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with November, 1905, the total number of persons relieved increased by 8,947 (2.3 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 5. There was an increase of 3,442 (2.0 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, and of 5,505 (2.4 per cent.) in the total number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 29 districts, decreases in 4, and 2 districts showed no change.

Compared with December, 1904, the total number of persons relieved decreased by 15,487 (3.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 11. There was an increase of 351 (0.2 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, but the total number of outdoor paupers showed a decrease of 15,838 (6.4 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 20 districts, increases in 13, and in 2 districts there was no change. The most marked decrease was shown in the West Ham district (174 per 10,000).

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of Dec., 1905. Columns include Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Dec., 1905 (Indoor, Outdoor, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 compared with A month ago and A year ago. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

TWENTY-ONE Bureaux furnished Returns, of which twelve can be compared with similar Returns for a year ago. The figures of the remaining nine are not available for December, 1904.

(I.) Work done in December.

Table showing Applications by Workpeople during Dec. 1905 and Dec. 1904, Situations offered by Employers during Dec. 1905 and Dec. 1904, and Workpeople found Work during Dec. 1905 and Dec. 1904. Rows include London, Provincial, and Total of 12 Bureaux.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during December, 1905.

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

(III.) Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 21 Bureaux at the end of December, 1905.

Table showing Name of Bureau, Men (Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Porters, Messengers, Carmen, &c., Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls. Rows include London, Provincial, and Total of 21 Bureaux.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 490 fresh applications (260 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by eight Bureaux furnishing returns, and 456 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 164 persons, of whom 100 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 164 situations found for applicants, 108 were of a more or less permanent character, while 56 were temporary only.

The work done by the Bureaux during December is shown by the following Table.

WORK DONE IN DECEMBER.

Table showing Applications by Workpeople during Dec. 1905 and Dec. 1904, Situations offered by Employers during Dec. 1905 and Dec. 1904, and Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers. Rows include Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries: Wool Sorting, Combing, &c.—The danger of contracting the disease of anthrax incurred by persons who handle the wool and hair of animals which have died of that disease, has lately attracted considerable attention. The Home Secretary has now, under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, certified that the processes of sorting, wiling, washing, combing and carding wool, goat hair and camel hair, and processes incidental thereto, are dangerous; and in pursuance of the powers given to him by that Act the Home Secretary has made Regulations\* dated December 12th, 1905, applying to all factories and workshops in which those processes are carried on, and in which wool or hair as described in the schedules are used.

The regulations provide that certain kinds of wool and hair must be steeped in water in the bale before being opened; that certain kinds must be opened either after steeping or over an efficient opening screen with mechanical exhaust draught; and that other kinds must be sorted over an efficient sorting board with mechanical exhaust draught. There are also provisions as to the carrying on of certain processes in separate rooms, as to dealing with dust and other refuse, as to disinfecting and other matters. A note is appended on the manner in which the disease of anthrax is contracted, and describing its first symptoms. The Regulations, which are 23 in number, came into force on January 1st, 1906, with the exception of two (concerned with structural conditions), which are deferred until April 1st, 1906.

Explosives in Coal Mines.

Under the powers conferred on the Home Secretary by Section 6 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, he has made an Order† directing that the explosives in Coal Mines Order of December 20th, 1902, shall be amended, and shall take effect as if the explosives named and defined in the schedule to this new Order were named and defined in the schedule to the old Order, and in all respects as if the schedule to the new Order formed part of the schedule to the old Order.

The schedule to the New Order contains the definitions of Ripping Ammonal and Rippite, and a new definition (which is substituted for the definition contained in the Order of September 6th, 1904) of the explosive Ammonal B.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1905, No. 1,293. Price 1d. † Statutory Rules and Orders, 1905.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the third quarter of 1905, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,698,078, an increase of 3.9 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1904, while compared with five years ago (i.e., with the corresponding quarter of the year 1900) the sales show an increase of 27.8 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,403,794, an increase of 7.3 per cent. on the third quarter of 1904, while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1900 an increase of 51.1 per cent. is shown.

The following Table gives details for the three Societies:—

Table showing Sales. Columns include Names of Societies and Nature of Business, In 3rd quarter of (1905, 1904, 1900), and Percentage increase of 1905 as compared with (A year ago, Five years ago). Rows include English Wholesale Society, Scottish Wholesale Society, and Irish Wholesale Societies.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER.

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

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in December was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 16; under the Friendly Societies Act, 55 (including 37 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 7; in all 81.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—2, viz., National Federation of Blastfurnacemen, Ore Miners and Kindred Trades, 18, Exchange Buildings, Moss Bay, Workington; Radcliffe, Ringley and Little Lever Engineers and Boilermakers' Assoc., Wilton Arms Hotel, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe, Manchester. Ireland.—1, viz., Dublin Fire Brigade Union, Central Fire Station, Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—11, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Distribution; 4, viz., Opine Licensed Victuallers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 7, Ida Street, Poplar, E.; Westwood Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Estate Office, Hampton Lovett, near Droitwich, Worcester; Banbury and Dist. Trading Assoc., Ltd., The Store, Banbury; Edenbridge Co-op. Soc., Ltd., High Street, Edenbridge, Kent. Co-op. Agric. Soc.: 3, viz., Presteigne Poultry Soc., Ltd., Presteigne, Radnorshire; Clophill and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Clophill, Amphill, Beds.; Cirencester Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., 12, Park Street, Cirencester. Misc. Soc.: 4, viz., 2 Working Men's Clubs and 2 others. Ireland.—5, viz., Co-op. Agric. Soc.: O'Callaghan's Mills Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., O'Callaghan's Mills, Co. Clare; Kilkishen Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Kilkishen, Co. Clare; Cratloe Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Cratloe, Co. Clare; Toomevara Co-op. Creamery Soc., Ltd., Toomevara, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary; Clonlara Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Clonlara, Co. Clare.

\* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments. † In 1900 this department was carried on exclusively by the English Wholesale Society. ‡ No particulars are available for the Irish Agency. § Decrease



**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—17, viz., Ribbleton Working Men's Club and Inst., Preston; City of London Resident Working Men's Club, 89, Cannon Street, E.C.; Fawcett Liberal Working Men's Club and Inst., 48, Blechynden Street, Notting Hill, W.; Plumstead & Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst., Plumstead; Ealing Tenants Working Men's Club and Inst., Ealing, W.; Bexhill Constitutional Club, Bexhill, Sussex; Hipperholme Working Men's Club, Hipperholme, Halifax; Amalgamated Engineers' Donation Augmentation Soc., Belvedere, Kent; Darwen and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Darwen, Lancs.; Leicester and County Permanent Money Soc., Leicester; Old Royal Oak £2 10s. Loan Soc., Nottingham; Radium Permanent Money Soc., Birmingham; Independent Centralized Yearly Dividing Friendly Soc., Derby; Old Street Congregational Sick and Provident Society, Shoreditch, E.C.; Union des Cuisiniers, Pâtisseries, Glaciers, Français de Londres, 59, Oxford Street, W.; Bud of the Forest Juvenile Foresters Friendly Soc., Weasenham, Norfolk; Stratford Sick and Dividend Soc., Hockley, Birmingham.

*Ireland.*—1, viz., Kilann Credit Soc., Shercock, Co. Cavan.

## (2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as dissolved, or as wound up, or as having had registration cancelled in December was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 8; under the Friendly Societies Act, 38 (including 10 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 14; in all 64.

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

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

## UNITED KINGDOM.

*Flax and Linen Factories: Return of the number of Flax and Linen Factories in the United Kingdom subject to inspection under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and the number of spindles and looms used in such factories.* The return also includes hemp and jute factories. [H.C. 290: pp. 7: price 1d.]

*Contracts of Local Authorities (Wages).* Return showing for County, Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils and other Public Authorities in the United Kingdom, the conditions of contracts with regard to wages and persons employed by contractors. Showing whether the contracts entered into by the Authority for the execution of works specify any conditions as to the wages to be paid by the contractor, or other conditions with regard to the persons employed by him; and, if so, what are the conditions so specified. [H.C. 307: pp. 105: price 11d.]

*Railway Servants (Hours of Labour).* Return in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of Railway Servants of Certain Classes who were on one or more occasions during March, 1905, on Duty on the Railways of the United Kingdom for more than Twelve Hours at a time; or who, after being on duty more than Twelve Hours were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest. [Cd. 2781: pp. 57: price 6d.]

*Tramways and Light Railways (Street and Road).* Return for 1904. [H.C. 322: pp. 57: price 6d.]

*Pauperism (England and Wales).* Half-yearly Statement for the 1st July, 1905, showing the number of Paupers relieved on the 1st January, 1905, and similar statement for 1st July, 1905. [H.C. 81-i: pp. x. + 41: price 5½d.]

*Poor Relief (England and Wales).* Statement for the Half-year ended Ladyday, 1905, showing the amount expended by Boards of Guardians for in-maintenance and out-door relief. [H.C. 325: pp. 29: price 3d.]

*Poor Law Commissioners' Report of 1834. Reprint.* Copy of the Report made in 1834 by the Commissioners for inquiring into the administration and practical operation of the Poor Laws. [Cd. 2728: pp. viii. + 378: price 1s. 8d.]

*Forty-first Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar General (Ireland), 1904.* Contains summary of emigration from each province in 1904; average prices of provisions in Dublin, 1894-1904; average number of persons receiving in-door and out-door relief in Ireland, 1894-1904. [Cd. 2673: pp. iv. + 203: price 2s. 4½d.]

*Irish Land Commission. Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891. Return of Advances made under the Act during the year ended March 31st, 1905.* Contains Return showing the amounts applied under the Act towards the cost of providing labourers' cottages in each county. [H.C. 308: pp. 93: price 9½d.]

*Seventy-Third Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, 1904-5.* Contains a Return showing for each year in the period 1866-7 to 1904-5, the amount of loans made under the Labouring Classes Dwellings (Ireland) Acts, and the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, with the number of families accommodated. [Cd. 2657: pp. 113: price 1s. 4d.]

*Annual Local Taxation Returns, 1903-4. Part II. Accounts of County Councils (other than L.C.C.) Asylums, &c.* Includes summary of expenditure upon allotments, small holdings, industrial schools, &c. [H.C. 273-I: pp. xxiv. + 40: price 6d.]

*Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill. Index to Report (H.L. 99 and 344) from Select Committee of the House of Lords. Session 1905.* [H.L. 344-Ind: pp. 28: price 3d.]

*Statistics of Public Education in England and Wales, 1903-4-5.* Contains statistics of technical education, teachers, courses, students, grants, &c. [Cd. 2782: pp. lxx. + 442: price 2s.]

## BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH COLONIES.

*Statistical Tables relating to British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates. Part XXVIII, 1903.* Contains statistics of wages paid for various descriptions of labour, average prices of various articles of use or consumption, number of industrial establishments, persons employed, &c. [Cd. 2629: pp. xiii. + 876: price 7s.]

*Further Correspondence relating to Labour in the Transvaal Mines.* Contains copy of "An Ordinance to amend the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904," assented to in September, 1905; Regulations framed under the Ordinance, &c. [Cd. 2786: pp. 86: price 9d.]

*Colonial Office Annual Reports. No. 478. Leeward Islands, 1904-5.* Statistics of the sugar and cotton industries, and of industrial, technical, or agricultural schools, &c. [Cd. 2684-24: pp. 47: price 2½d.]

*No. 479. Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1904-5.* [Cd. 2684-25: pp. 15: price 1d.]

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

*New South Wales. The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records, 1905. Vol. IV. Part 3. Reports of 11 cases.* [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. vii. + 59 + xlvi: price 5s.]

*Queensland. Report of the Officer in Charge, Government Relief, 1904.* Statements of the amount expended on Government Relief during the year, and of the number of families and persons so relieved in each month. [Brisbane: G. A. Vaughan, Government Printer: pp. 3: price 3d.]

*New Zealand. Report of the Inspection of Machinery Department, 1904-5.* Statistics of machinery inspected, notices given to fence dangerous parts, accidents, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 73: price 6d.]

*Shops and Offices Act Amendment Bill.* Report of the Labour Bills Committee, with Minutes and Evidence. October, 1905. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 56.]

## FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

## United States.

*Special Consular Reports. Vol. XXXVIII. Insurance in Foreign Countries. Part I. Life Insurance. Part II. Special forms of Insurance. Part III. Fire and Marine Insurance.* [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 253.]

## France.

*Statistical Abstract of France for 1904.* Contains statistics of wages, accidents, savings banks, friendly societies, prices of commodities, &c. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1905: pp. xl. + 372 + 173.]

*Report on Technical Instruction in France.* [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1905: pp. 159: price 1s. 10d.]

## Austria-Hungary.

*Mining Statistics of Austria for 1904.* (Forms Vol. II., Part 2 of Statistical Year-book of Ministry of Agriculture). [Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei, 1905: pp. 365.]

## Holland.

*Statistics of Holland. No. 52. Population in 1904.* [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante, 1905: pp. xxvi. + 183: price 8d.]

*Report on the Work of the State Workmen's Accident Insurance Bank of Holland for 1904.* [December 15th, 1905: pp. 100.]

## Switzerland.

*Preliminary Results of Industrial Census of Switzerland, held on August 9th, 1905.* Statistical Office of the Federal Department of the Interior. [Bern, 1905: pp. viii. + 184.]

*Statistics of Zurich. No. 2.* Contains statistics of persons assisted in 1893-1904 by the Municipality of Zurich. [Zurich: Kommissions-Verlag Ed. Rascher's Erben, 1905: pp. 32: price 9½d.]

## Denmark.

*Statistical Year Book of Denmark for 1905.* Contains statistics of strikes, accident insurance, poor relief, &c. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, 1905.]

## CONSULAR REPORTS.

*Annual Series. No. 3519. German Colonies, 1903-4.* Particulars of population, industries, social condition, &c. [Cd. 2682-44: pp. 57: price 3d.]

*No. 3520. Trade of Switzerland for the year 1904 and the new Swiss Customs Tariff.* [Cd. 2682-45: pp. 35: price 2½d.]

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

**NOTE.**—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, New Zealand, the United States, France, Germany Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

## INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

THE free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office dealing with the British Colonies were issued on January 1st, and contain information for intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, the rates of wages, and cost of living.

Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the various colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to emigrants.

A new circular has also been issued giving similar information regarding the United States.

Copies of the circulars can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

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