

THE

Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

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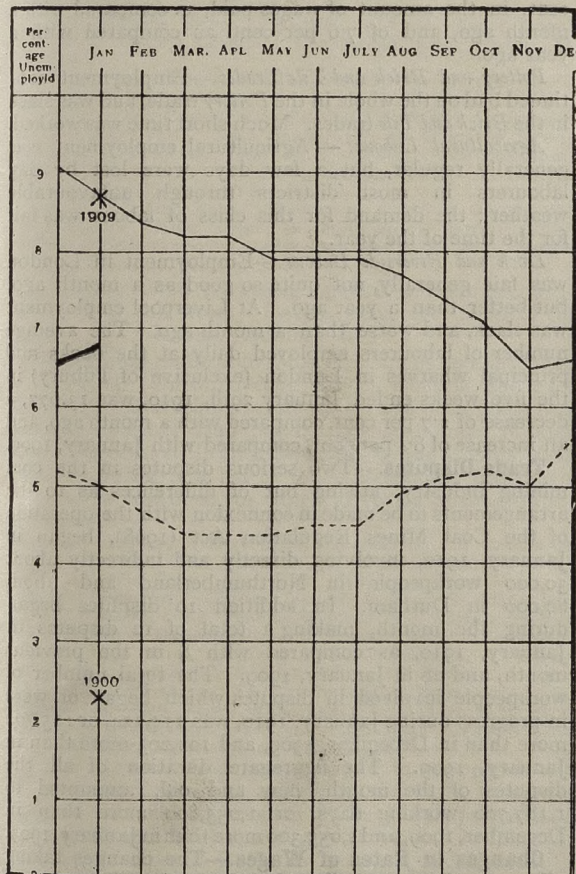
PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve—1910. — Thin Curve—1909.
----- Dotted Curve—Mean of 1900-1909.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1900-1909 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For January, 1910, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 694,456 members in the following trades:—

Building...	58,339	Paper, Printing & Book-binding	59,867
Coal Mining	149,946	Woodworking and Furnishing	34,109
Engineering	168,848	Miscellaneous	17,200
Shipbuilding	56,817		
Other Metal Trades	49,927		
Textiles	117,403	Total	694,456

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JANUARY.

[In addition to the 2,883 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,726 were received from employers relating to 1,026,157 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,609 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in January was, on the whole, not quite so good as in December. Shipbuilding and engineering continued to improve, but nearly all the textile trades showed some falling off, especially cotton. There was also a seasonal decline in the building and printing trades.

As compared with a year ago, all the principal industries, except cotton, showed an improvement.

In the 416 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 694,456 making Returns, 47,259 (or 6·8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of January, 1910, compared with 6·6 per cent. at the end of December, 1909, and 8·7 per cent. at the end of January, 1909.

Coal Mining.—Employment during January was good, and, after making due allowance for holidays and disputes, showed a slight improvement on December, and was better than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this Industry during January continued moderate. It was, however, better than a year ago. Returns received relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 22,600 workpeople showed 301 furnaces in blast at the end of January, 1910, as compared with 300* in December, 1909, and 284 in January, 1909.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works was about the same on the whole as in December, and was better than a year ago. The number of men employed was reduced, but the average number of shifts worked increased. Taking into account both the numbers employed and the shifts worked the volume of employment during the week ended January 22nd, 1910, at the works from which Returns were received, was 0·1 per cent. less than a month ago, and 7·3 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills working at the end of January was 471, as compared with the same number in December, and with 448 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment during January continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 168,848 reported 8·5 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 9·8 per cent. a month ago and 13·1 per cent. a year ago.

* Revised figure.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment during January showed a further improvement and was much better than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 56,817 members reported 16.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 16.9 per cent. a month ago, and 23.0 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the spinning branch continued bad. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton. In the weaving branch employment was also bad, with much slackness and waiting for warps. In both branches employment was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 124,451 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 15.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woolen Trade.—Employment was good on the whole. It showed some decline as compared with a month ago, but was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,327 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 14.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was good. It showed little change as compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,170 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 9.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,382 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 10.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment was good. It showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,592 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed increases in the wages paid of 1.0 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and 8.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment continued moderate on the whole. It was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 9,191 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid of 2.8 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,624 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 13.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued fairly good generally, and was much better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,099 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 11.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoke branch in London showed the usual seasonal decline, and was rather worse than a year ago. In the provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the *Silk* hat trade showed a slight improvement, but was still moderate. In the *Felt* hat trade it was good, and better than a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued fair, and was rather better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,771 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.7 per cent. with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued fair, on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with 3,244 members reported 5.1 per cent.

unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 5.5 per cent. a month ago, and 7.9 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good and was better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment at the end of the month was slack on the whole. It showed a seasonal decline compared with December, and little change compared with a year ago. Trade Unions in the printing trades with a membership of 50,966 reported 6.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of January as compared with 4.2 in December and 6.3 a year ago. In the bookbinding trades the corresponding percentages were 5.9, 3.8 and 6.6.

Building Trades.—Employment continued slack and was rather worse than a month ago, outside work being seriously interrupted by bad weather. Employment was better than a year ago. The percentage unemployed among trade union carpenters and plumbers was 13.7 at the end of January, as compared with 12.9 in December and 15.1 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment during January continued on the whole dull. It showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,109 reported 9.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 9.0 per cent. a month ago and 10.4 per cent. a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment on the whole was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,436 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 6.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago, and of 7.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued bad on the whole in the *Pottery* trade, and was slack in the *Brick and Tile* trades. Much short time was worked.

Agricultural Labour.—Agricultural employment was generally regular, but a few days were lost by day labourers in most districts through unfavourable weather; the demand for this class of labour was fair for the time of the year.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment in London was fair generally, not quite so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. At Liverpool employment was slack, and worse than a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London (exclusive of Tilbury) in the five weeks ended January 29th, 1910, was 13,672, a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 8.4 per cent. compared with January, 1909.

Trade Disputes.—Two serious disputes in the coal mining industry, arising out of differences as to the arrangements to be made in connexion with the operation of the Coal Mines Regulation Act (1908), began in January, 1910, involving directly and indirectly about 30,000 workpeople in Northumberland and about 80,000 in Durham. In addition 10 disputes began during the month, making a total of 12 disputes in January, 1910, as compared with 8 in the previous month, and 28 in January, 1909. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during January, 1910, was 114,224, or 105,702 more than in December, 1909, and 102,203 more than in January, 1909. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 1,187,700 working days, or 1,055,800 more than in December, 1909, and 1,055,300 more than in January, 1909.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in January affected 163,000 workpeople, of whom 29,000 received increases and 134,000 sustained decreases. Amongst those whose wages were increased were 7,500 ironstone miners in Cleveland, 6,900 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, Durham and Cumberland, 3,400 iron workers in the North of England and 5,750 steel workers in the West of Scotland. The number whose wages were reduced included 125,000 coal miners in Durham and 6,250 blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The computed total effect of all the changes was a decrease in wages of about £7,550 per week.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

At the beginning of February the system of Labour Exchanges established by the Board of Trade under the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909, was brought into effective operation. The following is a list of Provincial Exchanges which are already open, or which are to be opened during February:—

PROVINCIAL EXCHANGES.

Aberdeen, Old Post Office, Market Street.
Barrow, 200, Duke Street; **Birmingham,** Lincoln's Inn, Corporation Street; **Blackburn,** 100 & 100A, Darwen Street; **Bradford,** 6, Eastbrook Lane; **Brighton,** 7, Park Crescent Place; **Bristol,** 18 & 20, Victoria Street; **Burnley,** Oddfellows Hall, Lindsay Street; **Bury,** 37A, Balton Street.
Cardiff, 86 & 87, Bridge Street; **Carlisle,** 17, Castle Street; **Chatham,** 388, High Street, Rochester; **Coatbridge,** 152, Main Street; **Coventry,** Duplex Works, Lower Ford Street; **Croydon,** Royal Parade, London Road.
Derby, Victoria Buildings, London Road; **Deusbury,** Old Post Office; **Dover,** 302, London Road; **Dudley,** Holloway Chambers, Priory Street; **Dundee,** 43 & 47, Overgate.
Eccles, 76, Liverpool Road; **Edinburgh,** India Buildings, Victoria Street.
Glasgow, 13, Carlton Place; **Greenock,** Custom House and Inland Revenue Buildings; **Grimsby,** 176, Cleethorpes Road.
Halifax, Portland Street; **Hastings,** 37, Havelock Road; **Huddersfield,** John William Street; **Hull,** Humber Street.
Ipswich, 8A, Princes Street.
Leeds, 3 & 5, Water Lane; **Leicester,** Albion Street; **Liverpool,** Fraser Street; **Luton,** 9, Park Street.
Manchester, 54, Lever Street; **Middlesbrough,** Oddfellows' Hall, Bridge Street.
Newport, 147, Commercial Road; **Newcastle,** Old Royal Infirmary; **Northampton,** 30 & 32, Mare Fair; **Norwich,** Alexandra Mansions, Prince of Wales' Road; **Nottingham,** George Street.
Oldham, 21 & 27, Cross Street.
Paisley, Niddrie Street; **Plymouth,** 15 & 16, Manor Street; **Portsmouth,** Victoria Chambers, Commercial Road; **Preston,** 148, Friargate.
Reading, 172, King's Road; **Rochdale,** 132, Drake Street; **Rotherham,** Old Post Office.
Salford, 1, The Crescent; **Sheffield,** Suffolk Road; **Southampton,** 7 & 8, Canute Road; **South Shields,** 3 & 3½, Charlotte Street; **Stockport,** 4, Tiviotdale; **Stoke,** Archer Works, Liverpool Road; **Stourbridge,** 176, Lower High Street; **Sunderland,** Old Customs House; **Swansea,** 238, High Street.
Walsall, Midland Road; **Warrington,** Old Post Office; **West Bromwich,** 76, High Street; **West Hartlepool,** Surtees Street; **Wigan,** Woodcock Street; **Wolverhampton,** 12, 13 & 14, Bilston Street; **Worcester,** Pierpoint Street.

(The registered telegraphic address of each exchange consists of the word "Labex," and the name of the town: e.g., "Labex, Aberdeen.")

In addition to the above, the Exchanges established by the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, under the Unemployed Workman Act, 1905, have been taken over by the Board of Trade, and a certain number of other Exchanges have been established in the London area. The following is a list of the Metropolitan Exchanges which are now open, or which are to be opened during February:—

Bethnal Green, 117, High Street, Shoreditch, E.; **Brixton,** 30, Brixton Road, S.W.; **Camberwell,** 21 & 22, Camberwell Green, S.E.; **Camden Town,** 184, High Street; **Canning Town,** 63, Victoria Dock Road; **Clapham Junction,** 33 & 35, St. John's Hill, S.W.; **Finsbury,** 6 & 8, Fentonville Road, N.; **Hachney,** 27 & 29, Well Street; **Hammersmith,** 20, Queen Street, Broadway; **Islington,** 131 & 133, Holloway Road, N.; **Kilburn,** 14, Harrow Road, W.; **Lewisham,** 246, High Street, S.E.; **New Cross,** 9, 11 & 13, Deptford Bridge; **South Central,** 33, London Road, S.E.; **Stepney,** 46, High Street, Whitechapel, E., and 11, Commercial Road, E.; **Tottenham,** 522 & 528, High Road; **Walham Green,** 2, Jerdan Place; **Woolwich,** 125, High Street.

The General Regulations issued in connection with the Labour Exchanges, and the Special Rules made with regard to the registration of juvenile applicants in England and Wales, are given below. Pending the making of Special Rules for Scotland and Ireland, the registration of juvenile applicants in these countries will take place in accord with Rule 1 of the Special Rules for England and Wales.

The method of working the Exchanges is briefly as follows:—

Applicants residing within three miles of a Labour Exchange must attend personally in order to register, but applicants living beyond that distance may register through the post. Forms for registration, which are supplied at each Labour Exchange, may be filled in by the applicant himself or by an officer of the Exchange. On registration the applicant receives a "Registration

card," and, in order that his name may remain on the register, he must attend at the Exchange at least once every week. If he obtains work, he is required to return the card to the Exchange.

Vacancies may be notified by employers in any way that may be convenient, e.g., by letter or postcard, by personal call, or by telephone. Applicants for employment are informed of vacancies that have been notified, and any workman desiring to apply for a particular vacancy is sent to the employer provided with an "Identification card." If the man is engaged, the employer is asked to sign and return the card to the Exchange. If the applicant is not engaged, he is required to return the card to the Exchange personally. It is open to employers to ask that two or more men for each vacancy (from whom one may be selected) may be sent from the Exchange.

A return of unfilled vacancies, and unplaced applicants, is forwarded daily by each Exchange to a Clearing House, where the returns are collated and a summary re-distributed to the Exchanges. In this way each Exchange is informed of the demand for, and supply of, labour in other districts, and arrangements can be made, when necessary, for the transference of men from one district to another. Clearing Houses have been established at Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Dublin, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, and Sheffield. These Clearing Houses in turn communicate with the Central Office (which forms a "National Clearing House") at Caxton House, Westminster, S.W.

The Exchanges have separate sections for dealing with male and female adults and juveniles. They do not register vacancies for indoor domestic servants.

LABOUR EXCHANGES ACT, 1909.

GENERAL REGULATIONS MADE BY THE BOARD OF TRADE IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION (2) OF THE LABOUR EXCHANGES ACT, 1909.

General Regulations for Labour Exchanges Managed by the Board of Trade.

Registration of Applicants for Employment.

I.—(1) Applicants for employment through a labour exchange shall register and shall renew their registration there in person, if they reside within three miles of the exchange or within such other distance as the Board of Trade may direct from time to time, either generally or as regards any specified district or class of applicants.

(2) In the case of applicants not residing within the above limit of distance, the officer in charge of the labour exchange may accept registration or renewal of registration through the post.

(3) Applicants shall register upon a form containing the particulars set forth in the First Schedule hereto, subject to such modifications as may be made by the Board of Trade from time to time, either generally or as regards any specified district or trade or class of applicants.

(4) The above regulations shall not apply to juvenile applicants.

Period of Registration.

II.—Registration of applications for employment shall hold good for seven days from the date of registration or for such other period as the Board of Trade may from time to time direct either generally or as regards any specified district or trade or class of applicants, but may be renewed within that period for a like period and so on from time to time.

Strikes and Lock-outs.

III.—(1) Any association of employers or workmen may file at a labour exchange a statement with regard to the existence of a strike or lock-out affecting their trade in the district. Any such statement shall be in the form set out in the Second Schedule hereto, and shall be signed by a person authorised by the association for the purpose. Such statement shall be confidential except as hereunder provided and shall only be in force for seven days from the date of filing but may be renewed within that period for a like period and so on from time to time.

(2) If any employer who appears to be affected by a statement so filed notifies to a labour exchange a vacancy or vacancies for workmen of the class affected, the officer in charge shall inform him of the statement that has been filed, and give him an opportunity of making a written statement thereon. The officer in charge in notifying any such vacancies to any applicant for employment shall also inform him of the statements that have been received.

Wages and Conditions.

IV.—(1) The officer in charge of a labour exchange in notifying applications for employment and vacancies to employers and applicants respectively shall undertake no responsibility with regard to wages or other conditions, beyond supplying the employer or applicant, as the case may be, with any information in his possession as to the rate of wages desired or offered.

(2) Copies or summaries of any agreements mutually arranged between associations of employers and workmen for the regulation of wages or other conditions of labour in any trade may, with the consent of the various parties to such agreements, be filed at a labour exchange, and any published rules made by public authorities with regard to like matters may also be filed. Documents so filed shall be open to inspection on application.

(3) No person shall suffer any disqualification or be otherwise rejudged on account of refusing to accept employment found for him through a labour exchange where the ground of refusal is that a trade dispute which affects his trade exists or that the wages offered are lower than those current in the trade in the district where the employment is found.

Advance of Travelling Expenses.

V.—(1) Where an applicant for employment has been engaged through a labour exchange at which he is registered to take up employment at any place removed from the exchange or from his ordinary residence by more than five miles by the quickest route, or by such other distance as the Board of Trade may direct from time to time, either generally or as regards any specified district the officer in charge may, at his discretion, make an advance to the applicant towards meeting the expenses of travelling to the place of employment.

(2) The advance may be made at the request either of the employer or of the applicant. The person at whose request the advance is made shall give such undertaking with respect to the repayment of the advance as the Board of Trade, with the consent of the Treasury, may from time to time prescribe either generally or as regards any specified district or class of applicants.

(3) No advance shall be made where the officer in charge has reason to believe that the employment falls within the terms of Regulation IV. (3) hereof.

(4) In making advances care shall be taken to avoid unduly encouraging rural labourers to migrate from the country to the towns or between Great Britain and Ireland.

(5) The advance shall not exceed the amount required to defray the applicant's fare to the place of employment, and will be made by the provision of a ticket or pass, or in exceptional circumstances, in cash.

Employment Outside the British Isles.

VI.—The officer in charge of a labour exchange shall consult the central office in London before notifying to applicants for employment vacancies at any place outside the British Isles.

Advisory Trade Committees.

VII.—(1) There shall be established by the Board of Trade in such areas of the United Kingdom as they think fit advisory trade committees consisting of equal numbers of persons representing employers and workmen in the district and appointed by the Board of Trade after consultation with such bodies and persons as they may think best qualified to advise them on the matter, together with a chairman, agreed upon by a majority both of the persons representing employers and of the persons representing workmen, or in default of such agreement appointed by the Board of Trade.

(2) It shall be the duty of advisory trade committees to advise and assist the Board of Trade in regard to any matters referred to them in connection with the management of labour exchanges.

(3) The members of an advisory trade committee including the chairman shall remain in office for three years.

(4) Vacancies, howsoever caused, occurring in the membership or chairmanship of an advisory trade committee shall from time to time be filled in the same manner as provided by sub-clause (1) of this regulation in regard to the original appointment of members and chairman. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall not hold office after the expiration of the period during which the person in whose place he is appointed would have held office.

(5) At the request of the majority either of the persons representing employers or of the persons representing workmen on an advisory trade committee present at any meeting, voting on any particular question shall be so conducted that there shall be an equality of votes as between the persons representing employers and the persons representing workmen, notwithstanding the absence of any member. Save as aforesaid every question shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting on that question.

(6) On any question on which equality of voting power has been claimed under sub-clause 5 of this regulation the chairman shall have no vote, but in case of the votes recorded being equal he shall make a report to that effect to the Board of Trade and may also, if he think fit, state his own opinion on the merits of the question.

(7) Subject to these regulations the procedure of any advisory trade committee shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Trade, or by the committee with the approval of the Board.

Grant of Accommodation within the Premises of a Labour Exchange.

VIII.—(1) All applications for accommodation within the premises of a labour exchange shall be made to the officer in charge of such labour exchange, who shall consult the advisory trade committee for the district. Any such application shall only be granted for such purposes and on such terms and conditions as the committee may approve.

(2) In the case of labour exchanges which were in operation before the passing of the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909, existing arrangements with regard to accommodation may be allowed to continue except in so far as they may be modified or cancelled hereafter.

Juvenile Employment.

IX.—Subject to these regulations, special rules may be made from time to time by the Board of Trade, after consulting the Board of Education so far as regards England and Wales and the

Scottish Education Department so far as regards Scotland and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland so far as regards Ireland, with respect to the registration of juvenile applicants for employment; that is to say, applicants under the age of 17 or such other limit as the Board may fix, either generally or as regards any specified district or trade or class of applicants.

The Board of Trade make these Regulations by virtue of the power conferred upon them by section 2 sub-section 1 of the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909.

Dated this 28th day of January, 1910.

H. LLEWELLYN SMITH,

Board of Trade, Secretary.
Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE FORM FOR REGISTRATION OF ADULT APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT.

(N.B.—Applicants are not compelled to furnish all the particulars specified.)

Surname..... Other names..... Age.....
Address.....
Work desired.....
Last employer and previous employer in that class of work, with address and period and date of employment.....
Qualifications for desired employment.....
Also willing to take work as.....
Whether willing to take work at a distance.....
When free to begin work.....

SECOND SCHEDULE.

FORM OF STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REGULATION III. (1).

I, the undersigned, being duly authorised by (give the name of the association) beg to notify that the above Association has a trade dispute, involving (insert "a strike" or "a lock-out," as the case may be), with (give the names of firms or class of firms or the name of the association).

Dated this day of 19

Signature

Address

Special Rules with regard to Registration of Juvenile Applicants in England and Wales made in pursuance of Regulation No. IX. of the General Regulations for Labour Exchanges managed by the Board of Trade.

1. Juvenile applicants for employment shall register on the forms prescribed in the Schedule to these Rules, subject to such modifications as may be made therein by the Board of Trade from time to time. Such applicants, or any prescribed class of such applicants, may be permitted in lieu of attending personally at a labour exchange to register their applications at such other places as may be recognised by the Board of Trade as suitable for the purpose. Forms containing such applications, if transmitted forthwith to a labour exchange, shall be treated as equivalent to personal registration.

2.—(1) Special advisory committees for juvenile employment shall be established in such areas as the Board of Trade may think expedient. These committees shall include persons possessing experience or knowledge of education or of other conditions affecting young persons, appointed after consulting such authorities, bodies and persons as the Board think best qualified to advise them, and also persons representing employers and workmen, appointed after consulting any advisory trade committee established in the district in pursuance of Regulation No. VII. of the General Regulations, together with a chairman appointed by the Board.

(2) Such labour exchange officers as may be designated by the Board of Trade, and such of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools as may be designated by the Board of Education, may be present at meetings of the special advisory committees, but shall not be members thereof.

3. Subject to these rules, the procedure of a special advisory committee for juvenile employment shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Trade or by the committee with the approval of the Board.

4. It shall be the duty of a special advisory committee to give advice with regard to the management of any labour exchange in its district in relation to juvenile applicants for employment.

5. Subject to these rules a special advisory committee may take steps, either by themselves or in co-operation with any other bodies or persons, to give information, advice, and assistance to boys and girls and their parents with respect to the choice of employment and other matters bearing thereon. Provided that the Board of Trade and the officer in charge of a labour exchange shall undertake no responsibility with regard to any advice or assistance so given.

6.—(1) If any Local Education Authority for Higher Education which has or may acquire statutory powers for the purpose of giving advice, information, or assistance to boys and girls with respect to the choice of employment or other matters bearing thereon, submits to the Board of Education a scheme for the exercise of those powers, and the Board of Education, after consulting with the Board of Trade, approve that scheme with or without modifications, the foregoing rules shall, so long as the scheme is carried out to the satisfaction of the Board of Education, apply to the area of that Local Education Authority with the following modifications:—

(a) The officer in charge of any labour exchange shall not undertake the registration of juvenile applicants for employment except in accordance with the provisions of the scheme.

(b) The special advisory committee for juvenile employment shall take no steps under Rule 5 except in accordance with the provisions of the scheme.

(c) The Board of Trade may, if they think fit, recognize, in lieu of any special advisory committee established or to be established under these rules, an advisory committee constituted under the scheme, provided that such committee includes an adequate number of members possessing experience or knowledge of educational and industrial conditions, and thereupon the Board of Trade may, if the circumstances require, either dissolve any special advisory committee or modify its area and constitution.

(2) Nothing in this rule shall affect the registration at any labour exchange of vacancies for juvenile workers notified by employers.

7. These Rules shall apply to the registration of juvenile applicants in England and Wales.

These Rules are made by the Board of Trade after consultation with the Board of Education in pursuance of Regulation No. IX. of the General Regulations for Labour Exchanges managed by the Board of Trade.

Dated this 7th day of February, 1910.

H. LLEWELLYN SMITH,

Board of Trade, Secretary.
Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

SCHEDULE TO SPECIAL RULES.

PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE FORM FOR REGISTRATION OF JUVENILE APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT.

Surname..... Other Names.....
Date of Birth.....
Full address.....
Name of last day school and date of leaving.....
Standard or class in which applicant was on leaving.....
Whether applicant was a half-timer before leaving and, if so, how long?.....
Whether attending or proposing to attend any continuation or technical school, and, if so, in what course or subjects, and whether in the day or evening.....
Employment or employments since leaving school:
(1).....
(2).....
(3).....
Employment desired.....
Whether willing to be apprenticed, and if so whether a premium can be paid.....
Whether willing to take work at a distance.....
Remarks.....

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY.

SIR ALFRED E. BATEMAN, K.C.M.G., the Arbitrator appointed to determine certain questions as to the rates of wages and hours of labour of engine drivers, firemen, cleaners, and turners, which the Conciliation Boards in connection with the North Staffordshire Railway had been unable to settle, issued his Award on January 28th. The operative part of the Award is as follows:—

1. When drivers and firemen are going or arriving by train to relieve other drivers and firemen, or after being relieved, they shall sign on and off duty at Stoke Passenger Station without any allowance before the booked time of the departure train by which they go to relieve or after their return.

2. Overtime shall be paid at the rate of 8 hours per day, to commence after 10 hours' duty. Each day to stand by itself.

3. That, in so far as the necessities of the service will permit, arrangements are to be made for all engine drivers, firemen, cleaners, and turners to remain off duty for at least 9 consecutive hours, and that in case of their being called out for duty before the 9 consecutive hours of rest as aforesaid have expired, they are to be paid at a rate and a half for the unexpired portion of the 9 hours.

4. That all time between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday shall be paid at a rate and a half.

5. Christmas Day and Good Friday to be regarded as Sundays.

6. That any man working in a higher grade than his own for not less than one whole day be paid not less than the minimum pay of the higher grade.

7. That at the option of the company the premium of £520 per annum for coal saving be discontinued.

Conclusion.

1. I further declare and award that except as hereinbefore appears, I make no award upon any of the claims set forth in the said schedule hereto, and that thereby I mean, except as aforesaid, to leave in force for the duration of this my Award the practice of the company in respect of all the matters in controversy which was in force at the date of this my Award, but without prejudice to the power of the company to vary the said practice in its discretion, provided that such variation do not lengthen the hours of labour or lessen the rates of wages of the employees of the company.

2. I further declare and award that this Award shall come into operation on the 1st day of April, 1910, and shall be binding until the 31st day of December, 1913.

COMPULSORY SICKNESS INSURANCE IN NORWAY: NEW LAW.*

By a Law dated September 18th, 1909, and coming into operation on July 1st, 1911, a scheme of compulsory insurance against sickness for wage earners has been introduced in Norway.

The obligation to be insured applies to all workpeople and other employees of 15 years of age and upwards occupied within the kingdom, whether in private or public service, except where the contract of labour or service "is by its nature, or by specific agreement, restricted to a period of less than six days." Persons are exempt, who, either alone or jointly with husband or wife, have an income of over £66 13s. 4d. in the country, or £77 15s. 6d. in a town, as also are those suffering from chronic disease requiring constant medical attention, and sailors on voyages which usually take more than ten days out and home.

The law provides for the establishment, in every township in the kingdom, of at least one public Sick Insurance Office (called a District Sick Fund) for effecting the insurance of persons not already fulfilling their obligation through the agency of an existing communal or private (factory) Sick Fund recognised by the Government as complying with the legal standards as to the scale of sick benefits and the maintenance of the proper actuarial relation between that scale and the premiums charged.

The minimum benefits to be provided by the new public sick funds, or by funds recognised for the purposes of the law, are as follows: Free medical attendance including, when necessary, the supply of surgical apparatus and the extraction of teeth (but not the supply of artificial teeth). When sickness is caused by an accident entailing compensation under the Accident Insurance Law, free medicine is also supplied.

Where the sickness causes inability to work, a money-allowance is paid from the fourth day and continues for a period of 26 weeks, should the incapacity last so long. In the case of a woman, confinement counts as sickness, provided she has been a member of the Sick Fund during the whole of the ten months immediately preceding. Burial money (not exceeding £2 15s. 6d.) is paid in the event of death. Free medical treatment must also be provided for a husband or wife supported by a member of a sick fund, as also for any child under 15 years of age living at home.

The scale of the money allowance during incapacity caused by sickness, and the premium charged for insurance, are based on the earnings of the insured person. For this purpose every such person is assigned to one or other of the four following income classes:—

Class No.	Amount of Earnings.	
	Yearly.	Daily.
1	Up to £16 13s. 4d.	Up to 1s. 1½d.
2	From £16 13s. 4d. to £33 6s. 8d.	From 1s. 1½d. to 2s. 2½d.
3	" £33 6s. 8d. to £50 0s. 0d.	" 2s. 2½d. to 3s. 4d.
4	" £50 0s. 0d. to £77 15s. 6d.	" 3s. 4d. to 5s. 2½d.

In computing income a day's earnings are reckoned as $\frac{1}{360}$ of the earnings of a year, $\frac{1}{12}$ of those of a month, and $\frac{1}{7}$ of those of a week. Premiums and sick pay are computed in relation to the average daily earnings, which are taken to be, in Class I. the maximum of 1s. 1½d., in Class II. 1s. 8d., in Class III. 2s. 9½d., and in Class IV. 3s. 10½d.

The amount of the sick pay must not exceed 60 per cent. of the average daily earnings as defined above; nor, when added to any benefit received from another sick fund, may it exceed 90 per cent. of the earnings of which the sick person was actually in receipt at the commencement of the illness.

Of the premiums payable in respect of insurance six-tenths are borne by the insured themselves, one-tenth by the employer, one-tenth by the local authority

* Lov om Sykeforsikring af 18 September, 1909. Kristiania: Grøndahl & Sønns Boktrykkeri, 1909.

(commune or municipality), and two-tenths by the State. The combined shares of the premiums falling upon the insured and the employer are to be paid by the latter on the first Monday of each month, and the portion for which the insured person is liable is deducted from his or her wages on pay-day.

Every employer is required to give notice to the District Sick Fund of workpeople entering his service, unless he knows that such workpeople are fulfilling their obligation as to sick insurance through a recognised communal or private (factory) fund, and twice yearly he must give information as to such changes in wages as may involve the transfer of insured workpeople to another income or risk class.

Persons between the ages of 15 and 40, not subject to compulsory insurance, may insure themselves voluntarily on production of a certificate of the medical officer of the District Sick Fund, and provided the total income of such persons, together with the income of husband or wife, does not exceed £44 8s. 8d. in the country, or £55 10s. 10d. in a town, and that the value of their joint property does not exceed £389 in the country, or £555 in a town. A person voluntarily insured does not receive sick pay until he has belonged to the fund for at least twelve weeks. He is required to pay his premiums in advance every four weeks, and, once a year, he must furnish the Sick Fund with details as to his income and property. Of the premiums payable in respect of voluntary insurance the State defrays two-tenths and the local authority one-tenth, the remainder being borne by the insured person himself.

NEW NORWEGIAN FACTORY ACT.*

SINCE January 1st, 1910, the provisions of the Norwegian Factory Act of June 27th, 1892, have ceased to be operative, their place being taken by those of a law enacted on September 10th, 1909.

The range of establishments covered by the law is now both wider and more precisely defined than before. An establishment is regarded as having the character of a "factory" when it employs any power other than manual, or when it uses a steam boiler. Among the establishments now specifically brought under the law are (1) quarries and stoneyards in which at least five persons are regularly employed; (2) establishments making or using explosive substances; and (3) workshops in which handicrafts are carried on and in which at least five persons are regularly employed outside their own houses. With regard to certain classes of establishments, the decision as to whether, and, if so, under what circumstances, they shall come within the Act, is to rest with the King, acting on the advice of a Labour Council to be established under the law (see below).

The provisions for ensuring the health and safety of workpeople have been expanded in certain directions, more especially with regard to the inspection and certification of steam boilers, and the precautions to be taken against explosions of gas, dust, &c., through contact with artificial light.

For purposes of the present law "children" are defined as those under 14 years of age, and those over 14 who are still required to attend school. "Young persons" are those who have passed from the above definition of "children," and have not attained the age of 18. In future it will be illegal to employ not only children and women, but also lads until their sixteenth year underground in mines and similar workings; moreover, until reaching 18, youths must in future be employed underground only at such light work as may be permitted by regulations drawn up by the Labour Council.

As a general rule, children must not be employed in any industry coming under the present law. Nevertheless, a child who has attained the age of 12, and been medically certified as fit, may be employed, subject to the permission of the factory inspector, but only in light occupations and not for more than five hours daily. Children who have not completed their schooling may not be employed during school hours or during the hour immediately preceding the same, and in any case the daily hours of school and

work together must not exceed seven. Hitherto children might be employed for six hours daily, and the daily hours of school and work combined were unrestricted. In future young persons under 16 may not work more than 58 hours per week, the maximum hitherto having been 60.

Under the present law all workpeople without distinction are entitled to one hour's rest at noon when the working day exceeds eight hours. Hitherto intervals of rest were prescribed in the case of children and young persons only.

In occupations which require that night work should be done, or where such work is usually performed, young persons over 16 may, with the factory inspector's permission, be employed during the night, but not for more than eight hours. Where overtime is required to be done in the busy season, or where an exceptional increase of work occurs, young persons may be permitted to work at night, but the weekly maximum of hours must not be exceeded.

A provision contained only in the new law directs that when children and young persons attend technical or similar schools, their working hours are to be arranged so as to facilitate their attending.

Women are forbidden by the new law to be employed during a period of six weeks following their confinement, and the permission granted by the old law to resume work after four weeks on production of a medical certificate is cancelled.

In establishments employing more than 10 persons, and in any others where the factory inspector may so require, the employers are to draw up shop rules specifying the conditions as to employment and dismissal, payment of wages, infliction of fines, &c. The workpeople may elect five of their number to consider these rules, fourteen days being allowed for such consideration, and the observations of the workpeople's committee are to accompany the draft rules when they are forwarded for approval by the Labour Council. Under the old law the establishments required to draw up shop rules were limited to those employing not less than 25 persons, and eight days only were allowed wherein the workpeople might consider them. Under the same law also it was only required of the employer that he should state, on sending in the rules, that the employees had been consulted, but their observations were not required to accompany the rules.

Provision is made for the first time for the appointment of women factory inspectors in Norway, and the constitution of the local committees of inspection has been amended in the sense that, in future, one of the members of each committee must be a woman, and the workpeople must be allowed to participate in the election of members.

The law provides for the creation, by Royal Decree, of a Labour Council consisting of five members, and having its headquarters at Christiania. The chairman and his deputy, both of whom must have had legal training, will be appointed by the King for five years. Of the remaining four members and their deputies, two are to be employers and two workmen. The council is to act as an advisory body to the Government, especially in matters concerning factory inspection.

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE DRESS, MILLINERY AND MANTLE, SHIRT, BLOUSE, &c., TRADES.

In connection with the Enquiry* into the earnings and hours of labour in the clothing trades in 1906, particulars were received with regard to 53,575 workpeople employed in factories and workshops in the Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trade.

Ordered dressmaking is carried on almost entirely in workshops. There is an increasing tendency for ready-made costumes, &c. to be manufactured in factories in which power is used; but a great number are still made in workshops belonging to the retail or wholesale firms, or by outworkers taking work from such firms and making it up in their own workshops or in their homes.

Dress, Millinery, &c., (Workshop).

Of the 44,978 workpeople included in the returns 30,088, or 66.9 per cent. were women of and above 18 years of age, 14,711, or 32.7 per cent. were apprentices and learners (all ages) and girls under 18, and 179, or 0.4 per cent. were men and boys. The total number of women and girls returned was thus 44,799. Of these, 4,649 received no remuneration either in cash wages or "kind," and 54 received no cash wages, but were provided with board and lodging or partial board. Non-wage earning apprentices and learners formed 8.7 per cent. of the women and girls returned in the dress-making trade, 20.4 per cent. of the milliners, and 1.5 per cent. of the mantle makers.

Workpeople "Living Out".—Excluding from consideration all persons receiving board or lodging in addition to wages, and all unpaid apprentices or learners, the average earnings in the last pay-week of September, 1906, of the 37,772 workpeople covered by the returns received were 11s. 1d. For the 35,690 workpeople who worked full time the average was 11s. 2d. The respective average earnings of the women and girls, and of all persons (exclusive of those receiving board or lodging) who worked full time, and the average number of hours constituting full time, were as follows:—

District.	Average Earnings of Workpeople who worked Full Time in the last pay-week of September, 1906.			Average Number of Hours constituting Full Time per Week.
	Women.	Girls (excluding Half-timers).	All Work-people.*	
Northern Counties and Cleveland ...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	52.8
Yorkshire (excluding Cleveland) ...	13 7	3 7	10 9	54.2
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	13 10	3 11	11 4	55.6
North and West Midland Counties ...	12 0	3 2	9 3	53.8
South Midland and Eastern Counties	10 9	2 10	7 11	53.9
London ...	16 9	4 6	14 4	52.8
Westminster ...	18 0	4 10	16 2	52.0
Chelsea and Kensington ...	16 10	5 4	14 0	53.5
Marylebone and Paddington ...	17 0	4 10	15 2	52.0
Rest of London ...	14 11	3 11	11 9	53.1
South Eastern Counties ...	12 4	3 1	9 5	54.6
South Western Counties ...	10 1	2 5	7 3	54.5
Wales and Monmouth ...	10 5	3 5	8 5	54.1
Scotland ...	14 0	4 1	11 6	51.8
Ireland ...	11 2	3 4	9 11	52.3
United Kingdom ...	13 10	3 9	11 2	53.4

Fitters and cutters are the highest paid women in the dress and mantle workshops; 3.0 per cent. of them earned 80s. and upwards. Including those receiving board or lodging as well as those living out, fitters and cutters formed 8.7 per cent. of the women employed.

Excluding fitters and cutters the returns for workshops covered 19,696 dressmakers "living out"; of these 8,883 were bodice makers and 6,524 were skirt makers. Nearly all were paid by time, bodice makers on time-work averaging 12s. 7d. in a full week and skirt makers 12s. 3d.; the other workers on time wages averaged 11s. 5d. In considering the range of earnings of ordinary dressmakers it should be remembered that several amongst them pass on to the group of highly-paid fitters, or else become employers or workers on their own account.

Of the mantle makers "living-out" the time workers averaged 13s. 6d. for full time. Mantles manufactured in workshops are to a considerable extent cut out by men, either on the premises of a firm giving the work out, or in the workshop itself. The mantle makers have therefore not the same prospects of advancement as the dressmakers.

The averages for the milliners include head milliners, who rank as high among skilled workers as fitters in the dressmaking trade.

Most of the 9,940 girls included in the returns as "living out" and receiving wages were apprentices and learners, viz., 6,616 in the dressmaking trades, 1,911 in millinery, and 430 in the mantle making trades. For these paid apprentices and learners working full time in the last pay-week of September, 1906, the average earnings in dressmaking were 3s. 6d., in millinery 3s. 9d., and in mantle making 3s. 10d. Of the "other girls" 21 were half-timers, whose average wages were

* Including half-timers and a small number of men and boys.

2s. 9d. per week. As stated above, a considerable proportion of the girls in these trades are paid no money wages.

Workpeople with "Partial Board" or "Living in."—A number of workpeople were returned who, in addition to being paid cash wages, were allowed "partial board," e.g., dinner and tea, or "lived in," i.e., received full board and lodging. The total number returned as having "partial board" was 845, and as "living in" 1,658, being nearly all women in each case.

All Workpeople.—There were marked fluctuations from month to month in the number employed and the aggregate wages paid, and these fluctuations were, broadly speaking, of the same character in all districts.

The average hours of labour for all districts together were about 53½ per week, and ranged from an average of 51.8 hours in Scotland to 55.6 in Lancashire and Cheshire. In London they averaged 52.8 hours.

Dress, Millinery, &c. (Factory).

Of the 8,597 workers included in the returns in this group 7.0 per cent. were men, 2.1 per cent. lads and boys, 73.7 per cent. women, and 17.2 per cent. girls; 56.9 per cent. were piece workers, and 43.1 per cent. were time workers.

The average earnings in the last pay-week of September, 1906, of the workpeople covered by the returns were 14s. 5d. For the 7,928 workpeople who worked full time the average was 14s. 10d. The respective average earnings of the men, lads and boys, women and girls who worked full time were as follows:—

District.	Average Earnings of Workpeople who worked Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.				
	Men.	Lads and Boys (Full Timers)*.	Women.	Girls (Full Timers)*.	All Work-people.
Manchester ...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
London ...	30 3	9 6	14 9	6 10	14 5
Rest of England ...	34 0	13 10	16 7	6 0	16 3
Scotland ...	30 1	8 8	14 11	6 11	13 10
United Kingdom ...	32 8	7 0	14 4	4 10	13 7
United Kingdom ...	31 8	9 11	15 5	6 4	14 10

About half of the small proportion of men employed are warehousemen, packers, mechanics, or labourers. The only branch of the trade itself in which men are engaged is cutting, and in this branch the number of men included in the returns was smaller than the number of women; the average earnings of cutters who worked full time were 33s. 4d. per week.

Nearly three-fourths of the total number included in the returns were women. Forewomen and assistant forewomen formed 3.6 per cent. of their number and averaged 26s. 1d. for a full time week. Cutters were 4.8 per cent. and averaged 18s. 9d. for a full time week. Power machinists were 41.2 per cent. of the total number of women and hand sewers 31.6 per cent., the averages for full time being respectively 14s. 3d. and 14s. 7d.

Girls are able to earn more money in dress, millinery, &c., factories than in dressmaking workshops, where much more all-round skill is required, and several years' preliminary training is necessary. Manufacture on a large scale enables girls to be utilised on very simple operations. On the other hand the costume factory system requires less technical skill at the head than is required in workshops making dresses to order for private customers.

The number employed and the aggregate wages fluctuated considerably from month to month. January, November, and December were the worst months in every district.

The average hours of labour were less than in dressmaking, millinery, &c., workshops, the average for all districts being 50.8 hours. In Scotland they averaged 47.2 hours, in London 51.3 hours, in Manchester 51.6 hours, and in the rest of England 51.5 hours.

* No half-timers were returned.

* Lov af 10 September, 1909, om tilsyn med arbeide i fabrikker m. v.

* Cd. 4844 of 1909. Price 2s. 5d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

Shirt, Blouse, Underclothing, &c., Industry.

In this group are included returns from factories and workshops manufacturing shirts, collars, ladies' underclothing, aprons, pinafores, handkerchiefs, &c. Blouses are included wherever not manufactured in conjunction with coats and skirts, in which case they have been included in the dress, millinery and mantle trades.

The wages returns for 1906 included 35,624 workpeople, of whom 31 per cent. were employed in Ireland, and 23 per cent. in London; 68 per cent. were piece workers and 32 per cent. time workers.

Their average earnings in the last pay week of September, 1906, were 12s. 3d. This amount is inclusive of the effect of the short time or overtime worked in that week. For the 31,921 workpeople who worked full time the average was 12s. 8d.

Of the total number employed 5 per cent. were men, 2 per cent. were lads and boys, 71 per cent. were women, and 22 per cent. were girls.

The respective average earnings of the men, lads and boys, women and girls, and of all workpeople together who worked full time were as follows:—

Districts,	Average Earnings of Workpeople who worked Full Time in Last Pay-week of September, 1906.				
	Men.	Lads and Boys (excluding half-timers).	Women.	Girls (excluding half-timers).	All Workpeople (including half-timers).
Yorkshire (excluding Cleveland), Lancashire and Cheshire	s. d. 31 6	s. d. 9 5	s. d. 13 7	s. d. 7 2	s. d. 12 6
North and West Midland Counties	28 9	8 10	13 5	6 5	11 10
London	34 0	10 9	15 10	7 2	15 6
Rest of England and Wales	31 9	8 8	13 1	6 10	11 10
Scotland	39 3	9 5	13 4	6 7	12 3
Belfast	26 2	6 8	12 0	6 2	11 0
Londonderry (City)	21 10	8 0	9 9	4 8	10 2
Rest of Ireland	21 9	6 2	10 3	6 9	10 0
United Kingdom	29 10	8 11	13 4	6 9	12 8

More than half of the men employed were *foremen* or *cutters* averaging 40s. 5d. and 30s. 6d. respectively on time work for a full week, cutters on piecework averaging 36s. 11d. *Warehousemen* and *packers*, and miscellaneous classes of men averaged rather less than 26s. per week.

About 3 per cent. of the women employed were *forewomen* averaging 21s. 7d. for a full week, the group with the next highest rate being the *cutters* on time work, averaging 14s. 11d. *Power machine sewers* were one-half of the total number, averaging for full time 12s. 4d. on time, and 13s. 1d. on piece work.

Large numbers of *hand sewers* are employed in their own homes in Ireland, but London is the only district employing a considerable number inside the factory or workshop.

Two-fifths of the total number of girls included in the returns were *power machinists* averaging 5s. 8d. on time work and 8s. on piece work for full time; of all girls working full time 14 per cent. earned 10s. or upwards, the average earnings being 6s. 9d. A few half-timers were included, whose earnings on time-work averaged 2s. 3d., and on piece work 2s. 11d. for full time.

Judged by the numbers employed and wages paid in one week in each month of 1906, as shown by the returns received, seasonal fluctuations in these trades are not very marked in the factories and workshops.

In Ireland the average number of hours in a full week, exclusive of meal-times and overtime, was 49.9 in Belfast, 50.2 in Londonderry, and 53.7 in the Rest of Ireland. In London the average was 48.3, in Scotland 48.1 and in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire 51.0. For all districts combined the average was 50.2 hours.

AUSTRIAN SHOP-HOURS ACT, 1910.*

By a law dated January 14th, 1910, to come into force on April 14th next, workpeople and assistants in shops and warehouses, and those in the employment of carriers, are to have an uninterrupted period of at least 11 hours'

* Gesetz vom 14. Jänner, 1910, betreffend die Dauer der Arbeitszeit und den Ladenschluss in Handelsgewerben und verwandten Geschäftsbetrieben. Reichsgesetzblatt, 1910. Stück x.

rest after the day's work. For the drivers employed by carriers the minimum is to be 10 hours. An interval at mid-day of at least an hour is also to be given, and this must be increased to an hour and a half if the working time after mid-day amounts to more than four hours, and if the employees have to leave the premises for their meal.

Shops and other businesses where goods are exposed for sale, as also the offices and warehouses connected therewith, are to be closed between the hours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., but provision shops, with their offices and stores, may remain open until 9 p.m. The hours of closing may be wholly or partially suspended in holiday resorts during the season, after consultation between the Provincial Authorities, the Chambers of Commerce, and the representatives of employers and workpeople belonging to the Trade Guilds.

STATE SUBVENTIONS TO UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS IN DENMARK: SECOND REPORT.

THE First Secretary of H.M. Legation at Copenhagen, in a despatch dated January 29th, forwards a copy, with analysis, of the second report of the Inspector appointed by the Danish Government to supervise the unemployment funds coming under the law of April 9th, 1907. The period covered by this report is the first complete financial year since the law came into force, viz., from April 1st, 1908, to March 31st, 1909. (A summary of this Law is given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1907, p. 197, and the Inspector's first report was noticed in the number for February, 1909, p. 48.)

The law provided that funds formed by workpeople to insure their members against unemployment, and fulfilling certain conditions, might be registered, and thereby become entitled to an annual grant from the State of a sum equal to one-third of the premiums subscribed by their members. The total amount to be distributed by the State was not, under the law, to exceed £13,900 per annum. In the Budget for 1909-10, however, the State contribution was raised, and the sum accruing in this respect for the year 1908-9 is at the rate of one-half of the members' premiums, and amounts to £32,009.

On March 31st, 1909, 44 funds, with a total membership of 83,836, were on the register, 10 new funds, with a membership of about 8,800 members, having been recognised during the year. Of the 10 new funds, one, with a membership of 3,662, had no members with the requisite qualification of 12 months' membership, and had therefore not begun to distribute relief.

The total income of the 44 funds during the year was £74,625, of which £59,321 consisted of members' contributions. The latter amount was in excess of the ordinary subscriptions, a special contribution having been required in order to cope with an unusually large amount of unemployment during the year. Their expenditure amounted to £80,474, of which £69,038 was in the form of daily allowances, £5,240 in other forms of relief, while £1,344 was for expenses relating to the labour registries which, at the close of the financial year, were attached to nine of the Unemployment Funds, having a total membership of 26,999, and £4,852 was for expenses of administration. The expenditure of the funds exceeded their income by £5,849, but at the end of the year their total assets, including the contribution due from the State in respect of that year, amounted to £50,087.

According to the Danish industrial census of 1906, there were 176,368 workpeople of both sexes over 18 years of age eligible for membership in an unemployment fund. Comparing this number with the total number of members of the registered unemployment funds, it appears that 57.8 of the total male workpeople of Denmark, and 15.5 per cent. of the female, are insured against loss of employment in funds registered under the law.

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.

At the present moment there is no demand for more emigrants in Canada, except for female domestic servants. But by the end of March there will be the usual demand for farm labourers also, and farmers with capital. Any such persons, who contemplate emigrating, should begin to get ready. The strike of the Brussels carpet weavers at Guelph (Ontario) is still unsettled. A limited number of female workers are wanted in knitting, clothing and mica factories.

Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dollars (£5 4s.), in addition to a ticket to his or her destination, unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment, or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant. Such evidence should usually take the form of a letter of invitation from relatives or friends already in Canada endorsed by the nearest immigration authority, Mayor of Town, or Justice of the Peace in the case of places west of Port Arthur, or by the Immigration Department at Ottawa for places east of Port Arthur. All emigrants sent out to Canada by British charitable societies or by public funds must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada. Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or other charitable institution, he or she may, after investigation of the facts, be sent back to the United Kingdom, together with all those dependent on him or her.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—The coal strike is not yet fully settled; the Western and Southern miners, however, are returning to work, and it is expected that the Northern miners will return very soon. Trades—other than those of boilermakers and house painters, and those affected by the strike—have been "fair to, say, busy," and shipwrights, slaughtermen, flour millers, and tailors—both factory and order—have been very well employed. The demand for farm labour continues unabated, and competent men of this class, and female servants, are eligible for assisted passages to the State.

Other Australian States.—There is a good demand for farm labourers and female servants in the other Australian States, and Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia offer cheap passages to suitable persons. A large scheme for the settlement of emigrants on irrigation blocks in Victoria is stated to be in contemplation.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages are offered to female domestic servants if they will have £2 on landing. According to the last Report of the Department of Labour agricultural operations are busy everywhere, and competent farm hands, milkers and ploughmen are wanted; cycle and motor, coachbuilding, meat freezing, printing, woodworking, building, engineering and leather trades are generally only fair, but are active in one or two places. The clothing trades are active in Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill, and elsewhere, and in the tailoring (order) trade good coat hands are wanted in many places. Unskilled labourers are rather quiet.

South Africa.

The general improvement in the state of the Labour Market in Cape Colony continues, and there have been a few vacancies for compositors, linotype operators (British and Dutch), saddlers, tinsmiths and upholsterers. Otherwise the supply of all kinds of male labour both in Cape Colony and in other parts of South Africa is sufficient. The stonemasons at Pretoria have been out on strike on the question of a reduction of their hours from

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

48 to 44 a week, with a corresponding reduction in wages. Female servants are in some demand in South Africa, and the South African Colonisation Society, 23, Army and Navy Mansions (No. 2), 115, Victoria Street, London, S.W., is prepared to assist suitable applicants.

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. 37 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in December.**—Employment in the building and allied trades declined to some extent in the provinces, but the November level was maintained at Paris. In the metal trades there was no change compared with the previous month; in machine shops employment continued to be much better than a year ago. Unemployment among tin box makers on the coast of Brittany returned to a high level. There was no change in employment among watch and clockmakers of the Franche-Comté and Savoy. In the textile trades employment was considered good in nearly every district, especially in the Nord; in silk manufacture it continued good for practically all power-loom weavers at Lyons, but was unsatisfactory in the smaller weaving sheds of Lyons, St. Etienne and the Haute-Loire. Employment declined slightly in the tailoring, dressmaking and hat-making trades. There was full employment in the printing trades. The improvement in leather dressing previously noted became more marked, and glove makers were satisfactorily employed, especially at Millau. The unemployment among vineyard workers in the South of France decreased during the month. Wood-cutters were gradually being taken on in larger numbers for work in the forests, but employment was not yet full. Although employment for gardeners at Paris continued to decline, it could still be regarded as satisfactory.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in December were received by the French Labour Department from 1,075 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 256,414. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais Department, 7.3 per cent. were described as unemployed, as compared with 6.6 per cent. in the previous month and 11.4 per cent. in December, 1908. (As regards these figures, see above, under "Labour Abroad.")

*Labour Disputes in December.**—Sixty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in December, compared with 63 in the previous month and 58† in December, 1908. In 62 of the new disputes 5,609 workpeople took part, as compared with 7,403 who took part in 57 of the November disputes, and 5,946 who took part in the disputes of December, 1908. The groups of trades in which the greatest number of disputes occurred were textiles (21), building (8), transport (8), metal (7), and leather (6). Of 65 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 12 ended in favour of the workpeople and 33 in favour of the employers, while 20 were compromised.

GERMANY.

Employment in December.—The following is a summary of the state of the labour market in December, as described in the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for January:—

In December employment was better than in the previous month in certain of the larger industries, and better than a year ago in almost every industry. Nevertheless, in the second half of the month a decline was to be observed.

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

Mining.—The improvement in the Ruhr coalmining industry continued, and the increased demand for industrial coal was maintained. In the Saar district and Silesia, the mines were also well employed. In lignite mining, on the other hand, employment declined at many works, chiefly owing to the lessened demand for house coal and briquettes during the mild weather.

Metal Trades.—In these trades employment was almost everywhere satisfactory. The reports as to pig iron production showed that in December the level of the previous month was maintained both in Upper Silesia and in West and Central Germany. The establishments of the Steel Works Federation were better employed than in November, and the output of partly-manufactured iron, railway material and girders increased. Iron foundries, too, were well employed, and in some parts, in Western Germany for instance, employment was better than in November. In the engineering trades the improvement reported in the previous month was maintained.

Textile Trades.—Employment continued bad for cotton spinners in Silesia, South Germany and Alsace Lorraine, but improved in Saxony. The other branches of the textile industry, such as the woollen, linen and cloth trades, reported improvement in many cases.

Building Trades.—The building trades showed a decline in many places, but owing to the mild weather the falling off was less marked than is usual in the winter season.

Miscellaneous Trades.—In the clothing trades employment declined in some branches towards the end of the month, but in others the spring orders brought an increase of work, a favourable factor in many cases being the early date upon which Easter falls in 1910. The chemical, india-rubber and paper trades were busily employed, but the usual decline set in after Christmas. The Christmas season caused increased activity in the tobacco trades, but this was only temporary. In the brewing trade, although the mild weather and the Christmas season caused increased sales, employment in Berlin remained, as before, rather unfavourable.

Unemployment in Fourth Quarter of 1909.*—The Reichs-Arbeitsblatt states that returns relating to unemployment during the fourth quarter of 1909 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by trade unions with an aggregate membership at the end of the quarter of 1,387,141. From certain branches of the unions reporting, however, no returns were available; omitting these, the membership covered was 1,383,513, of whom 35,881 (or 2·6 per cent.) were stated to be unemployed on January 1st, 1910, as compared with 27,773 (or 2·0 per cent.) on November 20th, 1909, and 27,221 (or 2·0 per cent.) on October 23rd, 1909. The corresponding percentage for the end of December, 1908, was 4·4.

The following Table shows for all unions reporting and for each of the six principal unions for which figures are available the membership at the end of the fourth quarter of 1909 (i.e., on January 1st, 1910), the percentage of members returned as out of work on a certain day near the end of each month of the quarter, and the corresponding percentage for the end of the fourth quarter of 1908:—

Name of Union.	Membership at end of Fourth Quarter (Jan. 1, 1910).	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed on			
		Jan. 1, 1910.	Nov. 20, 1909.	Oct. 23, 1909.	Dec. 26, 1908.
All Unions making Returns	1,383,513	2·6	2·0	2·0	4·4
Principal Unions:—					
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)	370,430	2·4	2·2	2·4	4·2
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker)	37,947	1·2	1·3	0·9	2·6
Woodworkers	149,591	4·9	3·7	2·3	9·0
Miners	120,280	0·1	0·1	0·1	0·2
Printers	56,894	4·2	4·5	5·5	4·9
Transport Workers	96,913	2·1	1·7	1·2	2·3

* These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentage for the United Kingdom given on p. 37. See also Note on p. 45 under "Labour Abroad."

BELGIUM.*

Employment in December.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 2·7 per cent. of the 50,070 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of December, as compared with 2·3 per cent. in the previous month, and 5·7 per cent. in December, 1908. (As regards these figures see note on p. 45 under "Labour Abroad.")

Labour Disputes in December.—Five strikes, affecting 343 workpeople (229 directly and 114 indirectly), were reported to have commenced in December. Two other strikes, which had commenced before December, and in which approximately 3,000 persons were involved, were also in progress during the month. Of three strikes which were reported to have terminated, one, affecting 34 strikers, ended in favour of the workpeople, and another, affecting 4 strikers, in favour of the employers, while the third, affecting 19 strikers, was compromised.

NORWAY.†

Employment in December.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of December in trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, comparative figures relating to the same unions for the previous month and for December, 1908, being added:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed		
	Dec. 31st, 1909.	Nov. 30th, 1909.	Dec. 31st, 1908.	Dec. 31st, 1909.	Nov. 30th, 1909.	Dec. 31st, 1908.
Bricklayers and Masons	550	359	347	42·9	39·0	65·1
Carpenters and Joiners	583	585	536	13·2	8·7	26·9
Painters	400	400	425	37·3	19·3	29·9
Metal Workers	5,372	5,057	5,293	3·8	3·5	5·5
Boot and Shoe Makers	544	530	525	5·9	0·2	2·9
Printers	1,405	1,394	1,327	1·9	1·0	2·7
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers	1,028	1,036	1,244	0·1	0·1	0·6
Cabinet Makers	395	400	409	1·5	1·3	5·4
Sawyers and Planers	408	402	482	17·6	10·7	24·1
Bakers	265	250	211	15·0	10·8	14·2
Tinned Goods Workers	219	228	361	7·4	4·8	15·8
Total	10,924	10,670	11,160	7·0	5·2	9·6

(As regards these figures see note on p. 45 under "Labour Abroad.")

SWITZERLAND.

Law of the Canton of Geneva granting a State Subsidy to Unemployment Insurance Funds.—By a law dated November 6th, 1909, which came into force on the 12th December last, the Cantonal Government of Geneva is authorised, for a period of ten years, to grant subsidies to the amount of sixty per cent. of the sums paid to their members by unemployment insurance funds which are attached to trade unions, and which fulfil certain conditions as to registration. Such grants are not to accrue for more than sixty days in the year in respect to any one member, and are to be paid only with regard to members who have been domiciled in Geneva for twelve months, or have been members of a Swiss trade union for a similar period. The State grant will not be paid in respect of unemployment caused by strikes, sickness, accidents or physical incapacity.

UNITED STATES.

Unemployment in New York State, September 30th, 1909.—According to information furnished by H.M. Consul-General at New York, the number of members of trade unions unemployed on September 30th, 1909, was 36,968. Of these 31,101 or 8·7 per cent. of the total membership of the unions reporting were unemployed owing to causes other than disputes or disability. The corresponding percentage for June 30th, 1909, was 13·1.

* Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
† Arbeidsmarkedet (Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office).
‡ République et Canton de Genève: Loi accordant la subvention de l'Etat aux Caisses Professionnelles d'Assurances contre le Chômage. Du 6 Novembre, 1909.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN JANUARY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 506 Returns—440 from Employers, 48 from Trade Unions, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry was good during January, and, after making allowance for holidays and disputes, showed a slight improvement as compared with December, and was also better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,330 pits employing 665,295 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended January 22nd, was 4·89, as compared with 5·49 days in December, and 5·03 a year ago. In January, 1910, the time lost on account of holidays was 0·38 of a day per week, and in January, 1909, 0·30 of a day per week; in addition, 0·3 of a day per week was lost in January, 1910, on account of disputes.

Of the 665,295 workpeople covered by the Returns 431,903 (64·9 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended January 22nd, 1910, while 245,619 (36·9 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in January was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5·65 days), and the lowest in Northumberland (3·77 days), and in Durham (3·96 days), in both of which districts much time was lost through disputes.

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended January 22nd, together with the figures for similar periods in December and January, 1909:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Jan., 1910.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in Four Weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1910, on a	
		Jan. 22nd, 1910.†	Dec. 18th, 1909.	Jan. 23rd, 1909.†	Mnth ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland	45,168	3·77	5·44	4·94	-1·67	-1·17
Durham	116,555	3·96	5·49	5·10	-1·53	-1·14
Cumberland	7,442	5·08	5·63	4·98	-0·55	+0·10
South Yorkshire	72,664	5·14	5·63	5·00	-0·49	+0·14
West Yorkshire	25,636	5·25	5·57	4·74	-0·32	+0·51
Lancashire and Cheshire	59,883	5·07	5·34	4·87	-0·27	+0·22
Derbyshire	44,453	5·13	5·52	4·82	-0·39	+0·31
Nottingham and Leicestershire	34,965	4·74	4·97	4·41	-0·23	+0·33
Staffordshire	30,130	5·16	5·55	5·06	-0·39	+0·10
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop	9,368	5·14	5·44	5·30	-0·30	+0·16
Gloucester and Somerset	8,252	5·34	5·72	4·77	-0·38	+0·57
North Wales	10,423	5·58	5·86	5·51	-0·28	+0·07
South Wales and Mon.	142,005	5·65	5·68	5·62	-0·03	+0·03
ENGLAND AND WALES	607,844	4·91	5·33	5·11	-0·62	-0·20
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	25,828	4·65	5·33	4·34	-0·68	+0·31
The Lothians	4,543	4·70	5·28	4·19	-0·58	+0·51
Fife	26,739	4·65	4·87	3·83	-0·22	+0·82
SCOTLAND	57,110	4·68	5·11	4·09	-0·46	+0·56
IRELAND	641	4·78	5·62	4·86	-0·84	-0·08
United Kingdom	665,295	4·89	5·49	5·03	-0·60	-0·14

Compared with a month ago, and after making allowance for holidays, there was a marked improvement in South Wales and Monmouth, The Lothians, and Fife; in Gloucester and Somerset there was a decline; if the time lost on account of disputes be also

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

† This period was affected by holidays and disputes.

‡ This period was affected by holidays.

allowed for, there was a decline in Northumberland, and but little change in Durham.

As compared with a year ago, there was an improvement in every district except Northumberland and Durham, in which there was no change. The improvement was most marked in Cumberland, West Yorkshire, North Wales, South Wales and Monmouth, the Midlands, and in Fife.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week by the pits, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople are engaged.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Jan., 1910.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in the Four weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1910, on a	
		Jan. 22nd, 1910.*	Dec. 18th, 1909.	Jan. 23rd, 1909.†	Mnth ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite	7,810	5·45	5·43	5·28	+0·02	+0·17
Coking	34,125	4·70	5·56	5·08	-0·86	-0·38
Gas	42,896	4·11	5·54	5·10	-0·43	-0·99
House	81,930	4·85	5·36	4·83	-0·51	+0·02
Steam	271,496	5·09	5·53	5·16	-0·44	-0·07
Mixed	227,038	4·85	5·48	4·90	-0·63	-0·05
All Descriptions	665,295	4·89	5·49	5·03	-0·60	-0·14

As compared with both a month ago and a year ago there was an improvement at pits producing anthracite. In the pits producing coking, gas and steam coal the decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago is due to the effect of the holidays and to disputes in Northumberland and Durham.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in January, 1910, amounted to 4,407,480 tons, or 1,135,788 tons less than in December, 1909, and 87,024 tons less than in January, 1909.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 75 Returns—57 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in iron mines was fairly good on the whole, and showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. Short time was worked in the Cleveland district owing to the dispute in the coal trade in Durham. Employment continued fairly good in shale mines, but was not so good as a year ago.

In tin and copper mines employment was still moderate. In lead mines it was fair. Employment was moderate on the whole in quarries, and bad weather caused much interruption to work; it was still slack in the North Wales slate quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended January 22nd, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5·57, as compared with 5·75 a month ago, and 5·58 a year ago. Time lost through holidays amounted to 0·25 of a day per week in the four weeks ended January 22nd, as compared with 0·31 of a day in the corresponding period a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Workpeople employed in Jan., 1910.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1909, on a	
		Jan. 22nd, 1910.†	Dec. 18th, 1909.	Jan. 23rd, 1909.†	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland	8,040	5·45	5·75	5·74	-0·30	-0·29
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,598	5·75	5·67	5·42	+0·09	+0·34
Scotland	925	5·26	5·90	4·92	-0·64	+0·34
Other Districts	2,483	5·71	5·82	5·62	-0·11	+0·09
All Districts	16,052	5·57	5·75	5·58	-0·18	-0·01

* This period was affected by holidays and disputes.

† This period was affected by holidays.

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 75.7 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended January 22nd, 1910, as compared with 90.1 per cent. in December, 1909, and 79.9 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns were received 3,218 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended January 22nd, 1910, as compared with 3,223 in December, 1909, and 3,377 in January, 1909. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended January 22nd, was 5.21, as compared with 5.59 in the previous month, and 5.38 a year ago. These comparisons, however, are affected by holidays, which amounted to 0.55 of a day per week in January, 1910, and 0.50 of a day in January, 1909.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall continued moderate on the whole; it was fair in the Camborne district, and there was a little improvement near Liskeard, but in the Calstock district employment was bad.

Lead Mining.—Employment was fairly good in North Wales and in the Matlock district. In Weardale employment was reported as fair, but somewhat affected by bad weather.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack in North Wales generally; short time was still worked at some of the quarries. Employment was quiet at Ballachulish (Argyll). At Delabole (Cornwall) it was fair.

Granite.—Employment was good in Leicestershire. At Aberdeen it was still moderate. It was moderate, on the whole, in Cornwall, and fair at Princetown (Devon).

Limestone.—Employment was good in Cumberland until the last week of the month, when a decline was reported. In Weardale and North Wales and at Buxton irregularity of employment was caused by bad weather. Employment was bad in the Somerset blue lias quarries.

Other Stone.—Employment continued fair in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. In the chert quarries at Bakewell it was good. Employment was moderate in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries and at the Portland quarries; it was slack in the Bath stone quarries. In the Cleve Hill road material quarries employment was hindered by bad weather and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Employment was also adversely affected by the weather in the Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham districts. Employment remained bad in Forfarshire. At the Gateshead freestone quarries the dispute continue to affect employment.

Settling.—Employment remained fair on the whole in Scotland, and good in Leicestershire. It was fair generally in North Wales. In the Cleve Hill district bad weather affected employment, which was worse than a month ago.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district, and was moderate at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 117 Returns—110 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during January continued moderate. It was, however, better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of January, 1910, was 301, as compared with 300* in December, 1909, and 284 in January, 1909. Six furnaces were re-lit during the month (four in Lanarkshire and one each in Staffordshire and in the Cleveland district), while 5 were either damped down or blown out (three in Cumberland, and one each in North Wales and Ayrshire).

The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 22,600; an increase of 3.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

* Revised figures.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1910, on a	
	Jan., 1910.	Dec., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	84	83	77	+ 1	+ 7
Cumberland & Lancs.	29	32*	25	- 3	+ 4
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	12	12	11	...	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham	31	31	29	...	+ 2
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	25	...	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	34	33	34	+ 1	...
S. Wales & Monmouth	11	11	11
Other districts ...	5	6	6	- 1	- 1
England & Wales	232	234*	218	- 2	+ 14
Scotland	69	66	66	+ 3	+ 3
Total	301	300*	284	+ 1	+ 17

The Imports of iron ore in January, 1910, amounted to 551,982 tons, or 64,411 tons less than in December, 1909, but 110,583 tons more than in January, 1909.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in January, 1910, amounted to 119,116 tons, or 35,523 tons more than in December, 1909, and 55,631 tons more than in January, 1909.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued very good. It was better than a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns 417 tinplate mills were working at the end of January as compared with 419 a month ago and 399 in January, 1909. The numbers of sheet mills working at the same dates were 54, 52, and 49 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour were about equal. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 23,550 workpeople.

The following Table shows the number of works open and the number of mills working at the end of January, 1910, together with the increases or decreases as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

	Number of Works open.			Number of Mills in operation.		
	At end of Jan., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Year ago.	At end of Jan., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Year ago.
Tinplate Works	76	...	+ 1	417	- 2	+ 18
Steel Sheet Works	8	54	+ 2	+ 5
Total	84	...	+ 1	471	...	+ 23

Exports.—The Table below shows the exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, for the months stated:—

	Jan., 1910.	Dec., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<i>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</i>					
To United States	7,211	4,663	3,593	+ 2,548	+ 3,708
" British East Indies ...	4,640	5,350	3,534	- 710	+ 1,068
" Germany	3,371	3,955	2,342	- 584	+ 1,029
" France	3,430	1,991	1,248	+ 139	+ 182
" Netherlands	3,570	3,281	2,100	+ 289	+ 1,470
" Other Countries	19,677	18,678	19,073	+ 999	+ 604
Total	39,899	37,218	31,898	+ 2,661	+ 8,001
<i>Black Plates for Tinning.</i>					
Total	3,369	5,681	4,972	- 2,322	- 1,313

* Revised figures.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 203 Returns—190 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 4 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was about the same on the whole as in December. It was better than a year ago.

As compared with December, the number of men employed was reduced, but the average number of shifts worked increased. Taking into account both the numbers employed and the shifts worked the volume of employment during the week ended January 22nd, 1910, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. on a month ago, and an increase of 7.3 per cent. on a year ago. The total number of shifts worked during the week was about 488,000.

As compared with a month ago, there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in Sheffield and Rotherham, and other Midland Counties; the other districts showed decreases, the largest of which occurred in Northumberland and Durham, Cleveland, and in Scotland. The departments chiefly affected by the decreases were open hearth melting furnaces and steel rolling mills, in which department, however, there was a noticeable increase in the number of shifts worked. The number of shifts worked was 5.49, as compared with 5.44 a month ago; the improvement was most marked in Northumberland and Durham, and the Other Midland Counties district. All the principal iron departments showed some increase, the most marked being at puddling forges and rolling mills; in steel departments there was a marked increase at rolling mills, while the other principal departments showed little change.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	Week ended Jan. 22nd, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 22nd, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
IRON:						
Puddling Forges	9,569	- 24	+ 283	4.87	+ 0.17	+ 0.05
Rolling Mills	3,864	+ 56	+ 99	4.86	+ 0.24	+ 0.10
Forging	414	- 7	- 56	4.75	- 0.16	- 0.69
Founding	1,713	+ 31	- 145	5.77	+ 0.08	+ 0.09
Other Departments ...	603	- 5	- 14	5.84	+ 0.38	- 0.04
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,763	- 111	+ 13	5.56	+ 0.08	+ 0.08
Total, Iron	17,926	- 80	+ 182	5.05	+ 0.16	+ 0.03
STEEL:						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,906	- 244	+ 478	5.85	+ 0.02	...
Crucible Furnaces	531	+ 13	+ 5	5.44	+ 0.02	+ 0.87
Bessemer Converters ...	1,721	- 44	+ 190	5.10	- 0.11	- 0.15
Rolling Mills	15,412	- 443	+ 1,456	5.43	+ 0.15	+ 0.36
Forging and Pressing ...	2,728	- 3	+ 81	5.33	- 0.05	+ 0.17
Founding	7,524	+ 190	+ 872	5.87	+ 0.02	+ 0.04
Other Departments ...	7,095	- 70	+ 499	5.71	+ 0.02	+ 0.09
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,618	- 134	+ 644	5.92	+ 0.02	+ 0.14
Total, Steel	60,835	- 735	+ 4,225	5.67	+ 0.05	+ 0.14
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):						
Rolling Mills	9,922	- 368	+ 90	5.09	...	- 0.08
Forging and Pressing ...	6,658	- 87	- 15	5.57	...	+ 0.23
Founding	2,211	+ 28	+ 7	5.95	+ 0.06	+ 0.07
Other Departments ...	3,252	+ 119	+ 393	5.89	- 0.02	+ 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	5,771	+ 144	- 132	5.76	- 0.03	- 0.04
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	20,312	- 164	+ 343	5.48	...	- 0.01
Grand Total	88,773	- 979	+ 4,750	5.49	+ 0.05	+ 0.08
Districts.						
Northumberland & Durham	9,010	- 385	+ 891	5.52	+ 0.20	+ 0.41
Cleveland	7,619	- 482	- 356	5.63	+ 0.03	- 0.11
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,293	+ 116	+ 1,158	5.59	+ 0.05	+ 0.10
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,090	- 34	- 19	5.49	+ 0.01	- 0.01
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	8,492	- 84	+ 1,267	5.34	...	+ 0.08
Staffordshire	10,293	- 47	+ 171	5.34	- 0.04	+ 0.05
Other Midland Counties	4,942	+ 51	+ 145	5.44	+ 0.15	+ 0.20
Wales and Monmouth ...	11,034	- 4	+ 907	5.63	+ 0.03	+ 0.11
Total, England and Wales	71,691	- 869	+ 4,167	5.51	+ 0.03	+ 0.10
Scotland	17,082	- 110	+ 583	5.42	+ 0.08	+ 0.02
Total	88,773	- 979	+ 4,750	5.49	+ 0.05	+ 0.08

As compared with a year ago, there were increases in all districts except the Cleveland and Leeds and Bradford districts; the largest increases were in the Northumberland and Durham, Sheffield and Rotherham, Cumberland and Lancashire, and Wales and Monmouth districts. All the principal departments except iron

founding were affected by the improvement. The average number of shifts worked showed an increase of 0.08 of a shift per week, the improvement being greatest in Northumberland and Durham, and the Other Midland Counties district. In the principal departments the most noticeable increase occurred in steel rolling mills.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during January, 1910, amounted to 108,884 tons, or 1,395 tons more than in December, 1909, and 13,093 tons more than in January, 1909.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron and tinned plates, and black plates for tinning) during January, 1910, amounted to 228,216 tons, or 12,527 tons less than in December, 1909, and 45,075 tons more than in January, 1909.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,017 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 971 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 39 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though still slack, showed an improvement as compared with a month ago, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 168,848 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of January was 8.5, as compared with 9.8 a month ago and 13.1 a year ago. Compared with a month ago, all the districts show a decrease in the percentage unemployed, with the exception of the Belfast and Dublin district, where there was a slight increase; the greatest decrease took place in the Hull and Lincolnshire district. Compared with a year ago, there were decreases in all districts, with the exception of the South Coast, which showed a slight increase; in most of the districts there were substantial improvements in employment, especially in Glasgow and district, the East of Scotland and the West Riding.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Jan., 1910.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage for Jan., 1910, on a	
		Jan., 1910.	Dec., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	14,977	13.8	16.8	19.8	- 3.0	- 6.0
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,504	8.1	9.8	12.8	- 1.7	- 4.7
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,228	14.1	15.0	15.6	- 0.9	- 1.5
West Riding Towns	12,314	10.8	13.4	17.7	- 2.6	- 6.9
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,939	6.4	12.6	9.2	- 6.2	- 2.8
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,072	5.0	5.3	9.0	- 0.3	- 4.0
Notts, Derby and Leicestershire District	4,319	7.3	8.4	12.7	- 1.1	- 5.4
London and Neighbouring District	11,753	4.0	4.8	8.3	- 0.8	- 4.3
South Coast	4,461	3.4	6.7	3.3	- 3.3	+ 0.1
South Wales and Bristol District	6,251	6.3	6.9	7.5	- 0.6	- 1.2
Glasgow and District	15,064	10.7	10.9	24.9	- 0.2	- 14.2
East of Scotland	3,742	17.4	19.5	25.3	- 2.1	- 7.9
Belfast and Dublin	3,543	9.7	8.8	15.7	+ 0.9	+ 6.0
Other Districts	5,537	6.2	7.5	11.6	- 1.3	- 5.4
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	168,848	8.5	9.8	13.1	- 1.3	- 4.6

On the North-East Coast employment, on the whole, was slack, but better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. It remained fair in the ordnance works at Newcastle. On the Wear it continued bad generally. With ironfounders and patternmakers at Hartlepool employment was fair. Wagon builders at Darlington were again well employed.

In Lancashire employment continued slack generally. At Liverpool, however, it was moderate with engineers and good with brassfounders. In the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn district employment was worse than a year ago, much short time being reported, but at Oldham it was good with electrical workers and fair with spindle and flyer makers and brassfounders. Employment at Barrow was fair generally, some night shifts being worked.

In Yorkshire employment continued slack, but was much better than a year ago. Some overtime was

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

reported at a few shops at Sheffield, and at Leeds employment was good with traction engine and ploughing tackle makers. It continued fair with patternmakers at Hull. At Lincoln it was fair generally. It continued good at Grantham, a good deal of overtime being worked.

At Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry employment continued moderate generally, and overtime was worked in the motor industry. At Nottingham it was moderate on the whole with engineers, but slack with ironfounders. It was good with bobbin and carriage makers, and also with lace machine and hosiery machine builders. At Derby it was again dull generally, but the motor industry was very busy. Employment was fair, on the whole, at Leicester and Loughborough, and good in some branches. It was fair at Luton, and moderate at Ipswich.

Employment was moderate in London, and considerably better than a year ago. At Erith it was good. In the Royal Dockyards it was fair, except at Pembroke, where it was still slack. It was moderate at Southampton. In the South Wales and Bristol district it remained dull on the whole.

Employment in the Glasgow district was fair on the whole, and very much better than a year ago; with ironfounders it continued slack. On the East Coast of Scotland it continued slack, except with patternmakers, who were fairly well employed; it was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. With brassfounders at Edinburgh employment was fair.

Employment continued dull in Ireland generally. A steady improvement was reported at Belfast, where ironfounders reported employment as good and patternmakers as fair.

The Imports of machinery in January, 1910, amounted to £333,816, or £5,459 less than in December, 1909, but £24,348 more than in January, 1909.

The Exports of machinery in January, 1910, amounted to £2,100,753, or £63,140 less than in December, 1909, and £181,170 less than in January, 1909.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 366 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 345 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January showed a further improvement, and was much better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,817 members reported 16.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of January as compared with 16.9 per cent. a month ago, and 23.0 per cent. a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* at end of	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in	
		Jan., 1910.	Dec., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,020	19.9	25.5	26.4	- 5.6	- 6.5
Wear	4,450	30.0	24.3	46.4	+ 5.3	- 9.8
Tees and Hartlepool	4,797	19.1	20.7	38.6	- 1.6	- 19.5
Humber	2,548	18.0	23.5	10.6	- 4.6	- 0.7
Thames and Medway	4,359	9.5	8.2	11.7	+ 1.3	- 2.2
South Coast	4,854	4.0	6.5	5.8	- 2.5	- 1.8
Bristol Channel Ports	2,724	17.6	20.0	16.7	- 2.4	+ 0.9
Mersey	4,104	17.0	8.3	12.3	+ 8.7	+ 4.7
Clyde	11,873	13.8	13.5	30.0	+ 0.3	- 16.2
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen	2,260	24.5	31.4	28.6	- 0.9	- 1.4
Belfast	2,858	10.8	13.4	16.8	- 2.6	- 6.0
Other Districts	2,961	10.7	15.0	13.4	- 4.3	- 2.7
United Kingdom	86,817	16.1	16.9	23.0	- 0.8	- 6.9

As compared with a month ago, eight districts showed an improvement, which was greatest on the East Coast of Scotland, on the Tyne and on the Humber. On the Mersey and Wear employment showed some decline.

As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in all the districts except on the Mersey and at the Bristol Channel Ports. The improvement was greatest on the Tees and Clyde.

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

On the Tyne employment though still bad generally, was better than a month ago and a year ago; it was good with shipwrights at Blyth.

On the Wear employment continued bad, but was better than a year ago.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. It was fair on ship repair work at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.

On the Humber employment continued slack generally, but was rather better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

In the Thames and Medway district employment was rather worse than a month ago, but was better than a year ago. With shipwrights at Chatham and Sheerness it was good.

On the South Coast employment was fairly good with shipwrights, and slack with boiler-makers. It was better than both a month ago and a year ago.

At the Bristol Channel ports employment was bad; it was rather better than a month ago, and slightly worse than a year ago. With shipwrights it was fair at Bristol.

On the Mersey employment was worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Barrow employment continued slack.

Employment continued bad on the Clyde, but was much better than a year ago. On the East Coast of Scotland employment, though still bad, was better than a month ago. It was fair with shipwrights at Aberdeen and Leith.

At Belfast employment continued slack; platers, shipwrights and ship joiners, however, reported an improvement. At Dublin employment was dull.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 101 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 68 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 23,064 reported 3.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 3.5 per cent. a month ago, and 5.0 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment remained fairly good with brassworkers at Birmingham and in Lancashire. Some overtime and some short time was reported in Manchester. With bedstead workers at Birmingham employment was fair and better than both a month ago and a year ago.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment was slack in the nut and bolt trade in Darlaston and district. It was fair, and better than a month ago, at Halesowen and Blackheath. At Birmingham it was fair with shoe rivet, wire nail and cut nail makers, and moderate with machine made rivet makers.

Wire.—Employment continued fairly good, on the whole, and better than a year ago. It was fairly good at Halifax, Sheffield, and Birmingham; fair at Middlesbrough; and moderate at Ambergate. With wire drawers at Accrington employment was worse than both a month ago and a year ago, and there was some short time.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Employment was fair with hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich. It continued bad and there was short time with lock makers at Wolverhampton and Willenhall.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was quiet on the whole. It was good at Falkirk and better than a year ago, though not so good as a month ago.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—At Sheffield employment was good with sheep shear makers, fair with edge tool grinders, moderate with file forgers, cutters, and hardeners, saw makers and pen and pocket blade forgers, and slack with other branches. It continued moderate but improving with edge-tool makers at Birmingham. At Redditch it was fairly good on the whole in the needle trade and quiet in the fish-hook trade.

Tubes.—On the whole employment continued good and much better than a year ago, with some overtime. It continued fairly good in the brass and copper tube trade at Birmingham.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—At Cradley Heath employment was fair, and better than a month ago with chain makers; it continued bad with anchor smiths. The anvil and vice trade at Dudley was reported to be improving slowly. Employment continued bad with railway spring fitters at Sheffield.

Sheet Metal Workers.—With braziers and sheet metal workers employment continued bad generally. It was worse than a month ago at Manchester, Bury and Bolton. It was moderate with tinplate makers-up at Birmingham, fair at Oldham, and bad at Glasgow and Aberdeen. Employment in the iron-plate trade was fairly good in the Lye district, though not so good as a month ago; it was slack at Dudley, Bilston and Wolverhampton.

Gold, Silver and Britannia Metal.—In London employment was fair and not so good as a month ago with goldsmiths and jewellers, and good about the same as a month ago with silver workers and electro-plate operatives; in both cases it was better than a year ago. At Sheffield it continued good with silver platers and gilders, and was moderate with silver and electro-plate finishers, and quiet with silversmiths. At Birmingham employment was quiet in the jewellery trade, as is generally the case in January, and also with silversmiths, and fair with Britannia metal workers. It was moderate in the Coventry watch trade.

Furriers.—Employment on the whole was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the value of cutlery and hardware imported and exported:—

Description.	Jan., 1910.	Dec., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1910, on a		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:—						
Cutlery	£ 5,588	£ 15,659	£ 6,783	- 10,071	- 1,195	
Hardware	79,948	101,155	71,045	- 21,207	+ 8,902	
Exports:—						
Cutlery	£ 58,054	£ 64,197	£ 41,976	- 6,133	+ 16,088	
Hardware	176,774	202,827	157,983	- 26,053	+ 18,791	
Implements and Tools	108,865	186,881	144,625	- 17,926	+ 24,260	
Total	124,451	- 1.6	- 2.5	101,600	- 4.0	- 15.7

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 471 Returns—400 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 63 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the spinning branch continued bad. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton,* and this short time working will continue up to the end of February. In the weaving branch employment was also bad, with much slackness and waiting for warps. In both branches employment was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 124,451 workpeople in the week ended January 22nd showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 15.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

As compared with a month ago, there was a decline of 2.3 per cent. in the numbers employed in the weaving department; the wages paid showed a decrease of 2.9 per cent. in the preparing and spinning departments and of 5.0 per cent. in the weaving department. As compared with a year ago the number employed showed decreases of 3.2 per cent., 1.9 per cent., and of 2.6 per cent. in the preparing, spinning and weaving departments respectively; as regards the wages paid the decreases were much greater and amounted to

* It is estimated that about 85,000 workpeople were directly affected, and of these about 40,000 are included in the returns received.

† Comparisons with a year ago in the amount of wages paid are affected by the reduction of 5 per cent. in the preparing and spinning departments which took place in March last.

23.1 per cent. in the preparing department, 19.3 per cent. in the spinning department, and 13.4 per cent. in the weaving department.

The greatest decrease in the numbers employed, as compared with a month ago, occurred in the Oldham district (5.9 per cent.). There were decreases in the amount of wages paid in most of the principal districts; the most marked decreases were in the Oldham district, 8.5 per cent., and in the Blackburn and Burnley districts, 7.8 and 7.5 per cent. respectively; in the Ashton, Bury and Manchester districts there were slight increases. As compared with a year ago the numbers employed showed a decrease of 6.2 per cent. in the Oldham district and of 6.0 per cent. in the Ashton district. As regards the wages paid there were decreases of over 20 per cent. in the Oldham, Blackburn, Stockport and Manchester districts; in the Ashton district the decrease amounted to 18.2 per cent., and in the Bury district to 15.0 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Jan. 22nd, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.	Week ended Jan. 22, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	14,318	- 0.8	- 3.2	10,886	- 2.9	- 25.1
Spinning	26,469	- 1.0	- 1.9	20,860	- 2.9	- 19.3
Weaving	56,404	- 2.3	- 2.6	44,220	- 5.0	- 13.4
Other	10,110	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	10,883	- 3.1	- 5.4
Departments not specified	17,150	- 2.1	- 3.8	15,062	- 3.9	- 18.0
Total	124,451	- 1.6	- 2.5	101,600	- 4.0	- 15.7
Districts.						
Ashton District	7,110	- 3.8	- 6.0	6,152	+ 1.7	- 18.2
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,338	- 1.0	+ 0.1	4,804	- 0.4	- 22.3
Oldham District	12,975	- 5.9	- 6.2	10,958	- 8.5	- 25.6
Bolton and Leigh	13,797	- 1.6	- 3.5	11,761	- 4.6	- 11.1
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden & Todmorden	9,243	- 1.0	- 1.3	8,030	+ 0.7	- 15.0
Manchester	9,029	- 0.7	- 0.5	5,719	+ 1.7	- 21.8
Preston and Chorley	13,786	- 1.7	- 4.1	11,141	- 5.1	- 12.2
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	17,091	- 1.2	- 3.8	13,292	- 7.8	- 22.7
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	16,731	- 0.4	+ 0.9	15,399	- 7.5	- 11.6
Other Lancashire Towns	4,462	...	- 10.2	3,589	- 4.0	- 16.1
Yorkshire Towns	6,082	+ 0.1	+ 2.6	5,803	- 0.8	- 1.1
Other Districts	7,124	- 0.6	+ 4.3	5,550	+ 5.6	+ 5.8
Total	124,451	- 1.6	- 2.5	101,600	- 4.0	- 15.7

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of January, 1910, the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 7.90d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8.44d. and the lowest 7.56d. per lb. The average price for December, 1909, was 8.06d. per lb., and for January, 1909, 5.19d. per lb. For the period from February 1st to 10th, 1910, the average price of "middling American" was 7.97d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on February 11th, 1910, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,059,540 bales, as compared with 1,548,830 bales on February 12th, 1909.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during January, 1910, averaged 13.20d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 13.8d. per lb., and the lowest 13.1d. per lb. The average price for December, 1909, was 12.99d. per lb., and for January, 1909, 8.20d. per lb. For the period from February 1st to 10th, 1910, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 13.65d. per lb.

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

Description of Cotton.	Jan., 1910.	Dec., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	193,345	180,735	308,798	+ 4,110	- 109,863
Brazilian	9,273	7,351	8,141	+ 1,892	+ 1,082
East Indian	8,224	6,148	3,548	+ 2,076	+ 4,696
Egyptian	28,478	49,570	56,086	- 21,092	- 27,608
Miscellaneous	9,751	7,364	5,553	+ 2,387	+ 4,193
Total	249,521	260,148	377,036	- 10,627	- 127,515

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during January was 34, consisting of 28 cases of lead poisoning, 1 case of mercurial poisoning, and 5 cases of anthrax. In January, 1909, 38 cases of lead poisoning, 1 case each of mercurial and phosphorus poisoning, and 4 cases of anthrax were reported.

The number of deaths reported during January, 1910, was 4, 3 due to lead poisoning, and 1 to anthrax; the same numbers were reported in January, 1909. In addition to the above, 13 cases of lead poisoning (1 of which proved fatal) were reported in January, 1910, among house painters and plumbers, as compared with 24 (including 6 deaths) in January, 1909.

Analysis by Industries.

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

Table with columns for Industry, Cases (Jan. 1910, Jan. 1909), and Deaths (Jan. 1910, Jan. 1909). Sub-sections include Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax.

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.

* Of the 5 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry 1 was a female.

† Including 3 Dock Labourers.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

(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 January, 1910, was 258, an increase of 6 as compared with December, 1909, and of 27 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for January during the years 1905-1909 was 257, the maximum year being 1908, with 294 deaths, and the minimum year 1909, with 231 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in January, 1910, was 120, compared with the same number in December, 1909, and 114 in January, 1909. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in January, 1910, was 90, as compared with 99 in the previous month, and 76 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 48, 31, and 37 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in January, 1910, was 88, as compared with 302 in December, 1909, and 98 in January, 1909.

Table with columns for Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Jan. 1910, Dec. 1909, Jan. 1909), and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Jan., 1910, on a Month ago. Year ago.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Two serious disputes in the coal mining industry, arising out of differences as to the arrangements to be made in connexion with the operation of the Coal Mines Regulation Act (1908), began in January, 1910, involving directly and indirectly about 30,000 workpeople in Northumberland, and about 80,000 in Durham. In addition 10 disputes began during the month making a total of 12 disputes in January, 1910, as compared with 8 in December, 1909, and 28 in January, 1909. In the 12 disputes 88,772 workpeople were directly, and 22,008 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before January and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 114,224 workpeople involved in trade disputes during January, 1910, compared with 8,522 in December, 1909, and 12,021 in January, 1909.

New Disputes in January, 1910.—In the following Table the new disputes in January are summarised by trades affected:—

Table with columns for Groups of Trades, No. of Disputes, and No. of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly, Total).

Causes.—Of the 12 new disputes, 1 arose on a demand for increased wages, 2 on objections to reductions in wages, and 3 on other wages questions; 3 on questions of hours of labour, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 1 on details of working arrangements.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 4 new disputes, directly involving 279 persons, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 290 persons. Of these 8 new and old disputes, 1, directly involving 17 persons, was decided in favour of the workpeople; 4, directly involving 262 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 3, directly involving 290 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in January of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 1,111,700 working days. In addition, 76,000 working days were lost during January owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in January of all disputes, new and old, was 1,187,700 working days, as compared with 1,31,900 in the previous month, and 132,400 in the corresponding month of 1909.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with columns for Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute began in 1910, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

* 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.

SHIPS BUILT IN 1909.

According to Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping the total tonnage of vessels launched in the United Kingdom during 1909 was 1,117,296 tons; this was 113,441 tons above the total for 1908, but was lower than that of any previous year since 1897. The total output of the world during 1908 and 1909 was 2,142,975 tons and 2,006,532 tons respectively.

The following Table shows the annual tonnage launched in the United Kingdom in the last fifteen years:—

Table with columns for Year, Mercantile and other Vessels (not War Ships) in Tons (Gross), and War Ships in Tons (Displacement).

1909, with comparative figures for the previous year:—

Table with columns for District, Total Tonnage (including War Vessels) launched in 1909 and 1908, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1909, as compared with 1908.

As compared with 1908 there were decreases in the tonnage launched at Glasgow, Belfast, Dundee and Leith; at Newcastle there was not much change; in all the other districts there were increases.

The total output of the world during 1909 (exclusive of war ships) appears to have been 1,602,057 tons (1,537,570 steam, 64,487 sail). According to the latest returns received by Lloyd's Register, the tonnage of all nationalities totally lost, broken up, &c., during the twelve months amounts to about 868,000 tons (605,000 steam, 263,000 sail).

The net increase of the world's mercantile tonnage at the end of 1909 is thus about 734,000 tons. Sailing tonnage has been reduced by 199,000 tons, while steam tonnage has increased by 933,000 tons.

The following Table shows the districts in which the greatest tonnage, including warships, was launched in

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Wages.

Changes taking effect in January.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in January, 1910, was a decrease of £7,552 per week, as compared with one of £5 per week in December, 1909, and one of £2,385 per week in January, 1909.

One change, affecting 100 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; three changes, affecting 125,620 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and 19 changes, affecting 25,920 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales.

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

Summary of changes taking effect in Jan. Table with columns for Groups of Trades, 1909, and 1910. Includes rows for Building, Coal Mining, Iron & Steel, etc.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in January, 1910, affected 740 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 1,110 hours per week.

Principal Changes in January.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages and hours of labour taking effect in January, 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 AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN JANUARY.

Main table showing principal changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in January. Columns include Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupation, Particulars of Change, and Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Table showing hours of labour for Clothing in Northamptonshire, 1st pay Jan. Boot and Shoe Operatives, 700, Decrease of 1 1/2 hours per week (54 to 52 1/2).

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Full particulars will appear in the April GAZETTE of an increase of 2 1/2 per cent. which has been granted to coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire to take effect from March 1st.

Passengers to and from Places out of Europe.—22,151 persons left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, and 25,228 arrived from places out of Europe in December, 1909; the corresponding figures for December, 1908, were 18,583 and 24,788 respectively.

North America in December, 1909, of 3,186 as compared with 4,514 in December, 1908. There was an inward balance of 3,241 from the United States in December, 1909, as compared with 5,683 in December, 1908.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in January, 1910, in the 35 urban districts mentioned below, corresponded to a rate of 229 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with December, 1909, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 1,811 (0.4 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 1. The number of indoor paupers increased by 275 (0.1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 2,086 (0.9 per cent.).

Compared with January, 1909, the rate per 10,000 decreased by 7. The number of indoor paupers increased by 402 (0.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 7,539 (3.2 per cent.).

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of Jan., 1910. Columns include Selected Urban Districts, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population on a Month and Year ago.

Table showing Pauperism in January for ENGLAND & WALES.* METROPOLIS, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND.*, IRELAND.†. Includes detailed breakdowns by district and region.

* 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.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN JANUARY.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 67.

The Table given below summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in January, 1910.

Table showing Distress Committees in January. Columns include Distress Committees, Net No. of Applicants on Registers at end of Jan., 1910., No. given Employment-relief, Aggregate duration of Employment-relief, and Total Amount of Wages paid.

* The number on the registers of 29 London Committees. † In addition, 4 men were employed on piece-work. ‡ In addition 82 men were employed on piece-work. § No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men. ¶ Some not registered under Act.

J. Halliday & Co., Albion Mills, Pudsey.
 J. Harper & Sons, Eccleshill, Bradford.
 T. & H. Harper, Apperley Bridge, Bradford.
 W. & T. Huggan, Bramley, Leeds.
 YARN, COIR FIBRE—J. H. Vavasour & Co., Ltd., Ceylon House, 15/16, America Square, E.C.
 SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ERECTION OF A LANDING STAGE at the Military Wharf, Haulbowline Island, Cork Harbour—E. R. Lester, 13, Whitefield Terrace, Plymouth.
 WORKS SERVICES—
 Conversion of Barrack Huts to Married Soldiers' Quarters, Bulford Camp—Thomas & Edge, Anglesea Avenue, Woolwich.
 Erection of Barrack Block, Devizes—W. E. Chivers & Sons, 29, Sheep Street, Devizes.
 Erection of Field Officers' Quarters, &c., Bulford Camp—W. E. Chivers & Sons, 29, Sheep Street, Devizes.
 Erection of Group III. Quarters, Curragh—H. Lavery & Sons, Ltd., 12, Cambridge Street, Belfast.
 Erection of Harness Rooms, &c., Newbridge—T. J. Llewellyn, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
 Erection of Married Quarters, Fort Camden, Cork—T. O'Mahony, Sunmount, Fermoy.
 Erection of Married Soldiers' Quarters, Old Granby Barracks, Devonport—J. Crockerell, Richmond Walk, Devonport.
 Erection of Nursing Staff's Quarters, Military Families' Hospital, Woolwich—W. F. Blay, Ltd., Dartford.
 Erection of Ordnance Officer's Quarter, Tidworth—W. E. Chivers & Sons, 29, Sheep Street, Devizes.
 Erection of Sanitary Annexes, Combermere Barracks, Windsor—E. McCarthy Fitt, 118, Oxford Road, Reading.
 Erection of Sculleries, &c., Married Soldiers' Quarters, Hounslow—Holloway & Greenwood, Loughborough Works, Brixton.
 Extension of Heating Installation, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Millbank—E. Deane & Beal, Ltd., 1, Arthur Street East, E.C.
 Installation of Electric Light, Stanhope and Marlborough Lines, Aldershot—J. B. Saunders & Co., 91, York Street, Westminster, S.W.
 Installation of Oil Gas Lighting, Tipperary Barracks—Non-Explosive Gas Co., Blomfield House, 85, London Wall, E.C.
 Periodical Works Services, Canterbury—F. Holdsworth, 32, Saltaire Road, Shipley.
 Reconstruction of Drainage, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock—B. E. Nightingale, Albert Embankment, S.E.
 Reconstruction of Sergeants' Mess, Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow—J. Brown, Cairncross, Bothwell, N.B.
 Re-making Roads, Combermere Barracks, Windsor—Kirk & Randall, Warren Lane Works, Woolwich.
 Re-making Roads and Parades, Great Yarmouth—F. R. Hipperston, 93, Northumberland Street, Norwich.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

CABLE, PAPER CORE—
 Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, E.C.
 Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Blomfield Street, London Wall, E.C.
 Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Victoria Works, Charlton, Kent.
 Western Electric Co., Norfolk House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.
 COVERS, TIRE—
 D. Moseley & Sons, Ltd., 51-2, Aldermanbury, E.C.
 North British Rubber Co., Ltd., 2, 4 & 6, East Road, City Road, E.C.
 CRUTCHES, STAY—Bullers, Ltd., Tipton.
 LAMPS, GLOW—Edison & Swan United Electric Light Co., Ltd., 36-7, Queen Street, E.C.
 POLE DRESSING—R. Wade, Sons & Co., Ltd., Hull.
 TIN—Forster, Cawson & Co., 141, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
 TUBES, AIR, TIRE—North British Rubber Co., Ltd., 2, 4 & 6, East Road, City Road, E.C.
 WIRE, COPPER—
 T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., 88, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.
 British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Lennox House, Norfolk Street, W.C.
 R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Bradford Iron Works, Manchester.
 Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Wellington, Salop.
 F. Smith & Co., Ltd., Anaconda Works, Salford, Manchester.
 BURNLEY AND WARRINGTON MOTOR MAIL SERVICE.—Messrs. J. Blake & Co., Beaumont Street, Liverpool.
 ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GLASGOW—Messrs. George Ferguson & Sons, 144, Gardner Street, Glasgow.
 LAY AND JOINT LINES of Cast-Iron Pipes in Purley and Coulsdon—Wm. Griffiths & Co., Ltd., 35/39, Hamilton House, Bishopsgate Street, E.C.
 ELECTRIC LIFTS (12) at the New General Post Office, King Edward Street, London, E.C.—R. Waygood & Co., Ltd., Falmouth Road, Great Dover Street, S.E.
 ELECTRIC LIFTS (5) at the Head Post Office, Bristol—R. Waygood & Co., Ltd., Falmouth Road, Great Dover Street, S.E.
 ELECTRIC LIGHTING of Sheffield New Head Post Office—W. S. Vaughton, 38, Barwick Street, Birmingham.
 ELECTRIC LIGHTING of Block "B" of the Postal Telegraph Stores Depot, Cherrywood Road, Bordesley Green, Birmingham—Beaven & Sons, Ltd., 27, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.
 PNEUMATIC TICKET DISTRIBUTING SYSTEM at the Post Office Telephone Trunk Exchange, London, E.C.—Western Electric Company, North Woolwich, E.
 ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERY at General Post Office (West), E.C.—The Electrical Power Storage Co., Ltd., 4, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

ELECTRICAL SWITCHGEAR at King Edward Building, General Post Office (West), and General Post Office (South), London, E.C., British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., 83, Cannon Street, E.C.
 MOTOR CONVERTORS, &c., at General Post Office (West), London, E.C.—Bruce Peebles & Co., Ltd., East Pilton, Edinburgh.
 STEAM EXHAUST, FEED, &c., PIPEWORK at Post Office Central Power Station, Upper Ground Street, S.E.—Aiton & Co., Derby.

STATIONERY OFFICE.

PRINTING, BINDING, &c.—
 Binding 6,000 "Military Electric Lighting, Vol. I."—Harrison & Sons, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.
 Binding 17,650 "Telephone Diagrams—M. Bell & Co., Temple Works, Cursitor Street, E.C.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 8,000 books, "England No. 2 Receipt Book"; 2,000 books "S 553"; 500 Pension Order Books; 100,000 "Army Form B 50"; 1,100 "Foreman's Demand Books"; 1,000 "Head Office Postal Order Stock Book"; 15,000 "Lineman's Diary"; Supplying 3,000 "Army Book 166"; 500 Portfolios—Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Finsbury, E.C.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 1,000 "Linemen's Tally Books"; 3,000 Army Books 29 and 29A; Registered Postal Packet Delivery Receipt Book and Re-entry Books—McCorquodale & Co. Ltd., Wolverton, Bucks.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 50,000 "Continuous Certificate of Discharge"—Cartwright & Rattray, Ltd., Caxton Works, Hyde.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 17,000 books "S 77"—Waterlow Bros. and Layton, Ltd., Broken Wharf, Upper Thames Street, E.C.
 Supplying 15,000 Brown Millboards; 800 Portfolios—Fenner, Appleton & Co., Ltd., 77, St. John Street, E.C.
 Supplying 12,000 Army Form B. 207, "Recruits wanted for H.M. Foot Guards"—Armitage & Ibbetson, Ltd., Stott Hill Works, Bradford.
 Supplying 15,000 Royal Naval Posters—Acme Tone Engraving Co., Ltd., Watford, Herts.

STORES—

Supplying 864 Punches—Wilson & Smith, Birmingham.
 Supplying 12 "Revol" Duplicators—J. D. Carter, Ltd., Dartmouth Road, Victoria Docks, E.
 Supplying 700 lbs. Type—R. H. Stevens & Co., 89, Southwark Street, S.E.

OFFICE OF WORKS.

BUILDERS' WORK—

Aberdeen Labour Exchange, Adaptation—D. Macandrew & Co., 120, Loch Street, Aberdeen.
 Notting Hill Branch Post Office and Sorting Office, Extension—Sheffield Bros., Downs Park Road, Dalston.
 Seamen's Registry, Alterations and Additions—J. Dorey & Co., Ltd., Brentford.

FITTINGS—

New G.P.O., King Edward's Building, Fittings Contract No. 3—Galbraith Bros., Ltd., Camberwell Green Works, S.E.

LONG LOCKERS—

New G.P.O. King Edward's Building—Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., Caxton House, Westminster, S.W.

MARBLE WORK—

National Gallery Extension Marble Work—J. Whitehead & Sons, Ltd., Imperial Works, Kennington Oval, S.E.
 Admiralty Block IV., Marble and Tile Paving—Mosaic Marble and Tile Co., Ltd., 27, Gillingham Road, Cricklewood, N.W.

WOOD BLOCK FLOORING—

Western District Post Office—Acme Wood Block Flooring and Paving Co. (1904), Ltd., Gainsborough Road, Victoria Park, N.E.

COAL—

Tynybedw Large Colliery Screened Steam Coal—Cory Bros. & Co., Ltd., Bute Docks, Cardiff.
 Hill's Plymouth Merthyr Steam Coal—Adams and Wilson, 1, Dock Chambers, Cardiff.

ORDNANCE SURVEY.

PRINTING PAPER—

130 lb., 83 lb. and 55 lb. Lithographic—Alex. Cowan & Sons, Paul's Wharf, 24 and 25, Upper Thames Street, E.C.
 130 lb., 90 lb. and 50 lb. Copperplate, 104 lb. Lithographic—Hollingworth & Co., Turkey Mill, Maidstone.

OFFICE OF WOODS, &c.

BLOCK OF THREE COTTAGES with detached outbuildings at Holbeach, Lincolnshire—J. R. Bateman & Son, Sutton Bridge, Wisbech.

PRISON COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND.

CANVAS, BROWN FLAX—D. & R. Duke, Den Burn Works, Brechin.
 CANVAS, I.R.—The North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Castle Mills, Edinburgh.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND.

BUILDING WORKS AND SUPPLIES, Dublin District—J. & P. Good, Ltd., 55, Great Brunswick Street, Dublin.
 SAND AND GRAVEL SUPPLIES, Dublin District—John Clifton, Wilmington Villa, Islandbridge, Dublin.