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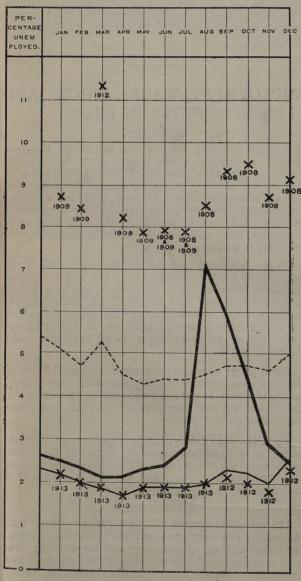
PRICE ONE PENNY.

### EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

 $-Thick\ Curve = 1914.$ ---Thin Curve = 1913. ----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1904-1913.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1904-1913.



NOTE TO CHART.

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

# THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER

EMPLOYMENT, which usually shows some decline in December, was more active than in the previous month. In several industries a shortage of male labour, especially of skilled men, was reported.

Trades affected by war contracts, such as engineering, shipbuilding, cutlery, woollen, worsted, hosiery, boot, saddlery, and wholesale men's clothing, continued very busy, with much overtime.

The cotton trade showed a further improvement, and there was also an upward movement in the other textiles, and in the coal mining and iron and steel industries. The building trades were, on the whole, well employed for the time of the year, especially carpenters, plumbers, and labourers. There was little change in the pig-iron, tinplate, printing, furnishing, pottery and glass trades. The bespoke tailoring, dressmaking, and hat trades continued to be adversely affected.

Compared with a year ago, when employment was good generally, there was an improvement in the building, engineering, shipbuilding, boot, woollen and worsted, hosiery and wholesale men's clothing trades—all of which were more or less busy on Government orders. The cotton, lace, linen, tinplate, pottery, brick, and slate

trades showed a marked decline.

# (1) TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 917,580, excluding those serving with the Navy, Army and Territorial Forces, reported 23,003 (or 2.5 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of December, 1914, compared with 2.9 per cent. at the end of November, 1914, and 2.6 per cent. at the end of December, 1913.

Trade.	Membership at end of Dec., 1914, exclusive of	Unemployed at end of Dec., 1914.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a		
Trace,	those serving with H.M. Forces.	Num- ber.	Per- cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Building*	80,971	1,669	2.1	+ 0.3	- 2.7	
Coal Mining† Iron and Steel	138,613	1,965	3.0	- 0·2 + 1·1	+ 0.8	
Engineering	224,560	3,100	1.4	- 0.4	- 1.3	
Shipbuilding	71,197	1,365	1.9	- 0·7±		
Miscellaneous Metal	34.987	498	1.4	- 0.1	- 0.4	
Textiles +:						
Cotton	84,327	4,385	5.2	- 1.1	+ 3.4	
Woollen & Worsted	8,506	314	3.7	- 1.4	- 3.3	
Other	54,056	2,804	5.2	- 1.3	+ 33	
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	61,501	2,752	4.5	- 0.2	+ 0.8	
Furnishing	18,806	1,524	8.1	+ 0.1	+ 4.4	
Woodworking	29,832	656	2.2		- 0.8	
Clothing	63,691	673	1.1	- 0.2	- 1.6	
Leather	4,270	101	24	+ 0.3	- 1·8‡	
Glass	837	16	19	- 0.1	+ 1.3	
Pottery	6,127	62	10	- 0.4	+ 0.1	
Tobacco	2,261	143	6.3	- 0.2	+ 3.1	
Total	917,580	23,003	2.5	- 0.4	- 0.1	

\* The Trade Union Returns relate mainly to carpenters and

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

(2) UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of December, 1914, was 3.3, compared with 3.7 at the end of November, 1914, and 4.6 at the end of December, 1913.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those	Unemployed at end of Dec., 1914.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage un- employed on a		
	serving with H.M. Forces	Number	Per- centage	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Building and Con- struction of Works.	889,975	44,633	5.0	- 0.4	- 1.9	
Engineering and Iron- founding.	730,785	12,889	1.8	- 05	- 1.2	
Shipbuilding	242,790	5,209	2.1	- 0.5	- 1.8	
Construction of Vehicles	184,720	5,301	2.9	- 0.4	•••	
Sawmilling	11,165	196	18	- 0.4	- 1.5	
Other Insured Work- people.	56,101	587	1.0	- 0.3	- 0.7	
All Insured Work- people	2,115,536	68,815	3.3	- 0.4	- 1.3	

(3) EMPLOYERS' RETURNS:—MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 805,865 workpeople in December, 1914, in the industries mentioned:—

Trade.	Workpeople included in the	December, 1914.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
	Returns for 19th Dec.,'14.		Month ago.	Year ago.	
		Days worked per week.	Days.	Days.	
Coal Mining  Iron ,,  Shale ,,	634,038 14,362 3,464	5·22 5·76 5·95	+ 0.13 - 0.11 - 0.05	- 0.44 + 0.06 + 0.06	
Pig Iron	24,500	Furnaces in Blast. 266	No 5	No 5	
Tinplate Steel and Galvanised Sheets Iron and Steel	22,560 6,600 100,341	Mills Working. 376 110 Shifts Worked (One Week). 558,033	- 12 + 4* Per cent. + 2.6	- 92 - 12* Per cent.	

(4) EMPLOYERS' RETURNS:—TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES. Returns from firms employing 458,081 workpeople in the week ended December 19th, 1914, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 6.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.7 per cent. in wages paid.

A Company of	Numbe	oyed.	Wages Paid.					
Trade.	Week	Inc. (Dec. (	(+) or -) on a	Week ended	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
	19th Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Textiles :-		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Cotton Woollen	109,619 23,773	+ 2.4 + 0.2		97,325 25,107	+ 6.6	- 20·8 + 12·1		
Worsted Linen	37,086 43,553	+ 1.0	- 0.8	30,473 26,026	+ 1.9 + 1.8	+ 3.3 - 14.5		
Jute Hosiery	13,504 20,793	+ 0.1	- 5.3	10,932 17,721	+ 1.6	- 8·4 + 6·9		
Lace Other Textiles	7,800 13 781	- 0.6 - 0.7	-18.2	6,233 10,851	+ 1.9 + 4.2	- 34·7 - 14·9		
Dyeing Bleaching, Finishing, etc.	12,263 12,617	+ 0.6	~~ 0	16,931 13,427	+ 6.7 + 2.7	- 12·7 - 12·6		
Total, Textiles	294,789	+ 1.0	- 6.6	255,026	+ 3.9	- 12.3		
Boot and Shoe Shirt and Collar	62,972 4,828	+ 0.4	-	71,135	+ 2.3	+ 9.7		
Pottery Glass	18,913 6.953	- 0.9 - 0.2	- 10.0	3,466 16,588 9,542	-1.0 $-0.6$ $+2.0$	- 10·7 - 18·6		
Brick Food Preparation	9 678 59,948	- 2·0 + 0·1		11,124 55,751	+ 2·0 - 5·2 + 2·9	$ \begin{array}{rrr}  & - & 2.4 \\  & - & 20.9 \\  & + & 3.2 \end{array} $		
Grand Total	458,081	+ 0.6		422,632	+ 3.0	<del>- 32</del> <del>- 7.7</del>		

Revised figures.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.—The changes in rates of wages reported as taking effect in December were all increases and amounted to nearly £3,700 per week on the wages of 50,000 workpeople. The most important changes affected 5,500 coal miners in the Forest of Dean, 20,000 iron workers in the Midlands, 17,000 workpeople in engineering works at Birmingham and Leicester, and 3,800 labourers, &c., in ship repairing establishments at Cardiff, Barry and Penarth.

TRADE DISPUTES.—The number of disputes beginning in December was 17, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress during the month was 3,065, compared with 8,061 in November, 1914, and 59,026 in December, 1913. The estimated total aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during the month was 49,200 working days, compared with 84,500 in November, 1914, and 907,700 in December, 1913.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Cases dealt with during the month include cotton operatives, Lancashire; boot and shoe operatives, Kettering; iron fitters, Falkirk; armature winders, L.C.C. Tramways; and tinsmiths, Edinburgh.

Labour Exchanges.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended December 11th, 1914, was 32,088, as compared with 31,932 in the previous four weeks, and with 22,147 in the four weeks ended December 12th, 1913. The average weekly numbers of vacancies filled for the same periods were 23,822, 24,220 and 17,168 respectively.

# EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, PRICES, AND DISPUTES IN 1914.\*

SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during the first six months of the year showed a decline, which became more noticeable in July; the war then supervened, and employment in August was seriously affected in some of our industries. In each succeeding month, however, there was a marked improvement, and by the end of the year employment generally had reached practically the same level as in December, 1913, while in those industries affected by war contracts it was abnormally active.

Wages in mining and in the iron and steel trades declined as a whole during 1914; but wages in other industries continued to move upwards, though generally rather more slowly than in 1913. On the whole, the decline in wages in the mining and iron group neutralised the rise in other groups of industries, so that there was little general change of wages, in all industries taken together, in 1914.

Retail prices showed on the whole a slight fall during the first seven months of the year. They rose sharply on the outbreak of war, and then receded somewhat; at the close of the year they were about 18 per cent. above the level of July.

Up to the end of July, labour disputes were nearly as numerous as in the corresponding period of 1913; but, on the outbreak of war, most of the outstanding disputes were brought to a close, and the disputes since then have been few and generally unimportant.

### EMPLOYMENT.

The year 1914 opened with employment still good on the whole, and very good in some industries, particularly coal mining, engineering, and shipbuilding; but with a decided tendency to decline in the pig-iron, iron and steel, tinplate, and textile industries, which continued with little alteration during the first half of the year. In July the decline in employment became at once more marked and more general, and there was every prospect of an approaching period of less

\* The figures for 1914 are provisional and subject to amendment in annual Reports.

activity, especially in the pig-iron and the iron and steel industries, and the cotton, woollen, and lace trades.

The outbreak of war at the beginning of August caused an immediate great decline in employment in practically all industries except shipbuilding, but especially in the cotton trade, and in the tinplate, furnishing, and jewellery trades; the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed rose from 2.8 per cent. at the end of July to 7.1 per cent. at the end of August, and there was also a large amount of short time. In the succeeding months of the year, however, unemployment rapidly improved, and at the close of the year the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was actually lower than at the end of 1913. Some industries were still very inactive, especially the cotton trade, though even the depressed trades generally showed a considerable improve-ment as compared with August. Other trades, however, were enjoying an unprecedented degree of activity; this was specially the case in trades largely engaged on Government work, notably the woollen trade, the leather, saddlery, and the heavy boot trades, the hosiery and wholesale clothing trades, the engineering, shipbuilding, and many branches of the metal trades. These trades were, as a rule, working the maximum possible hours, many factories having double shifts, working day and night, and working on Sundays as well as week-days; there was a general complaint of a shortage of workpeople in these trades, owing to enlistments.

Returns relating to nearly 1,000,000 Trade Union workpeople show that the mean percentage of members returned as unemployed at the end of each month was 3.3, compared with 2.1 in 1913, 2.4\* in 1912, and 2.0 in 1911. The mean annual percentages of unemployed in each of the years 1898-1913 and for each month of 1914 were as follows:—

1898		2.8	1906		3.6	1914.		1914.		
1899	9	2.0	1907		3.7	January	2.5	August	7.1	
1900		2.5	1908		7.8	February	2.3	September	5.9	
1901		3.3	1909	2337	7.7	March	2.1	October	4-4	
1902		4.0	1910		4.7	April	2.1	November	2.9	
1903		4.7	1911	14 34	3.0	May	2.3	December	2.5	
1904	100	6.0	1912		2.4*	June	24	Mean for	20	
1905		5.0	1913		2.1	July	2.8	1914	3.3	

It will be seen that the four-year period 1911-14 closely approximates to the four-year period 1898-1901 as regards the general level of employment. In the intervening years there were two of good employment (1906-7), and two of bad employment (1908-9); the remainder were years of medium employment.

### CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

During the first seven months of the year there was a downward movement in the mining, pig-iron, and iron and steel industries, in which wages fluctuate with the selling prices of coal and iron, and an increase in other trades, particularly building. After the outbreak of war, however, the downward movement was checked, as a result of rising prices, and the increases in other trades became less marked. In consequence of these diverse movements, the net amount of the changes in rates of wages for the whole year was very small, being an increase of only £5,062 per week. At the end of July, two months had shown a decrease and five months an increase, the net result being a decrease of £1,371 per week. From August to the end of the year, four months of increase and one of decrease produced a net increase of £6,433 per week.

The total number of workpeople† whose rates of wages were reported to have been changed in 1914 was 834,240. Of these, 407,230 received a net increase of £40,210 per week, and 404,960 sustained a net decrease of £35,148 per week. The remaining 22,050 workpeople had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year. The total number of workpeople affected was not so large as in some previous years. This was due partly to the falling off in the number of changes reported in

the latter part of the year and partly to the fact that no general changes occurred in the wages of miners in some of the more important coalfields.

As in the previous year, the changes recorded in the building trades were very numerous. Considerable bodies of workpeople at Birmingham, Sheffield, and Glasgow, amongst other important centres, received advances, as did also builders' labourers in London. Coal miners in Northumberland, Durham and Scotland had their wages reduced; in the other important districts no change was recorded. In the smaller coalfields of Cumberland, Forest of Dean, Bristol and Somerset, the miners had an upward change counterbalanced by an equal downward change. In the pig iron and iron and steel groups, the largest body affected were the ironworkers in the Midlands, who sustained a net decrease. In engineering works there were large numbers affected by increases at several important centres, the largest being in the London, Leeds and Birmingham districts. The most noticeable feature of the remaining groups of trades was the unusually large number of increases recorded in the printing trades.

Classified by groups of trades, the number of individuals reported as affected by changes in rates of wages in 1913 and in 1914, and the net increases or decreases in their weekly wages, are given in the following Table:—

Group of Trades.	Number of people* will of wage reported a	hose rates es were s changed	Net amount of Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in the weekly wages of those affected, as com- pared with the pre- ceding year.*		
	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	
Coal Mining	978,724 21,717 15,717 18,001 56,621	349,383 20,591 11,944 18,047 48,834	£ +102,175 + 2,004 + 1,184 + 81 + 1,854	£ - 26,785 - 2,135 + 1,040† - 1,438 - 3,475	
Total for trades in which wages declined in 1914.	1,090,780	448,799	+107,298	- 32,793	
Building Engineering and Shipbuilding Other Metal Trades Trades Clothing Trades Transport Trades Transport Trades Printing, &c., Trades Glass, &c., Trades Other Trades Employees of Local Authorities	189,871 224,832 38,197 143,351 19,810 49,236 12,782 25,007 40,927 33,198	128,595 106,668 23,885 21,223 5,591 23,886 17,651 13,653 26,158 18,131	+ 23,165 + 13,521 + 3,755 + 9,640 + 2,709 + 5,329 + 1,009 + 2,012 + 4,439 + 2,603	+ 12,921 + 9,594 + 1,471 + 1,288 + 614 + 4,843 + 1,417 + 1,046 + 3,097 + 1,564	
Total for trades in which wages rose in 1914.	777,211	385,441	+ 68,182	+ 37,856	
GRAND TOTAL	1,867,991	834,240	+175,480	+ 5,062	

As regards the industries not included in the Table, it may be mentioned that particulars for 1914 relating to police and Government employees are not yet available, but it is known that increases were granted during the year by many of the more important police authorities, whilst towards the end of the year a considerable number of workpeople in the Royal Ordnance Factory at Woolwich received an advance. No general rise in the predominant monthly rates of seamen occurred in 1914, but in the last few months an extra payment, ranging from 10s. to 40s. per month, was made at all ports to cover war risks.

For reasons already explained, 1914 does not appear as a period of considerable fluctuation in wages when compared with the last twenty years. The weekly amounts of the changes in years of rising wages ranged from £14,534 (in 1910) to £208,588 (in 1900). In years of falling wages the range was from £2,169 (in 1905) to £76,588 (in 1901). Over the whole period of the twenty years 1895-1914 wages showed a net rise in twelve years, and a net fall in the remainder. The net amount of the changes in the whole period was an increase of £683,000 per week, exclusive of

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Omitting the two months affected by the Coal Strike.
† Exclusive of seamen, railway servants, agricultural labourers, police and government employees.

<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive of seamen, railway servants, agricultural labourers, police, and Government employees.

<sup>†</sup> The net increase in 1914 was due to one large change in Cornwall affecting clay workers. The wages of limestone quarrymen declined in the principal districts.

changes affecting seamen, railway servants, and agricultural labourers, and in 1914 of police and Government employees also.

### CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in 1914 affected 79,135 workpeople. Of these, 78,689 had their hours reduced, and the net amount of the aggregate reduction was 262,153 hours per week.

### RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

At the beginning of 1914 the Department's index number of retail prices of food stood at a high level. During the first four months of the year it declined, mainly owing to the usual seasonal decrease in the prices of eggs and butter. In May, June, and July there was little change, but in August, owing to the war, there was a very marked increase. In order to ascertain the extent of changes in food prices throughout the country during the period of war a special series of Returns has been collected by the Department, and the results obtained are the subject of a separate article (see page 6). The level of prices at the end of the year, as shown by those Returns, was about 2 per cent. higher than at the end of the first week in August.

The figures for 1914, therefore, group themselves at two different levels, and for this reason it has been deemed desirable to subdivide the Department's ordinary yearly index number for 1914 into two sections, the one relating to the period before the war, and the other to the later part of the year. The index-numbers for 1892-1914 are as follows:—

1900 = 100

1900 = 100.									
	Weighted	Groups into which the 23 Selected Articles have been Classified.							
Year.	Index No. for 23 Articles.	I. Bread, Flour, Cereals and Potatoes.	II. Meat and Bacon.	Dairy Produce.	IV. Tea, Coffee and Cocoa.	V. Sugar, Jams, Currants and Raisins.			
1892	103-9 99-3 99-3 99-1 99-1 99-5 99-5 99-5 99-5 100-4 100-4 102-8 102-0 105-0 107-5 107-6 109-4 109-4 114-5 114-8	111-0 97:2 92:3 89:9 101:3 114:3 94:3 100:0 96:0 96:0 97:9 106:4 107:3 102:4 99:7 105:4 112:5 114:5 109:6 109:4 115:1 116:2	99-4 98-9 96-5 93-8 90-2 93-4 94-6 96-1 100-6 103-6 106-4 101-1 102-9 104-2 105-6 107-2 113-1 120-9 120-9	98-5 99-0 94-7 92-4 93-8 94-8 94-8 97-2 109-1 98-6 97-8 98-6 98-6 101-2 101-4 103-1 102-9 104-1 111-1 109-3 107-3 122-2	98-0 97-1 93-8 93-8 93-8 93-8 92-7 94-4 100-0 102-8 102-8 102-8 103-2 106-8 101-0 103-1 105-5 105-5 105-4 102-9 103-4 104-7 103-9 106-4	117·8 109·2 98·7 91·7 94·1 88·4 90·1 92·6 100·0 104·3 97·9 102·8 106·1 117·5 108·7 112·9 105·9 117·7 112·9 105·9 117·7 112·2 115·7			
Mean for 1914	116.8	114.6	123.3	112.2	104.7	125.7			

As regards prices in the months preceding the war, the decline, as compared with 1913, in the group comprising bread, flour, cereals, and potatoes is noteworthy. Bread, flour, and potatoes were all lower than in the previous year; of the less important articles included in this group tapioca and oatmeal also showed a decline in price, but rice remained practically unchanged. In the second group, there was very little change in the prices of meat and bacon.

The index-number for the dairy produce group in the earlier part of 1914 was practically the same as in the corresponding months of 1913, for which it was 107.4, and none of the constituent articles—milk, butter, cheese, eggs—showed much change. There were, of course, the usual seasonal declines in the prices of butter and eggs during the early part of the year.

Tea and coffee remained at about the same price as a year earlier; cocoa was a little cheaper, on the average. In the fifth group, sugar and jam were about 10 per cent. cheaper in the earlier part of 1914 than in the same months of 1913, and raisins were also cheaper. Treacle, marmalade, and currants remained practically unchanged in price.

Taking all the articles together, the index-number for the period before the war in 1914 is 111.6. The index-number for the months comprised in this period in 1913 was 114.5; for 1913 as a whole it was practically the same, viz., 114.8. Adopting either figure the amount of change, as compared with the previous year, is a fall of nearly 3 per cent. The decline is, therefore, noticable, though not sufficient to reduce prices to the level of any of the preceding years, with the exception of 1912, since 1892, the earliest year for which comparable figures are available.

During the latter part of the year the average level of prices, as shown by this series of index numbers, was about 14 per cent. above that in the earlier months, and about 10 per cent. above that of the corresponding period of 1913. The changes in the prices of the various articles during this period of the year are dealt with in detail in the article based on the Returns specially collected during the war period, to which reference has already been made.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The industrial unrest, which had been such a marked feature of the preceding three years, continued during the first seven months of 1914. Upon the outbreak of war, however, employers and workpeople throughout the United Kingdom endeavoured to compose outstanding differences as far as possible. Accordingly, many old disputes were settled in August and few new disputes have occurred since the beginning of that month.

Thus, during the first seven months of 1914 there were 836 disputes, affecting 423,000 workpeople; in the last five months there were only 137 disputes, affecting 23,000 workpeople; and at the present time only 10 small disputes are in progress.

The number of disputes recorded in 1914 (973) has been exceeded only once in the past 21 years, viz., in 1913, while the number of workpeople involved (446,205) and the aggregate duration in working-days of all disputes in progress (10,104,700), though less than in 1911, 1912 and 1913, were well above the average of preceding years.

The following Table summarises by trades the figures for 1913 and 1914 respectively:—

		1913			1914.		
Groups of Trades.	No. of Dis- putes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Dis- putes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	
Building	198 163 29	40,002 203,245 10,833	823,829 1,297,814 357,770	176 151 19	37,838 271,683 1,374	3,210,200 3,737,500 62,500	
Engineering Shipbuilding Other Metal Textile Clothing Transport Other Trades and	173 122 97 243 75 123 273	52,666 27,247 72,776 93,510 15.227 86,225	1,095,264 149,895 1,742,536 2,028,200 173,910 1,245,092	87 87 53 95 46 55	19,225 16,958 14,040 21,853 3,980 13,642	923,100 123,200 291,500 725,100 58,900 94,500	
Employees of Public Authorities General Dispute*	1	20,000	1,016,422	204	45,612	678,200	
TOTAL	1,497	688,925	11,630,732	973	446,205	10,104,700	

As in 1913, the building trades and coal mining industry were much affected by disputes in the first seven months of 1914. The high aggregate duration in the building trades is mainly due to the prolonged dispute in the London building trade, which began on 26th January, 1914, and ended on 15th August, accounting for an aggregate duration of about 2,500,000 working days. A serious dispute occurred in the Yorkshire coalfields also in the early part of the year, involving about 150,000 workpeople, with an aggregate duration of about 2,650,000 working days.

Most of the other trades—in particular the metal, textile and transport groups—were less affected by disputes than in the previous year.

# EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY.

The December issue of the Reichsarbeitsblatt, the journal of the German Department of Labour Statistics, summarises the data relating to unemployment in November among members of Trade Unions furnishing returns to the Imperial Statistical Office.

Returns were furnished by 38 Trade Unions having an aggregate membership of 1,435,436. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership covered was 1,315,831, of whom 108,569, or 8.3 per cent., were unemployed at the end of November, compared with 3.1 per cent. on the corresponding date in 1913. Among male workpeople only the percentage unemployed was 7.4, but among women and girls it was 14.3.

The percentage unemployed at the end of July was 2.9. At the end of the first month of the war this had increased to 22.4, but after that date—largely owing to large orders placed by the military authorities—the percentage fell to 15.7 in September, 10.9 in October, and 8.3 in November.

The following Table shows the membership of the principal German Trade Unions at the end of November and the percentage returned as unemployed at the end of each month of the period July to November:—

1914.*   1914.   192.   1044.   1914.   1914.   1914.   1914.   1914.   1914.   1914	Unions.	Member- ship reported		Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed at end of Month.				
Building trades operatives		of Nov.,		Aug., 1914.		Oct., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	
Building trades operatives	All Unions making Returns .	1,315,831	2.9	22.4	15.7	10.9	8.3	
Metal workers (soc. Dem.).   337,690   2.9   21.5   14.1   8.4   5.		140 774	1.7	16.4	11.4	0.0	10.1	
Engineers and metal workers								
(Hir ch-Duncker) Metal workers (Christian) . 26536 . 182 12:4 7:6 4 Textile workers (Soc. Dem ) 102,890 1:0 28:2 17:1 9:1 4 Hat and felt go ds makers . 9,869 25:9 62:2 46:3 40:5 38: Boot and shoe makers . 29,327 1:6 35:7 12:4 6:9 4 Transpo t workers . 121,832 . 10:8 8:6 6:1 4: Transpo t workers . 121,832 . 10:8 8:6 6:1 4: Trinters (book and job) . 60,250 5:4 41:2 33:2 29:9 22. Lithograp ers . 11,969 3:6 5:48 31:7 25:2 21: Bookbinders . 21,982 37 39:9 34:1 24:0 17: Leather workers . 10,435 2:7 22:8 14:1 6:5 4: Wood workers (Soc. Dem.) . 116,338 39 33:0 26:8 23:1 19:9 Wood w rkers (Christian) . 8,139 1:7 20:7 18:3 15:5 12:9 Glass workers . 10,646 . 49:7 41:6 24:6 29:0 Porcelain workers . 11,693 1:7 54:0 41:8 31:2 27: Bakers . 11,693 1:7 54:0 41:8 31:2 27: Bakers . 11,693 1:7 54:0 41:8 31:2 27: Bakers . 12,135 1:7 54:0 41:8 31:2 27: Bardier divers and stokers . 9,699 2:1 10:4 5:3 2:9 3:5 1:4 1:5 1:5 1:5 1:5 1:5 1:5 1:5 1:5 1:5 1:5								
Métal workers (Christian)         26536         .         182         12.4         7-6         4-7-6           Textile workers (Soc. Dem.)         102,890         10         28-2         171         91         4-8-1           Hat and felt goods makers         9,969         25-9         62-2         46-3         40-5         38-8-1         8-8-6         6-1         4-7-6         4-6         4-7-6         4-6         4-7-6         4-6         4-7-6         4-6         4-7-6         4-6         4-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-7-6         4-6         4-8-7-6         4-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6         4-8-7-6		11,000	1000	201	140	70	02	
Textile workers (Soc. Dem )		26 536		18.2	12.4	7.6	4.8	
Hat and felt go ds makers		102,890			17.1		4.9	
Transpo t workers   121,832   10.8	Hat and felt goods makers		25.9	62.2	46.3		38.7	
Printers (book and job)	Dout and shae melsons		1.6	35.7	12-4		4.3	
Lithorrap ers.       11,969       3 6       54.8       31.7       25.2       21.         Bookbinders       21,982       3.7       39.9       34.1       240       17.         Leather workers       10,435       2.7       22.8       14.1       65       4.4         Wood wrkers (Soc. Dem.)       116,338       3.9       33.0       26.8       23.1       19.         Wood wrkers (Christian)       8,139       1.7       20.7       18.3       15.5       12.6         Glass workers       10,646       49.7       41.6       24.6       20.         Porcelain workers       11,593       1.7       54.0       418       31.2       27.         Bakers       18,155       6.5       6.6       6.0       4.9       3.0       4.1       1.5       1.5       1.4         Tobacco workers       21,138       1.6       32.5       1.74       50.0       1.4       16.3       11.2       6.9       3.5         Factory workers (Soc. Dem.)       130,331       1.4       16.3       11.2       6.9       3.5         Factory workers (Corristian)       5,682       1.2       18.0       11.5       10.0       9.5 <td></td> <td>121,832</td> <td></td> <td>10.8</td> <td>8.6</td> <td>6.1</td> <td>4.8</td>		121,832		10.8	8.6	6.1	4.8	
Bookbinders         21/982         3.7         39.9         34.1         24.0         17-           Leather workers         10/435         2.7         22.8         14.1         6.5         14.         6.5         14-         16.5         18-           Wood workers (Christian)         8,139         1.7         20.7         8.3         15.5         12-           Glass workers         10,646         49.7         41.6         24-6         24-7           Porcelain workers         11,593         1.7         54-0         41.8         31-2         27-           Bakers         18,153         6.5         6.2         6-0         4.9         34-1         24-6         12-7           Tobacco workers         29,659         1.4         1.7         1.5         1.5         1.5         1-5           Engine drivers and stokers         9,609         2.1         10.4         5.3         2.9         3           Factory workers (Soc. Dem.)         130,331         1.4         16.3         11.2         6-9         3.5           F ctory workers (Christian)         5,682         1.2         18.0         11.5         10.0         3.5	Printers (book and job)					29.9	22.6	
Leather workers   10,435   2.7   22.8   14.1   6.5   4.9	Lithograp ers		36				21.9	
Wood workers (Soc. Dem.).         116,338         39         33'0         26:8         23:1         19'           Wood w rkers (Christian).         8,139         1.7         20.7         18:3         15:5         12-2           Glass workers          10,646          49.7         41:6         24:6         20           Porcelain workers          11,593         17         54'0         41:8         31:2         27'           Bakers          18,153         65         62         60         49         33         28         29'         12'         17'         1.5         1.5         1.5         12'           Tobacco workers          21,198         16         32:5         17'4         50         12'           Engine drivers and stokers          9,609         21         10'4         53         2:9         3'           Factory workers (Gor. Dem.)         130,331         14         16:3         11:2         6'9         3'           F ctory workers (Gor. Iristian)         582         12         18:0         11:5         10'         9'			3.7				17.2	
Wood w rkers (Christian)         8,139         1-7         20-7         18-3         16-5         12-6           Glass workers         10,646         49-7         41-6         24-6         24-7           Porcelain workers         11,593         1-7         54-0         41-8         31-2         27-8           Bakers         18,153         6-5         6-2         6-0         49-9         34-9           Brewery and corn mill workers         29,659         1-4         17-1         15-15-15-17-17-17-18-17-18-17-18-17-18-17-18-17-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-			2.7				4.9	
Glass workers     10,646     . 49.7     41.6     24.6     20       Porcelain workers     11,593     1.7     54.0     41.8     31.2     27       Bakers     18,153     65     62     60     4.9     3.4       Brewery and corn mill workers     29,659     1.4     1.7     1.5     1.5     1.4       Tobacco workers     21,198     1.6     32.5     1.74     5.0     1.4       Engine drivers and stokers     9,609     2.1     10.4     5.3     2.9     3.5       Factory workers (Soc. Dem.)     130,331     1.4     16.3     11.2     6.9     3.5       F ctory workers (Onristian)     5,682     1.2     18.0     11.5     10.0     9.5	Wood workers (Soc. Dem.)		3.9				19.0	
Porcelain workers         11,593         17         54*0         41*8         31*2         27*           Bakers         18,153         65         62         6*0         49         3*1*2         27*           Brewery and corn mill workers         29,659         1*4         1.7         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.5         1.0         4         5*0         1.4         1.0         1.0         4         5*0         1.4         1.0         1.0         4         5*3         2.9         3*5         Factory workers (Soc. Dem.)         130,331         1*4         16*3         11*2         6*9         3*5         Factory workers (Ouristian)         5*882         1*2         18*0         11*5         10*0         3*5         1*5         1*5         1*5         1*5         1*5         3*5         1*5         1*5         3*5         1*5         3*5         1*5         4*8         3*1*2         27*         3*5         1*5         4*8         3*1*2         27*         3*5         3*5         3*5         3*5         3*5 <td>Wood w rkers (Christian)</td> <td></td> <td>1.7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>12.0</td>	Wood w rkers (Christian)		1.7				12.0	
Bakers       18,153       6.5       6.2       6.0       4.9       3.4         Brewery and corn mill workers       29,659       1.4       1.7       1.5       1.5       1.4         Tobacco workers       21,198       1.6       32.5       1.74       5.0       1.4         Engine drivers and stokers       9,609       2.1       10.4       5.3       2.9       3.4         Factory workers (Soc. Dem.)       130,331       1.4       163       11.2       6.9       3.7         F ctory workers (Onristian)       5,682       1.2       18.0       11.5       10.0       9.7		10,646					20.6	
Brewery and corn mill workers   29.659   1.4   1.7   1.5								
Tobacco workers								
Engine drivers and stokers:	Tobacca moultons	29,659						
Factory workers (Soc. Dem.)   130,331   1-4   16-3   11-2   6-9   3-7   Fetory workers (Christian)   5,682   1-2   18-0   11-5   10-0   9-2	Thesine deimone and delalare	21,198						
F ctory workers (Christian) 5,682 1.2 18.0 11.5 10.0 9.2							3.2	
	T ot our market (Chalatian)							
State and municipal workers   39,249   0.7   1.8   1.1   1.2   1.1	Chaha and manistral and						1.1	

As regards the month of November, the Reichsarbeits-blatt states that "the improvement in industrial conditions which set in during September, and which continued in October, was maintained in November. The industries engaged directly or indirectly in carrying out War Office orders or supplying the needs of the armies in the field were for the most part even busier than before. Other trades, however, shared in the general improvement in industry, even those engaged in making articles of luxury. Considering the industries separately, the position remained in many cases about the same as in October, but in certain trades a seasonal decline was experienced."

Returns from 414 industrial concerns showed a total of 282,528 workpeople (male and female) employed on the last day of November, as compared with 378,972 employed by the same firms on the corresponding date of 1913—a decrease of 96,444, or 25.5 per cent. This, it is stated, is principally due to the loss of male workpeople called up for military service. The decline in the numbers employed was greatest in the chemical trades (amounting to 35.4 per cent.), the woodworking trades (32.2 per cent.) and the metal trades (31.2 per cent.); but the clothing and engineering trades, the mining and smelting industry, and the electrical trades also showed considerable reductions in the numbers employed.

# FOOD PRICES IN BERLIN.

Food prices in Berlin in November were 20.9 per cent. above the July level, as compared with 16.4 per cent. above that level in October.

In November, compared with the previous month, there were increases in the price of wheat flour, butter, lard, beef, veal, pork, bacon, rice, split peas, haricot beans, and lentils. Other articles showed no change, or a slight decrease.

Comparing November prices with those prevailing in July, the articles showing the most marked advances were wheaten bread, rye flour, butter, lard, eggs, bacon, rice, split peas, haricot beans, and lentils. There were particularly large increases in the last three of these, which are very important articles in German house-keeping.

The Table given below shows the percentage increases in retail prices\* of provisions in August, September, October, and November, as compared with prices in July.

Article.		August.	September.	October.	November.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rye bread		14.3	10.7	14.3	10.7
Wheat bread (in rolls)		27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7
Wheat flour		14.3	4.8	7.1	9.5
Rye flour		33.3	26.7	33.3	33.3
ro-d		7.7	7.7	11.5	17:3
Curren	•••	15·4 10·0	15.4	23.1	53.8
Coffee		3.2	No change.	No change.	No change.
Toron		28.6	42.9	3·2 71·4	3·2 71·4
Malle		No change.	No change.	No change.	
Beef		8.2	5.3	4.7	No change.
Mutton		6.4	0.5	2.9+	
Veal		5.4	2.0+	1.01	4·4† 0·5
Pork		7.4	4.3	8.0	11.7
Bacon		16.9	23.5	29.5	34.9
Potatoes		37.5	No change.	12.5	12.5
Rice		20.0	20.0	40.0	60 0
Split peas		57.5	60.0	110.0	142.5
Haricot beans		32.0	40.0	64.0	92.0
Lentils		30.0	40.0	75.0	116.7
All above Articles (weighted net per- centage increase).	••	13.3	10.2	16:4	20.9

A decree fixing maximum prices for wheat and rye was issued by the Federal Council on October 28th, 1914.

It is to be noted that the rye bread sold in November was inferior in quality as compared with previous months, bakers being required (under the decree of October 28th) to add a proportion of not less than 5 per cent. of potato preparations. So long as the admixture does not exceed 20 per cent. the loaf need only be marked with the letter K ("Krîegsbrot," i.e., war loaf). If over 20 per cent. the proportion of the admixture must be stated on the loaf.

That the decree did not have all the desired effect is evident from the fact that on December 19th the Federal Council made amendments in their earlier decree, with a view to putting an end to certain abuses, and attracting greater supplies of corn into the market.

Butter in November had risen by 17.3 per cent., and lard by as much as 53.8 per cent. above July prices. The increasing dearness of butter has been the subject of much complaint in the German Press of late; and it is reported that recourse is being had to substitutes, the prices of which are accordingly rising very much.

The increase in the price of eggs (71'4 per cent. on November over July prices) is partly seasonal, but is also in some measure due to the fact that few foreign eggs are being imported into Germany. In normal times the home supply forms only a very small part of the home consumption.

Potatoes showed no change from July prices in September, but in each of the following months they were 12.5 per cent. above normal prices. Maximum prices were fixed for this article of food on November 25th. The prices so fixed were producers' prices, and wholesale and retail dealers did not come within the terms of the Decree.

<sup>\*</sup> This relates to the dispute at Dublin which began in August, 1913, and ended in February, 1914, affecting a large number of different trades.

<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive, so far as possible, of members called up for military service.

<sup>•</sup> The prices, which are monthly averages, are taken from the Prussian official Statistische Korrespondenz, and have been weighted according to consumption data derived from various German sources.

† Decrease.

# RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM JULY TO 1st JANUARY.

RETAIL prices of food began to move upward on August 1st, but it was not until August 4th that any sharp general rise occurred. The average rise at August 8th was 15 or 16 per cent. After that date, however, there was a fall in the price of most articles, until at the beginning of September prices were approximately 10 per cent, above the level of July. Since then there has been a gradual rise, the amount of the percentage increases on "normal prices in July" at the beginning of each month, September to January, being as follows:-

Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Large Towns 11 13 13 17 Small Towns and Villages 9 11 12 15

To some extent the increase is due to seasonal influences, such articles as eggs and butter becoming dearer as the year advances. The greater part of the rise, however, must be attributed to other causes.

The articles showing the greatest advance are sugar, eggs, and fish. On August 8th the average price of granulated sugar was between 80 and 90 per cent. above the level of the previous month. In the following three weeks it fell somewhat, but it rose again in September. During the last three months of the year prices again declined, but not quite so much as they advanced in September. At the beginning of January the price of granulated sugar was about two-thirds higher than before the war.

After a sharp rise at the beginning of August, the price of eggs receded during the month to 11 or 12 per cent. above the level of July. During September prices advanced about 10 per cent. on the average, in October the rise was twice as great, and in November it averaged about 13 per cent., some part of these advances being, of course, due to the time of year. On January 1st prices were slightly lower than a month earlier in the small towns and villages, and about the same in the large towns.

Fish showed a comparatively small increase in price at the beginning of August, and, as would be expected, prices have fluctuated considerably from time to time. The most marked increase is that recorded for January 1st, as compared with December 1st-viz., about 12 per cent. on average.

The prices of British meat have not shown much increase, on the whole, but imported meat is much dearer than before the war. After a sharp rise early in August, followed by a slight recession in the middle of that month, an advance commenced which, though gradual, has been almost continuous, with the result that the prices on January 1st were much higher than those recorded at any date during the past six months.

On the outbreak of war there was a sharp rise in the price of flour, and at the end of the first week in August the advance amounted to about 20 per cent. During the three following weeks prices fell, and at the end of the month the net increase averaged about 11 per cent. From then until the beginning of November there was practically no change, but at January 1st prices had reached about the same average level as on August 8th—viz., 20 per cent. above July.

Bread increased only about half as much as flour at the beginning of August, about 11 per cent. on the average, and receded to show an advance of about 8 per cent. at the end of August. As with flour, there was no further important change until November, but during November and December there was a rise amounting to 5 to 6 per cent. on the average.

After a marked rise early in August, the prices of butter rapidly fell to little above normal, remaining thus up to the end of November, the increase during September to November being, apparently, almost entirely seasonal. Between December 1st and January 1st, however, the price rose nearly 5 per cent.

Bacon, margarine, cheese, and milk a'l show increases of about 5 to 10 per cent. On August 8th the prices of bacon and margarine were from 15 to 20 per cent, above

those of the previous month, but both showed an almost continuous decline until the end of November, since when there has been a tendency for prices to recover a little. Cheese did not increase greatly in August, but rose about 5 per cent during September to December, and milk shows a slight, and purely seasonal, advance.

The fluctuations in the price of potatoes vary con siderably from place to place, and generally, the position in regard to potato prices has been more favourable in the small than in the large towns. In the latter, prices on August 8th averaged about 15 per cent. above those of July; in the small towns and villages the percentage increase averaged only 4 per cent. Subsequently, prices fell continuously until the end of October, being at that date below the prices of July by 16 per cent. in the large towns, and by 25 per cent. in the small towns and villages. Since then there has been some advance.

The change in the price of tea may be ascribed solely to the raising of the duty by 3d. per lb. in November. This was usually followed by increases of 2d. or 3d. per lb. in the retail price, the average advance being about 21d. per lb., or between 13 and 14 per cent.

The average percentages by which prices at January 1st exceeded the normal prices of July last in large towns (i.e., towns having populations over 50,000) and in small towns and villages are shown below:-

	Increa	entage se since lly.		Increa	entage se since
Article.	Large Towns.	Small Towns and Vil- lages.	Article.	Large Towns.	Small Towns and Vil lages.
Beef.— British— Ribs Thin Flank Chilled or Frozen— Ribs Thin Flank Mutton— British— Legs Breast Frozen— Legs Breast Bacon (streaky) Fish	8 15 18 32 6 16 19 28 9 51	6 8 15 21 5 7 14 21 5 31	Flour (household) Bread Tea Sugar (granulated) Milk Flotatoes Margarine Butter— Fresh Salt Cheese Eggs (fresh) All above articles (weighted net per-		23 14 13 65 7 22* 4 16 14 10 65

## RETAIL PRICES OF MEAT.

THE following announcement in regard to the retail prices of meat was issued by the Board of Trade on 11th January, 1915:-

The Board of Trade are informed by the Advisory Committee of the National Federation of Meat Traders' Associations that the retail prices of home-killed beef need not be more than 11d. per lb. higher than a year ago, coarser joints being advanced somewhat more than prime joints. Home-killed mutton has advanced less on the prices of a year ago than home-killed beef. Pork is also somewhat dearer than a year ago. The price of veal has advanced as much as that of beef.

On account of the restricted supplies of imported chilled and frozen beef, the Committee consider that an advance, compared with the prices ruling in the middle of July, of 1d. to 2d. per lb. for prime joints and 2d. to 3d. per lb. for coarser parts may still reasonably be charged. For imported frozen mutton the advance need not exceed 2d. per lb.

# RETAIL PRICES IN DENMARK SINCE THE WAR.

THE Danish Statistical Department has published the results of an enquiry made at the beginning of December last into the retail prices of a number of household necessaries in all towns and in the more important rural communes in Denmark. In the case of certain towns data were also available from which it was possible to determine the rise which took place in the prices of neces-

saries since the beginning of the present war. The Table given below shows the percentage increase which took place between the end of July and the first week of December last in the retail prices of articles which enter largely into working-class consumption, arranged in three groups :-

	Increase in	Price, July-De	cember, 1914.
	Copenhagen.	Large Towns.	Small Towns.
Rye bread (best quality) Rye bread (second quality) Wheaten bread Flour (best Danish) Barley meal Moist sugar Coffee Santos blend (cheapest quality Margarine (cheapest quality) Milk, fresh Beef (cheapest quality) Veal (cheapest quality) Lard, spiced (Danis.)	48 20 31 44 6 0 19 5 0	Per cent.  38 51 15 32 32 38 10 1† 21 5 8† 6† 39	Per cent. 28 44 19 32 30 10 0 9 4 1 1 44
Split cod	9 17	9 28 10	10 17 5†

The total effect of the increase of prices in December on the cost of living of a typical working-class family in Copenhagen would not exceed 10.3 per cent. over the level of July. Approximately, the same total rise took place in the cost of living in provincial towns as in the

# EMPLOYMENT OF BELGIAN REFUGEES.

A COMMITTEE was appointed by the Local Government Board on the 27th October, 1914, to consider and report as to the action that could properly be taken with a view to finding occupation for the Belgian refugees in this country. This Committee has now issued its first

It is estimated that about 110,000 Belgian refugees had landed in this country at the date of the Report (December). Arrangements are being made to bring over yet more from Holland. According to information furnished by the Registrar-General relating to about 100,000 of these refugees, the number of men above the age of 18 was approximately 32,000 (of whom about 5,000 were estimated to be of military age), and the number of women above the age of 16 was also approximately 32,000. Two-thirds of the women whose marital condition was known were married.

Of the 100,000 persons enumerated, 23,907 were shown as following various occupations: the great majority of these, excepting the domestic servants and dressmakers, may be assumed to be men. Large numbers were returned under the heading of various professional and commercial occupations. Of the manual workers the largest numbers were returned under the headings of clothing trades (1,996), food, drink and tobacco trades (1,444), building trades (1,386), engineering (885), furnishing trades, &c. (804), goldsmiths, jewellers, lapidaries (682), agriculture (654). A large number were also returned as "general labourers" or as "artisans," "mechanics," or "factory hands," without distinction of trade. The number of domestic servants was 1,720.

The vacancies covered by applications for Belgian labour received by the Labour Exchanges up to the 30th November from employers whose offers could be considered and dealt with were 3,775 for men and 1,508

The committee found that the refugees might be divided roughly into three main groups:-

(i.) Workers qualified to fill vacancies in industries in which there is a shortage of British låbour, such as armament workers, glass blowers, woollen workers, miners, motor mechanics and agricultural labourers.

(ii.) Workers qualified for and in need of employment for whom no opportunities in British indus-

\* Cd. 7750. Price 6%d. + At 31st December, 947 men and 5 women had been placed in employment by the Labour Exchanges. In addition many refugees have obtained work independently of the Exchanges.

tries exist, such as tailors, jewellers, milliners, dressmakers, printers, bookbinders, fancy goods makers and cabinet makers.

(iii.) Professional classes (officials, clerks, musicians, teachers, &c.).

(1) As regards the first class, the committee strongly recommend that vacancies should as far as possible be filled through the Labour Exchanges: they suggest that this should be made a condition of the employment of Belgians in the case of all Government contracts, and should be enjoined upon railway companies and upon mine-owners. The reason for the Committee's insistence upon the employment of the Labour Exchanges in this matter is that it is only so that proper terms of employment can be insured, in particular-

(a) That unmarried men of military age, not specially exempt from military service, should not be sent to situations. (This is in deference to the wishes of the Belgian Government.)

(b) That no Belgian labour should be employed until every reasonable effort has been made to find British labour through the agency of the Labour Exchanges.

(c) That no Belgian labour should be employed at rates of wages lower, or on conditions less favourable, than those generally observed in the district concerned by agreement between the associations of employers and of workmen; or, failing such agreement, than those generally recognised in such district by good employers.

The Trade Union representatives who gave evidence, speaking generally, made no objection to the employment of Belgian refugees, but they stipulated-

(a) That no work for which British labour was available should be given to Belgians.

(b) That in respect of wages paid to Belgians and the conditions of their employment the Trade Union regulations should be observed;

(c) That in the event of the slackening of trade Belgian employees should make way for British workmen.

The Committee devoted particular attention to the question of employing refugees in agricultural pursuits. They found that there was a shortage of labour at the present time in agriculture, and that this shortage would probably increase to a marked extent in the early months of the coming year. Farmers are urged to make a greater use of the Labour Exchanges than they have hitherto done.

Suggestions were made to the Committee as to the possible employment of Belgian agriculturists highly skilled in intensive culture, e.g.:-

(i.) The organisation of a co-operative settlement in which a limited number of agricultural refugees might be established, as a demonstration of Belgian methods of intensive culture and co-operation;

(ii.) The temporary settlement of selected Belgian agriculturists to conduct demonstration plots in connection with the agricultural colleges and the agricultural education committees of the county councils;

(iii.) The organisation of individual demonstration plots or small holdings through the existing agricultural, housing and co-operative societies, and on suitable ground privately owned;

(iv.) The formation of nurseries for ultimate replanting by the side of the roads and in the woodlands destroyed in Belgium.

(2) The Committee recommend that Belgian refugees for whom there are no openings in British industries should be employed in making clothes, furniture and other articles for household use, for the benefit of the Belgian people on their return to their own country at the close of the war. Instances are given in the report of workshops which have been established already for the employment of refugees in this manner.

At present, however, the refugees are scattered hap-hazard up and down the country; and it is unlikely that there would be enough in any one place for employment in a workshop confined to one particular industry. It would therefore be necessary for the refugees to some

<sup>\*</sup> Decrease. † Zatatistiske Efterretninger udgivet af det Statistiske Departement, No. 14, 19th December, 1914. Copenhagen.

extent to be redistributed, so as to bring together in one place those following the same occupation; and in order to assist the local refugee committees in this work of redistribution and in the provision of accommodation and employment the Committee recommend: (i) the formation of a central authority to advise and assist local refugee committees in organising schemes for the establishment of refugee workshops; and (ii) that local employment committees should be formed by the existing refugee committees in the principal centres, in conjunction with the local authorities, to include in all cases employers, representatives of organised labour, and women workers.

The President of the Local Government Board has now appointed the following to be Commissioners to put into execution the recommendations of the Committee:—

Sir Ernest Hatch, Bart. (Chairman); Sir T. H. Elliott, K.C.B.; His Excellency Baron C. Goffinet; the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P.; Miss Susan Lawrence; M. Charles Lejeune; the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lytton; and the Rt. Hon. Sir T. Vezey Strong.

All inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. H. A. Leggett, Winchester House, St. James's Square, London, S.W., and should be marked "Inquiry" in the corner of the envelope.

# PREVENTION AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS DUE TO THE WAR.\*

A Committee was appointed by the Prime Minister on August 4th to advise on the measures necessary to deal with any distress that might arise in consequence of the war. The Committee have made the prevention of unemployment and distress their primary object throughout; and, in accordance with this principle, in their circulars to the local representative committees, they emphasised the importance of seeing that workpeople were continued in employment, so far as possible, in their ordinary trades. They also secured the co-operation of the principal spending departments of the Government with regard to the spreading of contracts, in order to secure that the maximum amount of labour should be employed; and have obtained the assistance of the Road Board and of the Development Commission in promoting schemes of road improvement and development works in districts where any exceptional amount of unemployment prevails or is anticipated. The Road Board have already arranged to make grants to the extent of £450,000 in aid of schemes involving a total expenditure of about one million pounds; and the Development Commission have a number of important schemes under considera-

Except in a few districts and in a few very particular industries unemployment has proved to be much less serious than was anticipated in some quarters; and it has been unnecessary up to the present time to make any very heavy demands upon the National Relief Fund for the assistance of cases of distress among the civil population. In agricultural districts in particular there is an almost total absence of distress. Grants from the National Relief Fund for the relief of civil distress (i.e., apart from the families of men on active service) are made solely on the recommendation of the Government Committee. Such grants have been made to the total amount of £158,266.

Although, as has been stated, there has, on the whole, been much less unemployment and distress than was anticipated, the effects of the war on employment have been more severely felt in the case of women than in the case of men; and a Central Committee on Women's Employment has been constituted (as a sub-committee of the General Committee) to deal with distress among women workers. The Central Committee assists Local Representative Committees in the formulation of schemes of work which are directly under the control of the Local Committees; it has also established workrooms under its own immediate supervision, and has inaugurated schemes for the training of women and girls and for experiments

in the creation of new industries. Special attention has also been given to applications for relief from expectant and nursing mothers who are in distress in consequence of the war.

The report deals also with the work done in the temporary reception of Belgian refugees; in the relief of destitute aliens and of British-born wives of interned aliens and in the distribution of gifts from the Dominions and the United States.

# EMERGENCY GRANTS TO TRADE UNIONS.

The Board of Trade published in the October number of the "Labour Gazette" particulars of their scheme for the payment of emergency grants to Trade Unions in aid of exceptional expenditure on unemployment benefit owing to the war.

The following statement shows the number of Unions in the principal trade groups to which such grants have been made, and the total sum paid to December 31st,

						Unions.	Amounts paid.		
Trac	le Gro	oup.			No.	Membership.			
							£	8.	d.
Building					-	_	-	-	-
Mining		•••			-		506	12	11
Metal*		••			14	7,153	500	12	11
Textile :-				550	117	181,970	37,437	8	2
(a) Cotton† (b) Other te:	etilos		•	••	5	4,705	1,560	1	2 3
Clothing (Hatter	(B.	***			2	4,584	_	-	-
Fransport							-	-	-
Printing					4	13,183	1,120	1	7
Woodwork					7	16,247	716	11	9 4
Other Trades‡					7	5,038	434	4	4
TOTALS					156	232,880	41,775	0	0

\* Mainly Textile Machinery and Jewellery workers.
† Including Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing in Cotton.
‡ Leather workers, Basket makers and Tobacco (Cigar) workers.

AND AND AND AND

# RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

COTTON TRADE.

The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations and the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners have accepted the proposal made, on behalf of the Government, by the Chief Industrial Commissioner, for minimising as far as possible the risk of disputes in the cotton trade. (See Labour Gazette for December, 1914, page 433.) On January 4th, 1915, an agreement was signed by representatives of the parties to the effect "that in disputes, other than bad spinning disputes for which provision has already been made, notices shall not be tendered at any mill until the matter in dispute has been considered by the Joint Committees of the two associations, both local and central."

# BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES, KETTERING.

The Board of Arbitration having failed to agree upon a claim made by the operatives with respect to the price of lasting Army boots of size 11's and upwards, Mr. Alderman T. Smith who was appointed Umpire has now issued an Award fixing the amount of extra payment to be made in certain cases.

# IRON FITTERS, FALKIRK.

A difference having arisen between the National Light Castings Iron Founders' Federation and the General Iron Fitters' Association as to the rate of pay for overtime, the Chief Industrial Commissioner, at the request of the War Department, visited Glasgow in December and succeeded in effecting an agreement which came into force on January 1st.

# ARMATURE WINDERS, L.C.C. TRAMWAYS.

In accordance with the provisions of the Conciliation Scheme adopted by the London County Council and the employees of the Tramways Department, joint application was made on November 30th to the Chief Industrial Commissioner for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide a claim made by the armature winders at the Central Repair Depôt for an alteration in their rate of wages.

A Court consisting of Sir Nathaniel Highmore, K.C.B. (Chairman), Mr. L. A. Martin and Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., was duly appointed, and on December 21st awarded "that the rate of wages shall be increased from 10d. per hour to 10½d. per hour," and "that the increase of the rate of wages shall take effect on and after the 1st day of January, 1915."

### TINSMITHS, EDINBURGH.

A dispute having arisen at a firm in Edinburgh and the men having left work, the Chief Industrial Commissioner communicated with the parties and suggested that an Inquiry should be held with regard to the complaints. The difficulty, however, came to an end with the voluntary resignation of an employee to whom objection had been taken and the men returned to work on January 11th.

# RAILWAY CONCILIATION SCHEME.

His Honour Judge Mellor, K.C., presided at a meeting on December 18th, 1914, of Conciliation Board III. of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, and decided certain questions raised by goods guards.

# EMPLOYMENT IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEA

Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, \$4, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers &c.—Free quarterly circulars on Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and Handbooks (with maps) at 1d. each, may be obtained from the office post free; and all enquiries about emigration addressed to the office will be answered.

Warning.—Owing to the war—(1) labour conditions oversea are uncertain, and openings for emigrants are greatly restricted; and (2) steamers are liable to delay and risk.

# CANADA.

Large numbers of skilled and unskilled labourers are out of work in Canada at the present time, and it is undesirable for any emigrant to go there now. Manufacturing conditions during November showed little improvement; and many factory employees, both male and female, still remained out of work. Wages in many places have been reduced. The busiest establishments were cotton and woollen mills and flour mills, the shoe factories of Quebec, and the steel industry at Sydney (Nova Scotia), Hamilton, &c. Lumbering operations were dull, except in the Maritime Provinces, and many saw mills have been closed for the winter. Coal mining was dull in Nova Scotia, the collieries working about four days a week; metal mining was dull both at Cobalt and in British Columbia. Railway construction, agricultural operations, &c., having largely ceased for the winter, there has been a further increase in the number of unskilled labourers out of work. Many women in Montreal and Vancouver have been working at reduced wages; and at Vancouver the wages of firemen, policemen and other civic servants also have been reduced The strikes of moulders at Smith's Falls (Ontario) and of sheet metal workers at Toronto are still unsettled.

### AUSTRALIA.

Labour conditions are unsettled owing to the war and the drought; and there is no present demand for more labour, except for female servants. Assisted emigration to South Australia and Western Australia has been stopped; but the other States still grant reduced passages to emigrants. Owing, however, to recruiting for the war, assisted passages to New South Wales, Victoria or Queensland are not available, except under special circumstances, for men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. In New South Wales the building, clothing, iron, and printing trades are all suffering from the war; but textile workers have been well employed. The furniture and several other trades are working less than full time, and Govern-

ment employees are working only four days a week. There are still large numbers of miners out of work at Broken Hill, Cobar, Maitland and Newcastle. Many female factory hands and clerks have been discharged or are working at reduced wages; general servants, however, are wanted. According to a cablegram just received from Sydney, the building trades and all other trades, with the possible exception of engineering and the clothing trades in New South Wales, are dull both in New South Wales and Victoria.

### NEW ZEALAND.

Assisted emigration to New Zealand is now stopped, except in the case of female servants. The coachbuilding and engineering trades have been busy at Wellington and Napier; the leather and clothing trades have been busy in several places, and dressmakers and female factory hands have been wanted at Christchurch; all other trades have been quiet, and there is no demand for more unskilled labourers.

There is a demand for good coalminers at Westport and Greymouth.

### UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Owing to the war, the labour market in South Africa is disorganised; and no one should go there now.

# LABOUR IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Note.—Since the publication of the last issue of the Board of Trade Labour Gazette no official data for the preparation of the usual monthly summaries relative to the state of employment, &c., have reached the Department from France, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Holland, Norway or Denmark. As regards employment in Germany see p. 5.

## DENMARK.

Trade Unionism in Denmark in 1913.—According to a statement in Statistiske Efterretninger (the journal of the Government Statistical Department), the number of trade unionists in Denmark in 1913 was about 153,000, an increase of 13,000, or 9.3 per cent., as compared with the previous year. In 1903 the corresponding total was about 88,000, so that the number of organised workpeople has increased by 65,000, or 73.9 per cent., during the decade.

The 153,000 unionists were grouped into about 1,700 unions or branches; and of these 1,260, which had an aggregate membership of 115,000, were affiliated to the Central Federation of Trade Unions (De Samvirkende Fagforbund). Thus all except about one-fourth of the total number of organised workpeople were attached to this central body.

## SWEDEN

Employment, July-September, '914.—The issue of Sociala Meddelanden (the journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs) for November contains particulars as to unemployment among members of Trade Unions at the beginning of July, August and September respectively. The data relating to the principal 'Unions making' returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Unions.	Member- ship report-	Percentage Unemployed on 1st of Month.		
Onions,	ing at Sept. 1st, 1914.	July, 1914.	Aug., 1914.	Sept. 1914.
All Unions making Returns	58,257	3.1	3.0	8:1
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:— Stoneworkers Bricklayers and masons Painters Blastfurnacemen, &c. Foundrymen Tinplate workers Engineering operatives Boot, shoe and leather workers Brewery workers Tobacco workers Sawmill workers Woodworkers Woodworkers General labourers and factory operatives (trades not distinguished	2,888 1,506 1,116 2,264 3,873 1,387 18,096 1,741 1,269 2,430 2,642 4,509 6,201	1.8 5.8 3.9 1.0 0.2 1.3 2.8 0.4 0.2 1.3 1.1 5.5 8.4	1·5 4·6 0·6 1·9 0·3 0·6 2·7 0·5 0·1 0·8 4·4 2·6 7·8	28·8 10·8 1·9 3·5 0·7 2·4 5·5 1·6 5·8 5·9 14·5 9·6 15·5

# REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT

# IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

DURING DECEMBER.

# COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good on the whole; it showed the usual seasonal improvement compared with November, but was not quite so good as a year ago. In several districts a scarcity of workpeople was reported.

Returns relating to 1,210 pits, employing 634,038 workpeople, show that the average number of days\* worked per week by the collieries during the fortnight ended December 19th, 1914, was 5.22, as compared with 5.09 in the previous month, and 5.66 a year ago. Of the 634,038 workpeople covered by the returns, 348,497 (or 55.0 per cent.) were employed at pits working 11 or more days during the fortnight ended December 19th, 1914; while 128,087 (or 20.2 per cent.) worked from 10 to 11 days. The highest average was in North Wales (5.83 days), and the lowest in Northumberland (4.17 days).

Districts.	No. of Work- people employed in Dec., 1914,	work	e number ed per w Collierie tnight er	eek by	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1914, on a	
ndr ud one dide that adread gas in felicity	at the Collieries included in the Table.	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Nov. 28th, 1914.	Dec 20th, 1913.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES. Northumberland Durham Cumberland South Yorkshire Lancashire and Cheshire Pottingham and Leicester Staffordshire Warwick, Worcester, and Salop Gloucester and Somerset North Wales South Wales and Mon	49,741 109,036 7,783 71,821 27,230 52,888 41,210 38,349 28,871 9,093 6 483 10,540 135,459	Days. 4-17 4-75 5-53 5-64 5-36 5-39 5-46 4-86 5-69 5-58 5-45 5-83 5-90	Days. 3-97 4-65 5-56 5-37 5-01 5-12 5-34 4-88 5-54 5-54 5-13 5-88 5-49	Days. 5:45 5:53 6:74 6:87 6:60 6:50 6:71 5:49 6:71 5:75 6:45 6:87	Days. + 0·20 + 0·10 - 0·03 + 0·27 + 0·35 + 0·27 + 0·12 - 0·02 + 0·15 + 0·04 + 0·32 - 0·05 + 0·11	Days 1-28 - 0-78 - 0-21 - 0-23 - 0-24 - 0-11 - 0-25 - 0-63 - 0-02 - 0-17
ENGLAND AND WALES	588,501	5.25	5.10	5.68	+ 0.15	- 0.43
SCOTLAND.  West Scotland	20,325 2,534 22,073	5·19 5·13 4·66	5·12 5·18 4·75	5·34 5·41 ,5.44	+ 0.07 - 0.05 - 0.09	- 0·15 - 0·28 - 0·78
SCOTLAND	44,932	4.93	4.94	5.39	- 0.01	- 0.46
IRELAND	602	5.75	5.60	6.00	+ 0.15	+ 0.25
UNITED KINGDOM	634,038	5.22	5.09	5*36	+ 0.13	- 0.44

In Northumberland, employment was fair at house coal pits and moderate generally; in Durham, it was fairly good. In both districts employment was better than in November (especially in Northumberland), but much worse than a year ago. In Cumberland employment continued good. In South Yorkshire employment was good, and in West Yorkshire fairly good, owing to activity at forges and engineering works and in the woollen trade; the export trade, however, was still restricted. In both districts employment was considerably better than in November, but not so good as a year ago. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was much better than in November, and nearly as good as last year. In Derbyshire employment was fairly good, but not so good as a year ago. It was also fairly good in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire but showed a great decline on a year ago. In Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire it continued good. In Gloucestershire and Somerset it was good, much better than in November and equal to last year. In North Wales it continued very good. In South Wales it continued year good, but showed a considerable decline on December, 1913.

In West Scotland employment was good, especially in Ayrshire. In the Lothians and Fifeshire it showed

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

a slight decline on November, and in Fifeshire a more marked decline on December, 1913.

No. of Work- people employed in : ec., 1914, at the		Average number of days worked per week at the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1914, on a	
	Collieries included in the Table.	Dec. Nov. Dec. 19th, 28th, 20th, 1914. 1914.		Month ago.	Year ago.	
Anthracite Coking	8,993 32,876 39,966 71,284 249,206 231,713	Days. 5.54 5.32 4.87 5.20 6.24 5.25	Days 6-32 - 5-10 - 4-85 - 5-11 - 5-14 - 5-06 - 5-09	Days. 5·49 5·72 5·53 5·56 5·76 5·61	Days. + 0.22 + 0.22 + 0.02 + 0.09 + 0.10 + 0.19	Days. + 0.05 - 0.40 - 0.66 - 0.36 - 0.52 - 0.36

Compared with a month ago employment showed an improvement at pits producing all classes of coal; the improvement was most marked at anthracite and at coking coal pits.

Compared with a year ago there was a marked decline at all pits, except anthracite pits; the decline was greatest at gas coal and at steam coal pits.

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

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron and shale mines, and was about the same, on the whole, as a year ago. It was dull, but slightly better than a month ago, in tin mines, and continued good in lead mines.

In and about quarries employment was generally fair, though somewhat hindered by bad weather; it continued very slack, however, in the North Wales slate quarries.

### MINING.

Iron Mining.—During the fortnight ended December 19th the weekly average number of days\* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.76, as compared with 5.87 a month ago and 5.70 a year ago. Employment showed a marked improvement on a month ago in Scotland, but a decline in Cleveland, where, however, there was a noticeable improvement on a year ago.

The State Made of	Work- people	worke Mines	Number ed per we and Open ortnight	ek by Works	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec, 1914, on a	
Districts.	employed in Dec., 1914.	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Nov. 28th, 1914.	Dec. 20th, 1913.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland	6,708 4,567	Days. 5.74 5.84	Days. 5.99 5.89	Days. 5.54 5.86	Days 0.25 - 0.05	Days. + 0.20 - 0.02
shire Scotland Other Districts	668 2,419	5·65 5·73	5·09 5·75	5·70 5·81	+ 0.56	- 0·05 - 0·08
ALL DISTRICTS	14,362	5.76	5.87	5.70	- 0.11	+ 0.06

Shale Mining.—According to the returns received, there were 3,464 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended December 19th, who were employed at mines working an average of 5.95\* days per week, as compared with 3,403 workpeople in November, at mines working 6.00 days, and 3,717 workpeople in December, 1913, at mines working 5.89 days.

Tin Mining.—Employment continued dull, on the whole, in Cornwall. It improved slightly, however, in the Camborne and St. Ives districts.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in Weardale and in North Wales. It was also good at Darley Dale (Matlock).

### QUARRYING.

Slate.—Employment was very slack in North Wales, and worse than a month ago. Practically the whole of the quarries in the Nantlle Vale district were closed, and only three or four days a week were generally worked in the Llanberis and Festiniog districts.

\*The figures in this article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which iron ore or stone or shale was got and drawn at the mines and open works included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these mines or open works worked the whole number of days.

# Granite.—Employment continued good in Leicestershire, though somewhat interrupted by bad weather. It continued fair in Cornwall. In the Aberdeen district it was generally dull, and worse than a month ago.

January, 1915. THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Limestone.—Employment was slack at Buxton, and was hindered by the weather. Employment was also affected by the weather in the Weardale district, where, however, it was otherwise good, and better than a month

ago.

Other Stone.—Chert quarrymen continued well employed at Bakewell, where some overtime was worked. Employment was fairly good, but affected by bad weather, in the Clee Hill road material (basalt) quarries. It was moderate, with a little short time, in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. In freestone quarries on the Tyne employment was fair, and better than a month ago, though some short time was worked in the grindstone quarries. Short time was again worked in whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale. Employment continued bad in sandstone quarries in Forfarshire

Settmaking etc.—Employment with settmakers was generally somewhat affected by the weather. Otherwise it was good, on the whole, in Leicestershire and North Wales, fairly good in the Clee Hill district, and in Scotland. With monumental masons in the Aberdeen district it was very dull, and worse than a month ago.

China Clay.—Employment in Cornwall was slack in the St. Austell district; it continued fair at Lee Moor and Shaugh.

### PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fairly good, though with a few large firms in different parts of the country it was reported as slack. It was about the same as a month ago, and better than before the war. Many firms reported a difficulty in getting supplies of ore and limestone owing to high freights and difficulties of navigation, and the congestion on the railways. There was some shortage of labour, owing to enlistments.

The returns show that 266 furnaces were in blast at the end of December, 1914, compared with 271\* in November, 1914, and in December, 1913. Two furnaces were re-lit (one in Lincolnshire and one in Shropshire); one (in Cumberland) was damped down, and six were blown out (one in Lancashire, one in North Wales, and four in Ayrshire).

	Number the Ret	of Furnaces i urns in Blast	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1914, on		
District.	Dec., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES - Cleveland Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks., Derby & Nottingham Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton / Staffs & Worcester. S. Wales & Monmouth Other districts	73 24 10 35 27 29 8 4	73 26 10 35 26 29 8 4	74 26 10 35 27 30 9 5	- 2 :: + 1	- 1 - 2 :: .: - 1 - 1
ENGLAND & WALES -	210	211	216	- 1	- 6
SCOTLAND	56	60	55	- 4	+ 1
TOTAL	266	271*	271	- 5	- 5

In Cleveland and Durham employment was good, though there was some delay in the arrival of ore from abroad. The more important firms in Cumberland and Lancashire also reported employment as good. In South Yorkshire and in Derbyshire it was fairly good on the whole. It was good, with some scarcity of men, in Lincolnshire. In North and South Staffordshire and in Worcestershire employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago; and in North Wales it was reported as good. In South Wales and Monmouthshire the industry was affected by the difficulty in obtaining ore, and a few furnaces were idle. In Scotland employment was fairly good on the whole, though at one important works four furnaces were blown out during the month.

\* Revised figure.

# IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed an improvement on the previous month, but was still somewhat below the level of a year ago. In several districts a scarcity of workpeople was reported.

According to returns from employers relating to 100,341 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended December 19th, was 558,033, showing an increase of 14,191 (or 2.6 per cent.) on the previous month, but a decrease of 14,361 (or 2.5 per cent.) on a year ago.

	emp	of Workp loyed by king retu	firms	Aggre	gate num ifts work	ber of
	Week ended Dec.			Week ending Dec.	Inc. ( Dec. ( comp	-) as
	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Open Hearth Melting Fur-	9,872	Per cent. + 10	Per cent.	58,701	Per cent. + 1.9	Per cent. + 1·1
naces Crucible Furnaces Bessemer Converters Puddling Forges Rolling Mills Forging and Pressing Founding Other Departments. Mechanics, Labourers	462 1,807 7,613 31,112 4,939 12,640 14,353 17,543	+ 1.5 + 0.5 + 1.8 + 2.4 + 3.7 + 1.2 + 1.6 + 3.9	- 21.4 + 3.6 - 6.6 - 6.2 - 1.4 + 1.5 - 0.1 - 6.3	2,296 9,715 36,939 162,393 27,693 73,880 83,496 102,920	+ 4·7 + 2·0 + 3·2 + 2·5 + 4·6 + 1·2 + 1·9 + 4·1	- 28.4 + 9.9 - 1.6 - 5.9 - 1.1 + 2.0 + 0.0 - 5.0
TOTAL	100,341	+ 2.2	- 3.7	558,033	+ 2.6	- 2.5
DISTRICTS. Northumberland & Durham Cleveland Sheffield and Rotherham Leeds, Bradford, &c Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire Other Midland Counties Wales and Monmouth Total, England & Wales Scotland	11,608 8,765 21,749 4,207 9,167 9,548 4,977 11,849	+ 1.9 + 2.5 + 1.7 + 3.0 + 0.6 + 1.5 - 0.2 + 2.0 + 1.7 + 4.8	- 0·1 - 3·6 + 1·7 - 12·9 - 10·6 - 2·2 - 7·4 - 14·7 - 5·0 + 2·4	64,001 51,259 123,645 23,032 49,313 51,909 26,267 65,562 454,988	+ 2·9 + 3·2 + 0.8 + 3·6 + 0·3 + 2·2 - 0.5 + 3·1 + 1·9	- 1.7 - 0.2 + 2.6 - 14.4 - 12.3 - 1.0 - 4.4 - 13.7
TOTAL	18,471	+ 4.8 + 2.2	+ 2.4	103,045 558,033	+ 6.1 + 2.6	+ 6.9

Compared with November employment showed some improvement in every district except "other Midland counties," where there was a slight decline. The improvement was greatest in Scotland, and was noticeable also in the Leeds and Bradford, Cleveland, Wales and Monmouth, and Northumberland and Durham districts; and it affected all the departments. The total number of workpeople employed increased by 2,188 (or 2·2 per cent.), and the average number of shifts worked showed an increase of 0·4 per cent.

Employment at Consett, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough was good; at Jarrow, Stockton and Thornaby it was fairly good, though some short time was reported in the two latter districts. At Leeds, Sheffield, and Rotherham it was good with steel workers; some overtime was reported at Sheffield. At Mexborough it was very slack with iron workers. In South Staffordshire and in Shropshire it was good with steel workers and fair or quiet with iron workers. Employment with steel smelters was good generally, partly on account of Government work.

Compared with a year ago employment showed a decline in every district except Sheffield and Rotherham and Scotland, the decline being most marked in the Leeds and Bradford, Wales and Monmouth, and Cumberland and Lancashire districts. As regards departments, the decline was greatest at crucible furnaces and at rolling mills; whilst at Bessemer converters there was a marked improvement. The total number of workpeople employed decreased by 3,888 (or 3.7 per cent.), but the average number of shifts worked showed an increase of 1.3 per cent.

The *imports* of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during December, 1914, amounted to 59,450 tons, or little more than a quarter of the total for December, 1913. The reduction was principally in wrought iron, steel billets, and steel sheet bars and tinplate bars.

The exports (British and Irish), excluding pig iron, tinplates, and galvanised sheets, amounted to 126,977 tons, compared with 190,889 tons in December, 1913. Rails declined by 24,477 tons, or 60 per cent., and tubes and pipes and fittings for the same by 14,286 tons, or 44 per cent.

# TINPLATE AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

TINPLATE.

EMPLOYMENT in tinplate mills was about the same as a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of December, 1914, was 376, compared with 388 in November, 1914, and 468 in December, 1913.

Although the number of mills working was considerably less than a year ago, very few men were unemployed. This was partly due to the adoption of the short-shift system of four or six hours instead of eight, and partly to enlistments. In some districts there was a shortage of certain classes of men. The grant of licences to export under certain conditions to neutral European countries has diminished the adverse effect of the embargo previously enforced. There has also been an improvement in the demand for tinplates in home markets, caused by the discontinuance of the imports of certain utensils.

The exports of tinned plates and tinned sheets in December amounted to 30,254 tons, compared with 30,942 tons in November, 1914, and 38,840 tons in December, 1913. There was an increase on a year ago in the consignments to Norway, France, and Japan, but a decline to other European countries, to the United States, and to the British East Indies.

### STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

Employment in steel sheet mills also showed a considerable decline on a year ago. In December, 1914, the number of mills working was 110, compared with 106\* in November, 1914, and 122 in December, 1913.

The decline on a year ago was due to the serious dislocation of foreign markets, this being very largely an export trade. In the home markets there was an increased demand, particularly in the heavier gauges required for the erection of huts, &c., for the troops.

The exports of galvanised sheets were 22,340 tons in December, 1914, 25,495 tons in November, 1914, and 61,704 tons in December, 1913. Nearly half of the decline, as compared with December, 1913, is accounted for by greatly reduced exports to India.

# ENGINEERING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in December was exceptionally good, in consequence of the pressure of work in connection with the war. The demand for men exceeded the supply in nearly every district, overtime was in operation to a large extent, and Christmas and New Year holidays were curtailed. During the month a conference was held of representatives of employers and employed with the object of arriving at an agreement as to methods to be adopted in order to meet the shortage of labour.

The principal exceptions to the general state of employment as described above were as follows:—
In textile machine works in Lancashire and Cheshire employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago, short time being in operation at some places, especially at Oldham, where the majority of workpeople worked about 31½ hours per week. It was also slack with textile machine makers at Leeds. With lace machine builders at Nottingham employment was bad, some men being unemployed and others working half time. There was an improvement at the towns usually engaged in agricultural engineering in Lincolnshire, and at Ipswich and Colchester, partly owing to Government work. Short time was in operation in certain cases at Stoke-on-Trent, Dundee and Arbroath.

Trade Unions with 224,560 members (mostly skilled occupations) reported 1.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 1.8 per cent. at the end of November and 2.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1913. The number of workpeople in these trades who were insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 730,785. According to the comprehensive statistics compiled on this basis the percentage unemployed at the end of December was 1.8, compared with 2.3 in November and 3.0 in December, 1913. The particulars for the several insurance districts are given in the following Table:—

Division.	Number		tage of Unt Books		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1914, com- pared with	
and south a mule	Insured.	Dec. 24th, 1914.	Nov. 27th, 1914.	Dec. 24th, 1913.	A month ago.	A year ago.
London Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire 31* East Midlands West Midlands Eastern & S. E. Counties South Western Wales Scotland Ireland	70,797 74,159 149,138 90,791 55,918 71,842 37,622 35,328 14,529 111,313 19,348	2 4 0 8 2 4 1 5 2 0 1 6 0 8 1 4 2 1 1 : 3 3 · 7	2·9 1·1 3·3 2·2 2·3 1·7 1·1 1·8 2·1 1·7 4·4	3·9 2·6 3·7 2·7 2·7 2·9 3·0 2·8 2·0 2·1 4·7	- 0.5 - 0.3 - 0.9 - 0.7 - 0.3 - 0.2 - 0.3 - 0.4 - 0.4 - 0.7	- 1.5 - 1.8 - 1.3 - 1.2 - 0.7 - 1.4 - 2.2 - 1.4 + 0.1 - 0.8 - 0.8
UNITED KINGDOM	730,785	1.8	2.3	3.0	- 05	- 1.2

In exports of machinery the most marked declines, as compared with December, 1913, were in agricultural and in textile machinery.

# SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPIOYMENT in these trades was very good, and showed a slight improvement on a month ago, while it was generally better than a year ago. Overtime, often to a considerable extent, was worked in most centres, and firms were reported to be experiencing an increasing difficulty in finding a sufficient number of skilled workers.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and of shipwrights, with 71,197 members, reported 1.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.6 per cent. a month ago, and 3.3 per cent. a year ago.

The percentage unemployed among the 242,790 insured workpeople at the end of December was 2·1, compared with 2·6 a month ago, and 3·9 a year ago. The details for the various divisions are given in the following Table:—

on tout	Number	Une	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (- in Dec., 1914, on		
Division.	Insured.	Dec. 24th, 1914.	Nov. 27th, 1914.	Dec. 24th, 1913.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
London	10.380 59,192 35,485 6 352 1,411 410 7,896 24 003 10 831 70 022 16 809	2 4 1 4 1 2 2 2 5 5 1 2 1 0 4 2 2 4 1 9 4 7	3 4 2 4 1.7 2.2 8.0 2.2 1.6 4.7 2.8 2.0 4.9	94 34 23 35 16 13 34 87 64 23 49	- 1.0 - 1.0 - 0.5 - 2.5 - 1.0 - 0.6 - 0.4 - 0.1 - 0.2	- 7.0 - 2.0 - 1.1 - 1.3 + 4.0 - 0.1 - 2.4 - 4.5 - 4.0 - 0.4 - 0.2		
UNITED KINGDOM	212,790	2.1	26	39	- 0.5	- 1.8		

Employment was very good on the Tyne, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked; there was a marked improvement over the previous month on repair work. Employment was fairly good on the Wear, and better than a month ago. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was generally good on new work, and fair on repairs. It was good, and better than a month ago, with shipwrights at Hull; with boilermakers on merchant ship building it was moderate on new work and good on repair work; on trawlers it was very good on new work, but only moderate on repairs. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft ship and boat builders were well employed.

Employment was good on both new and old work in the London district. It continued very good on the South Coast generally, with a considerable amount of overtime. At Southampton it was reported as better than a month ago. A good deal of overtime was also worked on repairs at the Bristol Channel ports, where employment showed a further improvement.

On the Mersey employment was reported as fair with iron and steel shipbuilders, and as very good with shipwrights. It continued good at Barrow, where a shortage of drillers, rivetters, sheet metal workers, and redleaders was reported.

Much overtime was again worked on the Clyde, where employment continued very good, except with joiners, with whom it was dull, and worse than a month ago. There was a great demand for most classes of workers. Employment was generally good, and better than a month ago, on the East Coast of Scotland.

At Belfast employment was very good, and showed some improvement on the previous month.

### MERCHANT VESSELS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to *Lloyd's Register* there was at the end of December, 1914, a decrease in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction of 96,234 tons gross (or 5.6 per cent.) compared with September, 1914, and a decrease of 329,290 tons gross (or 16.8 per cent.) compared with the end of December, 1913.

come has an tice of	End of	End of	End of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1914, on		
District.	Dec., 1914, 1914.		Dec., 1913.	Sept., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	
Clyde	Tons gross. 592,731 329 050 267,226 187,051 71,610 72,035 25,437 2,685	Tons gross. 613,998 351,350 302,831 191,064 79,880 69,258 31,508 2,685	Tons gross. 762,685 321,405 302,375 231,220 80,670 91,404 38,898 9,432	Tons gross. - 21,267 - 22,300 - 35,605 - 4.013 - 8,270 + 2,777 - 6 071	Tons gross. - 169,954 + 7,645 - 35,149 - 44,169 - 9,020 - 19,369 - 13,461 - 6,747	
Other Districts	32,634 46,857	35,304 45,672	64,197 54,360	- 2,670 + 1,185	- 31,F63 - 7,503	
TOTAL	1,627 316	1,723,550	1,956,606	- 96,234	- 329 290	

Compared with September, 1914, only Middlesbrough and Stockton, amongst the important districts, showed an increase. The heaviest decreases were on the Clyde (21,267 tons gross), at Belfast (22,300 tons gross), and on the Tyne (35,605 tons gross). Compared with a year ago, only Belfast showed an increase (7,645 tons gross). On the Clyde there was a decrease of 169,954 tons gross; on the Wear, 44,169 tons gross; on the Tyne, 35,149 tons gross; and at Liverpool, 31,563 tons gross.

# MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in December, on the whole, was good, and somewhat better than a month and a year ago. In trades engaged on Government contracts employment was exceedingly good, with much overtime; in some districts there was a difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of labour. Trade Unions with 34,987 members reported 1'4 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 1.5 per cent. in the previous month, and 1'8 per cent. in the corresponding month of 1913.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Employment with brassworkers generally was good, and better than a month ago. At Birmingham, the chief centre of the trade, over three-quarters of the operatives were working full time or overtime, and the remainder short time. At Manchester overtime was general, but at Wolverhampton employment was quiet, with an average of four days' work per week. With bedstead workers at Birmingham employment was only moderate, though slightly better than a year ago, and at Dudley it was quiet, with short time.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Employment with makers of rough nuts, bolts, spikes, and rivets at Blackheath and Halesowen continued good, but it was only fair with

makers of best nuts and bolts at Darlaston. It was good with nut and bolt workers at Gateshead, and very fair at Birmingham and Smethwick, although the largest firm in the district closed down for a week. Wire nail and shoe rivet makers at Birmingham were well employed, with some overtime; cut nail makers were fairly well employed.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—Employment in the cutlery trade at Sheffield was good generally, about the same as a month ago, and considerably better than in the earlier months of 1914. Razor workers were especially busy, and spring knife workers were also fully employed. Saw grinders engaged on Government work were well employed, but those engaged in foreign trade were slack. The file-making trades continued quiet. Employment with edge-tool makers was slack at Wednesbury, and fair at Birmingham. At Walsall it was good with harness and saddlery furniture workers and fair with bit and stirrup workers. At Redditch it was good with needle-makers, and there was an improvement with makers of fish-hooks and fishing tackle.

Tubes.—Employment continued slack at Wednesbury. At Birmingham with brass and copper tube makers it was good, but quiet with brazed and cased tube makers.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, &c.—With cable and block chainmakers at Cradley Heath employment was good, but other branches continued to work, on the average, about four days a week. With anchor-smiths employment was good at Cradley Heath and Newburn and fair at Hylton and Wolsingham. The anvil and vice trade at Dudley continued slack, three days a week only being worked. At Redditch and West Bromwich employment was good with spring makers, overtime being worked at the former place. At Sheffield there was a slight improvement on the previous month with spring-smiths and strikers, and at Rotherham railway spring makers were fully employed.

Sheet Metal Workers.—In most districts employment with sheet metal workers was good, and better than in the previous month. At Bolton, however, it was slack, and at Grimsby only moderate, while at Oldham about 20 per cent. of the workpeople were reported on short time. Ironplate workers at Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and the Lye were well employed.

Wire.—Employment with wire workers was fair on the whole. With wire weavers, however, it was only moderate, and adversely affected by a shortage of raw materials. At Manchester wire-drawers continued very busy, and overtime was worked. With wire rope makers employment was good on the Wear, and fair generally on the Tyne.

Locks, Hollow-ware, &c.—The lock trade of Wolverhampton and Willenhall remained depressed, and short time was worked in most factories; employment was worse than a year ago. At Wolverhampton cast-iron hollow-ware workers were slack, two or three days a week only being worked in some cases, but tin and enamelled hollow-ware workers continued well employed; at Birmingham and West Bromwich the workers in these trades were only moderately well employed. With makers of hurdles and fences and galvanised tanks at Wolverhampton employment was fair; and it was good with aluminium workers at Milton (Staffs.).

Stoves, Grates, &c.—A large number of men in these trades were engaged on Government contract work, and were working at high pressure, especially in the Falkirk district. There was a scarcity of labour owing to enlistments. At Sheffield and Luton employment was fair, and at Leeds and Thornaby it was quiet, with short time.

Jewellery, Plated Ware, &c.—At Sheffield and in London employment remained depressed, although the number of unemployed was reduced by many finding work in other trades. At Birmingham, however, there was an improvement, largely owing to the increased demand for Christmas requirements; makers of patriotic emblems continued fully employed; electro-platers and silversmiths were quiet on the whole, but slightly busier

at the end of the month, and a little overtime was worked.

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

### COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement, especially in the weaving branch, compared with November; but it was much worse than a year ago in all departments. It was estimated that the trade as a whole worked about 45 hours per week on the average compared with about 37 hours in November.

In the preparing and spinning branches there was an improvement, and the average earnings per head of those employed were very little less than in July. In the weaving branch about 37 per cent. of the looms were standing idle, and 27 per cent. in addition were on short time. The corresponding figures for November were 36 per cent. and 33 per cent. respectively. The average earnings per head of those employed in this branch rose considerably in December, but are still about 2s. 6d. a week less than in July.

Returns from firms employing 109,619 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 9.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 20.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Ten for the state of the state of	W	orkpeop	le.	]	Earnings.	
	Week ended Dec.		or Dec.	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing	15,115 24,358 60,536 8,513 11,097	Per cent 1.4 + 1.0 + 3.4 + 2.3 + 2.0	Per cent 8.0 - 10.3 - 8.8 - 8.9 - 15.5	£ 13,375 23,096 40,581 10,048 10,225	Per cent. + 3·1 + 2·8 + 11·5 + 2·8 + 5·1	Per cent 13.0 - 17.2 - 24.9 - 15.0 - 25.4
TOTAL	109,619	+ 2.4	- 9.7	97,325	+ 6.6	- 20.8
DISTRICTS.  Ashton Stockport, Glossop and Hyde Oldham Botton and Leigh Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden & Todmorden Manchester Preston and Chorley Blackburn, Accrington & Darwen Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson Other Lancashire Towns Yorkshire Towns Other Districts	6,284 6,245 13,382 14,978 8,665 9,346 11,050 14,328 10,542 4,728 4,697 5,374	+ 3·9 + 0 9 + 3·4 - 3·5 + 1·1 + 2·1 + 0·8 + 6·8 + 8·7 + 2·2 + 1·4 + 1·4	- 9·5 - 10·8 - 5·4 - 5·5 - 8·2 - 1·6 - 13·0 - 12·0 - 19·3 - 11·6 - 7·9	5,970 6,942 12,857 13,092 8,280 6,861 8,880 12,636 9,563 3,569 4,259 4,366	+10·0 -6·7 +4·2 -1·5 +5·6 +1·7 +3·5 +19·2 +18·6 +7·9 +6·8 +18·8	- 15·6 - 14·3 - 13·0 - 13·5 - 15·6 - 13·1 - 29·6 - 28·8 - 38·5 - 21·2 - 15·0
TOTAL	109,619	+ 2.4	- 9.7	97,325	+ 6.6	- 20.8

In the Ashton district employment was reported as slack, but showed a considerable improvement compared with a month ago. In the Stockport district about 33 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time.

In the Oldham district employment showed an improvement with both spinners and weavers as compared with a month ago; about 85 per cent. of the workpeople in the district worked full time during the month as compared with about 63 per cent. during November.

In the Bolton district employment was fair; it showed an improvement in weaving and a decline in spinning as compared with a month ago. In the Manchester district it was also fair, and showed a slight improvement in the principal branches compared with last month.

In the Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen district employment was much better than in November, but was still very slack; out of 147,750 looms in the district 47 per cent. were standing idle and 22 per cent. more were on short time in the week ending December 19th; the corresponding figures for the last week in November were 41 per cent. and 36 per cent. respectively. In the Preston and Chorley district 38 per cent. of the looms were idle and 47 per cent. in addition were on short time in the week ending December 19th, as

compared with 33 per cent. and 50 per cent. respectively at the end of November.

In the Burnley, Nelson and Colne district there was an improvement compared with a month ago; 37 per cent. of the looms were idle in the week ending December 19th as compared with 50 per cent. at the end of November; in addition a large number of the looms were on short time at both periods.

# COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

The receipts of cotton at inland towns in December were 317,000 bales, compared with 272,000 bales in November and 341,000 bales in December, 1913. The increase on the previous month occurred in all the principal descriptions:—

	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.,	Inc. (+) or Dec. ( in Dec., 1914, on	
Description of Cotton.	1914.	1914.	1913.	Month ago,	Year ago.
American	Bales. 267,420 11,297 4,453 32,736 11,100	Bales. 225,580 9,617 4,123 21,193 11,784	Bales. 263,274 17,105 4,133 41,616 14,980	Bales. + 31,840 + 1,680 + 330 + 11,543 - 684	Bales 5,854 - 5,808 + 320 - 8,880 - 3,880
TOTAL	317,006	272,297	341,108	+ 44,709	- 24,102

### PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The average prices in December were lower than in any month since April, 1905, for American cotton, and since April, 1902, for Egyptian. The decline compared with November was 0.12d. per lb. for American cotton and 0.56d. per lb. for Egyptian; the total decline since June, when the last maximum was reached, has been 3.28d. per lb. for American and 2.71d. per lb. for Egyptian.

	Dec., 1914.  Pence per lb. 4.42	Decrease in December, 1914, on a			
	Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.		
MIDDLING AMERICAN: Monthly average of Daily Quota-	4.42	0.12	2.76		
tions Highest price on any one day Lowest " " " "	4·62 4·25	0·18 0·15	2·72 2·66		
Monthly average of Daily Quota-	6.24	0.56	3.52		
tions Highest price on any one day Lowest , , , ,	6·65 6·05	0:35 0:60	3·30 3·55		

The exports of cotton yarn in December again showed a slight advance over the previous month; the decline as compared with December, 1913, was 42 1 per cent.

The exports of cotton piece goods showed a decline of over 30 million yards compared with November, and were little more than half the exports in December, 1913.

# WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

# WOOLLEN TRADE

EMPLOYMENT continued very brisk, and was much better than a year ago. A considerable amount of night-work was reported. Moreover, about \$2 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working overtime during the month, as compared with about 30 per cent. during November. The effect of this activity is shown by the average weekly earnings per head of those employed, which have risen from 18s. 8d. in July to 21s. 1d. in December.

A deficiency of night workers, especially piecers, was reported in every district, especially in the Leeds district and in Scotland, both these localities showing a decline in numbers employed as compared with a year ago; in the latter the shortage was reported to be largely due to enlistments.

Returns from firms employing 23,773 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 1'4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Workpeople. Week ended Dec. (-) on a leth, 1914. Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a go. Month Year ago. Per cent. - 9.6 + 9.2 - 1.4 - 7.9 + 1.2 Per cent. cent. + 2.4 + 7.3 + 1.8 + 32.1 + 0.7 + 11.6 + 2.3 + 1.5 - 0.1 + 6.7 Per cent. + 0.6 + 1.4 + 0.3 - 0.9 + 0.6 DFPARTMENTS. . 23,773 + 02 - 1.1 25,107 + 1.4 + 12.1 TOTAL .. DISTRICTS.
Huddersfield District
Leeds District
Dewsbury & Batley District
Other Parts of West Riding 3 010 2,491 2,700 2,824 3,699 + 0·2 + 23 9 2,873 + 1·2 + 21·9 3,178 - 0·7 + 32·9 3,184 + 2·3 + 17·2 + 0·9 + 3·6 + 2·7 - 4·0 + 0·5 + 11·5 + 0·9 + 2·1 11,025 6,212 6,536 12,934 + 0.7 + 23.8 6,168 + 1.7 - 7.2 6,005 + 2.7 + 13.2 TOTAL, WEST RIDING . Scotland ... Other Districts 23,773 | + 0.2 | - 1.1 | 25,107 | + 1.4 | + 12.1

In all the principal departments there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago both the spinning and weaving sections show a decided improvement.

Employment in the Huddersfield district continued very brisk and was much better than a year ago; overtime and night work being very generally reported. In the Dewsbury and Batley districts about 46 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were working at least ten hours overtime per week. At Leeds employment continued very good; about 48 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month, as compared with 40 per cent. during November.

In Scotland about 25 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime during December, as compared with 20 per cent. a month ago.

### WORSTED TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement and was slightly better than a year ago. About 9 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were working short time during December, as compared with 10 per cent. during November; about 17 per cent. were on overtime during both periods.

Returns from firms employing 37,086 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decline of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	W	orkpeop	le.		Earnings.	
, -	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (Dec. (	+) or -) on a	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Wool Sorting & Combing Spinning Weaving Other Departments Not specified	4,991 18,489 8,122 3,866 1,618	Per cent. + 2·3 + 1·0 - 0·2 + 0·5 + 4·3	Per cent. + 0.2 - 0.4 - 0.2 - 5.5 - 0.9	£ 5567 11834 7.448 4 216 1,408	Per cent. + 2·1 + 0·9 + 2·0 + 2·7 + 6·9	Per cent. + 5.9 + 5.3 + 2.4 - 1.6 - 2.5
TOTAL	37,086	+ 1.0	- 0.8	30,473	+ 1.9	+ 3.3
DISTRICTS. Bradford District Keighley District Halifax District Huddersfield District Other Parts of West Riding TOTAL, WEST RIDING Other Districts	19.831 6,461 2 390 3,628 2,352 34,662 2,424	+ 1·7 + 0·7 - 0·6 + 1·1 - 0·3 + 1·1 - 0·9	+ 0·3 - 0·8 + 0·9 - 5·4 + 0·8	16 317 5,367 1.748 3 381 1,860	+ 2·9 + 1·3 - 3·7 + 3·7 + 0·2 + 2·1	+ 3.8 + 3.9 + 4.8 - 0.7 + 8.4 + 3.6
TOTAL	37.086	+ 1.0	- 6.0	30,473	$\frac{-1.2}{+1.9}$	$\frac{-0.6}{+3.3}$

In Bradford employment continued fairly good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago in all the principal departments. About 12 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month, as compared with 10 per cent. during November, and about 12 per cent. were on short time during both periods. At Keighley there was a further slight improvement as compared with November; only 7 per cent. of the operatives were working reduced hours, as compared with 12 per cent. last month; and during both November and December about

26 per cent. of the workpeople were doing about ten hours overtime per week. At Halifax there was a decline as compared with a month ago; about 20 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime, as compared with about 25 per cent. during November. In the Huddersfield district employment showed a further improvement as compared with a month ago.

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The *imports* of wool in December were greater than in December of either 1913 or 1912; they were nearly three times as great as in November. There was an almost complete cessation of re-exports, and the quantity retained for home consumption was nearly 70 million lbs., compared with 23 million lbs. in December, 1913. In addition, the exports of British and Irish wool were reduced by 3 million lbs. The total amount of wool available for home consumption in this country as a result of December trade was, therefore, about 50 million lbs. more than in the same month of 1913.

The exports of tops and yarns were very small, and the exports of tissues were about 60 per cent. of those in December, 1913. The exports of blankets, travelling rugs, coverlets etc., were more than four times as great as in that month. This does not include blankets etc., supplied from Government stores to British troops.

### PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

The average price of wool ("Lincoln hoggs") at Bradford in December was slightly below the price in November, but with that exception was the highest recorded since April, 1907. The average price of 40's crossbred tops, with the same exception, was the highest recorded by the Department (i.e., since February, 1904), and was more than double the price recorded in several months of 1908. The average price of 60's super botany tops, on the other hand, was 3d. per lb. lower than in November, and  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. lower than in August. It was the lowest price recorded this year, and below the average for 1913.

-			Dec., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.
AVERAGE PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops	::	::	Pence per lb.  13½ 19½ 27½	Pence per lb. 1414 90 301/2	Pence per lb.  12 5/8  14 5/8  27 1/4
COURSE OF PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops			13½ 20, 19 30, 25	14½ 14 20 31, 30	1234, 121 <u>/</u> 15, 141 <u>/</u> , 1434 271 <u>/</u> , 27, 27 <u>/</u>

# JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, and the average earnings of those employed are now about the same as in July. Employment was, however, worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 13,504 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 5.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 8.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

		N	orkpeop	le.	Earnings.				
<u></u>		Week ended	Inc. ( Dec. (	+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
		Dec 19th, 1914.	Month Year ago.		Dec. 19th. 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
DEPARTMENTS. Treparing pinning Veaving ther		2 986 3.780 4.770 1,968	Per cent 0.4 + 0.1 + 0.2 + 0.7	Per cent 77 - 36 - 6·3 - 2·4	£ 2 303 2 676 3 823 2 127	Per cent. + 1.3 + 0.5 + 2.4 + 1.8	Per cent 11.2 - 8.6 - 10.4 - 1.0		
TOTAL	••	13,504	+ 0.1	- 5.3	10,932	+ 1.6	- 84		

In the Dundee district, in which were employed 91 per cent. of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns, employment continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. At Forfar it was fairly good, and better than a month ago; but at Kirkcaldy there was a decline owing to the termination of some Government contracts

January, 1915. THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The imports of jute increased from 21,000 tons in November to 35,000 tons in December. A year ago the imports were 52,000 tons.

The exports of jute piece goods declined from 91/2 million yards in November to 51 million yards in December; in December, 1913, they were over 14 million yards.

# LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but short time continued general, and the average earnings of those employed are still below the level of July. Compared with a year ago all departments showed a considerable decline.

Returns from firms employing 43,553 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 14.5 per cent. in the amount of wages

	W	orkpeopl	le.	Earnings.		
in the design and the second	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (+)	or Dec.	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
The state of the s	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing Spinning Weaving Other Not specified TOTAL	5,831 10,627 14.513 6,769 5,813 43,553	Per cent 0.5 + 0.9 - 0.1 - 2.0 - 0.2	Per cent 3·3 - 1·5 - 7·4 - 1·7 - 6·5 - 4·5	£ 3,256 6,123 9,082 5,330 3,235 26,026	Per cent. + 2.6 + 5.3 + 0.6 - 0.2 + 2.8 + 1.8	Per cent 15·0 - 14·5 - 15·5 - 7·6 - 21·1 - 14·5
DISTRICTS. Belfast	17,902 12,863	- 0·3 + 0·3	- 3·9 - 5·3	10,704 7,124	+ 4·5 + 1·5	- 16·4 - 14·3
TOTAL, IRELAND	30,765	- 0.0	- 4.5	17,828	+ 3.2	- 15.5
Fifeshire Other places in Scotland	6,194 5,918	- 0·7 - 0·1	- 08 - 4·8	3.704 4,086	- 1·8 + 1·0	- 13·8 - 8·2
TOTAL, SCOTLAND	12,112	- 0.4	- 2.8	7,790	- 0.3	- 11.0
England	676	- 6.0	- 27.2	408	- 15 5	- 29.3
UNITED KINGDOM	43,553	- 0.2	- 4.5	26,026	+ 1.8	- 14.5

At Belfast short time continued general. With flax dressers employment continued bad, and was worse than a month ago; with flax roughers it was fair. At Lurgan it was reported as good with weavers, but slack with winders. Many firms in different parts of Ireland reported a shortage of raw material, which resulted in short time being worked.

At Brechin employment continued good, and overtime was worked in the calender and finishing departments. At Dunfermline it was fair, though not quite so good as a month ago; the majority of factories were still working four days a week.

The imports of flax amounted to 4,376 tons in December, compared with 7,218 tons in December, 1913. The imports of linen yarn, which amounted to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs. in December, 1913, were only 52,000 lbs. The exports of linen piece goods were nearly 13 million yards in December, 1914, compared with 191 million yards in December, 1913.

# HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a year ago. Firms engaged on Army and Navy contracts were working to their fullest capacity during the

Returns from firms employing 20,793 workpeople in the week ending December 19th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.1 per cent, in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Sul set	N	Vorkpeop	le.	Earnings.			
District.	Week ended	Inc. (Dec. (-	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on		
	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Leicester Leicester Country District. Notts and Derbyshire Sotland Other Districts  TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	10,844 1,895 5,034 2,716 304 20,793	Per cent 0.2 - 1.0 - 0.9 + 0.7 - 1.6 - 0.4	Per cent. + 1.6 + 1.8 + 6.2 + 4.6 - 1.3 + 3.0	9,861 1,482 3,879 2,285 214 17,721	Per cent. + 0.4 - 1.4 - 1.8 + 1.5 + 3.9 - 0.1	Per cent. + 5·1 + 4·6 + 5·2 + 22·1 + 1·4	

In Leicester employment continued very good in the coarse branch, the factories being fully employed on Army and Navy contracts; more than a quarter of the operatives covered by the returns were working overtime. In the fine hosiery branch there was some slackness. Employment was good at Hinckley and Loughborough also. With power-frame workers in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was good in the coarse branch and bad in the fine branch, in which short time to the extent of one to three days a week was reported; on the whole it was not so good as a month ago. With hand-frame workers it was very slack.

In Scotland employment continued very good and was much better than a year ago. About 45 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were working overtime during December, as compared with 40 per cent, during November.

# SILK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, but slightly better than a

month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 7,550 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.1 per cent. in the amount

smalters no emy .!!	T-W	Vorkpeor	le.	Earnings.			
of electronic block	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (Dec. (	+) or -) on a	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
of American Collection	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
BRANCHES, Throwing Spinning Weaving Other Not specified	641 2,159 3 378 579 763	Per cent. + 0.8 - 0.3 - 1.9 - 4.6 + 1.3	Per cent 21 6 + 4.8 + 0.4 - 15.5 - 6.4	£ 306 1,733 2,205 469 635	Per cent. + 5.5 + 11.7 - 2.0 + 3.1 + 3.6	Per cent 17:1 + 2:2 - 1:7 - 1:6 - 2:5	
TOTAL	7,550	- 1.1	- 29	5,348	+ 3.7	- 3.1	
DISTRICTS. Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire Macclesfield, Congleton and District	2,695 723	- 1·2 + 0·3	+ 96	<b>2,238</b> 499	+ 5·6 + 5·3	+ 6.7	
Eastern Counties Other Districts, including Scotland	2,416 1,716	- 0·7 - 2·1	- 8·9	1,575 (1,036	+ 2.6 + 0.6	- 4·1 - 15·8	
TOTAL	7,550	- 11	- 2.9	5,348	+ 3.7	- 3.1	

At Macclesfield employment was fair with throwsters and spinners; with weavers it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in the making-up branch it was slack. Several firms were working short time during the month. At Leek employment was fair with throwsters, spinners and trimming weavers, and good with braidworkers; short time continued in some branches. At Congleton employment was fair and better than a month ago. In the Lancashire and West Riding district employment was better than a month ago and a year ago, but 23 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on short time during the month. In the Eastern Counties employment was moderate, and not so good as a year ago. At Coventry employment was reported as quiet with makers of artificial silk and as good with ribbon weavers..

The imports of raw silk in December, 1914, amounted to 124,478 lbs., compared with 74,783 lbs. in December, 1913. Thrown silk imported in December, 1914, amounted to 6,018 lbs., a decrease of 40,497 lbs. on a year ago. Spun silk yarn showed a decline from 38,078 lbs. to 8,402 lbs., and silk broad stuffs from 6,460,619 yards to 3,138,364 yards.

The exports of spun silk yarn were 18,442 lbs. in December, 1914, and 118,598 lbs. in December, 1913. In the same months the exports of silk broad stuffs were 221,719 yards and 266,505 yards respectively.

# LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the lace trade was still adversely affected by the war, and short time was general in all sections during December. Compared with a month ago there was a further decline in the fancy lace trade (levers branch), but some improvement in the curtain and plain net branches. Compared with a year ago every branch showed a marked decline.

Returns from firms employing 7,800 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 18.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 34.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Azerban Caller and Caller	Workpeople.			Earnings.			
- 1078 to	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (Dec. (	+) or -) on a	Week ended Dec.		(+) or -) on a	
a pil in president	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
BRANCHES. Levers	2,140 2,591 2,021 1,048 7,800	Per cent 1.9 - 0.2 + 0.1 - 0.2 - 0.6	Per cent 25·1 - 21·9 - 13·2 + 1·5 - 18·2	£ 1,630 2,447 1,372 784 6,233	Per cent 3.7 + 5.8 + 2.6 + 1.4 + 1.9	Per cent 50·4 - 26·1 - 35·3 - 4·5 - 34·7	
DISTRICTS. Nottingham City Long Eaton and other outlying districts Other English Districts Scotland TOTAL	3,487 1,013 1,576 1,724 7,800	- 0·1 - 2·4 - 2·7 + 1·4 - 0·6	- 12·1 - 30·7 - 19·3 - 20·1 - 18·2	2,615 922 1,108 1,588 6,233	+ 2·1 - 2·3 + 0·4 + 5·4 + 1·9	- 26·2 - 53·3 - 41·0 - 26·0 - 34·7	

At Nottingham employment in all sections continued very bad, and was much worse than a year ago; in addition to a considerable amount of total unemployment, the majority of the operatives at work were only on half-time. At Long Eaton employment was also very bad; more than 70 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on short time during the month. In the West of England employment continued quiet. In Scotland employment in the curtain branch showed a further improvement compared with a month ago, and much less short time was reported; it was much worse than a year ago.

### CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during December was, on the whole, still slack, but better than a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago. The regular trade continued very quiet, but a number of firms were fully employed on Government orders for articles other than carpets.

Returns from firms employing 6,231 workpeople and paying £5,503 in wages in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 4.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 15.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 23.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

About 27 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were reported to be working short time, as

compared with 45 per cent. a month ago.

In the Kidderminster district employment continued bad, and the operatives were working about three days a week the greater part of the month. Towards the end of December, however, some improvement was reported, as a large number of Army blankets were being manufactured, and, in some cases, work was found for machinery not adapted for Government orders. In the West Riding there was little improvement in the carpet trade; but in the Halifax district

more looms were employed on khaki, and, since most of the looms vacated by men who have joined the Army were being kept vacant, the remaining workers were better employed.

In Scotland the ordinary trade continued slack, and many looms were on half or three-quarter time; but, on the other hand, a number of firms were busy weaving blankets for the Admiralty and the War Office.

# BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was slack, but slightly better than a month ago; it was much worse than a year ago. In certain sections of the dyeing and finishing branches, however, employment was good on Government contracts.

Returns from firms employing 24,880 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 11.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	v	Vorkpeor	ole.	Earnings,			
B 7 NO 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Week ended Dec.	Inc. (+)	or Dec.	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
TRADES:— Bleaching Printing Dyeing Trimming, Finishing, and other Departments Not specified	3,000 654 12,263 8,251 712 24,880	Per cent. + 0.5 + 0.6 + 0.6 + 0.7 + 0.8 + 0.6	Per cent 8.8 - 18.1 - 11.6 - 11.3 - 11.6 - 11.4	£ 2,895 776 16,931 8,817 939 30,358	Fer cent. + 00 - 04 + 67 + 43 - 11 + 49	Per cent 15·4 - 27·4 - 12·7 - 10·8 - 5·1	
DISTRICTS:— Yorkshire Lancashire Scotland Ireland Other Districts	11,472 7,072 2,640 881 2,815	+ 06 + 2·1 - 1·6 - 20 + 00	- 11·5 - 13·2 - 8·4 - 8·4 - 9·7	16,202 7,868 2,506 642 3,140	+ 73 + 2.9 - 1.8 - 2.3 + 50	- 11·4 - 17·7 - 6·5 - 13·1 - 10·3	
TOTAL	24,880	+ 0.6	- 11-4	30,368	+ 4.9	- 12.7	

Bleaching—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire continued bad and was much worse than a year ago; much short time was reported. At Basford employment continued slack with lace bleachers, but in the hosiery section it was brisk.

Printing.—Employment with machine calico printers and engravers in England continued bad and was very much worse than a year ago; there was much short time and total unemployment, and in many cases small works were closed down until further notice. In Scotland also employment was very bad.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in Yorkshire was still slack on the whole, but better than a month ago, and many firms engaged on Government contracts were well employed. With cotton dyers there was some improvement as compared with a month ago in both Yorkshire and Lancashire, but employment was much worse than a year ago. With silk dyers employment was reported as fair at Macclesfield and Leek, and as bad at Congleton. With lace dyers at Nottingham it was moderate; at Basford it was fair.

Trimming, Finishing &c .- At Leicester and Hinckley employment was fairly good, slackness in the ordinary trade being compensated for by Army and Navy contracts. At Loughborough trimmers and scourers engaged on heavy underwear were well employed, but the dyers were working only three-quarter time. With hosiery trimmers at Basford employment continued moderate. With calenderers at Dundee it was fair.

# BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in December continued very good, especially in districts engaged on Government contracts, where much overtime was worked and the Christmas holidays considerably curtailed. On the whole, employment was better than both a month and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 62,972 workpeople in

the week ending December 19th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 9.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	, v	Vorkpeor	ole.	Earnings.			
District.	Week		(+) or -) on a	Week ended	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Inc. (Dec. (Dec. (Inc. (Dec. (Inc. (	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES. London	2,361 11,608 2,985 9,059 9,337 3,765 2,710 4,251 1,385 2,116 2,224 3,283 9,32 3,156	Per cent 0.9 + 1.0 + 0.3 + 0.9 + 0.5 - 1.7 + 1.3 - 0.1 + 2.2 - 0.7 + 0.8 - 0.1 - 4.9 + 1.4	Per cent 4.4 + 0.7 - 2.3 - 3.8 - 1.5 - 1.9 - 3.8 - 1.9 + 6.9 + 9.7 + 11.9 - 6.8 - 4.3	£ 2,831 14,2177 3,157 10,823 10,823 4,407 2,955 3,921 1,4.9 2,441 2,461 3,411 8,94 3,109	cent. + 2·9 + 2·8 + 1·4 + 2·7 - 2·6 + 5·1 - 1·4 + 4·4 + 0·2 + 1·3·8	Per cent. + 1.4 + 12.0 + 3.8 + 9.3 + 10.7 + 9.3 + 3.0 - 1.7 + 4.1 + 22.2 + 51.9 + 15.6 + 4.0 + 4.9	
ENGLAND & WALES	59 202	+ 0.4	- 0.7	66,943	+ 2.1	+99	
SCOTLAND	3,411 359	- 0·6 - 0·6	- 2·8 - 98	3,922 270		+ 7.0	
UNITED KINGDOM	62,972	+ 0.4	- 0.8	71,135	+ 2.3	+ 9.7	

Employment in Leicester was very good, and better than either a month ago or a year ago; much overtime was worked. Quite apart from Army contract work, employment was brisk on the ordinary goods produced in this district. In Northampton, Kettering, and the Northampton country districts—the main centres of Government contract work—employment continued exceedingly brisk, and was much better than a year ago. Overtime was general, and there was a scarcity of suitable labour throughout the district. A further improvement took place at Stafford, and employment was better than a year ago; overtime was general. At Norwich it was fairly good with lasters and finishers, and about the same as in the previous month or in December, 1913; but with clickers it was not so good as a month ago or a year ago.

Large Army orders were being executed at Kingswood, and employment was very good, with much overtime; it was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. At Bristol it was good, and better on the whole than a month ago or a year ago. Employment at Leeds continued good, with overtime on Government work; the comparison with December, 1913, is affected by the municipal employees' strike then in progress. At Manchester employment was about the same as a month ago, and better than a year ago. In other English districts employment was good, mainly owing to Government contracts, though the ordinary trade also showed an improvement.

In Scotland employment generally continued good, with a fair amount of overtime.

# LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good, and was much better than a year ago, particularly in the saddlery trade, where the supply of labour was unequal to the demand.

Trade Unions with a membership of 4,270 reported 2.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.1 per cent. a month ago and 4.2\* per cent. a year ago. Most of the men unemployed were skinners or finishers of light leather; none were unemployed in the Trade Unions of saddle and harness makers.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Leather Dressers, etc.— Employment with tanners and curriers continued very good, with much overtime, and was better than a year sgo. With skinners, dressers, and finishers of light teather, however, it was slack, and short time was reported by leather workers in connection with the cotton trade at Bury, Rochdale and Stockport.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment continued very good generally, with much overtime, on Government orders, and was much better than a year ago. The usual Christmas holidays were curtailed, and many private orders were refused in consequence of the pressure of Government work. There was very little done in gig saddlery, but workers usually employed in this branch had been drafted to assist in the execution of military orders.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Employment on portmanteau making, fancy leather working, &c., remained slack, workpeople ordinarily engaged in these trades being fully employed, however, upon Government accountrement

The *imports* of leather, raw hides, and sheepskins showed a great increase on a year ago; but there was a decrease in goat skins.

# HAT TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during December in the *silk* hat trade was very bad in the provincial centres and bad in London; the operatives were reported to average less than 20 hours a week. It was slightly worse than a month ago and very much worse than a year ago.

In the felt hat trade employment continued bad and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of December was 7.0, compared with the same percentage a month ago, and with 5.4 per cent. a year ago. At Denton 95 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, mainly owing to the stoppage of the Continental trade. At Stockport 68 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time—the hours worked varying from 40 to 45 hours a week. The remaining 32 per cent. were on full time. In Warwickshire employment continued quiet, but was rather better than a month ago.

### TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment, on the whole, continued very slack, and was much worse than a year ago. A few firms were busy on officers' uniforms. Returns from firms paying £10,248 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended December 19th showed a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.compared with a month ago, and of 17.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Manchester, Edinburgh and Belfast employment was reported as bad, with much short time. At Liverpool it was fair in the ordinary trade, and better than a month ago; some overtime was worked on military uniforms. Employment at Glasgow was slack, and the operatives were reported to be working only about half time.

READY-MADE AND WHOLESALE BESPOKE.

Employment continued very brisk, owing to Government contracts, and was considerably better than a year ago. About 49 per cent. of the 39,092 operatives covered by the returns were reported to be working overtime during December, as compared with rather more than 50 per cent. a month ago.

At Leeds the ordinary trade was quiet, but the factories were fully employed on army work and about 37 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were working overtime. At Manchester there was a great increase in the number employed as compared with a year ago, and 60 per cent. of the operatives were working more than the usual hours on army contracts. At Liverpool, Wigan, Hebden Bridge, and Huddersfield employment was also good.

At Bristol much overtime was reported among indoor workers, but with outworkers employment was slack and worse than a year ago; at Stroud employment continued very good; at Walsall and Tamworth the opera-

tives continued very busy. At Norwich many extra workpeople were employed, and much overtime was reported on military clothing. At Colchester and Plymouth employment continued good.

In London employment continued very good; the number of workers employed during December showed an increase of about 50 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

At Glasgow the ordinary trade continued quiet, but the majority of the firms were busy on military work, and employment, on the whole, was considerably better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 39,092 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 13.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

	Num	Percentage of		
District.	Week ended	Inc. (+) or 1	Workpeople reported to be working evertime,	
	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	during December.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	
Leeds	10,231 3,729 5,424	+ 2·2 + 0·6 + 1·5	+ 5·4 + 38·5 + 4·8	37 €0 55
Bristol	2,037 4,745	- 0.9 + 2.4	+ 0.8	66 71
South Midland and Eastern Counties	3,318	+ 1.8	+ 4.5	66
London	4,093 2,162 3,353	+ 2·2 + 1·9 + 1·7	+ 49·9 + 20·9 + 9·1	44 19 30
TOTAL, UNITED K NGDOM	39,092	+ 1.7	+ 13.8	49

# OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West End, employing 2,069 dressmakers in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 13.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; 57 per cent. of the workpeople averaged three-quarter time or less during the month, as compared with 55 per cent. during November. Court and private dressmakers, employing 958 workpeople, in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 5.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 35.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; about 73 per cent. of the workpeople were on three-quarter time or less during the month, as compared with 70 per cent. during November. Many of the workers were partly employed in making army shirts, belts etc.

With milliners in the West End employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago; over 35 per cent. of the workpeople worked about three-quarter time during the month.

## MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE &c. TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and millinery trades, firms in London employing 4,752 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and a decrease of 12.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. The regular trade was slack; but full employment was provided in many cases by Government contracts and, as a result, only about 16 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns in these trades were on short time. In the millinery branch 27 per cent of the workers were on short time, but this was partly due to seasonal causes.

At Manchester, firms employing 5,007 workpeople in the week ended December 19th in the costume, skirt, blouse, mantle &c., trades showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and of 5.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Practically all the workpeople were fully employed during the month, and about 10 per cent. worked overtime on Government orders.

At Glasgow, employment in the mantle, costume, and underclothing trades continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 2,274 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and a decrease of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 22 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time during the month, as compared with 30 per cent. during November.

### SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

Returns from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland employing 4,828 work-people in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £3,546 in wages to indoor and outdoor workers, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago and of 12.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the shirt department employment was good; in the collar branch it was slack; but on the whole there was less short time than a month ago, 16 per cent. of the workers being thus affected, as compared with 26 per cent. during November.

### CORSET TRADE.

Returns from corset manufacturers, mainly in England, employing 5,888 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended December 19th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and a decrease of 7.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair and less short time was reported than during November.

# BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in December showed little general change compared with the previous month, which is satisfactory in view of the fact that there is usually a marked seasonal increase in unemployment in December. There was an improvement in London, a considerable decline in Ireland, and a slight decline in most of the other districts. A large number of men, particularly carpenters, were well employed on Government work; but general building and renovating work was quiet, partly owing to the exceptionally bad weather of December.

Employment was slack on the whole in most of the Lancashire towns, and fairly good for the time of year in the towns of Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland.

Employment improved with slaters, plumbers, labourers and navvies. With bricklayers employment, though slightly better than a month ago, was dull on the whole. With masons employment was slack, and worse than in November; but it was reported that many masons had found other employment in factories in the woollen district. With painters employment was slack, and worse than a month ago in most districts, though there was a great improvement in London. With plasterers employment was slack, and worse than a month ago.

Compared with December, 1913, there was a general and decided improvement in the case of carpenters, slaters, painters, plumbers, labourers and navvies; but a decline in the case of bricklayers, masons, and plasterers.

Returns from Trade Unions show that of 69,692 carpenters and joiners the percentage unemployed at the end of December was 1.9, compared with 1.6 a month ago and 2.5 in July. For 11,003 plumbers the corresponding percentages were 2.8, 3.0 and 6.9 respectively.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 889,975 persons insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, in various occupations and in each geographical division on December 24th, 1914:—

barratages n	11-13	Alexander Contraction	A REAL	Jan Brand	11 11 11 11	FF	CARRY OF THE PARTY		-
Division.	Number	Per- cent- age	Inc. (-		Number	Per- cent- age	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	Insured.	Un- em- pl'y'd.	M'nth ago.			Un- em- pl'y'd.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.	MA
hanota (98)	Ca	rpente	rs, &c.	en 1	37 753	Brickla	yers.		D
London Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands	25,000 7,290 15,893 10,885 7,324 8,665	1·9 1·6 2·6 1·5 1·0 1·2	- 0.7 + 0.5 - 0.2 - 0.4 - 0.8 - 0.3	- 3·3 - 0·6 - 0·3 - 1·5 - 1·0 - 0·5	12,729 4,209 8,803 5,961 5,785 7,749	10·4 3·7 7·7 5·0 5·6 3·3	- 15 - 0·3 - 0·2 - 0·6 + 0·4 - 0·4	+ 2·3 + 1·6 + 2·6 + 2·4 + 3·2 + 1·2	Ha
Kest Midialds Eastern and S.E. Counties	21,066 14,339 7 641 12,993 7,242	1·0 1·1 1·5 1·3 3·0	+ 0·3 + 0·1 + 1·2	- 2·1 - 3·1 - 0·1 - 0·6 - 8·4	15,199 6,004 2,460 2,051 1,999	5·5 4·0 2·9 3·9 11·8	- 0.7 - 0.4 + 0.4 - 1.0 + 2.7	+ 1·3 - 2·2 + 1·8 - 0·5 - 6·4	3,
UNITED KINGDOM	138,338	1.6	- 0:1	- 2.0	72,949	6.1	- 0.5	+ 1.3	l pe

The state of the s		Mason	ns.			Plaster	ers.	
Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern and S.E. Counties South Western Wales Soctland Ireland	2,736 2,803 3,944 4,946 1,219 967 1,333 7,759 6,904 8,115 2,880	7·9 3·2 9·7 6·9 5·8 5·1 9·0 4·8 3·1 8·8 14·1	+ 0.2 + 0.2 + 0.9 - 0.4 + 1.3 + 1.1 + 0.4 + 0.7 + 0.8 + 2.4 + 3.3	- 0·2 + 6·1 + 3·5 + 2·4 + 2·1 + 3·2 - 0·2 + 1·5 + 4·1 + 2·3	5,160 1,164 2,482 1,580 592 1,039 2,087 1,996 2,166 2,493 1,732	15:9 6:3 10:9 6:6 9:8 6:8 12:1 7:6 3:8 6:0 11:5	+ 2·4 + 1·7 + 1·3 - 0·4 + 4·5 + 0·4 - 1·7 - 1·7 + 0·4 + 1·9 + 3·3	+ 2·8 - 0·2 + 7·5 + 1·9 + 3·0 + 4·0 + 2·4 - 1·5 + 2·2 - 0·7
UNITED KINGDOM	43,606	6.8	+1.0	+ 2.2	22,391	9.9	+ 1.1	+ 2.4

to the soft	P	ainters	s, &c.	9 34		Plumb	ers.	NEGY.
London Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Bastern&S. E. Count. South Western Wales Southard Ireland	41,588 4,587 15,580 8,824 5,411 9,084 21,586 12,504 4,583 10,040 5,099	13·4 13·4 21·6 16·3 14·5 9·1 9·5 8·8 6·2 9·1 24·8	- 5.7 + 3.4 + 4.3 + 4.8 + 3.6 + 1.5 - 0.5 + 0.3 + 2.1 - 0.2 + 6.1	- 6·1 - 4·3 - 1·6 - 5·0 - 0·6 - 3·8 - 4·6 - 2·0 - 3·0 - 4·8	7,664 2,148 5,525 3,296 1,603 2,249 4,041 3,193 965 6,395 1,513	3·7 0·4 2·0 1·5 3·6 2·0 1·6 1·5 1·9 0·9 5·6	- 2·1 - 0·1 - 0·5 - 0·5 + 1·0 + 0·3 - 0·9 - 0·1 + 0·6 - 0·3 + 1·2	- 0.7 - 1.2 - 0.7 - 0.1 + 1.4 - 0.3 - 1.4 - 1.5 + 0.1 - 0.6 - 3.2
UNITED KINGDOM	138,886	13-1	- 0:3	- 4.6	38,592	2.2	- 0.5	- 0.7

oradi ladi	Labourers.			All Occupations.*				
London Northern Counties North Westean Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern&S. E. Count. South Western Wales Scotland Ireland	62,492 14,408 41,598 21,473 12,512 18,671 37,867 23,912 16,230 16,950 14,060	6·6 1·1 2·4 2·2 3·3 1·9 2·9 3·0 1·9 1·7 7·7	- 2·0 - 0·2 - 0·6 - 0·4 - 0·3 - 0·2 - 0·8 - 0·2 + 0·2 - 0·2	- 3.8 - 1.6 - 1.2 - 1.9 - 1.4 - 1.5 - 3.3 - 4.0 - 0.7 - 1.5 - 4.3	177,992 48,368 120,838 72,115 42,805 57,437 117,382 79,562 56,521 79,047 38,908	7·8 2·7 5·5 4·4 4·7 3·3 4·2 4·0 2·3 3·2 9·7	- 2·5 + 0·4 + 0·2 + 0·5 + 0·1 - 0·4 - 0·3 + 0·4 + 0·2 + 1·6	- 3·1 - 1·3 - 0·4 - 1·3 - 0·3 - 1·2 - 2·8 - 3·2 - 0·7 - 4·7
UNITED KINGDOM	280,173	3.6	- 0.7	- 2.6	889,975	5.0	- 0.4	- 1.9

Of a total of 115,043 navvies, the percentage unemployed was 2.2, showing a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1:7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of 7,270 slaters, &c., 1.6 per cent. were unemployed at the end of December, as against 2.6 a month ago and 3.9 a year ago. The number of persons of other occupations not shown separately in the Table was 32,727, and of these the percentage unemployed was 3.2, compared with 4.2 in November, 1914, and 3.8 in December, 1913.

# PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in England was fair on the whole, but showed a decline compared with a month ago, short time being frequently reported. In Scotland short time was general. As compared with a year ago employment was worse, especially in the hand-made paper branch.

Returns from firms employing 16,588 workpeople in the last week of the month showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed by them compared with a month ago, and of 7.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

\* Including 115,043 navvies, 7,270 slaters, &c., and 32,727 other workers, no sparately shown in the Table.

	Workpeople paid Wages in	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)			
July 1995 Accept	last week of Dec., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDST Northern Countles Midlands, Wales, and Ireland Southern Countles Scotland	4 638 1,062 6.137 4,064	Per cent 2.6 - 3.5 - 2.3 - 0.8	Per cent 3.7 - 8.4 - 8.1 - 8.2		
TOTAL, MACHINE-MADE PAPER, &C. Hand-made Paper	15,901 687	- 2·1 - 2·8	- 69 - 90		
TOTAL	16,588	- 2.1	- 7.0		

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 593 members had 0.8 per cent. of their members unmployed at the end of December, compared with 0.3 er cent. a month ago and 0.9 per cent. a year ago. In he hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 462 members had 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.7 per cent. a month ago and 4.9 per cent. at the end of December, 1913.

### PRINTING TRADES.

Owing to seasonal causes, employment in the printing trades improved slightly in December, and somewhat less short time was worked. Employment, however, was still worse than a year ago.

District.	No. of Members of Unions	Percent	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a					
	at end of Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1914	Nov., 1914	Dec., 1913.	Mon		Yeag	ear go.
London	21,342 5,738	5·4 4·4	6.0	5·2 3·9		0.6	++	0.5
Lancs and Cheshire East Midland and Eastern Counties	7,037 2,783	4 8 4·0	5·1 3·6	2·9 2·1		0.3	++	1.9
West Midlands S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	2,843 4,023	33 3·2	4·8 2·4	2.5 2.0		1·5 0·8	++	0 3
Scotland	5,249 2,365	3.6 9.0	3.5	2·4 6·1		0.1	++	1:
UNITED KINGDOM	51,380	4.8	5.1.	3.9	-	0.3	+	0.

# BOOKBINDING TRADES,

Employment was quiet on the whole, slightly better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. Short time was reported at some centres.

sandam esta eta	No. of Members of Unions	Percent	age Uner	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
rg 2 ds to has	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1914	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
London Other Districts	3 168 2 898	4·3 2·8	4·1 3·7	2 2 2·5	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	
UNITED KINGDOM	6,066	3.6	3.9	2:3	- 0.3	+ 1.3	

# WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT was generally good and showed an improvement on the previous month at several centres, though the total number of unemployed Trade Union members showed a slight increase.

The percentage unemployed at the end of the month among the 11,165 workpeople engaged in sawmilling, and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, was 1.8, as compared with 2.2 in November, and 3.3 in December, 1913.

Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 8,211 reported 2.0 per cent. as unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 1.3 per cent. in the previous month, and 3.3\* per cent. a year ago. At Belfast employment was bad.

The imports of sawn timber in December were less than a third of the imports in November, and about a third less than in December, 1913. Hewn timber imports also showed decreases on a month ago and a year ago.

\* Revised figure.

The value of imports of house frames, fittings, &c., increased slightly in December, but was not much more than half of that of a year ago.

### FURNISHING.

Employment continued dull on the whole, though Government orders provided a good deal of work at some centres. A large number of french polishers were reported to be unemployed. Trade Unions with a total membership of 18,806 had 8.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 8.0 per cent. a month ago, and 3.7 per cent. a year ago. The principal exceptions to the general state of employment were as follows: - Employment was generally fairly good on the Tyne and at Barnstaple; with cabinet makers it was good at Leeds and fair at Sheffield and Belfast; with upholsterers it was fair at Glasgow,

but bad at Manchester.

The exports (British and Irish) of furniture and cabinet ware in December were less than in November, and were only a third of the exports in December, 1913.

### COACHBUILDING.

Employment continued to improve, except with painters, and was fairly good on the whole, owing largely to work on Government contracts, private work in many cases being very slack. Trade Unions with 12,649 members reported 3.3 per cent as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4.1 per cent. in November and 3.1 per cent a war age. November, and 3.1 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table shows the unemployment per-

centage of insured workpeople of all classes engaged in

the construction of vehicles

THE RESERVE TO SERVE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY			•		13 50 14 700		
Division.	Number Insured.	Une	ercenta employ: ks lodg	ment	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1914, com- pared with		
		Dec. 24th, 1914.	Nov. 27th, 1914.	Dec. 24th, 1913.	A Month ago	Year ago.	
London Northern Counties North Western Vorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern and S. E. Counties South Western Wales Scotland Ireland	26,071 5,038 19 551 13,950 14,956 55,798 15,706 12,957 3,756 12,268 4,669	3·9 0·9 2·4 1·5 1·7 4·3 1·3 1·4 2·4 1·2 5·9	4.8 1.0 3.4 1.9 2.1 4.6 1.2 1.5 1.6 6.3	4·0 1·7 2·9 2·1 2·4 3·4 1·7 1·5 1·4 2·1 7·4	- 0.9 - 0.1 - 1.0 - 0.4 - 0.3 + 0.1 - 0.1 + 0.9 - 0.4 - 0.4	- 0·1 - 0·8 - 0·5 - 0·6 - 0·7 + 0·9 - 0·4 - 0·1 + 1·0 - 0·9 - 1·5	
UNITED KINGDOM	184,720	2:9	3.3	2.9	- 0.4	-	

### COOPERING.

Employment was generally fairly good; though it showed a slight decline on a month ago, it was better than a year ago. It was reported as quiet at Burton, good at Glasgow, Liverpool (wet coopers) and Hull, and bad at Manchester. Dry coopers were only moderately well employed at Liverpool and Birmingham.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Brushmaking.—Employment continued good, and some overtime was again reported on Government work. Trade Unions reported 1.3 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 0.4 per cent. a month ago, and 4.0 per cent. a year ago. Employment at Leeds was fair.

Other Trades.—Employment continued moderate with general wheelwrights and smiths. It continued good with packing-case makers, owing largely to war orders. With basket workers it was generally good, but it continued slack with skip makers at Oldham.

# BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES. BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further seasonal decline on a month ago and was much worse than a year ago. Short time was generally reported and time was lost owing to bad weather. In some centres, however, a shortage of labour due to enlistments was experienced.

Returns from firms employing 9,678 workpeople in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of

\* Revised figures.

2.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 15.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 20.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	1	Workpeop	ple.	Earnings.				
Districts.	Week ended		(+) or -) on a	Week				
	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Northern Counties, York- shire, Lancashire and Cheshire	3,135	Per cent.	Per cent.	£ 4,003	Per cent.	Per cent. - 12.0		
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,178	- 3.0	- 20.2	3,253	- 7.7	- 28.3		
and S.W. Counties	2,084	- 1.0	- 16.6	2,398	- 7.2	- 24.0		
Scotland	804 477	+ 0.6	- 13·5 - 20·6	969 501	- 5·9 - 8·1	- 14·6 - 27·9		
TOTAL	9,678	- 2.0	- 15.6	11,124	- 5.2	- 209		

Employment in Yorkshire was rather better than in November, but in the Northern Counties and in Lancashire and Cheshire there was a further decline. In the Midland and Eastern Counties employment continued slack generally; half-time only was worked at Nottingham and at Peterborough a further decline was reported. In South Staffordshire and at Stourbridge there was considerable short time. Employment continued quiet in the Southern and South-Western Counties, and was not so good as a month ago. Employment was still fair on the whole in Scotland.

### CEMENT TRADE.

Employment on the Thames and Medway continued fair and overtime was reported at some factories; at others, short time was caused by bad weather and a shortage of the means of transport. On the Tees and at Hartlepool employment continued moderate.

## POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair generally, showing little change on a month ago, but a considerable decline on a year ago, especially in the Potteries district. Many works were still reported to be on short time.

Returns from firms employing 18,913 workpeople in the week ending December 19th showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.6 per cent in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 10.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 18.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

rilled no rising	V	Vorkpeop	le.		Earning	8.
Total de l'Estado de la	Week ended	led Dec. (-) on a ended Dec		Inc. (	(+) or ) on a	
niversay to a to	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES, China Manufacture Earthenware Manufacture Other Branches (including unspecified)	2,824 12,040 4,049	Per cent. + 0.4 - 1.1 - 1.0	Per cent 9.5 - 9.5 - 11.7	£ 3,268 10,106 3,214	Per cent. + 3.5 - 1.8 - 0.6	Per cent 9.2 - 17.0 - 30.1
TOTAL	18,913	- 0.9	- 10.0	16,588	- 0.6	- 18 6
DISTRICTS, Potteries	14,265 4,648 18,913	- 1·0 - 0·4 - 0·9	- 10·5 - 8·4	11,469 5,119 16,588	- 0.9 + 0.1 - 0.6	- 21·4 - 11·4 - 18·6

Employment in the Potteries was fair and better than a month ago with china workers, but was slack with earthenware workers, showing a decline on the previous month. In other districts earthenware workers continued fairly well employed. Employment with tile, etc., workers in the Potteries was quiet, and worse than a month ago.

The *imports* of chinaware or porcelain, earthenware and pottery in December were 6,775 cwts., compared with 81,839 cwts. in December, 1913. The exports (British and Irish) were 179,479 cwts., compared with 304,608 cwts. in December, 1913, the heaviest decline being in coarse pottery (red pottery, stoneware, brown and yellow ware).

# GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in December continued fairly good on the whole, and was little below the level of a year ago, except in the flint glass trade.

Returns from firms in various branches of the glass trades, employing 6,953 workpeople, in the week ended December 19th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

THE REAL PROPERTY.	W	orkr	eople	е.			Ear	nings	•	
1971	Week		nc. (-			Week	ed Dec. (-) on			
	Dec. 19th, 1914. Month ago.			Year ago.		Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.		Year ago.	
The second second	1		er		er			er		er
BRANCHES. Glass Bottle	4,809 1,858	- +	nt. 1.9 4.2	-	nt. 1.5 1.5	£ 7,066 2,108	ce + +	nt. 0.8 5.7	- -	nt. 0.6 8.1
bottles) Other Branches	288	+	1.8	-	7.1	368	+	4.8	-	0.5
TOTAL	6,953	-	0.2	-	1.0	9,542	+	2.0	-	2.4
DISTRICTS.  North of England	749 3,956 754 621	-+	4·0 0·8 2·0 1·6	-++-	7.6 1.4 3.3 10.8	1,037 5,737 1,056 747	++++	1·0 2·6 3·1 5·5	-++-	7.5 2.0 9.8 23.0
Warwickshire Scotland Other Districts	510 363	-+	0.4		11·1 18·2	622 343	-+	8·0 5·2	-+	18·9 3·9
TOTAL	6,953	-	0.5	-	1.0	9,542	+	2.0	-	2.4

Employment in the glass bottle trade was fairly good at most centres, and good with flint glass bottle makers in Yorkshire; in some cases a shortage of labour was reported. With sheet and plate glass workers at St. Helens employment was reported as very good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; with sheet glass flatteners, however, it remained only moderate. With flint glass makers at Birmingham it remained good, but with flint glass cutters it continued bad, with much short time, and was worse than a year ago. In the Wordsley and Stourbridge district there was much short time with both flint glass makers and cutters. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was fair, though time was still lost for want of boys.

The imports of glass during December, 1914, were valued at £91,192, or less than a quarter of those in December, 1913.

# FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in December was good on the whole, owing partly to special Christmas orders and partly to Government contracts, and showed an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago. The improvement on a year ago was particularly noticeable in the jam and marmalade and in the bacon-curing and meat preserving trades. Many firms again reported a shortage of male labour owing to enlistments.

	w	orkpeopl	e.		Earnings.			
Trade.	Week ended	Inc. (+)		Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
	Dec. 19th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	19th, 1914.	Month a.o.	Year ago.		
Sugar Refining, &c. Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	4,437 31,582	Per cent 1.5 + 0.4	Per cent. + 5.7 - 12.0	£ 6,515 27,311	Per cent. + 0.9 + 1.0	Per cent. + 10.4 - 0.5		
Biscuits, Cakes. &c. Jam, Marmalade, &c. Bacon and Preserved Meats Pickles, Sauces, &c.	11,112 5,903 5.270 1,644	+ 0·2 + 0·6 - 1·0 - 0·2	- 11·7 + 9·9 + 33·6 - 1·3	10,781 4,710 5,062 1,372	+ 9·3 + 5·6 - 0·4 + 6·4	- 3·7 + 9·9 + 31·6 + 3·9		
TOTAL	59,948	+ 0.1	- 5.8	55,751	+ 2.9	+ 3.2		

Sugar Refining.—Employment showed little change as compared with November, and was much better than in December, 1913. Several firms reported a great scarcity of male labour.

Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery .- Employment was fairly good on the whole, and about the same as in November. Firms engaged in the manufacture of chocolate and chocolate confectionery were generally busy: in some cases orders for the Christmas trade, which are usually given in August, September

and October, were reduced or postponed this year, but were ultimately received in some quantity in December. Makers of sugar confectionery, on the other hand, were somewhat slack, the reason usually given being the high price of sugar. Some firms again reported a shortage of male labour, and in one or two cases of female labour also; though an excess of female labour was more generally reported.

Biscuits, Cakes &c .- Employment was good on the whole, partly owing to Government orders and partly owing to Christmas pressure, which, however, was somewhat less than in 1913. Some overtime was worked, and a shortage of male labour was reported.

Jam, Marmalade &c.—Employment was good, especially on Government orders. The ordinary trade was reported to have fallen off considerably as compared with last year.

Bacon and Preserved Meats.—Employment was very good, partly on account of Government orders. Much overtime was worked, and nearly every firm reported a shortage of male labour.

Pickles, Sauces &c.—Employment was good with firms having Government contracts; the ordinary home trade was rather slack, and the export trade greatly

# FISHING INDUSTRY.

THE fishing industry continued to be seriously restricted owing to the war, and the effects are seen in the much reduced catches and in the high prices obtained. Many of the fishermen have found other employment.

East Coast.—Employment with fishermen at Hull and Grimsby continued good, and at the former port was better than a year ago. With fish dock labourers it was fair at Hull and bad at Grimsby, and in both cases was worse than a month ago; with fish curers it was bad at both places. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft employment again declined, the herring season being ended; and, apart from a little fishing along shore, the industry was almost at a standstill. The amount of fish landed at these two places was only about one-sixth of that landed in December, 1913. At Harwich and Southwold employment continued bad.

South Coast.—The fishing industry on the South Coast was greatly hindered by bad weather, but in the calmer intervals fair catches of trawl fish were landed at Brixham. Drifters landed fair catches at Brixham, Plymouth, and some Cornish ports.

West Coast.—At Fleetwood and at Milford the quantity of fish landed in December, 1914, was less than half that of a month ago, and only about 60 per cent. of that

Scotland.—Employment was reported as good with fishermen at Aberdeen, but bad at Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Macduff. At Dundee good catches of small fish (sparling) were reported. With fish dock labourers and fish-curers it was fair or moderate at Aberdeen, but bad at Peterhead and Fraserburgh. At Macduff all fish dock labourers were still unemployed. Weekly voyage trawlers in this district generally had excellent results, owing to high prices; smaller trawlers had only about 11 days' fishing in December, owing to stormy weather.

Ireland.—The quantity of fish landed showed a great decline on a year ago, particularly on the North and West Coasts, where it was less than a sixth of the catch in December, 1913.

The quantity of fish (other than shell) landed in December, 1914, showed a decrease of 513,345 cwts. (or 44.9 per cent.) on December, 1913. Very good prices were, however, secured in many cases, and the total value of all fish landed showed a decrease of only 25.7 per cent.

2000年	Qua	ntity.	Value.		
	Dec., 1914.	Decrease on Dec., 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Decrease on Dec., 1913.	
FISH (OTHER TH'N SHELL): England and Wales Scotland Ireland	Cwts. 390,586 215,371 23,621	Cwts. 450,682 36,551 26,112	£ 509,363 170,276 12,791	£ 228,675 1,817 7,169	
Shell Fish	629,578	513,345	692,430 23,415	237,661 9,960	
TOTAL VATUE	200-03	-	715,845	247,621	

The exports (British and Irish) of fresh fish were 1,179 cwts. in December, and the exports of herrings, 134,323 cwts., compared with 145,747 cwts. and 1,285,816 cwts. respectively in December, 1913.

### SEAMEN.

Returns from certain selected ports show that during December 38,161 seamen\* were shipped on foreigngoing vessels. Compared with December, 1913, there was a net decrease of 4,767, or 11.1 per cent. Of the above total of 38,161 seamen, 5,510, or 14.4 per cent., were

Nearly every port showed a decrease in the number of men engaged, the most marked decline being at Southampton, where the number was little more than a third of that in December, 1913. A shortage of men tor ordinary mercantile ships was again reported at nearly all the principal ports of England and Wales, and at Glasgow. At Middlesbrough the supply had increased, and was equal to the demand.

During the year 1914 the total number of seamen shipped was 536,022, a decrease of 36,659, or 6.4 per cent., on the total for 1913. London, Cardiff, Bristol, and Dublin showed an increase, but all the remaining ports a decrease, the largest being at Southampton, Glasgow, Liverpool, and the Tyne ports, in the order named. Lascars are not included in these figures.

		Number of Seamen* shipped in								
Principal Ports.	1	Decembe	er,	Year 1	Ended De	ecembe r,				
	1913.	1914.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1914.	1913.	1914.	Inc. (+) or Dec.(-) in 1914.				
ENGLAND & WALES.										
Tyne Ports	2,701 479 290 1,404 36	2,171 185 131 1,221 11	- 530 - 294 - 159 - 183 - 25	32,191 4,951 3,717 16,895 1,144	29,292 4,202 2,919 15,528 785	- 2,899 - 749 - 798 - 1,367 - 359				
Bristol Channel. Bristol† Newport, Mon. Cardiff† Swansea	1,327 735 4,244 452	1,202 811 4,439 198	- 125 + 76 + 196 - 254	14,203 10,454 51.970 5,492	14,629 10,215 52,927 4,238	+ 426 - 239 + 957 - 1,254				
Other Ports. Liverpool London Southampton	15,498 7,589 3,614	15,097 7,778 1,337	- 401 + 189 - 2,277	207,035 101,417 58,923	202,493 102,631 41,655	- 4,542 + 1,214 - 17,268				
SCOTLAND. eith irkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth	406 298	383 78	- 23 - 220	4,679 3,196	4,500 2,618	- 179 - 578				
Glasgow	3,484	2,690	- 794	53,161	44,183	- 8,978				
IRELAND.  Oublin	2 369	124 305	+ 122 - 64	687 2,566	944 2,263	+ 257 - 303				
TOTAL	42,928	38,161	- 4,767	572,681	536,022	-36,659				

# DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT continued slack at several ports on the east coast; but elsewhere it was good on the whole, and rather better than a month ago. At London and Liverpool it was exceptionally good.

### LONDONS

Employment was very good, and showed a marked improvement in the numbers employed compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Some hindrance to work was, however, caused by a shortage of barges and other means of transport. A scarcity of labour was reported, and men were being drafted in from Southampton and ports on the east coast. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended December 26th

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate individuals.

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

§ Exclusive of Tilbury.

was 18,154, an increase of 13.9 per cent. on a month ago and of 16.5 per cent. on a year ago.

	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks* and at Principal Wharves in London.								
		In Docks							
1041	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship- owners, &c.	Total.	• At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.				
Week ended Dec. 5th ,, ,, 12th ,, ,, 19th ,, ,, 26th	6,543 7,083 7,227 7,090	3,208 10,2 3,861 11,0		7,532 7,826 8,034 8,112	16 675 18,117 19,122 18,975				
Average for 4 weeks ended Dec.26th, 1914	} 6,976	3,323	10,299	7,855	18,154				
Average for Nov., 1914	6,262	2,612	8,874	7,064	15,988				
" " " Dec., 191?	5 598	2 363	7,951	7,634	15,585				

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day in December, 1914, were as

Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.
1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9	16.876 17.1a6 16.793 16.813 16.725 17.597 18.278 18.903 17,179	11 12 14 15 16 17 18 19	18,708 18,038 19,415 19,315 19 630 19 664 17 921 18,789	21 22 23 24 28 29 30 31	19.323 19,446 19.022 18,110 17.365 18 317 19,091 18,360

The maximum daily number during the month was 19,664 and the minimum 16,725. The corresponding figures for December, 1913, were 17,070 and 11,164 respectively.

Tilbury.-The mean daily number employed at the docks during December was 2,124, compared with 1,732 month ago and 1,676 a year ago.

# OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—On the Tyne employment with transport workers was good in grain and timber imports and fair in other branches, while it was bad with trimmers and teemers. Employment was bad generally, and worse than a month ago, on the Wear. It was moderate at Hartlepool and fair at Middlesbrough, and showed a decline at both ports. At Hull employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago, with dock labourers, and moderate with coal porters; at Grimsby there was a decline, and employment was slack generally, except with deal carriers; it continued bad at Goole. It was slack, and worse than a month ago, at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Lynn. It was good at Ipswich and slack at Harwich

South and West Coasts.—The diversion of ships from the east coast and from Southampton continued to keep dock labourers and carters exceptionally busy at Liverpool, where much overtime was worked. Some deficiency of labour was reported, partly owing to the number of men who had joined the Army. Employment was good, and better than a month ago, at Plymouth. It was fair at Bristol, but showed a decline on the previous month. At the South Wales ports employment continued good with coal trimmers and was fairly good with general dock labour.

# SCOTLAND.

At Glasgow employment continued good, and much overtime was again reported. It was very good at Greenock. Employment was fair, and better than a month ago, at Dundee.

### IRELAND

An improvement was reported at Belfast, where employment was fair with dock labourers and good with carters. Employment declined and was bad at Londonderry. It was fair at Cork and Limerick, and bad at Waterford.

<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive of Tilbury.
† Sundays and holidays are omitted.

### AGRICULTURE.\*

The very wet weather which prevailed during most of December interfered considerably with work on the land, and the demand for labour was considerably reduced in consequence. Partly owing to this cause, and partly owing to the ordinary requirements of farmers not being very heavy in December, the shortage of men due to recruiting has not, so far, been seriously felt in most districts. It was greater on the whole in Scotland than in England.

# ENGLAND AND WALES.

There was a sufficient supply of labour in Cumberland and Westmorland, but in several districts in Northumberland and Durham there was a shortage of both skilled and casual labour. Labour was said to be becoming scarce in Lancashire and Cheshire; and the supply was short of the demand, particularly as regards horsemen, in most districts of Yorkshire, with the exception of the southern and western districts of the West

Complaints of a shortage of labour were general in Shropshire and Staffordshire. Labour was also scarce in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, while in Leicestershire there was a shortage of skilled men. The supply of labour was generally sufficient in Bedfordshire, but there was a shortage in the north-western part of the county. Some shortage was also reported in several districts of Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire, in north Warwickshire and in north-west Berkshire. In Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire there was generally some scarcity of men for tending animals. The supply of labour was usually sufficient in Worcestershire, but below requirements in Herefordshire.

In the Eastern counties, where large farm staffs are usually kept throughout the winter, but no large demand exists for extra labour at this season, little or no shortage of labour was reported anywhere except in Essex, where generally there was some scarcity of men.

There was a slight scarcity of men in each of the counties of Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Dorset, and Hamp-shire. In parts of Wiltshire the supply of labour was said to be very deficient. There was a shortage of men in Gloucestershire, in the greater part of Devonshire and in the centre and north of Somerset. In Cornwall the

supply was generally sufficient.

A few districts in Flintshire, Denbighshire, and Merionethshire reported a scarcity of labour. In Central Wales the supply was generally short of the demand. There was a less general shortage of men in South Wales and Monmouthshire; in Glamorganshire the supply was described as very short in the neighbourhood of collieries and factories.

### SCOTLAND.

The shortage of experienced men noted in November in Caithness-shire, Sutherlandshire, and Ross-shire increased owing to further recruiting; while in Invernessshire, Elginshire, and Banffshire the deficiency of skilled ploughmen was reported to be becoming more marked. The supply of labour in Aberdeenshire was described as almost sufficient. There was again a great scarcity in Kincardineshire, but in Forfarshire the shortage was not very marked except in the case of casual workers. There was a great scarcity of workers in Perthshire and central Argyllshire.

The supply was said to be unequal to the demand in Dumbartonshire, Stirlingshire, Renfrewshire, and Lanarkshire, while an increasing difficulty in replacing men who have enlisted in the Army was reported in the Lothians, Berwickshire, Roxburghshire, and Selkirkshire. There was a shortage of single cattlemen and casual workers in North Ayrshire, and also a slight shortage of labour in South Ayrshire. Young men, lads, and women for dairy work were scarce in Dumfries-shire. A number of farmers were short of labour in Kirkcudbrightshire; but in Wigtownshire, while men were difficult to obtain for draining and other special work, the supply of ordinary labour was normal.

Labour was plentiful in the Shetland Islands, but

rather deficient in the Orkneys.

# STATISTICAL TABLES.

# PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR. I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lb. of bread on January 1st, 1915, have been received from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and 30 from other sources.

-uglund de	Janua	ary 1st	, 1915.	Decem	ber 1s	t, 1914.	January 1st, 1914.			
District.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean	
London:— N. & N.W. E. & N.E. S.E. S.W. W. & W.C.	d. 7 6½ 6½ 7	d. 6½ 6½ 6½ 6½ 6½	d. 6·7 6·5 6·5 6·6 6·7	d. 6½ 6½ 6½ 6½ 6½	d. 6 6 6 6 6	d. 6.3 6.3 6.1 6.4 6.5	d. 6 5½ 5½ 6	d. 4½ 5 5 6	d. 5·2 5·2 5·3 6·0	
N. Counties & Yorks. Lancs. & Cheshire Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties S. Western Counties	7 71/2	6 5½ 6 6½ 6 6½	6·9 6·3 6·3 7·0 6·5	7½ 7 6½ 7 6½	6 5½ 6 6 6	66 61 69 63	6½ 6 6 6½ 6 6½	5½ 4½ 5 5	6·0 5·4 6·0 6·7	
and Wales Scotland	8	6½	70	8	6½	68	7	51/2	6.2	
Great Britain	8	51/2	6.6	8	5½	6.4	7	41/2	5-7	

The mean of the predominant prices on January 1st, 1915, showed an increase of 0.2d. per 4 lb., compared with December 1st, 1914.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under: -

Place.		Predominant Price*	Inc. ( Dec. on	(-)	Last change.		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		on Jan. 1st, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am'nt per 4 lb.	
London		d. 6½	d.	d. + 1	Nov. '14	d. + 1/4	
Birmingham Bristol Cardiff Derby Hull Ipswich Leeds Leicester Liverpool Manchester Middlesbrough Norwich Nottingham Oldham Plymouth Portsmouth Stoke-on-Trent Southampton Wolverhampton		6% 6 7 6% 7 6% 6% 6% 6% 6% 6% 6% 6 6% 6	+ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½	+ 3/4 + 1/2 + 1 + 1 1/2 + 1/2	Nov. '14 Oot. '14 Dec. '14 Dec. '14 Dec. '14 Aug. '14 Dec. '14 Nov. '14 Dec. '14 Nov. '14 Dec. '14 Nov. '14 Dec. '14 Nov. '14 Dec. '14 Nov. '14 Dec. '14	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	
Aberdeen Dundee Edinburgh Glasgow		7 6½ 7	+ ½ + ½	+ 1½ + 1 + ½ + 1	Nov. '14 Dec. '14 Nov. '14 Dec. '14	+ 1/2 + 1/2 + 1/2	
Belfast Dublin	**	6% & 7	+ 1/2	+ 1 + 3/4	Dec. '14 Dec. '14	+ 1/2 + 1/4	

Compared with a month ago, the predominant price of bread has risen in 15 of the towns shown in the Table, usually by ½d. per 4 lb. On January 4th, 1915, the price in London was raised to 7d. per 4 lb.

# II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	Mean London Gazette Price	Imp	Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households ex Mill for	
	(England and Wales).	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	Cash).
1913. December	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d. 31 2	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d. 33 6	Per cwt. 8. d. 10 6	Per sack of 280 lb.  8. d. 26 6
November December	19 B	42 11 44 9	12 3½ 12 9¼	35 7½ 38 0

The imports of wheat during September-December, 1914, amounted to 8,590,850 qrs., or 986,551 qrs. more than in the corresponding months of 1913. The imports of wheat meal and flour during September-December, 1914, amounted to 3,382,883 cwts. (equivalent to 1,096,305 qrs. of wheat, allowing 28 per cent. for offal), or 1,215,921 cwts. less than in September-December,

# TRADE DISPUTES \*

# DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

Number and Magnitude.—The total number of disputes beginning during the month was 17, as compared with 25 in the previous month, and 56 in December, 1913. In these new disputes 1,190 workpeople were directly, and 2 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, give a total of 2,065 workpeople involved in disputes in December, 1914, as compared with 8,061 in November, 1914, and 59,026 in December, 1913.

New Disputes in December, 1914.—In the following Table the new disputes for December are summarised by trades affected

A 12 20 OF LEADING SERVER	No. of	No. of V	No. of Workpeople involved			
Trades.	Disputes		Indirectly	Total.		
Building	1 1 3 3 5	9 51 400 110 123 379 118	2	11 51 400 110 123 379 118		
TOTAL, DECEMBER, 1914	_ 17	1,190	2	1.192		
TOTAL, NOVEMBER, 1914	25	4,665	427	5,092		
TOTAL, DECEMBER, 1913	56-	20,174	3,511	23.685		

Causes.—Of the 17 new disputes, 10 arose on demands for advances in wages, 3 on other wages questions, 2 on questions affecting hours of labour, and one each on details of working arrangements and on the employment

of particular classes or persons.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 15 new disputes and 5 old disputes. Of these new and old disputes, 6 were settled in favour of the workpeople, 6 were settled in favour of the employers, and 8 were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The total aggregate duration in December of disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 9,600 working days. In addition, disputes which began before December, and were still in progress at the end of the month, accounted for 39,600 working days. Thus the total aggregate duration in December of all disputes, new and old, was 49,200 working days, as compared with 84,500 in the previous month, and 907,700 in the corresponding month of last

COMPARISON OF 1913 AND 1914.

[See Trade Disputes Section of special article on pp.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e. number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.), exceeded 100 days.

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

Changes taking effect in December, 1914.—The result of all the changes reported as taking effect in December, 1914, was an increase of £3,692 per week, compared with a decrease of £1,883 per week in November, 1914, and an increase of £7,783 per week in December, 1913. All the changes were increases, and affected 49,658 work-people. In November, 1914, the number affected was 178,857, and in December, 1913, 173,999.

One change, affecting 5,500 workpeople, was arranged by a conciliation board; and four changes, affecting 23,105 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales.

The remaining changes, affecting 21,053 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In four cases, affecting 110 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. HOURS

No changes in hours of labour were reported as taking effect in December, 1914.

## COMPARISON OF 1913 AND 1914.

[See Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour section of special article on pp. 2 to 4.]

# PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN DECEMBER, 1914.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
			. INCREASES IN RATE	S OF WAGES	one or dealey light to the sold
Coal Mining	Forest of Dean	1 and 7 Dec.	Hewers and other underground and surface workers (including engluemen and mechanics).	5,500	Increase of 5 per cent., making wages 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Pig Iron Manu- facture	South Staffs	7 Dec.	Blastfurnacemen	1,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent.
Iron and Steel Man ufac-	Midlands (including parts of S. Yorks and S. Lancs.)	7 Dec. {	Iron puddlers	20,000 {	Increase, under sliding scale, of 6d. per ton. Rate after change, including bonus, 10s. per ton. Increase, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent.
ture.	South Wales and Mon. (six firms).	7 Dec.	Iron puddlers and millmen	2,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 6d. per ton, or 5 per cent.
THE DESIGNATION OF	Leicester	1st pay	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, brass finishers, patternmakers, drillers, and strikers.	2,000	Increase on piece rates of 5 per cent., and on time rates of 1s. per week.
Engineering and ship-	arro arror	T. Carl	Labourers		Increase of 2s. per week to those rated at less than 23s., and of 1s. per week to those at 23s. and over.
building.	Birmingham and District.	1st pay Dec.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, electricians, strikers, &c.	15,000	Increase on piece rates of 5 per cent., and on time rates of 2s. per week.
7,2 545	Cardiff, Barry, and Penarth.	16 Dec.	General yard labourers, riggers, &c.	3,800	Increase of 2s. per week to those rated at less than 30s., and of 1s. per week to those at 30s. and over.

CHANGES IN JANUARY.—Full particulars will appear in the February Gazette of the following important changes arranged to take effect in January :-

Coal Mining.—Decrease of 3 per cent. in the wages of miners in Northumberland.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Increase of 1 per cent. in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and decrease of  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. in Cleveland and Durham, and of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Decrease of 61 per cent. in the wages of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

† Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees.

<sup>\*</sup> Besed on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisherics and by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

<sup>\*</sup>Where two prices are quoted about equal quantities were sold at each price.

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# BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES-FOUR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 11th, 1914.

THE total number of workpeople remaining on the registers\* of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges on December 11th was 109,208, as compared with 133,215 on November 13th, 1914, and with 121,881 on December

The total number of registrations of workpeople during the four weeks ended December 11th, was 234,321, a daily average of 9,763, as compared with a daily average of 11,354 in the previous four weeks, and of 9,216 in the four weeks ended December 12th, 1913.

Excluding re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period, the total number of workpeople on the register at some time or other during the period was 347,653 (men 212,168, women 91,442, boys 17,930, and girls 26,113), as compared with 402,221 in the four weeks ended November 13th, 1914, and 319,310 in the four weeks ended December 12th, 1913.

The total number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 128,351, a daily average of 5,348, as compared with 5,322 in the four weeks ended November 13th, 1914, and with 3,691 in the four weeks ended December 12th, 1913.

The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 95,288, a daily average of 3,970, as compared with 4,037 in the previous four weeks, and with 2,861 in the four weeks ended December 12th, 1913.

The vacancies filled during the period include 19,227 cases in which persons were placed in Exchange districts other than those in which they were registered. Of these 4.363 represent transferences from one division to another. Of the total vacancies filled, 14,041 were filled by applicants residing more than five miles from the place in which the work was to be performed.

The average daily numbers of registrations, vacancies

		s ended ch, 1914.	4 weeks Nov. 13	s ended th, 1914.	4 weeks ended Dec. 12th, 1913.	
	Adults.	Juve- niles.	Adults.	Juve- niles.	Adults.	Juve- niles.
	INSURI	ED TRAI	ES.			
Registrations†	1 007	44 49 38	4,937 2,012 1,635	44 47 37	4,784 1,369 1,096	37 38 29
	UNINSU	RED TRA	DES.			
$ \begin{array}{c c} Registrations + & Males \\ Vacancies & Males \\ notified & Females \\ Vacancies & Males \\ filled & Females \\ \end{array} . $	2,461 1,388 1,067 978	497 677 498 353 286 280	2,192 2,762 1,404 1,001 767	616 803 513 341 326 271	1,827 1,623 782 831 633 635	486 458 377 294 253 216

Exchanges open at December 11th numbered 403.

# INSURED TRADES.‡

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 87,261 (men 85,790, women 457, boys 977, and girls 37), a daily average of 3,636, as compared with 4,166 in the preceding four weeks. The total number of workpeople on the register at some time or other during the period was 149,579 (men 146,891, women 1,348, boys 1,288, and girls 52). These figures exclude 12,494 cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate in-

The number of workpeople remaining on the register on December 11th was 49,237, as compared with 62,318 on November 13th.

Vacancies Notified and Filled .- The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 48,999, a daily average of 2,042, as compared with 2,059 in the previous four weeks. The number of vacancies filled was 39,051, a daily average of 1,627, as compared with 1,672 in the previous four weeks. percentage of vacancies filled to vacancies notified was

\* Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature (i.e., dock labourers, cloth porters and cotton porters), which are dealt with in the last paragraph but one.

11 Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period.

1 The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act.

The following Table shows, for men, the proportion of registrations, vacancies notified and vacancies filled, respectively, in each group of occupations:-

Groups of Occupations.	Registrations.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
Building and Construction of Works Sawmilling Shipbuilding Mechanical Engineering Construction of Vehicles Cabinet Making, etc.	Per cent. 60°5 0 6 12°1 24 4 1 6 0 8	Per cent. 48.9 0.8 16.0 33.2 0.9 0.2	Per cent. 51.0 0.5 15.6 32.0 0.8 0.1

# UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 127,177 (men 43,944, women 55,998, boys 11,457, and girls 15,778), a daily average of 5,299, as compared with 6,041 in the preceding four weeks. The total number of workpeople on the register at some time or other during the period was 198,074 (men 65,277, women 90,094, boys 16,642, and girls. 26,061). These figures are exclusive of re-applications from persons already placed in vacancies by the Exchanges during the period, which numbered 7,389.

The number of workpeople remaining on the register at December 11th was 59,971 (men 18,811, women 29,107, boys 3,821, and girls 8,232), as compared with 70,897 on November 13th.

Vacancies Notified and Filled .- The number of vacancies notified during the period was 79,352, a daily average of 3,306, as compared with 3,263 in the preceding four weeks.

The number of vacancies filled during the period was 56,237, a daily average of 2,343, as compared with 2,365 in the preceding four weeks. The percentage of vacancies filled to vacancies notified was 70.9.

Of the vacancies filled during the period, 7,515 (men 4,055, women 3,116, boys 189, and girls 155) were known to be for less than a week's employment; of these 1,856 were for men in conveyance of men, goods and messages, 1,029 were for general labourers, and 2,475 were for women in domestic offices or services

Of the 13,588 vacancies for boys and girls filled during the period, 3,265 (boys 1,591 and girls 1,674), or 24.0 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

The following Table shows the proportion of registrations, vacancies notified and vacancies filled in certain groups of trades to the total for the uninsured trades:-

Trade Groups.	Registrations.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
MEN:— Conveyance of Men, Goods, &c. General Labourers Commercial Occupations Textiles	88	Per cent. 27.0 25.3 5.8 6.3	Per cent. 28 8 30 8 6 5 4 3
WOMEN:— Domestic Offices or Services Dress Textiles Food, Tobacco, Drink, &c	14.1	54·2 1)·6 10 3 4·9	51·2 11·5 10·6 5·3

# CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men given casual employment through the Exchanges was 1,278, and the number of casual jobs given was 5,949, a daily average of 248, compared with 309 in the preceding four weeks, and 474 in the four weeks ended December 12th, 1913. Of the jobs given during the period, 4,048 were for dock labourers, 1,814 for cloth porters at Manchester, and 87 for cotton porters at Liverpool. During the period there were also 2,948 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House System for Dock Labourers at Liverpool.

# UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

During the period covered by the Returns there was a widespread demand for engineering and colliery workers. In many shipbuilding centres there was still a shortage of labour, and considerable numbers of men were required for building and construction of works.

In various districts there were deficiencies of labour in the bootmaking, tailoring, and woollen trades, in agriculture, in glass-bottle, and in cane-basket making.

# I.—DISTRICT TABLES.\*

Registrations, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the Period of Four Weeks ended December 11th, 1914.

A .- ADULTS AND JUVENILES.

	_			London and South Eastern.	South Western.	West Midlands.	Yorkshire and East Midlands.	North Western.	Scotland and North of England.	Wales.	Ireland.	Total.
	Exchanges Op	Exchanges Open.	76	29	41	59	68‡	79	31	19	402‡	
-	Insured Trades			20,949	2,815	3,405	6,821	13,839	8,944	2,164	3,381	62,318
On Register at	Uninsured Trades			26,190	3,767	5,553	8,767	13,011	8,721	2,079	2,809	70,897
beginning of period	Total			47,139	6,582	8,958	15,588	26,850	17,665	4,243	6,190	133,215
(	Insured Trades			28,868	7,584	6,117	13,029	16,660	16,337	7,373	3,787	99,755
Registrations † { U	Uninsured Trades			46,271	7,594	10,260	17,382	24,798	19,476	3,796	4,989	134,566
	Total			75,139	15,178	16,377	30,411	41,458	35,813	11,169	8,776	234,321
,	Insured Trades			17,092	2,500	2,670	6,264	9,420	6,174	1,694	3,423	49,237
On Register at end of period	Uninsured Trades			20,026	3,217	4,860	8,160	11,401	8,080	1,832	2,395	59,971
end of period	Total			37,118	5,717	7,530	14,424	20,821	14,254	3,526	5,818	109,208
,	Insured Trades			10,337	7,324	3,477	6,084	5,052	11,141	4,968	616	48,999
Vacancies Notified	Uninsured Trades			25,141	6,172	6,222	12,062	13,370	11,720	2,788	1,877	79,352
	Total			35,478	13,496	9,699	18,146	18,422	22,861	7,756	2,493	128,351
,	Insured Trades			8,880	6,519	2,474	4,731	3,562	8,051	4,317	517	39,051
Vacancies Filled	Uninsured Trades			19,235	4,341	4,055	7,917	8,804	8,763	1,674	1,448	56,237
	TOTAL			28,115	10,860	6,529	12,648	12,366	16,814	5,991	1,965	95,288

# B.--ADULTS.

				REG	ISTRAT	ions.				VACANCIES.					
District.		Register ning of I		Regist	Registrations† during Period.			Register d of Peri		Notifie	ed during	Period.	Filled during Period.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
London and South Eastern	29,047	12,774	41,821	43,661	21,373	65,034	23,389	10,212	33,601	18,912	8,085	26,997	15,434	6,724	22,158
South Western	4,028	1,584	5,612	11,614	2,404	14,018	3,647	1,311	4,958	10,785	1,408	12,193	9,314	927	10,241
West Midlands	4,445	2,881	7.326	9,205	4,081	13,286	3,663	2,468	6,131	5,859	1,800	7,659	3,863	1,257	5,120
Yorkshire and East Midlands	9,512	4,187	13,699	19,735	6,632	26,367	9,127	3,605	12,732	10,927	4,060	14,987	7,926	2,614	10,540
North Western	17,434	6,955	24,389	25,744	11,726	37,470	12,915	6,033	18,948	10,943	4,525	15,468	7,450	3,198	10,648
Scotland and North of England	10,781	4,486	15,267	21,315	9,959	31,274	8,048	4,160	12,208	15,793	4,543	20,336	11,224	3,758	14,982
Wales (including Mon.)	2,696	1,014	3,710	8,519	1,599	10,118	2,229	842	3,071	6,173	917	7,090	4,937	615	5,552
Ireland	4,491	1,106	5,597	5,486	2,048	7,534	4,217	973	5,220	1,382	644	2,026	1,065	491	1,556
TOTAL (24 days)	82,434	34,987	117,421	145,279	59,822	205,101	67,265	29,604	96,869	80,774	25,982	106,756	61,213	19,584	80,797
Total a Month ago (24 days)	103,154	36,117	139,271	169,797	67,581	237,378	82.434	34,987	117,421	81,479	24,613	106,092	62,799	18,889	81,688
Total a Year ago (24 days)	93,826	16,421	110,247	158,451	39,186	197,637	99,357	14,298	113,655	51,518	20,063	71,581	41,400	15,331	56,731

# C.—JUVENILES.||

				REG	ISTRAT	ions.				VACANCIES.						
District.	On Register at Beginning of Period.		Regist	Registrations† during Period.		On Register at End of Period.		Notified during Period.			Filled during Period.					
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
London and South-Eastern	1,851	3,467	5,318	4,911	5,194	10,105	1,101	2,416	3,517	5,337	3,144	8,481	3,324	2,633	5,957	
South Western	363	607	970	596	564	1,160	335	424	759	830	473	1,303	319	300	619	
West Midlands	558	1,077	1,632	1,266	1,825	3,091	439	960	1,399	1,196	844	2,040	750	659	1,409	
Yorkshire and East Midlands	617	1,272	1,889	1,681	2,363	4,014	501	1,191	1,692	1,788	1,371	3,159	1,035	1,073	2,103	
North Western	867	1,594	2,461	1,663	2,325	3,988	609	1,264	1,873	1,786	1,168	2,954	888	830	1,718	
Scotland and North of England	626	1,772	2,398	1,522	3,017	4,539	528	1,518	2,046	1,340	1,185	2,525	842	990	1,832	
Wales (including Mon.)	217	316	533	441	610	1,051	170	285	455	422	241	666	249	190	439	
Ireland	400	193	593	866	376	1,242	413	185	598	365	102	467	324	85	409	
TOTAL (24 days)	5,496	10,298	15,794	12,946	16,274	29,220	4,098	8,243	12,339	13,064	8,531	21,595	7,731	6,760	14,491	
Total a Month ago (24 days)	6,695	11,282	17,977	15.802	19,314	35,116	5 496	10,298	15,794	13,400	8,235	21,635	8,651	6,542	15,193	
Total a Year ago (24 days)	4,472	4,766	9,238	12,529	11,013	23,5/42	4,267	3 959	8,226	9,908	7,097	17,005	6,725	5,215	11,940	

\* Excluding the Manchester Cloth Porters' Exchange, which deals only with casual employment. | Persons under 17 years of age are classed as juveniles.

# II.—TRADE TABLES. A.—INSURED TRADES.

# Registrations, Vacancies Notified, and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended December 11th, 1914.

				ADULTS.					JUVENILES		
		RE	GISTRATIO	NS.	VACAL	NCIES.	RE	GISTRATIO	NS.	VACAN	CIES.
OCCUPATION GROUPS.	†	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.	On Register at End of Period.	Notified during Period.	Filled during Period.	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.	On Register at End of Period.	Notified during Period.	Filled during Period.
Building:— Carpenters, Joiners, &c. Bricklayers Masons Painters, Decorators, &c. Plumbers and Glaziers Other skilled occupations Labourers Construction of Works Sawmilling		2,811 4,670 2,075 15,786 1,145 1,905 6,568 1,767 482	8,438 6,034 2,485 17,627 1,444 2,956 14,300 5,945 598	2,041 4,097 2,252 15,412 704 1,993 5,931 1,517 289	6,879 1,502 360 1,852 692 426 6,089 5,407 402	5,706 1,278 265 1,656 449 345 5,172 4,387 180	21 	31 2 	13 1 6 6 2 5 2 4	47 	25 — 11 15 4 45 14 31
Shipbuilding:  Platers and Riveters Shipwrights Labourers		2,980 373 2,336	4,522 1,677 5,677	1,437 187 1,341	2,547 1,878 3,184	1,935 1,270 2,697	$\frac{7}{48}$	31 1 107	11 41	21 1 37	21 - 32
Mechanical Engineering:  Moulders (Iron and Steel) Smiths Erectors, Fitters and Turners Metal Machinists Wiremen Other skilled occupations Labourers Making of Vehicles Cabinet Making, &c.		2,598 648 4,624 1,428 574 2,364 3,797 1,286 884	2,411 867 6,571 2,232 856 4,065 6,937 1,542 758	1,557 438 2,413 862 325 1,687 2,320 997 654	958 463 4,604 1,349 702 2,130 5,553 400 89	763 294 3,361 896 614 1,510 4,724 293 44	6 2 114 29 18 19 17 6 2	52 16 374 111 26 46 86 19 14	11 3 103 11 10 16 16 9 5	56 22 363 104 38 95 80 53 21	40 9 296 91 32 66 69 38 17
TOTAL MALES	-	61,101 891	97,942 769	48,454 497	47,466 363	37,739 409	311 15	1,007	275 11	1,119	856 47
GRAND TOTAL		61,992	98,711	48,951	47,829	38,148	326	1,044	286	1,170	903

<sup>\*</sup> Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.

# 1.—ADULTS.

# Registrations, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended December 11th, 1914.

	REGISTRATIONS. VA						VACAN	ANCIES.							
TRADES.		Register ning of P		Regis	strations Period.*			n Register nd of Peri		Notifi	ed during	Period.	Filled	during I	Period.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women,	Total.
Mining and Quarrying Miscellaneous Metal Trades	277 302	2 337	279 639	976 763	2 705	978 1,468	370 305	3 246	373 551	1,001 937	12 512	1,013 1,449	318 385	10 438	328 823
Textiles:— Cotton Wool and Worsted Other Textiles	684 196 221	2,682 219 902	3,366 415 1,123	2,295 471 480	4,895 564 1,484	7,190 1,035 1,964	800 191 169	2,401 186 857	3,201 377 1,026	1,320 429 335	1,192 573 866	2,512 1,002 1,201	606 250 149	921 390 713	1,527 640 862
Dress:  Boot and Shoe Workers  Others  Conveyance of Men, Goods and	256 336	134 4,503	390 4,839	572 537	226 8,078	798 8,615	175 309	97 4,323	272 4,632	451 165	111 2,601	562 2,766	186 73	63 2,134	249 2,2 <b>0</b> 7
Messages:— On Railways On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c. Agriculture Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery Wood, Furniture, Fittings and	54 4,681 677 508 703	} 154 203 710 185	4,889 { 780 1,218 888	227 10,106 1,186 636 987	} 325 372 1,255 317	10,658 1,558 1,891 1,304	92 3,917 465 307 439	} 131 146 589 140	4,140 611 896 579	{1,392 7,605 1,224 363 471	} 149 355 551 159	9,146 1,579 914 630	{1,101 5,668 499 186 260	} 140 196 445 102	6,909 695 631 362
Decorations Chemicals, Oil, Grease, Soap, &c Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass	70 153	135 243	205 396	216 350	257 378	473 728	45 172	91 233	136 405	582 432	271 134	853 566	312 166	255 109	567 275
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging:— Bread, Biscuit, &c., Makers — Others	148 446 81 182	71 1,712 106 156	219 2,158 187 338	248 1,008 247 293	93 2,786 283 285	341 3,794 530 578	132 393 86 126	74 1,518 95 119	206 1,911 181 245	259 692 304 99	122 1,121 388 295	381 1,913 692 394	90 466 185 39	94 930 348 264	184 1,396 533 303
Instruments and Games. Gas, Water, Electricity Supply and Sanitary Service.	51	-	51	150	_	150	49	-	49	420	-	420	381	- 553	381 2,089
Commercial Domestic (Outdoor):— Laundry and Washing Service Others General Labourers Shop Assistants	2,846 }1,392 4,810 550	1,852	5,073 } 16,487 4,810 2,402	1,999 13,508 687	2,414 { 1,900 25,603 - 2,268	6,558 } 29,502 13,508 2,955	2,297 1,103 4,425 388	1,984 { 906 11,231 	4,281 } 13,240 4,425 1,852	1,923 1,071 8,432 261	701 { 1,367 12,526 — 652	8,432 913	1,536 616 7,232 83	1,115 8,698 - 452 805	} 10,429 7,232 535
All Others	1,809	34,096	4,277 55.429	5,251	4,563 59,053	9,814	2,056	2,273	4,329	3,140	961 25.619	4,101 58,927	2,687	19,175	42,649
Casual Employments	1,901	1	1,901	620	-	620	1,805		1,805	-	_	-	5,949	-	5,949

<sup>\*</sup> Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period.

# 2.—JUVENILES.

# Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended December 11th, 1914.

		PERIOD.	RING		LED DUR PERIOD.	ING	TRADES.	Not	PERIOD.		FILLED DURING PERIOD.		
TRADES.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	TRADES.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
With a down in	25		90	05		26	Total brought forward Food, Tobacco, Drink and	6,915	3,324	10,239	3,588	2,810	6,398
Mining and Quarrying Miscellaneous Metal Trades Textiles	408 372 246	378 605 1,041	26 786 977	25 255 212 117	325 517 877	580 729 994	Lodging	410 102	363 255	773 357	256 63	304 238	560 301
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	4,681	494	1,287	2,315	422	2,737	Watches, Instruments, &c. Gas, Water, Electricity	117	329	446	72	302	374
Agriculture Paper, Prints, Books, &c. Wood, Furniture, Fittings, &c. Chemicals, Oil, Grease, &c.	339 359 221	89 502 59 124	251 841 418 345	66 169 203 195	49 444 48 104	115 613 251 299	Supply and Sanitary Service Commercial Domestic (Outdoor) Shop Assistants.	8 1,297 454 361	291 2,923 460 535	8 1,588 3,377 821 2,816	9 810 226 152 1,699	258 1,969 364 468	1,068 2,195 516 2,167
Bricks, Cement, Pottery, &c	102	31	133	31	23	54	All Others	2,281	4		(0,000		13,588
TOTAL carried forward	6,915	3,324	10,239	3,588	2,810	6,398	TOTAL	11,945	8,480	20,425	6,875	6,713	-

# UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN DECEMBER, 1914.

# UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

RETURNS received from the Department of Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance show a steady improvement in the state of employment in the insured trades during December.

The following Table shows by industries the proportion of unemployment books lodged\* to the total current on each Friday during December, 1914:-

And partially and proper state of the	4th Dec.	11th Dec.	18th Dec.	24th Dec.‡
Engineering and Ironfounding	Per cent. 5·4 2·3 2·1 3·2 2·0 1·2	Per cent. 5·2 2·2 1·9 2·9 1·8 1·1	Per cent. 5:0 2:1 1:8 2:9 1:8 1:1	Per cent. 5:0 2:1 1:8 2:9 1:8 1:0
ALL INSURED WORKPEOPL	E 3.6	3-4	3.3	3.3
South-Eastern South-Western West Midlands Yorkshire and East Midlands:— East Midlands Yorkshire North-Western Sootland and Northern:— North of England Sootland Wales	5·8 7·3 3·4 3·5 3·5 2·9 3·7 1·8 2·1 6·1	5.5 6.9 5.4 3.2 2.7 2.9 2.8 2.9 3.5 1.4 2.0 2.1 6.0	5·1 6·3 3·2 3·2 2·8 2·7 2·9 2·6 3·3 1·4 1·9 2·1 6·4	4·8 5·8 5·0 3·2 2·8 2·7 3·0 3·4 1·8 1.5 2·0 2·2 6·9
UNITED KINGDO	M 3.6	3.4	3.3	3.3

# INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

The total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended December 24th, 1914, was 55,610, as compared with 76,656† during the four weeks ended November 27th, and with 90,615 during the four weeks ended December 24th, 1913. Of the total of 55,610 claims, 34,205 (or 62 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 21,405 (or 38 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the four weeks was 16,043, 14,892, 13,939, and 10,736 respectively, the average being 13,903, as compared with 19,164 in the four preceding weeks, and with 22,654 in December,

The average weekly amount of unemployment benefit paid during the four weeks ended December 24th, 1914, was £7,780, as compared with £10,088 per week in the four preceding weeks, and with £12,599 per week in December, 1913; 64 per cent. of the amount was paid direct and 36 per cent. through associations.

Division.	Avera of (	ge Week Claims M	ly No. ade.	Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.			
Zivision.	Dec., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	
London and S. Eastern:  London South-Eastern South Western West Midlands Yorkshire and East Midlands East Midlands Yorkshire North Western Scotland and Northern: North of England Scotland Wales Ireland	4,141 2,875 1,266 748 869 1,861 676 1,185 3,017 1,188 727 1,162 498 880	6,311 4,706 1,605 1,028 1,069 2,361 801 1,560 4,114 2,786 1,083 1,703 656 839†	7,543  1,674 1,181 2,637  3,629 3,979  941 1,070	£ 2,692 1,875 817 331 431 1,070 414 656 1,574 926 337 589 159 597	3,471 2,688 783 462 510 1,205 437 768 2,341 1,377 583 794 194 528	£ 4,980 914 751 1,336 1,712 1,521 238 1,147	
UNITED KINGDOM	13,903	19,164	22,654	7,780	10,088	12,599	

<sup>\*</sup> In accordance with the Regulations, every holder of an unemployment book nas, when unemployed, to lodge it at a Labour Exchange or other local office of the Unemployment Fund.

# WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

(NOTE. - These are not connected with the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges.

THE number of applications for work registered in December, 1914, showed an increase of 33 per cent., as compared with December, 1913, and the number of situations offered by employers increased by 2 per cent. The corresponding figures for November, 1914, were an increase of 41 per cent. and a decrease of 12 per cent. respectively as compared with a year ago. This improvement in employment during the month was entirely among domestic servants.

And Work State		ations	offer	tions ed by		ber of ged by		
		pple		loyers		ma- itly.		m- irily.
Seen CER Sec. to	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Dec. 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1913.
			SUMM	ARY BY	BURE	AUX.		
Central Bureau :-								
5, Princes Street, Caven- dish Square, W	116	110	100	85	36	26	21	8
Y.W.C.A.:— 26, George Street, {(1) Hanover Sq., W. {(2) Cirls' Friendly Society 70	274 134	184 85	327 60	353 42	41 7	31 12	20 30	29 5
Girls' Friendly Society, 39, Victoria Street, S.W Liverpool. Manchester.	173	89	220	183	59	31	6	3
Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dublin Bureaux	155	175	125	152	51	44	14	14
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	852	643	832	815	194	144	91	59
			SUMMA	RY BY	OCCUP	ATION.		
Superintendents, Forewomen, &c. Shop Assistants Dressmakers, Milliners, &c. Secretaries, Clerks, Typists Apprentices and Learners Demestic Servants Miscellaneous	51 12 69 132 16 434 138	59 14 33 112 5 299 121	33 32 77 17 605 65	27 7 23 45 8 621 84	5 -6 29 16 120 18	12 3 9 12 4 87 17	2 -3 27 -32 7	1 1 3 14 36 4
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	852	643	832	815	194	144	91	59

# DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN DECEMBER, 1914.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of December, 1914, was 78, as compared with 82 at the end of November, 1914, and 57 at the end of December, 1913. During the month the registers of the committees at Bolton, Huddersfield, Keighley and Rotherham were closed.

The total number of persons who received employment relief during December, 1914, was 6,055, as compared with 3,112 a year ago, an increase of 2,943 persons. Employment was also provided for 462 persons by arrangement with employers and local authorities.

The aggregate duration of employment-relief increased from 29,197 days in December, 1913, to 70,276 in December, 1914, and the average duration of employment was 11.8 days, as compared with 9.5 days a year ago.

The total amount of wages paid during December, 1914, was £11,111, compared with £4,488 a year ago; the average earnings were 36s. 8d., compared with 28s. 10d. in December, 1913; those not on piecework received an average of 3s. 2d. a day.

Districts.	given E	pplicants Imploy- Relief.	Durati	regate on of Em- nt Relief.	Total Amount of Wages Paid.		
4	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	
London:— County Outer	2,117 1,929	1,727 468	Days. 34,919 13,437	Days. 12,660 4,263	£ 5,054 2,518	£ 2,406 731	
TOTAL, LONDON	4,046	2,195	48,366	16,923	7,572	3,137	
Northern Counties Lancs. and Cheshire Yorkshire Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties Wales and Monmouth	36 447 257 397 130 107 292	 64 34 130 63	254 5,728 1,410 3,357 1,047 1,441 4,102	168 piecewrk 2,483 143	46 575 282 689 217 261 911	34 55 437 38	
ENGLAND AND WALES	5,712	2,486	65,695	19,717	10,553	3,701	
Scotland	88 255	186 440	2,157 2,424	4,200 5,280	202 356	418 369	
UNITED KINGDOM	6,055	3,112	70,276	29,197	11,111	4,488	

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

<sup>‡</sup> Thursday, the 25th (Friday), being Christmas Day.

# DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS

### IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[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.]

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1914, was 42, of which 37 were due to lead poisoning and 5 to anthrax. Two deaths, 1 due to lead poisoning and 1 to anthrax, were also reported. In addition, there were 10 cases of lead poisoning (2 of which were fatal) reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the year ended December, 1914, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 511, compared with 625 during the year 1913. The number of deaths in 1914 was 36, compared with 34 in 1913. In addition there were 241 cases of lead poisoning (including 39 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the year, compared with 291 cases (including 37 deaths) in 1913.

# ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

		Cases.		Deaths.			
Industry.	Dec.,	Year o		Dec.,	Year e		
	1914.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1914.	1913.	
			Lead Po	isoning.			
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN— Smelting of Metals Brass Works Sheet Lead and Lead Piping Plumbing and Soldering Printing File Cutting and Hardening Tinning of Metals White Lead Works Red and Yellow Lead Works Red and Yellow Lead Works China, Earthenware, and Litho- Transfer Works Glass Cutting and Polishing Vitreous Enamelling Electrical Accumulator Works Coach and Car Painting Shipbuilding Paint used in other Industries Other Industries  TOTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	3 	36 6 4 27 23 11 10 29 6 28 3 11 41 21 57 31 39 62 445 241	26 10 7 34 21 14 9 29 7 63 3 9 44 222 71 31 49 86 535 291	1 2	3 1 2 1 1 1 6 1 	3 	
MERCURIAL POISONING— Barometer and Thermometer Making Furriers' Processes Other Industries	_	4 2 4	2 3 9	of Poiso		-	
TOTAL		10	14				
ARSENIC POISONING— Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries	-	2 2	1 5 6			-	
TOTAL "OTHER FORMS OF POISONING"	-	12	20		1	-	
A Principal of the State States			Ant	hrax.			
Wool Handling of Horsehair Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) Other Industries TOTAL ANTHRAX	1 1 2 5	26 5 15 8 <b>8</b>	43 5 19 3 70	1 1	5 1 1 7	4 1 2 - 7	
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FAC- TORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	42	511	625	2	36	34	
GRAND TOTAL	52	752	916	4	75	71	

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

# FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

Exclusive of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during December, 1914, was 291, an increase of 11 on a month ago, but a decrease of 9 on a year ago. The mean number for December during the five years, 1909-1913, was 342, the maximum being 619 and the minimum 252.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during December, 1914, numbered 44, an increase of 3 on a month ago and of 7 on a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 96, a decrease of 13 on November, 1914, and of 23 on December, 1913. Fatal accidents at quarries numbered 11, as compared with 5 a month ago and 7 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in December, 1914, was 138, an increase of 14 on November, 1914, and of 3 on December, 1913.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during December, 1914, was 368, compared with 143 a month ago and 118 a year ago.

Trade.	Numbe k	er of Work; illed during	people	Inc. (+) (-) in 1914,	Dec.,
Iraus.	Dec., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE— Brakesmen & Goods Guards Engine Drivers	8 1 1 2 8	6 2 2	6 1 1	+ 2 - 1 - 1 + 2 - 2	+ 2  + 2 - 1
cluding labourers) Porters	4 3 1 4 12	7 6  4	4 3 1 3 8	- 3 - 3 + 1 + 8	:: + 1 + 4
Contractors' Servants	44	41	37	+ 3	- 1 + 7
MINES— Underground	80	93	98	- 13	- 18 - 5
Surface TOTAL, MINES	96	109	119	- 13	- 23
Quarries over 20 feet deep	11	5	7	+ 6	+ 4
Textile— Cotton Wool and Worsted Other Textiles	3 7 2	2 2 1	8 3 2	+ 1 + 5 + 1	- 5 + 4
Non-Textile— Extraction of Metals Founding and Conversion of Metals	13	4 18	8	- 2 - 5	- 6 + 5
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	5	2	- 2	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building — Gas	13 3 2 14 1 3 1 2 35	15 6 22 7  6 6 1 18	16 4 2 3 6 1 6 4 2 25	- 2 - 2 - 3 + 7 + 1 - 5 + 1 + 17	- 3 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 8 - 3 - 3 + 10
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	107	98	100	+ 9	+ 7
ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5. Docks, Wharves, and Quays Warehouses Buildings to which Act applies	11 2 18	14 12	19 16	- 3 + 2 + 6	- 8 + 2 + 2
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	31	26	35	+ 5	- 4
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	2	1	2	+ 1	
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	291	280	300	+11	- 9
SEAMEN— On Trading Vessels— Sailing Steam On Fishing Vessels— Sailing Steam	14 107 5 242	17 35 13 78	10 78 3 27	- 3 + 72 - 8 + 164	+ 4 + 29 + 2 + 215
TOTAL, SEAMEN	368	143	118	+225	+250
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	659	423	418	+ 286	+241

# PAUPERISM.

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

January, 1915. THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

December.—Compared with November, 1914, the total number of paupers relieved in the 35 urban districts named below increased by 249 (or 0.1 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 1. In the corresponding period of 1913 the increase in the rate was 3. The number of indoor paupers increased by 839 (or 0.5 per cent.), while the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 590 (or 0.3 per cent.). There were increases in nineteen districts (all of small amount) and decreases in nine. The remaining seven showed no change.

Compared with December, 1913, the rate per 10,000 increased by 1. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 3,514 (or 2.1 per cent.), while the number of outdoor paupers increased by 6,726 (or 3.9 per cent.). There were increases in eighteen districts and decreases in fifteen. The remaining two districts showed no change.

Paupers on one day in

	secon	nd week	of Dec.,	1914.	Inc. Dec.	(+) or (-) in
Selected Urban Districts.	In- door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	per 10 Popula	A Year ago.
				1	ago.	ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.* Metropolis. West District	12,394 15,522 4,606 14,161 24,170	2,185 7,269 1,461 5,356 14,506	14,579 22,791 6,067 19.517 38,676	179 225 408 290 207	+ 1 - 1 - 3 + 1	- 2 - 3 - 11 - 1 - 3
TOTAL, Metropolis	70,853	30,777	101 630	225		- 3
West Ham	5,233	11,079	16,312	221	+ 1	- 3
Other Districts.  Newcastle District Stockton & Tees District Bolton Oldham, &c. Wigan District Manchester District Liverpool District. Bradford District. Hallfax & Huddersfield. Leeds District Barnsley District. Sheffield District. Hull District North Staffordshire Nottingham District Leicester District Wolverhampton District Bristol District Bristol District Cardiff & Swansea	2,556 1,331 4,627 2,264 10,719 11,818 2,250 1,324 2,851 930 3,393 2,106 2,421 2,272 2,272 2,272 2,379 2,390	4,834 3,723 4,506 5,392 7,021 11,725 1,819 2,936 3,516 2,883 3,744 6,677 6,521 4,622 3,021 7,793 6,283 4,101 6,125	7,390 5,054 9,132 7,656 17,740 23,543 4,069 4,260 6,368 3,813 7,137 7,783 7,783 6,884 4,689 11,563 13,463 13,463 8,515	156 206 114 177 175 210 110 1110 112 183 127 147 282 199 181 200 169 189 180 196		-+++-++++++++
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	68,675	95,240	163,915	166	- 1	+ 3
SCOTLAND.* Glasgow District Paisley & Greenock District Edinburgh & Leith District Dundee and Dunfermline Aberdeen Coatbridge & Airdrie	4,692 870 1,538 780 644 360	18,419 2,680 6,201 2,326 2,803 1,789	23,111 3,550 6,739 3,106 3,447 2,149	244 188 167 155 208 211	+ 3 + 1 - 2 + 3 + 4 + 7	+ 3 - 2 + 12 + 18
Scottish Districts	8,884	33,218	42,102	210	+ 2	+ 3
IRELAND.† Dublin District Belfast District Cork, Waterford and Limerick District. Galway District  TOTAL for the above Irish \	5,937 3,062 3,492 299	5,125 919 4,300 188	11,062 3 981 7,792 487	272 95 814 140	+ 5 + 4 + 3 + 4	- 10 - 9 + 2 - 12
Districts	12,790	10,532	23,322	210	+ 4	- 8
TOTAL for above 35 Dis- tricts in Dec., 1914	166,435	180,846	347,281	191	+ 1	+ 1

Summary for 1914.—The course of pauperism during 1914 in the same urban districts was on the whole very satisfactory. For the first five months the number of paupers recorded was less than in the corresponding period of 1913. In June and July the number reported though declining, was higher than in the corresponding months of the previous year. During the first two months of the war there was a temporary increase in the number of paupers owing to special causes, but a decline commenced in October, and at the end of the year the number was practically identical with that in December, 1913.

# FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.\*

IMPORTS IN DECEMBER.

The total value of the imports in December, 1914, was  $\pounds67,555,000$ , compared with  $\pounds55,987,000$  in the previous month, and with  $\pounds71,115,000$  in December, 1913. The food, drink, and tobacco group showed a considerable increase on December, 1913, but raw materials and manufactured articles a decrease.

# FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO.

Grain and Flour.—The imports of wheat and flour showed a slight reduction in quantity, but a considerable rise in value, as compared with December, 1913. The decline in wheat was most noticeable in the supplies from Russia and Australia; but there was a great increase from the British East Indies. A fallingwas a great increase from the British East Indies. A fallingoff from the United States was more than counterbalanced by an
increase from Canada. There was a great increase in the
imports of oats and barley from the United States, but a decline
from the other principal sources of supply, resulting in a heavy net
decrease. Maize, of which almost the whole supply comes from
the Argentine, showed an increase of over 100 per cent.

Meat.—Beef showed a decline in quantity, but a considerable
increase in value. A decline in frozen mutton from the Argentine and Australia was more than counterbalanced by an increase

increase in value. A decline in frozen mutton from the Argentine and Australia was more than counterbalanced by an increase from New Zealand, and the total imports were higher than in December, 1913. Bacon again showed an increase. There was a great increase in the imports of preserved beef, but a great decline in poultry, owing to the stoppage of supplies from Russia and Austria-Hungary.

Other Articles of Food &c.—There was a decrease in the imports of butter, particularly from Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and Australia. Cheese showed an increase, particularly from Russia, the principal source of supply, being only half those in December, 1913. There was a great reduction in the imports of potatoes. The cessation of imports of sugar from Germany and Austria-Hungary was more than counterbalanced by increases from other countries, notably Java. Tea, from all the countries of origin, showed a great increase. Wines generally declined, but tobacco showed a small rise.

# RAW MATERIALS.

RAW MATERIALS.

Textile Materials.—The imports of raw cotton were 2,679,000 centals (100 lb.) in December, 1914, compared with 3,395,000 centals in December, 1913; there being an increase from Egypt and the British East Indies, but a great decrease from the United States and Brazil. The imports were, however, more than double those of November. A decline in wool from British South Africa was more than counterbalanced by increases from the Argentine, Australia, and New Zealand. Mohair showed a great increase, owing to the receipt of large imports from British South Africa, which had been held back in November. The other important textile materials, except silk, showed a decrease.

Other Raw Materials.—The quantities of the principal other raw materials imported in December, 1914, and the increase or decrease on December, 1913, are shown below:—

Article		Quantity imported in December, 1914.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on December 1913.		
Iron ore Manganese ore Pit props or pit wood Furniture woods, &c. Other timber, hewn Other timber, sawn, split Cotton seed Linseed Nuts and Kernels for exp Petroleum Hides, raw Wood pulp Rubber		ng oi	tons tons loads tons loads tons qrs. l tons gallons gallons cwts. tons centals	364,489 33,230 133,320 17,365 27,324 204,707 74,920 100,328 39,619 53,674,804 120,447 75,560 177,891	- 172,724 - 37,626 - 95,208 - 17,854 - 23,320 - 138,701 + 12,982 - 26,341 + 34,146 + 12,397,161 + 13,894 - 33,769 + 47,163

Sawn and split timber from Russia and Sweden showed a decline, but from Canada, an increase. The increase in petroleum was most noticeable in gas oil and fuel oil, the latter showing a rise from 14,276,000 gallons in December, 1913, to 23,167,000 gallons in December, 1914. In hides the increase was mainly from the Argentine; whilst rubber showed an increase from the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States and Ceylon, but a decrease from Peru and Brazil.

# MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

There was a decline in all the groups of manufactured articles, except copper, lead, and zinc, leather, indigo, and a few other articles; it was specially great in iron and steel, woollen and worsted goods, and glass. Considerably larger imports of leather from the United States resulted in an increase in the total quantity from 30,000 cwts. to 220,000 cwts. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof fell from 223,000 tons to 59,000 tons; the decline was almost entirely in semi-manufactured products (bars and angles, plates, billets, sheet bars, &c.). Coal-tar dyestuffs again showed a heavy decline.

# EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN DECEMBER.\*

The total value of the exports of British and Irish produce

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

<sup>\*</sup> The export figures for 1914 include goods hought by or on behalf of the Governments of the Allies, but do not include goods taken from British Government Stores, or goods hought by H.M. Government and shipped on Government

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and manufactures in December, 1914, was £26,279,000, compared with £24,602,000 in the previous month, and with £43,327,000 in December, 1913.

# FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO.

This group showed a considerable decline compared with December, 1913, due largely to the cessation of the export of herrings to Russia and Germany.

### RAW MATERIALS.

The decrease in this group of articles was mainly accounted for by coal, which showed a decline to almost every country except France. Wool also showed a great falling-off, there being a cessation of exports to virtually all European countries and to

### MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Textiles.—All kinds of yarn showed a considerable decrease: cotton fell from 17,207,000 lb. to 9.966,000 lb.; worsted, from 3,862,000 lb. to 314,000 lb., and jute from 3,053,000 lb. to 1,819,000 lb. More than half the decrease in cotton and worsted yarn was accounted for by the stoppage of trade with Germany. Cotton piece goods fell from 530,692,000 yards to 276.015,000 yards; there were great decreases to China, Egypt, South America, and India, and a total stoppage to Germany and 276.015,000 yards; there were great decreases to China, Egypt, South America, and India, and a total stoppage to Germany and Turkey. Woollan and worsted tissues declined, although there was a considerable increase to France, and (in the latter case) to the United States. Woollen tissues, however, showed a great improvement on November. Linen and jute piece goods also showed a decrease.

Other Articles.—The quantities of the other principal manufactured articles exported in December, 1914, and the increase or decrease compared with December, 1913, are shown below:—

Article.	Exports in December, 1914.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on December, 1913.	
Pig iron tons Galvanised iron and steel sheets, Tinned plates and sheets, Ralls, Other manufactures of iron and steel, Copper and manufactures thereof, Tin, unwroucht, Cutlery, hardware, implements, (value) £	31,705 22,340 30,254 16,715 109,262 2,078 1,979 324,057	- 42,428 - 39,364 - 8,586 - 24,477 - 40,435 - 1,698 + 1,252 - 325,743	
and instruments.  Electrical goods and apparatus ,, £  Machinery	184,363 26,166 1,495,322 414,054 605,247 163,622 204,614 241,150 213,639 108,682 188,910 193,470	- 162,101 - 31,215 - 210,648 + 13,924 - 93,203 + 27,393 - 280,708 - 144,018 - 44,792 - 226,795 - 183,960 - 55,298	

In the machinery group there were considerable decreases in textile machinery to European countries, Japan, and the British East Indies. The increase in the exports of boots and shoes was due to the large number purchased for the use of the French troops. There was a great rise in the exports of saddlery and harness and of arms and ammunition.

# IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN 1914.\*

The following Table shows the value of the imports and exports in each month of 1914, with the increase or decrease on a

		Impo	orts.	Exports (British and Irish).		
Mon	th.		Value in 1914.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1913.	Value in 1914.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1913.
January February March April May June July August September October November December	-::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::		£ 68.017 049 62,050 744 66,935,228 61 624 772 59 103,349 58,272,042 59,383 792 42,362,034 45,051,937 51,559,289 55,987,058 67,554,960	£ - 3,225,222 - 1,736,406 + 5,592,784 - 1,329,035 - 2,176,029 - 37,477 - 2,399,891 - 13,613,670 - 16,303,788 - 20,170,887 - 12,480,017 - 3,559,914	### 47,806 165 41,261.797 44,518,661 39,946,822 42,051,190 39,872,976 44,405,380 24,211,271 26,674 101 28,601,619 26,278,928	£ + 2,360,466 + 1,089,054 + 2,828,614 - 3,105,767 - 1,807,072 - 2,963,592 - 2,778,828 - 19,799,458 - 15,750,763 - 18,020,684 - 20,154,569 - 17,047,992
TOTAL			697,432,649†	-71,302,090	430,230,725	-95,014,564

Although the decline in imports, compared with the corre Although the decline in imports, compared with the corresponding months of 1915, was very marked in the months from August to November, the total value in December, 1914, was, with only one exception, the highest monthly total in the year. This recovery was due mainly to an increase in the food, drink, and tobacco group, the values for the raw materials group being lower in December than in any of the months from January to April, and the manufactured articles group lower than in any month previous to the war. In the case of the exports, however, there was no similar recovery in any group. Of the total decline of £95,015,000, more than half was accounted for by the decreases in coal, iron, and steel and manufactures thereof, by the decreases in coal, iron, and steel and manufactures thereof and in cotton yarns and fabrics.

# INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING DECEMBER. [Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.]

In the following Tables particulars are given as to the number of each of the various classes of unions and societies which were (1) registered or (2) dissolved during December, 1914.

(1) REGISTERED.

Class of Society.	Number Registered.	Class of Society.	Registered.
Trade Unions Industrial and Provident Societies.	2 14	Friendly Societies (Branches) Building ,,	111 1
	(2) DISS	OLVED.	
constitution to the land	Notic	es received in December of	

(2)	DISSOLVED.			
marketiska počitara s i do	Notices received			
Class of Society.	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Registry Cancelled.	
Trade Unions	ï	4 19 93 5	 6 19 	

# PASSENGER MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN NOVEMBER.

In November, 1914, the total number of passengers who landed in the United Kingdom from other countries was 58,862, and the number who embarked for other countries was 55,362, and the numbers compare with 86,725 and 95,029 respectively in November, 1913. In the eleven months ending November the passengers inward numbered 1,339,702, and the passengers outward 1,245,208, the inward being 242,507 and the outward 535,842 less than in

the inward being 242,507 and the outward 535,842 less than in the corresponding period of 1913.

The number of outward passengers to non-European countries in November was 16,305 in 1914 and 37,682 in 1913, these numbers including 12,181 and 23,468 British subjects respectively; the inward passengers from non-European countries in November numbered 18,845 in 1914 and 29,603 in 1913, of whom 16,763 and 17,639 respectively were British subjects. The numbers in the eleven months ending November were 439,040 outward, including 283,921 British, and 339,099 inward, including 212,423 British, the number of British subjects being less by 172,821 outward and more by 11,092 inward than in the first eleven months of 1913. en months of 1913.

The total of passengers of British nationality in November The total of passengers of British hatcharty in November includes 7,919 passengers outward, who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom and intending to reside permanently in non-European countries, while 11,411 of the inward passengers were recorded as having been resident in such countries, and intending to reside within the United Kingdom. The British passengers who were so recorded as changing their country of permanent residence during the eleven months ending November numbered 208,158 outward and 94,673 inward, showing a decrease of 172,220 and an increase of 17,589 respectively on the corresponding figures for 1913. The distribution of the migratory movement of British subjects is shown below:—

Migrants of British Nationality.*	November.		Eleven months ending November.	
MIGRAILS OF DEFEND MANAGEMENT.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.
British North America Australia New Zealand British South Africa India (including Ceylon) Other British Colonies and Possessions TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE.	4,213 3,195 1,758 1,249 776 505	1,424 546 363 423 907 404	188,989 54,451 13,424 10,383 6,374 4,953 278,574	77,411 30,742 7,513 7,543 6,243 4,588
United States Other Foreign Countries	4,417 823 16,936	3,329 523 7,919	92,626 9,178 380,378	67,991 -6,127 208,158
British North America	4,025 541 76 507 252 271 5,672	5,708 555 145 708 867 504 8,487	22,596 11,534 2,336 9,705 5,570 3,678 55,419 14,727 6,938	29,278 12,939 2,741 10,637 6,996 4,524 67,115 19,209 8,349
Other Foreign Countries TOTAL IMMIGRANTS	7,619	1,175	77,084	94,673
EXCESS OF EMIGRANTS	9,317	3,492†	303,294	113,485

<sup>\*</sup> Exclusive of persons travelling via Continental Ports.
† Excess of Immigrants.

The marked decline in the number of emigrants in the eleven months ending November is mainly due to the decreased move-ment to the North American Continent and to Australia and New Zealand, while there has been an increase in the number who returned to this country after having resided some time in those

# LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c. LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT: ACT OF WAR: TRAWLER DESTROYED BY MINE.

A workman is entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only when he is injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment.

Before starting on a fishing voyage, the master of a trawler had instructions from the Admiralty to avoid certain parts of the sea as being dangerous on account of German mines. In spite of these instructions the master took the ship into the forbidden of these instructions the master took the ship into the forbidden parts. He discovered some mines, and put down a buoy to mark their position. He then steamed off to inform one of His Majesty's ships of his discovery. On his way to the warship his ship struck a mine and was destroyed, and all the crew except two perished. One of the men saved, an engineer, was seriously injured by the explosion, and claimed compensation under the Act. The owners of the trawler resisted the claim, contending that there had been no accident within the meaning of the Act, and that if there had been an accident it was not an accident arising out of or in the course of the claimant's accident arising out of or in the course of the claimant's employment. The county court judge refused an award of compensation on the ground that injury by an act of war of the enemy was not injury by accident within the meaning of the Act. The claimant appealed.

On the hearing of the appeal, it was contended for the employers that, even admitting that the injury had been caused by accident, such accident did not arise out of, or even in the course of, the claimant's employment, as the master had taken the trawler on a voyage which was forbidden.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, and decided that the claimant was entitled to compensation. They held that the destruction of the trawler was caused by accident within the meaning of the Act; and also, that as there was no evidence that the claimant knew anything of the instructions given to the master, and as he was bound to obey the master's orders, the accident had arisen out of and in the course of his employment.

—Risdale v. Owners of Kilmarnock.—Court of Appeal. 15th December, 1914.

# (2) TRADE UNION ACTS.

SOCIETY ILLEGAL AT COMMON LAW: EXPULSION OF MEMBER: RIGHT OF EXPELLED TO RELIEF FROM COURT.

The purposes of a Trade Union being as a rule in restraint of trade, a Trade Union is an illegal society at common law. The Trade Union Act, 1871, gave such societies protection by providing that the purposes of a Trade Union should not, by reason words, that they provide the purposes of a Trade Union should not, by reason widing that the purposes of a Trade Union should not, by reason merely that they were in restraint of trade, be deemed to be unlawful so as to render any member of such society liable to criminal proceedings, or so as to render void any agreement or trust. The Act, however, provided further that nothing in the Act should enable any court to entertain any legal proceedings instituted with the object of (inter alia) directly enforcing any agreement between members of a Trade Union as such concerning the conditions on which any members should be employed.

A number of workmen employed at certain motor works were members of one or other of two Trade Unions of carpenters and joiners. There was a dispute between the employer company and certain metal workers, but this dispute did not affect the carpenters and joiners. Representatives of the two unions, however, ordered the members of their unions who were at work to strike forthwith at an hour's notice. A number of such members refused to obey these orders. alleging that such orders were wholly irregular, ultra vires, illegal and void, and that they were paid at a higher rate than the standard rate of wages and were well content with their conditions of labour. A few days later the members refusing to obey were summoned to appear before a body which purported to be a joint committee of the two unions. The members protested against the constitution of this body as irregular, ultra vires, and unauthorised by the rules of either society. The committee, however, in spite of such protests, resolved that each member should be fined £2 and be expelled from the society to which he belonged. A number of the members so expelled then brought an action in the High Court against the two unions, claiming a declaration that the resolution of expulsion was ultra vires and void, and claiming an injunction restraining the Unions from acting upon the resolution expelling the plaintiffs.

At the hearing the defendants contended that each of the A number of workmen employed at certain motor works were

At the hearing the defendants contended that each of the unions in question was a society illegal at common law, and that the court could not entertain the action.

The Judge held that, though it was impossible to justify the conduct of the defendants, he had no jurisdiction to entertain the proceedings. The action therefore was dismissed.—Smith

and others v. Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners; Jones and others v. General Union of Operative Carpenters and Joiners.—Chancery Division, 9th December, 1914.

LEGAL STATUS OF A TRADE UNION: EFFECT OF TRADE UNION ACT, 1913: "STATUTORY OBJECTS."

By the Common Law of England "restraint of trade" is unlawful, and persons agreeing to do anything in restraint of trade are guilty of criminal conspiracy. The law has been mitigated by Act of Parliament in favour of trade unions.

trade are guilty of criminal conspiracy. The law has been mitigated by Act of Parliament in favour of trade unions. By the Trade Union Act, 1871, provision is made for registering trade unions; and it is provided that the purposes of a trade union are not, by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade, to be deemed to be unlawful so as to render any member liable to prosecution for conspiracy, or so as to render void any agreement. No Act, however, has ever expressly declared a trade union to be a lawful body. It is further provided by the Act of 1871 that nothing in the Act is to enable any court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the object of directly influencing (inter alia) any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union to provide benefits to members. By the Trade Union Act, 1913, "the regulation of the relations between workmen and masters, or between workmen and workmen, or between masters and masters, or the imposing of restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business, and also the provision of benefits to members" is described as the "statutory objects" of a trade union; and a "trade union" is defined to be any combination the principal objects of which are under its constitution statutory objects. It is also provided that no combination may be registered as a trade union unless the Registrar of Friendly Societies is of opinion that the principal objects of the combination are statutory objects.

A member of a registered trade union having a dispute with the society as to his right to certain hencets.

A member of a registered trade union having a dispute with the society as to his right to certain benefits brought an action against the society to recover such benefits. The judge of the County Court dismissed the action on the ground that such an action could not be entertained by the Court by reason of the provisions of the Trade Union Act, 1871. The plaintiff appealed.

On the hearing of the appeal it was contended that by reason of the Act of 1913, such an action can now be entertained, as the of the Act of 1915, such an action can now be entertained, as the objects of a trade union were by the Act made statutory objects, and a combination with such objects must be a legal association, and therefore capable of being sued by a member. The High Court, however, dismissed the appeal, holding that there was nothing in the Act of 1913 to justify the plaintiff's contention.—

v. General Labourers Union.—King's Bench Division.—5th

# (3) NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS.

FAILURE TO PAY CONTRIBUTIONS: WORKMAN ENGAGED BY FORE-MAN: LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS OF FOREMAN.

By the provisions of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and the Regulations made thereunder, every employer of an insured person must pay a contribution in respect of the wages due to such person every week, and affix a stamp to the card of such person. An employer who fails to pay any contribution which he is liable to pay is guilty of an offence under the Act, and liable to be fined. A firm of coal merchants had a yard, in which they employed a "foreman," who superintended the loading of coal carts, and was paid weekly according to the amount of coal handled. One man could not do the loading, and the custom was for the foreman to engage a labourer to work under him. By the provisions of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and

work under him.

At the end of each week the foreman was paid by the firm the amount due for loading according to the number of tons dealt with, and he divided this sum in equal shares between himself and the other man. A member of the firm had supervision of the work done in the yard, and exercised control both over the foreman and the labourer. Complaints as to work were addressed to the foreman, and the foreman engaged or dismissed the labourer, but the firm had the right to require the foreman to dismiss the labourer if his work was not satisfactory. No insurance contributions were paid in respect of the labourer by the foreman, or the firm, or any other person. In these circumstances proceedings were taken under the Act against the managing partner for failing to pay contributions. The charge was, however, dismissed by the magistrates on the ground that the labourer was employed by the foreman, and not by the firm, and the firm were not liable to pay contributions.

On appeal, the High Court held that the labourer was a person

On appeal, the High Court held that the labourer was a person employed by the firm, that the firm were liable to pay contributions in respect of him, and that the magistrates were wrong. The appeal was, therefore, allowed, and the case was sent back to the magistrates with a direction to convict.—Hill v. Becket; King's Bench Division. 26th November, 1914.

# (4) MISCELLANEOUS

DOCTRINE OF COMMON EMPLOYMENT: SERVANTS OF DIFFERENT MASTERS: PERSONAL INJURY: INJURED ASSISTING INJURER FOR BENEFIT OF MASTER OF FORMER: LIABILITY OF MASTER OF

By the common law of England, where a servant in the course of his employment negligently injures a fellow servant in a common employment, the master of the two servants so working in a common employment is not liable in an action for damages by the injured servant. A person who volunteers to assist a servant may be the fellow servant of such servant for the purpose of applying this doctrine. A firm of printers contracted

<sup>†</sup> Partially corrected total. \* See Note on p. 31.

with a machine company to repair a linotype machine by fixing thereto a new melting-pot. The machine company sent one of their workmen to fix the new melting-pot, and while he was at

thereto a new melting pot. The machine company sent one of their workmen to fix the new melting-pot, and while he was at work so doing he requested a compositor in the employment of the printers to assist him. In the course of the operation the workman caused a chip of metal to fly and strike the compositor in the eye, doing him serious injury. The compositor brought an action for damages against the machine company as the employers of the man who did the injury.

At the trial the jury found (1) that the defendants' servant was guilty of negligence, and by such negligence had injured the plaintiff; (2) that the plaintiff did not voluntarily assist the defendants' servant for the defendants' benefit; (3) that the plaintiff assisted the defendants' servant at the latter's request for the benefit of his own (the plaintiff's) employers in order to expedite the work; and they awarded the plaintiff £400 damages. It was contended for the defendants that the plaintiff was a volunteer as a servant for the time of the defendants; that the two men were working in a common employment, and that therefore the defendants could not be liable.

The Court decided that as the plaintiff and the workman who injured him were not in the employment of the same master at the time of the injury the doctrine of common employent did not apply, and that the defendants were liable. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiff for the damages awarded to him. Williams v. Linotype Machine Co., Ltd., King's Bench Division, 18th December, 1914.

# NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1911.

# PART II.-UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. APPLICATIONS TO THE UMPIRE.

In pursuance of Regulations made by the Board of Trade and dated 26th day of March, 1912, Notice is hereby given that the Umpire (Unemployment Insurance) has received applications for decisions as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following above. respect of the following classes of workmen:

331. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of tar boilers

332. Workmen employed by firms of constructional engineers and engaged in making rivets.

# DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE.

[Note.—Where no reference is given to an Application, the question has been decided by the Umpire, without notice, as a matter not admitting of reasonable doubt, in accordance with paragraph (2) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations. Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.]

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

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

1494. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of steam-jacketed pans for preserve or confectionery manufacturers.

1495. Workmen engaged in making floating targets. (Application 329.)

1496. Workmen engaged in making drag devices for textile

B. The Umpire has decided that contributions are not payable in respect of :-

1497. Persons described as piecework counters or measurers in connection with shipbuilding. (Application 326.)

# NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1911-1914.

# UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REGULATIONS.

The following are the Unemployment Insurance (Short Time) Regulations, dated the 16th December, 1914, made by the Board of Trade under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and the National Insurance (Part II. Amendment) Act, 1914:-

[The schedules accompanying these regulations are omitted for reasons of space.]

1. Short Title and Commencement.—These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Short Time) Regulations, 1914, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

2. Interpretation.—In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires or admits:

The expression "certificate of exceptional unemployment" means a certificate issued by the Board of Trade that there is exceptional unemployment in the trade or branch of a trade

specified in the certificate.

The expression "order of exemption" means an order made by the Board of Trade under Section 7 of the National Insurance (Part II. Amendment) Act, 1914, exempting workmen of a specified class or description employed by a specified employer,

and the employer, from contributions under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911.

The expression, "the Labour Exchange," means the Labour Exchange at which the unemployment books of the workmen to whom the Order of Exemption applies are deposited by the employer in accordance with these Regulations.

The expression, "the reduced working hours," means the working hours as set out in the Order of Exemption, or as varied in accordance with Regulation 9 of these Regulations.

3. Certificate of Exceptional Unemployment.—(1) An order of exemption shall not be granted to an employer in any trade or branch of a trade unless a certificate of exceptional unemployment has been granted, and remains in force in respect of such trade or branch of a trade.

(2.) Any employer of workmen in an insured trade and any association of such employers may make application to the Board of Trade for a certificate of exceptional unemployment. Such application shall be made in the form set forth in the First Schedule to these Regulations, or in such other form as the Board may direct.

(3.) A certificate of exceptional unemployment may be (3.) A certificate of exceptional unemployment may be modified or cancelled at any time by the Board of Trade, but before modifying or cancelling a certificate the Board of Trade shall give notice in writing to the applicant, and shall take into consideration any representations made by the applicant within fourteen days or any longer period specified in the notice, thereafter. Similar notice shall also be given to each employer in the trade or branch of a trade covered by the certificate in respect of whom an order of exemption is then in force.

(4.) Notice of the issue, amendment or cancellation of a certificate of exceptional unemployment shall be given by the Board of Trade in writing to the applicant, and shall be published by the Board of Trade in the Board of Trade Journal, or in such other manner as the Board may think fit.

4. Application for Order of Exemption.—(1.) Any employer of insured workmen who desires to obtain an order of exemption

(i.) make application for a certificate of exceptional unemployment in accordance with Regulation 3 of these Regulations, unless a certificate of exceptional unemployment has already been issued and remains in force in respect of the trade or branch of a trade concerned, and

(ii.) make application to the Board of Trade for an order of exemption in the form set forth in the Second Schedule to these Regulations, or in such other form as the Board may direct.

(2.) The Board of Trade, if satisfied that an order of exemption should be granted, whether in the form applied for or in some modified form, shall give notice in writing to the employer that such order will be granted.

(3.) (i.) The employer shall thereupon, within fourteen days after the receipt of the notice by him, deposit at a convenient Labour Exchange or Labour Exchanges, to be specified in the notice, the unemployment books of all the workmen to whom the order of arometical will apply Pafers depositing the notice, the unemployment books of all the workmen to whom the order of exemption will apply. Before depositing the unemployment books the employer shall affix stamps representing the full number of contributions that would have been due if the employment of the workman had terminated at the date of deposit. The books deposited shall be accompanied by a list in duplicate of the names of the workmen and the numbers of their unemployment books. unemployment books.

(ii.) Where the employer has an arrangement with the Board of Trade under Section 99 of the National Insurance Act, 1911, he shall, in lieu of depositing the unemployment books, give notice to the Labour Exchange of the date from which he desires the order of exemption to commence, and stamps shall be affixed to the unemployment books as if the employment of

the workmen had terminated at this date. (4.) As soon as the unemployment books have been deposited, or notice has been given to the Labour Exchange as aforesaid, the Board of Trade, if satisfied that the conditions of Section 7 of the Amending Act and of these Regulations, continue to be fulfilled, shall issue the order of exemption, which shall be in the form set forth in the Third Schedule to these Regulations, or in such other form as the Board may direct.

in such other form as the Board may direct. (5.) As soon as an order has been issued contributions shall cease to be payable in respect of the workmen to whom the order will apply, as from the date at which the unemployment books were deposited until the order ceases to apply in accordance with the Pogulations.

ance with the Regulations.

5. Systematic Short Time.—An order of exemption shall not be granted unless the Board of Trade are satisfied that the employer proposes to work systematic short time in accordance with the following conditions:—

(1.) The reduction of working hours constituting the short time shall consist either

(i.) in a reduction of the weekly hours to a total not exceeding five-sixths of the number usually recognised as constituting a full week's work at that time in the trade or branch of a trade

and district, or

(ii.) in a stoppage of work for some day in the week which has been usually recognised as a working day of at least four hours at that time in the trade or branch of a trade and district, and in either case the working hours on any day of the week shall not exceed those usually worked on that day in the trade or branch of a trade and district.

(2.) The method of reducing the working hours shall not be such that the workman may obtain unemployment benefit whilst working short time.

(3.) The precise hours within which the reduced working hours will be confined on each day shall be stated in the applica-tion for the order of exemption.

(4.) The systematic short time shall apply to all the insured workmen employed by the employer at or in connection with the establishment to which the application for the order of exemption relates, or, where the Board of Trade are satisfied that different departments may be treated separately, at, or in connection with a department or departments in such establishment other than such workmen as the Board of Trade may consider to be engaged in purely subsidiary occupations.

6. Affixing of Order of Exemption and Notices.—The employer shall affix and shall, whilst the order of exemption remains in force, keep constantly affixed in such a place and position that they may be easily read by the workmen to whom the order of exemption applies, a copy of the order of exemption and of any notices given to the Labour Exchange in accordance with Regu-

7. Receipt Card for Unemployment Book.—(1) So long as any unemployment book remains deposited at the Labour Exchange in accordance with these Regulations, the employer, notwithstanding anything in the Unemployment Insurance Regulations, 1912, or any other Regulations made under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911, shall not be liable for its custody.

(2) The Labour Exchange shall issue a receipt card to the employer in respect of each unemployment book deposited by him in accordance with these Regulations.

(3) The employer on obtaining the receipt card shall become responsible for the custody of the receipt card so long as the employment of the workman continues or till the receipt card is returned by the employer to the Labour Exchange in exchange for the unemployment book.

(4) The employer shall return the receipt card to the Labour Exchange before the unemployment book is returned to him by the Labour Exchange in accordance with these Regulations.

(5) If the employment of the workman terminates whilst the unemployment book is deposited at the Labour Exchange in accordance with these Regulations, the provisions of Regulation 5 of the Unemployment Insurance Regulations, 1912, with regard to the return of the unemployment book to the workman and the giving of a receipt therefor by the workman shall apply as if

the receipt card were an unemployment book.

8. Variation of Particulars of Short Time Working.—Where an Order of Exemption has been granted the particulars of short time working as set out in the application for the Order shall not be varied except within the limits and subject to the conditions set out in Regulations 9 to 12 of these Regulations.

9. Variation of Reduced Working Hours.—The reduced working hours may be varied within the limits prescribed by Regulation 5 either in respect of the whole establishment or in respect of the particular department or departments, provided that at least 12 hours' notice in writing of the proposed variation is given beforehand to the Labour Exchange, and the working hours as thus varied shall thereupon be substituted for the reduced working hours as the variety of the reduced working the proposed with the reduced working the re duced working hours set out in the Order of Exemption. The notice shall give details of the working hours as varied in the form set out in the Order of Exemption, and shall, if necessary, specify the department or departments to which the varied working hours are to apply.

10. Increased Hours in Cases of Emergency .- (1.) For the purpose of completing an urgent order or orders or other work which cannot be delayed without prejudice to the continuance of workmen in their employment and subject to the provisions of this Regulation, any workmen to whom the Order of Exemption applies may be employed otherwise than within the reduced working hours, provided that

(a.) immediate notice in writing of the intention so to employ

the workmen is given by the employer to the Labour Exchange:
(b.) the employer furnishes the Board with any information required by them to satisfy themselves as to the circumstances in which the reduced working hours were exceeded.

(2.) The notice under this Regulation shall, unless it is not practicable to do so, be despatched before the workmen are so employed, and shall state the reason why it is necessary to exceed the reduced working hours. It shall be accompanied by a list of the names and numbers of the unemployment books of the workmen in whose case the reduced hours are to be, or have been, exceeded, and by the receipt cards for their unemployment books. books. The Labour Exchange shall thereupon immediately return the unemployment books to the employer for payment of contributions.

(3.) After the unemployment book of any workman is so returned to the employer, it may be subsequently redeposited by the employer at the Labour Exchange on any day on which the reduced working hours are not exceeded by the workmen.

(4.) In the case of each workman in respect of whom notice given under this Regulation, contributions under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911, shall be payable as if the Order of Exemption did not apply to his employment from and including the day during which the reduced working hours are first exceeded, until his unemployment book is redeposited at the Labour Exchange in accordance with this Regulation.

(5.) Where the employer has an arrangement with the Board of Trade under Section 99 of the National Insurance Act, 1911. the unemployment books of the workman shall not be returned to him under this Regulation. Contributions in respect of the workmen shall be payable in accordance with the arrangement

as if the Order of Exemption did not apply in respect of each day during which the reduced working hours are exceeded, and the employer shall supply the Labour Exchange with the necessary particulars to enable the unemployment book to be stamped

11. Termination of Workman's Employment.—If the employment of any workman to whom the order relates is terminated, notice must be given to the Labour Exchange within twenty-four

12. Engagement of other Workmen.—If additional workmen of the classes described in the Order of Exemption are engaged (whether in substitution for workmen whose employment has terminated, or otherwise), notice must be given to the Labour Exchange within twenty-four hours thereafter, together with a list of the names and the numbers of the unemployment books of the workmen, and the numbers of the unemployment books of the workmen, and thereupon unless the Board of Trade otherwise direct, the Order of Exemption shall apply to such workmen as from the date of their engagement. The unemployment books of such workmen shall be deposited by the employer at the Labour Exchange as soon as practicable after the date of

13. Effect of Non-compliance with Regulations 8 to 12.—In any case where the provisions of Regulations 8 to 12 have not been complied with, the method of working shall not be regarded as systematic short time except as regards such period and such workmen (if any) with respect to which or whom the Board of Trade certify that systematic short time has been worked, and the employer and workmen shall, except as regards the period and workmen covered by such certificate, be liable to the payment of contributions under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911, as if the Order of Exemption had not been made.

14. Cancellation or Expiration of Order of Exemption .- (1.) An Order of Exemption may be cancelled by the Board of Trade in any of the following circumstances:—

(i.) If the employer gives notice to the Labour Exchange that the short time working will be discontinued after a specified

(ii.) If the certificate of exceptional unemployment relating to the trade or branch of a trade has been modified or cancelled; (iii.) If, in the opinion of the Board, the circumstances are such that the exemption from payment of unemployment insurance contributions is no longer justified.

(2.) An Order of Exemption shall not continue in force for a longer period than twelve months, and, unless the Board of Trade for special reasons otherwise determine, a further order relating to the same class or description of workmen employed at the same establishment shall not be issued before the expiration of six months after the date at which the previous order ceased to have effect.

(3.) Upon the cancellation or expiration of an Order of Exemption, the unemployment books remaining deposited shall be immediately returned to the employer, or, in the case of a workman whose employment has then terminated, to the workman, provided that in the case of an employer having an arrangement under Section 99 of the National Insurance Act, 1911, the books not returned to the workman shall be retained in the custody of the Read of The level of the Parent of The level. in the custody of the Board of Trade.

15. Employer to Furnish Information and Allow Access to Records.—(1.) An employer who has made an application for an Order of Exemption, or to whom an Order of Exemption has been granted, shall furnish to the Board such information as the Board may require for the purpose of enabling them to deal with the application, or for the purpose of verifying the actual hours of work during the currency of an Order.

(2.) An employer, so far as may be necessary for these purposes shall allow an officer of the Board duly authorised on their behalf to enter the place of employment at any reasonable time and inspect any material books of account, wages sheets or books and time sheets or books.

Signed by Order of the Board of Trade, this 16th day of December, 1914. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.

Secretary to the Board of Trade.

# APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*			
Battersea (London)	O. Field, Gardner House, 4, North Side, Clapham Common, S.W.	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.			
Hamilton (Lanarkshire)	T. Steele, Ardmuir, Hamilton	Surgery, 38, Cadzow Street, Hamilton, week- days, 9-10 a.m.			
Shildon (Durham)	H. A. Fielden, Enfield Lodge, Shildon	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.			
Wymondham (Norfolk)	W. R. Clayton-Heslop, Wy- mondham	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.			

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

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

# PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

# UNITED KINGDOM.

[ Illthe United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any Bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 28, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsonby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

Census, 1911. County Volumes, Hereford and Salop (in one volume). Price 10d. Warwick. Price 9d.

Report on Conferences between Employers, Operatives and Inspectors concerning precautions J. H. Rogers, H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories. Home Office. [Stationery Office Publication: price 2d.]

Report to Home Office on the Circumstances attending an Explosion at the Wharncliffe Silkstone Colliery on 30th May, 1914. By Samuel Pope and F. H. Mottram. [Cd. 7720: price 5½d.]

Did.]
Report of the Board of Trade on the State of Employment in the United Kingdom in October, 1914. [Cd. 7703: price 4½d.]
Forty-third Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1913-1914. Part II. Housing and Town Planning. [Cd.

1913-1914. Part II. Housing and Town Planning. [Ou. 7610: price 9d.]

Report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office, 1913-14.

Number and amount of Old Age Pensions paid, staff, health, &c. [Cd. 7573: price 1s. 3d.]

Fifty-eighth Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland, 1912. [Cd. 7699: price 2s. 3d.]

Outworkers' Committee (Ireland). Report of Committee with regard to the application of the National Insurance Act to Outworkers in Ireland. Vol. II. Evidence and Appendices. [Cd. 7686: price 1s. 3d.]

Rankina. Railway and Shipping Statistics, Ireland, June,

Banking, Railway and Shipping Statistics, Ireland, June, 1914. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 7675: price 2½d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

INDIA.—1. Review of the Trade of India in 1913-14. (Price 12 annas.) 2. Memorandum and Statistical Tables relating to the Trade with Germany and Austria-Hungary. Second Issue. (Price 8 annas.) 3. Monthly Statistics of Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Indian Mills, September, 1914. (Price 2 annas.) Department of Statistics, India. [Calcutta: Government Printing Office]

CANADA.—The Labour Gazette, November, 1914. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during October; Ontario labour legislation; changes in wages and hours, wholesale and retail prices, trade disputes and industrial accidents during October. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

-Census and Statistics Monthly, October, 1914. Field crops of Canada, September, 1914. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's

—British Columbia. Report of the Royal Commission on Labour. Unemployment and employment agencies, wages, hours of labour, sanitation, &c. [Victoria, B.C.: W. H. Cullin,

King's Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—Labour Bulletin, No. 6.
April-June, 1914. Employment, prices, rents, cost of living, wages, disputes, accidents, &c. {Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers.]

New South Wales.—The Industrial Gazette, October, 1914.
The Statute Law of Industrial Import (coal and shale, continued), report on the working of the Factories and Shops Act for the year 1913, industrial arbitration proceedings, dislocations in industries, unemployment, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

VICTORIA.—Wages Board Determinations. Clothing Board.
Dated 16th October, 1914, cancelling that of 6th November, 1912.

Queensland.—Industrial Peace Act Awards Brishame

Queensland. — Industrial Peace Act Awards. Brisbane Carting Trade Board, dated 30th November, 1914, cancelling that of 12th November, 1912. Saddlers' Board, Central Division, dated 13th October, 1914. Appeal. Brisbane Warehouse Labourers' Board, dated 14th October, 1914.

New Zealand. — Journal of the Department of Labour, October, 1914. Condition of trade and employment at 30th September, cases under the Workers' Compensation Act, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, accidents, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

—New Zealand Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. XV. Part 6. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

# FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

International. — International Co-operative Bulletin, December, 1914. Journal of the International Co-operative Alliance. [London: H. J. May.]

United States.—Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, No. 150, 17th May, 1914. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton, Woollen and Silk Industries, 1907 to 1913. No. 155, 17th September, 1914. Compensation for Accidents to Employees of the United States. Report of Operations under the Act of 30th May, 1908. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

Bulletins of the Census. No. 125. Cotton Production, 1913, No. 126. Financial Statistics of Cities having a population of over 30,000, 1913. No. 127. Chinese and Japanese in the United States, 1910. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

-Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910. Vol. IV. Population—Occupation Statistics. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1914. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

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—Massachusetts. Labour Bulletin. No. 103, 3rd August, 1914. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Paper and Wood Pulp Industry in Massachusetts. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—First Annual Report of the Commission on Industrial Relations. Washington, 1914. [Chicago: Barnard and Millar.]

France.—Bulletin de la Statistique Générale de la France, July, 1914. "Economic indices" relating to the first and second quarters of 1914. [Paris: Librairie Felix Alcan.]

Germany. — Reichsarbeitsblatt, November, 1914. Unemployment in trade unions in October, miners' wages in second quarter, labour disputes in third quarter, statistics of German Printers' Wages Board. German Labour Department. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

ITALY.—Censimento degli Opifici e delle Imprese Industriali al 10 guigno, 1911. Vol. III. Census Office, Department of Statistics and Labour, 1914. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 4s.]

ment of Statistics and Labour, 1914. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 4s.]

—Bolletino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro, Fortnightly Series, 1st December, 1914. Retail prices and labour disputes in October. Ditto, 16 December, 1914. Labour disputes in second half of November. Ditto, monthly series, August, 1914. Retail prices at co-operative stores in July. Italian Labour Department. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

—Bolletino dell' Ispettorato dell' Industria e del Lavoro, September-October, 1914. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

—Bolletino dell' Emigrazione, 15th November, 1914. Italian Emigration Department. [Rome: Fratelli Bocca: price 3d.]

—Bolletino di Notizie sul Credito e sulla Previdenza, January-April, 1914. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 10d.]

HOLLAND. — The Port of Amsterdam. Published by the Municipality of Amsterdam, the North Sea Canal, &c.

—Gedwongen Winkelnering in de Tabaksnijverheid en eenige andere Bedrijfstakken. Report on compulsory dealing at employers' stores in the tobacco and other industries. Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1914. [The Hague: price 10d.]

Switzepeland. — Statistisches Jahrbuch der Schweiz, 1913.

of Agricul price 10d.]

of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1914. [The Hague: price 10d.]

SWITZERLAND. — Statistisches Jahrbuch der Schweiz, 1913. Statistics of factories (numbers employed, output, &c.), prices of agricultural produce. Federal Department of the Interior. 1914. [Berne: A. Francke & Cie.: price 4s. 10d.]

—Graphisch-Statistischer Atlas der Schweiz. Diagrams illustrating Population, Agriculture, Industries, &c., of Switzerland, Federal Department of the Interior, 1914. [Berne.]

NORWAY. — Sociale Meddelelser, No. 5, 1914. Communications from the Committee on Unemployment (appointed 7th August), unemployment in September and October, retail prices in September and in third quarter, effect of the War on retail prices in the Scandinavian capitals. Department of Social Affairs, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: price 7d.]

Denmark. — Sociale Forsorg, November, 1914. Unemployment on 24th October, foreign agricultural labourers employed in Denmark in the summer of 1914. Ditto, December, 1914. Report of Inspector of Unemployment for year ending 31st March, 1914; unemployment on 24th October, 1914. Department for Workmen's Insurance and Unemployment. [Hellerup: V. L. Faber.]

—Statistiske Etterretninger, 4th and 19th December, 1914.

for Workmen's Insurance and Chempe,
for Workmen's Insurance and Chempe,
V. L. Faber.]

—Statistiske Efterretninger, 4th and 19th December, 1914.
Retail prices in December. Danish Statistical Department.
[Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag; price
1d. each.]

Sweden. — Riksforsäkringsanstalten år, 1913. Insurance De-

SWEDEN. — Riksforsükringsanstalten år, 1913. Insurance Department. [Stockholm.]

Spain.—Boletin del Instituto de Reformas Sociales, November, 1914. Retail prices in certain towns, October, 1913-March, 1914, and general summary of similar reports for the preceding half-year. Spanish Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suárez: price 2½d.]

Bulgaria.—Bulletim of Bulgarian Statistical Department, October, 1914. Marriages, births and deaths, 1881-1910; average prices and wages, 1887-1912. [Sofia: B. N. Banka: price 2½d.]

URUGUAY.—Annuaria Estadistica de la Result.

URUGUAY.—Annuario Estadistico de la Republica Oriental del Uruguay, 1909-1910. Vol. I., with various data relating to 1911. Industrial accidents in Montevideo, 1908-1910; labour disputes in Montevideo, 1909-1910; wages &c., of immigrants. 1908. Statistical Department of Uruguay, 1912. [Montevideo: Juan J. Dornaliche.]

# CONSULAR REPORTS.

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 5400. Leghorn, 1913. [Cd. 7620-10: price 1½d.] No. 5404. Trade of Germany, 1913. The labour market, agrarian protection, consumption of meat, &c. [Cd. 7620-14: price 5½d.] No. 5414. Hamburg. District, 1913. Unemployment, strikes, emigration, &c. [Cd. 7620-24: price 44d.]

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