# Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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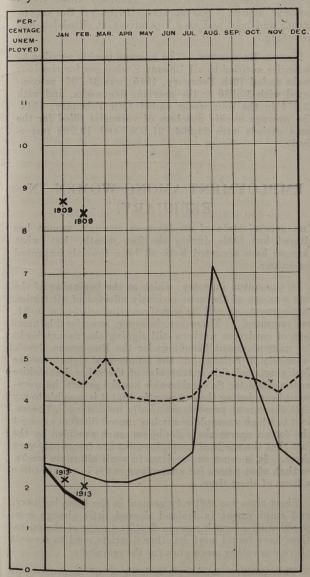
MARCH, 1915.

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#### EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1905-14.



#### NOTE TO CHART.

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

#### THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[For detailed reports on the principal industries see pp. 87 to 101.]

EMPLOYMENT in February showed a further marked improvement, and in some industries a shortage of male labour, especially of skilled men, was again reported.

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

The cotton trade again improved, while the lace trade, though still bad, showed a noticeable recovery. There was also an upward movement in the iron and steel, building, furnishing and woodworking, printing and pottery trades. The coal mining, pig iron, tinplate, linen, jute, silk and glass trades showed little change. The scarcity of agricultural labour is becoming increasingly felt.

During the month there was a marked upward movement in wages.

Compared with the good conditions of March, 1914, all trades engaged on Government work showed a noticeable improvement. There was, on the other hand, a marked decline in the tinplate, cotton, linen, lace, pottery and brick trades.

#### TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trades Unions with a net membership of 904,722 reported 14,388 (or 1.6 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1915, compared with 1.9 per cent. at the end of January, 1915, and 2.3 per cent. at the end of February, 1914.

The state of the s	Membership at end of Feb., 1915, exclusive of	Unemployed at end of Feb., 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. ( in percentage unemployed as co pared with a		
Trade.	those serving with H.M. Forces.	Num- ber.	Per- cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Building*	81,597	2,122	2.6	+ 0.4	- 2.6	
Coal Mining†	138,961	1,212	0.9		+ 0.4	
Iron and Steel	33,421	751	2.2	+ 0.1	- 1.8	
Engineering	218,761	1,532	0.7	- 0.21	- 1.7	
Shipbuilding	67,203	523	0.8	+ 0.1	- 1.4	
Miscellaneous Metal	34,931	265	0.8	- 0.3	- 0.8	
Textilest:-	198.4					
Cotton	82,460	1,843	2.2	- 0.8	+ 0.1	
Woollen & Worsted	8,401	78	0.9	- 0.8	- 1.6	
Other	51,712	1,157	2.2	- 1.7	+ 0.5	
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	62,095	2,579	4.2	- 0.8	+ 1.1	
Furnishing	18,428	1,206	6.5	- 0.9	+ 3.4	
Woodworking	29,529	468	1.6	- 03	- 0.6	
Clothing	63,476	462	0.7		- 1.5	
Leather	4,395	58	1.3	- 0.5	- 3.7‡	
Glass	880	18	2.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	
Pottery	6,178	30	0.5	- 0.8	- 0.1	
Tobacco	2,294	84	3.7	- 1.2	+ 0.8	
Total	904,722	14,388	1.6	- 0.3	- 0.7	

\* The Trade Union Returns relate mainly to carpenters and

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

‡ Revised figure.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of February, 1915, was 2.0, compared with 2.6 at the end of January, 1915, and 4.4 at the end of February, 1914.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those	Unempater F. b.,	nd of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage un- employed on a			
	serving with H.M. Forces	Number	Per- centage	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Building and Con- struction of Works.	889,975	30,877	3.5	- 1.0	- 2.8		
Engineering and Iron- founding.	730,785	6,541	0.9	- 01	- 2.3		
Shipbuilding	242,790	2,714	1.1	- 0.1	- 2.5		
Construction of Vehicles	184,720	2,556	1.4	- 0.4	- 12		
Sawmilling	11,165	169	15	+ 0.1	- 2.5		
Other Insured Work- people.	56,101	400	0.7	- 0.2	- 1.3		
All Insured Work- people	2,115,536	43,257	2.0	- 0.6	- 24		

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS:—MINING AND METAL TRADES. The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 720,779 workpeople in February in the industries mentioned:—

Trade.	Workpeople included in the	February,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a			
Abani Sosi Adla Mil	Returns for 20th Feb., 1915.	1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
faata han gantan.	4 200 200	Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.		
Coal Mining	551,260	5.61	+ 0.14	+ 0.04		
Iron ,,	12,949	5:90	- 0.04	+ 0.14		
Shale ",	3,301	6.00	+ 0.02	+ 0.27		
		Furnaces in Blast.	No.	No.		
Pig Iron	24,494	272	+ 3	- 3		
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	26,880	Mills Working. 448 Shifts Worked	- 4	- 151 P		
Iron and Steel	101,895	(One Week). 571,312	Per cent. + 1.2	Per cent 1:3		

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: -TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

RETURNS from firms employing 478,370 workpeople in the week ended 20th February, 1915, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 4.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.4 per cent. in wages paid.

acatastrog ni	Number	r Emple	yed.	Wa	ages Pai	d.
Trade.	Week	Inc. (-		Week	Inc. (-	
Dan Cont	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
200 2 2 4 1	Total Colon	Per	Per	£	Per	Per
Textiles :-	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	cent.	cent.		cent.	cent.
Cotton	108,134	+ 1.4	- 6.3	106,568	+ 5.8	- 9
Woollen	24.261	+ 0.4		25,899	+ 0.4	THE RESERVE TO SERVE
Worsted	35,831	- 0.7		29,714	+ 1.3	
Linen	41,607		- 6.0	24,536	+ 1.9	THE RESIDENCE
Jute	12,935		- 6.4	11,416	+ 5.5	
Hosiery	20,116		+ 4.4		+ 3.3	
Lace	6,687		-17.4	5,736	+13.6	- 30
Other Textiles	14,302	- 0.0	-13.2	11,138	+ 3.4	
Bleaching, Dye- ing, etc.	24,557	- 0.5	-13.5	31,092	+ 2.1	- 13
Total, Textiles	288,430	+ 0.4	- 5.9	262,898	+ 3.8	- 7
Boot and Shoe	65,385	+ 0.0	- 1.0	74,264	+ 0.5	+ 9
Clothing (Ready-made).	33,343		+11.4		+ 2.6	
Shirt and Collar	3 923	- 0.7	- 5.2	2,619	+ 5.6	- 5
Pottery		+ 0.8	- 8.9	15,649	+ 6.2	
Glass			- 7.1	9,801	+ 0.4	
Brick	9,061		-22.4		- 4.0	
Food Preparation	54,088	+ 2.3	- 4.3	50,608	+ 2.0	+ 5
Grand Total	478,370	+ 0.5	_ 4.5	456,592	+ 2.8	- 2

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.—The month of February was marked by a strong upward movement in wages, due mainly to the concession of war bonuses and similar increases. The net effect of all the changes was an increase of nearly £18,000 per week in the wages of 154,000 workpeople, excluding increases to railway servants, Government employees, &c. The most important bodies of workpeople included in this total were 20,000 ironworkers in the Midlands, 12,350 blast-furnacemen, and iron and steel workers in West Scotland, 35,000 linen and jute workers at Dundee, and 50,100 dock labourers at Hull, Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow and Leith.

TRADE DISPUTES.—The number of disputes beginning in February was 47, of which the most important was that involving nearly 8,000 engineers in the Clyde district. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress during the month was 31,060, as compared with 5,889 in January, 1915, and 62,943 in February, 1914. The estimated number of working days lost by disputes during the month was 208,600, as compared with 55,900 in January, 1915, and 827,300 in February, 1914.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Cases dealt with during February included the following:—Engineers, Clyde district; gas producermen, &c., in steel works, West of Scotland; woollen weavers, Huddersfield district; carters, Liverpool; plumbers, London; sheet metal workers, Bolton; glassworkers, Tutbury, Burton-on-Trent; and boot and shoe operatives at Rushden and Kettering.

Labour Exchanges.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915, was 34,006, as compared with 30,589 in the previous five weeks, and with 23,874 in the four weeks ended 13th February, 1914. The average weekly numbers of vacancies filled for the same periods were 24,966, 21,606, and 18,269 respectively.

# EMPLOYMENT AMONG WOMEN IN FEBRUARY.

The general state of employment amongst women has altered but little during the last month, but what changes have occurred have all been towards improved conditions.

In the cotton industry, which at the beginning of the war was one of the most seriously affected of all trades, employment, as will be seen from the article on p. 91, has improved. There are, however, considerable numbers of cardroom workers still signing the vacant books for unemployment benefit under the Emergency Grant, especially in Bolton, but the numbers of signatures are declining, and this is true also of the other Lancashire cotton districts. So considerable has the general improvement been during the last months that it is possible to say that there is at present practically no distress. The extent to which unemployment has caused distress amongst the cotton operatives is doubtless much modified by the fact that the spells of unemployment are frequently very short. It is common for firms to work alternate weeks. so that what passes for unemployment is in reality often a form of short time.

Short time was still very general in the linen industry, and employment in Ireland showed little change compared with a month ago; in Scotland some of the operatives have found work in other districts, and as a result there was rather more work for the remainder.

The pottery trade showed signs of improvement, and there has been a distinct revival during the last month amongst the pottery firms in the Burslem area.

In the lace industry employment was still bad but showed a distinct improvement compared with a month ago in every district. At Nottingham, the centre of the industry, there was still much unemployment, but, with the exception of the plain net section, employment was better than last month. In the Basford area, also, in the curtain branch, there was some improvement, rather in the direction of more normal hours than less actual unemployment.

In spite of the abnormal condition of industry as a whole the normal seasonal changes are being felt in certain trades. Thus dressmakers are benefiting by the beginning of the spring trade and the introduction of new fashions. The Labour Exchange registrations for the United Kingdom during the four weeks ending February 12th were 2,857 as compared with 3,172 for the previous month, whilst the vacancies notified increased from 304 to 559. A corresponding decrease in the registrations and increase in the vacancies notified appears in the figures for London, which is, of course, the largest centre of the dressmaking trade. In spite of this improvement the demand for labour was still much less han is usual for the time of year, and dressmaking still remains amongst the trades most seriously affected by he war. Many dressmakers are finding employment on Army clothing, shirts, &c. The millinery trade in London s reported to have recovered to a great extent from the ffects of the war.

Apart from the trades referred to above in which unemployment amongst women is a serious factor, unemployment or short time exists, although to a less serious extent, in many other industries, such as printing and bookbinding, silk, the collar trade, certain of the metal trades, and, with outworkers not engaged on Army clothing, in certain branches of the tailoring trade.

Even the trades which as a whole are working at a high pressure are not wholly exempt, and isolated examples of unemployment are to be found, which, however, in view of the general demand for labour, are presumably only temporary. Thus it has been reported that a certain large hosiery factory, which has been working on Government contracts, is putting off a number of women at present, owing to the difficulty of btaining machine needles, which were made in Germany. Another case occurred of a firm of football boot manufacturers who have received a contract for Army boots, but owing to the fact that there is less work in an Army boot than in a football boot, a certain number of women have been dismissed. Such isolated cases cannot, of course, affect the general state of employment in the trades concerned; but they are of some nterest as illustrating the variety of conditions and influences obtaining even in trades most immediately and deeply affected by the war. In spite of occurrences of this nature the pressure in the trades supplying the needs of the Army and Navy shows no signs of lessening.

It is not, however, only the demand for labour that has altered, but there has also been in certain directions an independent change in the supply of labour. In districts where large detachments of soldiers are billeted the number of women desiring work has materially declined, as women who went out either for industrial or domestic work now find occupation at home; in many cases they even need additional help, and the two influences combined have in some districts resulted in the unusual state of affairs that the supply of charwomen is insufficient to meet the demand.

The high wages earned by men have also to some extent reacted on the supply of women's labour. The women who were thrown out of work at the beginning of the war in certain colliery districts, for example, are comparatively indifferent whether they obtain fresh employment or not, as the men's contribution to the family income has compensated for their own lack of wages. Under such circumstances it is obviously difficult to induce the women to learn any new trade or to move to districts where their labour would be really needed.

# RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THERE was a further slight rise—about 2 per cent.—in the retail prices of food during February,

The two articles which showed the greatest advance in February were flour, with a rise of about 8 per cent. on the average, and bread, with a rise of about 7 per cent. Two-thirds of the returns received gave  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 8d. as the predominant price of bread, the latter figure being nearly twice as frequent as the former; and the average price on the 1st March, taking the country as a whole, was  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per 4 lb.

The articles showing the greatest percentage increases (after flour and bread) were potatoes, with an advance of about 5 per cent., and cheese, with an advance of 4 per cent. Meat and fish also showed a further advance, with the important exception of fish in London.

Milk showed an upward movement in some places, notably in London, where 4½d. per quart now appears to be rather more frequent than 4d., even in working-class trade, although 4d. is still predominant in many localities. Tea, sugar, and margarine showed practically no change.

Decreases were shown by bacon, butter and eggs in February. In the case of bacon and of butter the reductions were only about 1 or 2 per cent., but in the case of eggs—where the reduction is, of course, largely seasonal—it amounted to nearly 10 per cent. On the whole the reductions in articles other than bread and flour approximately balanced the advances, so that the whole advance in February may be put down to those two articles.

#### RETAIL PRICES IN VIENNA.

From data included in a series of articles published in the Sächsische Staatszeitung the following Table has been compiled showing the rise in retail prices of food and other household necessaries in Vienna in January, as compared with the previous month and with January, 1914:—

	Manager In		Price.	Increase per cent. in January, 1915, as compared with		
		Jan., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Jan., 1914.	Dec. 1914.	Jan. 1914
Beef	per lb.  "" per quart per doz. per 7 lb. per lb. per lb. per lb. per gall. per cwt. "	s. d 10% 113% 113% 113% 1 7 1 23% 2 23% 9 93% 3 3% 8 4% 2 2 2 0	s. d. 10 11 1034 1034 17 1 234 834 335 2 255 434 1134 1 1034 1 1034 1 1034 1 034	s. d. 9½ 10½ 8½ 8½ 8½ 14¼ 11¾ 8½ 3½ 1 2½ 113¼ 66¼ 23¼ 4 1 2 1 7¾	5 0 6 8 9 3 9 3 No change 2 1 1 6 5 9 3 7 1 1 1 1 1 2 6 5 9 3 7 1 1 1 1 1 2 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	10·5 11·9 38·2 46·9 16·9 25·5 11·8 7·7 No change 20·7 127·7 56·0 36·4 17·9 6·3 85·7 21·5

As compared with the preceding month, prices were stationary for butter, milk, and sugar, but in the other cases for which data were available rises took place varying from 5 to 13 per cent.; petroleum was dearer by about 20 per cent., and coal by 6 per cent. The only decrease was in the case of eggs, which fell by 15 per cent. Compared with a year ago all prices advanced, except that of milk used for cooking purposes. Wheat flour was dearer by 128 per cent., wheat bread by 56 per cent., rye bread by 50 per cent., bacon by 47 per cent., and lard by 38 per cent. The price of petroleum advanced by 86 per cent. and that of coal by 22 per cent.

#### DECREE REGULATING COMPOSITION OF BREAD.

A decree dated 30th January, which came into force on 6th February, provides that wheat and rye flour in

\* Decrease

Austria may only be used up to 50 per cent. of the weight of flour in the loaf, the balance to be made up from the flour of barley, maize, oats, rice or potatoes. Potato preparations may only be used up to 20 per cent. of the total weight of flour. The Decree does not apply to Hungary.

#### FOOD PRICES IN BERLIN IN JANUARY.\*

DURING January food prices in Berlin rose 3.9 per cent compared with the previous month. The comparison, however, is complicated by the fact that, under an Order which came into force on January 15th, the quality of the flour to be used in making bread, whether from wheat or from rye, has been lowered in various ways. Thus, millers may no longer deliver wheat flour except in a blend of which 30 per cent. consists of rye flour; and in the making of wheat bread the aforesaid blend of flour may be replaced to the extent of 20 per cent. of its weight by potato starch flour. Rye bread must contain at least 10 per cent., and may contain as much as 30 per cent. of potato preparation. Under the Order of January 25th the stock of corn has now been taken over by the Government, so that comparisons on a similar basis can no longer be made.

Comparing January with the previous month, increases took place in the price of thirteen articles (viz., rye bread, wheat bread, wheat flour, rye flour, beef, mutton, veal, pork, bacon, rice, split peas, haricot beans and lentils), the largest increases being in respect of rye bread (15.6 per cent.), wheat bread (11.7 per cent.), pork (11.0 per cent.), wheat flour (10.4 per cent.), mutton (8.7 per cent.), rye flour (7.5 per cent.), split peas (5.0 per cent.), and bacon (4.8 per cent.). There was a decrease in the price of butter, eggs, and potatoes.

The figures below show the percentage increases in retail prices\* of provisions in Berlin during January, 1915, as compared with December, 1914:—

			100	Increase
			1100	per cent.
Rye bread				15.6
Wheat bread				11.7
Wheat flour				10.4
Rye flour			1	7.5
Butter		100		0.9+
Lard				No change.
Sugar				No change.
Coffee	100			No change.
Eggs				7:1†
Milk	**			No change.
Beef			22.00	2.7
			***	87
Mutton				0.5
Veal				
Pork				11.0
Bacon				4.8
Potatoes				11.1†
Rice				3.8
Split peas				5.0
Haricot beans				3.0
Lentils				0.7
ALL ABOVE	ARTI	CLES	1000	3.9
(WEIGHTEI			ENT.	

#### EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY.

THE February issue of Reichsarbeitsblatt, the journal of the German Department of Labour Statistics, summarises the data relating to unemployment in January among members of Trade Unions making returns to the Imperial Statistical Office.

Returns were furnished by 37 Trade Unions, having an aggregate membership of 1,319,368, exclusive of those serving with the military and naval forces. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership

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

covered was 1,243,748, of whom 80,231, or 6.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 7.2 per cent. at the end of the preceding month and 4.7 per cent. on the corresponding date in January,

Unions.	Member- ship reported	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed at end of Month.				
CHORS.	on at end of Jan., 1915.	January, 1915.	December, 1914.	January, 1914.		
All Unions making Returns	1,243,248	6.5	7.2	4.7		
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:— Building trade operatives	131,473	13.9	11.6	100 98		
Metal workers (Soc. Dem.) Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker)	315,934 13,151	3.0	4·1 3·3	4.1		
Metal workers (Christian) Textile workers (Soc. Dem.)	23,686 97,189	2.5	2.7	1·4 2·1 2·2		
Boot and shoe makers Transport workers Printers (book and job)	27,432 117,242 44,300	2·7 3 9 12 4	3·5 3·9 15·4	75 3·4		
Lithographers Bookbinders	11,687 23,344	12·1 12·8	18·2 13·8 5·1	3·4 2·8		
Leather workers Saddlers and bag makers Wood workers (Soc. Dem.)	9,004 14,769 108,518	7 3 1 0 13 4	1.5	6 4 7·8		
Glass workers Porcelain workers	9,601 9,413	13 9 16·7	18 2 33 0	3·6 2·6 7·4		
Brewery and corn mill	17,133 29,701	6.1	3.6	2.6		
Tobacco workers	21,057 123,303 34,261	1·1 4·8 1·2	17 52 1·3	2·3 5·3 1·7		

As regards the month of January, the Reichsarbeitsblatt states that "the improved conditions with regard to employment which were reported in previous months have, on the whole, been maintained in January. Some small changes for the worse were compensated for by partial improvements in employment in other branches.

According to reports from individual undertakings and associations of employers in the various coal mining districts, there was in January, as in the previous month, a very brisk demand for coal, in some degree even exceeding that of December. The production of pig iron further increased. Various branches of the engineering trades showed a still further improvement, principally owing to orders placed by the military authorities. On the other hand, employment in the textile trades showed some decline. In the building trades employment was about the same as in the previous month; building was practically at a standstill.

Returns from 309 industrial concerns showed a total of 253,278 workpeople (including 28,807 females) employed on the last day of January, as compared with 334,906 employed by the same firms on the corresponding day of January, 1914, a decrease of 81,628, or 24'4 per cent. This decline was almost entirely confined to males, and was principally due to men being called up for military service. The decline in the number of persons employed was greatest in the glass and porcelain industry (37 per cent.), chemical industry (36 per cent.), paper and printing (30 per cent.), mining, &c. (29 per cent.), wood and clothing industries (27 per cent.), the engineering, metal and electrical industries (21 per cent.).

#### GERMAN WAR MEASURES

FOR CONSERVING SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS.

Between the date of the commencement of the war and the end of last year the German Federal Council issued some thirty decrees in pursuance of powers conferred upon it by three laws enacted on the 4th August, authorising (1) the fixing of maximum prices, (2) the remission of import duties, and (3) the adoption of economic measures generally.

Under the first of these laws maximum prices had, by the end of the year, been fixed for wheat, barley, oats, rye, beans, potatoes and potato spirit; for copper, nickel, aluminium, antimony and tin (with their alloys) whether crude or manufactured; for sulphate of ammonia; and for wool and woollen goods.

Under the second law, customs duties had, by the end of the year, been suspended or reduced in respect of a long list of foods and stock-feeding stuffs and in respect of mineral oils.

March, 1915.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Under the law relating to economic measures generally, prohibitions or regulations were decreed with regard to the making and sale of bread, the feeding of animals with bread corn, the sale of sugar, the sale of potato products and the use of potato flour in soap-

Among the war emergency measures adopted by the German Government since the beginning of the present year in the interest of the national food supply, the most noteworthy are two decrees of the Federal Council dated 25th January—(1) for the expropriation of all bread stuffs, and (2) for ensuring urban meat supplies through-

With regard to the first of these the Government, in a notice issued on 25th January, stated as follows:-

"A resolution of the Federal Council, dated today, expropriates all supplies of bread cereals throughout the Empire. Apart from small quantities of less than 220 lbs. and a stock for seed, private persons may retain only such supplies as are requisite in agricultural establishments for the support of workpeople employed by them. All flour will be distributed to communal bodies in proportion to the population to be supported; and the communal authorities will regulate the sale to the inhabitants of their respective districts so as to ensure, on the one hand, that every person shall obtain a sufficient amount of bread and flour, and, on the other, that the supplies shall suffice until the next harvest.

"It will not be possible to avoid irregularities in the supply of bread at first, but difficulties will quickly and satisfactorily be overcome.

"There is no doubt that the measure now taken will affect the economic life of our people much more deeply than any which has been instituted by the Federal Council since the beginning of the war. Its adoption, however, is demanded in order to secure a sufficient and regular supply of bread cereals to our people until the next harvest, and is therefore a necessity both of state and of national existence. The steps which have hitherto been taken with a view to assuring the thrifty consumption of the supplies of bread cereals (which, though quite sufficient, are nevertheless limited) have not proved satisfactory; in particular, they have not succeeded in preventing such cereals being used as fodder. To attain the objects referred to, only two methods remained: Either an extraordinary increase in the price of bread cereals, the effect of which would have limited their consumption and put an end to their use as fodder, or the expropriation of all such supplies and their distribution to communal authorities in proportion to the population to be supported. In order to preserve the German people from an enormous increase in the price of bread during the war, the Federated States have decided to take the second step above indicated."

Under the second of the Decrees issued on 25th January, all communes with populations exceeding 5,000 are required to accumulate supplies of preserved meat. For this purpose all pigs are to be expropriated for the benefit of the communal authorities. Owners will be paid the "prevailing market price," the final determination of which will lie with a board of arbitration composed of three persons.

Difficulties experienced in endeavouring to attain the objects aimed at by the measures above referred to necessitated the Government taking other steps, which, in their turn, have led to further difficulties.

In the case of the maximum prices fixed for cereals at the end of October, for example, the fact that these prices varied according to zones led to cereals being

attracted away from some districts to others, where the prescribed rates were more advantageous. Thus complaint was made that South German millers bought largely at the lower maximum rates of North Germany, to the detriment of the northern millers. Again, higher maximum prices by automatic fortnightly increases, commencing from 1st January, 1915, were prescribed for corn. This was for the purpose of encouraging farmers to withhold some of their stocks until later, and was a device which succeeded so well that the Government were obliged to introduce measures for compelling farmers to sell. Another feature of the October decree as to maximum prices of corn was that a distinction was made between barley for brewing and barley for fodder, only the latter, with a weight of not less than  $54\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. to the bushel, being subject to the law. The result was that it soon became impossible to buy barley of a lower weight than 54½ lbs. to the bushel; but barley over that weight was fetching a price which was stated to be the highest realised for any sort of corn during the last decade. A decree dated 24th December fixed one maximum price for barley irrespective of quality, in order to put an end to some of these abuses, but on 15th January the Government found it necessary to issue a further order restricting the milling of corn, prohibiting night baking, and prescribing the use of rye and potato preparations in the making of bread.

It appeared still to be felt, however, that the measures introduced were not fully effective for the purpose of economising the supplies of corn and flour. One expert authority\* pointed out that the imposition of maximum prices for corn, without having any regard to flour, defeated its own purpose. On 21st January a paragraph appeared in the press stating that the expectations which had been formed by the Government as to the effect of the recent decrees in limiting the consumption of wheat flour and increasing the use of potato preparations had not been realised, and hinting that a scheme was being elaborated which would have the effect desired. The result was the Federal Order dated 25th January, referred to above, which expropriates all breadstuffs, and imposes a limit on the consumption of bread per head per week. The decree makes no provision for a maximum price of bread, and already complaints are being made with regard to the abnormal disparity between the price of bread and the price of wheat. Thus in a recent issue of Die Konjunktur, an important economic journal edited by Dr. Calwer, a well-known German authority on economic questions, it is pointed out that in Berlin the price of bread is in normal times about 22 marks per 100 kilograms (1.17d. per lb.) above the price of wheat, but that at present rates bread is about 40 marks (2.14d. per lb.) above that price, while at the same time the bread is of a greatly inferior quality.

The decree requiring communes to accumulate supplies of preserved meat has led to a greatly enhanced price for pigs, in consequence of large purchases being made by municipalities. In Berlin it is stated that, compared with the same period of last year, the prices of pigs in February had increased by nearly 90 per cent.

Maximum prices were fixed for potatoes in November. but only with reference to what might be charged by the actual producers, no restriction being placed upon merchants or shopkeepers except in so far as they should happen to be established in districts where (as in Berlin) maximum retail prices had been fixed by the municipality or the military authority. In expectation of increased maximum prices growers withheld their stocks in many districts, and it was stated that in Berlin in the middle of February there was not a potato to be had anywhere in the public markets. When, however, on February 18th, higher maximum retail prices were introduced, the dearth of potatoes instantly disappeared, supplies being produced which surpassed all estimates. Since then the scarcity of potatoes in Berlin has again become acute, and on February 27th and March 3rd Vorwarts, in leading articles, called for the expropriation of all stocks of potatoes in the empire.

<sup>\*</sup> Professor C. Ballod in Soziale Praxis of 7th January, 1915-

#### NEW SWISS LABOUR LAW.\*

THE Swiss Factory Act of 1877, which was amended in certain respects in 1905, has now been repealed, and superseded by a new Act, which includes within its scope measures for averting and settling industrial disputes. The date upon which the new Act will become operative has yet to be determined.

#### HOURS OF LABOUR.

One of the most important changes brought about by the new law is the reduction in the length of the working day in factories and workshops from 11 hours to 10. The limit of 9 hours on Saturdays and on days before holidays has been retained. (The above restriction applies to all workpeople, irrespective of age or sex.)

It is forbidden to evade the provisions of the law as to working hours by giving out work to be done at home; and workpeople may not work in the factories, even voluntarily, after the prescribed hours.

Exceptionally, permission may be granted for extending the normal day by a stated number of hours and in respect of a specified number of workpeople. Such extension, however, may not as a rule exceed 2 hours, or be granted for more than 80 days in any year. When permission is given to extend the normal working day, or to work temporarily at night or on Sundays, the employer must pay time and a quarter in respect of the extra

#### NIGHT AND SUNDAY WORK.

As was the case in the previous law, work at night and on Sundays is prohibited in principle, and is permitted only exceptionally and under stricter control than formerly. Occasional work at night or on Sundays is permitted only in urgent cases, and in no circumstances may the workpeople so employed be engaged more than 10 hours in 24. In regard to establishments where work at night or on Sundays is permanently or periodically necessary, authorisation is to be obtained from the Federal Council. For certain industries the Council may declare that permanent night and Sunday work is an absolute necessity, and may issue special regulations in respect of these. Men engaged at establishments where night and Sunday work is permitted either temporarily or permanently may not be employed more than eight hours (formerly eleven hours) out of each twenty-four, to be extended exceptionally to ten hours; and the length of a shift must in no case exceed twelve hours. Workmen employed at factories where night work is permitted, either temporarily or permanently, must be allowed to rest every Sunday for twenty-four hours, such period to include the interval from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The former law required such workmen to rest only on alternate Sundays. In factories where work is performed on Sundays, or both at night and on Sundays, each workman must be allowed to rest every alternate Sunday, and also to have a free day during the week preceding or following the Sunday on which he works. Shifts must alternate every fourteen days at least, so that the workmen may be employed in equal measure on day and on night work.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

As in the former law, women are forbidden to work at night or on Sundays. A new provision states that the Federal Council is to prescribe the branches of work or particular occupations in which women may not be employed under any circumstances. Women must now have a night's rest of at least eleven consecutive hours, including the period from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.; but by special permission this may be reduced to ten hours for 60 days in the year, or, when perishable materials are being worked upon, for 140 days.

The former law provided that, for a period in all of eight weeks before and after confinement, women should be exempted from work in factories; the present law provides for their exclusion from work in factories for six weeks following confinement, which period, at their request, may be extended to eight weeks.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

The present law retains the limit of fourteen years as the minimum age at which children may be allowed to work in factories, as also the provision forbidding the employment of young persons under eighteen at night work and on Sundays. A new provision states that children under sixteen may not be employed upon work where the normal hours are exceeded, and the Federal Council is to prescribe certain branches of industry or certain occupations at which young persons under sixteen must not be employed at all.

#### PERMANENT CONCILIATION COMMITTEES.

With a view to the amicable settlement of disputes which are calculated to lead to a strike or a lock-out, the new law provides for the appointment of permanent Cantonal Conciliation Committees, which may intervene either on their own initiative or at the request of the authorities or of the parties directly concerned. Persons summoned before these bodies are obliged, under penalty, to appear. Authority is given to the Cantonal Governments to enlarge still further the powers granted to the Conciliation Committees by the present law. A certain number of the employers and workpeople in any industry may mutually agree to constitute a Conciliation Board, in which case such Board shall take the place of the Cantonal Conciliation Committee, so far as these employers and workpeople are concerned.

Provision is also made for the appointment by the Federal Council of a permanent committee, to be entitled the "Government Workshops Committee," to inquire into and advise as to claims concerning conditions of labour which are put forward by workpeople in Government employ, and as to which the department concerned cannot itself come to an arrangement with the workpeople in question. The functions of this Committee are to be purely advisory, the Federal Council alone having power to decide the points at issue. The Government Workshops Committee is to consist of a chairman, two permanent members, and four appointed for each inquiry. One of the permanent members is to represent the workpeople, and two of the four temporary members are to be chosen from among the workpeople of the establishments involved in the particular case. The federal railway workshops are expressly excluded from the operation of the provisions as to the Cantonal Conciliation Committees and the Government Workshops Committee.

#### APPOINTMENT OF FACTORY COMMITTEE.

The law further provides for the appointment of a Factory Committee, consisting of scientific men and of representatives, in equal numbers, of employers and workpeople. The duty of this committee will be generally to advise the Federal Council on matters as to which it will have to issue regulations and decrees.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS IN DENMARK IN 1913-14.

THE following particulars relating to State-aided unemployment funds in Denmark, approved under the law of 9th April, 1907,\* during the year ended 31st March, 1914, are taken from a report† to the Danish Ministry of the Interior by the Inspector of Unemployment appointed to supervise these funds.

At the beginning of the financial year the number of funds in existence was 55, with an aggregate membership of 120,289. On 31st March, 1914, the number of funds remained the same; but the membership had increased to 131,113. Some 45 per cent. of the members were resident in Copenhagen, while 38 per cent. belonged to provincial towns and 16 per cent. to rural districts; for the remaining 1 per cent. of the members these particulars were not ascertained.

The total income of the funds during the year amounted to £165,183, made up by the following items:

Members' contributions, £85,884, State subventions (in respect of the year 1912-1913), £49,508; municipal subventions (also for 1912-1913), £22,974; interest on investments, £5,809; other contributions, £332; fines, &c., £543; donations, £133. Members' contributions thus formed 52 per cent. of the total receipts, while State subventions came to 30 per cent. and municipal subventions to 14 per cent.; the total of the remaining items therefore comprised only 4 per cent. of the aggregate

The expenditure of the funds during the financial year 1913-1914 amounted to £123,252, viz., daily monetary allowances during unemployment, £101,267; travelling benefit, £3,716; special grants, £1,696; removal allowances, £1,329; relief in kind, £319; cost of administration, £14,925. The last item formed 12 per cent, of the total expenditure, while the grants directly for unemployment comprised 82 per cent., the total of the other tems forming, therefore, only 6 per cent. of the aggregate expenditure. The excess of receipts over expenditure was £41,931, which, added to the funds previously in hand, brought the total assets of the funds up to £174,287, or an average of 26s. 7d. per member.

During the year to which the report relates, benefits were granted in respect of 1,372,945 days of unemployment, an average of about 11 days per member, as compared with about 10 per member during 1912-13.

Including periods of unemployment for which no benefit was paid, the total number of working days lost by the members of 53 funds (particulars are not available in the other two cases) was 2,560,003, or 20 per member, this being the same figure as that recorded for the previous year.

#### GOVERNMENT WORK.

COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION IN ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING ESTABLISHMENTS

On 4th February, 1915, His Majesty's Government appointed Sir George Askwith, Sir Francis Hopwood and Sir George Gibb "to inquire and report forthwith, after consultation with the representatives of employers and workmen, as to the best steps to be taken to ensure that the productive power of the employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments working for Government purposes shall be made fully available so as to meet the needs of the nation in the present emergency.'

In accordance with the terms of Reference, the Committee have from time to time issued the following Reports:-

#### (1) FIRST INTERIM REPORT, ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 16TH.

#### Irregular Time-keeping.

It was represented to us that irregular time-keeping in ship-yards is an important contributory cause of failure to attain the maximum degree of output. We have accordingly given this question careful consideration, and deem it advisable to issue as an Interim Report an immediate recommendation under this lead.

We are informed that a considerable proportion of the time lost by riveting squads in shippards is due to habits of irregularity which the method of working appears to encourage. We understand that the members of the respective squads present themselves for work, but if one of the members is absent the squad is a "broken" squad and the other members are unable to begin work

The method of dealing with such broken squads differs in The method of dealing with such broken squaus unless in different yards; the statements made to us as to the extent to which lost time exists indicate that the methods hitherto adopted fall far short of what is necessary, and we are satisfied that a considerable improvement can be, and ought to be,

Attempts to deal with the matter have been made by the employers and the representatives of the men in the past. After having discussed the matter with representatives of both sides, we believe that some arrangement can be arrived at, and we are of opinion that further efforts in this direction should at once be made. In view of the nature of the matter, involving as it does an acquaintance with the varying conditions in difas it does an acquaintance with the varying conditions in dif-ferent yards, we consider that the parties directly concerned should be charged in the first instance with the duty of making

such efforts. We are advised, however, that their endeavours may not meet the urgency of the situation with the necessary promptitude; we recommend, therefore, that our Report be promptitude; we recommend, therefore, that our Report be communicated at once to the parties concerned, with an intimation on behalf of His Majesty's Government that it is essential that the employers and workpeople should agree upon and establish within ten days an arrangement for dealing effectively with the question of broken squads. Failing agreement within that time, we recommend that any outstanding differences should be referred forthwith to this Committee for immediate and final settlement.

We are satisfied that an effective arrangement for dealing with broken squads will assist considerably in removing the evil of lost time. There may still be instances of bad time-keeping by individuals, but their effects will be minimised.

In order that we may be able to ascertain whether instances of bad time-keeping by individuals occur so as materially to hamper the progress of work, we think the employers should report, for the information of this Committee, the results of the proposed new arrangements in the results of the proposed new arrangements in the various yards. On receipt of such reports we will consider whether further steps should be taken to deal with the matter.

#### (2) SECOND INTERIM REPORT, ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 20TH.

#### A .- Production of Shells and Fuses.

A.—Production of Shells and Fuses.

It has been represented to us very strongly by both the Admiralty and the War Office that there is a present and continuously increasing need for shells and fuses for use by both the naval and military services, and that it is necessary for the existing production to be increased rapidly in order to meet the demand. We need not enlarge upon the vital importance of such a matter and its effects upon the successful prosecution of the war. Under these circumstances there is no reason to doubt that all sections of the community, and not least the workpeople, will desire that everything possible shall be done to maintain and accelerate adequate supplies of ammunition to the fleet and the troops. Restrictive rules or customs calculated to affect the production of munitions of war or to hamper or impede any reasonable steps to achieve a maximum output are impede any reasonable steps to achieve a maximum output are impete any reasonatic steps to achieve a maximum output are under present circumstances seriously hurtful to the welfare of the country, and we think they should be suspended during the period of the war, with proper safeguards and adjustments to protect the interests of the workpeople and their trade unions.

Dealing in this part of the present report with the pressing question of shells and fuses, there appear to be two methods whereby the present rate of production of these munitions of

war can be increased. (1) We are of opinion that the production of shells and fuses would be considerably accelerated if there were a relaxation of the present practice of the workmen confining their earnings, on the basis of the existing piece rates, to "time-and-half," or whatever the local standard may be. We understand this practice is due to some extent to a desire to protect the piece rates; we agree that the present circumstances should not be utilised as means of lowering rates of sweet states.

agree that the present circumstances should not be utilised as a means of lowering rates of wages, and we think the rates in question should be protected. This can be adequately done, however, by other means than restriction of earnings and output. As the only consumers of shells are the Government, we recommend that firms engaged in the production of shells and fuses should give an undertaking to this Committee on behalf of the Government to the effect that in fixing piecework prices the earnings of men during the period of the war should not be considered as a factor in the matter, and that no reduction in piece rates will be made, unless warranted by a change in the method of manufacture—e.g., by the introduction reduction in piece rates will be made, unless warranted by a change in the method of manufacture—e.g., by the introduction of a new type of machine. The protection afforded by this guarantee should remove apprehensions on the part of the men that their piece rates might be endangered, and we think, therefore, that the Government would be fully justified in calling upon each man to increase his production to the fullest possible of the production of of the extent, irrespective of his former limits of earnings or shop

Any difference which may arise on this matter which cannot be settled by the parties directly concerned or by their representatives should be referred as suggested in our recommendation respecting "Avoidance of Stoppage of Work."

(2) We are satisfied that, in the production of shells and fuses, there are numerous operations of a nature that can be, and are already in some shops, suitably performed by female labour. We therefore recommend that, in order to increase the output, there should be an extension of the practice of employing female labour on this work, under suitable and proper conditions.

If the conditions of employment cannot be mutually arranged by the parties directly concerned, or by their representatives, we think the matter should be referred as suggested in our roommendation respecting "Avoidance of Stoppage of Work."

#### B .- Avoidance of Stoppage of Work.

We have considered the question of disputes between employers and their workpeople which impair, or are likely to impair, the productive power of establishments engaged on Government work, and we are strongly of opinion that during the present crisis employers and workmen should under no circumstances allow their differences to result in a stoppage of

<sup>\*</sup> Based on the text published in Recueil des Lois Fédérales, No. 52, 1914.

<sup>\*</sup> For account of the main provisions of this law, see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for 1907, p. 197.
† Arbejdslöshedsinspektorens Indberetning til Indenrigsministeriet for Regnskabsaaret, 1913-1914. Copenhagen, 1914.

Whatever may be the rights of the parties at normal times and whatever may be the rights of the paties at hormat thick, and whatever may be the methods considered necessary for the maintenance and enforcement of those rights, we think there can be no justification whatever for a resort to strikes or lock-outs under present conditions, when the resulting cessation of work would prevent the production of ships, guns, equipment, stores, or other commodities required by the Government for the purposes of the war.

We therefore submit for the consideration of His Majesty's

Government the desirability of the immediate publication of the following recommendation to Government contractors and subcontractors and to trade unions, and to request their adhesion

to this recommendation, viz.:-

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#### Avoidance of Stoppages on Work for Government Purposes.

With a view to preventing loss of production caused by disputes between employers and workpeople, no stoppage of work by strike or lock-out should take place on work for Government purposes. In the event of differences arising which fail to be settled by the parties directly concerned, or by their representatives, or under any existing agreements, the matter shall be referred to an impartial tribunal nominated by His Majesty's Government for immediate investigation and report to the Government with a view to a settlement.

#### C.—Guarantee to Workpeople.

In order to safeguard the position of the trade unions and of the workpeople concerned we think that each contracting firm should give an undertaking, to be held on behalf of the unions, in the following terms :-

To His Majesty's Government.

To His Majesty's Government.

We hereby undertake that any departure during the war from the practice ruling in our workshops and shipyards prior to the war shall only be for the period of the war.

No change in practice made during the war shall be allowed to prejudice the position of the workpeople in our employment or of their trade unions in regard to the resumption and maintenance after the war of any rules or content and the summer of the war. customs existing prior to the war.

In any readjustment of staff which may have to be effected after the war, priority of employment will be given to workmen in our employment at the beginning of the war who are serving with the colours or who are now in our employment. Name of Firm.

Any difference which may arise under this head which cannot be settled by the parties directly concerned or their representatives should be referred as suggested in our recommendation "Avoidance of Stoppage of Work."

His Majesty's Government have intimated their concurrence in the Committee's recommendation respecting avoidance of stoppage of work, and, with a view to providing the necessary tribunal indicated therein, have extended the present reference to the Committee by empowering them to accept and deal with any cases arising under the recommendation.

#### (3) THIRD INTERIM REPORT, ISSUED ON MARCH 4TH.

#### A .- Demarcation of Work.

It is necessary to emphasise very strongly the great importance of securing at the earliest possible moment a rapid and continuous increase in the output of ships, guns, equipment and all munitions of war. In our second interim report we said: "Restrictive rules or customs calculated to affect the production "Restrictive rules or customs calculated to affect the production of munitions of war or to hamper or impede any reasonable steps to achieve a maximum output are under present circumstances seriously hurtful to the welfare of the country, and we think they should be suspended during the period of the war, with proper safeguards and adjustments to protect the interests of the workpeople and their trade unions." One class of restrictions to which our attention has been directed are those resulting from practices and customs connected with demarcation of work between different classes of workpeople employed in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, and we have had extended consultations upon this subject with the representatives of the Trade Unions concerned, including the Emergency Committee of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Committee of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades and the Shipbuilding Joint Trades Standing Commit-tee. We have also heard the views of the employers upon the

We understand that in the Government Establishments the

We understand that in the Government Establishments the demarcation restrictions are less numerous than in private ship-yards and workshops; where they exist in Government Establishments we think they should at once be suspended.

In private establishments we are of opinion that on work required for Government purposes or affecting the same the demarcation restrictions which at present exist in regard to the work of the different skilled trades in the engineering and shipbuilding industries should be suspended during the continuance of the war. The suspension should be accompanied by the following safeguards:—

(1) That the men usually employed on the work required are not available.

(2) That if no suitable labour is available locally, but men can be found from a distance who are unemployed or who can be spared from their existing employment, and the work is of sufficient magnitude to warrant the transfer of men from a distance, opportunity of employment shall be given to such men providing that the work in hand is not delayed

(3) That the relaxation of existing demarcation restricfor the job. In cases where the men who ordinarily paid the work are adversely affected by relaxation, the necessary re-adjustments should be mutually arranged.

(4) That a record of the nature of the departures from the status quo shall be kept.

(5) That any difficulties which cannot be settled between the parties or their representatives shall be referred to the Board of Trade within seven days for speedy settlement. Pending such reference there shall be no stoppage of work.

(6) That the form of guarantee to workpeople which we have suggested in our Second Interim Report, of February 20th, shall be adopted.

#### B.—Utilisation of Semi-Skilled or Unskilled Labour.

Where an employer is unable to meet the requirements of Where an employer is unable to meet the requirements of the Government because of his inability to secure the necessary labour customarily employed on the work, we think it imperative that during the war it should be open to him to make greater use of unskilled or semi-skilled labour, with proper safeguards and adjustments to protect the interests of the workpeople and their trade unions. We have suggested, in our Second Interim Report, of February 20th, a form of guarantee which we consider satisfactory for the purpose of safeguarding the position of the trade unions and of the workpeople concerned.

If it is claimed by the workpeople or their representatives that the arrangements in any specific case are not necessary or are unduly prejudicial to their interests, the matter should at once be discussed between the firm and the men's representatives. If the question cannot be amicably adjusted, it should be referred in accordance with our recommendation as to "avoid-area of stonnage of work." ance of stoppage of work.

#### (4) REPORT ON WAGES IN SHIPBUILDING TRADE, ISSUED ON MARCH 1st.

On January 26th last the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society applied to the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation for an advance to shippard workers of 2s. per week, or ½d. per hour—where rates are paid by the hour—to Time Workers, and 5 per cent. to Pieceworkers.

On February 1st the other shippard trades (Shipwrights, &c.) applied to the employers for a conference to consider the whole question of the remuneration of the workers.

A conference was held on February 23rd between the Ship-building Employers' Federation and representatives of the ship-yard trades. At this conference the Boilermakers, acting in conjunction with the other shipyard trades, increased their conjunction with the other snipyard trades, increased their request to an advance of 6s. per week, or  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, to Time Workers, and 15 per cent. to Pieceworkers, the other trades applying for a similar advance. During the negotiations the representatives of the workpeople modified this request (as a minimum, and without prejudice) to an advance of 4s. 6d. per week, or 1d. per hour, to Time Workers, and 10 per cent. to

The representatives of the employers stated that, in view of the exceptional circumstances now prevailing, they were willing to give to all the trades, as a war bonus, the amount of the advance originally claimed by the Boilermakers' Society—viz., 2s. per week, or ½d. per hour, to Time Workers, and 5 per cent.

After further negotiations the parties failed to arrive at a settlement, and the representatives of the workpeople intimated that they reverted to their request for an advance of 6s. per week, or 1½d. per hour, to Time Workers, and 15 per cent. to Pieceworkers.

The following day, February 24th, arrangements were made that the matter should be dealt with by this Committee, in accordance with our recent recommendation respecting the avoidance of stoppages of work on contracts for His Majesty's Government, and on February 26th we met the representatives of the parties in conference.

We have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case, and our finding is that the wages of the workers in the shipyard trades should be advanced:—

4s. per week in the case of Time Workers paid weekly. 1d. per hour in the case of Time Workers paid hourly. 10 per cent, in the case of Pieceworkers.

the advances to come into operation from the beginning of the first full pay week following the date of this Report, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in

#### RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

March, 1915. THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

ENGINEERS-CLYDE DISTRICT.

Following a demand of engineers in the Clyde district for an advance in wages of 2d. per hour, a joint conference was held at York on February 12th between representatives of the Engineering Employers' Federation on the one hand, and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, the United Machine Workers' Association, and the Amalgamated Society of Toolmakers on the other, at which it was agreed to recommend that the employers should grant, and the workmen should accept, an advance of 3d. per hour. On February 16th, however, a number of engineers in the employment of a firm at Glasgow struck work, demanding the full advance of 2d. per hour. The dispute soon spread, and by February 20th nearly 8,000 men in the Clyde district had ceased work. A ballot of the engineers in the district as to acceptance of the employers' offer which was subsequently taken resulted in a decisive majority against acceptance.

In view of the fact that the production of war material was being seriously curtailed by the stoppage of work, the dispute came under the consideration of His Majesty's Government, and by their direction the following letter was sent by the Chief Industrial Commissioners on February 26th to the Engineering Employers' Federation and the various Trade Unions involved:

Federation and the various Trade Unions involved:—
Sir,—From inquiries which have been made as to the position of the disputes in the engineering trade in the Glasgow district, it appears that the parties concerned have been unable to arrive at a settlement. In consequence of the delay the requirements of the nation are being seriously endangered.

I am instructed by the Government that important munitions of war urgently required by the navy and army are being held up by the present cessation of work, and that they must call for a resumption of work on Monday morning, March 1st.

Immediately following resumption of work arrangements will be made for the representatives of the parties to meet the Committee on Production in Engineering and Shipbuilding Establishments for the purpose of the matters in dispute being referred for settlement to a Court of Arbitration, who shall also have power to fix the date from which the settlement shall take effect.

I am, yours faithfully,

I am, yours faithfully,
G. R. Askwith,
Chief Industrial Commissioner. Upon receipt of this communication the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers proceeded to Glasgow and met in conference the joint District Committees of the Society in the North-West area, with the result that the District Committees unanimously decided to support the Executive Council in their endeavours to secure an early resumption of work, Several meetings were held in the affected area, and the position was fully placed before the men, who resumed work on March 3rd and 4th.

On March 6th the wages question was again discussed at a conference between the Employers' Federation and the Trade Unions concerned, but no agreement was arrived at, and arrangements were made for the Committee on Production to meet the parties. At this meeting, held on March 8th, the representatives of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers intimated that they desired to take a ballot of their members in regard to accepting as final the decision of the Court of Arbitration, and in the meantime the proceedings were adjourned.

# GAS PRODUCERMEN, &c., IN STEEL WORKS-WEST OF SCOTLAND.

THE gas producermen and other classes of workmen employed in steel works in the West of Scotland having made a claim for an advance of 25 per cent. on the basis rates, and double time for Sunday work, to which the employers would not agree, joint application was made by the parties on the 8th February to the Chief Industrial Commissioner for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to deal with the matter. A court, consisting of Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (Chairman), T. L. Devitt, Esq., and the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., was duly appointed, and having heard the parties on 8th March, awarded an advance of 10 per cent. on the base rates from the beginning of December, 1914, and double time to men employed between twelve midnight Saturday and twelve midnight Sunday.

WOOLLEN WEAVERS-HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

The draft terms of settlement in connection with the dispute between the Huddersfield and District Woollen Manufacturers' and Spinners' Association and the General Union of Textile Workers on the question of payment for overtime (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, pp. 46 and 47) having been rejected by the workpeople, the matter was ultimately referred to the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who issued the following decision on 5th March: -

"My opinion, after hearing both parties and in view of all the circumstances of the case, is that the dispute ought to be settled upon the basis of 1½d. per hour for all weavers after 10 hours' work on any one day, and after  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours on Saturday. Time lost by the weaver's own accord on any day to be made up before the above rates are paid.

These terms were accepted by the parties.

#### CARTERS-LIVERPOOL

The Liverpool carters applied to their employers for an increase in wages of 6s. per week. After some negotiations the employers offered an advance of 3s. per week to the lower paid men and 2s. to the higher paid men, but these terms were rejected by the workmen, who handed in notices to cease work on Saturday, 27th Feb-

The attention of the Committee on Production in Engineering and Shipbuilding Establishments having been drawn to this dispute, an officer of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department visited Liverpool and effected a resumption of negotiations, which resulted in the men's acceptance of an amended offer by the employers, viz., advance of 4s. and 3s. per week for senior carters, 2s. and 1s. for juniors, 3s. for motormen, and wages of casual carters to be 5s. 8d. per day.

#### PLUMBERS-LONDON.

A dispute having occurred between the United Operative Plumbers and Domestic Engineers' Association and the London Master Builders' Association as to extra payment for time worked before the usual winter starting hour on a job at Brockenhurst, Hants, application was made for the appointment of an arbitrator, and Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C., was accordingly appointed.

#### SHEET METAL WORKERS-BOLTON.

On 25th January a number of sheet metal workers in the employment of certain firms at Bolton struck work for an advance in wages of 4s. per week. The dispute was brought to the notice of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who got into touch with the parties, with the result that an amicable settlement was arrived at, and the men resumed work on 1st March.

#### GLASSWORKERS-TUTBURY, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

Arising out of a dispute respecting the employment of foreign labour at a glassworks at Tutbury, the men were given the option of leaving their Trade Union and accepting certain conditions of employment laid down by the firm or of leaving their employment. The men refused to accept the firm's terms, and ceased work early in January.

The attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner having been drawn to the dispute and to the possibility of its extension to a works at Edinburgh by sympathetic action, a conference of the parties was arranged and held on 26th February, when the differences between the firm and the Union were arranged.

#### BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES.

Rushden.—In response to a request from the Arbitration Board of the Rushden, Higham and Irthlingborough Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and Operatives, dated 16th February, Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., has been appointed Umpire to settle the question of a statement for clicking upon which the Board has been unable to agree.

Kettering.—The No. 2 Board of Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Kettering and District being unable to agree as to a piecework or quantity statement for operatives on the clicking press, Mr. Smith has been appointed Umpire to decide the matter, in response to an application from the Board, dated 17th February.

#### TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

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SHIRTMAKING TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN).
MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

The Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain) have resolved to fix a minimum rate of wages of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for female workers other than learners.

The Trade Board have also resolved to fix special minimum rates for female learners (as defined by the Trade Board), ranging from commencing rates of 3s.—6s. 9d. a week (based on a week of 50 hours), according to age at entry, up to 12s. 6d. a week.

It was resolved that the minimum rates in question should come into limited operation on July 5th, 1915.

Further particulars may be obtained by persons concerned on application to the Secretary of the Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

# EMPLOYMENT IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEA.

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

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

#### CANADA

According to numerous reports just received from all parts of Canada, large numbers of skilled and unskilled labourers are out of work in the Dominion at the present time, and it is undesirable for any emigrant, except competent farm labourers and female servants, to go there now. At Montreal the conditions were slightly worse in January than in December; at Winnipeg the number of unemployed remained at about 8,000; and in British Columbia the Provincial Government was giving direct relief to many unemployed persons. Manufacturing conditions showed little general improvement, except among metal workers at Sydney, N.S. Wages in many places have been reduced. The busiest establishments were those connected with military wants. Mining was generally slack everywhere. The strikes of moulders at Smith's Falls (Ontario) and of sheet metal workers at Toronto continued.

#### AUSTRALIA.

Labour conditions are unsettled owing to the war and the drought; and there is no present demand for more labour, except for female servants. Assisted emigration to South Australia and Western Australia has been stopped; but the other States still grant reduced passages to emigrants. But in order to avoid interference with recruiting for the war, assisted passages to New South Wales, Victoria or Queensland are not available, except under special circumstances, for men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. The demand for experienced female servants continues, and specially cheap passages are offered to widows and young women who will take up domestic service; employment on arrival is guaranteed.

According to a cablegram just received from Sydney, there is no improvement in labour conditions in Australia.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

During the war reduced-rate passages are granted to married farmers and farm hands and bona fide female domestic servants, and also to single farmers and farm hands who are not eligible for military service.

#### UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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

#### LABOUR IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

NOTE.—Since the publication of the last issue of the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE no official data for the preparation of the usual monthly summaries relative to the state of employment, &c., have reached the Department from France, Austria-Hungary, Belgium or Denmark. As regards employment in Germany, see page 80.

#### FRANCE.

Results of an Inquiry as to Resumption of Work.—According to La Réforme Economique of February 26th, the Minister for Labour has recently completed an inquiry as to the extent to which work has been resumed in industry and commerce. Owing to the fact that two-thirds of the factory inspectors have been called up for military service, only 31,676 establishments, usually employing 1,070,093 workpeople, could be included in the inquiry.

In August the establishments referred to lost twothirds of their staffs, and half of them closed down. In October, 28 per cent. of those which had closed down reopened, and the proportion of workpeople increased by 35 per cent. In January 43 per cent. of the establishments which had closed down had resumed work, and 83 per cent. of their workpeople had returned. At the same time, the number of hours worked had considerably increased.

The industry which has suffered least is that of food production, only 10 per cent. of the establishments having closed in August. At the present time this proportion has fallen to 7 per cent., while the number of workpeople is only 29 per cent. less than normal.

In the textile, leather and metal trades the number of workpeople has more than doubled since August; in the clothing trade it has increased by four-fifths, and in the chemical industry by three-fourths.

Taking industrial and commercial establishments as a whole, the present effective force of the workpeople occupied is only 20 per cent. less than normal.

#### HOLLAND.\*

Employment in December.—Returns relating to unemployment in December were received by the Dutch Government Statistical Office from Trade Unions and municipal unemployment funds with a total membership of 86,750. The percentage of members out of work during the month was 28.7, as compared with 31.2 in the previous month, and 9.1 in December, 1913.

Group of Trades.	Number of Mem- bers en- titled to		ercentage employe	Average Days Lost per Week per Member Unemployed.			
	Benefit in Dec., 1914.	Dec., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.	Dec., 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec., 1913.
All Unions and Municipal Unemployment Funds making returns.	86,750	28.7	31.2	9.1	4.7	4.6	5.7
Do. do., excluding Diamond Workers	76,493	19.5	21.8	2.9	3.8	3.8	-
Working in Diamonds and other Precious Stones	10,257	92.1	92.9	44.8	6.0	6.0	6-0
Printing and Lithography,	10,515	25-9	32.6	0.5	2.9	2.9	5.8
Building Trades (includ- ing Roadmaking	15,915	26.5	24.2	10.3	5.3	5.1	5.0
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	10,861	22.2	20.9	0.9	3.2	3.6	5.6
Textile	5,116 14,573	21·6 9·2	23·6 15·9	0.1	2.4	2·2 3·1	5.2
Woodworking, &c Leather, Oilcloth, &c	2.615 1,906	34·9 13·5	39·4 23·5	0.5	2.9	4·0 2·9	5.4

In computing the above percentages returns received are utilised whether from Trade Unions or from unemployment funds. A comparison is, however, also made by the Dutch Statistical Office between November and December on the basis of data relating only to the Trade Unions that furnished returns for both months. On this basis the percentage unemployed is found to be 26.4 in December, as compared with 27.7 in November. Among the members of these unions the aggregate number of working days lost owing to unemployment was in December 21.1 per cent., and in November 21.8 per cent., of the total number of days that might have been worked in the respective months.

\* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Government Statistical Office).

#### NORWAY.\*

Employment in January.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of January in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures relating to the same Unions being added for the previous month and for January, 1914:—

	M	lembersh	ip.	Percentage Unemployed.		
Group of Trades.	Jan. 31st, 1915.	Dec. 31st, 1914.	Jan. 31st, 1914.	Jan. 31st, 1915.	Dec. 31st, 1914.	Jan. 31st, 1914.
Bricklayers and Masons (Christiania)	669	668	659	8.5	9.7	15.6
Carpenters, &c	1,130	1,119	1,222	9.7	4.9	5.9
Painters (Christiania)	381	380	416	29.1	22.4	14.2
Iron and Other Metal Workers	8,102	8,119	8,365	1.5	1.7	1.6
Boot and Shoe Makers	788	767	698	2.2	2.2	1.4
Woodpulp and Paper Makers	678	679	688	4.4	0.3	0.7
Printers	2,115	2,071	2.117	2.6	3.6	0.5
Bookbinders (Christiania)	597	594	597	1.3	0.8	0.7
Cabinet Makers	628	542	593	5.3	3.3	3.4
Planers and Sawyers	183	186	237	16.4	25.8	0.4
Bakers (Christiania)	440	446	440	13.9	11 7	8.6
Total	15,711	15,571	16,032	4.0	36	2.9

<sup>\*</sup> Information furnished by the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries.

#### SWEDEN.

Employment, October-December, 1914.—The issue of Sociala Meddelanden (the journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs) for February contains particulars as to unemployment among members of Trade Unions at the beginning of October, November, and December respectively. The data relating to the principal Unions making returns are summarised in the following Table:—

SHIYA	Member- ship report-	Percentage Unemployed on 1st of Month.			
Unions.	ing at Dec. 1st, 1914.	Oct, 1914.	Nov., 1914.	Dec. 1914.	
All Unions making Returns	59,084	7.7	8.1	10.3	
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:  Stoneworkers Bricklayers and masons Painters Blastfurnacemen, &c. Foundrymen Tinplate workers, &c. Engineering operatives Boot, shoe and leather workers Brewery workers Tobacco workers Sawmill workers Woodworkers General labourers and factory operatives (trades not distinguished)	3,153 1,569 1,263 3,090 2,173 1,385 17,763 2,050 1,066 2,393 3,095 4,356 6,594	25·1 18·2 3·1 1·1 2·8 6·0 4·6 1·8 1·4 6·9 11·0 15·0	22·2 33·2 7·6 1·9 5·2 8·2 4·3 0·9 2·5 11·6 3·9 16·3 12·0	22·9 43·7 16·0 2·6 3·8 14·6 4·8 0·8 1·1 25·9 7·9 20·0 12·5	

# REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES DURING FEBRUARY.

#### COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT was very good during January, and showed an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received for each of the three periods, relating to the same 1,140 pits, show that the average number of days\* worked per week was 5.61 as compared with 5.47 in the previous month, and 5.57 a year ago. Particulars for each district are given in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Work- people employed in Feb., 1915, at the	work	e number ed per w Collieri tnight e	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1915, on a		
	Collieries included in the Table.	Feb. 20th, 1915	Jan 23rd, 1915.	Feb. 21st, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago,
ENGLAND AND WALES. Northumberland Durham Cumberland South Yorkshire West Yorkshire Lancashire and Cheshire Derbyshire Nottingham and Leicester Staffordshire Warwick, Worcester, and Salop Gloucester and Somerset North Wales South Wales and Mon.	45,664 99,390 6,101 53,864 25,117 50,538 36,475 29,957 26,512 8,981 4,981 9,688 109,892	Days. 5:35 5:36 5:72 5:90 5:65 5:76 5:70 5:56 5:73 5:91 5:93	Days. 6 07 4 77 5 70 5 90 5 57 5 74 5 68 5 23 5 77 5 73 5 83 5 90 5 81	Days. 5-39 5-37 5-61 5-76 5-54 5-35 5-70 5-37 5-74 5-75 5-28 5-84 5-97	Days. + 0.28 + 0.59 + 0.02 + 0.03 + 0.02 - 0.05 - 0.13 - 0.07 - 0.17 - 0.10 + 0.01 + 0.01 + 0.01	Days 0.04 - 0.01 + 0.11 + 0.11 + 0.11 - 0.07 - 0.07 - 0.04 - 0.19 + 0.45 + 0.07 - 0.04
ENGLAND AND WALES	507,160	5.64	5.49	5-61	+ 0.15	+ 0.03
SCOTLAND.  West Scotland The Lothians Fife	20,264 2,129 21,123	5·18 5·31 5·48	5·19 6·38 5·27	5·06 5·12 .5·21	- 0.01 - 0.07 + 0.21	+ 0·12 + 0·19 + 0·27
SCOTLAND'	43,516	5.33	5.24	5.14	+ 0.09	+ 0.19
IRELAND	584	4.84	4.56	5*70	+ 0.28	- 0.86
UNITED KINGDOM	551,260	5.61	5.47	5:37	+ 0.14	+ 0.04

The number of workpeople employed in February, 551,260, showed a decrease of 1,263 (or 0.2 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 81,718 (or 12.9 per cent.) on a year ago. Of the 551,260 workpeople employed in February, 431,141 (or 78.2 per cent.) were at pits working 11 or

more days during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while 86,504 worked from 10 to 11 days. The highest average was in South Wales and Monmouth (5.93 days), and the lowest averages were in Ireland (4.84 days) and in Nottingham and Leicester (5.10 days).

In Northumberland and in Durham employment was good and much better than a month ago. In Cumberland and in Yorkshire it was very good, and showed an improvement on a year ago; in the Leeds district transport difficulties were reported. In Lancashire and Cheshire it was very good, and much better than a year ago. In Derbyshire and in Nottingham and Leicester it continued good, but showed a decline in the latter district; in both districts a shortage of labour was reported. In Staffordshire and in Warwick, Worcester and Shropshire it continued good, but was not quite so good as either a month ago or a year ago, and scarcity of workpeople was reported. In Gloucester and Somerset it continued good, and was much better than a year ago. In North Wales it continued very good, and in some instances the demand was reported to be greater than the output. In South Wales and Monmouth it was very good and better than a month ago.

In Scotland employment was good generally, and showed an improvement on a year ago. In Fifeshire it was also better than a month ago.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked, distributed according to the principal kind of coal raised at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. of Work- people employed in Feb., 1915, at the Collieries	worked	e number l per wee rles in Fo ended	r of days k by the ortnight	Dec. Feb.	(+) or (-) in , 1915, n a
	included in the Table.	Feb. 20th, 1915.	Jan. 23rd, 1915.	Feb. 21st, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite	6,677 27,529 43,731 65,164 212,109 196,050 551,260	Days. 6.83 5.64 5.34 5.45 6.71 5.61	Days. 6·77 5·43 4·89 5·39 5·68 5·40	Days. 5.94 5.39 5.50 6.66 6.70 6.49	Days. + 0.06 + 0.21 + 0.45 + 0.06 + 0.03 + 0.21	Days 0.11 + 0.25 - 0.16 - 0.21 + 0.01 + 0.12

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

Compared with a month ago, employment showed an improvement at pits producing all classes of coal; the improvement was most marked at gas and coking coal pits. Compared with a year ago, there was an improvement at coking coal pits, and a decline at house and gas coal pits.

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

Full time was worked at iron and shale mines. Employment was still dull at tin mines, but good at lead mines.

Slate quarrymen continued slack, especially in North Wales, but otherwise employment was fair generally at stone quarries, so far as the weather permitted. China clay workers remained slack as the result of lessened demands from the Potteries.

#### MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods in the Table below, relating to the same number of mines and open works, show that the number of workpeople employed in February (12,949) decreased by 193 (1.5 per cent.) on a month ago, and by 2,267 (14.9 per cent.) on a year ago. Of the total number of workpeople employed in February, 1915, 12,411 (95.8 per cent.) were at mines and open works working 11 or more days during the fortnight to which the returns relate.

The weekly average number of days\* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.90, as compared with 5.94 a month ago and 5.76 a year ago Full time was worked in the Cleveland district, and practically full time in Cumberland and Lancashire.

Districts.	Work- people	worke Mines	Number ed per we and Open ortnight	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1915, on a		
	employed in Feb., 1915.	Feb. 20th, 1915.	Jan. 23rd, 1915.	Feb. 21st, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland	6,037 4,213	Days. 6.00 5.93	Days. 5.99 5.94	Days. 5.73 5.81	Days. + 0.01 - 0.01	Days. + 0.27 + 0.12
shire Scotland Other Districts	696 2.003	5·28 5·76	5·32 5·96	5·63 5·77	- 0.04 - 0.20	- 0.35 - 0.01
ALL DISTRICTS	12,949	5.90	5.94	5.76	- 0.01	+ 0.14

Shale .- According to the returns received, there were 3,301 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 20th February, at mines working an average of 6.00 days\* per week, as compared with 3,338 workpeople in January, at mines working 5.98 days, and 3,658 workpeople in February, 1914, at mines working 5.73 days.

Tin .- Employment in Cornwall was generally dull, with little change compared with a month ago.

Lead .- Employment continued good in Weardale, in North Wales, and at Darley Dale (Matlock); it was generally about the same as a year ago.

#### QUARRYING.

Slate.—Employment continued very slack in North Wales, where there was a good deal of short time. Slackness was also reported at Delabole (Cornwall), where some men were discharged.

Granite.—Bad weather again affected employment somewhat in Leicestershire, where conditions were otherwise good, and rather better, on the whole, than a month ago. Employment continued fair in Cornwall, but was bad, and worse than a month ago, at Princetown.

Limestone.—There was a further improvement in the Buxton district, where employment was fair, and better than a year ago. Employment also improved in Wear-

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

dale, where it was generally good. It was very good, and better than a month ago, in Cumberland.

Other Stone.—Chert quarrymen continued well employed at Bakewell. Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago, in road-material (basalt) quarries in the Clee Hill district, though bad weather again caused some short time. In the Rowsley district employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago, in grindstone and building stone quarries. It was bad, and worse than a month ago, in sandstone quarries in Forfarshire. It was generally fair in freestone quarries on the Tyne, and moderate in whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale.

Settmaking &c.-Employment generally continued fairly good with settmakers in Scotland. It was good in Leicestershire, the Clee Hills, and Carnarvonshire. With monumental masons in the Aberdeen district employment continued dull, and was much worse than a year ago; a good deal of short time was worked.

China Clay .- Over one-fifth of the trade union members in the St. Austell district were either unemployed or on short time. In the Lee Moor and Shaugh district employment was fair, a number of workers having left for the dockvards.

#### PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, though some firms again reported it as slack. The improvement shown last month continued, and conditions were considerably better even than in the months preceding the war. A scarcity of men and of raw materials was again reported in most districts.

The returns show that 272 furnaces were in blast at the end of February, 1915, compared with 269 in the previous month and 275 a year ago. Six furnaces were relit (one in Nottinghamshire, two in Cumberland, and three in Monmouthshire). Three furnaces were either damped down or blown out-in Cumberland, Derbyshire, and in the Cleveland district.

THE RESERVE OF	Number of the Retu	of Furnaces i	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1915, on a		
District.	Feb., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES:		77	T/C		- 6
Cleveland	70 27	71 26	76 27	1 1	
Cumberland & Lancs.	10	10	10		
Derby & Nottingham	34	34	34		
eicester, Lincoln,	28	28	26	200.00	+ 2
and Northampton J	29	29	- 30	100000	- 1
.Wales & Monmouth		9 3	9	+ 3	+ 3
ther districts	12 3	3	4		- 1
ENGLAND & WALES -	213	210	216	+ 3	- 3
SCOTLAND	59	59	59		7.0
TOTAL	272	269	275	+ 3	- 3

There was a shortage of men in most districts, and thus, though the number of furnaces in blast was considerably less than the maximum, there was little unemployment. A scarcity of raw materials (ironstone, limestone, coal, &c.) was reported in almost all districts. This was due largely to congestion on the railways, and scarcity of waggons, but to a certain extent the cause was the impossibility of obtaining, or the high price of, foreign ores.

Employment was good in practically all districts. In North Wales, however, it was reported as very good, and in Staffordshire as fair. An improvement was reported from South Wales owing to increased supplies of ore from Spain.

The imports of iron ore in February amounted to 380,497 tons, slightly more than in January, and 74 per cent. of the imports in February, 1914. The exports of pig iron amounted to 21,934 tons, only 8,087 tons more than the imports, whereas normally the exports are five or six times as large as the imports.

#### IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

AT iron and steel works employment in February showed a slight improvement over the previous month In every district a shortage of fuel and raw material. owing to difficulties of transport, was reported; there was also a general scarcity of labour, both skilled and

According to returns from employers relating to 101,895 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended February 20th, 1915, was 571,312, showing an increase of 6,727 (or 1.2 per cent.) on the previous month, but a decrease of 7,287 (or 1.3 per cent.) on a year ago:-

	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.					gate number of ifts worked.				
_	Week ended 20th	1	Inc. (Dec. comp	(-)	as	Week ending 20th	ending compared with a		as	
	Feb., 1915.		onth go.		ear go.	Feb., 1915.		onth go.		Zear
DEPARTMENTS. Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	10,129		ent.		Per ent. 16	59,948	C	ent.		Per ent.
Crucible Furnaces Bessemer Converters Puddling Forges Rolling Mills Forging and Pressing Founding Other Departments Mechanics, Labourers	468 1,614 7,609 31,304 5,082 13,079 14,764 17,846	++++	0·2 8·1 0·7 1·4 0·6 1·2 0·5 0·3	1-1-1+++1	17·5 9·1 7·4 5·5 0·2 5·4 0·0 3·7	2,549 8,268 38,051 167,159 28,484 76,657 86,154 104,042	+ - + + + + + -	12·9 8·8 2·1 2·4 1·3 1·8 0 9 0·1	++-	13·4 10·3 1·1 3·2 0·1 6·2 0·2 3·7
TOTAL	101.895	+	0.6	-	2:7	571,312	+	1.2	-	1.3
DISTRICTS. Northumberland & Durham Cleveland Sheffield and Rotherham Leeds, Bradford, &c. Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire	11,759 8,732 22,616 4,347 9,033	+++-+	1.8 0.9 2.2 1.8 0.6	+ 1+1+	0 6 6·1 5·4 10·9 11·6	66,603 50,194 130,650 23,328 48,938	+++-+	2·2 1·1 2·6 1·1 0·5	+-+	1·7 4·3 7·3 14·3 10·3
Staffordshire	9,533 4,865 11,828		0·7 2·3 1·1	- 121	2·5 3·2 15·1	51,824 26,862 64,473	-+-	0·0 0·9 0·4	++-	0.5 0.1 16.8
TOTAL, England & Wales Scotland	82,713 19,182	++	0.5	-+	4·1 4·0	462,872 108,440	++	1.1	-+	3 0 7·1
TOTAL	101,895	+	0.6	-	2.7	571,312	+	1.2	-	1.3

Compared with January, employment showed an improvement in almost every district; it was most noticeable in Northumberland and Durham, in the Sheffield and Rotherham district, and in Scotland. In the other districts there was not much change. The improvement affected all the principal departments, and was most marked at crucible furnaces, puddling forges and rolling mills; while at Bessemer converters there was a decline. The total number of workpeople increased by 620 (or 0.6 per cent.), and the average number of shifts worked by 0.7 per cent.

Employment in sheet mills was moderate at Stockton and slack at Eston; and it was only fair in finished iron works at Thornaby and in chair, pipe and general foundries throughout the Tees and Hartlepools district. With these exceptions, employment on the North-east Coast was good, with some overtime, though slightly interfered with in some cases by shortage of men or by difficulties of transport. Employment in Yorkshire was good at steel works; but in iron works at Rotherham and Masborough a decline was reported. At Scunthorpe employment was good in all departments. In Shropshire and in South Staffordshire it was again brisk in steel works. but quiet in iron works. In the Potteries and in North Wales it was very good.

Compared with a year ago employment showed little change on the whole; there was a marked improvement in the Sheffield and Rotherham district and in Scotland but a considerable decline in the Leeds and Bradford district and in Wales and Monmouth. In Cleveland, and in Cumberland and Lancashire, though considerably fewer men were employed, those who were employed were working an increased number of shifts. As regards departments, foundries showed an improvement both in numbers employed and in shifts worked; in most of the other departments, though there was a decline in the number of workpeople, those who were employed were working an increased number of shifts. This was notably the case at puddling forges, which were slack at this time last year.

The total number of workpeople employed was less than in February, 1914, by 2,832 (or 2.7 per cent.), but the average number of shifts worked increased by 1.6 per

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during February, 1915 (excluding pig iron) were 35,006 tons, or only 21 per cent. of the imports in February last year. There were no imports of sheet bars and tinplate bars, of which 42,461 tons were imported in February, 1914; and there was a great decline in other semi-manufactured material (e.g., steel blooms and billets, plates and sheets for ship, bridge, and boiler work, &c., and wrought-iron bars, angles, &c.).

The exports (British and Irish), excluding pig iron, tinplates, and galvanised sheets, amounted to 125,175 tons, or about 71 per cent. of the exports in February. 1914. Rails showed a marked decline, as in previous months. There was, however, a great increase in steel bars, angles, sections, &c., exported to France.

#### TINPLATE, AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of February, 1915, and the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 26,880 workpeople:-

	Numbe	Number of Works open.			Number of Mills in operation				
Works.	At end of	Inc. ( Dec. (	(+) or -) on a	At end of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a				
	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.			
Tinplate Steel Sheet	72 12	+ 3	- 3 - 2	367 81	- 1 - 3	- 116 - 35			
TOTAL	84	+ 1	- 5	448	- 4	- 151			

Tinplate.—Employment on the whole was about the same as a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of February. 1915, was 367, compared with 368 a month ago, and 483 at the end of February, 1914.

The maintenance of the number of mills in operation was partly the result of a pooling of orders by the employers and partly of the system of short shifts of four or six hours, both of which expedients minimised the amount of unemployment. It was reported that owing to enlistments there was a shortage of men in some sections.

#### EXPORTS OF TINPLATES AND TINNED SHEETS.

	Feb.,	Jan.,	Feb.,	Inc. (+') or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1915, on a			
Paid of a Landert	1915.	1915.	1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
	[ ]	inned Plat	es and Tir	ned Sheets	· L. ions		
To United States British East Indies	Tons. 71 2,487 3,312 1,975 12 3,730 581 1,740 1,182 5,121 199 458 4,233	Tons. 388 4,842 3,712 1,310 4,009 496 760 3,228 2,549 481 334 7,107	Tons. 3,369 5,292 1,884 2,375 2,796 2,319 1,752 767 695 1,803 2,521 4,905 2,845 613 406 7,403	Tons 317 - 2,355 - 400 + 665 + 12 - 279 - 85 + 980 - 2,046 + 2,572 - 282 - 2,874	Tons 3,298 - 2,805 - 1,884 + 937 - 820 - 2,307 + 1,978 - 767 - 114 - 63 - 2,521 - 3,723 + 2,276 - 414 + 52 - 3,170		
TOTAL	25,101	29,216	41,744	- 4,115	- 16,643		
		В	lack Plates	3.	Canada.		
TOTAL	1,827	3,102	5,382	- 1,275	- 3,555		

Steel and Galvanised Sheets.—A decline on a month ago occurred, and some works were totally idle. In February the number of mills working was 81, compared with 84 a month ago, and 116 in February, 1914. The decline on a year ago was due to the falling-off in the foreign demand, which usually accounts for about 90 per cent. of the output. In the home markets the increased demand reported during recent months was

The exports of galvanised sheets in February amounted to 21,732 tons less than in January and to only 32 per cent. of the exports in February, 1914. All the principal countries shared in the decline. This was most marked in the case of India, the exports to which were only 6,026 tons, or less than a fifth of those in February,

#### ENGINEERING TRADES.

THE demand for labour continued to exceed the supply, overtime, night-shifts and Sunday work being greatly resorted to in order to facilitate the completion of Government orders in connection with the war. Very few men were unemployed for more than a few days.

Trade Unions with 218,761 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 0.9\* per cent. at the end of January and 2.4 per cent. at the end of February.

The number of workpeople in these trades who were insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 730,785. According to the comprehensive statistics compiled on this basis the percentage unemployed at the end of February was 0.9, compared with 1.0 in January and 3.2 in February, 1914. The particulars for the several insurance districts are given in the following Table:

	Number	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1915, on a		
Division.	Insured.	26th Feb., 1915.	29th Jan., 1915.	27th Feb., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern and S.E. Counties South Western Wales	70,797 74,159 149,138 90,791 55,918 71,842 37,622 35,328 14,529 111,313 19,348	13 04 10 09 08 07 07 09 10 08 2.7	1.5 0.4 1.4 1.0 1.1 0.9 0.7 0.8 0.8 0.7 2.3	4·5 2·3 4·0 3·6 2·6 2·9 3·4 2·9 1·6 4·2	- 0.2 - 0.4 - 0.1 - 0.3 - 0.2 + 0.1 + 0.2 + 0.1 + 0.4	- 3·2 - 1·9 - 3·0 - 2·1 - 1·8 - 2·2 - 2·7 - 2·0 - 0·6 - 1·7 - 1·5	
UNITED KINGDOM	730,785	0.9	1.0	3 2	- 0.1	- 2:3	

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

In textile machine works in Lancashire and Cheshire employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago; short time was in operation at some places, especially at Oldham. With makers of textile machinery, etc., at Leeds employment was slack, but improving. With lace machine builders at Nottingham half-time was still the rule. In the Coventry and Birmingham district employment in the cycle trade was fair, and in the motor cycle industry good on Government work but quiet on ordinary work. In the Eastern Counties men normally engaged in making agricultural implements, etc., were employed on Government work to a large extent.

The exports of machinery were only 42 per cent. of those in February, 1914. The greatest decline was in agricultural and in textile machinery; the exports of both these classes were also considerably less than in January.

#### SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT, both on new work and repairs, continued very good. The demand for labour was in excess of the supply, and much mercantile work was postponed; while overtime, night shifts, and Sunday labour were in operation on Government orders. On the whole employment was rather better than a month ago. It was even better than a year ago, when it was very good.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and shipwrights with 67,203 members reported 0.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, compared with 0.7 per cent. a month ago and 2.2 per cent.

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

Division.	Number		tage of Unt Books	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1915. com- pared with a		
Division.	Insured.	26th 29th Feb., Jan., 1915. 1915.		27th Feb., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire Least Midlands West Midlands Eastern & S. E. Counties South Western Wales Leastern Wales Leastern	10,380 69,192 35,485 6,352 1,411 410 7,895 24,003 10,831 70,022 16,809	2·1 0·6 0·6 0·6 5·0 1·0 1·1 1·9 1·0 0·9 3·3	2·3 0·7 0·6 0·9 5·5 0·9 1·8 0·9 1·0 3·3	6·8 2·4 3·1 3·5 1·9 3·1 3·2 10·1 3·0 2·5 4·5	- 0·2 - 0·1 - 0·3 - 0·5 + 0·5 + 0·2 + 0·1 + 0·1	- 4.7 - 1.8 - 2.5 - 2.9 + 3.1 - 2.1 - 2.1 - 2.2 - 2.0 - 1.6 - 1.2
UNITED KINGDOM	242,790	1.1	1.2	3.6	- 0.1	- 25

#### MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

THE execution of Government contracts continued to keep several of the trades in this group very active during February. Some overtime was reported, and in certain cases there was a shortage of labour. Trade Unions with 34,931 members reported only 0.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 1.1 per cent. a month ago, and 1.6 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Employment with brassworkers continued very good, and was much better than a year ago. In Birmingham a good deal of overtime was worked on Government orders, but on other work there was some short time. Overtime was also reported at Manchester, London, and Nottingham; at Sheffield employment was only fair, and not so good as a year ago. Bedstead workers at Birmingham reported employment as bad, as was the case a month ago and a year ago.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails &c .- With makers of rivets, nuts, bolts, and spikes at Black Heath and Halesowen employment was fairly good, but showed some decline on a month ago; it was the same as a year ago. At Darlaston it was irregular with makers of nuts and bolts, and worse than a month ago; at Birmingham and Smethwick full-time working continued. Shoe rivet and wire nail makers at Birmingham reported employment as very good, and better than a month ago; with cut nail makers it was

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups &c.—Most branches of the cutlery trades in Sheffield continued busy; in the spring knife trade there was a shortage of skilled men. With file forgers, cutters (hand) and hardeners employment was only moderate generally, and worse than a year ago; and some short time was worked. With file cutters (machine) it was fair, the same as a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At Wolverhampton filesmiths were quiet. Employment with edge tool workers declined to moderate at Birmingham, and was fair at Wednesbury. At Walsall it was bad with bit, stirrup, harness and saddlery furniture makers, and worse than a year ago. Makers of motor chains and cart gear reported employment as good, and better than a month ago.

The fish-hook and fishing tackle trade at Redditch and at irmingham continued depressed. With needle makers here was a decline, and employment was only fairly

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THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Tubes .- In South Staffordshire the tube industry was fair, though not so good as a year ago. A shortage both of labour and material was reported. At Wednesbury aployment was good, and better than was the case nth ago and a year ago. At Birmingham makers of pper and brass tubes were very busy, and overtime was rked on Government orders; makers of cased tubes, wever, continued quiet, and some short time was

Chains, Anchors, Springs &c.—Employment connchor smiths at Cradley Heath and was better than a ear ago. With anvil and vice trades at Dudley, howver, half-time was prevalent. Spring makers at West Bromwich and Redditch continued very well employed; ing makers at Sheffield were finding employment in ner trades. At Wednesbury employment in the spring ades was good and better than a month ago and a year

Sheet Metal Workers .- Employment continued good at all the principal centres, and a good deal of overtime worked on Government contracts. Ironplate workers t the Lye continued very busy, and at Birmingham oyment continued good, with overtime.

Wire.—Employment with wire workers was only fair, and not so good as a year ago. At Norwich it was slack th wire weavers; with wire drawers it was moderate at neffield and fairly good at Warrington.

Locks, Hollow-ware &c .- In the lock and latch trade Wolverhampton and Willenhall, employment conued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Cast iron ow-ware makers at Wolverhampton continued slack, ut with enamelled hollow-ware makers employment was ry good and better than a month ago and a year ago. was also good with makers of galvanised tanks.

Stoves, Grates &c .- At Falkirk and Glasgow employ ent was very good, and better than a year ago; at Leeds continued fair, but some short time was worked. At effield and Rotherham there was a decline on both a nth ago and a year ago, and much short time was orked; at Thornaby employment continued slack.

Jewellery, Plated Ware &c.-Electro-platers and ersmiths at Birmingham reported an improvement; rtime was worked on Government orders, and on other rk there was less short time. With jewellers there was improvement on the cheaper classes of goods, but erwise employment was quiet. The gold and silver des in London and Sheffield continued very depressed, th much short time.

Farriers.—Employment was good, and better than a ar ago, some overtime being worked. A shortage of abour was reported in some districts.

#### COTTON TRADE.

HERE was a further improvement in all branches of the otton trade during February, but employment was still t so good as a year ago. It was estimated that the rade as a whole worked about 49 hours a week on the erage, as compared with 47 hours in January.

In the spinning branch there was a great shortage of ers and some machinery was stopped in consequence; average weekly earnings in this section were 1s. her than in July. In the weaving branch the average kly earnings were about 5d. less than in July, but 2d. more than in January.

Returns from firms employing 108,134 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed an increase of per cent. in the number employed and of 5.8 per in the amount of wages paid compared with a onth ago. Compared with a year ago, the figures owed a decrease of 6.3 per cent. in the number emoyed and of 9.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	1	Vorkpeop	le.		Earnings		
ose pr — s oso oso	Week ended 20th	Inc. (+)	or Dec.	Week ended 20th	Inc. (+) or Dec		
ar say amort out sugar	Feb., 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing	14,413 22,984 50,066 8,835 11,836	Per cent 0·1 + 0·6 + 2·0 + 0·1 + 2·8	Per cent 4.7 - 7.8 - 4.4 - 6.7 - 12.0	£ 13,594 23,571 46,501 11,205 11,697	Per cent. + 3·3 + 5·4 + 8·6 + 3·5 + 1·7	Per cei t. - 5.6 - 9.2 - 9.0 - 2.4 - 17.2	
TOTAL	108,134	+ 1.4	- 6.3	106,568	+ 5.8	- 9.0	
Ashton Stockport, Glossop and Hyde Oldham Bolton and Leigh. Bolton and Leigh. Bury, Rochale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden Manchester Preston and Chorley Blackburn, Accrimton and Darwen Burnley, Paddham, Colne and Nelson Other Lancashire Towns. Other Districts	5,462 6,233 12,694 15,608 6,949 9,266 10,323 14,621 11,396 4,488 4,431 6,673	+ 3.8 + 1.4 + 0.6 + 0.6 - 0.0 - 0.0 + 0.3 + 2.8 + 3.5 + 4.5 + 0.2 - 0.1	- 4·5 - 3·6 - 2·7 - 4·2 - 7·7 - 1·9 - 9·7 - 5·5 - 9·3 - 16·5 - 10·8 - 6·3	5,748 7,734 13,501 13,896 7,197 7,854 8,872 16,268 12,918 3,615 4,209 5,756	+ 7·6 - 0·1 + 4·4 + 4·9 + 5·3 + 5·1 + 8·6 + 12·3 + 3·8 + 0·2 + 5·3	- 2·1 - 4·0 - 3·9 - 11·1 - 8·9 - 2·3 - 2·3 - 6·6 - 11·4 - 19·9 - 12·6 - 4·8	
TOTAL	108,134	+ 1.4	- 6.3	106,568	+ 5.8	- 9:0	

In the Oldham district employment was fair, and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Over 90 per cent. of the operatives worked full time during the month, and employment would have been normal but for the shortage of piecers, grinders, blowing-room hands and little tenters in the cardroom, which caused stoppages in the spinning department owing to lack of the necessary material.

Employment in the Bolton district was fair, and showed an improvement in most departments compared with a month ago; but it was not so good as a year ago. About 24 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time during the month as compared with 40 per cent. a month ago. In the Manchester district some overtime was reported on Government contracts, and both the spinning and the weaving departments reported employment as fair.

Employment in the Blackburn district showed an improvement as compared with a month ago; some short time, however, was worked by spinners. With weavers it was better than it has been since the outbreak of war: during the month eight mills, employing about 2,000 workpeople, reopened, and three mills, employing about 780 workpeople, closed down.

In the Preston and Chorley district employment, although better than a month ago, was still much below the level of a year ago; about 40 per cent. of the operatives were working reduced hours during the month.

A marked improvement was shown in the Burnley district compared with a month ago, but there was still a good deal of short time in the weaving and finishing departments, 37 per cent. of the operatives being thus affected during the month.

#### PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The price of Egyptian cotton showed a rising tendency during February, and the average for the month was 6.48d. per lb., or 0.35d. higher than in January; it was still, however, more than 21d. lower than the average in February, 1914, and, with the exception of the December and January prices, was the lowest average since January, 1905. The price of American cotton, on the other hand, was slightly lower at the beginning than at the end of the month: the average was higher than in January by 0.10d. per lb., but was still 2d. per lb. lower than in February, 1914, and, with the exception of the November, December, and January figures, was the lowest average since December, 1908.

The following Table shows the average prices of cotton at Liverpool in February, 1915, compared with those in January, 1915, and in February, 1914.

<sup>\*</sup> Revised figure.

		Inc. (+) or February	Dec. (-) in , 1915, on a	
ACTIVITY OF THE PARTY.	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
MIDDLING AMERICAN: Monthly average of Daily Quota-	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	
tions Highest price on any one day	5·11 4·89	- 0·11 + 0·18	- 1·98 - 2·06	
GOOD FAIR LGYPTIAN: Monthly average of Daily Quota-	6.48	+ 0.35	- 2.57	
tions Highest price on any one day Lowest , , ,	6·55 6·30	+ 0.20 + 0.25	- 2·70 - 2·55	

# COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

The receipts of cotton at inland towns during February were 9 per cent. less than in January. Compared with a year ago, however, there was an increase of 8 per cent. This increase was entirely due to the large increase (17 per cent.) in the receipts of American cotton, all other varieties showing a decline as compared with February,

	Feb.,	Jan,	Feb.,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1915, on a		
Description of Cotton.	1915.	1915.	1914.	Month ago,	Year ago.	
American Brazilian East Indian Egyptian Miscellaneous	6,494 5,869 31,867	Bales. 310,921 9,736 4,547 34,688 10,563	Bales. 242,766 15,519 6,691 33,007 12,769	Bales 26,316 - 3,242 + 1,322 - 2,821 - 4,206	Bales. + 41,839 - 9,026 - 822 - 1,140 - 6,419	
TOTAL .	335,192	370,455	310,752	- 35,263	+ 24,44	

#### EXPORTS OF COTTON MANUFACTURES.

The exports of cotton yarn again showed a marked advance on the previous month, principally owing to greatly increased exports to the Netherlands and to France. They were nearly equal to the exports of February two years ago, and were within 11 per cent. of the exports in February last year.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 309,982,300 yards, or about 53 per cent. of the exports in February, 1914. There was a considerable increase in the exports to France, but a falling-off to all the other principal countries of destination, including Turkey, China, India and the Argentine.

The exports of cotton sewing thread amounted to 1,594,700 lbs., or slightly more than in February, 1914.

#### WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

#### WOOLLEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued very brisk, largely owing to Government contracts, and was much better than a year ago. About 27 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working overtime during the month, as compared with 30 per cent. during January. In addition much night work was reported. The average weekly earnings per head of those employed have risen from 18s. 8d. in July to 21s. 4d. in February.

There was a marked shortage of labour in every district, especially of night workers. In Scotland the figures again show a large decline in numbers employed compared with a year ago, mainly owing to enlistments.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts all available labour was fully employed, and much overtime and night work were reported. In the heavy woollen district employment continued very brisk; 39 per cent. of the operatives worked about ten hours overtime per week, as compared with 37 per cent. during January.

At Leeds manufacturers engaged on Government orders were kept very busy, and overtime was regularly worked till 8 or 9 o'clock every evening. The ordinary trade for women's clothing materials showed some

În Scotland employment was good, but less overtime was worked than during January, 15 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns being thus affected, as compared with 21 per cent. a month ago.

Returns from firms employing 24,261 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. both in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, Compared with a year ago, there was no change in the number employed, but an increase of 12.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid: -

The special section of	W	orkpeopl	e.	2 A- Est	Earnings.	
men martered luteral	Week	Inc. ( Dec. (-	+) or -) on a	Week ended 20th	Inc. ( Dec. (-	+) or ) on a
range emit monta en	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Wool Sorting Spinning Weaving Other Departments Not specified TOTAL	617 5,573 9,672 6,615 1,784 24,261	Per cent 2.4 + 0.7 + 0.4 + 0.2 + 1.1 + 0.4	Per cent 4·3 + 11·6 - 0·3 - 8·0 + 1·9 - 0·0	£ 727 6,330 9,544 7,418 1,880 25,899	Per cent. + 0·1 - 0·5 + 1·2 + 0·8 + 0·4	Per cent. + 4·4 + 30·6 + 11·8 + 0·8 + 11·2 + 12·0
DISTRICTS. Huddersfield District Leeds District Dewsbury & Batley District Other Parts of West Riding	3,339 2,701 3,031 2,531	+ 0.5 + 0.6 - 0.5 - 0.4	+ 39 + 6·3 + 1·5 + 2·5	4,256 3,101 3,429 2,897	+ 2·1 + 1·1 - 1·0 - 2.1	+ 18·0 + 30·0 + 16·9 + 17·8
Scotland Other Districts	11,602 6,060 6,599	+ 0·1 - 0·5 + 1·7	+ 3·5 - 13·0 + 8·1	.13,683 6,013 6,203	+ 0·2 + 0·8 + 0·7	+ 20·1 - 7·6 + 18·6
TOTAL	24,261	+ 0.4	- 0.0	25,899	+ 0.4	+120

#### WORSTED TRADE.

Employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and was fairly good. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in the combing department, but an improvement in spinning and weaving. A considerable shortage of labour was reported, partly owing to enlistments, especially in the Bradford district.

About 14 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on overtime during the month, as compared with 11 per cent. during January. Very little short time was reported.

Returns from firms employing 35,831 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed a decrease of per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 13 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages

	M	orkpeop	le.		Earnings.	
name of the property of	Week ended 20th		+) or -) on a	Week ended 20th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
the choose to esta	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Wool Sorting & Combing Spinning Weaving Other Departments Not specified	4,422 17,544 8,129 3,813 1,923 35,831	Per cent 0·1 - 0·5 - 0·9 - 1·5 - 1·8 - 0·7	Per cent 4.7 - 1.4 - 0.1 - 7.9 + 3.3 - 2.0	£ 4,975 11,331 7,602 4,123 1,683 29,714	Per cent. + 1·6 + 1·7 + 0·4 + 1·8 + 1·3	Per cent 45 + 4·3 + 12 - 1·8 + 94 + 1·4
DISTRICTS. Bradford District	19,345 5,722 2,661 3,558 2,163	- 1·3 - 0·6 - 0·6 + 0·9 + 0·1	- 19 - 01 + 1·3 - 2·2 - 3·8	16,058 4,873 2,035 3,334 1,670	+ 04 + 08 + 2·4 + 4·8 + 1·8	- 12 + 35 + 80 + 95 + 31 + 17
Other Districts	33,449 2,382	- 0.8 + 0.5	- 1·5 - 8·5	27,970	+ 2.8	- 32
TOTAL	35,831	- 0.7	- 20	29,714	+ 1.3	+ 14

At Bradford about 11 per cent. of the operative covered by the returns were on overtime during the month, as compared with 9 per cent. during January in addition there was a good deal of night work. Copared with a month ago there was a slight improvement in every department except weaving; compared with year ago there was a slight decline except in the spinning branch. At Keighley employment continued good an was slightly better than a year ago; about 20 per cent of the operatives were on overtime, as compared with 16 per cent. a month ago.

At Halifax there was a decided improvement in the spinning department, as compared with a year ago; and during both January and February about 11 per cent of the operatives were working overtime.

Huddersfield district many looms were running night and day, and weavers were in some cases kept waiting or varn from spinners.

#### PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

The average price of wool (Lincoln hoggs) at Bradord in February was nearly 2d. per lb. higher than in anuary; the price reached was higher than in any revious month for which the Department has records the next highest being  $14\frac{3}{4}$ d. in June and July, 1906. The average prices of tops were also higher than in January by 2d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. respectively. This is the first time, so far as the records of the Department show, hat the average price of 40's crossbred tops has exceeded od. per lb.; and the average for February was more double the averages for the months of Marchvember, 1908. The price of 60's super botany tops, the other hand, was exceeded in several months of oth the years 1913 and 1914.

and the second			Feb., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Feb., 1914.
AVERAGE PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops	::	::	Pence per lb. 1578 22 29	Pence per lb. 14 20 26½	Pence per lb. 12¾ 16 28½
COURSE OF PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops		**	1434, 17 21, 23 28, 30	13½ 14¾ 19, 21 25, 28	12½, 12¾ 15, 16¾ 27½, 29½

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports of wool in February, 1915, were 20 milion lb. greater than in February, 1914. There was an almost total cessation of re-exports, and the quantity retained for consumption amounted to 119,426,000 lb., compared with 56,191,000 lb. in February, 1914. In addition, the exports of British and Irish wool were reduced by 3,414,000 lb. The total quantity available or manufacture in this country was therefore greater than in February, 1914, by about 663 million lb., a much greater excess even than in December and January. he imports of yarns were practically nil.

The exports of tops and varns were small compared with last year, but were considerably greater than in January. The exports of woollen tissues were 5,950,700 ards, about the same as in January, and 71 per cent. of the exports in February, 1914. The exports of worsted issues were 4,487,900 yards, being less than in January, 1915, and 67 per cent. of those in February, 1914. 'The exports of blankets (not including those supplied from overnment stores to British troops) were more than wice as great in quantity, and nearly three times as great in value, as the exports in February, 1914.

#### LINEN TRADE.

In the Irish districts employment showed little change on a month ago, and short time continued general. In Scotland there was some improvement in the Dunfermine district. Employment in Ireland and Fifeshire was nuch worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 41,607 workpeople in the week ended 20th February, 1915, showed a decrease 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was decrease of 6.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 15.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Belfast employment was about the same as a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. Short time continued general, and nearly all the operatives covered by the returns were working from 7 to  $25\frac{1}{2}$  hours less than normal. With flax dressers employment showed some mprovement, and with flax roughers there was a reducion in the numbers unemployed owing to enlistment. In other parts of Ireland short time continued general, and employment was on the whole a little worse than a month ago

At Dunfermline the home trade was reported as better han for some years, but the American and Canadian

trade showed a decline. The factories were working five days a week, instead of four, as was the case a month ago, partly owing to the fact that a number of operatives have found work in other districts. At Brechin employment continued good.

UL SIGNACIONAL COMO	W	orkpeop	le.		Earnings	A NOTE OF
discharge a him	Week ended 20th	Inc. (+)	or Dec.	Week ended 20th	Inc. (+)	or Dec.
R anw, arada, oun 40 trail bayolgane reduc	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing Spinning Weaving Other Not specified.	5,884 10,933 13.704 6,271 4,815	Per cent 0.7 + 0.0 - 0.7 - 1.7 + 0.8	Per cent 6·5 - 2 8 - 7·8 - 5·4 - 8·3	£ 3,271 5,131 8,414 5,107 2,613	Per cent. + 1.6 + 0.0 + 3.1 + 1.0 + 4.2	Per cent. - 17.0 - 18.0 - 15.7 - 9.1 - 21.8
TOTAL	41,607	- 0.5	- 6.0	24,536	+ 1.9	- 15.8
DISTRICTS. Belfast Other places in Ireland	16,334 12,925	- 0.0	- 5·4 - 6·4	9,407 6,774	+ 0.6	- 18·5 - 18·8
TOTAL, IRELAND	29,259	- 0.3	- 5.9	16,181	+ 0.1	- 18.5
Fifeshire Other places in Scotland	6,020 5,707	- 15 - 0·7	- 4·6 - 6·7	3,907 4,028	+ 9·2 + 2·1	- 10·9 - 7·9
TOTAL, SCOTLAND	11,727	- 1.1	- 5.7	7,935	+ 55	- 9.4
England	621	+ 4.5	- 18.2	420	+ 6.3	- 13.8
UNITED KINGDOM	41 607	- 0.5	- 60	24,536	+ 1.9	- 15.8

The imports of flax and tow were only about onequarter of those in February, 1914; and the imports of linen yarn, which were over 2 million lb. in February last year, fell to practically nil.

The exports of linen piece goods were 10,911,700 yards, or 70 per cent. of those in February, 1914. There was a great decline in exports to the United States (which normally takes about two-thirds of the total); but exports to France rose from 57,400 yards to 552,100 yards.

#### JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was reported as good in the principal districts. The comparison with a month ago and a year ago in the Table below is affected by an increase of 5 per cent. in rates of wages in the Dundee and the Forfar districts taking effect in February. The decline in numbers employed as compared with a year ago was partly owing to a shortage of labour.

Returns received from firms employing 12,935 workpeople in the week ended 20th February, 1915, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 6.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages

In the Dundee district, in which are employed 92 per cent. of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns, employment was good, and a scarcity of workers was reported in some cases, especially in the spinning departments. It was, however, not quite so good as a year ago. At Forfar, Arbroath and Kirkcaldy also it was reported as good.

ne berelen			V	Vorkpeop	le.		Earnings	
199	999		Week		+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (Dec. (-	(+) or -) on a
			20th Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENT Preparing Spinning Weaving Other	NTS.	.: .:	2.824 3.503 4.719 1,889	Per cent 0.3 - 0.9 - 0.9 - 1.0	Per cent10.8 - 5.3 - 7.2 + 0.6	£ 2.417 2.691 4.149 2,159	Per cent. + 7.9 + 4.2 + 6.0 + 3.5	Per cent 4.6 - 3.8 - 2.3 + 7.4
TOTAL			12,935	- 08	- 64	11,416	+ 5.5	- 1.5

The exports of jute piece goods showed a further great improvement, and amounted to 9,160,000 yards, or 88 per cent. of those in February, 1914.

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EMPLOYMENT was slightly better than in January, but was still considerably worse than a year ago. In several districts great delay in railway and shipping delivery was

Returns from firms employing 7,095 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 9.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:-

10 - 10 T 10 T	N	Vorkpeop	le.		Earnings	MALE OF THE PARTY
101 - 101 + 100 15	Week		(+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
AU-IST STREET	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES. Throwing Spinning Weaving Other Not specified	778 1,860 3,079 589 789	Per cent. + 09 - 0.6 - 3.7 - 4.1	Per cent 16·1 - 11·9 - 4·5 - 18·0 - 7·1	£ 396 1,409 1,981 493 686	Per cent. + 9.7 + 0.7 + 1.7 + 0.8 + 3.6	Per cent 11.6 - 19.0 - 11.2 - 20.7 + 0.1
TOTAL	7,095	- 2.0	- 9.4	4,965	+ 2.2	- 13.3
DISTRICTS. Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,931	- 0.4	- 54	1,557	+ 1.9	- 14-2
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	706	+ 0.1	- 17.7	487	- 4.1	- 29.2
Eastern Counties Other Districts, including Scotland	2,833 1,625	- 0·7 - 6·9	- 7·2 - 13·4	1,907 1,014	+ 4.6 + 1.6	- 4·6 - 17·2
TOTAL	7,095	- 2.0	- 9.4	4,965	+ 2.2	- 13.3

At Macclesfield employment with throwsters, spinners and outside hand-loom weavers was fair, but some short time was reported in the first two branches; with powerloom weavers employment was good, but with factory hand-loom weavers it was bad, and worse than a year ago. Some firms in this district have been busy during the month on black silk squares for the Navy.

At Leek and Congleton employment was reported as good with trimming weavers and pickers and fair in the remaining branches. In the Lancashire and West Riding district employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago; about 35 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on short time during the month, as compared with 38 per cent. a month ago. In the Eastern Counties employment was fair and slightly better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At Coventry employment was moderate with artificial silk workers and fair with ribbon

#### HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was very good in the coarse branch and showed some improvement in the fine branch of the trade; it was much better than a year ago, owing to Government contracts. The shortage in the supply of needles and yarn still affected production in some departments.

Returns from firms employing 20,116 workpeople in the week ended February 20th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 9.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

not then be det to	W	orkpeopl	le.	Earnings.			
District.	Week	Inc. (Dec. (-	+) or -) on a	Week ended 20th	Inc. (Dec. (-		
	20th Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Leicester Leicester Country District. Notts and Derbyshire Scotland Other Districts  TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	9,943 2,267 5,052 2,546 303 20,116	Per cent. + 0.6 + 0.1 + 1.8 + 0.7 - 0.7 + 0.8	Per cent. + 6.0 - 1.6 + 4.8 + 4.3 - 1.9 + 4.4	£ 8,806 1,809 3,890 2,089 205	Per cent. + 3·3 + 3·1 + 1·8 + 6·9 + 1·5 + 3·3	Per cent. + 15·9 - 3·1 + 4·9 + 9·9	

At Leicester employment continued very brisk on Army and Navy contracts, but was quiet in the finer branches of the trade. At Hinckley employment on Army and seamless hose continued good, in the cotton hose branch it was fair; at Loughborough the operatives were fairly busy. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was good with power-frame workers in the coarse branch; in the fine yarn section there was an improvement, and less short time was reported: about a quarter of the operatives were losing 1 to 3 days a week during February, whereas about half were thus affected during January. With hand-frame workers in the country districts of Nottinghamshire employment continued very slack.

In Scotland employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago; about a third of the operatives covered by the returns were working overtime during the month.

#### LACE TRADE.

ALL branches of the lace trade showed a considerable improvement compared with a month ago. The trade generally is still much below the level of a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 6,687 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 17.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 30.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid

TA SAN STORY - IN 1	V	Vorkpeop	le.	1 1935	Earnings.		
TOT SOUTH OF SOUTH	Week ended 20th	Inc. (Dec. (	+) or -) on a	Week ended 20th	ended Dec. (		
mare from their bear	Feb., 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.	
BRANCHES. Levers	1,978 1,575 2,361 327 446	Per cent. + 1.7 + 6.3 + 1.8 + 0.6 + 4.2	Per cent. - 24.5 - 17.0 - 18.1 + 36.3 - 2.4	£ 1,696 1,653 1,793 252 342	Per cent. + 10·3 + 19·2 + 4·3 + 13·5 + 19·6	Per cent 439 - 152 - 345 + 527 - 3.7	
TOTAL	6,687	+ 2.9	- 17:4	5.736	+ 13 6	- 30.3	
DISTRICTS. Nottingham City Long Eaton and other outlying districts Other English Districts Scotland	3,409 1,088 1,928 262 6,637	+ 20 + 4·3 + 3·0 + 7·8 + 2·9	- 11.6 - 27.0 - 18.1 - 33.8 - 17.4	2,838 1,157 1,451 290 5,736	+12·7 +12·2 +15·3 +19·3 +13·6	- 21·2 - 43·3 - 33·5 - 28·0 - 30·3	

At Nottingham there was much short and irregular time in all sections, but employment in the levers and curtain sections showed some improvement as compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was a general decline. Recruiting has somewhat reduced the number of unemployed in this district. At Long Eaton employment showed a further improvement, but was still bad; about 50 per cent. of the operatives, chiefly in the levers branch, were on short time during the month as compared with 64 per cent. during January. In other parts of England employment was better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago; about 44 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were working reduced hours during February as compared with 75 per cent. in the previous month

The exports of cotton lace fell from £336,497 in February, 1914, to £181,022 in February, 1915; the import of cotton lace also fell by nearly £103,000. The import of silk lace, which were £40,013 in February, 1914, fell to practically nil.

#### CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement as compared with a month ago; it was, however, still worse than a year ago. A number of firms were fully employed on Government orders for goods other than carpets, and there was also a slight improvement in the regular carpet

Returns from firms employing 7,207 workpeople, and paying £6,173 in wages in the week ended 20th Feb

ruary, showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 16.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 19;5 per cent. in the amount of wages

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About 20 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were reported to be working short time, as compared with 24 per cent. a month ago.

In the Kidderminster district some of the largest firms resumed full time during the month; the production of military blankets was continued at full pressure, and although employment was still very slack in the ordinary trade, more carpet machinery was running than at any period since the outbreak of war. Spinners were well employed on yarns for military clothing

In the West Riding there was little change; wherever possible carpet looms were still employed on khaki and Army blanket work.

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

The imports of carpets and carpet rugs in February were 30,265 square yards, considerably more than in January, but less than a fifth of the imports in February, 1914.

The exports were 451,500 square yards, or 59 per cent. of those in February, 1914.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these trades showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. In certain of the dyeing and finishing branches operatives were still well employed on Government contracts, but employment generally was still slack, and much short time was worked. Unemployment, however, was considerably relieved by enlistment, and a shortage of labour was even reported in a few cases.

Returns from firms employing 24,557 workpeople in the week ended February 20th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 13.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	V	Vorkpeor	ole.		Earnings.			
	Week	ended (-) on a en		Week		) or Dec.		
	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Bleaching Printing Printing Dyeing Trimming, Finishing and other Departments Not specified	2,827 673 12,091 8,048 918	Per cent 0·2 + 2·3 - 1·3 + 0·6 - 1·3 - 0·5	Per cent 12.8 - 22.7 - 13.0 - 13.5 - 13.4 - 13.5	£ 2,887 848 17,416 8,713 1,228 31,092	Per cent 0·1 + 6·6 + 2·6 + 1·3 + 2·7 + 2·1	Per cent 12·0 - 25·4 - 12·6 - 13·8 - 3·2 - 13·0		
OISTRICTS: Yorkshire	11,228 7,065 2,478 779 3,007	- 0.9 + 0.5 - 2.4 - 3.6 + 1.3	- 12·3 - 15·8 - 12·5 - 14·1 - 12·5	16,536 8,264 2,331 558 3,403	+ 3·2 + 0·7 - 3·8 - 6·4 + 6·0	- 11 0 - 16 2 - 11 8 - 23 8 - 13 2		
TOTAL	24,557	- 0.5	- 13.5	31,092	+ 2.1	- 13.0		

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire was better than a month ago owing to the revival in the cotton trade, but worse than a year ago. At Basford employment in the hosiery section continued fair; with lace workers it was bad. At Dundee operatives were fairly well employed.

Printing.—Employment with machine calico printers and engravers in England and Scotland continued bad, with much short time.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers was quiet, but workpeople engaged on Government contracts were busy. About 54 per cent. of the

Trade Union dyers were on short time, and about 27 per cent. were on overtime during the month. With cotton dyers in Lancashire and Yorkshire employment was not so good as a year ago, but a number of men were working overtime on Government and foreign contracts. With lace dyers it had improved and was fair at Nottingham and good at Basford.

Trimming, Finishing, &c .- At Leicester employment continued fairly good in the dressed department, but otherwise was slack. At Hinckley it was good, and better than a year ago. At Loughborough operatives engaged on Army work were well employed, but in other branches there was some slackness. At Basford employment was fair. With calenderers at Dundee employment continued fairly good.

#### BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

In consequence of the continued pressure of Government orders employment in February remained very good; it was about the same as in January, and much better than a year ago, especially in the Bristol and Kingswood

Returns from firms employing 65,385 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed practically no change in the number employed or in the amount of wages paid as compared with January, but an increase of 9.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a year ago, in spite of a slight reduction (1.0 per cent.) in the number employed:

	1	Vorkpeop	ple.		Earnings	
District.	Week ended 20th		(+) or -) on a	Week ended 20th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES. London Leicester Country District Northampton Country District Kettering Stafford & District Bristol & District Manchester & District Birmingham & District Other parts of England and Wales	2,281 12,652 3,068 10,080 9,411 4,079 2,694 4,262 1,548 2,043 2,304 2,304 3,106 983 3,192	Per cent 2·2 + 2·0 + 0·9 + 0·5 - 1·0 - 0·6 - 1·5 - 1·0 + 1·2 - 0·9 - 0·3 - 1·6 + 0·0	Per cent 7.4 + 1.5 - 4.7 - 0.8 - 2.8 + 0.3 - 3.9 - 4.7 + 6.0 + 9.5 + 3.1 - 3.7 - 3.5	£,799 16,196 3,421 12,162 10,500 4,716 2,751 3,921 1,620 2,320 2,486 3,318 858 3,076	Per cent 0.7 + 2.5 + 1.5 + 0.5 - 1.7 - 1.8 - 3.0 - 1.4 + 4.9 - 0.3 + 1.4 + 0.2 + 1.2	Per cent. + 2-6 + 12-0 + 2-0 + 2-0 + 13-7 + 10-1 + 13-1 - 2-0 - 3-0 + 13-9 + 13-0 + 11-0 + 1-7 + 3-8
ENGLAND & WALES	61,683	+ 0.1	- 07	70,144	+ 05	+ 9.9
SCOTLAND	<b>3,373</b> 329	- 0·8 - 0·9	- 3·9 - 10·6	3,878 242	+ 6.6	+ 9.3
UNITED KINGDOM	65,385	+ 0.0	- 1.0	74,264	+ 0.5	+ 9.8

Employment in London continued good generally, owing to Army work, but was bad in the handsewn trade. At Leicester employment showed an improvement on January and was very good, over-time being general. At Northampton and Kettering, and in the country districts of Northamptonshire, employment continued to be very good, with much overtime. Employment was good at Stafford, where Army boots are now being made to some extent, and overtime was worked. Some Army work is now being done at Norwich also, and employment thereon was good; but in the general trade there was not much change at this centre as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Employment at Bristol and Kingswood was very good, better than in January and very much better than last year; much overtime was worked on Government work, which is now being extensively done in these districts. Employment was good generally at the other English centres, with overtime on Army work.

Employment was quiet at Edinburgh, and showed a decline. Elsewhere in Scotland employment remained good on the whole, with much overtime on Government

#### LEATHER TRADES.

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EMPLOYMENT continued very good; it was rather better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Trade Unions with a membership of 4,395 reported 1.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 1.8 per cent. a month ago and 5.0\* per cent. a year ago. Most of the men unemployed were skinners or finishers of light leather; none were unemployed in the Trade Unions of saddle and harness makers.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Leather Dressers, &c .-Employment with tanners and curriers continued very good on Government orders, with much overtime, and some shortage of labour was reported. With skinners and finishers of light leather, however, employment was rather quiet, though better than a month ago.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was very good on Government orders, and overtime was worked to a large extent.

Miscellaneous Trades.-Workpeople ordinarily engaged in the making of purses, handbags, portmanteaux were fully employed upon Government work.

The imports of hides and of leather in February, 1915, were very much greater than in February, 1914, while both the exports and the re-exports showed a great reduction. The net result was an increase in the amount available for consumption as compared with February, 1914, of 42,763 cwts., or 63 per cent., in the case of hides, and of 103,240 cwts., or 235 per cent., in the case of leather.

#### HAT TRADE.

DURING February there was no improvement in the silk hat trade; employment continued very bad in London and the provincial centres, and much short time was reported; compared with a year ago there was a marked

In the felt hat trade also employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; short time was prevalent in all the principal districts. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 4.8, compared with 3.6 a month ago and 4.3 a year ago. At Denton 90 per cent. of the operatives were still on short time; in addition to the loss of the Continental trade, employment was reported to be affected by the shortage of dyestuffs and other materials. At Stockport all the Trade Union operatives were said to be on short time. In Warwickshire employment continued very quiet.

#### TAILORING TRADE.

#### BESPOKE.

London.—Employment showed a slight seasonal improvement, but was worse than a year ago and below the average for February, which is usually a slack month. Returns from firms paying £7,953 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 20th February showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago and a decrease of 9.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Liverpool employment was fair, and better than a month ago; several small firms were working short time, but some large firms were very busy with officers' uniforms. At Manchester employment was bad. At Edinburgh employment was also bad, about 60 per cent. of the operatives being on short time; at Glasgow there was much short time. Employment at Belfast continued fair.

#### READY-MADE AND WHOLESALE BESPOKE.

In all the principal districts great activity prevailed and employment was very much better than a year ago, especially in London, Glasgow and Manchester.

Returns from firms employing 23,343 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 20th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.6 per cent. in the

amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 11:4 per cent. in the number employed and of 23.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Fifty-five per cent. of the operatives were reported to be working overtime during February, as compared with 50 per cent. during January.

The outworkers employed by the above firms received about £7,700 in wages in the week ended February 20th. being an increase of 3.9 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 128.0 per cent. compared with a year ago: --

	Indoor Workpeople.									
	Nun	nber Empl	loyed.	Earnings.						
District.	Week		+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. ( Dec. (-	+) or -) on a				
her thank my bod	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago				
Leeds Innchester Uther places in Yorkshire, Lancs, & Cheshire Stristol North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol) South Midland & Eastern Counties London Liston	9,763 2,071 5,265 2,128 2,866 2,615 3,789 1,425	Per cent. + 0·4 + 1·2 + 1·7 + 1·9 - 2·4 + 1·1 + 0·5	Per cent. + 3·6 +40·7 + 5·5 - 0·3 + 1·4 - 4·5 +60·8 +35·1	£. 8,947 1,995 4,568 1,577 2,304 2,194 4,706 1,263	Per cent + 2·1 - 1·5 + 0·3 + 2·9 + 5·2 + 4·5 + 3·2 - 1·9	Per cent. + 6·9 + 49·3 + 14·1 + 9·4 + 16·4 + 4·4 + 110·4 + 52·7				
Rest of United Kingdom	3,421	+ 2.7	+16 4	2,746	+ 9.4 + 2.6	+23 0				
COTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	33,343	700	T114	00,300	1 20	1200				

At Leeds most of the factories were regularly working overtime on Government contracts, 47 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns being thus affected, as compared with 44 per cent. during January. Outworkers' wages showed an increase of 25 per cent. compared with a year ago. At Manchester employment continued very good, but was not quite so brisk as a month ago: compared with a year ago, there was a great improvement; the numbers employed increased by about 11 per cent. and the wages paid by 49 per cent. At Liverpool and Wigan employment was reported as fairly good; at Hebden Bridge and Huddersfield it continued good.

At Bristol employment continued good with indoor workers engaged on war contracts, but outworkers engaged on such articles as vests &c. were not well employed. Employment at Stroud, Walsall and Tamworth continued very brisk. At Norwich there was still much activity on contract work, but the pressure was not quite so great, owing to several contracts having been completed.

At Colchester employment continued good. The clothing factories at Plymouth were very busy on Army, Navy and hospital contracts.

In London employment showed a great expansion compared with a year ago, there being an increase of over 60 per cent. in the number of indoor workers and of 110 per cent. in their wages. The amount of wages paid to outworkers showed an increase of 234 per cent. compared with February, 1914. About 85 per cent. of the indoor operatives covered by the returns were working more than the usual hours during the month.

At Glasgow employment was good, and the wages paid showed an increase of over 50 per cent. compared with

#### OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

#### DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY

RETURNS from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West End, employing 1,899 dressmakers in the week ended 20th February, 1915, showed a decrease of 6.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 23.1 per cent. compared with a year ago: 52 per cent. of the workpeople averaged three-quarter time or less during the month, as compared with 53 per cent. during January.

#### Court and private dressmakers, employing 1,016 workpeople in the week ended 20th February, showed an increase of 11.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 34.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; about 53 per cent. of the

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workpeople were on three-quarter time or less during the month, as compared with 60 per cent. during January. In a considerable number of firms the workers were engaged on Army work.

With milliners in the West End employment showed a seasonal improvement, and was said to have recovered to some extent from the effects of the war; it was, however, somewhat worse than a year ago; 5 per cent. of the workpeople worked reduced hours during the month, as compared with 28 per cent. during January.

#### MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and millinery trades, firms in London employing 6,060 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 20th February showed an increase of 8.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 6.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. The improvement shown was common to all the branches in this section. In the costume and mantle branches employment was hampered by lack of materials. Several firms reported a scarcity of labour.

At Manchester firms employing 4,936 workpeople in the week ended 20th February in the costume, skirt, blouse, mantle, etc., trades showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 6.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was on the whole good. Many of the workers were engaged on Army contracts, and there was an improvement in the ordinary trade during the month. A scarcity of women and girls was reported by several firms. About 27 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime during February, as compared with 22 per cent. a month ago.

At Glasgow employment in the mantle, costume, and underclothing trades continued fair and was better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 1,600 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 6 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time during the month, as compared with 7 per cent. a month ago, while 11 per cent. were on overtime during

#### SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

Returns from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 3,923 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) and paying £2,730 in wages to indoor and outdoor workers, showed an increase of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 6.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 19 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time during the month, as compared with 16 per cent. a month ago. Employment was good with firms employed on Army shirts, but bad with collar workers, and only moderate in the white shirt branch.

#### CORSET TRADE.

Returns from corset manufacturers, mainly in England, employing 5,703 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended February 20th, showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 7.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was good, and about 12 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns worked overtime during the The delay of goods at docks and on railways was said to be causing some inconvenience.

#### BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was better on the whole than a month ago, the improvement being most marked in the case of painters. With carpenters and with plumbers there was a slight decline; but in these occupations employment remained good, and was much better than a year ago, many men still being engaged on Government work. With labourers and navvies employment continued good. In general building, employ ment was still quiet, partly owing to wet weather and partly to the high price of timber, glass, and other materials. The percentages unemployed of bricklayers and plasterers showed little improvement on a year ago, while in the case of masons the percentage showed a slight increase

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 889,975 workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, in each of the principal occupations, at end of February,

Occupations.	Number	Percentage Unem- ployed	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
occupations.	Insured.	at end of February.	Month ago	Year ago	
Carpenters, &c. Bricklayers Masons Staters Plasterers Painters, &c. Plumbers O her skilled occupation Navvies Labourers	 138,338 72,949 43,606 7,270 22,391 138,886 38,592 32,727 115,043 280,173	2·1 4·7 6·0 1·7 8·5 7·4 2·3 2·2 1·4 2·3	+ 0·4 - 0·6 - 1·0 + 0·4 - 2·0 - 5·4 + 0·2 - 0·4 - 0·2 - 0·4	- 1.4 - 1.0 + 0.8 - 4.8 - 0.4 - 2.0 - 2.4 - 2.7 - 2.7	
ALL OCCUPATIONS	889,975	3.5	- 1.0	- 2.8	

The appended Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in various occupations in each geographical division. Compared with a year ago the improvement was greatest in London, although the percentage unemployed in the metropolis is still higher than in any of the other districts, excepting Ireland.

Division.	Number	Per- cent- age		(+) or -) on a	Number	Per- cent- age	Inc. (Dec. (	+) or -) on a
ted the series	Insured.	Un- em- pl'y'd	M nth ago.	Year ago.	Insured.	Un- em- pl'y'd.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.
	Ca	rpente	rs &c.		Managara .	Brickla	yers.	2000
Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern and S.E.	25,000 7,290 15,893 10,885 7,324 8,665	2·8 1·7 2·4 2·0 1·7 1·0	+ 1·1 + 0·9 - 0·3 + 0·5 - 0·2	- 4·1 - 0·6 - 2·0 - 1·0 - 2·0 - 1·7	12,729 4,209 8,803 5,961 5,785 7,749	7·3 2·9 5·6 3·5 5·2 2·5	- 0.9 - 0.1 - 0.9 - 0.9 - 0.8 - 0.7	- 3.6 + 0.7 - 0.5 + 0.4 + 1.2 - 2.2
Counties	21,066 14,339 7.641 12,993 7,242	1·3 1·1 1·2 1·8 5·9	+ 0·1 + 0·1 + 0·1 + 1·9	- 1.4 - 1.8 - 0.7 - 0.5 - 2.7	15,199 6,004 2,460 2,051 1,999	4·4 2·6 3·3 2·3 9·8	- 0·1 - 0·5 - 0·2 - 2·1	- 03 - 22 + 1.7 - 36 + 0.6
(2001 20 CF	SLAGE N	Masor	18.		13.43	Plaster	ers.	Tay or
Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern and S.E.	2,736 2,803 3,944 4,946 1,219 967	8 7 2·3 1)·7 5·1 7·8 4 8	- 0·1 - 1·0 - 1·4 - 1·1 - 1 3	- 4·7 - 0·8 + 6·2 + 0·7 + 4·1 + 0·9	5,160 1,064 2,482 1,580 592 1,039	12·7 4·6 8·2 8·7 14·9 9·0	- 2·1 + 0·2 - 1·3 - 0·7 + 0·5 - 1·8	- 4·4 - 1·9 + 28 + 3·7 + 68 + 4·0
Eastern and S.E. Counties South Western Wales Scotland Ireland	1,333 7,759 6,904 8.115 2,880	9·2 4·5 2·3 5·7 13·9	- 0.9 - 0.5 - 0.6 - 2.6 - 0.1	+ 3·2 + 0·2 + 0·5 + 1·0 - 0·7	2,087 1,996 2,166 2,493 1,732	9·1 3·6 5·4 4·5 10 9	- 2.8 - 3.9 - 2.7 - 4.2	+ 27 - 5.9 + 33 - 0.6 - 2.3
disease a basis	P	ainters	&c.			Plumb	ers.	ardu.
London Northern Counties North Western Vorkshire East Midlands west Midlands Eastern&S. E. Count. South Western Wales Scotland Ireland	41,588 4,587 15,580 8,824 5,411 9,034 21,586 12,504 4,683 10,040 5,099	8·0 6·2 9·8 7·1 8·0 5·8 6·3 4·2 4·4 4·6 19·3	- 4.2 - 5.8 - 10.3 - 12.0 - 7.0 - 5.0 - 3.2 - 3.7 - 1.4 - 5.2 - 5.1	- 4.6 - 0.8 + 0.1 + 1.4 + 0.3 - 2.1 + 0.4 - 4.3 - 0.4 - 1.8 - 2.9	7,664 2,148 5,525 3,296 1,603 2,249 4,041 3,193 965 6,395 1,513	3·7 0·5 2·4 2·2 4·2 1·6 1·5 1·2 1·3 1·2 5·2	+ 0·1 - 0·1 + 0·6 + 0·1 - 0·4 + 0·1 + 0·2 + 0·4	- 3·1 - 2·5 - 3·6 - 1·3 - 0·7 - 2·7 - 1·6 - 1·8 - 1·8 - 2·3

Returns from Trade Unions show that of 69,916 carpenters and joiners the percentage unemployed at the end of February was 2.5, as compared with 2.1 a month ago and 2.5 in July. For 11,410 plumbers the corresponding percentages were 3.1, 2.4, and 6.9 respectively.

#### WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a year ago; overtime was worked by firms engaged on Government contracts.

The percentage unemployed at the end of the month among the workpeople engaged in mill sawing, and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, was 1.5, as compared with 1.4 in January and 4.0 in February, 1914.

Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 7,876 reported 1.4 per cent. as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 1.5 per cent. in the previous month, and 2.7 per cent. in February, 1914.

The principal exceptions to the general state of employment were as follows:-Employment was slack at Manchester, Oldham, and Belfast, while it showed a decline at Hull.

The imports of hewn and sawn timber, other than furniture woods, were greater than in February, 1914, which was, however, a month of somewhat low importation; they were also greater than in January.

#### FURNISHING.

Government work continued to provide a good deal of employment in certain centres, but otherwise employment on the whole was dull, though better than a month ago; it was generally bad with french polishers.

Trade Unions with a total membership of 18,428 had 6.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 7.4 per cent. a month ago, and 3.1 per cent. in February, 1914.

Contrary to the general rule, employment declined in the furnishing branch at Glasgow and Sheffield. It was reported as bad with cabinet makers at Dublin, Blackburn, and Bolton, and with upholsterers at Liverpool. It was generally good at Birmingham and Newcastle-on-Tyne, and with cabinet makers at Leeds, Glasgow, and Govan.

The exports of furniture and cabinet ware were greater than in January, but only 38 per cent. of the exports in February, 1914.

#### COACHBUILDING.

Employment on the whole was fairly good and somewhat better than in January, though there was a considerable amount of short time on private work, as distinct from Government work. Trade Unions with 12,374 members reported 2.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 3.1 per cent. a month ago, and 2.1 per cent. a year ago. A good deal of short time was worked at Saltley (Birmingham), and employment was reported as bad at Paisley and Bradford, slack at Loughborough and Northampton, and very dull at

The following Table shows the unemployment percentage of insured workpeople of all classes engaged in the construction of vehicles:

Division.	Number	Une	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb. 1915, on a	
	Insured.		29th Jan., 1915.	27th Feb., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
London	14,956 55,798 15,706 12,957 3,756 12,268	2·0 0·4 1·1 1·0 1·2 1·5 1·0 0·8 0·7 0·7 5·4	2.6 0.5 1.6 1.3 1.3 2.2 1.0 1.1 1.0 1.1 5.1	3·6 1·4 2·7 2·0 2·0 3·1 1·8 1·8 2·1 1·8 5·6	-0.6 -0.1 -0.5 -0.3 -0.1 -0.7 -0.3 -0.3 -0.4 +0.3	-1.6 -1.0 -1.6 -1.0 -0.8 -1.6 -0.8 -1.0 -1.4 -1.1 -0.2	
UNITED KINGDOM	184,720	1.4	1.8	2.6	-0.4	-1.2	

#### COOPERING.

Employment was still dull in the brewers' branch, while good in other branches. It was reported as showing an improvement at Birmingham, Bristol, and Manchester, though at the last-named centre it was said

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Brushmaking.-A fair amount of overtime was worked in this industry, and employment was generally good and rather better than a month ago. Trade Unions reported 0.2 per cent. of their members out of employment at the end of the month, as compared with 0.6 per cent. in January, and 1.0 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades .- Employment continued moderate with general wheelwrights and smiths. In continued good with packing-case makers, except at Bradford, where short time was general. It generally continued good with skip and basket makers, and with cane and wicker workers at Basford.

#### PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES. PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, though short time was still in operation at many mills, particularly in Scotland. Compared with a year ago, there was a eneral decline in employment.

Returns from firms employing 14,656 workpeople in the last week of the month showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed by them compared with a month ago and of 8.0 per cent. com-

out distant a diny bour	Workpeople paid Wages in	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
and took as some ofgon	last week of Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDS: Northern Counties Midlands, Wales, and Ireland Southern Counties Scotland	3 389 884 5 601 4,017	Per cent. + 0.2 + 1.1 - 0.4 - 2.2	Per cent 7.3 - 1.7 - 6.8 - 11.2	
TOTAL, MACHINE-MADE PAPER, &C. Hand-made Paper	13,891 765	- 0.7 - 1.5	- 7·9 - 9·5	
TOTAL	14,656	- 0.7	- 8.0	

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,556 members had 0.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of February, compared with 0.6 per cent. a month ago and 0.7 per cent. a year ago. In the hand-made paper trade Trade Unions with 455 members had 4.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, compared with 4.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1915, and 4.2 per cent. at the end of February, 1914.

The imports of wood pulp were 22,548 tons, or 43 per cent. of the imports in February last year. The imports and exports of paper, &c., showed much less diminution, the imports being 721,828 cwts. and the exports (British and Irish) 204,788 cwts.; representing 77 and 80 per cent. respectively of the corresponding totals for last year.

#### PRINTING TRADES.

Much short time was still worked, especially by compositors, though there was an improvement compared with a month ago. In London it was reported that onethird of the printing offices were on short time to a greater or lesser extent. Compared with a year ago, employment was decidedly worse.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of	Percent	tage Uner	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
elli gianzii ili	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1915.	Jan., 1915	Feb., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	23,140 5,462	4·8 3·7	6·2 5·5	3·7 3·3	- 1.4 - 1.8	+ 1:1
Lancs and Cheshire East Midland and Eastern Counties	6,881 2,723	5·2 2·7	4·9 4·1	2·6 2·7	+ 0.3	+ 2.6
West Midlands S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	2,740 3,867	3·8 2·2	3.8 3.5	2.1	- 0·0 - 1·3	+ 1.7
scotland	5,063 2,363	3·6 9·7	3 8 10·9	2·5 6·1	- 0·2 - 1·2	+ 1.1 + 3.6
UNITED KINGDOM	52,239	4.5	5.5	3.2	- 1.0	+ 1.3

#### BOOKBINDING TRADES

Short time was still frequently worked. In London it was general, and many workpeople ordinarily employed as bookbinders were engaged in other occupations. Employment on the whole was better than a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago: -

- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	No. of Members of Unions at end of		age Uner		Increase Decrease or	se (-)
	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Other Districts	3,060 2,785	4·4 2·2	5·0 3·1	3·9 2·3	- 0.6 - 0.9	+ 0.5
UNITED KINGDOM	5,845	3.4	40	3.1	- 0.6	+ 0.3

#### GLASS TRADES.

THE glass bottle trade showed a slight improvement on a month ago, but all the other branches of the trade declined. As compared with a year ago employment was worse except in Lancashire.

Returns from firms in various branches of the glass trades, employing 7,080 workpeople in the week ended 20th February, showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 7.1 per cent. and 4.0 per cent. respec-

	W	orkpeopl	e.		Earnings	
LABOURL	Week ended 20th	Inc. (Dec. (-	+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (	+) or -) on a
ists d'authorotogroza	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES. Glass Bottle Flint Glass Ware (not bottles) Other Branches	5,378 1,454 248 7,080	Per cent 1·1 - 4·7 - 6·1 - 2·1	Per cent 5.4 - 11.0 - 17.9 - 7.1	£ 7,822 1,670 309 9,801	Per cent. + 1.8 - 4.1 - 6.1 + 0.4	Per cent 0.9 - 14.2 - 15.6 - 4.0
DISTRICTS. North of England Yorkshire Lancashire Worcestershire and Warwickshire Scotland	669 4,440 755 662 554 7,080	+ 0.8 - 1.8 - 3.0 - 6.2 - 0.9 - 2.1	- 19·3 - 3·4 + 3·9 - 20·1 - 13·7 - 7·1	992 6,329 1,031 759 760 9,801	+ 10·8 - 0·6 + 3·4 - 5·4 - 0·1 + 0·4	- 9·7 - 1·9 + 21·9 - 26·9 - 11·0 - 4·0

In the glass bottle trade employment was fairly good, except at Barnsley, Castleford and St. Helens, where it was moderate or slack, and worse than a month ago. Compared with a year ago an improvement was reported at Leeds, Mexborough, and Wakefield, though at Wakefield it was hindered by a shortage of boys; there was a decline at St. Helens and Bristol. Flint glass bottle makers in Yorkshire were well employed. With flint glass makers at Birmingham it was good, and better than a year ago, but with flint glass cutters it continued bad, with short time. In the Wordsley and Stourbridge district both flint glass makers and cutters reported it as slack, and worse than a year ago, but improving. With sheet and plate glass workers at St. Helens employment continued good. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it continued fair, but some short time was worked through shortage of boy labour.

The imports of glass and manufactures thereof were valued at £104,777, or about 37 per cent. of the imports in February, 1914. The exports were valued at £92,066, or 69 per cent. of the exports in February, 1914.

#### POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT improved generally, but was still worse than a year ago. Short time continued to be worked in all branches of the pottery trades, but the number of workpeople affected was considerably less than in the previous month. A shortage of labour, due to enlistments, was reported at many centres.

Returns from firms employing 17,060 workpeople in the week ending 20th February showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 8.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:-

Al no-bons in	V	Vorkpeop	le.	Earnings.		
male viennate m	Week ended 20th	ended (-) on a		Week		) or Dec.
	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES. China Manufacture Earthenware Manufacture Other Branches (including unspecified)	2,739 10,757 3,664	Per cent. + 0·1 + 1·4 - 0·5	Per cent 11.8 - 7.4 - 11.1	£ 3.208 9,613 2,828	Per cent. + 2.2 + 7.3 + 7.1	Per cent 11.8 - 9.7 - 21.1
TOTAL	17,060	+ 0.8	- 8.9	15,649	+ 6.2	- 12.4
DISTRICTS. Potteries	12,550 4,510 17,060	+ 1.1 + 0.0 + 0.8	- 8·7 - 9·6 - 8·9	10,851 4,798 15,649	+ 9·3 - 0·2 + 6·2	- 11.6 - 14.3 - 12.4

In the Potteries employment was, on the whole, fair with china and earthenware workers, but continued slack, although better than a month ago, with tile, &c., workers. With earthenware workers in other districts employment was fairly good and showed some improvement on the previous month.

The *imports* of chinaware, earthenware and pottery were 17,944 cwts., or 23 per cent. of the imports in February, 1914. The *exports* were 170,376 cwts., or 66 per cent. of the exports in February, 1914.

#### BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES. BRICK TRADE

SHORT time continued to be worked to a considerable extent in almost all centres, and employment was hindered by bad weather, high price of fuel, and difficulties of transport. A scarcity of labour, due to enlistments, was again reported in several centres. Employment was much worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,061 workpeople in the week ended 20th February showed a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 22:4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 24.8 per cent. n the amount of wages paid

	V	Vorkpeor	ole.	Earnings.			
Districts.	Week ended 20th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 20th	Inc. (	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
andal model	Feb., 1915.	Month ago.			Month ago.	Year ago.	
Northern Counties, York- shire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,839	Per cent.	Per cent 16.6	£ 3,770	Per cent.	Per cent 14.9	
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,879	- 2.4	- 25.6	3,012	- 4.6	- 31.3	
S. and S.W. Counties and Wales	2,140	- 4.9	- 23.7	2,305	- 12.6	- 28.3	
Scotland Other Districts	775 428	- 1.6 - 2.1	- 18·2 - 33·8	913 453	+ 7·9 + 1·1	- 21·2 - 36·4	
TOTAL	9,061	- 3.1	- 22.4	10,453	- 4.0	- 24.8	

In the Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire, employment was moderate on the whole,

<sup>\*</sup> Including slaters, "other skilled occupations," and navvies.

and worse than a year ago. In the Midlands much short time was reported, affecting nearly half the total number of workpeople included in the returns. Half time was again worked at Nottingham. Employment was good in the Shropshire glazed brick and pipe trade, and with fire brick workers in the Stourbridge district. There was a slight improvement in the Peterborough district. Comparatively little short time was reported in the Southern and South-Western Counties. There was some improvement in Scotland, and no time was reported to have been lost.

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#### CEMENT TRADE.

Overtime was reported at some works on the Thames and Medway, and in some cases there was a scarcity of labour. The export trade continued to be hampered by the shortage of the means of transport. Employment was still moderate on the Tees and at Hartlepool.

## FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in February continued good on the whole, and was about the same as in January. Many firms again reported a shortage of labour, both male and female, but especially the former:-

	W	orkpeopl	e.	Earnings.		
Trade.	Week	Inc. (+)	or Dec.	Week	Inc. (+)	or Dec.
	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	20th Feb., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Sugar Refining &c. Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery Biscuits, Cakes &c. Jam, Marmalade &c. Bacon and Preserved Meats Pickles, Sauces &c. TOTAL	5,140 26,691 11,016 5,442 4,353 1,446 54,038	Per cent. + 2·8 + 2·4 + 2·2 + 2·8 + 0·5 + 2·0 + 2·3	Per cent. + 6·1 - 9·3 - 11·2 + 12·0 + 23·5 4·3	£ 7,783 23,278 9,839 4,317 4,201 1,185 50,608	Per cent. + 4.7 + 3.3 - 2.4 + 2.6 - 0.7 + 3.0 + 2.0	Per cent. + 22.7 + 1.9 - 5.1 + 15.7 + 3.1 + 5.5

Sugar Refining.—Employment continued to be very good, and was much better than in February of last year, except in the brewers' sugar trade. There was a great shortage of male labour.

Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery .- Employment in the cocoa and chocolate branches was good, with some overtime worked; there was a general complaint of a shortage both of male, and to some extent also of female, labour. Some difficulty was reported in getting supplies of raw material from the ports. In the sugar confectionery trade employment was fairly good, but short time was reported more frequently than overtime. Firms in this trade again complained of the diminution of export business through high freights and high cost of raw materials; but the home trade improved on the whole, and was in some cases reported as above normal.

Biscuits, Cakes &c .- Employment was fairly good in general, and very good with some firms which had obtained military and naval orders. Several manufacturers, however, reported a marked falling off in demand in the ordinary trade owing to the high prices necessitated by the rise in sugar and in flour. There was some complaint of difficulty in getting experienced male labour, to take the places of men who have enlisted.

Jam, Marmalade &c.-Employment generally was good, and much better than in February of last year, largely owing to military and naval orders. Overtime was worked in a good many cases, and many firms reported an extreme scarcity of male labour.

Bacon and Preserved Meats.—Employment continued very good, showing an improvement on February, 1914, chiefly owing to Government orders. Some overtime was worked, and the complaint of a shortage of male labour continued. Some firms, however, reported an abundant supply, or even an excess, of female labour.

Pickles, Sauces &c .- Employment was good with firms having Government orders. The export trade, on the other hand, was depressed, owing to high freights and other causes.

#### SEAMEN.

RETURNS received from certain selected ports show that during February 33,383 seamen\* were shipped on foreign-going vessels. Compared with February, 1914, there was a net decrease of 4,507, or 11.9 per cent.

Many ports showed a decrease, the most marked being at Southampton and at Liverpool. A shortage of men for ordinary mercantile ships was again reported at several ports, including London, Southampton, Glasgow, Liverpool, Cardiff, Bristol, Hull and Newcastle. At Dublin, Belfast, Swansea, Middlesbrough and Shields the supply was equal to the demand.

During the two months ended February, 1915, the total number of seamen shipped was 73,534, a decrease of 8,451, or 10.3 per cent., on the total for the corresponding period of 1914.

and logo date on a ma	1	February	,	Two months ended February,		
Principal Ports.	1914.	1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1915	1914.	1915	(nc. (+) or Oec. (-) in 1915.
ENGLAND & WALES: East Coast— Tyne Ports Sunderland Middlesbrough Hull Grimsby	2,237 454 166 1,079 9	1,671 331 229 1,265 101	- 566 - 123 + 63 + 186 + 92	4,848 984 516 2,672 80	3,426 606 320 2,751 168	- 1,422 - 378 - 196 + 79 + 88
Bristol Channel— Bristol† Newport, Mon Cardiff† Swansea	1,161 760 3,601 252	987 1,331 4,111 319	- 174 + 571 + 510 + 67	2,184 1,911 8,267 930	1,944 2,392 9,398 884	- 240 + 481 + 1,131 - 96
Other Ports— Liverpool	13,048 7,369 3,833	11,171 6,872 1,300	- 1,877 - 497 - 2,533	27,752 15,080 9,030	24,643 15,435 3,468	- 3,100 + 350 - 5,560
SCOTLAND: Leith Burntisland, Methil, and Grangemouth Glasgow	7 020	361 95 2,758	+ 43 - 141 - 331	933 436 5,830	779 259 5,269	- 17
IRELAND: Dublin	25	88 393	+ 63 + 140	125 407	137 1,705	
TOTAL .	37,890	33,383	- 4,507	81,985	73,534	- 8,45

#### DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT was generally dull on the east coast, but elsewhere it continued good; it was exceptionally brisk in London and at Liverpool.

#### LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—Employment continued very good and much better than a year ago. The supply of labour was reported as good; but there was still delay in the loading and discharging of goods, partly owing to a shortage of river craft and hand vehicles. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended 27th February was 19,181, an increase of 1.0 per cent. on a month ago, and of 29.6 per cent, on a year ago:

115,283,18	Average D	aily Number nd at Princip	of Labour	ers employers in London	d in Docks
	2010/03/0	In Docks			Total
Period.	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship- owners &c.	Total.	At Wharves making Returns.	in Docks and at Principal Wharves.
Week ended Feb. 6th	7,113 7,204	3,775 4,250 2,801 4,158	11,338 11,363 10,035 11,825	8,038 8,077 8,072 8,006	19,376 19,440 18,077 19,831
Average for 4 weeks ended 27th Feb., 1915	7,387	3,746	11,133	8,048	19,181
Average for Jan., 1915	7,150	3,993	11,143	7,848	18,991
" " Feb., 1914	5 030	2 458	7,488	7 312	14,800

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

‡Including Barry and Penarth.

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day\* in February, 1915, were as

Day of Month	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed
1 2 3 4 5 6	19,971 20,260 18,932 19,284 19,447 18,364	8 9 10 11 12 13	19,797 18,872 20,176 19,727 19,834 18,232	15 16 17 18 19 20	18,213 17,442 15,374 18,866 19,2₹0 19,289	22 23 24 25 26 27	19,479 20,177 19,546 20,061 19,849 19,876
Av. for week	19,376	Av. for week	19,440	Av. for week	18,077	Av. for week	19,831

· Sundays are omitted.

The maximum daily number during the month was 20,260, an increase of 4,469 on February, 1914. The minimum number showed an increase of 2,019.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during February was 2,308, compared with 2,209 a month ago, and 1,484 a year ago.

#### OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—Employment generally continued fair on the Tyne, except with trimmers and teemers, a large number of whom worked only half-time. At Sunderland employment was generally bad. It was fair, and better than a month ago, at Blyth, and also in the Tees and Hartlepool district. It was moderate, and worse than a month ago, at Hull, and still bad at Grimsby and Goole. Employment remained fair at Lowestoft. and slack at Yarmouth and King's Lynn. It was still good at Ipswich but slack at Harwich.

South and West Coasts.—Employment was fairly good at Plymouth, and good at Dartmouth and Falmouth; at Hayle it declined, and was moderate. Overtime was worked at both Bristol and Gloucester, where employment was good. It generally continued good at Newport and the South Wales ports. At Liverpool dock labourers and carters were still exceptionally busy; the congestion previously reported was somewhat less in the latter part of the month. Carters at Manchester reported none unemployed, and overtime in many instances.

#### SCOTLAND.

At Glasgow employment was reported as fair. It was good at Leith. At Dundee it was quiet, and showed a further decline.

Employment was moderate but better than a month ago at Belfast. It continued fair at Cork and Limerick, and was slack at Waterford.

#### FISHING INDUSTRY.

THE fishing industry continued to be seriously affected by the war, and small catches and high prices were still prevalent. At some ports, notably Yarmouth, fishermen found employment on mine-sweepers

East Coast. With fishermen and fish dock labourers at Hull employment continued good, and with fish curers fair. It was also good with fishermen at Grimsby, but bad with curers, though showing an improvement. At Yarmouth nearly all the fishermen were employed in mine-sweeping, and consequently employment among fish dock labourers and curers was bad. Employment among trawl fishermen at Lowestoft was fair, but declined with fish dock labourers and curers. At Harwich employment was slack, and at Southwold fair.

South Coast.—Fishing on the South Coast was much hindered by bad weather, but in the calmer intervals fairly good catches were landed at Brixham. With packers and curers employment was reported as moderate

West Coast .- At Fleetwood and at Milford the quantity of fish landed was much greater than in the previous month, and at Milford was more than the amount landed in February, 1914.

Scotland .- At Aberdeen employment was good with fishermen, and better than a year ago. It was moderate with fish dock labourers and curers. It was fair or moderate with fishermen at Fraserburgh and Peterhead, but bad with dock labourers and curers. At Macduff it was bad generally.

Ireland.—The total quantity of fish landed on the Irish Coasts in February was less than a fifth of the quantity in February, 1914. The decline was particularly noticeable on the North Coast, where the catch fell from 60,000 cwt. to 6,500 cwt. On the South and West Coasts the quantity landed was small, but in excess of that in February, 1914.

The exports of fresh fish were only 585 cwts. in February, as against 65,266 cwts. in February last year; and the exports of cured or salted fish (principally herrings) amounted to 156,510 cwts., compared with 253,953 cwts. in February last year.

#### FISH LANDED IN FEBRUARY.

The quantity of fish (other than shell) landed in February, 1915, showed a decrease of 663,925 cwt. (or 52.6 per cent.) on February, 1914. Owing to good prices, however, the decrease in total value of this quantity was only £210,582 (or 25.0 per cent.).

Then all the vignes with	Qua	ntity.	Value.		
as in a strong surv reaction during surv	Feb., 1915.	Decrease on Feb., 1914.	Feb., 1915.	Decrease on Feb., 1914.	
FISH (OTHER THAN SHELL): England and Wales Scotland Ireland	Cwts. 387,704 197,476 13,341	Cwts. 183,107 424,692 56,126	£ 473,062 147,894 9,141	£ 113,068 88,902 8,612	
Shell Fish	598,521	663,925	630,097 20,383	210,582 8,403	
TOTAL VALUE	200	0-30	650,480	218,985	

#### AGRICULTURE.\*

FARM labour was short of the demand in most districts in Great Britain during February. The shortage was more marked than in January, but generally had not become very serious up to the end of the month, partly owing to the prevailing wet weather, which considerably restricted the demand. Wages were raised during the month in a large number of districts.

#### ENGLAND AND WALES.

There was an insufficient supply of labour in north Northumberland; but in other parts of this county and in Durham but little scarcity had been reported up to the end of February. In Cumberland and Westmorland labour was very scarce in most districts. The supply of labour was also generally deficient in Lancashire and Cheshire. In Yorkshire it was stated that the supply was very deficient, in spite of a rise of 2s. to 3s. a week in wages; skilled men, particularly horsemen, were in great demand.

The supply of labour was distinctly short throughout Shropshire and Staffordshire, and also in Derbyshire, except in the north and east. Skilled labour was especially scarce in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. There was a slight shortage of labour in Rutland. A generally short supply was reported in Northampton-shire. In Warwickshire the supply was said to be about one-fifth short of requirements, while it was generally short of the demand in Worcestershire. Labour was scarce, especially as regards milkers and stockmen, in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. It was generally insufficient in Berkshire, and in Hertfordshire the deiciency was estimated at about one-third.

Horsemen were especially scarce in Lincolnshire, where the supply of labour was generally somewhat deficient. A small demand prevented the shortage of labour being much felt in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, but a scarcity for team-labour, threshing &c., was reported in Hunt-ingdonshire. In Bedfordshire only about four-fifths of

Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

the usual supply of labour was available. The supply of labour was generally short of requirements in Essex, many farmers in the north-west having only half the number of horsemen required.

Men were scarce generally in Surrey. The supply was rather short also in Kent, it being reported in the southeastern part that in many instances there were not enough men to work the threshing machines. In Sussex, while the supply was sufficient in some districts, it was very short in the east-central part, and, as regards milkers, in the west-central part. Only the adverse weather conditions prevented the deficiency of men being seriously felt in parts of Hampshire; and there was a very small supply of men in Wiltshire, horsemen being especially scarce in both counties. A general deficiency of labour was reported in Dorset and Somerset. In Gloucestershire and Herefordshire the supply of men was a good deal below requirements, except in north-east Gloucestershire and north-west Herefordshire. Men were somewhat scarce in Monmouthshire and also in most parts of Devonshire and Cornwall, though the supply was described as fairly good in north Cornwall.

There was generally a sufficient supply of labour in Anglesey and Carnarvonshire, but some shortage in Flintshire and Denbighshire. In Merionethshire the supply was reported to be plentiful in the west, but short in the north-east. There was a deficient supply of labour in Montgomeryshire. Ploughmen were scarce in parts of Cardiganshire, but generally in this county and in Brecknockshire the supply of men was about sufficient for the restricted demand. Men were reported as particularly scarce in north Radnorshire, north-east and south-east Glamorganshire, west Carmarthenshire, and south-east Pembrokeshire.

Cases of wages being increased during the month were fairly widespread and were particularly numerous in Northumberland, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincoln-shire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Dorset, and Devonshire. The increases usually varied from 1s. to 2s. a week up to 3s. in Yorkshire.

#### SCOTLAND.

The supply of labour was considerably short of the demand in most districts in the northern counties of Scotland. Men were generally scarce also in the northeastern counties, although in Aberdeenshire it was stated that the shortage had not as yet been much felt; increases of £5 a year in the wages of married men occurred in Kincardineshire. All the central counties were reported to be more or less inadequately supplied with labour. The shortage was especially marked in central Perthshire, while in Fifeshire casual labour particularly was scarce. The supply of men was about equal to the demand in north Argyllshire, but further south a scarcity was reported.

There was an increasing scarcity of men in the Lothians and Peeblesshire, where it was said ploughmen could not be got; and there was a marked scarcity of Irish labourers. Wages were up 1s. to 2s. or more a week in Berwickshire owing to the scarcity of men. The supply generally tended to be below requirements in the other southern counties; wages were raised 1s. a week in Dumfriesshire, where younger men and lads were especially hard to get.

#### STATISTICAL TABLES.

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

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Cooperative Societies and Master Bakers' Associations in Great Britain, and from local correspondents, showing the price of bread on 1st March, 1915.

The figures in the following Table are based on returns from 354 Co-operative Societies: -

	Mean Pr	edominant Price p	er 4 lb. on
District.	1st March, 1915.	1st December, 1914.	2nd March, 1914.
ENGLAND AND WALES. N. Counties and Yorkshire Lancashire and Cheshire N. Midland Counties W. do. do. S. do. do. Eastern Counties London S. Eastern Counties S. W. Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire	d. 8 734 734 734 734 734 734 734 734	d. 7 614 6 614 614 614 614 614	d. 61/4 53/4 51/4 51/4 53/4 6 53/4
ENGLAND AND WALES	7½	6¾	53/4
SCOTLAND. Northern Counties	7½ 7½ 7½ 7½ 7½	6½ 6¾ 6½ 6¾	6¼ 6¼ 6 6¼
SCOTLAND	7½	63/4	61/4
GREAT BRITAIN	71/2	61/2	6

The mean of the predominant prices on 1st March, 1915, shows an increase of 1d. compared with 1st December, 1914, and of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 lb. compared with 2nd March, 1914.

Returns showing the predominant price of 4 lb. of bread on 1st March, 1915, have been received from 127 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations, and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Tables:-

	33	Mean Pred	lominant Price	per 4 lb. on
District.		1st March 1915.	1st February 1915.	2nd March 1914.
London:—	1	d	d	d.
N. & N.W		8	71/2	51/2
E. & N.E		8 8	7½	54
S.E		0	7½ 7½	5½
S. W. W. & W.C	7	8	71/2	6
N. Counties & Yorks		1 8	71/2	6
Lancs. & Cheshire		,		
Midlands		73/4	7	5½
Eastern Counties		734 8½ 734	71/4	6/2
Southern Counties S. Western Counties and Wales		73/	71/	53/
Scotland	;	73/4	7¾ 7¼ 7¼	5½ 6 5¾ 6¼
	10			
GREAT BRITAIN		8	11/4	53/4

PREDOMINANT PRICES IN PRINCIPAL TOWNS. Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:-

Place.	Predominant Price*		ase as pared th a	Last C	Last Change.		
	on 1st Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 4 lbs.		
London	d. 8	d. 1/2	d. 2½	Feb., '15	d. + ½		
Birmingham Bristol Cardiff Derby Hull Ipswich Leedes Ledester Liverpool Manchester Middlesbrough Norwich Nottingham	7½ & 8½ 7½ & 8½ 7½ 8 8 8 8 8	1212123412121212121212121212121212121212	2½ 2 2½ 2½ 2½ 2½ 2½ 2 3 2¼	Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '16 Feb., '16 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15	+ ½ + ½ + ½ + ½ + ½ + ½ + ½ + ½ + ½ + ½		
Plymouth Portsmouth	8	1/2 1/2 1 1/2 1/2 1/2	2½ 2 3 2½ 2½	Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15	+ ½ + ½ + 1 + ½ + ½		
Aberdeen Dundee Edinburgh Glasgow	. 8	1 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	2½ 2 1½ 1½	Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15 Feb., '15	+ 1 + ½ + ½ + ½ + ½		
Belfast	7½	1/2	1½	Feb., '15	+ 1/2		

Where two prices are quoted about equal quantities were sold at each price.

Compared with a month ago the predominant price f bread had risen in all the towns shown in the Table. sually by ½d. per 4 lb. Compared with a year ago there were increases in all cases, ranging from 1½d. to per 4 lb. In London the predominant price on 1st March was 8d.; on 1st February it was 7½d., and on 1st March, 1914, 51d.

March, 1915. THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

	British Wheat				
Month.	Mean London Gazette Price (England	THE ATLE	ports. eclared Value.)	Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households ex Mill for Cash).	
	and Wales).	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.		
1914 February	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d. 31 0	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d. 33 11	Per cwt. s. d. 10 3½	Per sack of 280 lb. s. d. 26 2	
January	48 8 55 0	49 1 56 0	13 7¼ 15 3½	43 3 49 3	

The imports of wheat, wheatmeal\* and flour\* during September, 1914—February, 1915, amounted to 13,469,622 qrs., or 654,385 qrs. more than in the correonding months of 1913-14.

\* The figures include the estimated weight of offal, &c

#### EMERGENCY GRANTS TO TRADE UNIONS.

During the month of February £10,057 7s. 5d. was paid Trade Unions by way of emergency grants in aid of exceptional expenditure on unemployment benefit owing to the war. The greater part of the expenditure in respect of which the grants were made was incurred fore 31st December.

The following statement shows the number of Unions, arranged in trade groups, to which grants have been made, and the total sum paid to the 27th February:—

Tree de Conse	Application	ons Granted.	200		
Trade Group.	No. of Associations. Membership.		Amounts Paid.		
Building Metal† Cotton† Other Textile. Printing Woodwork Other Trades§	1 17 126 7 5 8 9	61 8,327 209,652 5,402 21,260 17,302 8,427 270,431	£ s. d.  931 ** 7 59,890 19 7 2,027 14 9 3,764 3 11 1,508 17 9 1,555 9 1		

claim received. atile Machinery and Jewellery workers. cluding Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing in Cotton. ather workers, Basket makers, Hatters and Tobacco (Cigar) workers.

#### IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES. DECEMBER, 1914.

THE total number of immigrant aliens admitted into the Jnited States in December, 1914, was 20,944, of whom 1,597 were males and 9,347 females. This total shows further decline, and is not much more than a quarter f the average total for December in the three years receding. The number of persons debarred from land-ing and of those deported after landing, was 1,897, about iree-fifths of them on the ground that they were likely to become a public charge." The principal uropean countries of origin of the immigrant aliens vere Italy (4,754) and the United Kingdom (2,387). As many as 6,700 immigrants came from British North A large number of the immigrants were escribed as labourers (2,914), servants (2,234), or farm bourers (1,028). The other occupations most promently represented were: -Farmers (660), clerks and ountants (555), merchants and dealers (544), dressmakers, milliners and seamstresses (352), and carpenters joiners (351). Including women and children, there were 8,238 persons of no stated occupation.

#### WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

[NOTE.—These are not connected with the Board of Trade Labour Exchange THE number of applications registered in February, 1915, showed an increase of 26 per cent. compared with February, 1914, and the number of situations offered decreased by 15 per cent. More applications were received from servants in February, 1915, than in February, 1914, and fewer situations were offered by employers; but the supply of cooks, parlourmaids, and housemaids was still not equal to the demand.

The Central Offices of the Young Women's Christian Association and the Girls' Friendly Society received offers from employers for 134 cooks, 127 parlourmaids, and 134 housemaids; whereas the numbers available to fill these vacancies were respectively only 48, 28, and

		cations Vork-		ations red by	Num enga	ber of ged by	Work	people yers.	
		ring	Emp	oloyers		ma- ntly.	T por Feb, 1915.	m-	
181 09 Par 9101	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	Feb., 1915	F-b., 1914	Feb., 1915.	Fen. 1914.	Feb , 1915.	Feb , 1914.	
	SUMMARY BY BUREAUX.								
Central Bureau :- 5, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.	146	107	103	111	35	18	15	11	
Y.W.C.A.:— 26, George Street, {(1) Hanover Sq., W. ((2) Girls' Friendly Society, 39,	277 180	273 104	380 103	528 99	72 36	49 30		20 2	
Victoria Street, S.W Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Elinburgh, Glasgow,	241	203	313	289	56	52	4	2	
and Dublin Bureaux	298	220	151	205	67	72	1	6	
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	1,142	907	1,050	1,232	266	221	61	41	
			SUMMA	RY BY	OCCUPA	TIONS.			
Superintendents, Forewomen, &c. Shop Assistants Dressmakers, Milliners, &c. Secretaries, Clerks, Typists Apprentices and Learners Domestic Servants Miscellaneous	62 17 98 172 21 585 187	66 14 41 128 11 491 156	28 1 71 65 32 767 86	42 4 48 51 48 947 92	8 27 20 19 158 34	8 4 19 13 11 149 17	i9	2 .3 8 26 2	
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	1,142	907	1,050	1,232	266	221	61	41	

#### DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN FEBRUARY.

THE total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of February, 1915, was 73, as compared with 75 at the end of January, 1915, and 59 at the end of February, 1914. During the month the registers of the Committees at Edmonton and Northampton were closed.

The total number of persons who received employment relief during February, 1915, was 5,173, as compared with 4,588 a year ago, an increase of 585 persons. Employment was also provided for 278 persons by arrangement with employers and local authorities.

The aggregate duration of employment relief increased from 53,566 days in February, 1914, to 60,178 in February, 1915, and the average duration of employment was 11.9 days, as compared with 12.1 days a year ago.

The total amount of wages paid during February, 1915, was £9,431, compared with £9,120 a year ago; the average earnings were 36s. 6d., compared with 39s. 9d. in February, 1914; those not on piecework received an average of 3s. 1d. a day, compared with 3s. 4d. a year ago

Districts.	No. of Apgiven E	pplicants imploy- Relief.	Duratio	regate on of Em- nt Relief.	Total Amount of Wages Paid.	
omit sent the	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1914.
London: County Outer	1,982 1,066	1,754 812	Days. 28,103 7,888	Days. 25,659 8,183	£ 4,092 1,535	£ 4,831 1,493
TOTAL, LONDON	3,048	2,566	35,991	33,842	5,627	6,324
Northern Counties Lancs. and Cheshire Yorkshire Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties Wales and Monmouth	13 308 135 320* 159 182 369	331 94† 33 308 128	33 4,879 742 2,470 1,882 1,536 4,453	891 244 182 3,767 1,278	8 469 154 546 263 304 1,021	178 73 42 670 273
ENGLAND AND WALES	4,534	3,460	51,986	40,204	8;392	7,560
Scotland	143 496‡	229 899§	3,260 4,932	4,542 8,820	244 795	412 1 148
UNITED KINGDOM	5.173	4,588	60,178	53,566	9,431	9,120

\* Includes 42 men on piecework.

‡ Includes 85 women on piecework.

‡ Includes 10 men on piecework.

‡ Includes 164 women on piecework.

#### TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.\*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

#### (a) DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.

Number and Magnitude.—The number and magnitude of disputes in February showed a considerable increase as compared with recent months. In all 47 disputes began during February, as compared with 30 in the previous month and 67 in February, 1914. In these new disputes 26,129 workpeople were directly, and 2,878 indirectly, involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 31,060 work-people involved in trade disputes in February, 1915, as compared with 5,889 in January, 1915, and 62,943 in February, 1914.

New Disputes in February, 1915 .- In the following Table the new disputes for February are summarised

by trades affected:

104

	Groups			No. of	No. of Workpeople involved			
	of Trade				Disputes.	Directly.	Indirectly	Total.
Building					3 2	4,710 170	815 1,350	5,525 1,520
Coal Mining Engineering			:		10	9,040	E0	9,090
Shipbuilding					5	610	1::	92
Other Metal Textile	::			11:0	2	4,050	363	4,050 658
Clothing					12	295 6,781	300	7,081
Transport Other Trades					8	381		381
TOTAL, FE	BRUAR	y, 1915			47	26,129	2,878	29,007
TOTAL, JA					30	3,436	646	4,082
TOTAL, FE					67	16,055	15,814	31,869
TO THE TE		The same of the sa			1		A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	

Causes .- Of the 47 new disputes 34, directly involving 15,174 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 5, directly involving 5,250 workpeople, on other wages questions; 5, directly involving 463 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 2, directly involving 5,092 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and one, directly involving 150 workpeople, on a question of Trade Union principle.

Results. - During the month settlements were effected in the case of 37 new disputes, directly involving 15,237 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, directly involving 362 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 10, directly involving 700 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 17, directly involving 9,931 persons, were settled in favour of the employers; and 16, directly involving 4,968 persons, were compromised. In the case of 7 other disputes, directly involving 9,195 persons—including the Clyde engineers' dispute—work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in February by disputes which began, or were settled, in that month amounted to 194,100. In addition, 14,500 working days were lost during February owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in February of all disputes, new and old, was 208,600 working days, as compared with 55,900 in the previous month, and 827,300 in the corresponding month of last year.

#### (b) DISPUTES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1914 AND 1915.

	Ja	n. and Feb	., 1914	Ja	n and Feb	., 1915.
Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Work- ing Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Work- ing Days of all Disputer in progress
Building Mining and Quarrying Engineering Shipbuilding Other Metal Textile Clothing Transport Other Trades	12 26 13 15 8 16 6 9	15,617 30,809 1,357 2,776 2,108 5,940 619 5 805 1,664	452,900 215,000 209,200 28,800 43,100 137,200 10,900 26,400 196,600	3 5 12 13 3 7 6 14 14	5,525 2,521 9,615 1,484 231 4,618 974 7,303 818	32,400 29,400 77,400 10,900 3,100 64,700 2,400 39,000 5,200
TOTAL .	121	66,695	1,520,100+	77	33,089	264,500

# (c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN FEBRUARY.

Occupations and Locality.;	Number of Workpeople involved		Date when Dispute	Duration in Working	Cause or Object.	Result.	
Occupations and 2000110,14	Directly.	Indirectly.	began.	Days.		OT HORAROLDINA	
Building:  Navvies, builders' labourers, &c., and other workpeople. — Edinburgh and	700	800	1915. 22nd Feb.	15	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour.	Work resumed pending reference to arbitration under the Conciliation Act, 1896.	
Leith. Carpenters and labourers. — Salisbury Plain	4,000	101.00 A	18th Feb.	anoder anoder	Against deductions from wages for time lost in wet weather.	Number of men resumed work of employers' terms, others graduall replaced.	
ENGINEERING:— Engineers. Brassmoulders. Clyde District {	7,800 650	:	16th Feb. 26th Feb.	14	For advance in wages of 2d.	See page 85. No settlement reported.	
SHIPBUILDING: - shipwrights—Birkenhead	300		2nd Feb.	5	Against employment of joiners upon work claimed by ship- wrights.	Work resumed pending reference the matter to Conciliation Boar	
TEXTILE:-	96	86	1914. 18th Feb.	304	or shift and to hid	Work resumed on the basis of	
Spinners, piecers, cardroom workers	162	137	25th June	198	Alleged bad material	temporary settlement, pendin inspection of material.	
Jute workers—Dundee	4,000		1915. 8th Feb.	6	For advance in wages of 10 per cent., with a minimum advance of 1s. per week.	Advance of 5 per cent. grante with a minimum advance of 1s.	
BOOT AND SHOE: - Boot upper closers and other work- peopleNorthampton.	136	339	26th Feb.	6	For increase in minimum wage of 1s. per week.	A new quantity statement to prepared.	
Dock AND WATERSIDE:— Dock workers—London.	5,000	100	15th Feb.	6	Demand that men should be engaged outside the dock gates instead of inside as formerly.		

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—15 disputes, involving about 1,600 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

\*Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied | y number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. It has aggregate duration in 1914 of the general dispute at Dublin (200,000 working days), is included in the total but not in the separate groups of trades. The occupations printed in italies are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown cut of work at establishments where the disputes coursed, ut not themselves parties to the disputes.

#### THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE. March, 1915.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.\* [Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

AFTER the period of about six months commencing with | made to the general advances in federated shipyards and the outbreak of war, in which wages showed comparatively little movement on the whole, there began in February a sharp upward tendency, marked by the granting of increases or bonuses, usually for the duration f the war, to meet the rise in the cost of living. The industries most affected by general changes of this nature were the engineering, linen and jute, and dock labour groups, but there were several cases in which large bodies of workpeople employed by individual firms in other trades were involve . In the pig iron and iron and steel industries there were some increases directly resulting from a rise in the selling price of iron.

Particulars of the most important changes are given the Table below, so far as information is available. It should be noted, however, that they are exclusive of those relating to changes affecting, amongst others, workpeople employed by railway companies and by Government Departments, and that during February a war bonus of 2s. or 3s. per week was granted by the railway companies, and increases, usually of 1s. per week, were conceded to employees in H.M. Dockyards. In the latter case the increase was retrospective to 1st October. It is further to e noted that these particulars relate only to changes taking effect in February, and not o all the changes arranged up to date. In this connection it may be mentioned that several important changes have taken effect since 1st March, and reference may be

in engineering works on the North-East Coast, and to the war bonus conceded to the Metropolitan Police. In other important cases, though increases have not yet taken place, negotiations are in progress.

The result of all the changes reported as taking effect in February was an increase of £17,889 per week in the wages of 153,638 workpeople. With one exception all the changes were increases, the exception being the decrease to coal mining deputies, etc., in Northumberland, which resulted from a fall in the ascertained selling price of coal during the period September to November last year. During the two months January and February, 1915, the number of workpeople affected by changes was 288,374, and the net effect of the changes an increase of £22,131 per week. In the corresponding period of 1914 95,313 workpeople sustained a net decrease of £713 per week. Of the total amount of the increase in January-February, 1915, the building trades accounted for £1,793, the engineering and shipbuilding trades for £3,065, the textile trades for £1,954, and the transport trades for £14,531. In the coal mining industry there was a net decrease of £1,644 per week, resulting from a decline in the selling price of coal in certain districts towards the end of 1914. All these amounts are exclusive of increased earnings owing to the very considerable overtime worked in connection with Government contracts.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN FEBRUARY, 1915.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
No Year	1 0 47 04 - 00	1 77.1	INCREASES IN RATE		
Pig Iron Manufacture	South Staffs   West Scotland	Feb. 1 Feb.	Blastfurnacemen	1,000 3,500	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent. Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent., making wages 25 per cent. above the standard of 1899.
(	England and Scot- land (certain firms).	7 Feb. {	Steel melters, pitmen, &c	} 3,130 {	Increase, under sliding scale, of 1¼ per cent. Increase of 5% per cent.
Iron and Steel	Midlands (including: parts of S. Yorks and S. Lancs).	8 Feb.	Iron puddlers Iron millmen	20,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton. Rate after change, including bonus, 10s. 3d. per ton. Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
ture.	Wast Castles d	1 Feb.	Iron puddlers	3,000 {	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton. Rate after change, 9s. 6d. plus bonus of 1d. per heat. Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
	West Scotland	8 Feb.	Steel millmen Enginemen, cranemen &c. Gas producermen and charge wheelers Other workpeople	2,750 1,850 1,000 250	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.  Increase of 2½ per cent.
(	Rugby	1st pay Feb.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine- men, moulders, brass finishers, patternmakers, &c.	1,300	Increase on piece rates of 5 per cent., and on time rates of 2s. per week.
Engineering		100.	Labourers		Increase of 2s. per week to those receiving 22s. and under, and of 1s. to those receiving 23s. and over.
	West Scotland	15 Feb.	Angle-iron smiths, platers, rivetters, caulkers and holders-up (boiler- shops)	3,500	Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of ¾d. per hour.
Other Metal	Wolverhampton and District	1 Feb.	Lock, latch and key makers	2,000	Increase of 5 per cent.
Textile {	Dundee District	12 Feb.	Preparers, spinners, reelers, winders, weavers, &c.	35,000	Increase of 5 per cent., with minimum amount of 1s. per week.
	Forfar	22 Feb.	Factory workers	2,500	Increase of 5 per cent. or 1s. per week.
	Hull	2 Feb.	Dock labourers	- 9,800	Increase of 1d. per hour. Increase of 3s. per week. Increase of 10 per cent. Increase of 4s. per week. Increase of 12½ per cent.
Transport†	Liverpool and Birkenhead	22 Feb.	Coal trimmers	25,000	Increase of 12½ per cent. Increase of 1s. per day.
	Bristol	15 Feb.	Dock labourers	7,000	Increase of ld. per hour, or 2s. to 5s. per week.
	Glasgow Leith	16 Feb. 1 Feb.	Dock labourers	5,300 3,000	Increase of 1d. per hour. Increase of 1d. per hour.
0-125			DECREASE IN RATES	OF WAGES.	
Coal Mining	Northumberland	1 & 8 Feb. {	Deputies, mechanics and enginemen Firemen	3,650 {	Decrease of 3d. per day. Decrease of 4 per cent., leaving wages 38 per cent. above the standard of 1879.

CHANGES IN MARCH.—Many important increases have been arranged to take effect in March, including the following:— Engineering.—Increase of 4s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates to skilled and unskilled men in engineering works on the N.-E. Coast, and increases of various amounts at Hull, Barrow, Sheffield and other centres.

Shipbuilding.—Increase of 4s. per week or 1d. per hour on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates to skilled men in the federated shipyards in England and Scotland; and increase of 4s. per week in shipyards at Southampton.

Transport.—Increases of varying amounts to Liverpool carters and of 1s. per day to Belfast dockers.

Other Occupations.—Bonus of 3s. per week to members of the Metropolitan Police Force and of 2s. or 3s. per week employees on the London Electric Railways.

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

In addition to the changes mentioned, railway employees engaged in manipulating traffic received a bonus of 3s, per week on rates of under 30s, and is, on rates of 30s, and over, generally on 15th February. In the case of several companies a bonus was also conceded to workpeople in the ongine, &c. shops.

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#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN FEBRUARY.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

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

The following Table shows by industries the proportion of unemployment books lodged\* to the total current on each Friday during February, 1915:—

of marketon of the special state of	5th Feb.	12th Feb.	19th Feb.	26th Feb.
INDUSTRIES. Building and Construction of Works Shipbuilding Engineering and Ironfounding Construction of Vehicles Sawnilling Other Insured Workpeople	1.7	Per cent. 4·0 1·3 1·0 1·6 1·5 0·8	Per cent. 3.7 1.2 0.9 1.5 1.5 0.7	Per cent. 3:5 1:1 0:9 1:4 1:5 0:7
ALL INSURED WORKPEOPLE	. 2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0
South-Bastern South-Western West Midlands Yorkshire and East Midlands: East Midlands Yorkshire North-Western Sootland and Northern: North of England Scotland Wales.	3.8 4.5 2.7 2.2 2.3 2.3 2.3 2.3 2.3 2.4 1.2 0.9 1.4 6.2	3·6 4·2 2·6 2·1 1·7 2·2 2·3 2·1 2·2 1·1 0·9 1·3 1·6 6·3	3·3 4·0 2·4 1·9 2·1 1·8 1·9 1·0 0·8 1·2 1·5 6·2	3·2 3·9 2·3 1·8 1·4 1·7 1·6 1·7 1·0 0·8 1·2 1·4 6·2
UNITED KINGDOM	. 2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0
A month ago	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.6
A year ago	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.4

#### INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

The total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended February 26th, 1915, was 43,113, as compared with 73,395 during the five weeks ended January 29th, 1915, and with 86,465 during the four weeks ended February 27th, 1914. Of the total of 43,113 claims, 26,690 (or 62 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 16,423 (or 38 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the four weeks was 11,526, 10,947, 10,196, and 10,444, the average being 10,778, as compared with 14,679 in the five preceding weeks and with 21,616 in February, 1914.

The average weekly amount of unemployment benefit paid during the four weeks ended February 26th, 1915, was £5,478, as compared with £8,250 per week in the five preceding weeks, and with £15,509 per week in February, 1914; 61 per cent. of the amount was paid direct and 39 per cent, through associations.

		e Weekl		Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.			
Districts.	Feb., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	Feb., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	
London and S. Eastern London South-Eastern South Western West Midlands Yorkshire and East Midlands East Midlands North Western Sootland and Northern North of England	3,645 2,750 915 745 587 1,361 534 827 1,921 1,368 447	4,870 \$,632 1,238 951 906 2,074 7,45 1,329 2,729 1,842 573	7,219 5,460 1,759 1,659 1,427 2,487 2,487 3,582 3,611 1,381	1.660 1,103 557 330 327 794 314 480 988 625 189	£ 2,395 1,599 796 405 526 1,258 490 768 1,685 1,038	5,977 4,464 1,513 1,113 953 1,731 603 1.128 2,309 2,152 754	
Scotland	921 333 818	1,269 375 932	2,230 733 898	436 135 619	701 177 766	1,398 233 1,041	
UNITED KINGDOM	10,778	14,679	21,616	5,478	8,250	15,509	

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

#### BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

FOUR WEEKS ENDED FEBRUARY 12TH, 1915.

THE total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers\* of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges (400 in number) on February 12th was 100,616, as compared with 112,889 on January 15th, 1915, and 145,297 on February 13th, 1914.

The number of registrations of workpeople during the four weeks ended February 12th was 229,924, a daily average of 9,580, as compared with a daily average of 9,203 in the previous five weeks and of 10,267 in the four weeks ended February 13th, 1914.

Excluding re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges, there were on the Register at some time or other during the period 325,715 workpeople (men 189,883, women 88,452, boys 19,260, and girls 28,120), as compared with 341,818 in the five weeks ended January 15th, 1915, and 380,118 in the four weeks ended February 13th, 1914.

The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 136,022, a daily average of 5,668, as compared with 5,098 in the five weeks ended January 15th, 1915, and with 3,979 in the four weeks ended February 13th, 1914: the number of vacancies filled was 99,863, a daily average of 4,161, as compared with 3.601 in the previous five weeks, and with 3,045 in the four weeks ended February 13th, 1914.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the period : -

	-		2	a: 1	m 4 1
DAINEL KE AND DAY	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total,
On Register at beginning of period Registrations during period Individuals registered Re-registrations On Register at end of period	67,215 135,133 122,668 12,465 55,723	30,864 61,261 57,588 3,673 31,653	4,889 14,879 14,371 508 4,189	9,921 18,651 18,199 452 9,051	112,889 229,924 212,826 17,098 100,616
Vacancies notified during period Vacancies filled during period Individuals placed Applicants placed in other districts.	83,124 63,366 57,137 17,045	27,138 20,456 18,245 2,713	15,585 8.638 8,130 1,173	10,175 7,403 7,147 913	136,022 99,863 90,659 21,844

Of the 21,844 cases in which persons were placed in Exchange districts other than those in which they were registered, 2,893 represent transferences from one division to another. Of the total vacancies filled, 16,874, or 16.9 per cent., were filled by applicants residing more than five miles from the place in which the work was to

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportions of vacancies filled to vacancies notified and of vacancies filled to registrations (including those on the registers at the beginning of the period) in the principal groups of trades:-

TRADES.	Proportion cies filled to noti		Proportion of Vacancies filled to Registrations.			
have and on property and other	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.		
Insured Trades— Building, Construction of	Per cent. 83.8	Per cent.	Per cent. 23.9	Per cent.		
Works and Sawmilling Engineering, Shipbuild- ing and Construction of Vehicles.	82.1	90.3	40-0	37.5		
Uninsured Trades— Textiles Dress Transport Agriculture Paper, Prints, &c Food, Tobseco, Drink and	53·4 48·4 72·7 32·9 47·6 62 0	77·3 76·2 86·1 54·1 76·7 88·3	39·5 16·6 47·5 21·6 11·2 35·1	25·5 17·8 15·1 23·0 16·9 31·3		
Lodzing Commercial Domestic General Labourers	72·6 53·0 82·6	81·1 71·9	18·6 23·5 31·3	12·8 25·6		
Total	76.3	75.4	31.3	22.2		

The average daily numbers of registrations and vacancies filled, for the periods stated, are shown in the following Table: -

Average Daily Numbers of Registrations and Vacancies Filled.

				Ins	ured Tra	des.	Uninsured Trades.					
	TRICT ARTMI			4 weeks ended Feb. 12, 1915.	5 weeks ended Jan. 15, 1915.	ended	4 weeks ended Feb. 12, 1915.	5 weeks ended Jan. 15, 1915.	4 weeks ended Feb. 13, 1914.			
2010			COLL	10101	I	REGISTR	ATIONS.	+				
London South Easte South West West Midla East Midlar Yorkshire North West Northern Scot'and Wales Ireland	ern inds inds			852 290 315 249 176 330 559 228 303 274 178	922 309 294 269 198 384 685 236 360 256 182	1,412 396 393 327 206 392 720 339 486 423 216	1,719 380 335 482 283 458 905 298 534 199 233	1,494 349 299 402 247 392 848 238 500 151 188	1,296 327 293 454 233 429 837 264 427 180 217			
Men Women Boys Girls	Total	:: ::		3,668 28 55 3	4,010 32 45 8	5,251 12 46 1 5,310	1,963 2,524 565 774 5,826	1,844 2,084 540 640	1.875 1,834 639 609			
	10141			0,104			FILLE		4,501			
London South Faste South West West Midlan East Midlan East Midlan Forkshire North West Northern Sootland Wales Lireland	ern nds nds			259 138 343 117 80 168 153 152 156 152 29	219 143 251 98 56 131 127 123 118 145 26	65 72 107 75 97 119 117 108 117 301 24	692 154 183 186 109 222 394 109 221 85 58	611 138 189 152 100 183 346 93 230 63 59	415 96 149 139 102 170 360 103 170 76 64			
Men Women Boys Girls	:	::	::::	1,678 21 46 2	1,382 18 36 1	1,161 7 33 1	963 831 314 306	887 751 284 242	592 688 302 261-			
	Total			1,747	1,437	1,202	2,413	2,164	1,843			

The average daily number of vacancies notified in the insured trades during the four weeks ended 12th February was 2,112, as compared with 1,979 in the previous five weeks and with 1,482 in the four weeks ended 13th February, 1914. The corresponding daily averages in the uninsured trades were 3,555, 3,119 and 2,497 respectively.

#### INSURED TRADES.‡

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 81,265 (men 79,267, women 646 boys 1,280, and girls 72). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 131,486 (men 128,325, women 1,307, boys ,669, and girls 185). These figures exclude 8,826 cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register on 12th February was 39,202, as compared with 50,221

on 15th January and 90,586 on 13th February, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 50,689, a daily average of 2,112, as compared with 1,979 in the previous five weeks and 1,482 in the four weeks ended 13th February, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 41,940, a daily average of 1,747, as compared with 1,437 in the previous five weeks and 1,202 in the four weeks ended 13th February, 1914.

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

Groups of Occupations.	Registrations	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
Building and Construction of Works Sawmilling Shipbuilding Mechanical Engineering Construction of Vehicles Cabinet Making, etc.	Per cent. 59.7 0.7 11.4 25.9 1.5 0.8	Per cent. 52.4 0.5 14.5 31.3 1.2 0.1	Per cent. 53°0 04 14'9' - 30°6 1°0 0°1

ing re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the during the period. gures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against tent under the provisions of Part II of the National Insurance Act.

#### UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 131, 561 (men 43,401, women 56,942, boys 13,091, and girls 18,127). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 194,229 (men 61,558, women 87,145, boys 17,591, and girls 27,935). These figures exclude 8,272 cases in which persons already placed in vacancies during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate indi-

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 12th February was 61,414 (men 17,512, women 31,090, boys 3,853, and girls 8,959), as compared with 62,668 on

15th January, and 54,711 on 13th February, 1914.

The numbers of men and women in the uninsured trades remaining on the Register at each Friday night during the period are shown below:—

Date.		Men.	Women.	Total.		
22nd January			-	17,852	31,057	48,909
29th J nuary 5th February		-	::	17,706 17,584	31,344 31,851	49,050 49,435
12th February				17,512	31,090	48,602

Vacancies Notified and Filled .- The number of vacancies notified during the period was 85,333, a daily average of 3,555, as compared with 3,119 in the preceding five weeks and 2,497 in the four weeks ended 13th February, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 57,923, a daily average of 2,413, as compared with 2,164 in the preceding five weeks, and 1,843 in the four weeks ended 13th February, 1914.

Of the vacancies filled during the period 7,110 (men 4,147, women 2,636, boys 155, and girls 172) were known to be for less than a week's employment: of these 2,285 were for men in conveyance of men, goods and messages, 892 were for general labourers, and 2,097 were for women in domestic offices or services.

Of the 14,885 vacancies filled by boys and girls, 3,868 (boys 1,825 and girls 2,043), or 26.0 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

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

Trade Groups.	Registrations.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
MEN:— Conveyance of Men, Goods, &c. General Labourers Commercial Occupations Textiles All others	Per cent. 24-2 32-3 7-8 5-3 30-4	Per cent. 29.3 21.9 4.4 6.8 37.6	Per cent. 31.9 27.1 4.8 5.5 30.7
WOMEN:— Domestic Offices or Services Textiles Food, Tobacco, Drink, &c Dress All others	48·7 9·3 4·9 11·6	55-9 10-8 6-5 10-4 16-4	100·0 53·6 11·1 7·7 10·6 17·0 100·0

#### CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men given casual employment through the Exchanges was 1,025, and the number of casual jobs given was 6,305, a daily average of 263, compared with 231 in the preceding five weeks and 503 in the four weeks ended 13th February, 1914. Of the jobs given during the period 4,752 were for dock labourers, 1,441 for cloth porters at Manchester, and 112 for cotton porters at Liverpool. During the period there were also 3,260 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House System for Dock Labourers at Liverpool.

#### UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

During the period covered by the returns there was a large deficiency in the supply of colliery, shipbuilding and engineering workers at most centres. In the building trades and construction of works and in a number of other industries there was also some shortage of labour. As regards women, the largest unsatisfied demand was in the tailoring trade, especially at Leeds.

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

# BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES-FOUR WEEKS ENDED FEBRUARY 12th, 1915.

A.-INSURED TRADES.

# Registrations, and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended February 12th, 1915.

	(80)	10.52			in the same	le de la	Sil massi	ADU	LTS.			JUVE	NILES.	
							RE	GISTRATIO	NS.	VACAN- CIES.	RE	GISTRATIO	NS.	VACAN- CIES.
OCCUPATION	ON G	ROUI	PSt				On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.	On Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.	On Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.
Building:— Carpenters, Joiners, &c. Bricklayers Masons Painters, Decorators, &c. Plumbers and Glaziers Other skilled occupations Labourers		:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::			::::::::	2,983 3,542 2,547 18,298 711 2,388 4,724	9,923 4,903 2,430 12,717 1,591 2,645 12,700	2,952 3,178 2,284 11,742 803 1,868 4,072	5,630 986 241 1,883 372 321 7,123	24  1 3 6 1 6	54 -4 10 21 3 32	18 3 3 4 1 11	33 -4 6 17 6 46
Construction of Works							1,410	5,624	1,407	4,790	1	4	1	4
Sawmilling							308	620	265	152	2	27	7	27
Shipbuilding:— Platers and Riveters Shipwrights Labourers	::	::	::	::	::		1,000 180 1,044	3,345 1,098 5,545	700 134 998	1,777 770 3,471	26 3 32	51 11 104	17 1 32	35 6 45
Mechanical Engineering:  Moulders (Iron and Steel) 8miths Erectors, Fitters and Turne Metal Machinists Wiremen Other skilled occupations Labourers	ers	11:1:1:1	::		:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::		1,319 417 2,227 634 322 1,483 1,910	1,847 842 6,632 2,191 842 3,543 6,728	855 329 1,771 565 308 1,131 1,639	576 324 3,946 1,008 393 1,475 4,589	12 4 159 49 10 18 13	45 12 505 162 50 70 99	6 5 144 25 13 19 16	53 26 388 121 31 97 97
Making of Vehicles Cabinet Making, &c	::	::	::	=		::	896 715	1,369 683	647 563	420	15 4	43 12	8 2	54
TOTAL MALES TOTAL FEMALES		-					49,058	88,018	38,211	40,280	389 113	1,319	336	1,106 50
GRAND TOTAL							49,719	88,700	38,774	40,784	502	1,391	428	1,156

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

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#### B.-UNINSURED TRADES.

# Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended February 12th, 1915.

		1 50				ADU	LTS.						JUVENILES.		
TRADES.	On Register at Beginning of Period.			Regis	Registrations during Period.*		On Register at End of Period.		Vacancies Filled during Period.			Vacanci	Period.	during	
	Men,	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying	271	3	274	762	_	762	262	1	263	418	7	425	31	100	31
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	313	391	704	740	886	1,626	248	454	702	472	470	942	281	287	568
Textiles:— Cotton — — — Wool and Worsted — — — Other Textiles — —	406 152 165	2,121 179 740	2,527 331 905	1,480 577 420	3,451 570 1,638	4,931 1,147 2,058	290 169 137	1,477 190 966	1,767 359 1,103	769 324 169	1,327 223 667	2,096 547 836	129 45 107	195 74 267	324 119 374
Dress:  Boot and Shoe Workers — Others — Conveyance of Men, Goods and	197 356	90 <b>4,7</b> 52	287 5,108	637 599	164 6,841	801 7,440	236 299	65 4,844	301 5,143	206 91	38 2,070	244 2,161	50 75	1,073	96 1,148
Messages:— On Railways — On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c	143 3,961 496	} 195 129	<b>4,299 625</b>	680 10717 979	} 381 219	11,778 { 1,198	276 3,806 427	} 164 118	4 <b>,2</b> 46 545	{1,368 5,996 318	} 87 80	7,451 398	2,173 53	} 472 27	2,702 80
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	445	687	1,132	841	1,342	2,183	461	658	1,119	145	342	487	155	418	573
Wood, Furniture, Fittings and	491	196	687	903	337	1,240	393	171	564	259	118	377	202	96	298
Decorations. Chemicals, Oil, Grease, Soap, &c	82	109	191	234	375	609	54	171	225	437	330	767	311	230	541
Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass	206	270	476	310	451	761	155	250	405	119	110	229	31	51	82
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging:— Bread, Biscuit, &c., Makers — Others	173 374 94	69 1,847 140	242 2,221 234	301 884 285	171 2,796 324	472 3,680 609	133 314 72	65 1,682 111	198 1,99 <del>6</del> 183	82 526 137	94 1,433 244	176 1,959 381	} 245 68	415 285	660 353
Precious Metals, Jewels, Watches,	144	132	276	280	254	534	122	103	225	54	168	222	112	199	311
Instruments and Games. Gas, Water, Electricity Supply and	50	-	50	126	3	129	40	-	40	308	13	311	12	-	12
Sanitary Service. Commercial	2,201	1,864	4,065	3,687	2,832	6,519	2,095	2,076	4,171	1,097	600	1,697	934	314	1,248
Domestic:  Laundry and Washing Service Others	1,135 4,716	{ 817 11,416	}. 13,368 4,716	} 2,197 15,232	{ 2,021 27,488 —	} 31,706 15,232	1,140 4,830	{ 861 12,242 —	} 14,243 4,830	783 6,243	{ 1,333 9,366	} 11,482 6,243	333	2,128	2,461
Shop Assistants	362	1,741	2,103	612	2,689	3,301	344	1,798	2,142	77	244	321	136	249	385
All Others	1,224	2,315	3,539	3,632	5,346	8,978	1,209	2,623	3,832	2,688	598	3,286	1,992	527	2,519
TOTAL	18,157	30,203	48,360	47,115	60,579	107,694	17,512	31,090	48,602	23,086	19,952	43,038	7,532	7,353	14,885
Casual Employments	1,321		1,321	596		596	1,326	-	1,326	6,305	-	6,305	-	-	-

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

# THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

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

Exclusive of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during February, 1915, was 270, a decrease of 10 on a month ago, but an increase of 17 on a year ago. The mean number for February during the five years 1910-1914 was 243, the maximum being 270 and the minimum 211.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during February, 1915, numbered 39, an increase of 9 on a month ago and of 6 on a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 121, an increase of 11 on January, 1915, and of 17 on February, 1914. Fatal accidents at quarries numbered 4, compared with 6 both a month ago and a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in February, 1915, was 105, a decrease of 27 on January, 1915, and of 3 on February, 1914.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during February, 1915, was 167, compared with 158 a month ago and 169 a year ago.

#### Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., 1915, on a Number of Workpeople killed during Month Year ago. ago. 4 Guards (Passenger) Guards (Passenger) Permanent Way Men (not including labourers) Porters Shunters Mechanics Labourers Miscellaneous iö + 5 .. .. i 11 11 1 Contractors' Servants TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE 39 30 33 + 9 + 6 Underground .. .. Surface .. .. + 16 + 1 93 11 + 11 TOTAL, MINES .. .. 121 110 + 11 + 17 Quarries over 20 feet deep ... - 2 - 2 6 6 FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS— Textile— Textile— Cotton Wool and Worsted Other Textiles Non-Textile— Extraction of Metals Founding and Conversion of Metals Marine and Locomotive Engineering Ship and Boat Building — Gas Wood 15 4 18 23 - 13 TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS 110 - 36 - 12 ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5. Docks, Wharves, and Quays Buildings to which Act applies TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5. 22 Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 - 1 | - 1 TOTAL, EXCLUDING - 10 |+ 17 SEAMEN. Samen— On Trading Vessels— Sailing Steam... On Fishing Vessels— Sailing Steam... 35 106 + 11 - 9 + 2 26 108 + 19 TOTAL, SEAMEN .. 167 158 169 + 9 TOTAL, INCLUDING 437 438 422 SEAMEN.

#### DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS

March, 1915.

IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

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

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during February, 1915, was 26, of which 21 were due to lead poisoning and 5 to anthrax; one death due to lead poisoning was also reported. In addition 12 cases of lead poisoning (6 of which were fatal)

were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the two months ended February, 1915, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 54, compared with 108 during the corresponding period of 1914. The number of deaths in 1915 was 2, compared with 11 in 1914. In addition there were 24 cases of lead poisoning (including 12 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first two months of 1915, compared with 41 cases (including 8 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1914.

#### ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

		Cases.			Deaths.	
Industry.	Month		Months ded	Month		Months
and add has said accome	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1914.	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1915.	Feb., 1914.
			Lead Po	oisoning.		
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN— Smelting of Metals Brass Works Sheet Lead and Lead Piping Plumbing and Soldering. Printing File Cutting and Hardening Tinning of Metals White Lead Works Red and Yellow Lead Works China, Earthenware, and Litho- Transfer Works Glass Cutting and Polishing Vitreous Enamelling Electrical Accumulator Works Coach and Car Painting. Shipbuilding Paint used in other Industries. Other Industries  OTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	4 — 2 1 — 1 — 4 1 2 1 3 2 — 21 — 12 — 12	5 	7 2 3 8 2 2 3 4 4 1 13 13 13 1 2 13 7 10 9 96 41	1   6	1 - 1 - 2 12	- - - 1 1 1 - - 2 2 1 - 8 8
MERCURIAL POISONING—		Other	Forms of	of Poison	ing.	
Barometer and Thermometer Making Furriers' Processes Other Industries	-	1 - 1		-		
TOTAL	-	2		=		
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic Other Industries	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL			-	_		
TOTAL "OTHER FORMS OF POISONING"	-	2	-		- 1	=
The standards of the			Anth	rax.		
andling of Horsehair landling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers &c.) ther Industries	2 3 -	4 3	9   2   1			3 -
TOTAL ANTHRAX	5	7	12	_		3
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FAC- TORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	26	54	108	1	2	11
GRAND TOTAL	38	78	149	7	14	19

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. throughout the country.

#### PAUPERISM.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in February, 1915, in the 25 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 188 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with January, 1915, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 1,306 (0.4 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 1. The decrease was in the number of indoor paupers; the outdoor paupers showing a slight increase. The changes in the districts were mostly unimportant; a decrease of 8 per 10,000 in the Leicester district and an increase of 27 per 10,000 in the small Galway district are the most noteworthy.

Compared with February, 1914, the rate per 10,000 decreased by 5. There was a decrease of 6,191 (1.8 per cent.) in the total number of paupers; the indoor paupers decreased by 9,029 (5.2 per cent.), while the outdoor increased by 2,838 (1.6 per cent.). In 22 districts there were decreases, the most marked being in Central London (21 per 10,000). In 9 districts there were increases, the greatest being 16 per 10,000 in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district. In the remaining 4 districts no change was indicated :-

too'Z stoots stee	Pau	pers on week o	in 915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in		
Selected Urban Districts.	In- door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	Rate per 10,000 of Esti- mated Popula- tion.	per 10,0 Populat compare a Month ago.	000 of tion as ed with
		1				
ENGLAND & WALES.*  Metropolis.  West District  North District  Central District  East District  South District	12,386 15,228 4,552 13,908 23,936	2,178 7,306 1,431 5,246 14,452	14,564 22,534 5,983 19,154 38,388	179 223 411 286 204	+ 1 - 3 - 1 - 1	- 7 - 10 - 21 - 12 - 12
TOTAL, Metropolis	70,010	30,613	100,623	223	1.	- 11
	5,151	11,083	16.234	216		- 7
Other Districts.  Newcastle District Stockton & Tees District Bolton, Oldham, &c. Wigan District Manchester District Liverpool District. Bradford District. Halifax & Huddersfield. Leeds District Sarnsley District Sheffield District North Staffordshire North Staffordshire Nottingham District Wolverhampton District Birmingham District Birmingham District Cardiff & Swansea	2,508 1,356 4,491 2,252 10,478 11,717 2,916 2,916 3,333 2,066 2,423 2,295 1,509 7,052 2,927 2,375	4,754 3,884 4,226 5,202 7,103 11,658 1,730 2,886 3,433 2,802 3,763 5,632 6,632 6,632 6,632 4,620 2,910 7,688 6,263 4,028 6,337	7,262 5,240 8,717 7,454 17,581 23,376 3,992 4,195 6,349 3,717 7,096 7,698 7,951 6,915 4,457 11,477 13,315 6,956 8,712	151 211 108 171 112 207 109 133 122 145 246 197 150 191 166 187 178 198	- 1 + 3 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 + 1 - 3 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 1 - 4 - 3 - 1 - 3 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	- 6 + 11 + 2 - 9 - 1 + 1 + 6 - 2 - 4 - 10 - 1 - 7 - 9
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	68,011	94,447	162,458	104	- 1	- 1
SCOTLAND.* Glasgow District Paisley & Greenock District Edinburgh & Leith District Dundee and Dunfermline Aberdeen Coatbridge & Airdrie	4,486 872 1,584 755 663 367	18,483 2,670 5,235 2,286 2,794 1,750	22,969 3,542 6,819 3,041 3,457 2,117	186 169 152 207	- 2 - 3 - 1 - 1 - 4	- 4 - 8 - 1 - 3 + 9 + 16
TOTAL for the above }	8,727	33,218	41,945	208	- 2	- 2
IRELAND.† Dublin District Belfast District Cork, Waterford and Limerick District Galway District	6,081 3,129 3,511 222	5,322 891 4,356 350	4,020	95 7 817	+ 5 + 1 + 3 + 27	- 4 - 9 - 12 + 8
TOTAL for the above Irish Districts	12,943	10,919	23,86	2 214	+ 4	- 8
TOTAL for above 35 Dis- tricts in Feb., 1915	164,842	180,28	0 345,12	2 188	- 1	- 5

the Metropolitan Asylums Boards, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

#### FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

#### IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY.

The total value of the imports in February was £65,269,000, compared with £67,401,000 in January and £62,054,000 in February, 1914. The increase on a year ago was partly accounted for by higher prices, but there were noticeable increases in the quantities of certain articles of food and of wool.

#### FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO.

Grain and Flour.—The imports of wheat showed a decline in quantity, but a great increase in value, over February, 1914. The imports from the United States, both of wheat and of flour, showed an increase, the increase from this country in the case of flour more than counterbalancing the decrease from all other countries of origin. Of the other important cereals, oats showed a decline, but barley, rice and maize increases. In the case of maize, the imports from the Argentine, from which about 90 per cent. of the supply is obtained, were more than double those in February. 1914.

February, 1914.

Meat.—Beef and mutton both showed a decline in quantity on a year ago, the most noticeable decline being in chilled and frozen beef from the Argentine. From Australia and New Zealand there was an increase in the total quantity of frozen beef and mutton, and in all cases there was a considerable increase in price. A rise of 30 per cent. occurred in the imports of bacon; there were considerable increases from Denmark and the United States while Canada sent over four times as much as in Feb-

there were considerable increases from Denmark and the United States, while Canada sent over four times as much as in February, 1914. Poultry showed a decline owing to the falling-off in the Russian supply. In the case of preserved beef there was an increase from 30,000 to 140,000 cwts.

Other Articles of Food &c.—Butter and eggs showed a decline on a year ago, though in the case of eggs there were increases from Russia and the Netherlands. In cheese there was an increase, a heavy decline from New Zealand being counterbalanced by an increase from the United States. As regards sugar, there was heavy decline from New Zealand being counterbalanced by an increase from the United States. As regards sugar, there was an almost complete stoppage of supplies from Europe, except as regards refined sugar from the Netherlands; but the greater supplies from the Argentine, Java, Mauritius, Peru and the West Indies resulted in a net increase in the total quantity imported. Tea from the British East Indies, Ceylon and China showed increases; cocoa also increased, but coffee declined. There was an increase in spirits and tobacco, but a decrease in wines.

#### RAW MATERIALS.

Textile Materials.—The imports of raw cotton amounted to 3,182,000 centals of 100 lb. in February, 1915, compared with 2,351,000 centals in February, 1914. The increase was principally in the American and Egyptian supply. Wool increased by about 20 per cent. owing to larger imports from South America, Australia and New Zealand. There was, however, a decline from South Africa and the British East Indies, and a total stoppage from France. Flax, hemp and jute all showed decreases, but silk increased from 68,000 lb. to 161,000 lb.

Other Raw Materials.—The quantities of the principal other raw materials imported in February, 1915, and the increase or decrease on February, 1914, are shown below:— Textile Materials.—The imports of raw cotton amounted to

Article.	Quantity imported in February, 1915.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on February, 1914.		
Manganese ore "Plt props or pit wood loads Furniture woods, &c. tons Other timber, hewn loads Other timber, sawn, split, &c. "Solution seed tons Alinseed qrs. Nuts and kernels for expressing oil tons Petroleum gallons Hides, raw cwts. Sherps' skins, woolled lb. Wood pulp tons Rubber centals	380,497 25,364 130,766 12,261 17,135 144,123 68,019 124,745 35,119 54,674,968 10,735,404 22,548 140,103	- 131,378 - 4,271 - 4,577 - 33,932 - 16,097 + 37,779 - 9,433 - 3,560 + 28,417 + 8,567,582 + 19,935 + 4,940,368 - 30,423 - 4,601		

Timber showed considerable increases from Norway, Sweden and Canada, but decreases from Russia and the United States. The imports of indigo were nearly 30 times as great in quantity as in February, 1914; while the average value was higher by nearly 400 per cent. Imports of petroleum rose from 19,351,000 gallons to 27,186,000 gallons in fuel oil, and there were increases in motor spirit and gas oil, but decreases in other kinds. In the case of rubber there was a decline in imports from Brazil, but large increases from the Straits Settlements and Ceylon.

#### MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

In iron and steel and manufactures thereof there was a decline from 179,000 tons to 49,000 tons, though pig iron showed an increase. There were also considerable decreases in textiles, glass, paper, and motor-cars. Imports of leather, on the other hand, particularly from the United States, showed a large

#### EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN FEBRUARY.

[N.B.—Goods bought in the United Kingdom by, or on behalf of the Governments of the Allies are included in the exports, but not goods taken from Britis overnment Stores and Depots, or goods bought by H.M. Government and shipped and Government vessels.]

The total value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures in February, 1915, was £26,177,000, compared with £28,248,000 in January and £41,262,000 in February, 1914.

#### FOOD, DRINK AND TORACCO

There was a considerable decline in this group on a year ago, articularly in beer and spirits, biscuits and cakes, fish, and obacco. Flour, and rice cleaned and milled in this country, wed increases.

#### RAW MATERIALS.

In this group there was a large decline compared with a year ago, chiefly owing to the falling-off in exports of coal and of wool. The former showed a decrease of 2,096,000 tons, or 36.6 per cent., ch was, however, a smaller decrease than that in December

#### MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Manufactured Articles.

Textiles.—All kinds of yarn showed a decline; cotton fell from 18,074,000 lb. to 16,118,000 lb., worsted from 4,107,000 lb. to 850,000 lb., jute from 3,414,000 lb. to 2,274,000 lb., and linen from 1,261,000 lb. to 516,000 lb. There were, however, marked increases in cotton and worsted yarn to the Netherlands and France, the decrease in total quantity being largely due to the stoppage of supplies to Germany. Cotton piece goods declined from 583,452,000 yards to 309,982,000 yards, there being considerable decreases to the Dutch East Indies, China, Egypt and India, and a total stoppage to Turkey. To most other countries, except France and Australia, there were also decreases; but the exports to France increased tenfold. The decline was, however, slightly less proportionately than in December or January. Other textile manufactures, with few exceptions, considerably declined. Other Articles.—The quantities or values of the other principal manufactured articles, and the increase or decrease compared with February, 1914, are shown below:—

Article.	Exports in February, 1915.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on February, 1914.
Pig iron tons Galvanised iron and steel sheets " Tinned plates and sheets " Rails " Other manufactures of iron and steel " Copper and manufactures thereof " Machinery " Machinery doz. pairs Leather cwts. Paper (value) £ and instruments (value) £ Apparel (not waterproofed) £ Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours £ Apparel (not waterproofed) £ Railway trucks &c £ Railway trucks &c £ Motor cars, cycles, motor cycles and parts thereof. Books, printed £ Books, printed £ Books, printed £ Books, printed £	21,934 21,732 25,101 15,688 109,487 1,925 1,640 23,612 131,548 5,664 204,788 314,839 173,870 1,609,229 500,152 224,938 130,327 279,529	- 37,898 - 46,063 - 16,643 - 20,100 - 31,657 - 2,266 + 793 - 35,673 - 22,891 - 22,254 - 51,587 - 264,565 - 84,348 - 136,738 - 314,694 - 129,631 - 143,174 - 315,346
, printed,	144,499	- 40,016

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1915.

The imports in the two months ended February, 1915, were valued at £132,670,000, compared with £130,050,000 in the corresponding period of 1914. There were increases in the food group, in wool and in leather, but considerable decreases in raw cotton, in iron and steel and manufactures thereof, and in textile yarns and fabrics. The exports were valued at £54,425,000, compared with £89,068,000 in January and February, 1914. The decreases were most noticeable in coal, in iron and steel and manufactures thereof, in machinery, and in textile yarns and fabrics.

# CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.   1914.   1913.   1909.     A Year ago.     Year ago.     Year ago.		-		- OILUE	0.	
1914.   1913.   1909.   Aar Year ago.   Five Years ago.   2	Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales* i	n Fourth (	increase com-		
Distributive Departments   10,657,889   3,833,746   7,153,981   20.6   49.0   62.3		1914.	1913.	1909.	Year	Years
Distributive Departments   10,657,889   2,597,936   2,096,375   1,601,159   23.9   62.3		£	£	£	Market .	9 1974
Stributive Departments   2,664,169   2,458,539   2,038,722   8.4   30.7	Distributive Departments					
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLE-SOURTES' JOINT COMMITTEE: Productive Departments ., 65,950 53,574 40,600 23·1 62·4  IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLE-SALE SOURTY: Distributive Departments 52,567 42,277 11,712 24·3 348·8  FOTAL — Distributive Departments 52,567 42,277 11,712 24·3 348·8  FOTAL — Productive Departments 50,567 42,277 11,712 24·3 348·8	CIETY:— Distributive Departments					
RISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLE- SALE SOCIETY:— Distributive Departments 52,567 42,277 11,712 24·3 348·8  NOTAL — Distributive Depart- ments  NOTAL — Productive Depart- 13,374,625 11,334,562 9,204,415 18·0 45·3	WHOLESALE SOCIETIES'	65,950	Tools &			
OTAL — Distributive Depart- ments 13,374,625 11,334,562 9,204,415 18:0 45:3	DALE SOCIETY .	52,567	42,277		24.3	
POTAL — Productive Deart   7500 cos	NOTAL - Distributive Depart-	13,374,625	11,334,562	9,204,415	18:0	Charles of the last
ments 200   51.8	POTAL - Productive Depart-	3,568,929	2,958,847	2,351,179	20 6	51.8
GRAND TOTAL 16,943,554 14,293,409 11,555,594 18:5 46:6	GRAND TOTAL	16,943,554	14,293,409	11,555,594	18.5	46.6

The figures given for the Productive Departments represent sales and nafers to Distributive Departments.

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

In January, 1915, the total number of passengers who landed in the United Kingdom from other countries was 73,979, and the number who embarked for other countries was 63,643; these numbers compare with 78,853 and 89,307 respectively in January,

1914.

The number of outward passengers to non-European countries in January was 11,677 in 1915 and 25,357 in 1914, these numbers including 9,165 and 18,200 British subjects respectively; the inward passengers from non-European countries in January numbered 10,989 in 1915 and 18,350 in 1914, of whom 8,564 and 10,013 respectively were British subjects.

The total of passengers of British nationality in January includes 5,620 passengers outward, who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom, and intending to reside permanently in non-European countries; while 5,414 of the inward passengers were recorded as having been resident in such countries, and intending to reside within the United Kingdom. The distribution of the migratory movement of British subjects during January is shown below, so far as the principal countries are concerned:—

				Janu	ary.
Migrants of British N	ationalit	y.*		1914.	1915.
MIGRANTS TO-	belga, s			Mala Hall At	Seed alone
British North America			1939113	1,936	708
Australia	100000	1000	13.00	4,359	1.100
New Zealand				628	341
British South Africa				854	477
India (including Ceylon)			22.5	691	698
Other British Colonies and	Possessi	ons		544	471
TOTAL, BRITISH EM	PIRE			9,012	3,792
United States		1000	9	2,456	1,408
Other Foreign Countries .			10000	800	420
TOTAL EMIGRANTS				12,268	5,620
THE RESERVE THE PARTY OF THE PA		1022		000	
IMIGRANTS FROM—			2306	10 M. N. SERRES VEST	
British North America .				1,298	1,72
Australia				617	634
New Zealand				106	88
British South Africa .				448	500
India (including Ceylon) .	000000		-	200	287
Other British Colonies and	Possessi	ons		190	394
TOTAL, BRITISH EM	PIRE	::	288	2,859	3,626
United States			804	714	1,030
Other Foreign Countries			SCO.	340	758
BORIE THE STATE OF LAND	s			3,913	5,414
TOTAL IMMIGRANT			Children and the last		

\* Exclusive of persons travelling viå Continental Ports.

The effects of the European War are reflected in the marked decline in the number of emigrants to North America and Australia, and in the increased number of immigrants from the North American Continent, in the month of January, 1915.

#### INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED, DISSOLVED, &c., DURING FEBRUARY. [Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.]

In the following Tables particulars are given as to the number of each of the various classes of unions and societies which were (1) registered or certified or (2) removed from the register during

(1) REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED

Class of Society.	Number Registered or Certified.	Class of Society.	Number Registered or Certified.
Trade Unions Industrial and Provident Societies.	19	Friendly Societies ,, (Branches) Building ,,	5 50

	Notices received	l in February of	300
Class of Society.	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Registry Cancelled.
Trade Unions Industrial and Provident Societies Friendly Societies " (Branches) Building ",	1 - ::	3 17 34 6	 5 16 

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

# LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOY-MENT: TAXICAB DRIVER SHOT BY SENTRY.

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A workman injured by accident is entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only where the accident was one arising out of and in the course of the employ-

A man was employed as the driver of a taxicab by a firm whose business it was to let out such cabs to members of the public. Round the town where this business was carried on were many Round the town where this business was carried on were many forts, and after war was declared many officers used to hire taxicabs to be driven to these forts. One morning at 2 a.m. the cab driven by this man was engaged to take an officer to Fort R, which was about five miles distant. Before starting the officer warned the driver to be very careful because of sentries. It was a night of strong wind and heavy rain. The cab carried three lights, and the glass screen in front was partially raised. While going along at about six miles an hour, and when he had just entered a village, the driver was suddenly shot in the leg. He heard no challenge from a sentry, and when he had last been along the road a few days before there was no sentry at this place, though there was one in a lane at the other side this place, though there was one in a lane at the other side of the village. He was travelling so slowly because he was looking out for a sentry. The engine made a considerable noise, and the glass screen had the effect of presenting a barrier to the passage of the sound of a human voice. The man's wound was so severe that his leg had to be amputated. He claimed com-pensation from his employers under the Act, and recovered an award in his favour in a County Court, the judge finding that he had failed to hear the sentry's challenge owing to the wind and rain, the noise of the engine, and the presence of the screen.

The employers appealed, contending that the claimant had not

The court of Appeal held that as the claimant's duty was to drive cabs at any time of the day or night to forts surrounded by sentries, and as he had to use a vehicle in the performance of that duty which was so constructed as to prevent him from hearing a challenge, he was exposed to a special risk of an accident of the kind that had occurred to him; and that, therefore, there was ample evidence to justify the decision of the County Court judge. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—

Thorn v. Humm & Co.—Court of Appeal.—2nd February, 1915.

RIGHT TO COMPENSATION: MEMBER OF CREW OF FISHING VESSEL REMUNERATION BY SHARE IN PROFITS: "STOCKER."

Although the Act applies to seamen in general, it does not apply to such members of the crew of a fishing vessel as are remunerated by shares in the profits or the gross earnings of the

remunerated by shares in the profits or the gross earnings of the working of such vessel.

A fisherman was a member of the crew of a fishing vessel which was lost with all hands the day after she left port. He had previously been similarly employed on other vessels belonging to the same owners. In addition to his wages this man was entitled by the custom of the port to a share of the "stocker." "Stocker" is money realised by the sale of tails, roes, shellfish, and other things which are bye-products of the fishing, or which are left over after the fish have been cleaned. The wage was for the owners to sell the stocker, and hand the money over which are left over after the fish have been cleaned. The usage was for the owners to sell the stocker, and hand the money over to the skipper, who distributed it among the crew. During previous trips the amounts received by members of the crew of the lost vessel had averaged about 5s. 6d. a week. Upon her last voyage no stocker had been taken when the ship went down, so that there was nothing obtained on the voyage of which the man had a right to a share at the time of his death. His dependants claimed comprehensing under the Act, but the claim dependants claimed compensation under the Act, but the claim was resisted on the ground that the deceased was a man to whom the Act did not apply. The County Court judge held that as there had been no stocker obtained at the time of his death it could not be said that the deceased was being remunerated by a share of nothing; though, if the voyage had been completed, and he had received a share of stocker, the position would have been different. He, therefore, made an award in favour of the

dependants. The owners appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that it was not the intention of the Act that it should be first ascertained whether there were, in fact, any profits or gross earnings of the working of a vessel to determine whether a member of the crew was remunerated by a share in whether a member of the crew was remainerated by a share in the profits or gross earnings; and that in the present case it was quite irrelevant whether or not there was any stocker actually to be divided at the end of the voyage. The appeal was therefore allowed.—Stephenson v. Rossall Steam Fishing Co., Ltd.—Court of Appeal.—2nd February, 1915.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASE: DISEASE CONTRACTED BY GRADUAL PROCESS: SEVERAL EMPLOYERS: APPORTIONMENT OF LIABILITY.

Where a workman is incapacitated from work by an "industrial disease" (i.e., by a disease which is due to the nature of his employment, and which is one of certain named diseases), his disablement is treated by the Act as the happening of an accident, and he is entitled to compensation from the employers who last employed him during twelve months previous to his disablement. If the disease is of such a nature as to be contracted by a gradual process any other employers who tracted by a gradual process, any other employer who employed

the workman during the twelve months in the employment to which the disease was due, is liable to contribute to the compensation recoverable from the last employer in such proportion as is determined in the arbitration. Miner's nystagmus is an in-

pensation recoverante from the last chips, and it is as is determined in the arbitration. Miner's nystagmus is an industrial disease, which may be contracted by a gradual process.

A miner incapacitated by nystagmus claimed compensation from his last employer. He had worked for five different colliery companies during the twelve months, and contribution was claimed by the last employers from the other four. At the hearing of the claim by the County Court judge, the only question in dispute was the apportionment of the compensation among the five companies. One company tendered evidence that their colliery was so well managed, and so superior to the others, that the development of the disease could not have been aided while the workman was in their employ; and that it was not just that they should contribute to the compensation rateably not just that they should contribute to the compensation rateably with the others in proportion to the number of days in the year for which the workman had worked for each company. The judge held that it was not open to any of the employers within the twelve months to dispute their liability, or to have the conditions of work at their colliery inquired into with a view of increasing or diminishing their contributions. He, therefore, refused to hear the evidence tendered, and made an award, ordering the complaining company to contribute in proportion to the time the workman was employed by them. This company appealed. not just that they should contribute to the compensation rateably

appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the County Court judge was wrong, and that he ought to have admitted the evidence, and done the best he could to apportion the liability fairly between the five companies. The appeal was therefore allowed.—Barron v. Seaton Burn Coal Company.—Court of Appeal.—2nd February, 1915.

(2) NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS.

RIGHT TO COMPENSATION UNDER WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT:
CLAIM MADE BY APPROVED SOCIETY: NO UNREASONABLE REFUSAL OR NEGLECT TO TAKE PROCEEDINGS BY WORKMAN.

OR NEGLECT TO TAKE PROCEEDINGS BY WORKMAN.

It is provided by the National Insurance Act, 1911, that where an insured person is entitled to receive compensation for a personal injury under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, no disablement benefit shall be paid to such person in respect of that injury unless the weekly sum payable as compensation is less than the benefit payable to him. Where an insured person appears to be entitled to any such compensation and "unreasonably refuses or neglects to take proceedings" to enforce his claim, the approved society to which he belongs may, at its own expense, take in the name or on behalf of such insured person proceedings for compensation, which, if recovered, the society holds as trustee for the insured person.

A machinist in the employ of a building contractor met with an accident in the course of his work which resulted in serious injury to his hand and incapacity for work. It was reported to

injury to his hand and incapacity for work. It was reported to his approved society that he was receiving no compensation, and his approved society that he was receiving no compensation, and accordingly the society began proceedings for compensation in the workman's name. The workman never refused to take proceedings. He was anxious to do so, but had no means. When the claim came on for hearing the County Court Judge refused to make an award of compensation on the ground that as the man had not "unreasonably refused or neglected to take proceedings" the society had no right to take proceedings. On appeal the Court of Appeal affirmed the decision of the County Court Judge and dismissed the appeal.—Burnham v. Hardy.—Court of Appeal.—15th January, 1915.

(3) COAL MINES ACTS.

MINIMUM WAGE ACT: APPLICATION TO VARY RATE: RIGHT TO HAVE APPLICATION HEARD.

HAVE APPLICATION HEARD.

It is provided by the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, that it is an implied term of every contract for the employment of a workman underground in a coal mine that the employer shall pay him wages at not less than the minimum rate settled in the manner provided by the Act. A board consisting of representatives of employers and of workmen, and called the joint district board, is set up in each of the districts into which the country is divided for the purposes of the Act. Each board have a chair. is divided for the purposes of the Act. Each board has a chair man, who is an independent person appointed by agreement between the representatives of the employers and of the workment of the control o between the representatives of the employers and of the workmen on the board, or, failing such agreement, by the Board of Trade. In case of any difference between the two classes of members the chairman has a casting vote. The first duty of each board after the Act came into operation was to fix the minimum rate of wages for the district. Subsequently employers or workmen may apply, subject to certain conditions, to vary the rate fixed or to have the district sub-divided into additional districts.

In 1912 the minimum rates in a certain district were settled by an award of the chairman appointed by the Board of Trade. An application was made to the joint district board to revise those rates. This application was being considered by the board in March, 1914, when the secretary of an association of owners in the district wrote a letter to the chairman asking that their representatives wish to be beard on the chairman asking that their representatives might be heard on the question of the alteration of the minimum wage. In July, when the joint district board met, presided over by the chairman, the letters of the Thin Seam Owners' Association were laid before the board and the questions

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE. March, 1915.

involved in them were discussed. The board failed to come to

any agreement upon the question of the alteration of the minimum rate of wages and of the sub-division of the district and had

referred both matters to the chairman, without in terms having given a decision either upon the question whether the repre-

sentatives of the Thin Seam Owners Association were entitled to appear before the Board or upon the merits of such application. The chairman published an award which did not deal with the application of the owners. Application was then made to him to deal with the matter, but he refused. The association

of owners then took proceedings in the High Court for a manda mus to compel the chairman to hear and determine their applica

their application and to have it considered by the board, which it had not been; but they were not entitled to say that they ought to be heard personally or to determine the mode in which the board should consider the application, as the board had a right

to settle their own procedure. The mandamus asked for was therefore granted.—Rex v. Judge Amphlett.—King's Bench Division.—10th February, 1915.

(4) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS.

AGREEMENT WITH SEAMAN: OUTBREAK OF WAR: WAR RISKS:

AGREEMENT FOR INCREASED PAY.

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, that the master of every foreign-going ship must enter into a written agreement with every seaman whom he carries to sea as one of his crew from any port in the United Kingdom. This agreement has to be in the form approved of by the Board of Trade, and must contain (inter alia) particulars as to the amount of wages the seaman is to receive

the seaman is to receive.

Certain seamen signed agreements for a voyage out and home from the Thames to Texas, the ship sailing before the commencement of the war. While at the port in Texas war was declared between England and Germany, and the presence of a German cruiser off the port became known. In these circumstances the seamen refused to proceed to sea on the homeward part of the voyage unless the master agreed to pay them extra for the additional risks of war. The master, being unable otherwise to induce them to sail, signed an agreement to pay each man an extra £12 to take the ship home.

On the arrival of the ship in England, however, the owners refused to pay these additional sums, and accordingly the seamen brought an action against them to recover the extra wages promised.

At the trial it was contended for the plaintiffs that risk of

At the trial it was contended for the plaintiffs that risk of war was not contemplated when they signed on, and that war having broken out they were within their rights in refusing to complete their voyage unless they received extra remuneration. On the other hand, it was contended for the defendants that

On the other hand, it was contended for the defendants that the seamen could not claim anything beyond the wages agreed in the articles unless the risk they were called upon to run was a risk to life, and that the master had no authority to make the agreement he had made on behalf of the owners. The Judge held that as the risks of war had not been in contemplation of the parties when the articles were signed, and as the risk of capture was one reasonably to be anticipated, the plaintiffs were discharged from their contract and were justified in refusing to complete their voyages without extra payment, and the master had authority to make the agreement into which he had entered. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiffs for the amounts claimed.—Liston & others v. Owners of s.s. Carpathian.—King's Bench Division.—10th February, 1915.

(5) NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: INSURED TRADES: EXTENSION TO OTHER TRADES: DRAFT ORDER OF BOARD OF TRADE: JURISDIC-

TION OF COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO INQUIRE: ULTRA VIRES. Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911, makes provision for unemployment insurance. This Part only applies to certain trades described as "insured trades," but the Board of Trade has power by order to extend Part II. "to workmen in any trade other than an insured trade." The Board of Trade also has power to appear to "comparted and insured trade."

any trade other than an insured trade." The Board of Trade also has power to appoint a "competent and impartial person" as Commissioner to inquire and report with regard to any draft order. Amongst the insured trades is sawmilling "carried on in connection with any other insured trade." The Board made a draft order extending Part II. of the Act to sawmilling, "whether carried on in connection with any other insured trade or not," and appointed a Commissioner to inquire and report with regard to the draft order. The Commissioner was of opinion that the draft order was ultra vives the Board because as an all the draft order was ultra vives the Board because as an all lines.

with regard to the draft order. The Commissioner was of opinion that the draft order was ultra vires the Board, because sawmilling was already included by the Act among insured trades, and, therefore, the order did not extend Part II. of the Act to a trade "other than an insured trade." He, therefore, held that it was useless to incur the expense of taking evidence upon the facts, and he adjourned the inquiry sine die, to enable the Board to take such steps as they should think fit.

The Board of Trade then caused proceedings to be taken in the High Court for a mandamus, ordering the Commissioner to

The Court held that the applicants were entitled to present

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1914.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS TO THE UMPIRE.

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

336. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of periscopes for

337. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of pull-throughs

338. Workmen described as stained glass painters.
339. Workmen engaged in making fire control apparatus for large guns, steering indicators, stoke-hole indicators and danger signals.
[This involves reconsideration of decision No. 439.]

340. Workmen engaged in making hand grenades.

DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, 1912, the Board of Trade give Notice of the following decisions by the Umpire on questions whether contabutions are payable:—

A .- The Umpire has decided that contributions are payable

1501. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of brake blocks for vehicles, other than such as are described in decision B 558 ("Board of Trade Labour Gazette" for August, 1912).

(Application 330.)

1502. Pig bed moulders and their labourers employed at iron or steel works and engaged mainly in casting tuyere pipes, shutters, &c., in connection with the upkeep of blast furnaces. (Application 334.)

This decision reverses decision B 1374 (4) ("Board of Trade Labour Gazette" for October, 1913).

1503. Workmen described as pin machine minders and engaged in making and setting tools for pin machines making any class of pins. (Application 335.)

any class of pins. (Application 335.)

1504. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly making odd sides, in plaster, for use in iron foundries, or in brass, &c. foundries covered by decision A 23 ("Board of Trade Labour Gazette" for June, 1912). (Applications 318 and 328.)

1506. Rivet makers employed at an establishment which is engaged wholly or mainly in carrying on any insured trade, and engaged in making rivets to be used in constructing other products in the same establishment. (Application 332.)

B.—The Umpire has decided that contributions are not payable n respect of

1500. Workmen employed at factories in the manufacture of tar macadam.

1505. Workmen employed in steel foundries and engaged in the conversion of steel for the foundry. (Application 333.)

Note.—Where no reference is given to an Application, the question has been decided by the Umpire, without notice, as a matter not admitting of reasonable doubt, in accordance with paragraph (2) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regula-

Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.

# APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

FEBRUARY, 1915.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*
Hawes (Yorks N.R.)	W. M. McFarlan, Hawes, S.O. Yorks.	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Mountrath (Queen's Co.)	F. J. M. Kennedy, Mountrath.	Railway Hotel, Mountrath Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Newent (Gloucester)	W. M. L. Johnstone, High House, Newent.	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Paignton (Devon)	J. A. Burland, Courtland Road, Paignton.	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.

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

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

## PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

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

The Board of Trade then caused proceedings to be taken in the High Court for a mandamus, ordering the Commissioner to hear and determine the matter of the inquiry, on the ground that he had not done so according to law. The High Court made the order asked for, on the grounds (1) that the Commissioner had no jurisdiction to decide whether the order of the Board was ultra vires or not, his only duty being to determine whether the order was desirable; (2) that the order was not ultra vires, as the trade of sawmilling, with which it dealt, was a different trade from the sawmilling described in the Act. From this decision there was an appeal to the Court of Appeal, but that Court upheld the High Court, and dismissed the appeal.—The King v. Hudson.—Court of Appeal.—26th January, 1915. Railway Accidents. Summary of Accidents and Casualties for the Three Months ending 30th September, 1914, with Reports upon certain Accidents which were inquired into. Board of Trade. [Cd. 7802: price 8d.] Report upon the Working of the Boiler Explosions Act, 1882 and 1890, during the year ending 30th June, 1914, with Appendices. Board of Trade. [Cd. 7797: price 2½d.]

and 1890, during the year ending 30th June, 1914, with Appendices. Board of Trade. [Cd. 7797: price 2½d.]

Forty-third Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1913-14. Part I. Administration of the Poor Law, the Unemployed Workmen Act, and the Old Age Pensions Act. [Cd. 7444: price 1s. 1d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the Year ending 31st December, 1913. Part D. Building Societies. [H.C. 121 iv.: price 1s. 3d.]

Trustee Savings Banks. Twenty-third Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Inspection Committee for the Year ended 20th November, 1914. [H.C. 121: pp. 18: price 2½d.]

Housing by Local Authorities. Return. Local Government Board. [H.C. 114: price 2½d.]

Government Belgian Refugees Committee. Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board to consider and report on Questions arising in connection with the Reception and Employment of the Belgian Refugees in this country. Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 7779: price 1s. 10d.]

Report on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland, 1913. Number of vessels, men and boys employed, loans to fishermen, &c. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 7751: price 8½d.]

Public Works, Ireland. 82nd Annual Report of the Commissioners. Year ending 31st March, 1914. Labour Exchanges, labour troubles (Dublin), housing of the working classes, &c. [Cd. 7563: price 11d.]

#### BRITISH DOMINIONS.

CANADA.—The Labour Gazette, January, 1915. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during December; prices in Canada in 1914; review of United States labour legislation in 1914; wholesale and retail prices, trade disputes and industrial accidents during December.—Report of the Department of Labour for the Fiscal Year ending 31st March, 1914. Appendix. Seventh Report of the Registrar of Boards of Conciliation and Investigation, of Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907.—Census and Statistics Monthly, December, 1914. Cost of grain production in Canada, 1913, crop reports, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]
—Saskatchewan. The Public Service Monthly, January, 1915. [Regina: J. W. Reid, Government Printer.]

—Saskatchewan. The Public Service Monthly, January, 1915.

[Regina: J. W. Reid, Government Printers]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—Labour and Industrial Branch.

Report No. 5, December, 1914. Prices, cost of living, wages, trade unions, unemployment and general industrial conditions, 1913-14.—Labour Bulletin. No. 7, July-September. December, 1914. Prices, rents, cost of living, industrial disputes, wages, industrial accidents, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The Industrial Gazette, December, 1914. The Statute Law of industrial import (miners), dislocations in industries, industrial arbitration and the War, employment and unemployment, &c.—The Industrial Arbitration Reports, 1914, Vol. XIII. Part 4. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

VICTORIA.—Wages Board Determinations. Opticians' Board. Dated 3rd December, 1914. Appeal, Commercial Clerks' Board. Determination to come into force 14th December, 1914.

Queensland.—Report of the Director of Labour and Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the Year ended 30th June, 1914. State of employment, accidents, industrial awards, employees under awards, &c. Department of Labour. [Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, Government Printer.]
—Industrial Peace Act Awards. Meat Industry Board for South-Eastern Division, dated 1st December, 1914, cancelling that of 11th March, 1913. Tobacco Workers' Board, dated 4th December, 1914.

December, 1914. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Chief Inspector of Factories' Report, 1913. Average weekly wages paid to employees by trades and callings, epitome of Wages Board Determinations in force.

New Zealand.—Journal of the Department of Labour, December, 1914. Condition of trade and employment as at 30th November, persons assisted to employment, accidents, current retail prices, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

#### FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

International.—Bulletin des Internationalen Arbeitsamtes. Nos. 10-12, 1914. [Jena: Gustav Fischer.]

-Monthly Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence, November, 1914. Ditto, December, 1914. Co-operative legisla-tion in Canada, recent progress of co-operative societies in Den-mark, mutual credit societies in Russia. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

UNITED STATES.—Census Bulletin, 128. Supply and Distribution of Cotton for the year ending 31st August, 1914. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—Minnesota. Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Department of Labour and Industry, 1913-1914. Labour organisations, employment agencies, accidents, women and child labour, &c. [Minneapolis: Syndicate Printing Co.]

GERMANY.—Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, January, 1915. Employment in December and summary for year, trade union unemployment in fourth quarter of 1914. Department of Labour Statistics of

the Imperial Statistical Office.
price 1d.] [Berlin: Carl Heymann:

ITALY.—Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro. January 16th, 1915. (Fortnightly series.) Labour disputes in second half of December. Ditto, February 1st, 1915. Labour disputes and retail food prices in December. Labour Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry.—Bollettino dell' Ispettorato dell' Industria e del Lavoro. November-December, 1914. Labour Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

-Bollettino dell' Emigrazione. January 15th, 1915. Italian igration Department, Ministry of Foreign Affaires. [Rome: Emigration Department, M Fratelli Bocca: price 3d.]

Holland.—Verslag over het Jaar 1913 door den Raad van Toezicht op de Spoorwegdiensten aan den Minister van Waterstaat. Report on railways in Holland in 1913, by Railway Administration. Ministry of Waterways, &c. [The Hague: Gebroeders van Cleef.]

Gebroeders van Cleef.]

—Jaarcifersvoor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden. Rijk in Europa, 1913. Statistical Year Book of Holland, 1913. Factory inspection, work of conciliation boards, hours of labour in factories, Trade Unions, collective labour agreements, strikes and lockouts, cost of living, &c. Central Bureau of Statistics. [Price 2s. 6d.]—Overzicht van de Verslagen der Kamers van Arbeid over 1913. Chambers of labour (conciliation boards) in Holland, report for 1913. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce.—Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, January 30th, 1915. Employment in January (also summary for 1914), labour disputes in January, final report of Royal Commission on Unemployment, Trade Unions on January 1st, 1914. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 5d.]

Denmark.—Statistiske Efterretninger, January 26th, 1914.

DENMARK.—Statistiske Efterretninger, January 26th, 1914.
Retail prices in January, unemployment in November. Ditto, February 5th, 1915. Unemployment on January 23rd, 1915.
Ditto, February 18th, 1915. Retail prices in February. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen: Gyldenalske Boghandel Nordisk Forlag: price 1½d. each part.]

—Social Forsorg. February, 1915. Unemployment in November and on 23rd January, 1915. Danish Workmen's Insurance Office and the Unemployment Inspector's Department. [Hellerup: V. L. Faber.]

Norway.—Haandverskstællingen i Norge, 1910. Fjerde Hefte: Arbeidslönninger. Census of handicrafts in Norway, 1910. Part IV., Wages. Central Statistical Bureau, 1914. [Price 7d.]—Sociale Meddelelser. No. 6, 1914. Employment October-December, retail prices in 1914. Department of Social Affairs, Commerce, Industry, and Fisheries. [Christiania: Aschehoug & Co.]

Sweden.—Arbetartillgang, Arbetstid och Arbetslön inom Sveriges Jordbruk ar 1913. Supply of labour, hours of labour and wages in agriculture in 1913. Department for Social Affairs. [Price 7d.]—Sociala Meddelanden, No. 12, 1914. Work of special committees on unemployment and food supply, collective labour agreements in 1913, price of household necessaries in November (also summary, 1904-1914). Ditto, No. 1., 1915. Unemployment among tobacco workers in the period September 9th-November 30th, 1914, Workmen's Insurance in 1913, prices of necessaries in December. Department for Social Affairs.—Den Offentliga Arbetsförmedlingen i Sverige, 1902-1912. Public labour exchanges in Sweden, 1902-1912. Department for Social Affairs.—Allmän Sparbanksstatistik ar 1913. Statistics of savings banks in Sweden for 1913. Central Statistical Bureau, 1915. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

Spain.—Boletin del Instituto de Reformas Sociales. January, 1915. Labour disputes in third quarter of 1914. Spanish Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suárez: price 2½d.]

Portugal.—Boletin do Trabalho Industrial. No. 96. Relativo dos Serviços da 3a Circunscrição dos Serviços Tecnicos da Industria no Ano de 1913. Report of factory, &c., inspection in No. 3 District in 1913. Do. No. 94 Industria das Rendas. Report on the lace-making industry. Department of Commerce and Industry. [Lisbon.]

Bulgaria.—Bulletin Mensuel de la Direction Générale de la

Bulgaria.—Bulletin Mensuel de la Direction Générale de la Statistique du Royaume de Bulgarie. December, 1914. Price of food in principal towns during May, 1913 and 1914. Statistical Department. [Sofia: B. N. Banka: price 2½d.]

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Boletin del Departmento Nacional del Trabajo, December, 1914. Contains report on work of National Department of Labour in 1913. National Department of Labour. [Buenos Aires: A. Espinasse e hijo: price 1s. 10d.]

#### CONSULAR REPORTS.

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 5411. Barcelona, 1913. Industries, public works, banking and insurance, &c. [Cd. 7620-21: price 3d.]—No. 5424. Foreign Trade of China, 1913. Mining industries, output of coal, mining regulations, &c. [Cd. 7620-34: price 3d.]

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