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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

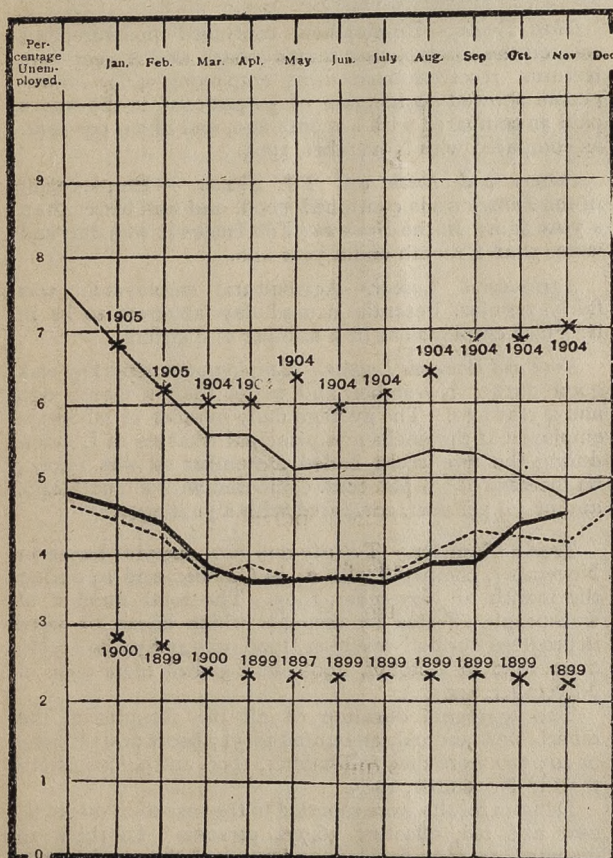


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN NOVEMBER.

[Based on 8,035 returns, viz.: 4,618 from Employers and their Associations; 2,947 from Trade Unions; 388 from Local Correspondents; and 82 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT during November was good in all the principal trades, except the building trade and shipbuilding. The latter industry was affected by the present dispute on the Tees and by the recent Clyde dispute. There has been a considerable demand for pig iron, and blastfurnacemen are busy.

Wages continued to advance in November. The increase in that month affected 160,000 workpeople to the extent of £3,600 per week.

As compared with a year ago, employment showed an improvement in most industries.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 604,370, making Returns, 27,446 (or 4.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 4.4 per cent. at the end of October, and 4.7 per cent. at the end of November, 1905.

Building Trades.—Employment continued dull, showing little general change compared with a month ago, but an improvement compared with a year ago.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was better than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the collieries included in the Returns was 5.50 during the four weeks ended November 24th, 1906, as compared with 5.49 in October, and 5.32 in November, 1905.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good in iron mines, and was slightly better than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.89, as compared with 5.90 in October, and 5.81 in November, 1905.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry in November was good and showed little change as compared with the previous month. It was better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing 24,900 workpeople, showed that 342 furnaces were in blast at the end of November, as compared with 344 in the previous month and 334 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works continued very brisk and was better than a year ago. There was however a slight decline as compared with October. The volume of employment at 206 works from which Returns were received was 1.2 per cent. less in the week ended November 24th, 1906, than in the week ended October 20th, 1906, but 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment during October continued good, and was about the same as a year ago. According to Returns received, 441 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of November, compared with the same number at the end of October, 1906, and 439 at the end of November, 1905.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued good, but was not quite so good as a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 3.5, as compared with 3.1 a month ago and 3.6 in November, 1905.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment declined during November, owing in a great measure to the effects of labour disputes. With the exception of the Clyde district (which is still affected by the recent dispute) and the Tees, where a strike is in progress, there was some improvement on a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 14.3,* as compared with 10.4 at the end of October, and 11.8 at the end of November, 1905.

* Exclusive of members on strike.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very brisk, and was even better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 132,365 workpeople in the week ended November 24th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woolen Trade.—Employment continued good, but showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 25,174 workpeople in the week ended November 24th showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,593 workpeople in the week ended November 24th, showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,304 workpeople on the last pay-day in November showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the wages paid as compared with October, and an increase of 4.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment in this trade continued good and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,305 workpeople on the last pay-day in November showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with October, and of 2.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment in this trade showed an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,356 workpeople on the last pay-day in November showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month, and of 6.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was good in England, moderate in Scotland. Returns received from firms employing 9,000 workpeople on the last pay-day in November showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 11.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was fairly good in England, good in Scotland, and, on the whole, better than a year ago. Firms employing 15,924 workpeople on the last pay-day in November showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London was moderate and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in the Provinces it was quiet. In the *ready-made* branch employment on the whole showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was slightly better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during November was quiet in the *Silk Hat* branch, fair in the *Felt Hat* branch, and generally better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of November in the *Silk Hat* trade was 10.2, compared with 10.9 at the end of October, and 15.4 per a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 5.1, 3.5 and 7.2.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade improved slightly, but was still quiet; it showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 64,051 workpeople on the last pay-day in November showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued fairly good. It was rather better than in October, and also better than a year ago. Of 3,676 members of Trade Unions, 5.3 per cent. were unemployed, as compared

with 5.6 per cent. in October, and 6.8 per cent. in November, 1905.

Paper-making Trades.—Employment remained good in these trades. It was rather better than a month ago and a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was fairly good generally, a considerable seasonal improvement having taken place in letterpress printing and bookbinding. It was about the same as a year ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 3.3, as compared with 4.9 in October and 3.2 in November, 1905. In the bookbinding trades the percentages were 2.2 for November, 3.0 for October and 2.5 for November, 1905.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,592 reported 4.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 4.5 a month ago and 5.4 in November, 1905.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued moderate, but was, on the whole, better than a month and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,792 workpeople showed an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 7.9 per cent. as compared with November, 1905.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was dull and worse than a month and a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Agricultural employment was fairly regular, but rain caused day labourers to be in irregular employment in a number of districts.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment generally was good during November, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended December 1st was 13,060, an increase of 6.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-one new disputes began in November, compared with 24 in October, and 19 during the month of November, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during November, 1906, was 42,639, or 14,309 more than in October, 1906, and 32,828 more than in November, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 517,800 working days, or 103,500 more than in October, 1906, and 348,000 more than in November, 1905.

Definite results were reported in the case of 22 disputes, new and old, affecting 36,772 persons. Of these 22 disputes, 10 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 7 in favour of the employers, and 5 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in November were all advances in wages. They affected nearly 160,000 workpeople, including 110,000 coal miners in Durham, 24,000 workpeople in the engineering trade in the London and Manchester districts, and 7,500 ironstone miners in the Cleveland district. The total computed effect of the reported changes was an advance of nearly £3,600 per week in the wages of those affected. The changes of the previous month affected 96,500 workpeople, the net result being an increase of about £1,160 per week. During November, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was 25,700, and the net result an increase of £1,250 per week.

Two changes, affecting 110,600 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and four changes, affecting 8,700 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 40,600 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, two of these changes, affecting about 70 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES AND THE UNEMPLOYED.

INQUIRIES have been addressed to the Central (Unemployed) Body for London and to the various Distress Committees constituted under the Unemployed Workmen Act, and also to the Local Correspondents of the Labour Department in the principal towns, on the subject of exceptional distress due to the want of employment in November, and measures taken to relieve such distress.

So far as can be judged from the reports received from the Local Correspondents of the Department, it would appear that exceptional distress existed in only 19 of the large provincial towns; in 4 of these towns (Stockton and Hartlepool, Glasgow and Greenock) the distress was partly attributable to the disputes in progress, or recently closed, at the shipyards; while at Leicester and Northampton distress was marked only in the boot and shoe trade. Taking all the towns from which reports have been received, including those where the distress was not exceptional, it appears that there was, on the whole, slightly more distress in November than in October, but less than in November, 1905. Almost all the Local Correspondents report the building trades as specially affected by lack of employment.

London and Neighbourhood.

By order of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, all the London Distress Committees' registers were closed during the summer, and re-opened in November, and it is possible to give below the number of persons registered by the Committees during last month:—

	Total on the Register.	Labourers.
Eastern District ...	2,650	1,993
S. uthern ,, ...	5,927 (about)	4,500
Northern ,, ...	1,481	895
Western ,, ...	2,816 (about)	2,100
Central ,, ...	651	511
	13,595 (about)	10,000

It will be seen that about 75 per cent. of the total number of applicants were labourers, the greatest number, both absolutely and relatively, occurring in the Southern District. At Bermondsey, where a large part of the population is engaged at docks and wharves, the whole of the males registered were labourers.

Returns received relating to districts of Outer London give the number of applicants whose names stood on the Committees' Registers at the end of November as 3,397 at West and East Ham, 1,123 at Tottenham, and 1,447 at Croydon, Edmonton, Hornsey, Leyton, and Willesden. In these districts, the proportion of labourers is only 60 per cent. of the total.

In London proper, practically all the employment-relief is provided by the Central (Unemployed) Body. The total number of men who received employment-relief during November was 526: 222 at Hollesley Bay, 200 at Farnbridge, 93 at Letchworth, and 11 at Battersea by arrangement with the Battersea Borough Council. The aggregate number of days worked was 10,493, or about 20 for each man relieved; and the total amount of wages paid (*i.e.*, allowances to the families of those relieved, exclusive of the cost of board and lodging), £1,246.

In Outer London, employment-relief was given at Leyton to 38 men, at Tottenham to 187 men for an aggregate of 551 days, and at West Ham to 59 men for an aggregate of 952 days.

Rest of England and Wales.

No statistical comparison can be given between the figures for November, 1906, and those for October, 1906, or November, 1905, as regards the provincial towns generally, as the returns of "number on the register" made by the various Distress Committees are not compiled on the same system. Some registers have been open all the summer, and the "number on the register" has not been systematically reduced by cancelling the names of those who had obtained work, left the neighbourhood, &c. Other boroughs have varying systems of clearing the register.

The following statement shows the total number of unemployed on the register at the end of November, 1906, for towns in which the register is cleared by re-registration or otherwise, at short intervals:—

Borough.	Total Number of Unemployed on the Register.	Number of Labourers included in total.	Borough.	Total Number of Unemployed on the Register.	Number of Labourers included in total.
Barton-on-Trent ...	233	191	South Shields ...	133	82
Halifax ...	707	431	Sunderland ...	392	232
Manchester ...	611	275	Warrington ...	222	87
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	530	371	Wigan ...	307	269
Reading ...	492	328	Wolverhampton ...	213	119
			Other Towns (16)	147	112

In the case of the towns detailed below it has only been found possible to give the number registered during November.

Town.	No. of Unemployed registered during Nov.	Town.	No. of Unemployed registered during Nov.	Town.	No. of Unemployed registered during Nov.
Birmingham ...	88	Leeds ...	164	Portsmouth ...	1,010
Bolton ...	62	Leicester ...	22	Rochdale ...	51
Brighton ...	1,141†	Liverpool ...	1,047*	Southampton ...	84
Burnley ...	79	Northampton ...	120	Stockport ...	144
Evonport ...	257‡	Norwich ...	795*	Swansea ...	102
Dudley ...	40	Notttingham ...	93	York ...	89
Kettering ...	71	Plymouth ...	134	Other Towns (4)	82

In certain of the above towns there has been a recent revision of the old register, and the figures to be added to those registered during November are as under:—

Bolton ...	457	Northampton ...	200
Kettering ...	55	York ...	763
Leicester ...	801		

At Hull and Leeds the revision of the old register is now in progress.

At Bristol 1,310 names have been registered since September 10th. At Bradford the number of unemployed at the end of November is given as 738; but a fresh register was started on December 1st, and all applicants will be required to register their names afresh if they wish to keep on the committee's books.

Employment-relief was given as shown in the following statement:—

Towns.	Number who received Employment Relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment Relief.	Towns.	Number who received Employment Relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment Relief.
Bournemouth ...	123	1,482	Northampton ...	89	587
Bristol ...	212	2,348	Portsmouth ...	67	435
Leeds ...	75	601	Smethwick ...	37	814
Leicester ...	85	1,017	Sunderland ...	23	257
Liverpool ...	45	469	Other Towns (9)	146	1,300 (about)

The aggregate amount of wages paid to those given employment-relief in the above towns was about £1,400.

Scotland.

The following statement shows the number of unemployed on the registers of Distress Committees in Scotland. At Aberdeen, applicants are required to report themselves every 14 days, failing which their names are removed from the register; and systems of clearing the registers at short intervals exist at Leith and at Govan. At Edinburgh only a quarterly revision of the register is made. The figures for other boroughs are the numbers registered during in November.

	No of Unemployed		No of Unemployed
Aberdeen ...	408	Glasgow ...	1,158
Dundee ...	215	Greenock ...	340
Edinburgh ...	1,384	Govan, Leith, and Partick ...	157

About 64 per cent. of the unemployed at Edinburgh, and all of those at Glasgow, are described as "labourers."

Employment-relief was given at Aberdeen to 77 men, for an aggregate of 919 days; at Edinburgh to 63 men, for an aggregate of 1,337 days; and at Glasgow to 124 men, for an aggregate of 737 days.

Ireland.

No Distress Committees were in operation in Nov., 1906.

* Since 15th October. † Since 22nd October. ‡ Since 16th October

STANDARD TIME RATES OF WAGES.

The Labour Department of the Board of Trade has just issued a Report* which gives for the United Kingdom, at 1st October, 1906, the recognised time rates of wages and hours of labour (exclusive of overtime), for a large number of different occupations, of men employed in the principal towns of the country, as well as the predominant wages of seamen, and earnings of agricultural labourers.

Standard Time Rates may be defined as those rates which are recognised as applicable (usually as minimum rates of pay) to the remuneration of a considerable number of workpeople engaged in a given industry at a given place. In many cases the associations of employers and of workpeople have mutually agreed on these rates. The various sources from which the figures are drawn are stated in the Report.

A distinction must be made between a standard rate and a predominant rate. The latter is a rate at which more men are paid than at any other rate, and is not necessarily, though frequently it is, the same as the standard rate; in some cases the employers might pay the greater number of their men in a certain occupation a wage above that agreed on, in which case the standard rate would be lower than the predominant rate. Again, the standard rate is not the same as the average rate of wages, which might work out to a figure at which no men would actually be paid, though most might receive amounts differing but little from it.

The Tables in the Report relate to the building trades, the engineering and shipbuilding trades, printing and bookbinding trades, gas stokers, bakers, boot and shoe operatives, farriers, police constables, seamen and agricultural labourers. The more important industries not represented in the Tables are mining and quarrying, iron and steel manufacture, textile trades, and the clothing trades (except boot and shoe manufacture). In most of the occupations in these trades payment is made by piece, and the rates will accordingly be found in the Report on Standard Piece Rates, the last issue of which was published in 1900.† Alterations and additions which have occurred since then have appeared in the annual reports on Changes in Rates of Wages and in the columns of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

In some of the outdoor occupations, as in the building trades, owing to the hours of labour in winter being shorter than in summer, the weekly wages of the men are less in the former case than in the latter. Conditions in the winter months are often not uniform, and the information given in the Report relating to hours of labour refers only to the summer months. In a few cases, to which attention is called in the Tables, the hourly rates are increased in winter.

The standard time rates for each trade dealt with in the Tables are set forth separately for the different industrial centres, and wide variations are shown in the rates current in different localities. Thus the lowest rate for bricklayers and carpenters is 5d. per hour (for the former at Whitchurch, Salop, and for the latter at Haverhill, Truro, and St. Austell), while the highest rate for each is that for London, viz., 10½d. Again, the rate for bricklayers' labourers at Erith is from 7d. to 7½d., while at Cirencester it is from 3½d. to 4d. per hour.

In the engineering and shipbuilding trades, the rate for turners and fitters is 39s. per week in London and 28s. at Ipswich and Lincoln. Ironfounders in London and certain towns in South Lancashire have standard time wages varying from 40s. to 42s. At Exeter and Norwich the rate is 28s. only. Patternmakers show nearly the same variation.

It is, indeed, commonly found that wages are higher in large towns than in the smaller industrial centres, but the rule has not a few exceptions, which could only be explained by a full statement of the local circumstances. In many cases differences in rates of wages are to be accounted for by differences in the character of the work principally done in the districts in question.

* Cd. 3215. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 7d.
† Cd. 144. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 1s. 4d.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1905.

A REPORT* was issued by the Department in December, 1905, in which the statistics of membership, funds, &c., were brought up to the end of 1904. In the present article the figures are continued for 1905.

Membership of all Trade Unions.

At the end of 1905 the number of Trade Unions known by the Department to be in existence was 1,136, with a total membership of 1,887,823. This membership shows an increase of 1.3 per cent. compared with 1904, but a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with the highest recorded membership, viz., that for 1901. Compared with 1896 there was an increase of over 25 per cent.

The most considerable changes in membership in 1905 were an increase of 18,000 in the textile group of Unions, and a decrease of 20,000 in the building trade Unions. These changes are doubtless connected with the fact that last year the building trades were slack and the textile trades busy.

The number of female members of Trade Unions rose from 125,102 at the end of 1904 to 135,235 at the end of 1905, an increase of 8 per cent. Most of the female Trade Unionists are engaged in the Lancashire cotton industry.

Accounts of 100 Principal Unions.†

The following summary shows the membership, income, expenditure and accumulated funds of 100 principal Unions for each of the ten years, 1896-1905. These 100 Unions include nearly two-thirds of the total membership of the 1,136 Trade Unions in the Kingdom.

Year.	Membership at end of year.	Income.		Expenditure.		Funds at end of year.	
		Total.		Total.		Total.	
		£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
1896	987,717	1,651,558	33 5½	1,212,135	24 6½	2,151,072	43 6½
1897	1,080,009	1,970,962	36 2½	1,891,027	34 8½	2,231,007	40 11½
1898	1,067,689	1,921,100	35 7½	1,476,337	27 7½	2,657,800	49 9½
1899	1,147,909	1,853,398	31 11½	1,252,011	21 9½	3,240,187	56 5½
1900	1,191,184	1,947,957	32 8½	1,456,716	24 5½	4,731,428	62 7½
1901	1,199,024	2,043,951	34 1	1,641,081	27 4½	4,134,208	68 11½
1902	1,147,147	2,086,819	34 10½	1,800,214	30 1	4,420,883	73 10½
1903	1,184,791	2,099,772	35 5½	1,917,104	32 4½	4,603,351	77 6½
1904	1,177,243	2,114,441	35 11	2,055,728	34 11	4,662,264	79 2½
1905	1,189,793	2,211,573	37 2	2,096,731	34 8½	4,808,106	80 10

The income of the 100 Principal Unions showed, for the sixth year in succession, an increase in both total amount and amount per member. The total expenditure has also risen steadily during the past six years, but the amount per member expended in 1905 shows a slight decline compared with 1904. The average amount of funds per member has shown an increase for eight years in succession, and is now over £4, against £2 at the end of 1897; the rate of increase, however, shows a tendency to decline.

The group of trades showing the greatest rise in funds, as compared with 1904, was the textile group, in which the increase was from £688,662 to £764,695 (or 11.0 per cent.). The building trades, on the other hand, showed a decline of £67,500 (or 16.2 per cent.); but the decline in the amount of funds per head in this group of trades was only 3s. 10½d., or about 9 per cent.

During the 10 years under review £16,768,000 has been spent by the 100 principal Unions. Of this amount about £2,357,000, or 14.1 per cent. of the total, has been spent on dispute pay; £3,715,000, or 22.2 per cent., on unemployed benefits; and £7,023,000, or 41.8 per cent., on other benefits (principally sick, accident, superannuation and funeral benefits); the remaining £3,673,000, or 21.9 per cent., having been used in the payment of working and miscellaneous expenses. The Table below gives for each of the years 1896-1905

* Report on Trade Unions in the United Kingdom. Cd. 2838, Wyman & Sons, Ltd., 1s. 7d.

† Revised figures.

‡ The 100 Unions here included differ in a few cases from those of which the financial details are given in the Department's Report on Trade Unions in 1905-6. The figures for 1896-1904 have therefore been revised throughout in order that the figures now given for the 10 years 1896-1905 may be strictly comparable.

the figures on which these percentages have been calculated:—

Year.	Dispute Benefit.		Unemployed Benefits.		Other Benefits.		Working and other Expenses.	
	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.
1896	£ 168,319	13.9	£ 260,793	21.5	£ 508,289	42.0	£ 274,734	22.6
1897	617,000	34.2	331,103	17.5	595,368	31.5	311,521	16.8
1898	366,947	22.1	234,051	15.9	607,840	41.1	308,342	20.9
1899	1,081,611	58.6	131,813	7.2	620,491	33.2	326,813	17.0
1900	1,051,611	53.5	261,560	13.5	679,556	35.7	362,236	19.3
1901	210,073	11.8	325,392	17.8	719,879	41.9	385,737	23.5
1902	219,155	12.2	429,990	23.8	748,700	41.6	403,319	22.4
1903	171,300	9.0	574,899	26.9	791,012	41.3	437,843	23.8
1904	166,809	6.2	632,457	31.7	849,115	41.3	477,307	20.8
1905	212,853	10.3	521,123	25.2	992,353	43.7	429,472	20.8
Average for ten years	235,682	14.1	371,533	22.2	702,260	41.8	367,535	21.9

The expenditure upon unemployed benefits is shown by trades in the next Table. In the building trades, carpenters, plumbers, there has been a great increase in such expenditure, especially during the last two years. In the textile group the expenditure was very high in 1903 and part of 1904, in which years there was much organised short time on account of the high price of raw material. In 1905 employment was very good, and the amount of expenditure under this heading was lower than in any previous year. The metal, engineering and other trades spent more on unemployed benefit in 1905 than in any other year except 1904.

Year.	Building Trades.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding.	Textile.	Other Trades.
1896	£ 25,999	£ 43,660	£ 112,941	£ 34,244	£ 44,846
1897	2,216	25,273	191,200	41,605	45,774
1898	22,249	13,942	101,510	34,206	59,154
1899	21,277	10,409	80,512	26,157	43,188
1900	6,555	4,540	91,227	60,782	55,616
1901	67,228	18,475	132,332	43,949	62,758
1902	3,804	19,877	203,965	55,745	76,186
1903	80,002	18,663	224,950	113,745	76,924
1904	137,192	48,401	301,749	71,021	91,889
1905	143,023	35,564	229,293	24,428	88,815

The average amount of expenditure of the 100 Unions on unemployed benefits in 1905 was 8s. 9d. per member, as compared with 11s. 1d. in 1904 and 3s. 2½d. in 1899. On dispute benefit the expenditure in 1905 averaged 3s. 7d. per member, the average for the previous six years being 2s. 9½d.

During the period 1896-1905, the expenditure on sick, accident and superannuation benefits showed a large increase, having risen from 4s. 9½d. per member for sick and accident, and 2s. 9½d. for superannuation in 1896, to 6s. 9d. for sick and accident and 4s. 9½d. for superannuation in 1905. Except in 1897, there has been an increase in the cost per member of each of these benefits every year.

Federations of Trade Unions.

The number of Federations of Trade Unions in existence at the end of 1905 was 89, with a membership of 1,872,019. This is the gross membership, in which some individuals are counted more than once owing to the Unions to which they belong being affiliated to more than one federation. The principal individual federations were the General Federation of Trade Unions, which increased in membership from 396,226 at the end of 1904 to 477,891 at the end of 1905; the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, with 323,799 members; and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades of the United Kingdom, with 270,885 members. The first two of these Federations provide benefit to affiliated Unions in cases of approved disputes.

Trades Councils.

At the end of 1905 there were 231 Trades Councils in existence, as compared with 229 in 1904 and 164 in 1896. The affiliated membership in 1905 was 895,000; in 1904, 875,000; and in 1896, 712,000.

* The great dispute in the engineering trade was in progress in 1897-8.

TRADE UNIONS ABROAD.

The following Notes and Tables summarise and amplify the information given in the Third Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics.* The information has been derived in some cases from official sources, and in others from publications issued by the central organisations or federations of the Unions. The Tables show the total recorded membership of the Unions, and in nearly every case give details of the distribution of the membership among the various trades and industries. The extent to which the figures may be regarded as embracing the whole of the organised workers is not the same in all the countries, and due allowance must be made for such variations when instituting international comparisons. For some of the countries figures are given showing the membership for a series of years, and on the assumption that the Returns are equally complete in each year, it is possible to trace the growth of Trade Unionism in a number of countries.

Thus the figures indicate that in countries of progressive industrial development trade unionism makes steady and in some cases rapid growth. In 1905 the membership of the Social Democratic Trade Unions (*Gewerkschaften*) of Germany was 2½ times greater than in 1899, and they now embrace more than three-quarters of the organised workers of the country; the Christian Unions have made almost equal relative progress; and the Hirsch-Duncker Societies (*Gewerksvereine*), though of less importance numerically, continue to hold their own. The German Trade Unions, as a whole, increased their membership by nearly 25 per cent. in 1905, a higher rate of increase than in any preceding year.† In France, too, there has been rapid growth both in the number of Unions and in their membership. On the other hand, in Denmark there appears to have been a noticeable diminution both of Unions and of members since 1900. The figures showing the membership of the Unions in several consecutive years are brought together in the following table, information relating to Trade Unions in the United Kingdom being added for purposes of comparison:—

TOTAL RECORDED MEMBERSHIP IN EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	France.	Austria.†	Denmark.	United States.	
						Federation of Labour.	New York State.
1896	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.
1897	1,503	—	423	99	—	—	170
1898	1,623	—	438	—	—	—	168
1899	1,659	—	438	—	—	—	171
1900	1,811	864	420	119	—	—	209
1901	1,928	993	492	—	96	—	245
1902	1,910	1,008	599	179	—	—	276
1903	1,926	1,093	614	135	96	—	329
1904	1,904	1,277	644	155	88	—	396
1905	1,864	1,467	716	189	90	—	392
	1,888	1,522	781	323	—	—	384

The detailed Tables contained in this section of the Foreign Abstract indicate that certain trades are more strongly organised than others, and that the tendency to combine is, as would be expected, strongest in the case of skilled labour. The largest trade societies in Germany are those of the building trades, which number a fifth of the members of all Trade Unions; and it is noticeable that it is these trades which have been the most successful in concluding collective wages agreements during recent years. The metal and engineering trades come second with a membership nearly equal to that of the building trades. In France by far the largest unions are those of the transport trades, while the unions in the metal, mining, and textile trades are next in point of membership; the building trades, however, have the largest

* Cd. 3120. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1s. 6d.
† A full account of Trade Unions in Germany appeared in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1906, pp. 262-3.
‡ Including female members and members abroad. In 1905 the female members numbered 135,235, and the members abroad 16,917.
§ These are the numbers on January 1st of each year; the number on January 1st, 1906, was 836,000.
¶ These figures do not include the members of Trade Associations of an educational character nor of Unions not confined to single trades. These general Unions and Educational Associations numbered 476 and had a membership of 16,530 in 1904.

number of organisations. In Austria, the largest number of unionists are in the metal trades, and the building and transport trades follow. In Italy, on the other hand, by far the best organised industry is agriculture, one half of the Trade Union members being connected with that industry; while the transport trades follow with one-seventh, and the metal-workers with one-tenth. Trade Unionism is not strong in Norway, but more than one-third of the estimated number of members (16,000) fall to the metal trades. In Sweden nearly one-fourth of the total number of unionists belong to the same trades. In Denmark the unions of general labourers have the largest membership, the building trades come next, and the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades follow. The metal trades take the first place in point both of number of unions and of aggregate membership in Switzerland, and the transport trades come next. Of the 1,494,300 members of the American Federation of Labour in 1905, 256,300 belonged to the mining trades, 226,100 to the building trades, 190,300 to the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and 179,000 to the transport trades.

The data available as to the revenue, expenditure, and accumulated funds of the unions are far from comprehensive. Of the unions in foreign countries for which such information is available, those of Norway are shown as having the largest income per head, viz., £1 6s. 6d., the Social Democratic Unions of Germany have just over £1 per head, the Hungarian Unions have 13s., the Austrian 12s., the Swiss 11s., and the Unions of other countries for which returns are given less than 10s. Large invested funds are the exception, amounting in only two cases, Austria and Switzerland, to as much as a year's income. The funds of the German Social Democratic Trade Unions amounted to 14s. 7d. per head, those of the Austrian Unions to 13s. 11d., and those of the Swiss Unions to 14s. 11d. The funds of 100 of the principal Trade Unions of the United Kingdom, comprising nearly two-thirds of the aggregate membership of the 1,136 Unions, have increased during the past eight years from £2 to over £4 per head.

In but few cases is information available as to the manner in which Continental Trade Unions dispose of their funds. The German Social Democratic Unions are the only ones which expend any considerable proportion of revenue on the support of strikes and trade disputes. Of a total income for Trade Union purposes of £1,390,613, £523,605 was so used in 1905. In addition £284,985 was expended in unemployed, travelling, sick and superannuation benefits, and special allowances, on account of removal, death, distress, &c. The Hirsch-Duncker Unions expended £24,019 out of a revenue of £66,833 in unemployed benefit and dispute pay, while £3,390 additional was spent in travelling and removal benefits and relief in special distress. The Austrian Trade Unions, with a revenue of £193,405 in 1905, expended £30,581 in unemployed benefit, £4,923 in travelling benefit, £30,788 in sickness and infirmity allowances, grants to widows and orphans, and for funeral expenses, and £5,887 in grants on account of special distress. By way of comparison, it may be noted that the 100 principal Trade Unions of the United Kingdom expended on the average of the past ten years £235,682 per annum on dispute benefit, this being equal to 14.1 per cent. of their total expenditure, £371,533 per annum on unemployed benefit (equal to 22.2 per cent.), and £702,260 on other benefits (equal to 41.8 per cent.). It should be remembered, however, that both in Germany and Austria, systems of sickness and accident insurance on a State basis are in force.

CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Army Boot Makers, Northamptonshire.

The Joint Standing Committee of Army Contractors for Government Boot Work and Representatives of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives having been unable to agree upon the prices to be paid for future contracts, Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, was, on October 17th, appointed by the Board of Trade as umpire to settle the questions in dispute.

In his award, published on November 23rd, Mr. Askwith decided that the sectional system, as previously established, should be continued, that the price of the Army combination boot should remain unchanged, but that small increases should be given on the more elaborate boots and white canvas shoes; while prices were fixed for certain boots not previously included in the piece-work statement. He also decided that all grindery should be found by the employers.

By consent of the parties the umpire decided the length of time for which the amended statement should remain in force, fixing it at two years from 1st April, 1907, after which six months' notice is required before any revision can be made.

THE BERNE LABOUR CONVENTIONS, 1906.

A PARLIAMENTARY PAPER [Cd. 3271] has been issued containing the two conventions concluded at the International Conference on Labour Regulation, held at Berne in September last, together with an introductory memorandum. The first of these conventions relates to the employment of women at night in industrial occupations, the second to the use of white (yellow) phosphorus in the manufacture of matches. The movement, of which the conclusion of these conventions is the first practical outcome, commenced with the foundation, in 1900, of a private Association, called the International Association for Labour Protection, by a number of Continental economists and other persons interested in labour questions. The Association early took up the questions of the employment of women at night, and the use of white (yellow) phosphorus in match-making, and after some investigations the Swiss Federal Authorities were asked to approach the European Governments on these matters, and to invite them to send representatives to a conference. The invitation was accepted by all the States to whom it was addressed, and a preliminary conference was held at Berne, in May, 1905, which prepared drafts to serve as the bases of conventions.

The Swiss Federal Government then invited a final conference at Berne. This was held in September, 1906, and was attended by representatives of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The British delegates were Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., and Mr. Malcolm Delevingne, of the Home Office.

On the question of the international prohibition of night-work for women there was general agreement as to the principle, but considerable discussion took place on two proposals of the British delegates. The first was that an International Commission should be established whose task would be to enquire into disputes that might arise in regard to the interpretation or execution of the conventions, and to choose the subjects and prepare the materials for future conferences on industrial questions. The second proposal was that disputes, in the event of continued disagreement, after the opinion of the Commission had been expressed, should be referred to arbitration. These proposals, in a modified form, were supported by nine of the other Powers represented; but as Germany, Austria-Hungary and Belgium refused to accept them, they were not included in the convention, but were embodied in a declaration signed by the delegates of the 10 States accepting them, and will form the subject of further diplomatic negotiations.

The convention was signed on September 26th. The signatory States bind themselves to prohibit nightwork for all women, of whatever age, employed in industry in all workplaces (not being family workshops) where more than 10 male and female workpeople are engaged, and to establish a night rest of at least 11 hours; with the temporary exception that where the nightwork of adult women is not yet regulated, the minimum night rest may, for a transitional period of three years, be fixed at 10 hours. The prohibition of nightwork may be suspended (1) when the industry has been temporarily interrupted by abnormal and non-recurrent causes beyond the control of the manufacturers; and (2) in industries in which the materials rapidly deteriorate if not treated immediately. For season trades the

hours of night rest may be reduced to 10 on not more than 60 days a year. The convention is to come into force (with some exceptions, especially wool-combing and weaving, and beet sugar making, for which the period is 10 years) in two years after its ratification by the signatory Powers, which must be not later than December 31st, 1908; and can be denounced first at the end of 12 years, or subsequently on one year's notice. The British delegates proposed the insertion of an article binding the signatory Governments to take adequate administrative action for the enforcement of the prohibitions, and this was accepted.

The second suggested convention, prohibiting the use of white (yellow) phosphorus, did not meet with the same general approval. At the Conference in 1905, it had been recognised that an essential preliminary was the acquiescence of all the States represented, and also of Japan. The British Government held that unless there were this acquiescence, the prohibition of the use of white (yellow) phosphorus would hamper the British manufacturer by exposing him to the competition of foreign cheap matches containing the dangerous material; and that even if the importation of these were prohibited, the British export trade would still be liable to the same competition. Had necrosis been at all prevalent it might have been desirable, nevertheless, to undertake the prohibition, but experience in Great Britain had shown that the disease can be effectively suppressed by regulation. The British Government however, in order not to place obstacles in the way of a general agreement, if such were otherwise possible, was willing to agree to the proposed Convention, if all the States represented in 1905, and also Japan, would do the same. Norway, however, refused to send representatives to Berne; and the Japanese Government, whilst recognising the importance of the question as a matter of public health, regretted its inability to take the proposed action. Sweden, Spain, and Portugal declined, for various reasons, to agree to any prohibition. Austria-Hungary and Belgium took the same line as Great Britain.

The other Powers—Germany, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and Switzerland—resolved to sign a Convention (September 26th), whereby they bound themselves to prohibit within their territories the manufacture, introduction and sale of matches containing white (yellow) phosphorus. The only Power really affected is Italy, since of the others five had already adopted prohibition, and Luxemburg has no match factories. The Convention is to come into force three years after ratification, which is to be at latest by December 31st, 1908. Any one of the signatories may withdraw at the end of five years, or subsequently on one year's notice.

COAL MINING STATISTICS OF THE PRINCIPAL COAL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

THE Twelfth Annual Statement* relating to the Production and Consumption of Coal, and the number of persons employed in coal-producing, in the principal coal-producing countries, has recently been published by the Board of Trade.

Production of Coal.

According to this statement, the total amount of coal produced in the three principal coal-producing countries in the last three years was as follows:—

Years.	United Kingdom.	United States.	Germany.
1903	230,354	319,068	114,765
1904	237,423	314,563	118,874
1905	236,129	350,821†	119,349†

The above three countries produced 84 per cent. of the total known production of the world (840 millions of tons). The other principal producing countries were France, with 35 million tons in 1905; Belgium, with 21½ million tons; Russia, with 17 million tons; Austria

* Coal Tables: Parliamentary paper, No. 321, of Session 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.: price 6d.
† Provisional figures.

and Japan, with 12 million tons each. No other country produced as much as 10 million tons; but India, Canada, and Australia each produced about 8 million tons.

It will thus be seen that the United States is now by far the largest producing country, its production having more than doubled in the nine years since 1896. The United Kingdom, however, continues to be the greatest exporting country, her exports in 1905 having amounted to 67 million tons, as against 23 million tons from Germany, 9 million tons from the United States, and nearly 7 million tons from Belgium. The total of 67 million tons exported from the United Kingdom includes 17 million tons shipped as bunker coal for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade.

Consumption of Coal.

Countries.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United States	314,114	307,610	343,280*
United Kingdom	166,532	166,609	169,017
Germany	100,161	104,094	106,715*
France	46,571	45,433	46,016*
Russia	20,882*	22,721*	20,860*
Belgium	20,682	16,720	19,661*
Austria-Hungary	17,987	18,421	19,390*

Practically the whole of the coal consumed in the United Kingdom and in the United States is of native production. Germany supplies rather more than 90 per cent. of her own needs, most of the remainder coming from the United Kingdom. France supplies a growing proportion (71 per cent. in 1905) of her own needs; the deficiency is supplied mainly from the United Kingdom and Belgium (about 5½ and 4½ million tons respectively), and from Germany (about 2¼ million tons).

The United States now stands first in the consumption of coal per head of the population, the amount in 1905 being 4.13 tons per head; the United Kingdom follows close with 3.91 tons; then come Belgium with 2.75 tons, Germany with 1.77 tons, and France with 1.17 tons. The low tonnage in Germany is no doubt due in part to the large use of lignite and also of industrial alcohol.

Value of Coal produced.

The total estimated value of coal at the pit's mouth produced in the principal coal-producing countries in 1905 was as follows:—

United States	£99,324,000
United Kingdom	82,039,000
Germany	52,504,000
France (1904)	17,925,000
Belgium (1904)	11,466,000

It will be seen that, though the total output of the United States exceeds that of this country by nearly 50 per cent. in quantity, it exceeds it in value by only 21 per cent., owing to the lower price per ton. The German output, on the other hand, is less than the British output by nearly 50 per cent. in quantity, but by only 36 per cent. in value; it is little more than one-third of the American output in quantity, but is only 47 per cent. less in value.

The average value of coal per ton varies widely not only between country and country but also from year to year, especially in the United Kingdom. Thus, in the 20 years 1885-1904, the average value of British coal at the pit's mouth fluctuated between 4s. 9½d. in 1887 and 10s. 9½d. in 1900. The variations were less violent in Germany and in the United States, the extreme ranges of prices in the 20 years 1885-1904 being 5s. 3d. and 9s. 6d. in Germany; and 4s. 5d. and 6s. 8d. in the United States. The prices per ton in 1905 were in the United Kingdom 6s. 11½d., in Germany 8s. 9½d., and in the United States 5s. 8d.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

Persons should not emigrate to Canada during the winter season, except under special circumstances. During October lumbering was active and wages rose;

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

the collieries in Nova Scotia, and metalliferous mines in British Columbia, were busy; manufactories were busy, especially cotton, iron and steel, wood-working, milling, and confectionery establishments, but agricultural implements and boot factories were rather slack; in some factories there was a demand for female hands; railway construction was actively carried on. But now that the winter is on the activity in outdoor trades has stopped, and large numbers of unskilled labourers have come from the country into the towns to look for work. The important strikes of coal miners at the Crow's Nest Mines in British Columbia and of the building trades at Calgary (Alberta) are over, but that of piano workers at Toronto continued throughout October.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Certain classes of emigrants are eligible for assisted or nominated passages to New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia. The principal demand is for competent farm labourers and female servants. There is no general demand for mechanics. Employment at the large Broken Hill silver mines in New South Wales has been good, but there have been disputes as to wages. In Victoria the bricklayers, carpenters, and plasterers at Melbourne have struck for a 44-hour week at current rates of wages, in place of one of 48 hours. The minimum wages of men making harness or saddlery have been fixed at 48s. per week of 48 hours, and at 20s. for females. The minimum wages for bookbinders have been fixed at 56s., for compositors at 52s. to 56s., for linotypers at 63s. to 70s., and for lithographers at 56s.

In Queensland hours for artisans on Government contracts within the Brisbane area have been reduced from 48 to 44 hours a week.

New Zealand.

Approved farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds, woodcutters, and men able to milk cows and manage farm stock, if they have £25, are eligible for reduced passages to New Zealand, and single female servants also, if they have £2. The last reports show that men in the building trades, sawmillers, flaxmillers, and in several places men in the engineering trades, were busy. The clothing trade has been busy almost everywhere, and there continues to be a demand for female machinists, tailoresses, woollen-mill female workers, shirtmakers, and dressmakers. Bootmakers are slack. Competent labourers in country districts such as milkers, scrubcutters, general farm hands, and navvies, are well employed, but inferior men are not wanted.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony in search of work. There is a plentiful supply of men on the spot, many of whom are unable to find employment. No one is allowed to land in the Colony unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment beforehand. The aided passages are suspended.

Natal.—The supply of labour is equal to the demand, and is over-abundant in the building trades both in Durban and Maritzburg.

Transvaal.—Persons entering the Transvaal must have permits, which are given immediately to those making personal application in South Africa, unless there is any police record against them. All persons are warned against going to the Colony in search of work. Owing to the great reduction in building operations in Johannesburg and district, together with the cessation of construction and development work in certain mines, there is a great scarcity of employment for all classes of skilled workmen, and there is absolutely no opening for clerks, shop assistants, handymen, &c. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—The rules as to permits are the same as those in the Transvaal. There is no demand whatever for mechanics, miners, farm, or general labourers. Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 349 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries.]

FRANCE.*

Employment in October.—Employment in the building trades was about the same as in September. Miners were well employed, and metal workers satisfactorily. In the textile trades generally employment continued satisfactory in the Nord department and in Normandy; continued activity was reported in the Vosges, and some improvement in the Roanne district. Silk weavers at St. Etienne and machine (factory) weavers at Lyons were well employed. A revival was reported in the garment and hat trades, and also among printers and bookbinders. In the South of France vineyard work came to an end, and unemployment consequently increased.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed during October were received by the French Labour Department from 1,110 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 216,006. Excluding returns from the Miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments, 7.5 per cent. of the members were described as out of work, as compared with 5.9 per cent. in the preceding month, and 8.9 per cent. in October, 1905. (As regards these figures see note above.)

Coal Mining in October.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mining in France during October was 6.00, as compared with 5.93 in the previous month, and with 5.97 in October, 1905. Full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 94.72 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 5.28 per cent. of all workpeople (whether surface or underground workers), the corresponding percentages for the preceding month being 77.78 and 22.22, and for October, 1905, 86.92 and 13.08 respectively.

The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 162,000 workpeople.

Labour Disputes in October.—One hundred and seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in October, compared with 82 in the preceding month, and 56 in October, 1905. In 99 of the new disputes 15,271 workpeople took part, as compared with 11,265 who took part in 77 of the September disputes, and 5,150 who took part in the disputes of October, 1905. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes took place were the transport (16 disputes), textile (15), food (12), building (12), skin and leather (11), woodworking (9), and metal (9). Out of 89 new and old disputes which came to an end in October, 19 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 31 in favour of the employers, while 39 resulted in a compromise.

Conciliation and Arbitration in October.—Fourteen cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred during October, the initiative having been taken by the Justice of the Peace in six, and by the workpeople in seven cases, while in the other case no information on this point is given. The employers did not accept the proffered mediation in six cases, but, in the other eight, Committees of Conciliation were formed. These committees were successful in terminating the dispute in five cases, while in the three remaining cases no agreement was reached.

HOLLAND.†

Employment in October.—In the building trades employment generally was slack and worse than in September. In the metal and shipbuilding trades it continued good. Diamond workers remained very busy. Employment continued good in the textile trades, and in the clothing

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau of Holland).

trades it continued to improve. There was, however, but little improvement in the boot and shoe trades, in which the situation was generally unsatisfactory. Little change was reported in the wood-working trades; box and basket-makers were particularly well employed, while, on the other hand, woodcarvers were slack. With printers and bookbinders generally, employment was normal. With confectionery, cocoa and chocolate workers it was good, and in the tobacco trades it was better than in the preceding month, but with brewers and mineral water workers it was not so good. Persons engaged in the cultivation of bulbs continued well employed.

Labour Disputes in October.—Ten strikes (5 of which were in the building trades) and 2 lock-outs were reported as having begun in October. In seven of the strikes 149 persons were directly involved, while the two lock-outs affected only 18 persons. Six of the strikes came to an end in October, and in addition, one, which began in August, also terminated. Two terminated in favour of the workpeople, 1 in favour of the employers, and 3 were compromised, while in the remaining case the result was unknown. Two lock-outs (one of which began in September) also came to an end in October. One of these was compromised, and in the other case the result is described as doubtful.

GERMANY.*

Employment in October.—The favourable condition of employment reported for September continued through October and in the principal industries there was a still further improvement. This was so in coal-mining, where there was an increased demand for industrial and also for household coal as compared with the warmer months. The activity in this industry would have been even greater if it had not been hindered by the lack of wagons, at places to an unusual degree. There was a scarcity of labour in the Rhenish-Westphalian and Silesian mining districts. The chief metal trades were so busy that in many cases the labour available was not sufficient to supply the demand, in spite of that furnished by the termination of agricultural work and by the military disbandments. In engineering, textile, electrical and chemical trades employment generally was full, overtime often being necessary, and labour was in demand. Activity decreased in some localities in the building trades as the year advanced, but in other places, owing to the mild weather, employment was still good. The weather also had a favourable effect on the brewing trades, while on the other hand it rendered the clothing trades less busy than usual in autumn. In other trades (such as the printing and bookbinding) the busy season was in progress. Employment became more plentiful in the retail trades, which in some cases (the toy and food preparation trades for instance) were influenced by the approach of Christmas.

NORWAY.†

Employment in October.—Of 16,429 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 338, or 2.1 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of October. (As regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad.") The figures for October, 1906, September, 1906, and October, 1905, for certain Unions which made Returns for each of these months, are given for comparison.

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Oct. 1906.	Sept. 1905.	Oct. 1905.	Oct. 1906.	Sept. 1906.	Oct. 1905.
Metal Workers and Moulders	5,013	4,967	3,939	0.8	0.7	2.2
Painters and Masons...	563	510	325	17.6	3.3	23.1
Carpenters, etc.	851	872	539	1.9	3.1	4.5
Cabinet Makers	216	244	222	0.4	0.4	1.8
Boot and Shoe Makers	465	440	362
Printers	1,074	1,007	889	0.9	1.9	5.8
Bookbinders	187	185	182	1.6	2.7	2.2
Other Trades	328	322	159	0.3	0.3	...
Total	8,727	8,548	6,667	2.0	1.2	3.7

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).
† Information supplied by the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

BELGIUM*.

Employment in October.—According to reports made to the Belgian Labour Department, 142 Trade Unions, with 31,225 members, had 1.9 per cent. of their number out of work towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.8 per cent. both in the preceding month and in October, 1905. As regards these figures, which do not include particulars relating to miners, home workers, or agricultural labourers, see note under "Labour Abroad."

RUSSIA.†

Ukase Regulating Hours of Labour and Sunday Labour.—On December 2nd an Imperial ukase was promulgated of which the following is a summary:—

All mills, factories, shops and offices, including Government wine-shops, must not be opened for more than 12 hours a day, with the exception of certain days to be specially notified, and which are not to exceed 40 in the year, when the hours may be extended to 14 in the 24. Eating and drinking establishments where consumption takes place on the premises, such as hotels, restaurants, railway restaurants, and inns, may remain open 15 hours out of the 24. Public baths may also be open 15 hours, and pedlars of provisions, tobacco and cigarettes, and other vendors in the public streets, may ply their trade for 15 hours a day.

Additional hours of work are permitted under exceptional circumstances and by special agreements between the employers and the employed for special wages.

Employees under 17 years of age in establishments where the working hours are not less than 8 hours a day must be allowed to attend school three hours daily.

Establishments in which the working hours exceed 8 hours a day must grant their hands 2 hours rest for meals; and an interval of half-an-hour must be allowed in establishments working less than 8 hours a day.

Trading and the employment of hands generally are altogether prohibited on Sundays, and on the twelve great feast days, and also on those days which are specially notified. In villages where there is a marked preponderance of persons not belonging to the Orthodox Church, these days may be altered to suit local conditions, but on condition that work on the above-mentioned days is not commenced before noon. All work is prohibited on Easter Day and Christmas Day.

This law is to come into force in six weeks' time from the date of the authorities receiving a copy of the law.

Violation of the law may be punished by imprisonment not exceeding one month, or by a fine not exceeding 100 roubles (about £10).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.‡

Rise in Wages.—Wages in the United States of America have recently risen considerably, as also has the cost of living. Many of the large industrial corporations have increased or have decided to increase the wages of their employees. Nearly all the railway companies have recently granted an increase, amounting in many cases to 10 per cent., and some of the express companies also are advancing by 10 per cent. the wages of those of their employees who are receiving less than 200 dols. (£42) a month.

Wages in the Fall River Cotton Industry.—At the end of October the Textile Council, representing the textile Trade Unions at Fall River, forwarded to the Manufacturers' Association a demand for a ten per cent. increase of wages. The Employers' Association at first refused to grant an increase of 10 per cent., but offered to advance wages by half that amount. This offer was declined by the workpeople's representatives, who decided to declare a strike if their demands were not fully met. On November 23rd, however, the employers conceded the increase of 10 per cent. demanded. About 25,000 workpeople were affected by this advance. An independent manufacturer, employing about 5,000 workpeople, from whom no advance was demanded, announced that wages at his mills also would be increased by 10 per cent.

* Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
† Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg, dated December 2nd, 1906.
‡ Based on reports from H.M. Consul-General at New York and H.M. Consuls at Boston and Chicago, and on newspaper reports.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN NOVEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 530 Returns—454 from Employers, 51 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns relating to 1,374 pits employing 590,299 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended November 24th, 1906, was 5.50, as compared with 5.49 in October, and 5.32 in November, 1905.

Of the 590,299 workpeople covered by the Returns, 521,296 (or 88.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended November 24th, and of these 421,532 (or 71.4 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is stated for the three periods specified. This Table shows that the average number of days worked was greatest in North Wales, where it amounted to 5.81 per week. In South Yorkshire, South Wales, and the Lothians, about 5.2 days per week was worked. The smallest number of days worked was in the Nottingham and Leicester district (4.92), and in West Yorkshire and Derbyshire the average was only about 5 days. Compared with a month ago, there was an increase in the number of days worked in eight districts and a decrease in nine districts. The greatest changes were in Lancashire and Cheshire, where there was an increase in the average number of days worked of 0.28 per week, and in West Yorkshire, where there was a decrease of 0.28 days. Compared with a year ago, an increase was shown in twelve districts and a slight decrease in five districts; the principal change being in South Wales, where there was an increase of 0.52 in the average number of days worked per week.

Table with columns for Districts, No. of Workpeople employed in Nov. 1906, Average number of days worked per week by Collieries in Four Weeks ended (Nov. 1906, Oct. 1906, Nov. 1905), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov. 1906 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

In the Northern Counties employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was a decline in some districts, but a continued improvement in Lancashire and Cheshire.

In the Midlands employment remained fairly good on the whole, but in the Coalville and Cannock Chase districts a large proportion of the men averaged only four days work per week.

In Wales and Scotland employment continued good. It was better generally than a year ago, especially in South Wales. In Fife employment was about the same as a month and a year ago.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. In pits employing 193,156 workpeople it was found impossible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "Mixed":—

Table with columns for Description of Coal, No. employed in Nov. 1906, Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries included in the Table (Nov. 1906, Oct. 1906, Nov. 1905), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov. 1906 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

The improvement compared with a year ago was greatest in pits producing manufacturing and steam coal. There was a decline in the number of days worked by pits producing anthracite coal, both as compared with a month and a year ago.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in November, 1906, amounted to 4,967,997 tons, as compared with 5,309,560 tons in October, 1906, and 4,152,711 tons in November, 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 90 returns—74 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines and fairly good in shale mines. Compared with a year ago, employment was better in iron mines, but some decline was shown in shale mines.

Employment continued good in tin, copper, and lead mines, and fair, on the whole, in quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended November 24th, the average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.89, as compared with 5.90 a month ago, and 5.81 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Table with columns for Districts, No. employed in Nov. 1906, Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended (Nov. 1906, Oct. 1906, Nov. 1905), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov. 1906 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 95.4 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended November 24th, as compared with 97.0 per cent. a month ago, and 90.4 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,114 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended November 24th, as compared with 3,080 a month ago, and 3,153* a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended November 24th was 5.53, as compared with 5.61 a month ago, and 5.66* a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was good and continued to improve in Cornwall, particularly in the western part of the county, where there was a general demand for skilled miners.

* Revised figures.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in Flintshire and Denbighshire, and it was also good in Weardale and in Derbyshire.

Quarrying.

Slate.—In North Wales employment was quiet in the Festiniog district, but remained fair in the Carnarvon district. Employment continued dull at Ballachulish (Argyllshire).

Granite.—In Aberdeenshire employment, on the whole, was fair. It continued good in North Wales. In Leicestershire, Devonshire and Cornwall employment was dull and rather worse than a month ago.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Weardale and South Durham. It was also good in the Plymouth district. In the Buxton district employment was quiet, and it was bad in the Somerset blue lias quarries.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in chert quarries in Derbyshire and sandstone quarries in North Wales, and fair in road-material quarries in the Cleve Hill district. It was fair in the Sheffield and Barnsley districts, where, however, bad weather caused some interruption. At Gateshead and in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate. It was dull in Bath stone and in Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries. Employment continued bad in Forfarshire.

Settmakers.—Employment continued good in North Wales, and fair in Aberdeenshire and in the Cleve Hill district. It was fair and better than a month ago at Edinburgh. At Rowley Regis also it was better than a month ago. At Glasgow and Airdrie employment was fair on the whole, but showed a decline. At Stoney Stanton (Leicestershire) employment was dull, and showed a further decline.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 110 Returns—108 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry in November was good and showed little change as compared with the previous month. It was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing 24,900 workpeople at the end of November, showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month was 342, being two less than at the end of October, 1906, but eight more than at the end of November, 1905. During November, two furnaces were re-lit, one in Lancashire and one in Lincolnshire. Four furnaces were damped down or blown out, one in the Cleveland district, one in Derbyshire, one in South Wales and one in Lanarkshire.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with columns for District, Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of (November 1906, October 1906, November 1905), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov. 1906 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

The Imports of iron ore in November, 1906, amounted to 505,582 tons, or 148,202 tons less than in October, 1906, and 104,952 tons less than in November, 1905.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during November, 1906, amounted to 182,046 tons, or 29,143 tons more than in October, and 99,327 tons more than in November, 1905.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 222 Returns—206 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 3 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very brisk and was better than a year ago. There was, however, a slight decline as compared with October.

The total volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended November 24th, 1906, at the 206 works from which Returns were received, was 1.2 per cent. less than in the week ended October 20th, 1906, but 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 543,600, as compared with 550,500 a month ago, and 527,500 a year ago.

Table with columns for Departments, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with In week ended Nov. 24th, 1906, A month ago, A year ago.

The only departments at which the average number of shifts worked per man per week was less than five, were iron rolling mills, while at iron foundries the average number of shifts worked was as high as 5.99. In Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire there was a decline of about one-third of a shift worked per man per week compared with a month ago.

At steel works there was a decrease of nearly 1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed as compared with October. At iron foundries and at open hearth melting furnaces the number employed was less than both a month ago and a year ago, but in all other departments the number employed was greater than a year ago.

The number employed in the Cleveland district decreased by over 5 per cent. since October, and was also slightly less than a year ago, while every other district showed some improvement compared with a year ago. Compared with a month ago the only districts in which any appreciable increase in the number employed took place were "Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire towns," and Wales and Monmouth.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during November, 1906, amounted to 75,344 tons, as compared with 91,462 tons in October, 1906, and 137,336 tons in November, 1905.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) amounted to 258,604 tons, as compared with 240,191 in October, 1906, and 216,571 in November, 1905.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 61 Returns—56 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during November continued good, and was about the same as a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 383 tinplate mills were working at the end of November, as compared with 385 in October, and 387 a year ago; the number of sheet mills working for the same periods was 58, 56, and 52 respectively. At the 441 mills working, about 22,000 workpeople were employed. The supply of and the demand for labour were about equal.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table, the figures in which, with one or two exceptions, relate to works in South Wales and Monmouthshire:—

	November, 1906.		October, 1906.		November, 1905.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	74	383	73	385	78	387
Sheet Mills ...	9	58	9	56	9	52
Total ...	83	441	82	441	87	439

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, are given in the Table below:—

	Nov., 1906.		Oct., 1906.		Nov., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1906 as compared with Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.			
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.								
To United States ...	6,038	6,860	3,365	—	822	+ 2,473		
Other Countries ...	31,756	26,655	25,513	—	5,101	+ 5,243		
Total ...	37,794	33,515	30,078	—	4,279	+ 7,716		
Black Plates for Tinning.								
To all Countries ...	6,616	6,078	5,665	—	838	+ 951		

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 964 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations and their branches, 920 from Trade Unions, and 34 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good. It was slightly worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions with a membership of 157,250, and shows that the percentage unemployed at the end of November was 3.5, as compared with 3.1 a month ago, and 3.6 in November, 1905. The highest percentages are in the North-East Coast and Glasgow districts. The figures show that the greatest decline in employment, as compared with a month ago, was in Belfast, the North-East Coast, and London districts. Compared with a year ago, most districts show an improvement, but there was a noticeable decline on the

North-East Coast, and in the London and Glasgow districts.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Nov., 1906, included in the returns	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Nov., 1906, as compared with a	
		Nov. 1906.	Oct. 1906.	Nov. 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,382	6.8	6.0	4.4	+ 0.8	+ 2.4
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,592	2.7	2.5	3.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,523	2.0	2.1	3.3	- 0.1	- 1.3
West Riding Towns ...	12,684	2.9	2.8	4.0	+ 0.1	- 1.1
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,719	3.1	2.9	3.4	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,172	2.7	2.3	2.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,067	2.8	2.7	4.3	+ 0.1	- 1.5
London and Neighbouring District	12,609	4.3	3.7	3.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.9
South Coast ...	4,016	2.2	2.4	3.8	- 0.2	- 1.6
South Wales and Bristol District	6,426	3.1	2.7	4.3	+ 0.4	- 1.2
Glasgow and District ...	15,666	5.3	4.9	4.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
East of Scotland ...	3,824	4.0	4.2	6.8	- 0.2	- 2.8
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,397	4.7	3.8	6.6	+ 0.9	- 1.9
Other Districts ...	5,927	2.0	2.1	3.4	- 0.1	- 1.4
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	187,250	3.5	3.1	3.6	+ 0.4	- 0.1

On the North-East Coast employment continued fairly good with turners, fitters, and machinemen, but was not so good, on the whole, as a month ago, though overtime and double shifts continued at some establishments. It was quiet with patternmakers, brassmoulders and brassfinishers; and bad, and worse than a month ago with engineers and ironfounders at Stockton and Hartlepool, owing largely to the strike of platers.

Employment in Lancashire continued good, there being much overtime, especially in textile machinery shops. It was worse than a month ago with brassfounders at Liverpool, with whom it continued bad, and with engineers at Blackburn, who reported it as fair. It was better than a year ago generally.

In the West Riding district employment was good, with some overtime; but with engineers at Leeds and ironfounders at Bradford it was not so good as a month ago. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment with turners and fitters was fair; with ironfounders and machine-workers it was good, with some overtime.

At Birmingham employment continued fairly good with toolmakers, but declined slightly with engineers and pattern-makers; with ironfounders some overtime was worked. At Coventry employment was fair. It continued good in the motor shops throughout the Birmingham district. With cycle-makers at Wolverhampton it was slack, but in other branches of engineering it was good. In the Potteries employment was, on the whole, moderate.

Employment at Nottingham was fairly good in general engineering shops, and good with textile machine makers, who worked some overtime. It improved with cycle and motor makers, and was better than a year ago. It was fairly good in Derby, on the whole, with some overtime; night shifts were worked in some cases. At Leicester it was moderate with engineers, and not so good as a month ago; improved with ironfounders, and fairly good with toolmakers.

Employment was good on the whole in Norfolk and Suffolk, overtime being worked in some shops. It was slack, however, with boiler makers at Norwich.

In London employment showed a further decline, and was worse than a year ago. It was dull with patternmakers, but good with ironfounders.

On the South Coast employment was, on the whole, moderate, and better than a month and a year ago; it continued bad with ironfounders at Devonport.

Employment with engineers in Bristol and Swindon was brisk, with some overtime. In South Wales it was fair. With engineers in the Glasgow district employment was fairly good. With ironmoulders it was also fairly good, though worse than a month ago. It declined with iron, steel and brass dressers, with whom it was fair. It was quiet at Edinburgh, some short time being

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

worked, and continued fairly good in Dundee. It was fair at Aberdeen with engineers and smiths, but with ironmoulders it was slack.

Employment at Dublin was dull generally; at Belfast it was fair, except with patternmakers, with whom it continued bad.

The Imports and Exports of Steam Engines, etc., are shown in the following Table:—

Description.	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1906, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
Imports:					
Steam Engines ...	£ 4,950	£ 4,966	£ 25,587	- £ 116	- £ 20,737
Other Machinery, including Electrical	402,492	402,264	387,072	+ 228	+ 15,420
Exports:					
Steam Engines ...	606,862	620,144	555,442	- 13,282	+ 51,420
Other Machinery, including Electrical	1,824,698	1,851,181	1,579,245	- 26,483	+ 245,453

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 370 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 347 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT declined during November, owing in a great measure to the effects of labour disputes. With the exception of the areas affected by strikes, there was some improvement on a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,258 members had 8,332 (or 14.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 10.4 per cent. at the end of October, and 11.8 per cent. at the end of November, 1905.

Compared with a month ago, the percentages of unemployed show considerable increases in six districts. The greatest percentage increase was in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and was due to a strike of platers. The increase in the number unemployed on the Clyde was due to the inclusion of those who, on the termination of the dispute, were unable to find employment. The only noticeable improvements were in the Humber and South Coast districts.

Compared with a year ago, the increase in the number unemployed of 2.5 per cent., was due entirely to the large increases in the Tees and Hartlepool and Clyde districts. In the Tyne and Blyth, Wear, Thames and Medway, and South Coast districts there were noticeable improvements.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov., 1906, included in the Returns*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Nov., 1906, as compared with a	
		Nov. 1906.	Oct. 1906.	Nov. 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,538	7.3	7.1	11.2	+ 0.2	- 3.9
Wear ...	5,124	5.6	6.1	7.2	- 0.5	- 1.6
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,273†	28.2	11.8	9.1	+ 16.4	+ 19.1
Humber ...	2,262	8.6	11.2	8.3	- 2.6	+ 0.3
Thames and Medway ...	4,679	10.8	11.4	16.8	- 0.6	- 3.8
South Coast ...	4,073	3.7	5.6	9.1	- 1.9	- 5.4
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,688	2.0	6.7	22.3	+ 5.3	- 0.3
Mersey ...	3,520	23.3	23.9	23.2	- 0.6	+ 0.7
Clyde ...	12,760	21.1	12.2	9.7	+ 8.9	+ 11.4
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,306	12.4	7.9	11.9	+ 4.5	+ 0.5
Belfast ...	2,883	9.1	5.7	9.5	+ 3.4	- 0.4
Other Districts ...	2,832	11.4	7.4	11.0	+ 4.0	- 0.4
United Kingdom ...	88,288	14.3	10.4	11.8	+ 3.9	+ 2.5

Employment on the Tyne continued fair generally, and was better than a year ago. On the Wear it was good and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was bad, with short time, and much worse than a month ago and a year ago, the decline being due to the dispute. On the Humber employment was fairly good, except with boilermakers, and better than a month ago.

In the Thames and Medway district employment continued slack, but was better than a year ago. On the South Coast it was fair, and better than a month ago. It was, however, still slack at Southampton. At the

* Exclusive of superannuated members.
† Inclusive of members on strike.
‡ Exclusive of members on strike.
§ Revised figure.

Bristol Channel ports employment was slack and worse than a month ago. It continued bad on the Mersey.

On the Clyde employment was slack. The strike of iron shipbuilders terminated on November 20th, but a large number were unemployed up to the end of the month.

At Leith employment was slack. At Dundee it was fair, but not so good as a month ago. At Aberdeen it continued fairly good. At Belfast it continued fair on the whole, but a number of men were temporarily laid idle about the end of the month. Employment at Barrow was bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Lowestoft it was good; at Yarmouth fair; at Dublin and Cork bad.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 57 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 30 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good on the whole and was the same as a year ago. It was slack in the stove-grate trade. Eighteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 15,379, had 361, or 2.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of November, compared with the same percentage a year ago, and 2.5 per cent. in October.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—At Birmingham employment was fair on the whole, but bad with bedstead makers. In London it was normal generally, but bad in the west; at Manchester it was quiet; at Bolton, Bury and Wigan, good; at Exeter and Nottingham, fair; at Leeds, moderate; and at Doncaster and Hexthorpe, slack.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire, Birmingham and South Wales, employment was good.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was fair with chain makers, and bad with anchor smiths. With chain makers it was fair at Winlaton and good at Gateshead. It was fair with spring and axle makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich, and good with railway spring makers at Sheffield. At Wednesbury it continued good with railway, bridge, girder and constructional workers. At Walsall it continued fair with buckle, cart gear, &c., makers. At Dudley and Darlaston it was good with anvil and vice-makers.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was good at Manchester and Hull. With sheet metal workers it was good in London and at Oldham, and moderate at Leeds. With iron plate-workers it was good at Birmingham and fair in the Lye district. With rolled metal workers it was good at Birmingham. With tinplate and sheet metal workers it was quiet at Glasgow. With tinplate workers it was good at Bristol and Nottingham, and dull at Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Exeter. In South Wales it continued good with galvanizers.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers employment was fair at Winlaton and Birmingham, good at Dudley and Darlaston. At Birmingham it was good with shoe rivet and wire nail makers; fair with cut nail makers. At Blackheath it continued quiet with rivet makers and bad with nail makers.

Wire.—Employment continued good generally.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad; with hollow-ware workers it was good. With hollow-ware stampers it was fair at Sheffield, and better than a month ago. At West Bromwich it continued quiet with hollow-ware makers.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was quiet at Rotherham and Leeds; bad at Falkirk and Glasgow; good at Bolton and Bury.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield district employment was moderate with cutlers generally, but it continued fair with sawmakers, and good in the file trades. At Birmingham it was moderate with file cutters, but better than a month ago, and fair in the edge tool trade. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trades continued good.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment was fair with goldsmiths, jewellers, and diamond workers; good with silverworkers. It was fairly good

with silversmiths and electro-platers, but slack with silver plate polishers. At Birmingham it continued good with silversmiths, Britannia metal workers and jewellers; it was fair in the spoon and fork trades. At Sheffield it continued slack with silversmiths. At Coventry it continued quiet with watchmakers.

Farriers.—With farriers employment was fair in England and good in Scotland.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the values of cutlery and hardware imported and exported during the periods mentioned:—

Table showing values of cutlery and hardware imported and exported during the periods mentioned. Columns include Description, Nov., 1906, Oct., 1906, Nov., 1905, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1906, as compared with Nov., 1905.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 520 Returns—426 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 83 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very brisk, and was better than a year ago.

The average price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool during November was 33d. less than in October, and 16d. per lb. less than in November, 1905. The average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 12d. per lb. less than in October, but 98d. more than in November, 1905.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended November 24th was 132,365, an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 1.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In many districts employers again reported a difficulty in obtaining labour. In spinning mills a scarcity of labour for the cardroom and ringroom was experienced in several districts. In weaving sheds there was a general deficiency of weavers, and in some districts young labour is said to be getting scarcer.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

Table showing analysis of employment and earnings by departments and districts. Columns include Departments, Workpeople (No. paid, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease), and Districts (No. paid, Increase/Decrease, Earnings).

Compared with a month ago there was a slight decline in the amount of wages paid in the preparing, spinning and weaving departments, the numbers employed in these three departments showing very little change. As compared with a year ago every department showed a further improvement. As compared with a month ago only two districts, Stockport and Bolton, showed any improvement in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago every district showed some improvement, the increase in wages being greatest in the miscellaneous group (12.3 per cent.), and in the Manchester District (5.1 per cent.)

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

Table showing particulars of various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns. Columns include Description of Cotton, Nov., 1906, Oct., 1906, Nov., 1905, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in November, 1906, as compared with Nov., 1905.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Table showing quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated. Columns include Description, Nov., 1906, Oct., 1906, Nov., 1905, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in November, 1906, as compared with Nov., 1905.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of November the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.85d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.21d., and the lowest 5.50d. The price for October was 6.18d., and for November, 1905, 6.01d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of December, the average price of "middling American" was 6.02d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during November averaged 8.80d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9d., and the lowest 8.58d. The price for October was 8.92d. per lb., and for November, 1905, 7.82d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of December, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.34d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on December 7th, 1906, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 863,300 bales, as compared with 1,045,990 bales on December 8th, 1905.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 365 Returns—357 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good in these trades, but showed a decline on a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

Employment in the woollen trade continued good, but showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 25,174 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Table showing wages paid in the periods under review. Columns include Departments, Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease), and Districts (No. employed, Increase/Decrease, Earnings).

In Huddersfield employment continued good, but less overtime was worked, and some short time was reported; in the heavy woollen district it was still good, but showed a decline compared with October; in Leeds and Morley it was good, in Yeadon and Guiseley fair. Employment was good in Selkirk, fair in Galashiels, quiet in Hawick.

An excess of labour was reported in most branches of this industry, but in the case of weavers (women and girls), a deficiency was reported in some districts, especially in Scotland.

Worsted Trade.

Employment, on the whole, was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 47,593 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Table showing wages paid in the periods under review for the worsted trade. Columns include Departments, Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease), and Districts (No. employed, Increase/Decrease, Earnings).

Employment with wool-sorters and combers in Bradford was bad, and showed a decline compared with October;

it was rather better than a year ago. In Keighley employment generally was good. An excess of sorters and combers, and of unskilled workers was reported, but a deficiency of women, young persons, and children for spinning and weaving processes.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

Table showing prices of wool and tops in Bradford for the three months specified. Columns include Average Prices (Lincoln Hogs, 40's Crossbred tops, 60's Super Botany tops) and Course of Prices (Lincoln Hogs, 40's Crossbred tops, 60's Super Botany tops).

Imports and Exports.

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

Table showing quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and of woollen and worsted piece goods for the months stated.

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 41 Returns—37 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns have been received from firms employing 19,305 workpeople on the last pay-day in November, and paying £13,177 in wages. In comparison with October, these returns show an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.1 per cent. in the wages paid. In comparison with a year ago, they show an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table summarising returns for the jute trade. Columns include Departments, Workpeople covered by Returns (Number employed, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease).

It will be seen from the above that the greatest increase both in numbers employed and in wages paid was in the spinning department, a scarcity of spinners in the Dundee district being generally reported. The increase as compared with a year ago is practically confined to the preparing and spinning departments.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Table showing quantities of imported jute and exports of jute yarn and jute piece goods for Nov., Oct., and Nov., 1905, and Nov., 1906.

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 115 Returns—110 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns have been received from firms employing 47,304 workpeople on the last pay-day in November, and paying £27,425 in wages. In comparison with October, these returns show an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount paid in wages.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table summarizing Flax (Linen) Trade employment and earnings by departments and districts for Nov. 1906, Oct. 1906, and Nov. 1905.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Table showing quantities of imported flax and exports of linen yarn and linen piece goods for Nov., Oct., and Nov., 1905, and Nov., 1906.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 53 Returns—50 from Employers and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade showed an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Returns have been received from firms employing 8,356 workpeople and paying £5,437 in wages on the last pay-day in November. From these Returns it appears that, compared with a month ago, there was an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table summarizing Silk Trade employment and earnings by branches and districts for Nov. 1906, Oct. 1906, and Nov. 1905.

At Macclesfield employment was moderate with power-loom weavers, fair with hand-loom weavers and silk throwsters, and good with spinners. At Leek it was fair generally, but moderate with throwsters, who were still on short time.

Imports and Exports.

The imports and exports of raw and manufactured silk are shown in the Table below:—

Table showing imports and exports of raw and manufactured silk for Nov., Oct., and Nov., 1905, and Nov., 1906.

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 90 Returns—84 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good in England, good in Scotland; it was, on the whole, better than a year ago.

Firms employing 15,924 workpeople, and paying £12,265 in wages on the last pay-day in November, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

employed showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. and the amount of wages paid an increase of 3.3 per cent.

At Leicester employment showed a decline, but was fairly good; at Hinckley it was quiet; at Loughborough employment was rather more irregular; on the whole it was better than a year ago throughout the district.

Table summarizing Hosiery Trade employment and earnings by districts for Nov. 1906, Oct. 1906, and Nov. 1905.

The Imports of Wool and Cotton Hosiery in November, 1906, amounted to £29,835 and £77,324 respectively, as compared with £38,885 and £88,062 in October, and £55,472 and £74,525 in November, 1905.

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 93 Returns—88 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in England, and better than a month and a year ago; moderate in Scotland, where it showed a decline compared with a month and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 9,007 workpeople, and paying £9,120 in wages on the last pay-day in November, showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

Employment continued good in the levers and plain net branches; in the curtain branch it was fair. Compared with a year ago there was again a marked increase in the amount of wages paid in the levers and plain net sections.

Table summarizing Lace Trade employment and earnings by branches and districts for Nov. 1906, Oct. 1906, and Nov. 1905.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the values of lace imported and exported during the periods mentioned:—

Table showing values of lace imported and exported for Nov., Oct., and Nov., 1905, and Nov., 1906.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was moderate, and about the same as a year ago. Cotton Dyers.—Employment on the whole was fair, and about the same as a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield, with some overtime; as fair at Leek.

Calico Dyers.—Employment at New Mills continued very good, and was much better than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it remained quiet.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester employment showed a further decline and was very slack.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment was fair, and about the same as a year ago. With bleachfield workers in Dundee it was good, with calender workers a decline was reported.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 131 Returns—103 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in the Provinces it was quiet. In the ready-made branch employment on the whole showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was slightly better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during November was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms paying £11,991 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended November 24th showed a decrease of 8.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment on the whole was quiet, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as normal on contract work, a little better on shipping work, and bad on stock work.

Leeds.—Employment during the month was moderate and slightly better than a year ago. Returns have been received from firms employing over 9,000 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops).

41 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 23 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 36 per cent. as worse. The Jewish operatives reported employment as quiet.

Other Centres.—Employment on the whole was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. It was reported as fair at Norwich and Glasgow, moderate at Bristol and Manchester.

HAT TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT during November in the *Silk* hat branch was quiet, in the *Felt* hat branch fair; it was generally better than a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 10.2, compared with 10.9 at the end of October, and 15.4 a year ago. In London employment showed a slight decline, but was better than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 5.1, compared with 3.5 at the end of October, and 7.2 a year ago. Employment at Denton was fairly good on men's felts; at Stockport it was good; on the whole it was better than a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, exported in the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1905.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1906, as compared with	
				Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.
Felt	30,511	39,784	30,956	- 9,273	- 455
Straw	40,777	35,523	41,108	+ 5,274	- 331
Other Sorts	5,448	3,960	4,165	+ 1,488	+ 1,283
Total	76,736	79,267	76,229	- 2,511	+ 497

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 209 Returns—203 from Employers, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the dressmaking trades in London showed a decline, and was worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trade employment was moderate. In the shirt and collar trade it was also moderate. In the corset trade it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 1,536 dressmakers in the week ended November 24th, showed a decrease of 3.3 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers, employing 1,328 workpeople, showed a decrease of 6.9 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms in London employing 3,209 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the week ended November 24th showed a decrease of 8.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate. Firms in the wholesale and retail millinery trade, employing 1,202 workpeople, showed a decrease of 8.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a slight decline in the demand for, and an increase in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners as compared with a year ago. As compared with a month ago there was a falling-off in the demand and an increase in the supply.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair. In the costume and skirt trade it continued slack, but was slightly better than a year ago; firms

employing 2,091 workpeople in the week ended November 24th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantle makers was moderate.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,111 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,696 in wages during the week ended November 24th, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was reported as moderate in London, Taunton, and Londonderry; fairly good at Glasgow and Belfast, and good at Manchester.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,961 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended November 24th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Compared with a year ago firms employing 39 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the Returns reported employment as improved, firms employing 50 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 11 per cent. as worse.

The Imports of apparel in November, 1906, are valued at £273,362, as compared with £282,210 in October, 1906, and £234,646 in November, 1905.

The Exports of apparel in November, 1906, are valued at £404,430, as compared with £443,518 in October, 1906, and £415,782 in November, 1905.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 565 Returns—550 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the boot and shoe trade improved slightly, but was still quiet; it showed little change compared with a year ago.

The number employed on the last pay-day in November by 585 firms making Returns was 72,751; an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 497 firms, employing 64,051 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the three months under review.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. employed during last week in Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in Oct., 1906.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in Nov., 1905.
ENGLAND & WALES.					
London	3,028	+ 1.1	£ 3,428	+ 5.7	- 0.1
Leicester	13,354	+ 1.8	13,391	+ 6.5	+ 4.0
Leicester Country District	3,330	- 0.5	3,068	+ 1.5	+ 3.0
Northampton	9,021	+ 0.7	8,129	+ 1.0	+ 3.3
Northampton Country District	8,739	+ 0.9	8,166	+ 1.5	+ 4.9
Kettering	3,303	- 0.7	3,026	- 6.9	- 4.4
Stafford & District	2,130	+ 0.2	2,067	+ 4.4	- 4.4
Norwich & District	3,524	- 0.7	2,914	+ 1.7	- 1.5
Bristol & District	1,943	+ 1.4	1,719	+ 3.8	+ 1.7
Kingswood	1,917	+ 0.3	1,981	- 1.9	+ 0.2
Leeds & District	2,880	+ 2.5	2,697	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
Manchester & District ...	2,559	+ 0.2	2,290	+ 5.4	- 7.6
Birmingham & District ...	849	- 1.3	671	- 3.0	- 1.9
Other parts of England and Wales	2,695	...	2,289	+ 3.0	- 3.6
ENGLAND & WALES	59,732	+ 0.8	£ 55,876	+ 2.0	+ 1.4
SCOTLAND	4,027	- 0.8	3,711	- 1.9	- 12.5
IRELAND	292	+ 2.8	219	+ 6.3	+ 21.0
UNITED KINGDOM	64,051	+ 0.7	£ 59,806	+ 1.8	+ 0.4

These Returns showed a net increase in the amount of wages paid of 1.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with

a year ago. Compared with a month ago, eleven districts showed an increase and five a decrease in the amount of wages paid. The increase was greatest in Leicester (6.5 per cent.), and London (5.7 per cent.) and the decline most marked at Kettering (6.9 per cent.). Compared with a year ago, eight of the sixteen districts showed a decline, the decrease being greatest in Scotland (12.5 per cent.) and the Manchester district (7.6 per cent.).

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in November, 1906, as compared with	
				Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.
Imports					
Quantity	15,530	22,342	15,979	- 6,812	- 449
Value	£ 65,893	£ 99,199	£ 65,021	- 23,306	+ 872
Re-Exports					
Quantity	1,330	1,457	1,155	- 127	+ 175
Value	£ 3,470	£ 4,661	£ 3,923	- 1,211	- 453
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity	68,963	70,632	73,958	- 1,669	- 4,995
Value	£ 174,892	£ 190,637	£ 182,875	- 15,745	- 7,983

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 43 Returns—1 from an Employers' Association, 26 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during November continued fairly good on the whole. It was rather better than in October, and also better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,676 had 5.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, compared with 5.6 per cent. in October, and 6.8 per cent. in November, 1905.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, moderate with curriers at Walsall and with tanners at Northampton, and quiet with tanners, and bad with leather shavers at Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was fair, with some short time, and rather better than a year ago. It was dull at Dublin; slack at Bristol and Aberdeen; moderate at Walsall; and good at Nottingham.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—Employment in the fancy leather trade was rather better, though short time was still worked. In the portmanteau trade it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of hides and undressed skins, and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, are shown in the following Table for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in November, 1906, as compared with	
				October 1906.	Nov., 1905.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	37,390	38,149	32,679	- 759	+ 4,711
Ditto, wet	34,275	32,428	42,938	+ 1,847	- 8,663
Total, hides, dry and wet	71,665	70,577	75,617	+ 1,088	- 3,952
Goat skins	1,342,519	1,178,721	1,000,672	+ 163,768	+ 341,847
Sheep skins	1,794,743	1,403,241	1,423,260	+ 391,502	+ 371,483
Leather*	114,944	113,890	108,149	+ 1,054	+ 6,795
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value)	£ 58,041	£ 55,173	£ 55,167	+ £ 868	+ £ 874

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

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 422 Returns—153 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 250 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fairly good generally, the usual seasonal improvement with letterpress printers and bookbinders having taken place during the month.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. It was better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 21,786 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with October, and an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with November, 1905.

Description.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week in November, 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,266	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,257	- 0.7	- 0.1
Southern Counties	6,752	+ 1.4	- 0.6
Scotland	5,569	+ 0.5	+ 1.4
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	20,844	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
Hand-made Paper	942	- 0.4	+ 1.0
Total	21,786	+ 0.5	+ 0.2

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,795 members had 2.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 2.3 per cent. in October, and 2.8 per cent. in November, 1905. In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 638 members had 4.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, against 5.3 a month ago, and 5.7 a year ago.

The imports of paper in November, 1906, amounted to a total value of £476,308, as compared with £508,893 in October, 1906, and £487,776 in November, 1905.

The exports of paper in November, 1906, amounted to a total value of £189,933, as compared with £181,890 in October, 1906, and £168,693 in November, 1905.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment with *letterpress* printers was fairly good generally, showing a great improvement on the previous month, as is usual at this season of the year. Trade Unions with 40,688 members had 3.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5.0 per cent. in October, and 3.0 per cent. in November, 1905. In the *lithographic* branch, employment continued moderate on the whole, Trade Unions with 6,624 members having 4.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of November and October, 1906, compared with 4.1 per cent. in November, 1905.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov., 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	19,263	3.4	5.9	2.9	- 2.5	+ 0.5
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,234	3.5	4.2	2.4	- 0.7	+ 1.1
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,578	3.9	5.9	5.2	- 2.0	- 1.3
East Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,280	2.0	2.3	2.3	- 0.8	- 0.3
West Midlands	2,391	2.7	3.7	3.5	- 1.0	- 0.8
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,740	2.0	2.3	1.6	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Scotland	5,450	2.1	3.1	2.5	- 1.0	- 0.4
Ireland	2,396	7.1	6.5	6.1	+ 0.6	+ 1.0
United Kingdom	47,312	3.3	4.9	3.2	- 1.6	+ 0.1

London.—Employment with letterpress printers was fairly good generally, Trade Unions with 17,234 members having 3.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 6.0 in October, and 2.7 in November, 1905. With lithographic printers employment continued

quiet, and was rather worse on the whole than a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers at Edinburgh was reported as good, few of the Trade Union members being unemployed, and many being on overtime. At most of the other principal towns also employment was good, overtime on Christmas orders being frequent; but at Newcastle, Hull and Bristol employment was quiet. Compared with a year ago little general change was indicated by the Returns; but at Leeds a considerable improvement was reported. With lithographic printers employment continued good at Manchester and Birmingham. It was also good at Leeds and Bristol and fair at Glasgow. At Edinburgh, Liverpool and Bradford it was slack.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was fairly good generally, and better than a month ago. In the Provinces it was also better than a year ago. At Edinburgh, Leeds, and Manchester employment was reported as good.

District	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov. 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London ...	3,642	2.2	3.3	1.9
Other Districts ...	3,360	2.1	2.7	3.2	- 0.6	- 1.1
United Kingdom ...	7,002	2.2	3.0	2.5	- 0.8	- 0.3

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,033 Returns—1,050 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 950 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 33 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull on the whole. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 60,671 workpeople at the end of November show a decline in the numbers employed of 2,298, or 3.6 per cent., compared with a month ago.

The following Table summarises these Returns:—

District.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on the last pay-day of the month.							
	Skilled Tradesmen.		Labourers.		Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.
London ...	11,629	11,937	7,782	8,216	842	849	20,253	21,002
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	3,550	3,634	3,368	3,412	878	886	7,796	7,932
Lancashire and Cheshire	4,863	4,801	4,050	4,133	1,139	1,140	10,052	10,074
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,672	3,768	2,807	2,895	513	522	6,992	7,185
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,557	3,903	2,738	2,788	611	624	6,906	7,320
England & Wales	27,271	28,048	20,745	21,444	3,983	4,021	51,999	53,513
Scotland ...	3,175	3,771	2,058	2,344	1,003	995	6,566	7,109
Ireland ...	97	98	1,021	1,200	148	159	2,136	2,347
United Kingdom	34,713	34,917	23,824	24,977	5,134	5,175	60,671	62,969

From the above Table it will be seen that the decline in the numbers employed by the firms making returns was common to all classes of workpeople and to all districts. The percentage decrease with skilled tradesmen was 3.3 over all districts, and 2.6 in London; with unskilled labourers the corresponding percentage decreases were 4.7 and 5.3 respectively.

Carpenters and Plumbers.

Returns from Trade Unions of carpenters and joiners and of plumbers show that an improvement took place in these trades during the month.

The percentage unemployed of Trade Union carpenters and joiners in the United Kingdom was 6.9, as compared with 7.6 a month ago, and 8.3 a year ago; and of plumbers 6.9 per cent. were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 8.0 a month ago, and 11.1 in November, 1905.

In London 8.2 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 9.0 a month ago, and 10.2 a year ago. With plumbers the percentage unemployed was 11.9, as compared with 12.2 a month ago and 14.6 a year ago.

Employment with carpenters and joiners was quiet in the Tyne district and moderate at Sunderland. At Manchester it was moderate and better than a month ago; at Liverpool bad; at Oldham moderate; at Blackburn and Preston fair. In Yorkshire employment was bad generally. At Nottingham, Leicester, and Northampton it was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Birmingham employment was quiet, but slightly better than in October; in the Potteries and at Coventry it was reported as moderate. In the Southern and South-Western counties employment was bad generally. At Cardiff it was slack. At Glasgow it was bad, and worse than a month ago; at Edinburgh quiet; at Dundee moderate. At Belfast and Dublin it was quiet.

With plumbers employment was quiet generally, but good at Jarrow and Bolton, and fair at Oldham and Birmingham. It was better on the whole than a month ago; but at Glasgow a decline was reported. Compared with a year ago, a considerable general improvement was shown.

Bricklayers, Masons, Plasterers, Painters, &c.

Employment was dull generally except with slaters, and with plasterers in Scotland, who were fairly well employed. Compared with a month ago some improvement was reported by slaters, and also by stonemasons in England, and plasterers and painters in Scotland; some decline was reported by painters in England, and stonemasons in Scotland. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement with slaters, and also with stonemasons in England, and plasterers in Scotland; a decline was reported by stonemasons and painters in Scotland. Bricklayers reported little change in employment compared with a month ago and a year ago.

London.—Employment was slack generally. With stonemasons it was reported as worse than a year ago.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was slack generally. At Sheffield and Newcastle an improvement was shown compared with a month ago, but a decline was shown in the Tees district, and also with labourers at Hull.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment was quiet at Manchester, and declined with painters and plasterers. At Oldham it was fair on the whole. At Bolton a decline was reported, but employment was still fair with painters and plasterers.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was slack generally. At Nottingham and Leicester it was reported as worse than a month ago, and at Nottingham as worse than a year ago. Employment continued fairly good at Coventry, and was fair with stonemasons at Norwich.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment continued dull generally.

Scotland.—Employment was quiet generally, except with plasterers and slaters, who were fairly well employed. At Aberdeen employment was bad and worse than in October. Stonemasons at Glasgow reported a decline.

Ireland.—Employment was dull generally.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 153 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 120 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate and slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,592 reported 4.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 4.5 per cent. a month ago, and 5.4 per cent. in November, 1905.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued quiet, being slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Reports from Trade Unions show that 5.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 5.8 per cent. a month ago, and 4.5 per cent. in November, 1905. An improvement has taken place at Hull. Employment was good at Birmingham and Cork; dull in London, and at Liverpool, Gloucester, and Dublin; and bad at Leicester, Bristol, and Glasgow.

The imports of hewn and sawn timber, and house frames, &c., are shown in the following Table:—

Description.	Nov., 1906.		Oct., 1906.		Nov., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1906, as compared with
	Loads.	Value.	Loads.	Value.	Loads.	Value.	
Timber, hewn ...	49,383	£ 490,694	85,613	£ 1,003,684	44,177	£ 495,611	- 36,230
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 14,499	£ 20,584	£ 28,669	£ 6,085	£ 14,170	£ 4,506	- 4,599

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was moderate, and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Some short time was reported. Trade Unions had 5.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 5.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 7.0 per cent. in November, 1905. Upholsterers suffered a further decline, and employment with trench-polishers was not so good as a month ago.

The imports of furniture and cabinet ware in November, 1906, are valued at £53,563, as compared with £55,059 in October, 1906, and £53,101 in November, 1905.

The exports of furniture and cabinet ware in November, 1906, are valued at £76,497, as compared with £96,837 in October, 1906, and £94,243 in November, 1905.

Coopers.

With coopers employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. It was, however, dull in London, and at Newcastle and St. Helens, and a decline took place at Liverpool. At Burton-on-Trent it was quiet, and at Cork it was moderate.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachmakers was moderate, and worse than a month ago. Some short time was reported. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., show that 4.1 per cent. were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 3.4 per cent. a month ago, and 4.4 per cent. a year ago. Employment with coachmakers, however, was good at Birmingham and Saltley, and fair at Salford, Glasgow, and Dublin. With wheelwrights it was good in London.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was quiet generally and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Reports from Trade Unions show that 4.9 per cent. were unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 4.3 per cent. a month ago, and 4.0 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was dull, and worse than a month ago; it was good at Bristol, and fair at Nottingham and Belfast. With basket-makers it was fairly good in London, moderate at Leicester.

The imports of brushes and brooms in November, 1906, are valued at £32,136, as compared with £32,371 in October, 1906, and £32,171 in November, 1905.

The exports of brushes and brooms in November, 1906, are valued at £16,801, as compared with £15,680 in October, 1906, and £15,011 in November, 1905.

POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 24 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was dull on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire continued good, overtime being worked in the earthenware branch at Longton and Fenton. It was good also in Devonshire and at Glasgow. It continued fair in South Yorkshire and was better than a month and a year ago. At Swadlincote it was slack. With clay tobacco pipe makers it was good at Mauchester, moderate at Waterford, and dull at Gateshead and Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in South Staffordshire and Shropshire was dull. In the Peterborough district it continued slack, and showed a decline on the previous month. At Nottingham short time was general. In South Wales employment continued good; in Devonshire it was fairly good; at Ipswich, Sudbury, Chelmsford, and Oldham, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district it was fair. In North Wales it was dull at Ruabon and Wrexham, and fair at Mold.

The Imports of china ware or porcelain and earthenware in November 1906, are valued at £103,199 as compared with £88,939 in October 1906, and £89,276 in November 1905. The Exports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in November 1906, are valued at £230,620 as compared with £224,745 in October 1906, and £195,852 in November, 1905.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 94 Returns—65 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 9,792 workpeople, and paying £11,714 in wages on the last pay-day in November, show that although there was a slight decrease of 0.3 per cent. in numbers employed, there was an increase in wages paid of 3.2 per cent. as compared with a month ago. The decrease in numbers employed was confined to the North of England, Yorkshire, and Lancashire, but all districts showed an increase in wages.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.4 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 7.9 per cent. in wages paid. The increase is shown in all departments except flint glass, and in all the important districts except Lancashire.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended 24th Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended 24th Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.		Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.		
Glass Bottle ...	5,695	- 1.2	+ 6.6	£ 7,056	+ 3.7	+ 12.2		
Plate Glass ...	873	+ 0.6	+ 6.7	566	+ 2.1	+ 0.8		
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,962	+ 2.2	- 2.2	2,233	+ 5.0	+ 0.8		
Other Branches ...	1,262	- 0.6	+ 3.7	1,459	+ 0.8	+ 4.8		
Total ...	9,792	- 0.3	+ 4.4	11,714	+ 3.2	+ 7.9		
Districts.				£				
North of England	1,651	- 0.4	+ 7.3	2,012	+ 6.6	+ 11.9		
Yorkshire ...	3,947	- 1.7	+ 6.4	4,883	+ 1.8	+ 12.1		
Lancashire ...	881	- 0.9	- 3.8	956	+ 10.0	- 3.3		
Worcester and Warwick	2,163	+ 0.7	+ 2.4	2,527	+ 0.3	+ 1.8		
Scotland ...	824	+ 4.2	+ 5.2	1,010	+ 6.1	+ 12.0		
Other parts of United Kingdom	326	+ 1.6	+ 0.6	326	+ 1.2	- 0.3		
Total	9,792	- 0.3	+ 4.4	11,714	+ 3.2	+ 7.9		

With glass bottle makers employment was moderate and better than a month and a year ago, although there are still large numbers of Trade Union members out of

work, or on short time. At Portobello and Glasgow employment continued good. With flint glass makers at Birmingham and Glasgow it was good and better than a month ago. An improvement was also shown with flint glass makers and cutters at Wordsley, with whom employment was fairly good. At St. Helens it continued good with sheet glass makers and flatteners, and an improvement was shown with glass cutters.

With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it continued moderate. It was fair with bevellers at Birmingham, and improved with glass blowers in London.

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

Description.	Nov., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1906, as compared with	
				Oct., 1906.	Nov., 1905.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	123,212	123,317	143,782	- 105	- 20,570
Plate	30,160	36,850	31,163	+ 6,690	+ 1,003
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	74,375	79,498	88,594	- 5,123	- 14,219
Manufactures, other sorts...	2,116	2,613	7,275	- 497	- 5,159
Bottles gross	116,712	114,219	141,037	+ 2,493	- 24,325
Exports:					
Plate	13,551	12,758	10,586	+ 793	+ 2,965
Flint	5,790	5,902	5,804	- 112	- 14
Manufactures, other sorts ...	41,832	41,105	39,215	+ 727	+ 2,617
Bottles gross	76,522	65,070	58,434	+ 11,452	+ 18,088

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 204 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England).

Employment was fairly regular, but rain caused day labourers to be in irregular employment in a number of districts.

Northern Counties.—Reports from Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire state that generally speaking wet weather interfered with threshing and work on the root crops, and a number of day labourers were in irregular employment in consequence. In Yorkshire also wet weather interrupted the employment of day labourers, and the supply of this class of labour was generally in excess of the demand. The supply of men for permanent situations was somewhat in excess of the demand in this county, but at the recent hiring fairs a scarcity of boys was reported.

Midland Counties.—Regularity of employment was reported from Cheshire, but rain somewhat hindered employment in Derbyshire, and not all day labourers could find work. In Nottinghamshire rain interrupted the employment of day labourers during the first part of the month, and the supply of this class of labour was plentiful. Threshing, manure carting, ploughing, and work on the root crops caused a fair demand for extra labour in Leicestershire, but several days were lost through rain. Employment was generally regular in Staffordshire and Shropshire; in the latter county the demand for extra labour is said to have been somewhat in excess of the supply. Employment was generally regular in Worcestershire. In this county a scarcity of stockmen and shepherds was reported. Some day labourers in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire lost time on account of wet weather. There was a plentiful supply of such men in both counties. In Oxfordshire there was a surplus of this class of labour, work being reported well forward. Rain caused some day labourers in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire to be in irregular employment. Employment was generally regular in Bedfordshire, but some day labourers lost time on account of rain at the beginning of the month.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Huntingdonshire, though rain slightly interrupted the employment of day labourers. In Cambridgeshire employment was regular, and the supply of and demand for labour were about equal. In the North Witchford Union some delay in getting up roots was reported,

owing to difficulty in obtaining sufficient extra labour. Employment was regular, on the whole, in Lincolnshire, but rain caused some interruption in several districts. Threshing and potato and mangel lifting provided a fair amount of employment for day labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk, but in many districts the supply of men of this class exceeded the demand, while at the beginning of the month rain also affected the employment of extra labour. Rain interrupted employment somewhat in Essex, where also there was some surplus of extra labour.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Kent the employment of day labourers was irregular and the supply of this class of men more than sufficient. Employment was generally regular in Surrey, though day labourers lost time through rain. Several days were lost on account of rain by day labourers in Sussex and Hampshire, and there was a surplus of extra men in these counties. In Hampshire some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported. Threshing and other work provided fairly regular employment in Berkshire, and the supply of labour was about equal to the demand. Similar reports come from Wiltshire and Dorset. In Somerset some day labourers were in irregular employment, and there was a surplus of this class of labour in certain districts. In Herefordshire rain somewhat hindered outdoor work, but day labourers generally found employment on fine days. A scarcity of teamsmen and stockmen was reported from the Ledbury Union. Employment, on the whole, was fairly regular in Gloucestershire, but rain caused some irregularity of employment among day labourers. Similar reports come from Devonshire and Cornwall. The supply of extra labour was generally quite equal to the somewhat limited demand in these three counties.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 21 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed during November shows a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value as compared with a year ago.

Employment was fair on the whole, but showed some decline on a month ago. It was only moderate at Lowestoft, Harwich, Peterhead, Macduff, and Montrose, and poor off the South and South-West coasts of Ireland. With fish dock labourers employment was only moderate at Lowestoft, and bad at Peterhead, and with fish curers it was moderate at Hull, Peterhead, and Macduff.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in November, 1906, and November, 1905, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Nov., 1906.	Nov., 1905.	Nov., 1906.	Nov., 1905.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	1,534,805	1,814,580	920,817	887,136
Scotland	247,235	254,656	123,665	125,677
Ireland	67,884	123,265	34,892	40,007
Total	1,849,924	2,192,501	1,079,374	1,052,820
Shell Fish	—	—	35,223	29,499
Total Value	—	—	1,114,597	1,082,319

The exports of herrings in November, 1906, amounted to 453,482 barrels, as compared with 425,626 barrels in October, 1906, and 490,464 barrels in November, 1905.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Based on 136 Returns—110 from Employers, 9 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

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

London.*—Employment generally was fair, and better than in October and than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended December 1st was 13,060, an increase of 6.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

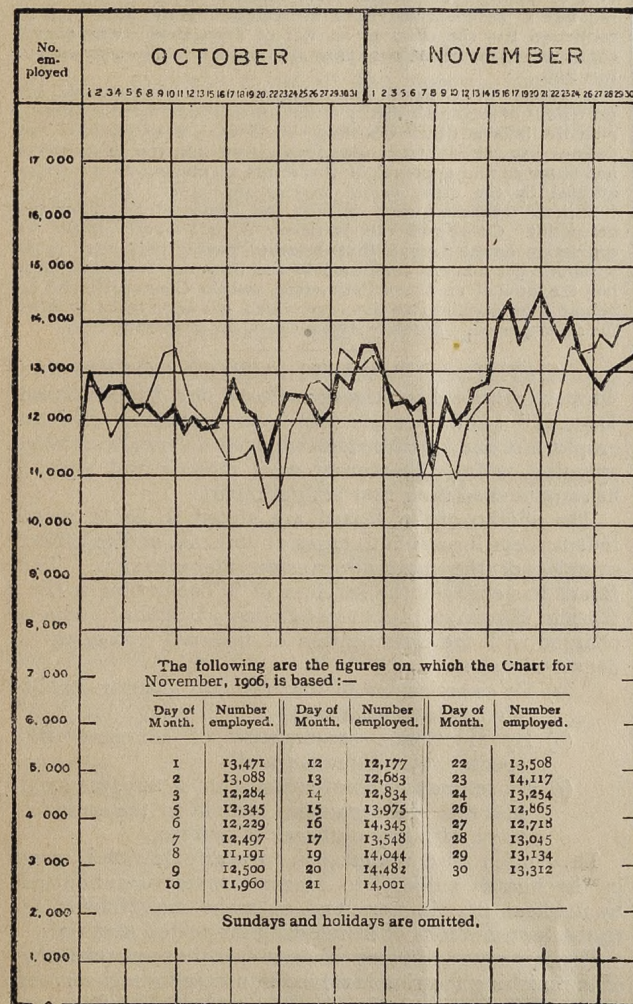
* Exclusive of Tilbury.

The daily numbers in November ranged from 11,191 on the 8th to 14,482 on the 20th. During the corresponding period of 1905 the numbers ranged from 10,929 on the 11th to 13,922 on the 30th.

Period.	In Docks*			At 107 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Nov. 3rd	4,868	2,247	7,055	5,945	13,000
" " " 10th	4,766	1,286	6,052	6,668	12,120
" " " 17th	4,893	2,271	7,164	6,096	13,260
" " " 24th	5,653	2,056	7,710	6,182	13,901
" " Dec. 1st	5,611	1,337	6,948	6,067	13,015
Average for 5 weeks ended Dec. 1st.	5,146	1,342	6,988	6,072	13,060
Average for Oct., 1906	4,603	1,491	6,094	6,157	12,251
Average for Nov., 1905	4,897	1,929	6,826	6,320	13,146

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 107 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of October and November, 1906. The corresponding curve for October and November, 1905, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1906, and the thin curve to 1905.]



The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,378 in November, as compared with 1,179 in October, an increase of 16.9 per cent.

At Liverpool employment with dock labourers and flatmen was fairly good, and better than in the previous month.

Other Ports.—On the Tyne and Wear employment was irregular with watermen, fairly good with trimmers and teamers, and better than in October with quay labourers. Dock labourers were slack at Middlesbrough and at Hartlepool, and riverside workers were not so well employed on the Tees as a month ago. At Hull and Goole employment with dock labourers was moderate,

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

and at Grimsby it was good. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was good. At the Bristol Channel ports employment was fair, and at Plymouth it was quiet. Dock labourers were well employed at Glasgow, Leith, and Dundee; and moderately at Aberdeen. Employment was fair at Dublin, good at Belfast, bad at Cork.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN NOVEMBER.

(Based on 27 Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during November 37,611* seamen, of whom 4,562 (or 12.1 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. At six ports there were decreases, and at eleven there were increases in the number shipped as compared with a year ago.

During the eleven completed months of 1906, 433,539* seamen were shipped, of whom 55,527 (or 12.8 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 1905, the total number shipped shows an increase of 25,270. Increases were most marked at Liverpool, Glasgow, Cardiff, Southampton, and Hull.

Lascars, who are engaged in Asia, are not included in these figures.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	November, 1906.			Eleven months ended November, 1906.		
	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,561	2,511	- 50	31,205	30,844	- 361
Sunderland	485	310	- 175	5,115	4,659	- 456
Middlesbrough	206	369	+ 163	3,173	3,439	+ 266
Hull	1,123	1,247	+ 124	12,013	14,184	+ 2,169
Grimsby	104	33	- 68	1,423	1,336	- 87
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	536	675	+ 139	6,309	7,113	+ 804
Newport, Mon.	704	1,077	+ 373	9,812	10,751	+ 939
Cardiff	3,897	4,913	+ 1,016	49,624	54,347	+ 4,723
Swansea	357	396	+ 39	5,310	4,778	- 532
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	11,927	14,099	+ 2,172	150,948	163,074	+ 12,126
London	5,975	5,220	- 755	57,176	66,477	+ 9,301
Southampton	2,288	3,341	+ 1,053	21,785	24,330	+ 2,545
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	322	320	- 2	4,451	4,812	+ 361
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth	174	255	+ 81	2,454	2,655	+ 201
Glasgow	2,729	3,497	+ 768	34,153	38,492	+ 4,339
IRELAND.						
Dublin	120	43	- 77	835	979	+ 144
Belfast	108	275	+ 167	2,276	2,463	+ 187
Total	33,613	37,611	+ 3,998	408,269	433,539	+ 25,270

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

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

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT": VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE TO FELLOW-SERVANT.

When a workman is injured by accident, compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, is payable only when the accident was one "arising out of and in the course of the employment" of that workman.

A man was employed in engineering works as a clerk and book-keeper, and it was part of his duties to weigh articles brought to the weighing machine by other men in the employment of the firm. In May last he was helping to carry a heavy brass frame from the engineering shops to the weighing machine, when he slipped and grazed his leg. The result of the injury was that blood-poisoning was set up, and the man died. His widow claimed compensation, but the Sheriff-Substitute refused an award in her favour on the ground that when injured the deceased was voluntarily taking part in work which was not in the course of his employment. On appeal the Court of Session reversed this decision, and held that the deceased when injured was acting in the course of his employment.—*Goslan v. Gillies, Court of Session, November 13th, 1906.*

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT": UNAUTHORISED USE OF MACHINE.

A workman in the employment of a furniture manufacturing company was engaged at a sand-paper machine, when he slipped,

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

and, falling against the machine, the fingers of his left hand were cut off. At the time of the accident he was attempting to shape a piece of wood with which he intended to remove chips from the floor. This was work for which the machine was not intended, and which was both unsuitable and dangerous. He was not ordered to do this work, which had no connection with the work which he had been instructed to do by the foreman. In these circumstances the Court of Session held that the injured man was not entitled to compensation, as the accident was not one arising out of and in the course of his employment.—*Hosie v. F. M. Walker, Ltd., Court of Session, November 28th, 1906.*

SHIP IN DOCK: FACTORY.

The Act applies to employment on or in or about a factory, and "factory" is defined to include a dock.

A man was engaged by a shipping company to act as fireman on board a steamship which was then lying in a dock. He was employed in cleaning the boilers and engines when he met with an accident by which he was severely injured. He claimed compensation under the Act, contending that the shipowners had the occupation of the dock, which was a factory for the purpose of repairing and cleaning their ships. The Sheriff-Substitute, however, decided that he was not employed at the time of the accident in or on or about a factory within the meaning of the Act, and dismissed the claim.

On appeal the Court of Session confirmed this decision, holding that the injured man was merely cleaning tubes and so doing the ordinary work of a fireman, and there was no evidence that the dock was being used as a factory for executing repairs.—*Coyne v. Glasgow Steam Coasters Co., Ltd., Court of Session, November 27th, 1906.*

RECORDING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: MINISTERIAL ACT NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW.

Where the amount of compensation payable to an injured workman under the Act is decided either by an arbitrator or by agreement, it is provided that a memorandum thereof shall be sent in England to the Registrar of the County Court—in Scotland to the Sheriff-Clerk of the County, who, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, shall record such memorandum in a special register.

A miner in October, 1904, met with an accident in the course of his employment, by which he sustained serious injuries to his face. His average weekly earnings were £1 13s. 6d., and he agreed with his employers to receive compensation at the rate of 16s. 9d. a week. This sum was paid to, and received by, the man down to January, 1905, when total incapacity ceased. He then brought an action against the employers for damages at common law, and denied the existence of any agreement as to compensation. The action, however, was decided in favour of the employers on the ground that he had elected to take, and had taken, compensation under the Act, and that therefore, according to the provisions of the Act, he was not entitled to bring the action. The miner then, in March, 1906, prepared and lodged with the Sheriff-Clerk a memorandum of the agreement. The employers opposed registration, but the Sheriff-Substitute ordered the memorandum to be recorded.

On appeal the Court of Session held that the recording of the memorandum was a ministerial act, and that they could not interfere with the performance of that act.—*Sinclair v. Lochgelly Iron and Coal Co., Ltd., Court of Session, November 23rd, 1906.*

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: EFFECT OF RECORDING: UNRECORDED VARIATION OF AGREEMENT.

When a memorandum of an agreed amount of compensation is recorded under the Act, the memorandum is enforceable as a judgment.

A miner was injured in January, 1904, and agreed with the coal company, his employers, to accept compensation at the rate of 16s. 6d. a week during total incapacity. This was one half of his average weekly earnings. In September, 1904, the workman recorded a memorandum of this agreement. Soon after he agreed to accept 11s. 6d. a week as from the end of September, and returned to work. Subsequently the parties differed on the subject of the amount payable; and in July, 1905, the workman took proceedings against the company, seeking to recover on his recorded memorandum the sum of 11s. 6d. a week as from October, 1904. On the application of the company, a Judge in the Outer House of the Court of Session granted a suspension of such proceedings, on the ground that by trying to recover at the rate of 11s. 6d. a week on a memorandum for 16s. 6d., the workman had thereby endeavoured to transform the memorandum into a substitute for a fresh memorandum of a variation in the agreement.

On appeal, however, the First Division of the Court of Session set aside the judgment of suspension, holding that the memorandum had the effect of a decree of the Court for 16s. 6d. a week, and there was no reason why the creditor should not, if he chose, restrict his rights and claim a less sum than he was entitled to under the decree. It did not matter whether this claiming of a less sum was voluntary on the part of the creditor, or in accordance with an agreement made with his debtors. The making of the new unrecorded agreement did not displace the rights which the man had under the recorded agreement.—*Davidson v. Fife Coal Co., Ltd., Court of Session, November 23rd, 1906.*

(2) Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

REMOVAL OF CHECKWEIGHER: POSSIBILITY OF RE-APPOINTMENT. It is provided by the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, that on complaint to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction the justice may order the removal of a checkweigher on the ground that he has impeded or interrupted the working of the mine, or interfered with

the weighing, or with any of the workmen, or with the management of the mine, and on such order being made the checkweigher shall thereupon be removed, but without prejudice to the stationing of another checkweigher in his place.

A checkweigher was alleged to have interfered in a dispute between the mine owners and the workmen, and on complaint a Court of Summary Jurisdiction made an order for his removal, the order containing the words—"and that henceforth he shall cease to perform the duties of checkweigher on behalf of the persons employed in the said mine." The checkweigher appealed to the High Court against this order, contending that it was beyond the jurisdiction of the justices to make an order which would prevent the workmen from again appointing this checkweigher.

The High Court dismissed the appeal, holding that if the workmen could at once re-appoint a checkweigher who had been removed, the provision of the Act would be a nullity. The Court, however, expressed no opinion on the question whether a checkweigher who has been removed can ever, at any future time, be re-appointed.—*Rex v. Llewellyn and Others, King's Bench Division, November 5th, 1906.*

(3) Shops Regulation Acts.

CLOSING ORDER: APPROVAL OF TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY: CONFIRMATION OF ORDER.

It is provided by the Shop Hours Act, 1904, that a local authority may by order fix the hours at which shops within the area of the authority are to be closed on the several days of the week; the hour of closing not to be earlier than 7.0 p.m. on any day except one, on which day the hour may be any time not earlier than 1.0 p.m. Such order may, however, be made only where the occupiers of at least two-thirds of the shops to be affected approve the order. To become operative the order requires to be confirmed by a Secretary of State, and when so confirmed has the effect of an Act of Parliament. Any person contravening the provisions of any such order is liable on conviction to a fine.

A grocer in Glasgow was charged with contravening the provisions of such an order by selling certain eatables to customers after the hour at which his shop should have been closed. The defence was raised that no proof was given that the Corporation had obtained the approval of two-thirds in number of the shops affected by the order before making the order. The Sheriff-Substitute disallowed such defence, and convicted and fined the defendant. On appeal, the Justiciary Appeal Court upheld the conviction on the ground that the order, having been once made without objection, and confirmed by the Secretary for Scotland, it had the force of an Act of Parliament, and the Court could not go behind it or enquire into the steps which had been taken to have the order passed.—*Justiciary Appeal Court, November 20th, 1906.*

ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION BOARD.

The "Anthrax Investigation Board for Bradford and District" (which consists of representatives of both employers and workpeople engaged in wool-combing, spinning, and manufacturing wool, mohair and alpaca) have published their first annual report.

The objects of the Board are stated to be to make independent inquiry into cases of anthrax, and to collect samples of the material causing the infection. The Board has engaged the services of a bacteriologist (Dr. Eurich, Municipal Technical College, Bradford), who is charged with the classification of material according to degree of risk:—

- By examination of material for anthrax bacilli after actual outbreaks;
- By systematic examination of samples, irrespective of outbreaks; and
- By estimating what connection, if any, the sand and dirt and organisms present in the samples have with any outbreak of anthrax.

Dr. Eurich also undertakes to verify doubtful cases in the human subject, to examine material submitted by medical practitioners, and to make experiments as to the best methods of disinfecting suspected materials.

Experiments are being made as to the practicability of diminishing the risk involved in manipulating certain classes of wool, hair, &c., by the use of disinfectants, immersion in hot water, dry heat, &c. Several of the disinfectants experimented with have been found useful, but none of them can be regarded as satisfactory under all conditions.

The bacteriologist has investigated 17 cases of supposed anthrax, of which four were doubtful; of the remaining 13, seven were fatal, and six non-fatal. With one exception the fatal cases were all cases of internal anthrax, and the recoveries of external anthrax; and all the fatal cases (with the same exception) occurred to persons over 40 years of age, while all the recoveries (of undoubted cases) were of persons under 33 years of age. The exception in question was abnormal, in that it occurred in the spinning department, all the other

cases occurring in the earlier stages of handling the material, and especially in the stages before the material had been washed.

Dr. Eurich examined also 43 samples of wool, mohair, etc., and 80 samples of dust taken from beneath sorting boards. He found anthrax bacilli in two samples of Persian wool and in one sample of dust from Persian wool.

Persian wool, camel hair, and certain kinds of mohair, appear to be the most dangerous materials; but great difficulty is experienced in ascertaining the precise "sorts" of these materials which caused the disease, colour in particular being useless as a criterion. The Board appeal for more precise information from firms in whose works anthrax occurs.

Nine of the thirteen authenticated fatal cases occurred on the premises of "commission combers," and this in spite of the fact that by far the greater weight of the material used in the worsted and mohair industries is combed by the spinners themselves at their own mills. This disproportion may not improbably be connected with the fact that spinners are in the habit of sending to "commission combers" the lowest and least easily worked kinds of material. It has also been found that cases of anthrax are much more common at some commission combing works than at others working similar materials.

The Board suggest, in conclusion, that it might be possible "to make a list of the special classes of scheduled materials usually treated by the commission combers and most open to suspicion," and only to allow these sorts to be combed by special permit, and under the special supervision of H.M. Inspectors. Interference with the trade generally would thus be obviated, and the combers using the scheduled materials would be able to recoup themselves for the additional expense entailed.

PRICES OF IRON.

The results of the latest ascertainties of the selling prices of pig iron in the West of Scotland, and of manufactured iron in the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland, are given in the Table below.

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase (+) or Decrease (−) of last Audit as compared with		
	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	
Pig Iron.	1906.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
West of Scotland...	Aug.-Oct.	58 10	+ 2 4	+ 0 1	
Manufactured Iron.					
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)		132 11 47	+ 0 3 55	+ 12 11 13	
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, strips, etc.)	Sept.-Oct.	137 5 01	+ 1 2 41	*	
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)		133 6 29	+ 4 11 49	+ 15 10 51	

Pig Iron.—The average selling price for cash of Scottish pig iron warrants in the Glasgow market for the three months, August-October, 1906, was 58s. 10d. As a result of the August-October ascertainment wages of blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland were advanced 5 per cent from November 1st.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the ascertained selling price of specified classes of manufactured iron in September and October, 1906, was 132s. 11 47d. In the Midlands the selling price for the same period of 1906 was 137s. 5 01d. In the West of Scotland the selling price in September and October, 1906, was 133s. 6 29d., which was 4s. 11 49d. higher than for the previous audit, and 15s. 10 51d. higher than a year ago. As a result of these ascertainties the wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the

* No ascertainment was published for the months of September and October, 1905.

Midlands remain unaltered, but in the West of Scotland the wages of these workpeople have been advanced by 3d. per ton and 2½ per cent. respectively.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended December 1st amounted to £4,448,215, an increase of £46,290 (or 1.0 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the forty-eight weeks ended December 1st the total amount was £49,904,746, an increase of £1,432,670 (or 2.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

	4 weeks ended Dec. 1st, 1906.		48 weeks ended Dec. 1st, 1906.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with 1905.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with 1905.
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	1,588,312	+ 5,950	17,851,520	+ 545,052
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	504,510	— 842	5,417,713	+ 123,120
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	879,735	+ 36,311	9,825,404	+ 491,928
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western.	616,500	+ 8,600	7,306,100	+ 48,900
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	159,764	— 4,356	1,852,461	+ 28,821
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	541,232	— 4,944	6,281,938	+ 176,897
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern.	127,764	+ 5,571	1,369,610	+ 17,952
Total	4,448,215	+ 46,290	49,904,746	+ 1,432,670

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from 355 Co-operative Societies in Great Britain, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on December 1st, 1906.

Returns from Master Bakers' Associations.

The figures in the following Table are based on the returns received from Master Bakers' Associations, and from other sources, and show the highest, lowest, and predominant prices of bread in the principal districts:—

	1st December, 1906.			1st November, 1906.			1st December, 1905.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
London:—									
N. & N.W. ...	5	4	4 9	5	4 3	4 7	5 3	4 2	4 9
E. & N.E. ...	5	4	4 6	5	4	4 6	5 3	4 2	4 7
S.E. ...	5	4	4 9	5 3	4 3	4 6	5 3	4 2	4 9
S.W. ...	5	4 3	5 2	5 3	4 3	5 0	5 3	4 3	5 3
W. & W.C. ...	5	5	5 3	5 3	5	5 0	5 3	5	5 3
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	6	5	5 3	6	4 3	5 3	6	5	5 3
Lancs. and Cheshire	6	4 3	5 1	6	4 3	5 1	6	4 3	5 1
Midlands ...	6 3	4	4 8	5 3	4	4 8	6 3	4	4 8
Eastern Counties ...	5 3	4 3	4 8	5	4 3	4 8	5 3	4 3	5 0
Southern Counties	6	4	5 3	6	5	5 3	6	5	5 4
S. Western Counties and Wales	5 3	4	4 9	6	4 3	5 0	6	4	5 1
Scotland ...	6	4 3	5 2	6	4 3	5 3	6 3	5	5 5

From the above Table it will be seen that, compared with a month ago, there has been no decided change in the predominant price of bread in any district. In London, however, a considerably larger number of shops are selling bread at 4½d. per 4 lbs. than a month ago.

As compared with a year ago, the only change was a slight reduction in the prices charged in the Eastern Counties and a reduction in some districts of London of ½d. per 4 lbs.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 224 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 131 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

Table showing Present Price (1st Dec., 1906), Price last quarter (1st Sept., 1906), and Price a year ago (1st Dec., 1905) for various districts including England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

From the above Table it will be seen that the mean of the prices at December 1st charged by the Co-operative Societies making Returns was 0.5d. lower than the mean of the prices at September 1st, 1906.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Table with columns for Month, British Wheat, Imports (Average Declared Value), and Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) as Mill for cash.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and British Possessions from September 1st, 1906, to November 30th, 1906, amounted to 21,692,700 cwts., or 452,900 cwts., less than in the corresponding period of 1905.

Exhaust Ventilation in Factories and Workshops: Home Office Memorandum.—Exhaust ventilation, for the removal of injurious dust and fumes, is expressly required by Regulations and Special Rules in several dangerous trades, and H.M. Inspectors are further empowered by s. 74 of the Factory and Workshop Act to require it whenever any process is carried on by which dust, gas, vapour, or other impurity is generated and inhaled by the workers to an injurious extent.

For this purpose it is essential to apply the exhaust so that the dust or fumes shall be carried away at or near to the point of origin, and not allowed to diffuse in the air of the room; and further that the installation shall be carefully planned with regard to the particular circumstances of each case.

Such examples selected by Commander Sir H. P. Freer Smith, R.N., late Superintendent Inspector for Dangerous Trades, have

now been published in book form.* They are taken from the flax, hemp and jute manufactures, gassing rooms, dye works, humid textile factories, bronzing, and metal grinding, but the principles involved are, of course, of much wider application.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office during November was 58, consisting of 52 cases of poisoning, and 6 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 16 cases of lead poisoning (including 3 deaths) were reported during November among house painters and plumbers.

During the eleven months ended November, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 645, as compared with 610 in the corresponding period of 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 49 in 1906, as compared with 38 in 1905. In addition there were 163 cases of lead poisoning (including 32 deaths) among house painters and plumbers, as compared with 149 (including 25 deaths) in 1905.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Table showing Analysis by Industries with columns for Industry, Cases (Month of Nov., 1906, and Eleven Months ended Nov., 1906), and Deaths (Month of Nov., 1906, and Eleven Months ended Nov., 1906).

Lead Poisoning.

Table showing Lead Poisoning cases by industry, including Smelting of Metals, Brass Works, Sheet Lead and Lead Piping, etc.

Other Forms of Poisoning.

Table showing Other Forms of Poisoning: Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, and Total Other Forms of Poisoning.

Anthrax.

Table showing Anthrax cases by industry, including Wool Sorting, Wool Combing, Handling of Horsehair, etc.

* Ventilation of Factories and Workshops. Illustrations of Methods of Dust Extraction in Factories and Workshops. Compiled by Commander Sir H. P. Freer Smith, R.N., (late H.M. Superintendent Inspector of Factories), (Cd. 3223). Price 4s. 10d., by Post 5s. 1d. Wynan & Sons, Ltd.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in November.—The net effect of all the changes reported in November was an increase of £3,580 per week, as compared with an increase of £1,158 per week in October, 1906, and an increase of £1,253 per week in November, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 159,939, all of whom received advances. The total number affected in October, 1906, was 96,508, and in November, 1905, 25,712.

Two changes, affecting 110,628 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and four changes, affecting 8,710 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 40,601 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives; two of these changes, affecting 75 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Eleven completed Months of 1906.—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since January 1st, 1906, was 943,625, as compared with 566,414 in the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 926,328 workpeople a net increase of £47,315 per week and 11,267 workpeople a net decrease of £589 per week, while the remaining 6,030 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table showing Groups of Trades, January—November, 1905, and 1906, with columns for No., £, and £ per week.

Hours.

The only change in hours of labour reported during November, 1906, affected 65 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 163 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since January 1st last was 45,636, the net decrease in their working time being 68,718 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in November.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

Table showing Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported in November, with columns for Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1906, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, and Particulars of Change.

NOTE.—Cumberland Coal Mining.—During November it was arranged that the Cumberland miners' wages should be advanced on 3rd December, by 2½ per cent., making their wages 7½ per cent. above the standard of November, 1899. Full particulars will appear in the January Gazette.

TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-one new disputes began in November, 1906, compared with 24 in October, 1906, and 19 in November, 1905. By the 21 disputes 19,461 workpeople were directly and 947 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before November, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 42,639 workpeople involved in trade disputes during November, 1906, compared with 28,330 in October, 1906, and 9,811 in November, 1905.

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

Table with 5 columns: Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total). Rows include Coal Mining, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Cotton Weaving, etc.

Causes.—Of the 21 new disputes, 8 arose on demands for increased wages, and 6 on other wages questions, 3 on details of working arrangements, 2 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 2 on other questions.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 16 new disputes affecting 19,338 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, affecting 17,434 workpeople. Of these 22 new and old disputes, 10, involving 17,664 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 7, involving 16,166 persons, in favour of the employers; and 5, involving 2,942 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in November of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 411,300 working days. In addition, 106,500 working days were lost during November owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in November of all disputes, new and old, was 517,800 working days, as compared with 414,300 in the previous month, and 169,800 in the corresponding month of 1905.

Summary for the First Eleven Months of 1906 and 1906.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the eleven months January–November, 1905 and 1906, respectively, were as follows:—

Table with 7 columns: Groups of Trades, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople affected, Aggregate Duration in Working Days, for January–November 1905 and 1906. Rows include Building, Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding, etc.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with 8 columns: Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Rows include Coal Mining—Miners, Hewers, Repairers, &c., Shipbuilding—Angle Iron Smiths, Dyers, Transport—Motor Omnibus Drivers.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days. † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

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.

The Return shows the name of every seaman whose death has been reported during the month, together with his age, nationality, and last place of abode; the cause, date, and place of death; and the name, official number, and port of registry of the ship on which he was serving.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN NOVEMBER, 1906.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during November, 1906, was 256, a decrease of 26 as compared with October, 1906, and an increase of 15 compared with November, 1905.

The mean number for November in the years 1901–1905 was 230, the maximum year being 1902 with 263 deaths, and the minimum 1903, with 213 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in November, 1906, was 95. The number reported for November in the years 1901–1905 ranged from 207 in 1901 to 65 in 1904, the mean for the five years being 145.

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

Table with 7 columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Nov., 1906, Oct., 1906, Nov., 1905), Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Nov., 1906, as compared with (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Workshops, Accidents reported under Factory Act, Seamen.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom, for the third quarter of 1906, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £7,112,152; an increase of 6.2 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1905, and of 21.0 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1901, (i.e. five years ago).

* Now included under Factories. † Revised figures.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,670,709, an increase of 19.0 per cent. on the third quarter of 1905 and of 54.2 per cent on that of 1901.

The following Table gives details for the three Societies:—

Table with 6 columns: Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales (In 3rd quarter of 1906, 1905, 1901), Percentage increase in 1906 as compared with (A year ago, Five years ago). Rows include English Wholesale Society, Scottish Wholesale Society, English and Scottish Wholesale Societies Joint Committee.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for November.

IMPORTS.

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

Table with 6 columns: Month ended 30th Nov., Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1906, as compared with (1904, 1905, 1906, 1905, 1904). Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco, Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured, Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured, Miscellaneous and Unclassified.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.

NOTE.—The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Table with 6 columns: Month ended 30th Nov., Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1906, as compared with (1904, 1905, 1906, 1905, 1904). Rows include Food, Drink, and Tobacco, Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured, Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured, Miscellaneous and Unclassified.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £5,713,065 in November, 1904; £6,692,958 in November, 1905; and £7,352,322 in November, 1906.

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments. † In 1901 this department was carried on exclusively by the English Wholesale Society. ‡ No particulars are available for the Irish Agency. § Decrease. ¶ Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and off-seeds, hides and skins, &c. ** Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c. †† Coal, wood, oil seeds, hides and skins, &c. ††† Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN NOVEMBER.

(I.) LABOUR BUREAUX IN LONDON AFFILIATED TO THE CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

Number of Registrations, Situations offered and filled, and number on the Register at end of November, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Exchange, Registered during Nov., 1906, No. of Situations offered during Nov., 1906, No. of Situations filled during Nov., 1906, No. or Individuals on Register at end of Nov., 1906.

Occupations in which Situations were found during November, 1906, and Occupations of those on the Register at end of Month.

Table with columns: Building Trades, Metal Work, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Situations found, No. on Register, Situations found, No. on Register, Situations found, No. on Register, Situations found, No. on Register.

(II.) LABOUR BUREAUX IN LONDON AND PROVINCES NOT AFFILIATED.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during Nov., 1906, Situations offered by Employers during Nov., 1906, Workpeople found Work during Nov., 1906.

* The figures for St. Marylebone relate to two weeks only. † Including Females.

Employment found for Workpeople in November by 25 Bureaux.

Table with columns: Capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total.

Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 25 Bureaux at the end of November, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, Men (Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Messengers, Porters, & C., Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

III.—WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN NOVEMBER

DURING November 842 fresh applications (447 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 665 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 230 persons, of whom 144 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 230 situations found for applicants 173 were of a more or less permanent character, while 57 were temporary only.

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

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during Nov., Situations offered by Employers during Nov., Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily).

* Included in Builders' Labourers.

PAUPERISM IN NOVEMBER.

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

The number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in November, 1906, corresponded to a rate of 220 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with October, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 9,798 (2.6 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 5. In November, 1905, the number relieved showed an increase as compared with October, 1905, of 7,713, or 2.0 per cent. There was an increase of 5,490 in the number of indoor paupers, and of 4,308 in the number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 32 districts, the most marked being in the Central London district (18 per 10,000).

Compared with November, 1905, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 10,351 (2.6 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 9. The number of indoor paupers increased by 499, and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 10,850 (4.8 per cent.). Increases occurred in 11 districts, and decreases in 24 districts, the most marked decreases being in the East London district (51 per 10,000), and the Dundee and Dunfermline districts (20 per 10,000).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Nov., 1906 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population (A month ago, A year ago), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with.

Table with columns: SCOTLAND, IRELAND, Total for above 38 Districts in Nov., 1906.

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

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN NOVEMBER.

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

(1) REGISTERED. THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in November was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 16; under the Friendly Societies Act, 38 (including 25 branches of existing Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all 57.

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

Trade Unions.—England.—1, viz., Derby and District Dairymen's Assoc., County Hotel, Derby.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—12, viz., Co-operative Productive Society: Worker Socialist Newspaper Soc., Ltd., 47, Market Street, Huddersfield. Co-operative Agricultural Societies: 4, viz., Midland Farmers' Co-op. Assoc., Ltd., Messrs. J. H. Bradwell & Sons, Thurland Street, Nottingham; Madresfield Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., New House Farm, Bransford, Worcester; Union Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Mr. Griffith Price's, Corsygarraed, Dolgelly; Ryedale Agric. Trading Assoc., Ltd., Mr. George Burnby's, Beadlam, Newton, Yorks. Miscellaneous Societies: 4 Working Men's Clubs and 3 others. Scotland.—1, viz., Co-operative Agricultural Society: Sanday Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Cross, Sanday, Ireland.—3, viz., Co-operative Distributive Society: City of Dublin Working Men's Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 10, Wellington Quay, Dublin. Co-operative Agricultural Society: Bogeskey Co-op. Creamery Soc., Ltd., Bogeskey, Co. Cavan. Home Industries Society: Athlone Woodworking and Industries Soc., Ltd., Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

Friendly Societies.—England.—12, viz., National Telephone Staff Benevolent Soc., Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.; Sapcote Working Men's Club and Inst., Club House, Church Street, Sapcote, Hinckley; Bermondsey Working Men's Inst., Bermondsey Institute, Ford Road, Bermondsey, S.E.; Cheadle, Staffs. Liberal and Labour Working Men's Club, 85, High Street, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent; Dolphin Recreation Working Men's Club and Inst., 212, King's Road Arches, Brighton; Amington Liberal Working Men's Club and Inst., Club House, Main Road, Amington, Tamworth; Cleckheaton Moorland Working Men's Club, Club House, Heaton Street, Cleckheaton; Wirral Permt. Friendly Dividing Soc., Westminster Hotel, Price Street, Birkenhead; Birtenshaw Friendly Soc., Birtenshaw Wesleyan School, Darwin Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton; Kirkdale Men's P.S.A. Sick and Benefit Soc., Infants' School-room, Ludlow Street, County Road, Walton, Liverpool; King's Hill Yearly Dividing Friendly Soc., 140, Darlston Road, King's Hill, Wednesbury; Cannon Hill Sick and Dividend Friendly Soc., Coach and Horses Hotel, Mary Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. Ireland.—1, viz., Ballivor Credit Soc., Ballivor, Co. Meath.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table with columns: Notices Received in Nov. of (Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up), Registry Cancelled.

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

HOURS OF LABOUR IN STATE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS IN SAXONY.*

On August 20th, 1906, the hours of labour of the operatives in the State Railway Workshops of Saxony were reduced to nine per day. Previous to the reduction the working day was one of 10 hours with intervals for refreshment in the morning and afternoon. Since the reduction, however, an interval of twenty minutes is allowed for breakfast, but this time is not included in the nine hours. The total number of workpeople affected by the reduction in hours is 4,300.

Simultaneously with the alteration in hours, various increases in wages were given to operatives employed at time-rates, but it is stated that these increases were granted, not on account of the introduction of the nine-hour day, but because the time-rates no longer bore a proper relation to those for piece-work, and competent workpeople could not be obtained at the old time-rates. No advances in wages were granted to piece-workers and by far the greater proportion of the work is paid for as piecework.

*Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Dresden.

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PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR
RECEIVED DURING NOVEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the three months ended 30th June, 1906. [Cd. 3220: pp. 170: price 1s. 11d.]

Ventilation of Factories and Workshops. Illustrations of Methods of Dust Extraction in Factories and Workshops. Compiled by Commander Sir H. P. Smith. Photographs and diagrams. [Cd. 3223: pp. 93: price 4s. 10d.]

Reports of Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1905. Part A. Friendly Societies, Workmen's Compensation Schemes, Industrial and Provident Societies, and Trade Unions. [H.C. 55: pp. 215: price 2s. 9d.]

Coal Tables, 1906. Showing Production, Consumption, and Imports and Exports of Coal in the British Empire and the Principal Foreign Countries in each year from 1885 to 1905. [H.C. 321: pp. 56: price 6d.]

Royal Commission on the Canals and Inland Navigations of the United Kingdom. First Report. [Cd. 3183: pp. vii: price 1d.] Minutes of Evidence accompanying First Report. [Cd. 3184: pp. xvi. + 581: price 6s.]

Pauperism (England and Wales). Statement for October, 1906, showing the number of paupers relieved in England and Wales at the end of October, from 1866 to 1906. [H.C. 69-ix: pp. 7: price 1d.]

Fishery Board for Scotland. 24th Annual Report, for the year 1905. Part III.—Scientific Investigations. Hatching and rearing of fish; scientific and technical instruction to fishermen, &c. [Cd. 3199: pp. 34: price 4s. 7½d.]

50th Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Scotland. (Abstracts of 1904.) [Cd. 3200: pp. cii. + 575: price 4s. 3d.]

Irish Land Commission. Return of proceedings under the "Land Law Acts," "Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883-1891," &c., during July, 1906. [Cd. 3193: pp. 15: price 2d.] During August and September, 1906. [Cd. 3222: pp. 28: price 3d.] Applications to have fair rents fixed; loans to Congested Districts Board, &c.

Irish Land Commission. Return of Advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, in March 1906. [Cd. 3153: pp. 69: price 7d.] In April, 1906. [Cd. 3206: pp. 53: price 6d.] Advances to farmers and other tenants to purchase their holdings.

Vice-Royal Commission on Poor Law Reform in Ireland. Volume III. Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. [Cd. 3204: pp. xii. + 1009: price 8s. 1d.]

Untenanted Lands (Ireland). Return of Untenanted lands in Rural Districts. [H. C. 250: pp. 397: price 3s. 3d.]

Report on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for 1905. Part I. General Report. Number of vessels, men and boys employed; quantity of fish landed; loans for the purchase of boats and nets; casualties, &c. [Cd. 3194: pp. xxxvi + 253: price 1s. 4d.]

BRITISH COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

Colonial Reports. Annual. No. 504. Gibraltar. Report for 1905. Notes on trade and industry, savings banks, &c. [Cd. 2684-49: pp. 26: price 2d.]

Coolie Labour. Return showing the various Colonies or British Possessions in which indentured Coolie Labour is employed. [H.C. 357: pp. 48: price 5½d.]

Statistical Tables relating to British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates. Part XXIX., 1904. Contains tables of prices of commodities, wages, immigration, &c. [Cd. 3107: pp. xxii. + 887: price 7s. 2d.]

Papers relating to the Working of Taxation of the Unimproved Value of Land in New Zealand, New South Wales, and South Australia. [Cd. 3191: pp. 47: price 5d.]

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

Victoria. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Workrooms, and Shops, for the year ended December 31st, 1905. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Acting Government Printer: pp. 88: price 2s. 6d.]

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour. September 6th, 1906. The Labour Market; awards under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; enforcement of Arbitration Awards; permits to under-rate workers, &c.

New Zealand Official Year Book, 1906. Advance sheets. Part III., Articles on Special Subjects. "Advances to Settlers," "Old-age Pensions," "Agriculture in New Zealand," &c. [Wellington: John Mackay: pp. 94.]

South Australia. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories on the working of the Factories Act for the year ended December 31st, 1905. No. 64. [Pp. 8.]

Early Closing Act. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories on the working of the Early Closing Acts, for the year ended December 31st, 1905. No. 65. [Pp. 2.]

Regulations under "The Factories Act, 1894," and the Acts amending the same. Dated July 4th, 1906. No. 34. [Pp. 4.]

Canada. Labour Gazette, October, 1906. Articles on "Legislation in Canada with regard to the payment and protection of wages," "Rates of Wages of Railway Construction labour in Canada, 1906."

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Twelfth Special Report of the Commissioner of Labour. Coal Mine Labour in Europe, 1905. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 547.]

Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour. Statistics of the State of Ohio, 1905. Recent Labour Laws and Court Decisions; statistics of manufactures; prison labour; coal mining; free public employment offices, &c. [Springfield: Springfield Publishing Co.: State Printers: pp. 620.]

Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour. Department of Commerce and Labour. No. 66: September, 1906. Third Report on Hawaii. Monthly Trade and Consular Reports. October and November, 1906.

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, October, 1906. Contains article on Trade Unions in France in 1905.

Album of Graphic Statistics of French Railways, Post, Commerce, &c. Ministry of Public Works, 1906. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: 46 Diagrams.]

Mining Statistics of French Colonies (i.) for 1900 to 1904; and (ii.) for 1905. [Melun, 1906: Imprimerie Administrative: pp. 238 + 107: prices (i.) 2s. 10d., (ii.) 1s. 7d.]

French Population Census of March 24th, 1901. Volume III. Deals with the population of South-western France. [Paris, 1906: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. xvi. + 890.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, November, 1906. Contains article on Employment in October.

Yearbook of the Central Federation of Co-operative Associations for Distribution in Germany. 2 Vols. (4th year), 1906. [Hamburg, 1906: Heinrich Kaufmann & Co.: pp. 592 + 496: price 8s.]

Industrial Conciliation in England and Scotland. Report of Commission sent out by a German Society for Social Reform. [Jena, 1906: Gustav Fischer: pp. 112: price 9d.]

Austria.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, October, 1906. Contains articles on Employment and Labour disputes in September.

Wages, Hours of Labour, &c., of Persons employed in Workshops of State Railways in Austria. Austrian Department of Labour Statistics. 1906. [Vienna, A. Hölder: pp. 119.]

Mining Statistics of Austria for 1905. Part II. of second volume of Statistical Year-book of Austrian Ministry of Agriculture. 1906. [Vienna, K. K. Hof und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 372.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, October, 1906. Contains Report of Milan Congress on Unemployment.

Journal of the Italian Department of Credit and Thrift, August, 1906. Contains statistics of industrial accidents in 1901-2.

Statistics of Italian Emigration in 1904 and 1905. Italian Statistical Bureau, 1906. [Rome: pp. xxi. + 151.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, October 31st and November 15th, 1906. Contains articles on employment in October, and labour disputes in September.

Holland.

Journal of Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics. November, 1906. Contains articles on employment and labour disputes in September.

Births, Marriages and Deaths in Amsterdam and other large cities of the world, 1899-1905. Municipal Statistical Bureau of Amsterdam, 1906. [Johannes Müller: pp. 57: price 6d.]

Poor Relief in Amsterdam in 1904 and 1905. Municipal Statistical Bureau of Amsterdam, 1906. [Amsterdam: Johannes Müller: pp. 120 + x.: price 1s. 3d.]

Statistics of Savings Banks and Loan Banks in Holland in 1904. Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics, 1906. [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante: pp. xxx. + 293: price 2s. 1d.]

Sweden.

Journal of the Swedish Labour Department. No. 3 of 1906. Contains statistics of employment, labour registries, disputes, &c., for second quarter of 1906.

Finland.

Reports on (1) State Pawnshops in Finland, 1905, (2) Workmen's Benefit Societies in Finland, 1899-1902, (3) Insurance in Finland in 1904, and (4) Finland's Trade with Russia and other countries, 1905. [Helsingfors, 1906: Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, October, 1906. Contains articles on labour disputes in September, and also in the third quarter of 1906.

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3726. Trade of the Consular District of Mexico for the year 1905. Notes on mining, agriculture and tobacco industries, &c. [Cd. 2682-251: pp. 40: price 2½d.]

No. 3727. Trade of St. Pierre and Miquelon, 1905. Notes on industries, wages, prices, bounties, &c. [Cd. 2682-252: pp. 15: price 1d.]

No. 3732. Foreign Trade of France for the year 1905 and first six months of 1906. Mercantile marine of France, number of ships and crews, subsidies on shipping construction; number of boats and crews engaged in fisheries, &c. [Cd. 2682-257: pp. 22: price 1½d.]

Miscellaneous Series. No. 655. Immigration into the United States. [Cd. 2683-19: pp. 29: price 2d.]

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