

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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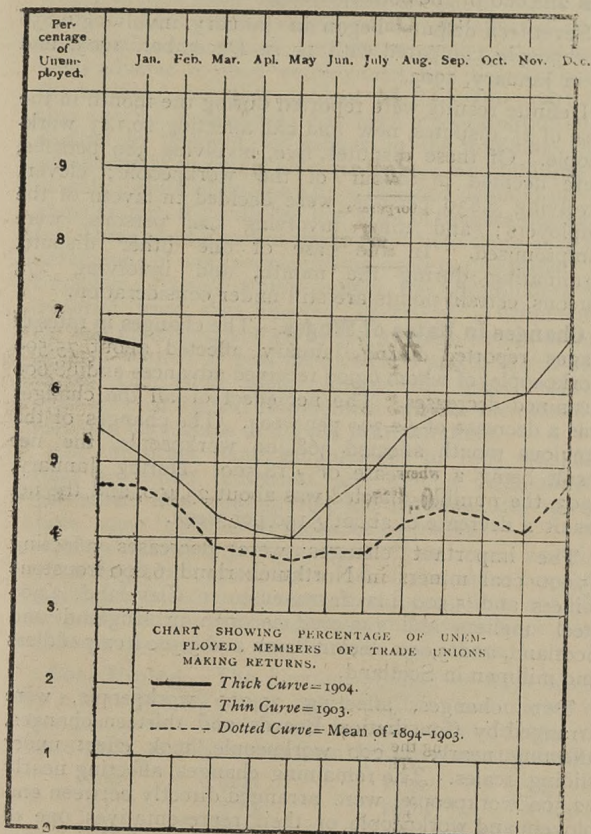
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PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JANUARY.

[Based on 4,000 returns, viz.: 2,634 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,279 from Trade Unions, and 87 from other sources.]

On the whole, employment in January continued to show some decline but there was a slight improvement in certain trades. The most serious falling off in employment was in the cotton trade, in which there was much short time in mills using American raw cotton, the price of which continues to be much beyond the average.

As compared with January, 1903, employment is also not so good. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is nearly 2 above the mean percentage for January in the past ten years.

In the 229 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 561,226, making returns, 36,767 (or 6.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 6.7 per cent. in December,* and with 5.1 per cent. in the 225 Trade Unions, with a membership of 547,671, from which returns were received for January, 1903. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of January during the ten years 1894-1903 was 4.7.

*The comparison with the end of December is somewhat affected by the interruption of employment caused by the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment during January showed a slight decline as compared with both December and January 1903. At collieries employing 510,676 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.10 days per week during the four weeks ended January 23rd, 1904, as compared with 5.22 in the corresponding period of 1903, the time worked in both periods being reduced to the extent of nearly a quarter of a day per week on account of holidays. The number of workpeople employed at pits for which returns were received for both periods was 1.8 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry, except in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, continues good, and shows little change as compared with December and January, 1903, allowance being made for holidays. At the 134 mines and open works employing about 15,500 workpeople, covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week by the mines during the four weeks ended 23rd January, 1904, was 5.37, as compared with 5.55 days in January, 1903.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry shows no improvement, and is considerably worse than a year ago, especially in the Cumberland and Lancashire district. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 292 furnaces, employing about 20,400 workpeople, were in blast at the end of January, or 3 less than at the end of December, and 36 less than a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment in this industry shows a decline, as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. At the 199 works covered by the returns received from employers, 70,589 workpeople were employed during the week ended January 30th, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows a decrease of 4.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.7 per cent. as compared with January, 1903.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in the tinplate industry has improved but is not so good as a year ago. At the end of January 360 mills were working, as compared with 353 at the end of December, and 391 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 360 mills was 18,000.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in some districts is slightly better than a month ago, but, on the whole, is still worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of January was 6.7, as compared with 7.7 in December (when employment was affected, to some extent, by holiday suspensions), and 5.6 in January, 1903.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment generally continues bad, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 14.4 at the end of January, as compared with 16.7 in December (when the numbers were affected, to some extent, by holiday suspensions), and 12.9 in January, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades shows no improvement, and is dull generally and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 7.7 at the end of January, compared with 7.9 at the end of December,

and 6.5 at the end of January, 1903. The percentage for Plumbers was 9.3 at the end of January, compared with 7.7 in December, and 6.4 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally in these trades continued bad, and is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of January was 8.5, as compared with 8.2 in December, and 6.7 a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment during January was moderate with printers and fairly good with bookbinders. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of January was 4.2, as compared with 3.5 in December, and 4.4 in January, 1903.

Employment in the Papermaking trade was fairly good, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month being 3.3, against 3.1 in December, and 2.4 in January, 1903.

Employment in the Glass trades remains bad in the bottle branch, and is fair on the whole in the flint-glass trade. In the Pottery trades it is moderate. In the Brick trades employment is quiet.

Cotton Trade.—In consequence of the continued high price of American raw cotton, many mills worked 40 hours only per week, instead of the usual 55½. Mills using Egyptian cotton and spinning fine counts generally worked full time. On the whole employment in January in the Spinning branch of the Cotton trade was bad; worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. In the Weaving branch employment continued bad and showed a decline. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 104,000 women and girls show that 52 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 77 per cent. in December, and 92 per cent. in January, 1903. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 40 during January, compared with 47 per cent. in December and 85 per cent. in January, 1903.

Employment in the Woollen and Worsted trades shows a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but is still slack, especially in the worsted trade, and it is worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 84,974 workpeople show an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the Hosiery trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the Jute and Flax trades it shows a decline but is still fair.

Leather Trades.—The general state of employment remains slack, and, in some cases, is reported as worse than both a month and a year ago, short time being common in most districts. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 9.4, as compared with 8.3 at the end of December, and 6.2 at the end of January, 1903.

Employment in the Boot and Shoe trade is still slack, although better than a month ago. At Kingswood and Leeds there has been a marked decline, but most of the other districts show some improvement. Of the total number of operatives reported on, 60 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments throughout January, compared with 57 per cent. in December.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the Tailoring trade continues dull and is worse than a year ago. In the ready-made branch it continues bad, but is slightly better than a month ago, although much worse than a year ago.

Employment in the Hat-making trade has been bad. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of January was 6.4, as compared with 5.3 per cent. at the end of December, and 3.6 per cent. a year ago.

Employment with Agricultural Labourers was only moderate during January, considerable interruption being caused by wet weather. The demand for day labourers was small generally, and consequently a good many were in irregular work.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during

January was fair on the whole, though not quite so good as in December. It was, however, rather better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended January 30th was 14,274, a decrease of 2.5 per cent. on the average for December, 1903, and an increase of 9.1 per cent. on the average for January, 1903. The average daily number employed in January during the seven years, 1897-1903 was 15,849.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during January, 1904, was 10,175, compared with 7,304 in December, 1903, and 14,921 in January, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 98,900 working days, compared with 125,000 in the previous month, and 268,000 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Seventeen disputes began in January, involving 6,850 workpeople, compared with 10 in December, 1903, and 17 in January, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 25 disputes, new and old, affecting 10,143 workpeople. Of these disputes, five, involving 389 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eleven, involving 8,830 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and nine, involving 924 persons, were compromised. In the case of one other dispute, terminating during the month, and involving 275 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during January affected about 75,500 workpeople, of whom 6,900 received advances and 68,600 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of £2,300 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 368,400 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £18,500. During January, 1903, the number affected was about 23,400, and the net result a decrease of about £150 per week.

The important changes were decreases affecting 35,000 coal miners in Northumberland, 6,800 ironstone miners and 5,500 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, 3,900 steel melters and gas-producer-men in England and Scotland, and 3,000 steel millmen and 3,500 iron puddlers and millmen in Scotland.

Two changes, affecting 39,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and thirteen changes, affecting nearly 14,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting nearly 22,500 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting only 164 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

ELECTRICITY IN MINES.

THE Report* of the Departmental Committee on the Use of Electricity in Mines, appointed by the Home Office, has recently been issued. The Committee state that, while they anticipate great advantages from the use of electricity and believe that it will lessen the toil of the miners and the labour of getting coal, they are convinced of the necessity of taking precautions against avoidable accidents and laying down rules for the use of electricity in mines. They consider that the general principles which should govern the employment of electricity in mines are as follows: (1) the electric plant should always be treated as a source of potential danger; (2) the plant in the first instance should be of thoroughly good quality, and so designed as to insure immunity from danger by shock or fire, and periodical tests should be made to see that this state of efficiency is being maintained; (3) all electrical apparatus should be under the charge of competent persons; (4) all electrical apparatus, which may be used when there is a possibility of danger arising from the presence of gas, should be so enclosed as to prevent such gas being fired by sparking of the apparatus; when any machine is working every precaution should be taken to detect the existence of danger, and on the presence of gas being noticed, such machines should be immediately stopped.

The Committee append to their Report a set of rules for the installation and use of electricity in mines which they consider might with advantage be introduced into all mines.

* Cd 1916. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 3d.

EMPLOYMENT IN 1903.

EMPLOYMENT during 1903 showed a falling off compared with the three years immediately preceding, and was not up to the level of an "average year." The mean percentage of unemployed returned by Trade Unions during 1903 was 5.1, compared with 4.4 in 1902, 3.8 in 1901, 2.9 in 1900 (a year of exceptionally active employment), and 2.4 in 1899. The average percentage for the ten years 1894 to 1903, was 4.1. The falling off in 1903, as compared with 1902, was most marked in the latter half of the year.

The cotton industry was seriously affected during the autumn by the high price of the raw material, and much short time was worked with the object of lessening the immediate demand for raw cotton in the hope that prices would fall. A second period of short time is now (February) in progress, and the contraction of work and wages in this great industry cannot fail to injure other trades. Agricultural employment was affected by the abnormally wet season, and the weather was also somewhat adverse to good employment and full earnings in the building and other outdoor trades. But apart from this special cause there has been a continuation of the decline in demand for labour in the building trades which has been going on since 1900. Shipbuilding was acutely depressed in 1903 by a lessened demand for new ships (connected with the low level of freights during the last three years), and at the present time there is a high percentage of workpeople unemployed in this trade. The trades (e.g., steel) which supply the shipbuilders with material were also affected adversely. Employment for coal miners, as shown by the average weekly number of days worked by coal pits, was less active in 1903 than in any year since 1896. Among the other industries most affected by bad employment may be mentioned the boot and shoe trade and glass bottle making.

On the other hand, employment in 1903 was fairly good in certain industries, and among these may be mentioned iron mining, tinplate manufacture, the flax trade, some branches of the woollen trades. In the following paragraphs brief particulars are given respecting employment in some of the more important industries, based on all sources of information available, including returns from employers, employers' associations, trade correspondents, trade unions and others.

Coal Mining.—The average number of days worked by pits employing about half a million coal miners was 5.09 per week. This figure is lower than in any year since 1896, as will be seen from the following summary:—

| | | | |
|----------|------|----------|------|
| 1896 ... | 4.92 | 1900 ... | 5.47 |
| 1897 ... | 5.13 | 1901 ... | 5.12 |
| 1898 ... | 5.25 | 1902 ... | 5.22 |
| 1899 ... | 5.46 | 1903 ... | 5.09 |

As compared with 1902 the decline extended to all the principal coal fields except Fifeshire, and was most marked in the Midlands and Lancashire. The number of miners, however, has continued to increase, the average number employed in 1903 being nearly 2 per cent. greater than in 1902.

Iron Mines and Open Works.—Employment in this industry was good generally during the year 1903. The average number of days on which the mines were working was 5.72 per week, as compared with 5.74 in 1902. In the Staffordshire and Shropshire district there was an appreciable decline in 1903 as compared with the preceding year, but there were no very marked changes in other districts. The mean number of workpeople employed in 1903 at mines covered by the returns was 15,800, or about the same as in 1902, but less than in 1898 and 1899, when the number was over 17,000.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—The returns received, which relate to the great majority of the blast furnaces in the United Kingdom, show that, on the whole, employment in this industry was at about the same level in 1903 as in 1902, and was rather better than in 1901, which, however, was a bad year in this industry. Compared with each of the five years 1896-1900, a decline is shown in 1903. At the works covered by the returns received, the average number of furnaces in blast in 1903 was 321,

compared with 322 in 1902, 310 in 1901, and with 360 in the five years 1896-1900.

Iron and Steel Works.—From 191 works returns have been received for the whole of the six years 1898-1903, and the mean number of workpeople employed in these works during 1903 was less than in any of the five preceding years. The figures are as follows:—

| | Number of Workpeople. | | Number of Workpeople. |
|----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1898 ... | 72,371 | 1901 ... | 75,897 |
| 1899 ... | 76,580 | 1902 ... | 74,076 |
| 1900 ... | 77,560 | 1903 ... | 71,609 |

The volume of employment at the 191 works (taking into account both the number of shifts worked and the number of persons employed) was 2.4 per cent. less in 1903 than in 1902, and 4.9 per cent. less than in 1901.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment was good in this industry in the early part of 1903, but it subsequently fell off a little and on the whole it was not so good as in 1902, the best year covered by the returns, which were first collected for 1896. The mean number of tinplate mills in operation during 1903 was 370 (employing about 18,500 workpeople) as compared with 398 in 1902. In the six years 1896-1901 the number varied from 318 in 1896 to 384 in 1900 the average being 345.

Engineering.—Employment was only moderate during 1903, and showed little change, on the whole, as compared with 1902. The mean percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 4.9 in 1903, and 5.1 in 1902. The mean percentage for the ten years ended 1903 was 4.5.

Shipbuilding.—In this industry employment was bad, and distinctly worse than in the preceding year, although 1902 was a year of declining employment. The mean percentage of unemployed among Trade Union members was 12.0 per cent. in 1903, as compared with 8.2 per cent. in 1902, and 7.7 per cent. taken over the ten years, 1894-1903. (For tonnage of ships built in 1903, see p. 37.)

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades in 1903 was, generally speaking, moderate in the summer months, dull in the winter months, and, on the whole, rather worse than in 1902. During the period 1896-99, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members (carpenters and plumbers only) was 1.6. Since then the percentage has risen from 2.5 in 1900, 3.7 in 1901 and 4.3 in 1902 to 4.9 in 1903.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—In these trades employment was, on the whole, rather quiet during 1903, but, as compared with 1902, little change is to be noted. The mean percentage returned by Trade Unions as unemployed was 4.5 per cent. in 1903, and 4.4 per cent. in 1902. For the ten years ended 1903 the mean percentage was 4.4.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—In these trades generally employment was not good during the year, showing a decline as compared with 1902. The mean percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in this group of industries was 4.9 in 1903, as compared with 4.0 in the preceding year.

Glass Trades.—Employment in 1903 was bad, particularly in the bottle-making branch, and was worse than in the preceding year.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Cotton industry was fairly good during the first four months of the year. It then rapidly declined, owing to the sharp upward movement in the price of the raw material, and a prolonged period of short time ensued. Some recovery took place, however, towards the end of October, and continued until the end of the year. On the whole, however, the year 1903 was an extremely bad one for the cotton industry, and already in 1904 another period of short time has commenced in many mills using American cotton.

In the Woollen trade employment in 1903 may be described as fairly good. In the Worsted trade it was fairly good in the early part of 1903, but it afterwards declined and was slack during the latter half of the year. The same remarks apply to the Hosiery industry. In these trades employment was not so good as in 1902. In the Flax trade it was fairly good on the whole.

Leather Trades.—Employment in 1903 was generally dull in these trades, and worse than in 1902. Most of the monthly reports received refer to the prevalence of short time. The mean percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in this group of trades was 6.7 in 1903, 4.2 in 1902, and 2.6 in 1901.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Boot and Shoe industry was generally dull during 1903. Monthly returns received relating to about 550 firms in this industry employing, on an average, about 69,000 workpeople show that the percentage of workpeople employed by firms working full time throughout the month varied from 55 in August to 81 in April—when the busy season was in progress. In the Ready-made Tailoring trade employment was fair in the first few months of 1903, but it fell off in the later months and became slack.

Agricultural Labourers.—According to reports furnished monthly by over 200 correspondents in England, agricultural employment was not so good in 1903 as in the preceding year, owing to the excessive rainfall in the late summer and autumn, which occasioned loss of time to day labourers. The supply of this class of men was generally equal to the demand, but there was a continued scarcity of carters, stockmen and milkers in a number of districts.

Dock and Wharf Labour.—Employment was dull in the early part of the year, but afterwards improved and was fair, though on the whole it was not so good as in 1902. The average daily number of labourers employed at all the docks and the principal wharves of London during the year was 13,489 compared with 14,716 in 1902. The figure for 1903 is much lower than in any of the years 1897-1902, for which period the average number was 15,290.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE results of the last ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron are given in the Table below.

It will be seen that both as compared with the previous audit and that of a year ago a general decline in price has taken place. The fall was greatest in the case of pig iron, the price in Cumberland and Cleveland being lower by about 5 per cent., as compared with the previous quarter, and by about 11 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In Scotland the fall was about 4 per cent. compared with the previous audit, and 10 per cent. compared with that of a year ago.

As a result of the ascertainment, reductions in wages took place affecting coal miners in Northumberland, blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and Cleveland, and puddlers and millmen in Scotland. For further particulars see pages 60 and 61.

Table with columns: Product and District, Period covered by last Audit, Ascertained average selling price per ton (Last Audit, Previous Audit, A Year ago), and Decrease of last Audit as compared with (Previous Audit, A Year ago).

* Under the various sliding scale agreements, changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place in the pig iron industry immediately after the period to which the audit relates, while in the manufactured iron trades they follow one month later. In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertained month later. In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertained month later. In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertained month later.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN 1903.

IN the autumn of 1903 the Labour Department published a Report on Prices.* Prices for a large number of articles were given in the volume for a series of years, and of these 45 were selected as the basis of Index Numbers to represent the percentage rise or fall in wholesale prices in 1872-1902 in relation to those in 1871. The following Table brings up to date the statistics given in that volume by the addition of the figures for 1903.

Table with columns: Year, Index Number, Year, Index Number. Lists data for years 1871-1887 and 1888-1903.

From the above it will be seen that the general level of prices in 1903 remained practically the same as in 1902 and 1901, the index number being 78.6 in 1903 as compared with 78.8 in 1902 and 79.2 in 1901. As compared, however, with 1900 there is a decline of 4.6 in the index number, which represents a fall of 5.4 per cent. in prices during the period 1900-3. Taking the mean of the 10 years 1894-1903, prices in 1903 show a rise of nearly 4 per cent., being 78.6 as compared with 75.6, the mean of the period.

The following Table shows the fluctuations in the Index Numbers of Prices during the last three years in the groups into which the 45 articles are classed, together with the mean for the periods 1871-80, 1881-90 and 1891-1900.

Table with columns: Groups of Articles, Index Numbers (Mean for 1871-80, 1881-90, 1891-1900, 1901, 1902, 1903), and Increase or decrease in Index No. in 1903 as compared with 1902.

It will be seen that compared with 1902, there has been a marked rise in 1903 in the group of raw materials of textiles, and a decline in coal and metals, food and drink, and miscellaneous raw materials.

Raw materials of textiles, which stood at 65.0 in 1902, rose to 71.3 in 1903, cotton, British and imported wool, jute and silk, all increasing in price, the only decrease being in the price of flax, which declined from 95.3 to 89.1, or 6.2 per cent. The greatest percentage increases were in the prices of exported British wool, which rose more than 21 per cent.; imported raw silk, 14.3 per cent.; raw cotton and foreign wool, 10 per cent. Jute showed a rise of 5.1 per cent., and flax a decline of 6.1 per cent. The rise in the price of cotton took place about May, and during the eight latter months of the year the import value was 11.5 per cent. above that for the first four months. The price of cotton is based on declared import values and not on sales in Liverpool at which the increase in price was more marked.

* Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902, with comparative Statistical Tables for a series of years. H.C. 321 of 1903. Price 2s. 1d.

There was a decline of rather more than 1 per cent. in the level of prices of articles of Food and Drink which stood at 76.7 in 1902, and 75.7 in 1903. Of the 23 articles in this group those showing the greatest increases in price were hops, 21.2 per cent., potatoes, 15.1 per cent., and tea nearly 7 per cent. Those showing decreases were imported and British oats, 17.6 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively, British barley 11.5 per cent., rum, 12.5 per cent., exported herrings, 7 per cent., and beef, 5 per cent.

In the group of miscellaneous raw materials, oils, seeds, timber, bricks, &c., there were falls in the prices of linseed and cotton seed, 22.6 per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively, and increases in the prices of caoutchouc and hides to the extent of 12 per cent. and 4 per cent.

The following Table shows in detail the Index Numbers of Prices of the 45 articles for 1903 and the two preceding years, together with the mean of the Index Numbers for the periods 1871-80, 1881-90, and 1891-1900, the price in 1871 being taken as 100:—

Large table with columns: Index Numbers (Mean for 1871-80, 1881-90, 1891-1900, 1901, 1902, 1903), and Increase or decrease in Index No. in 1903 as compared with 1902.

SHIPS BUILT AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

(a) Tonnage under Construction* at end of 1903.

ACCORDING to the quarterly returns compiled by Lloyd's Register, there were 386 vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of December, 1903, with an aggregate tonnage of

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the aggregate tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the work done or remaining to be done.

898,478 tons gross, a decrease of 8,130 tons as compared with the end of September, 1903, and of 125,589 tons (or 12 per cent.) as compared with the end of December, 1902. At the Royal Dockyards, 8 warships, of 87,320 tons displacement were being built at the end of the year, and 55 at private yards, with a displacement of 222,190 tons, a total of 63 warships and 309,510 tons, or a decrease of 18,060 tons (or 6 per cent.) as compared with the previous quarter, and an increase of 8,820 tons (or 3 per cent.) as compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the above figures:—

Table with columns: Description of Vessels, Tonnage under construction on (Dec. 31st 1903, Sept. 30th 1903, Dec. 31st 1902), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Dec., 1903, as compared with (Three months ago, A year ago).

Of the 386 merchant vessels under construction at the end of December, 1903, 334 were steam vessels with a gross tonnage of 875,320 tons, and 52 were sailing vessels of 23,158 tons gross. It is interesting to note that while steamers show a falling off, sailing vessels, though relatively unimportant in point of number and tonnage, show an increase, the number being 13 and the gross tonnage 5,805 more than at the end of the September quarter, and 16 vessels and 830 tons more than at the end of December, 1902.

The following Table shows the gross tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include over 90 per cent. of the total mercantile tonnage under construction:—

Table with columns: District, Tonnage under construction on (Dec. 31st 1903, Sept. 30th 1903, Dec. 31st 1902), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Dec., 1903, as compared with (Three months ago, A year ago).

As compared with the September quarter, three of the districts show increases in the mercantile tonnage under construction, while in the other four districts there were decreases. As compared with a year ago there were increases in each of the three smallest districts, which were more than balanced by decreases in the remaining districts.

(b) Ships built in 1903.

The annual return issued by Lloyd's Register shows that there was a decrease in the aggregate tonnage of merchant and war vessels launched in 1903 as compared with 1902 amounting to 179,190 tons, or 12 per cent.

During the year 1903, 697 vessels other than warships were launched, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,190,618 tons gross (including 65 sailing vessels of 25,115 tons). As compared with 1902 there was a decrease in the aggregate tonnage launched of 236,940 tons, or 17 per cent., and of 21,904 tons (or 2 per cent.), as compared with the mean for the 10 years, 1893-1902.

During the year 1903, 41 warships of 151,890 tons displacement were launched, an increase of 57,750 tons, or 61 per cent., as compared with 1902, and a decrease of 60,079 tons, or 28 per cent., as compared with 1901. The vessels launched in 1903 include 4 with an aggregate displacement of 28,290 tons built at Royal Dockyards.

COURTS OF ARBITRATION IN DENMARK.

The following particulars are based on information compiled in the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, supplemented by notes furnished, through the Foreign Office, by Mr. Funch, H.M. Vice-Consul at Copenhagen, under date of November 10th last.

By a Law passed early in 1900, power is given to Courts of Arbitration, under conditions laid down in this Statute, to summon witnesses on subpoena. The first section of that Law reads as follows:—

§1. When a central organisation of employers and a central organisation of workmen shall have concluded an agreement as to the fixing of the conditions of work in an industry, or a skilled trade, or in any establishment in which an industry or skilled trade is carried on, and it shall have been provided in this agreement that all questions relating to the due observance of the said agreement which may arise between such central organisations shall be settled by arbitration, it may be ordered by Royal Decree that the production of the evidence necessary for the purpose of enabling the Court of Arbitration to arrive at a decision, shall take place in accordance with the regulations set forth below.

It shall, however, be a condition precedent to the making of any such Decree, that the seat of the Court of Arbitration shall be at Copenhagen, and that the president of such Court shall satisfy the conditions required by the Law, in order to qualify for the post of permanent judge in an ordinary Court of Justice. Before he can enter upon his functions, the president must obtain a certificate from the Minister of Justice, stating that he satisfies the conditions aforesaid.

In an article* by Mr. Adolph Jensen, Secretary of the Statistical Office at Copenhagen, the following observations in relation to this Law are made:—"The novel principle, which has here been adopted, is, however, applied within very narrow limits—that is to say, its application is confined to the determination of disputes between Central Organisations of employers and employed. Accordingly, Courts of Arbitration, which have jurisdiction only with regard to one single trade, are not in a position to acquire the right of examining witnesses; and the same is the case with respect to local Arbitration Courts, should such be formed in different districts of Denmark. For practical purposes the Law, at any rate, so far as concerns the present time, applies exclusively to the Court of Arbitration, which has been constituted by the Employers' Association and the Trade Union Federation for the settlement of disputes between these two central organisations."

The Court of Arbitration here referred to is that which was formed in consequence of the agreement arrived at on the settlement of the extensive lock-out which occurred in 1899 (see GAZETTE, October, 1899, p. 294).

Up to the end of 1903 no other Danish Courts of Arbitration had acquired the power of summoning witnesses on subpoena under the Law of April 3rd, 1900. Nor would this be necessary, apparently, as almost all local federations throughout the country have joined the Danish Employers' Association or the Danish Trade Union Federation at Copenhagen respectively.†

The awards hitherto made are 7 in number, viz., 4 in 1900, 1 in 1901, 1 in 1902 and 1 in 1903. In 5 cases the employers were the plaintiffs, in 1 the Trade Unions, and in 1 case both parties complained. The employers won 4 cases, and the Trade Unions 2. The remaining case was one in which each party had brought a complaint against the other, and it was adjudged that neither party had any cause of complaint. The number of workpeople affected in the 7 cases is not stated. The trades in which the disputes occurred were as follows:—Iron moulders (2), electricians, joiners, coachmen, harbour labourers, unskilled labourers.

The disputes have all arisen on questions having no reference to wages. Thus, in four cases strikes had been illegally declared; in another case the men refused to work with non-unionists; one case arose out of an illegal lock-out, and in the remaining case the complaint had reference to a strike of dock labourers undertaken with a view to assisting certain firemen who were on strike, with the result that the employers declared a lock-out against all dock labourers.

*In Archiv für Soziale Gesetzgebung und Statistik, Vol. XV., 1900, pp. 682, 683. †According to the official statistics the number of the members of the Trade Unions Affiliated to the Trade Union Federation in Jan. ary, 1902, was 72,127, the total membership of all Danish Trade Unions t that date being 96,479.

GLASS-MAKING IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

In August and September, 1903, the Glass Instructor of the Staffordshire County Council Technical Instruction Committee visited the principal glass-making districts of Germany and Austria, and reported the results of his observations to the Committee, who have published a pamphlet containing extracts from the Report.

In conclusion the Instructor expresses the opinion that the Germans and Austrians are gradually absorbing the glass trade in Europe. Among the causes to which this result are attributed are the following: The workmen of all grades have had a better education than the corresponding workmen in England. This is especially true of the managers, who have either passed through a University or attended for two or three years a course of instruction at one of the various technological schools. It is stated that promotion does not go by rotation, but youths who show aptitude and skill are pushed forward. Obsolete and old machinery is at once discarded, and the most up-to-date adopted in its place, and all machinery is designed to save labour as much as possible. Many factories melt the glass at night and work it out during the working day of ten hours, while others with a greater number of furnaces are melting and working all the time, both day and night. The atmosphere in the German glass-house is free from the smoke, high temperature and effects of sulphur common in the English glass houses. Owing to the furnace not being dependent on its own draught (this being obtained from a tall stack placed in the yard) doors and windows can be opened. The works are usually placed where the cost of living is cheap and taxes very low. This enables the workmen to live more cheaply, and, therefore, to enjoy the same amount of comfort, although with lower wages. The average wages are lower than in England, cutters getting from 15s. to 20s. a week, as against 20s. to 38s. in England. The makers are paid slightly more than cutters, some of the more skilled earning 40s. a week.

An article dealing at some length with this Report, especially as regards the methods of manufacture, has been published in the Board of Trade Journal of February 11th, 1904.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Tinplate Trade.

Sir K. E. Digby, K.C.B., the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see GAZETTE for December, p. 329) heard the parties at Swansea on January 7th and issued his award on January 27th. The chief point in dispute had reference to the method of payment for certain plates known as "Canadas" and "Doubles," as to which the arbitrator decided that payment should be on area, as proposed by the employers.

The complete list of points in dispute was as follows:—

Men's Claims.—(1) That a claim of 2d. per box with gains be made for making tin lined cases in all works, with the exception of Old Castle, Llanely, and Morrision and Midland Works, Morrision. (2) That fortnightly pays be compulsory.

Employers' Claims.—(1) That Canadas and Doubles be paid on area. (2) That the 11s. 6d. per 100 for annealing to be divided as follows: Black 6s. 6d. per 100, White 5s. per 100. (3) Making tin cases:—all plates packed 225 sheets per box to be paid on the basis of 1d. per box, and all plates packed 112 per box on the basis of 3d. per box. (4) Lapping to be 3d. per box with gains as in No. 4. (5) Marking top sheets with rubber stamp 3d. per 100, iron stamp 9d. per 100. (6) Iron hooping to be 3d. when boxes are full, 2d. when empty. (7) Crating to be 3d. per box including boxing.

The Arbitrator's decision in regard to the above points was as follows:

1. As to the men's claim numbered one no evidence was given before me sufficient to support this claim, and I award that this claim was not established.

2. As to the men's claim numbered two I am of opinion that the evidence did not support the claim that fortnightly

pays should be made compulsory, and I award that this claim was not established.

3. As to the employers' claim numbered one I award that Doubles and Canadas to be paid on area.

4. As to the employers' claim numbered two, I award that where Black annealing and White annealing are carried on in the same works, or under the same employer at the rate of payment for both processes of a total sum of 11s. 6d. per 100, the said sum of 11s. 6d. shall be divided as follows:—six shillings and sixpence (6s. 6d.) per 100 for Black annealing, and five shillings (5s.) per 100 for White annealing. I do not consider that it is within my jurisdiction to make any award as to the sum to be paid where only one process, whether Black annealing alone, or White annealing alone, is to be paid for. The only question submitted to me is as to the division of the total sum of 11s. 6d. between the two processes. I was satisfied by the evidence brought before me that the two sums above mentioned represent the fair value of the work performed in each process respectively, and I award accordingly.

5. As regards the employers' claim numbered three, I award that making tin cases shall be paid as follows:—where plates of the size 20 by 10 are packed 225 sheets per box, on the basis of one penny (1d.) per box, and where plates are packed 112 per box, on the basis of three farthings (3d.) per box with gains.

6. As to the employers' claim numbered four, I award that lapping be paid for at the rate of one farthing (1d.) per box of 112 plates with gains as in the last preceding paragraph mentioned. By "lapping" is meant for the purpose of this award the placing the tin case inside the wooden box and beating down the edges of the tin. No other or subsidiary operation is included in the term lapping.

7. As regards the employers' claim numbered five, I award that Marking the sheet with rubber stamp be paid for at the rate of threepence (3d.) per 100, and with iron stamp at nine pence (9d.) per 100, but that such payment shall not include the making or providing the stamp.

8. As to the employers' claim numbered six, I award that hooping of empty boxes with light steel bands be paid for at one halfpenny (1/2d.) per box, all hooping, except as above, be paid for at one penny per box.

9. As to the employers' claim numbered seven, I award that crating be paid for at the rate of one penny (1d.) per box including packing.

Dated the 27th day of January, 1904.

Boot and Shoe Operatives at Northampton.

On January 22nd the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Northampton and suburbs addressed an application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to deal with certain questions affecting the wages of boot and shoe operatives, upon which the Conciliation Board were unable to agree.

The Board of Trade on January 28th appointed Sir Kenelm Digby, K.C.B., to act as umpire.

(b) OTHER CASE.

Shale Miners in Scotland.

An application for an advance of 1s. a day in the wages of shale miners having been refused by the Scottish Mineral Oil Trade, the men resolved to work only four days a week. Two companies thereupon closed their pits from October 17th last, about 1,800 workpeople being locked-out. On October 24th arbitration was agreed upon. Work was resumed, and it was referred to Sheriff Jameson, K.C., to determine what would constitute a fair wage to the shale miners, the parties subsequently requesting the arbitrator to fix the rate of wages up to September 30th, 1904. At the proceedings the employers put forward a claim for a reduction of 6d. a day.

The arbitrator in his award, dated January 14th, refused both the employers' claim for a reduction and the men's claim for an advance, and decided that, having regard to the present value of mining labour in Scotland, the present condition and prospects of the shale industry, and the present prices of the manufactured products of shale, 6s. per day is a fair wage to shale miners at the present time, and that this rate shall remain in force until September 30th, 1904.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Bread.

The returns as to the price of bread, furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of February and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

Table showing prices of bread in various places from 1903 to 1904. Columns include Place, Present Price (1st Feb. 1904), and 1903 prices for 1st Dec., 2nd Nov., 1st Oct., 1st Sept., 1st Aug., 1st July, and 2nd Feb.

As compared with a month ago, the price remains the same at all the towns given in the Table.

Wheat and Flour.

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months September, 1902, to January, 1904:—

Table showing monthly prices of British Wheat and Imports (Wheat and Wheat-meal and Flour) from September 1902 to January 1904. Columns include Month, British Wheat Mean London Gazette Price, and Imports Average Declared Value.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September, 1903, to 31st January, 1904, amounted to 38,315,700 cwts. (8,940,330 quarters), compared with 34,623,727 cwts. (8,078,870 quarters) in the

*No change was recorded in any of the towns at 2nd March, 1st April, 1st May, 1st June, 1903, or at 1st January, 1904, except at Aberdeen, where the price per 4 lbs. was advanced 3d. (5d. to 5½d.) on 5th March, 1903.

corresponding five months of 1902-3. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the five months September-January of 1903-4 amounted to 10,668,527 cwts., compared with 8,737,949 cwts. from 1st September to 31st January, 1902-3.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

Workmen's Compensation Acts. SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT.

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

After a shot had been rammed in a manhole in a coal mine, a miner in the employ of the Colliery Company attempted to pull out the wires which passed through the charge. The pulling out of the wires caused sufficient friction in the detonators to fire the charge. An explosion was thus caused and the man was killed. His widow and children claimed compensation under the Act. The company resisted the claim on the ground that the deceased man had brought about his death by his own serious and wilful misconduct; and they relied on a rule under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts to the effect that when a hole has been charged it shall not be unrammed, maintaining that the deceased had violated this rule and was therefore guilty of such misconduct. The Sheriff-Substitute decided that the pulling out of the wires did not amount to a breach of the rule, that the deceased had not been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct and that compensation was payable. On appeal, the Court of Session upheld this decision, being of opinion that the deceased did not know that it was dangerous to pull out the wires, and that the accident was a mishap arising out of ignorance and not out of misconduct.—*Lynch v. Baird & Co., Ltd., Court of Session, January 16th, 1904.*

ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENTS UNDER SCHEME: FATAL ACCIDENT: ACTION UNDER EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

It is provided by the Act that if the Registrar of Friendly Societies, after making certain enquiries, certifies that any scheme of compensation, benefit, or insurance for the workmen of an employer, is, on the whole, not less favourable to the general body of workmen and their dependants than the provisions of the Act, the employer, as long as the certificate is in force, may contract with any of these workmen that the provisions of the scheme shall be substituted for the provisions of the Act, and thereupon the employer shall be liable only in accordance with the scheme. It is also provided that when an injury has been caused by the personal negligence of the employer, or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in the Act shall affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the workman may, at his option, either claim compensation under the Act or take the same proceedings as were open to him before the Act; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation both independently of and also under the Act.

A scheme of insurance and benefit had been certified for the workmen of a colliery company, and the company had contracted with a certain workman that the provisions of the scheme should be substituted for the provisions of the Act. This workman was killed by accident, and his widow brought an action against the company under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, claiming damages for the death of her husband. When the action came on for trial in the Birmingham County Court, a preliminary objection was taken on behalf of the defendants that the plaintiff had received compensation under a certified scheme, and that she and her dependants had received and were then receiving payments under the scheme, therefore that relief was substituted for compensation under the Compensation Act, and the action could not be maintained. The Judge found as facts (1) that there was a duly certified scheme; (2) that the deceased workman had accepted the scheme willingly, under no compulsion, and with full knowledge of its terms, in substitution for the benefits he might claim under the Act; (3) that this was a legal and effectual contract between the deceased workman and the defendants; and (4) that the plaintiff had received, was then receiving, and would in future receive the full benefits under the scheme. He decided that this compensation under the scheme was compensation under the Act, which the deceased man had elected to claim if occasion arose, and that, therefore, the employers were not liable both to pay that compensation and also to be sued under the Employers' Liability Act. He accordingly decided that the action would not lie, and dismissed the case. The plaintiff appealed to the High Court. On the hearing of the appeal it was contended on behalf of the plaintiff that the deceased man had never exercised an option, and that the acceptance by the widow of the benefits of the scheme did not prevent her from proceeding in the action. For the defendants it was argued that the acceptance of the scheme and the benefits under it amounted to an option to claim compensation under the Act, and that therefore the action could not be maintained.

The High Court allowed the appeal, overruling the decision of the County Court Judge. The Court pointed out that the Act does not say that a scheme for compensation under the Act shall be on the same footing as compensation under the Act; and held that the acceptance of payments under the scheme did not prevent the plaintiff from suing for damages under the Employers' Liability

Act. It might be, however, that in assessing damages, the compensation which had been received might be taken into account.—*Taylor v. Hamstead Colliery Co., King's Bench Division, January 18th, 1904.*

EMPLOYMENT "ON OR ABOUT" A "WHARF."

The Act applies to employment "on or in or about a factory," and it is further provided that the word "factory" includes any "dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery or plant," to which any provision of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 applies. By the last-mentioned Act its provisions with respect to accidents are to have effect "as if every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse and all machinery or plant, used in the process of loading or unloading or coaling any ship in any dock, harbour or canal, were included in the word 'factory.'" A firm were the occupiers of a wharf on a river which they used for loading and unloading vessels with materials used in the firm's business. Other persons were allowed to use the wharf on payment. No machinery or plant was on the wharf. The wharf was approached from the high road by a private road some 250 yards in length, which was closed at the road end by a gate which was usually kept locked and which had inscribed upon it the name of the firm. A workman was employed upon this private road in breaking stones for its repair. He was at work at a point about 40 yards from the gate when his eye was accidentally injured by a chip of stone.

The workman claimed compensation under the Act, on the ground that while he was employed "on or about a wharf," he was injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. No evidence was given before the County Court Judge, that any provision of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, applied to this wharf, and upon that ground the firm contended that the wharf was not a "factory"; and they also contended that the accident did not happen "on or about" the wharf. The County Court Judge decided against the firm on both these points, and awarded the workman compensation.

On appeal the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court Judge, holding that the wharf was a factory within the Act, and that there was evidence to justify the County Court Judge in finding that the accident had happened "on or about" the wharf.—*Barrett v. Kemp Brothers, Court of Appeal, January 12th and 13th, 1904.*

ARBITRATOR'S POWER TO ALTER DISTRIBUTION OF COMPENSATION AMONG DEPENDANTS.

When a workman has been killed by accident in such circumstances as to entitle his dependants to compensation under the Act, any question as to who is a dependant, or as to the amount payable to each dependant, must, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under the Act. It is further provided that the sum allotted to a dependant may be invested or otherwise applied for his benefit as agreed, or as ordered by the arbitrator.

A workman in the employment of a colliery company was killed by accident, leaving a widow, a son aged 13, and two daughters aged 19 and 13 respectively, none of whom was in any employment. In proceedings by the widow before an Arbitrator under the Act, it was agreed that the total amount of compensation recoverable was £154. The Arbitrator was requested on behalf of the widow to make an order that the money should be paid to three trustees for the benefit of the widow and children, the trustees to be given power from time to time to apply both principal and interest for the benefit of any one or more of the four dependants to the exclusion of the others in such manner as the trustees should think fit; so that the compensation should be treated as one entire fund, to be applied in small sums from time to time for the benefit of any one or more of the four dependants whose circumstances at the time showed, in the opinion of the trustees, that pecuniary assistance was expedient. The Arbitrator found as a fact that the boy of 13 would probably soon be earning something, that as he grew up he was practically certain of employment at the collieries, and that at 15 he would be to a large extent self-supporting; also that as he approached the age of 21 he might marry, and then cease to contribute to the support of his mother. In these circumstances the Arbitrator thought it would be proper for the trustees to have power to divert from the son his share of the compensation when it became no longer necessary for his support; and to expend the whole of the remainder of the compensation for the benefit of the widow and the daughters who might continue to require assistance. The Arbitrator therefore was of opinion that it would be advantageous to the widow and her children to make the order he was asked to make if he had power under the Act to make that order. The question whether or not he had such power was referred by special case to the County Court Judge who decided that the Arbitrator could not make the order asked. The widow appealed.

The Court of Appeal decided that the Arbitrator had not the power in question, and could not make the order he was asked to make, and which he was prepared to make, if he had the power. The matter must go back to the Arbitrator to make an award in accordance with the Act.—*Manchester v. Carlton Iron Co., Ltd., Court of Appeal, January 14th, 1904.*

EXAMINATION BY EMPLOYER'S MEDICAL PRACTITIONER: SUSPENSION OF WEEKLY PAYMENTS.

The Act provides that any workman receiving weekly payments under the Act shall, if so required by the employer, from time to time submit himself for examination by a duly qualified medical practitioner provided and paid by the employer; but if the workman objects to an examination by that medical practitioner, or is dissatisfied by the certificate of such practitioner upon his condition, he may submit himself for examination to one of the medical practitioners appointed for the purposes of the Act, and the certificate of that practitioner as to the condition of the workman at the time of the examination shall be conclusive evidence of that

condition. If the workman refuses to submit himself to such examination his right to weekly payments shall be suspended until such examination has taken place.

A workman who had been injured and was by agreement receiving weekly payments under the Act, had submitted himself, as required, to examination by the medical practitioner provided by his employer. The medical practitioner had certified the man fit for work, and the employer had thereupon given the man notice that the weekly payments would be discontinued, and had discontinued them. The workman then took proceedings before the County Court Judge to recover compensation. The employer applied for a stay of proceedings, under a rule made under the Act, which provides that when an employer alleges that the workman who claims compensation refuses to submit himself for examination in accordance with the Act, the employer may apply to the Judge to stay proceedings until such examination has taken place. The County Court Judge decided in favour of the employer, holding that the workman was bound to submit himself for examination by the official medical referee, and stayed the proceedings. The workman appealed.

In two other cases, in which the facts were similar, another County Court Judge decided the same point in favour of the workmen. In these two cases the employers appealed. All three appeals were heard together.

The Court of Appeal held that when a workman has submitted himself for examination by a medical practitioner provided by the employer, he is not bound to submit himself for examination by a practitioner appointed under the Act, and his right to compensation is not suspended until he is so examined. In each of the three cases, therefore, the appeal was decided in favour of the workman.—*Neagle v. Nixon's Navigation Co., Ltd.; Edwards v. Guest, Ken & Nettlefolds, Ltd.; Htitt v. Same, Court of Appeal, January 12th and 13th, 1904.*

REGISTRATION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: "GENUINENESS."

The Act provides that where the amount of compensation under the Act has been ascertained by agreement a memorandum of the agreement shall be sent by any party interested to the registrar of the County Court, who on being satisfied as to its genuineness, shall, subject to the Rules, record such memorandum in a special register. The Rules provide that if any party disputes the genuineness of the memorandum, the memorandum shall not be recorded except with the consent in writing of the party so disputing, or by order of the Judge.

A workman in the service of the Midland Railway Company, in receipt of wages amounting to 25s. 2d. a week was injured by an accident in January, 1902, and was totally incapacitated for over a year. In May, 1902, the workman and the company came to an agreement by which the company agreed to pay the man 12s. 7d. a week during his total or partial incapacity. In February, 1903, the workman had partially recovered, and the company employed him on light work at 18s. a week. The workman signed a memorandum of the agreement, and in July, 1903, sent it to the County Court to be registered. The company disputing the genuineness of the agreement, the matter came before the Judge. At the hearing, the company admitted that there had been an agreement in the terms of the memorandum. The Judge found, as a fact, that on the workman resuming work he had admitted that he was no longer entitled to the amount payable under the agreement; and he, therefore, held that the memorandum was not then applicable to the facts of the case, and was on that account not a genuine one within the meaning of the Rules.

The workman appealed to the High Court. The Court overruled the County Court Judge, and ordered the memorandum to be registered. The Court said that the Act was clear that if there was an agreement between the parties, either of them was entitled to have it registered, and there was no limit of time within which it must be registered. It was not for the Judge to decide whether the memorandum was applicable, but merely whether it set out the agreement to which the parties had come. The Judge had given a wrong meaning to the word "genuine." To say that the memorandum had ceased to be genuine because there had been a change of circumstances, was to use the word genuine in a sense for which there was no justification. No injustice was done, as the employer could apply to have the amount reviewed.—*Blake v. Midland Railway Co., King's Bench Division, January 28th, 1904.*

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

At this season of the year the outdoor building trades are at a standstill, and therefore masons and bricklayers are idle: the indoor branches continue busy. The metal, woodworking, printing and clothing trades have been busy, except at Quebec, Toronto, Sydney, St. John, N.B., and Nanaimo, B.C., and prospects in the leather trade are good in spite of labour troubles, and the uncertainty of the labour supply. Electrical workers and linemen have been very busy in several places in Ontario. The supply of unskilled labour is ample at this time, and at Winnipeg "there is a surfeit of clerks,

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

copyists and other male labour looking for light indoor labour." Lumbering has been active in Ontario and the Eastern Provinces, but in British Columbia there has been a general depression both in the mills and among loggers. There is a general cessation of activity in railway construction during the winter. With regard to mining the Nova Scotia collieries have been rather less busy, partly owing to a week's strike among the miners, but in British Columbia employment in the collieries has been good, except at Nanaimo. In Nova Scotia there is a good opening at the gold mines for a few miners, managers, metallurgists, chemists and others with technical knowledge. Wages generally remain high throughout Canada, but the cost of living has a tendency to increase. There is the usual demand for female servants; and there is a great scarcity of farm labourers, but these should not arrive before the latter part of March or the beginning of April.

Australia.

New South Wales.—Coal miners' wages in the Newcastle district have been reduced by a reduction in the hewing rate to 3s. 10d. a ton instead of 4s. 2d., corresponding with a decrease of 1s. a ton in the selling price of coal. The estimated yield of wheat for this season is the largest on record, and if this estimate proves correct, the temporary demand for labour will necessarily improve in country districts. The Department of Labour and Industry at Sydney reports that at the present time there is no demand for any kind of labour except female servants.

Victoria.—There is no demand for more labour in the towns, but in country districts the prospects of a fine harvest are improving the demand for farm labour.

South Australia and Queensland.—There is good employment for competent farm hands, but there is no demand for more mechanics or miners.

Western Australia.—The main demand is for female servants and agricultural labourers. The hewing rate at the Colliery coalfields has been recently reduced to 3s. 9d. per ton instead of 4s.

New Zealand.

The building and engineering trades have been busy, with a few exceptions, and there is some demand for skilled men. The boot trade has been fairly busy; the clothing also has been fairly busy, and at Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill it has been very busy. In country districts men have been well employed in the freezing works, at shearing, dairying, in the flax and saw mills, and in general farm work.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—There is a good deal of distress at Cape Town and other places owing to the superabundance of labour, more especially among skilled artisans, so that emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony at the present time. No persons, moreover, are allowed to land, unless they have secured definite employment in the Colony, and possess £20 on arrival. Male and female domestic servants under 35 years of age may, under certain conditions, obtain aided passages at £3 a head on application to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 96a, Victoria Street, London, S.W. In view of the prevailing distress, and the scarcity of employment in the Colony for skilled labour, the granting of aided passages to wives and children of artisans, mechanics and agricultural labourers resident in Cape Colony is temporarily suspended.

Natal.—Trade is bad in Natal, and a great many carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, general labourers and shop assistants are unable to get work. The Corporation Bureau is providing relief for those who are really destitute. Under the present circumstances emigrants—other than those nominated by relations in the Colony—are warned against going to Natal.

Transvaal.—No one can enter the Transvaal without a permit. Trade generally is bad, and in all branches of industry employment for workers is difficult to obtain; even the building trade being in a stagnant condition. Artisans and labourers are therefore warned against going to the Transvaal at present, especially as the cost of

living is two or three times as high as in England. To meet the distress, work is now being offered on railway construction to large numbers of European labourers at 5s. a day with rations and tents provided. Advanced passages may be procured by female servants through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on their undertaking to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. A good many men are out of work, and carpenters' wages have been reduced. There is a small demand for female servants, who may procure advanced passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on their undertaking to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in December.—Employment became less plentiful during December in the building trades as the slack season proceeded. On the whole there appeared to be a slight increase of employment in the metal trades. In the textile trades activity was normal in the north and east, but was still somewhat unsatisfactory in Normandy and in the Roanne district. Employment continued dull in the ribbon industry of the Loire department and in the small weaving establishments of Lyons and district. In garment-making, hat-making and coach-building employment became less plentiful. The printing and bookbinding trades were in their busy season. Threshing in the north and vine-cutting in the south were both adversely affected by rainstorms during the greater part of the month. Woodcutters, who had been out of work since agricultural operations came to an end, obtained employment in timber-felling. Fishing continued bad on the coasts on account of the frequent gales.

Out of 169,786 members of Trade Unions (exclusive of the miners' unions of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made returns to the French Labour Department, 19,145, or 11.8 per cent., were out of work in December, as compared with 12 per cent. in the previous month, and 11 per cent. in December, 1902.

The following statement shows the percentages reported by certain Trade Unions as unemployed in December, compared with the corresponding figure for November:—

| Trade Union. | Percentage Unemployed at end of | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | November. | December. |
| Building Trades:— | | |
| Carpenters and Joiners | 20.0 | 12.0 |
| Other Branches | 22.0 | 23.0 |
| Metal and Engineering Trades | 10.0 | 9.0 |
| Textile Trades | 8.7 | 8.9 |
| Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot & Shoemaking) | 7.0 | 15.0 |
| Printing Trades:— | | |
| (a) Paris | 5.7 | 2.8 |
| (b) Provinces | 3.0 | 1.5 |
| Leather and Fur Trades:— | | |
| (a) Tanning, Dressing, &c. | 32.0 | 35.0 |
| (b) Boot and Shoemaking | 22.0 | 12.0 |
| Furniture and Upholstery Trades | 19.0 | 7.0 |

Coal Mining in December.—The average number of days worked by miners employed underground in December was 5.7, as compared with 5.9 in the previous month and 5.7 in December, 1902. Taking surface and underground workers together, 13 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week) and 87 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 84 and 11 respectively. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 149,000 workpeople—three-fourths of all engaged in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in December.—Fifty-two disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in December, the number of participants in 45 of these being 9,867. The number of disputes reported in the previous month was 53, in 50 of which 9,112 work-

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

people took part; while in December, 1902, there were 24 disputes, with 2,106 participants. Six of the disputes which began in December last, were in the metal trades, 18 in the textile trades, 7 in transport and warehousing, 6 in agriculture and forestry, 2 in the woodworking trades, 4 in the food preparation trades, 3 in the hide and skin working trades and 6 in trades not included in the foregoing groups. Forty-five new and old disputes terminated during the month, 8 being decided in favour of the workpeople, 16 in favour of the employers and 21 being compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in December.—Ten cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in December, the initiative being taken by the workpeople in 7 cases, by the Justice of the Peace in 2 cases, and by both parties to the dispute in 1 case. Committees of Conciliation met in 6 cases, resulting in the settlement of 3 disputes; 2 of the other 3 disputes were afterwards settled by direct negotiations between the employers and workpeople, and the third by the workpeople returning unconditionally. In the 4 cases in which Committees of Conciliation were not formed, the employers declined to accept the proffered mediation. Three of these 4 disputes were still in progress at the time of reporting, while the fourth had been settled by direct arrangement between the parties.

GERMANY.

*Employment in December.**—Employment on the whole continued in the same satisfactory state as that reported for November, and was decidedly better than in December, 1903. Work in the building trades was brought to a standstill by the frost, which set in on the 20th of December. In coal mining, and in the metal, engineering and textile trades employment was fair, and in some places good. As regards the cotton industry in particular, it was stated that enough work was available to keep the mills fully occupied for several months.

German firms have refused to assist in an attempt to bring about an international reduction of output in the cotton industry. There was consequently no change in hours of labour. As regards the electrical and chemical trades the conditions prevailing in December are described as favourable.

Of a total of 429,318 members of Trade Unions making reports as to the state of employment at the end of December, 9,607 or 2.2 per cent. were out of work, as compared with 1.8 per cent. at the end of September. The lowness of these percentages is stated to be in some measure due to the fact that Trade Unions in the building trade participated to a very inadequate extent in the returns on which the figures are based.

The trades most largely represented in the returns on employment, furnished by the German Trade Unions, are metal, engineering, and printing. The number and percentage of members unemployed on December 31st and September 30th, respectively, in the three principal Unions in these trades were as follows:—

| | Total Membership. | | Unemployed Membership. | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| | Sep. 30th. | Dec. 31st. | Total. | | Per cent. of Total Membership. | |
| | | | Sep. 30th. | Dec. 31st. | Sep. 30th. | Dec. 31st. |
| 1. Federation of Metal Workers (Social Democratic) | 157,505 | 158,548 | 1,882 | 2,632 | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| 2. Federation of German Engineers and Metal Workers (Non-Social-Democratic) | 36,242 | 38,175 | 281 | 335 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| 3. Federation of German Book Printers (Social-Democratic) | 34,541 | 34,807 | 2,238 | 1,637 | 6.5 | 4.7 |
| Total of above 3 Federations | 228,288 | 231,530 | 4,401 | 4,604 | 1.9 | 2.0 |

The membership of these three Federations on December 31st amounted to 231,530, or 54 per cent. of the membership of all Unions reporting for that date, and it will be seen that their percentages unemployed (1.9 on September 30th, and 2.0 on December 31st) correspond

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

approximately with the averages for all Trade Unions given above (1.8 per cent. on September 30th, and 2.2 on December 31st).

Dispute in the Textile Trades at Crimmitschau.—A strike of textile operatives at Crimmitschau (an important centre of the woollen spinning and weaving industry in Saxony), which had been in progress since August 22nd, 1903, was brought to an end on January 18th, on which day the strike committee issued a notice recommending the operatives to resume work unconditionally. This dispute involved 7,500 workpeople, employed in 80 factories, and it is stated that about 150,000 spindles were rendered idle, and that the manufacture of yarn in Crimmitschau was entirely stopped. The demands of the workpeople were for a 10 per cent. increase in wages and a 10 hours working day, but, as the dispute progressed, it assumed the character of a struggle for the latter condition only. — *Sociale Praxis.*

BELGIUM.*

Addition to List of Trades classed as Dangerous, &c.—By a Royal Decree, dated December 2nd, 1903, muffle furnaces, for burning-in enamels, colours, or coatings on pottery, porcelain, faience-ware, glass or any other surfaces have been added to the list of establishments classed as dangerous, unhealthy or inconvenient, and accordingly subject to inspection.

AUSTRIA.†

Employment in December.—Returns made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries show that, in December, 231 applications for work were made for every 100 situations offered, as compared with 210 in the previous month and with 279 in December, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 305 applicants for every 100 situations offered, and, in the case of women, 140, as compared with 256 and 155 respectively in the previous month, and 387 and 114 in December, 1902.

Labour Disputes in December.—According to returns received by the Austrian Labour Department, 4 disputes occurred in December, the number of persons directly involved being 737. Two of these disputes were in coal mines, 1 in a metal button factory, and 1 (a lock-out) at a joinery works. The results were reported in 3 out of the 4 cases—2 disputes terminating in favour of the employers, and 1 in a compromise.

NORWAY.‡

Employment in November.—A comparison between October and November, on the basis of data supplied to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics by 96 Trade Unions, who reported for both months, showed an increase in the total membership from 8,158 in October to 8,356 in November, and a slight increase in the proportion out of work, viz., from 5.0 per cent. in the former to 5.1 per cent. in the latter month. Of the total membership of these 96 Trade Unions, 4,991 in October and 5,131 in November were in the metal and engineering trades, and showed a decline in the percentage unemployed from 1.9 per cent. in the former to 1.2 per cent. in the latter month.

Through the medium of Employers' Associations, the Central Bureau of Statistics received returns as to employment from 67 industrial establishments for each of the above months. The number of workpeople employed in these 67 establishments slightly increased, viz., from 12,064 at the end of October to 12,142 at the end of November. Sixty of the 67 establishments, with 10,966 workpeople, were reported as regularly and fully occupied in November, against 58 establishments with 10,807 workpeople so reported in October. Of the 60 establishments reported as regularly and fully occupied in November, 27 (with 3,465 workpeople) were in the engineering trades; 16 (with 2,665 workpeople) were in the textile trades; and 17 (with 4,836 workpeople) in the wood-pulp and paper trades.

* Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Central Bureau of Statistics of Norway.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied to the Foreign Office by Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, in despatches dated January 14th and 21st, and February 1st.

Employment and Wages in the Iron and Steel Trades.—With the exception of the rail mill, employing 1,500 men, the Steel Trust Works re-opened on January 18th, giving work to 5,500 men, at reductions of wages varying from 10 to 35 per cent. General repair men have had their wages reduced 10 per cent., furnacemen 15 per cent., and 600 tonnage men (who had been making 32s. a day) 35 per cent. Out of the 7,000 men generally employed, only 200—the contract tonnage men who are Union men—will escape the reduction.

On the re-opening of the Illinois Steel Mills at South Chicago the pattern makers struck after working one hour at the reduced pay. About 3,500 men were at work in these mills on January 21st (see January GAZETTE, page 13). The slab workers at this plant were locked out on the 29th of January.

The Iroquois Furnace Company at South Chicago closed its works on January 20th, without notice, throwing 1,000 men out of employment. No time for starting again had been stated.

The manufacturers in the Fox River District have re-opened their works, but insist that all men seeking employment shall join the Non-Union Association and work ten hours instead of nine (see January GAZETTE, page 13).

The Deering Ironworks, a branch of the International Harvester Company, which had been closed for two weeks, notified its employees that they would employ 200 men. When the men arrived at the works they were informed that wages were reduced 10 per cent., but this the first applicants refused to accept. Others, however, said they would work at any price, and some rioting took place.

Labour Disputes.—On January 4th, about 2,000 chandelier makers struck upon being refused an increase of 10 per cent. in wages and a 9-hour day.

Owing to the decision of the National Brass Manufacturers' Association to open their establishments to non-Union men, and to introduce piece-work, 500 brass workers have struck. The employers state that under the Union agreement, which had been running four years, the output had fallen off 50 per cent.

Several of the large buildings had strikes going on among the enginemen who look after the lifts and the heating and lighting arrangements. The enginemen demanded 1s. 6½d. per hour.

A lock-out, involving 1,200 carriage and wagon makers in Chicago, was declared on January 30th, the men having objected to the decision of the employers not to renew agreements.

Two firms of picture frame manufacturers have locked out their men, who object to the employers' proposal to revert to the 10-hour day.

Warning to Emigrants.—There are numbers of men of all trades idle, and H.M. Consul suggests that a warning should be given to men who contemplate going to that district, as the Consulate is daily visited by recent arrivals who are stranded. No man should go, even if he has a trade, unless he has money enough to live for some time without working, while men with no trade should stay away for the present. A number of men who had emigrated from Great Britain to Canada have called lately, and stated that they were recommended to go to Chicago, but find themselves unable to get work. Many of these men have been employed in offices in England, and have tried farming, and have now a desire to return to clerical work.

Price of Steel Rails.—It is stated that the Illinois Steel Works have secured a contract for 25,000 tons of steel rails for the Canadian Northern, delivered at Port Arthur for £5 7s. 2d. per ton, while the price for domestic trade is £5 15s. 5d. There is a demand from consumers that the price be reduced at least 8s. 3d. per ton, as it is claimed the cost of manufacture is only £2 17s. 8d. per ton.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 76 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 89,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 185,000, employment with all branches but masons is bad, and shows no improvement as compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago it is worse. With masons employment on the whole is moderate, and shows no great change as compared with a month or a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from Employers' Associations, whose members employ about 89,000 workpeople in various parts of the country:—

Table with columns: Month, Percentage proportion of workpeople among whom employment during the month was reported as (Good, Fair or moderate, Dull or bad).

Employment with bricklayers is reported as dull generally, and rather worse than a year ago. With masons it is moderate in England and dull in Scotland. With carpenters and joiners, painters, plasterers, and slaters and tilers it is dull generally.

The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of January last was 7.7, compared with 7.9 at the end of December, and 6.5 at the end of January, 1903. Employment with plumbers continues dull generally. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers at the end of January was 9.3 compared with 7.7 at the end of December, and 6.4 at the end of January, 1903.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Table with columns: Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1904, Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of (Jan., 1904, Dec., 1903, Jan., 1903), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Jan., 1904, as compared with (Month ago, Year ago).

* Exclusive of Super annuated Members.

London.—Employment in London is bad, except with masons, who are moderately well employed. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 72 employers show that in the last week of January they paid wages to 15,878 workpeople, as compared with 15,790 in December, and 14,481 in January, 1903. Much time has been lost on outdoor work in consequence of the wet weather.

Northern Counties, Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment generally is slack, and shows no improvement as compared with a month ago. Short time continues to be worked in some centres. Many builders' labourers are unemployed.

Yorkshire.—Employment shows little change compared with a month ago, and is generally quiet or slack. At Sheffield much short time is being worked. With plumbers and painters at Harrogate, and with slaters and tilers at Hull, employment has been fair; with masons at Hull it has been moderate.

East Midland Counties.—Employment shows no improvement compared with a month ago, and is dull generally. With plumbers there has been a falling off. In Leicester employment is not so good as in December with bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners and plumbers; at Chesterfield it is fair with masons. Many builders' labourers are unemployed.

West Midland Counties.—Employment at Coventry, Leamington, Rugby and Stourbridge is reported as fair; at Birmingham it is bad with carpenters and joiners and bricklayers, and quiet with plasterers and plumbers; at West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Walsall it is bad generally.

Eastern Counties.—Employment generally is bad. In Norfolk and Cambridge a considerable number are unemployed, and distress is prevalent amongst builders' labourers. With plumbers at Ipswich and bricklayers at Colchester, however, employment is moderate.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment shows little change compared with a month ago. In South Devon and Cornwall it is dull or bad generally, but with bricklayers at Exeter, and carpenters and joiners at Falmouth, it is good. In the Bristol district and at Bath and Gloucester it is bad; it is dull at Cheltenham, and fair at Barnstaple.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In North Wales employment is slack generally: it is fair, however, with masons at Llandudno. In South Wales employment generally is dull or bad, but with masons and bricklayers at Cardiff, it is moderate. At Newport it is quiet with carpenters, masons and bricklayers, and bad with plasterers.

Scotland.—Employment generally is dull. At Glasgow and Edinburgh it shows little change compared with a month ago, but at Aberdeen and Dundee it is worse.

Ireland.—Employment is dull on the whole. At Dublin in all branches it is bad, but with gas fitters at Belfast it is good, and with masons, plasterers and builders' labourers it is fair at Cork and moderate at Limerick.

COAL MINING

[NOTE.—The following figures only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and moved 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.]

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during January, after making allowance for the interruption on account of holidays, showed a slight decline both as compared with a month and with a year ago.

Returns received relating to 1,310 pits employing 510,676 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries included in the returns, during the four weeks ended 23rd January, was 5.10, as compared with 5.22 days in the corresponding period of 1903. In both these periods the average number of days worked was lowered to about the same extent by holidays, but in the comparison with December, an allowance has

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—COAL AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

to be made on this account of nearly one-quarter of a day per week on the whole. In Scotland the time lost through holidays was much greater than in England and Wales. The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for each period was 1.8 per cent. greater than in January, 1903, and was practically the same as in December, 1903.

A comparison of the average time worked in the various districts shown in the Table below shows that in January, as compared with a year ago, there were increases in seven districts and decreases in the remaining nine districts. The greatest increase occurred in the Gloucester and Somerset district amounting to over one-quarter of a day per week. The decreases were most marked in the Nottingham and Leicester district (0.48 days per week), Derbyshire (0.32 days), North Wales (0.25 days) and Yorkshire (0.21 days). The highest average number of days worked was in South Wales and Monmouth (5.80 days per week) and Gloucester and Somerset (5.52 days). In Fife the average was only 3.96 days per week, chiefly due to the stoppage on account of the New Year holidays.

The following Table gives for the different mining districts a comparison of the average number of days worked per week by collieries in January, 1904 and 1903, and in December, 1903.

Table with columns: District, No. employed in Jan., 1904, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended (23rd Jan., 1904, 19th Dec., 1903, 24th Jan., 1903), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1904, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

Of the 510,676 workpeople included in the returns, 64.2 per cent. were employed in mines working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended 23rd January, 1904, as compared with 69.5 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1903.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland, steam and house coal pits worked about 5 days per week. In Durham, gas and manufacturing coal pits averaged 5.2 days per week. In the Leeds district employment was not so good as is usual at this season, the demand for house coal being moderate; most of the pits were working 5 days per week. At Dewsbury employment continues bad. In the Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham district the number of days worked during the month averaged over 5 per week. Employment was slack in the Burnley district; moderate in the Wigan, Pemberton, and Scowcroft districts; and fair in the Accrington and Little Lever district. The Cannock Chase pits worked 3 1/2 days per week, and 4 1/2 days per week were worked in the Old Hill, Blackheath, and Halesowen and the Dudley, Oldbury, and Tipton

* The New Year holidays are included in this period.

districts. In Shropshire employment continued fair. In the Forest of Dean it was good at steam coal pits, and moderate at house coal pits; it continued good in the Bristol coalfield. In the Radstock district about 5 1/2 days per week were worked. Employment in North Wales was good. It was fair in Lanarkshire and Stirlingshire, and was good in Ayrshire. In Mid and East Lothian employment was fairly steady after the holidays, and in West Lothian it remains unchanged.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during January amounted to 3,425,833 tons, as compared with 3,831,153 tons in December, and 3,683,464 tons in January, 1903.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing about 18,150 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations, from a Trade Union and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in some districts has been affected by the weather, and in the Cumberland and Lancashire ironstone mines and limestone quarries by the number of pig iron furnaces out of blast. On the whole, employment was good at shale mines; fairly good at iron mines and open works, lead mines, slate, limestone and other stone quarries, and with china clay workers and sett makers; and fair at granite quarries, and at tin and copper mines.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry, with the exception of the Cumberland and Lancashire district, continues good, and shows little change as compared with December and January, 1903, due allowance being made for interruptions on account of the usual holidays. During the four weeks ended January 23rd, 1904, the average number of days worked by the 134 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.37, as compared with 5.55 days in the corresponding period of 1903. The comparison of the average time worked with the December period is affected by the New Year holidays, which it is estimated amounted to nearly one quarter of a day per week in January, 1904, and to about one-sixth of a day in 1903.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Table with columns: District, No. employed in Jan., 1904, Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended (23rd Jan., 1904, 19th Dec., 1903, 24th Jan., 1903), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1904, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,474, as compared with 15,777 a month ago, and 15,844 in January, 1903. During the four weeks ended January 23rd, 68.1 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at mines working 22 or more days as compared with 66.3 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1903.

Shale Mining.—Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in January, 2,693 men were employed, as compared with 2,669 in December and 2,639 a year ago. The average number of days worked by the mines

* The New Year holidays are included in this period.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; IRON AND STEEL WORKS; PIG IRON,

in the four weeks ended January 23rd was 5'38 per week, as compared with 5'63 in December and 5'09 in January, 1903. In January, however, employment was interrupted by the New Year Holidays, extending to two and three days in 1904, and to three days in 1903.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—Lead ore miners in Weardale have worked five days per week. In North Wales employment continued quiet. At tin and copper mines in Devon and Cornwall work was greatly retarded by the heavy rainfall, especially during the early part of the month.

Quarrying.

Slate.—With slate quarrymen employment continues good in North Wales, and dull generally in Devon and Cornwall. In Argyllshire employment has been fairly good.

Limestone.—In Weardale employment has been fairly good on the whole. It has been bad in Cumberland, and much worse than in December or January, 1903. In the Buxton district it was normal; in the Forest of Dean and in North Wales good; and in Devon and Cornwall dull generally.

Granite.—Employment with granite quarrymen has been fairly good in Leicestershire; dull generally in Devon and Cornwall; and good in North Wales. In Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire employment shows the usual seasonal decline and is bad, some short time being worked.

Other Stone.—In the Gateshead district employment has been fairly regular, though interrupted to some extent by the weather. In the Blackburn and Burnley district it has been moderate. At Sheffield it has been good; at Barnsley moderate; and at Normanton fair. In Derbyshire it has been bad, and short time has been worked at the building and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district, while chert quarrymen at Bakewell have been busy. At the Bath stone quarries in the Bristol district employment continues slack. At sandstone quarries in the Forest of Dean and in North Wales it has been good. With quarrymen in Forfarshire it has been bad, short time being worked.

Settmaking.—In Leicestershire kerbstone dressers have been well, and settmakers fairly employed. In the Cleve Hill district and in North Wales employment has been good. In Scotland it has been fair in the Airdrie and Edinburgh districts, and dull in Aberdeenshire. At Belfast it has been good.

China Clay.—China clay workers in Devon and Cornwall have been fairly well employed.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

RETURNS furnished by employers respecting 199 works show that they employed 70,589 workpeople during the week ended 30th January, or 2,191 less than a month ago, and 2,888 less than a year ago. The number of shifts worked was also less, and putting these two facts together it is found that the total volume of employment in January was 4'4 per cent. less than in December, and 5'7 per cent. less than a year ago.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales and in Scotland:—

| District. | Numbers employed in week ended | | | Decrease in Jan. 1904, as compared with | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|-------------|
| | Jan. 30th, 1904. | Dec. 19th, 1903. | Jan. 31st, 1903. | A month ago. | A year ago. |
| England and Wales | 58,776 | 60,911 | 61,515 | 2,135 | 2,739 |
| Scotland | 11,813 | 11,869 | 11,562 | 56 | 149 |
| Total | 70,589 | 72,780 | 73,477 | 2,191 | 2,888 |

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked

* Including iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling.

at iron and steel works at which 90 per cent. of the work-people referred to in the preceding Table were employed. The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended 30th January was 5'28, as compared with 5'36 in the week ended 19th December, 1903, and 5'38 in the corresponding week of January, 1903.

| Number of Shifts worked. | Number employed in Jan., 1904, so far as returned. | Percentage proportion to Total. | Corresponding percentage in | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | | | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. |
| Under 5 per week ... | 10,240 | 16'2 | 14'9 | 10'6 |
| 5 per week | 19,163 | 30'3 | 31'3 | 37'0 |
| 6 per week | 1,322 | 2'1 | 1'1 | 1'3 |
| 7 per week | 31,619 | 50'0 | 51'2 | 50'0 |
| Over 6 per week ... | 885 | 1'4 | 1'5 | 1'1 |
| Total | 63,229 | 100'0 | 100'0 | 100'0 |

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (10 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated to have been 372,663, as compared with 389,752 in the week ended 19th December and 395,136 a year ago.

The following reports relating to the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment with steel smelters has improved generally, especially at Jarrow. In steel plate mills full time was worked, but short time continued in the bar, cogging and sheet mills. Employment in the finished iron and steel works and with forgemen was moderate.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—Employment was fair in iron and steel works, and also in metal expansion works. It continued fairly good at rail mills, and had improved in the plate and other mills supplying shipbuilding materials.

South Yorkshire.—In Leeds the steel workers continued badly employed, with much short time. Employment in Sheffield and district continued slack generally. Ironworkers at Masbro' were fairly well employed.

Midlands.—At iron and steel works in Smethwick and West Bromwich employment was quiet, except at sheet mills, where it was fair. It was quiet with the South Staffordshire steel smelters, and showed a further decline at the mills and forges. Employment continued good in the Shropshire steel trade, but there was no improvement in the iron trade.

Scotland.—Employment was fair on the whole, but continued slack with the malleable iron workers.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Employers, a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in this industry showed no improvement during January, and is much below the level of a year ago, especially in the Cumberland and Lancashire district.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 6 furnaces were re-lit and 6 blown out or damped down in the Cumberland and Lancashire district during January, while 3 furnaces were put out of operation in other districts in England and Wales. At the end of the month 292 blast furnaces were in operation at the works covered by the returns, a decrease of 3 as compared with December, and of 36 as compared with a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 292 furnaces at the end of January is estimated to have been about 20,400.

The following Table shows by districts the furnaces in

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—PIG IRON; TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

| Districts. | Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of | | | Decrease in January, 1904, as compared with | |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| | January, 1904. | December, 1903. | January, 1903. | A month ago. | A year ago. |
| ENGLAND & WALES— | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 76 | 76 | 82 | ... | 6 |
| Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks. ... | 24 | 24 | 41 | ... | 17 |
| Derby & Nottingham | 13 | 14 | 15 | 1 | 2 |
| Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton | 38 | 38 | 39 | ... | 1 |
| Stafford & Worcester | 25 | 25 | 26 | ... | 1 |
| S. Wales & Monmouth | 34 | 34 | 34 | ... | ... |
| Other districts | 12 | 13 | 14 | 1 | 2 |
| | 6 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Returned from England & Wales | 228 | 231 | 258 | 3 | 30 |
| RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND | 64 | 64 | 70 | ... | 6 |
| Total furnaces included in returns ... | 292 | 295 | 328 | 3 | 36 |

A report from a Trade Union states that employment with blastfurnacemen is generally depressed, and worse than a year ago. In the Cleveland district, however (excluding Jarrow) and the Midlands, it has been fairly good.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry has improved since December, but is not so good as a year ago.

At the end of January, 360 mills were working, as compared with 353 at the end of December, and 391 a year ago. Of the 70 works open, 51 had all their mills (264) in operation, while the remaining 19 works had only 96 mills going out of a total of 138. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 360 mills in operation was 18,000.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire district 348 mills were in operation at the end of January, as compared with 341 at the end of the previous month, and 379 a year ago.

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

| | No. of Works open. | No. of Mills in such Works. | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------|
| | | Working. | Not Working. | Total. |
| Works giving full employment ... | 51 | 264 | — | 264 |
| Works giving partial employment ... | 19 | 96 | 42 | 138 |
| Total at end of Jan., 1904* | 70 | 360 | 42 | 402 |
| Corresponding Total for Dec., 1903* | 68 | 353 | 36 | 389 |
| Corresponding Total for Jan., 1903†† | 77 | 591 | 35 | 626 |

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

| | Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel). | | | Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel). | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. |
| To United States ... | Tons. 5,660 | Tons. 4,382 | Tons. 4,503 | Tons. 18 | Tons. 18 | Tons. — |
| „ Other Countries | 22,313 | 22,032 | 17,833 | 5,243 | 6,343 | 3,572 |
| Total | 27,973 | 26,414 | 22,336 | 5,243 | 6,361 | 3,572 |

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.
† Revised figures.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment continued bad in January and was worse than a year ago.

Compared with a month ago the figures indicate considerable decline on the Thames and some falling off on the Clyde; in other districts an improvement is shown. It should be noted, however, that the figures for December are affected by holiday suspensions. Compared with a year ago considerable decline is shown in Scotland and the Humber, Mersey, and Belfast districts, while in other districts an improvement is indicated, this being greatest in the Tees and Hartlepool district.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,111 members had 8,227 (or 14'4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 16'7 per cent. at the end of December, and 12'9 per cent. in January, 1903.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

| District. | No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan. 1904, included in the returns. | Percentage returned as unemployed at end of | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Percentage for Jan., 1904, as compared with a | |
|--|--|---|-------------|-------------|---|-----------|
| | | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Tyne and Blyth | 8,756 | 14'7 | 20'6 | 16'9 | — 5'9 | — 2'2 |
| Wear | 4,668 | 21'4 | 22'7 | 25'1 | — 1'3 | — 3'7 |
| Tees and Hartlepool | 4,953 | 14'9 | 17'1 | 28'1 | — 2'2 | — 13'2 |
| Humber | 2,598 | 18'3 | 19'1 | 9'9 | — 0'8 | + 8'4 |
| Thames and Medway | 4,430 | 9'2 | 2'1 | 10'6 | + 7'1 | + 1'4 |
| Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton | 5,612 | 3'5 | 6'4 | 3'9 | — 2'9 | — 0'4 |
| Bristol Channel Ports | 2,660 | 10'9 | 15'0 | 15'6 | — 4'1 | — 4'7 |
| Mersey | 4,000 | 12'4 | 19'4 | 6'6 | — 7'0 | + 5'8 |
| Clyde | 12,541 | 17'6 | 15'9 | 9'9 | + 1'7 | + 7'7 |
| Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ... | 2,160 | 24'2 | 30'2 | 4'0 | — 6'0 | + 20'2 |
| Belfast | 2,726 | 10'6 | 10'9 | 3'4 | — 0'3 | + 7'2 |
| Other Districts | 3,300 | 9'8 | 11'1 | 4'1 | — 1'3 | + 5'7 |
| United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available) | 57,111 | 14'4 | 16'7 | 12'9 | — 2'3 | + 1'5 |

On the Tyne employment generally is bad, but with several branches of shipwrights it is fairly good. On the whole some improvement is reported. Some yards are still on short time, but others have resumed full time. Stern frame makers report employment as moderate.

On the Wear employment generally continues bad but is rather better than a year ago. Some improvement is reported by shipwrights. Drillers and hole cutters report employment as good on old work, and improving on new work.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment generally is slack. It has, however, improved slightly and is better than a year ago. Shipwrights report employment as fair at Stockton and Hartlepool; joiners as moderate at Stockton, improving at Middlesbrough. Repair work has been good at Hartlepool.

On the Humber employment continues bad and considerably worse than a year ago. Short time is reported.

On the Thames employment is bad and worse than a month ago. Shipwrights, however, report it as good at Chatham, fair at Sheerness.

South Coast.—At Southampton an improvement is reported. At Portsmouth employment is slack with iron shipbuilders, good with shipwrights. At Devonport it is good.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment generally has been slack, but rather better than a month ago and a year ago. Some branches of shipwrights report it as fair. At Cardiff there has been an improvement.

On the Mersey employment generally is dull and worse than a year ago. It is, however, better than a month ago. Short time is reported at Liverpool.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

On the *Clyde* employment is bad, worse than a month ago and considerably worse than a year ago. Shipwrights report it as fair at Port Glasgow.

On the *East Coast of Scotland* employment continues bad and much worse than a year ago. Short time is reported at Dundee. Shipwrights at Leith report employment as fairly good.

At *Belfast* employment is considerably worse than a year ago. It is bad with iron shipbuilders, smiths, helpers and labourers, but fair with shipwrights and joiners.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continues moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft employment is fair, at Dublin bad, at Cork fair.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 9 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 21 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in some districts is slightly better than a month ago, but on the whole is still worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 141,687 members show that 9,542 (or 6·7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 7·7 per cent. in December, and 5·6 per cent. in January, 1903. The percentage unemployed in January varies, however, very considerably in the different districts. Thus, in the Oldham, Glasgow and East of Scotland districts it is from 10 to 11 per cent., while in London, Birmingham and South Wales it is under 4 per cent., and on the South Coast of England 2·3 per cent. only.

As compared with a month ago the figures indicate an improvement in the North-East-Coast and Belfast and Dublin districts, while a decline is shown in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn districts. It should be noted, however, that the figures for December are affected, to some extent, by holiday suspensions. Compared with a year ago a decline is indicated in most districts, but on the North-East Coast improvement is shown.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

| Districts. | No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1904, included in the returns.* | Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Jan., 1904, as compared with a | |
|--|--|---|-------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| | | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| | | North-East Coast ... | 13,896 | 6·6 | 12·3 | 8·8 |
| Manchester and Liverpool District | 17,919 | 7·0 | 7·2 | 5·1 | - 0·2 | + 1·9 |
| Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District | 11,397 | 11·0 | 8·9 | 8·0 | + 2·1 | + 3·0 |
| West Riding Towns ... | 11,830 | 8·9 | 9·9 | 6·1 | - 1·0 | + 2·8 |
| Hull and Lincolnshire District | 3,319 | 6·9 | 9·3 | 6·4 | - 2·4 | + 0·5 |
| Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District | 6,159 | 3·9 | 4·9 | 2·3 | - 1·0 | + 1·6 |
| Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District | 4,079 | 6·4 | 6·2 | 3·9 | + 0·2 | + 2·5 |
| London and Neighbouring District | 12,337 | 3·8 | 5·1 | 4·0 | - 1·3 | - 0·2 |
| South Coast ... | 3,894 | 2·3 | 2·4 | 1·5 | - 0·1 | + 0·8 |
| South Wales and Bristol District | 6,130 | 3·6 | 5·1 | 3·7 | - 1·5 | - 0·1 |
| Glasgow and District ... | 12,889 | 10·4 | 10·6 | 8·7 | - 0·2 | + 1·7 |
| East of Scotland ... | 2,973 | 11·3 | 11·8 | 10·7 | - 0·5 | + 0·6 |
| Belfast and Dublin ... | 3,405 | 7·9 | 12·8 | 5·4 | - 4·9 | + 2·5 |
| Other Districts ... | 5,479 | 4·6 | 8·0 | 3·1 | - 3·4 | + 1·5 |
| United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available) | 141,687 | 6·7 | 7·7 | 5·6 | - 1·0 | + 1·1 |

North-East Coast.—With pattern makers employment generally is quiet. With ironfounders it is improving at Newcastle and in the Shields district, good at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool, and bad at Sunderland and Stockton. With engineers it is fairly good at Newcastle and Gateshead, moderate at Middlesbrough and Stockton. At Jarrow employment has much improved, and is now good. At Darlington it is bad with ironfounders, moderate with engineers and boiler-makers. With

*Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

enginemen employment is reported fairly good on the Tyne and Wear, moderate on the Tees. With brass finishers it is bad, with copper-smiths fairly good.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment generally continues bad and worse than a year ago. At Manchester pattern makers report it as fair, other branches as bad. At Liverpool it is dull with engineers and hammermen, moderate with ironfounders, good with brassfounders. At Crewe short time is reported. Employment is moderate with engineers at Patricroft, with boiler makers at Northwich and Warrington, and with ironfounders at the last place.

Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn Districts.—Employment generally is bad and short time is reported. It shows a further decline and is worse than a year ago. Boiler makers are very slack. Employment is good with ironfounders at Accrington and Preston, moderate at Bury. At Bolton it is reported as moderate with spindle and flyer makers, fair with roller makers.

West Riding.—Employment generally in this district continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the heavy trades at Sheffield it is very bad, and much short time is reported, but pattern makers report employment as fair. At Leeds employment generally continues moderate. At Huddersfield it is moderate with engineers. Employment is moderate at Barnsley.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment continues bad and rather worse than a year ago. Short time is being worked at Doncaster and some is also reported in Hull. At Grantham, Lincoln and Peterborough employment generally is fair.

East Midlands.—Employment generally continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. At Derby, however, ironfounders report it as moderate, brass moulders and brass finishers as fair; and at Newark it is moderate generally. At Nottingham employment is steady with lace and hosiery machine builders, quiet with cycle makers. It is moderate with lace machine builders at Long Eaton, fairly good with shoe machinery makers at Leicester. With railway wagon builders at Long Eaton it is bad; railway carriage and wagon builders at Derby are better employed.

West Midlands.—Employment generally is moderate, rather better than a month ago, but not as good as a year ago. At Birmingham pattern makers report it as quiet, ironfounders as good, tool makers and boiler makers as bad. At Smethwick and Dudley employment is bad. At Coventry and Rugby it is fair with pattern makers, good with ironfounders. In the electrical industry employment is fairly good at Birmingham, but at Wolverhampton it is not so good as a month ago. At Birmingham, Coventry and Redditch employment is moderate in the cycle and fair in the motor industry; at Wolverhampton it has improved with cycle makers, and motor workers are busy. In the military gun trade an improvement is reported at Birmingham; with sporting gun makers employment is fair.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment generally shows some improvement, and is slightly better than a year ago. On the whole it is moderate. With pattern makers and ironfounders it is dull, with brassfounders fairly good. On electrical work it is bad.

South Coast.—Employment generally is moderate, and not so good as a year ago. It is bad with ironfounders at Southampton, good with engineers at Weymouth and ironfounders at Portsmouth.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally is moderate, and about the same as a year ago. At Swansea it is bad, at Swindon moderate with engineers, dull with boiler-makers and ironfounders.

Glasgow and District.—Employment generally continues bad, and worse than a year ago. With pattern makers it is quiet. A few branches of engineers report it as moderate. It is fair with brass moulders, brass finishers and copper-smiths.

East of Scotland.—Employment continues bad, and rather worse than a year ago. At Dundee it is affected

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—ENGINEERING; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

by a dispute. With brassfounders and brassfinishers employment is fair generally. It is moderate with blacksmiths at Edinburgh and Leith.

Belfast and Dublin District.—Employment is not as good as a year ago. At Dublin all branches report it as bad. At Belfast it is fair with pattern makers and brass founders, quiet with engineers, bad with ironfounders and boiler makers.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is moderate and not as good as a year ago; some short time is reported. At Lancaster it is bad with engineers, moderate with ironfounders. At York engineers report it as bad, boiler makers as moderate. At Norwich and Colchester engineers report employment as bad, at Yarmouth as fair. At Ipswich and Worcester it is moderate with engineers, good with ironfounders. At Hanley employment is bad, at Stoke it is moderate. At Cork it is dull.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 2 Employers' Associations, 23 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. With slight exceptions employment in these trades is shown to be slack, and worse than a month ago.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—With brassworkers generally, employment is reported as bad for the time of year, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Birmingham it is reported as fair with brassworkers, but dull in the bedstead and fender branch.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—The nut and bolt trade reports employment as quiet in Birmingham and Smethwick, but better than a month ago; in the Wolverhampton district it is moderate. At Birmingham employment is fair on machine made rivets; moderate on cut and wire nails. It is slack with makers of rivets, spikes and wrought nails at Blackheath and Halesowen.

Tubes.—There is no improvement reported in this branch except with cased tubes at Birmingham, which report a slight improvement.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—Employment continues fair with chain makers in the Tyne and Wear district, but is slack with makers of block, dollyed, cable, and side welded chains at Cradley. With anchor smiths it is moderate on the Tyne and Wear, slack at Cradley Heath. Anvil makers and vice makers at Dudley report employment as slack. Employment with spring makers at West Bromwich is moderate, and also with railway axles-springs and coach ironwork at Wednesbury, and at Walsall with ironwork for harness and cart gear.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Both in Willenhall and Wolverhampton lock and key makers report employment as bad, worse than a month ago and a year ago, and with some short time. In Birmingham the wrought iron and steel hinge trade continues to be well employed, with some overtime. Hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich report employment as quiet, with some short time; at Wolverhampton employment is good with cast hollow-ware, moderate with stamped. With hollow-ware stampers and buffers at Sheffield it is slack. At Wolverhampton employment is good with hoe-makers, moderate with makers of hurdles, iron fences and builder's ironmongery, and with japanners, galvanizers and stampers, and piercers.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—In Sheffield the file trade generally is slack. In Birmingham and Wolverhampton employment is moderate; at Warrington, with filesmiths, it is good. With edge tool makers employment is good at Wolverhampton; quiet at Birmingham; slack at Sheffield.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—This branch reports employment as fair at Nottingham, Bolton and in Derbyshire, moderate at Birmingham, but as very quiet and slack in other centres of the trade.

Sheet Metal.—In London workers in these trades report employment as slack, and worse than a month or a year ago. In Birmingham tinplate workers are fair, but iron quiet. At Bilston, the Lye, Oldham, Edinburgh, and

Glasgow employment is reported as slack; on the Tyne and Wear, and at Sheffield, moderate; at Nottingham and Exeter good with tinplate workers; at Leeds, Hull, Manchester, Bristol, and Dundee fair generally.

Cutlery, etc.—In Sheffield the cutlery trades in general report employment as slack, with the exception of pen and pocket blade forgers, who are moderately employed. At Redditch the needle trade reports employment as quiet, but with an improving tendency. In the fish hook trade employment is good and overtime continues.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London these trades generally report employment as quiet or slack, except the silver spoon and fork finishers, who report it as fair. At Birmingham and at Sheffield all sections report it as quiet.

Wirework.—Employment in these trades is reported as slack generally, and worse than a month ago, with some short time. At Warrington, however, and at a branch in Derbyshire it is fairly good.

Farriers.—Employment with farriers is reported as quiet generally, but as fair in London, Leicester, Dundee and Dublin.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 225,000. Reports have also been furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to 600 spinning and weaving factories, usually employing about 104,300 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that employment in January was bad. Short time (40 hours per week instead of 55½) was worked very generally in mills using American cotton, in some cases during the whole month. At mills using Egyptian cotton and spinning fine counts full time has been usual. The average price of American cotton in the Liverpool market for January, 1904, was over 60 per cent. more than in January, 1903. The corresponding rise in Egyptian cotton was 18 per cent. The quantity of the latter forwarded from ports to inland towns was about normal, but the quantity of American cotton forwarded shows a drop of about 34 per cent. in 1904 as compared with 1903.

At a meeting of the General Committee of the Lancashire Cotton Spinners' Federation on the 12th February, at Manchester, it was decided that the proposal to impose a penalty on all firms in the Federation running full time was impracticable, owing to the fact that non-members as well as members were ignoring the recommendation of the Federation, and to penalise one without inflicting a penalty on the other would be unfair. It was stated that 88 per cent. of the members of the Federation using American cotton were working only 40 hours per week, and other influential firms had signified their adherence to the movement. A continuance of short time is recommended by the Committee.

In the *Spinning* branch, owing to the renewal of the short time movement, employment was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago, except at Bolton, where Egyptian cotton is extensively used. Of the 28,800 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents, 52 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 77 per cent. in December, and 92 per cent. in January, 1903.

In the *Weaving* branch employment showed a decline, short time being frequent and much slackness prevailing. Of the 75,500 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents only 40 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—COTTON, WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

the month, compared with 47 per cent. in December, and 85 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls, and also gives, for comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

| Trade and Month. | Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | Working Full Time throughout the Month.* | | Working Short Time during some part of the Month. | Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes. |
| | With Full Employment. | With Partial Employment. | | |
| Cotton Trade—Spinning— | | | | |
| January, 1904 | 52 | 12 | 31 | 5 |
| December, 1903 | 77 | 9 | 10 | 4 |
| January, 1903 | 92 | 7 | — | — |
| Cotton Trade—Weaving— | | | | |
| January, 1904 | 40 | 28 | 28 | 4 |
| December, 1903 | 47 | 22 | 20 | 11 |
| January, 1903 | 85 | 13 | — | 2 |

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—In Ashton, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley, and Droydsden most of the mills are running short time.

Stockport and Manchester District.—In the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Compstall districts employment is reported as bad, the mills running short time with the exception of those using Egyptian cotton. In the Manchester, Pendlebury and Patricroft districts short time is reported on coarse counts, full time on fine counts.

Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.—Short time is general throughout the district.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).—The New Year holidays were prolonged, and subsequently the mills using American cotton adopted short time; some mills are closed indefinitely.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).—Employment in Bolton and neighbourhood has been fairly good, the mills running full time; some slackness is reported. In Wigan short time is being worked.

Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.—In Bury employment has been moderate; most firms are now adopting short time. In Heywood employment has been fair. In Rochdale mills using American cotton have run short time; those using Egyptian cotton have run full time.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad; short time has been worked in several mills.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad, with short time in some sheds and slackness in others.

Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington District.—Employment in Blackburn is much worse than a month ago, short time being on the increase and looms standing. In Darwen two sheds are closed; a few are working short time, and in others slackness is increasing. In Accrington employment has been fair.

Burnley, Nelson and Colne District.—In Burnley employment is bad; sheds generally have run full time, but waiting for warps is increasingly prevalent. In Nelson full time has been general, but some slackness is reported. In Colne employment has been bad, short time and slackness being reported.

Other Districts.—In Bury short time is reported in some sheds, slackness in others. In Bolton much slackness is reported; in Farnworth short time has been general. In Chorley employment is very slack.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of January the average price of raw cotton (middling American) at Liverpool was 7.66d. per lb., being about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. (nearly 12 per cent.) more than the average for December, and 61 per cent. in advance of January, 1903, when the price was 4.76d. per lb. For the period from 1st to

11th February the average price of middling American was 7.85d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during January averaged 9.03d. per lb. compared with 8.47d. in December, and 7.64d. in January, 1903, a rise of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the price in December last, and of about 18 per cent. on the price a year ago. For the period from 1st to 11th February the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.61d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COTTON.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of January, with comparative figures for 1903 and 1902:—

| | Month of January. | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 1904. | 1903. | 1902. |
| Imported | Bales. 445,624 | Bales. 519,533 | Bales. 612,057 |
| Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns | 258,171 | 367,316 | 348,112 |
| Exported | 67,216 | 51,462 | 40,223 |

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns during January in each of the years 1904, 1903 and 1902 respectively are given below:—

| Description of Cotton. | Month of January. | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 1904. | 1903. | 1902. |
| American | Bales. 201,560 | Bales. 204,457 | Bales. 285,005 |
| Brazilian | 5,604 | 10,767 | 8,663 |
| East Indian | 4,140 | 3,152 | 1,689 |
| Egyptian | 41,367 | 43,848 | 42,850 |
| Miscellaneous | 5,500 | 5,092 | 10,564 |
| Total | 258,171 | 367,316 | 348,112 |

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 12th February was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 682,200 bales, compared with 761,600 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 280 firms employing 84,974 workpeople; from women correspondents with regard to factories in Yorkshire usually employing about 29,700 women and girls, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The returns show a slight improvement compared with the previous month. As compared with a year ago there was a decline, which was most marked in the sorting and combing branch. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of January was 84,974, compared with 84,345 at the end of December, and 87,200 a year ago, an increase of 0.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made in the number employed in firms engaged in (1) worsted combing, spinning and manufacture, (2) woollen spinning and manufacture, (3) woollen and worsted spinning and manufacture, and (4) carpet manufacture:—

| Trade. | Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. |
| Worsted | 48,500 | 48,003 | 50,102 |
| Woollen | 22,478 | 22,285 | 22,717 |
| Woollen and Worsted | 8,234 | 8,498 | 8,768 |
| Total Woollen and Worsted | 79,212 | 78,586 | 81,527 |
| Carpet Manufacture | 5,762 | 5,759 | 5,673 |

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—TEXTILE TRADES.

Firms employing 73,497 persons in woollen and worsted manufacture (exclusive of carpets) made separate returns of the numbers engaged in the different processes, from which the following results are shown:—

In the **Sorting and Combing** branches there was an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 7.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the **Spinning** branch there was an increase of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the **Weaving** branch there was an increase of 1.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the other departments there was no change compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Of the 29,700 women and girls in the Yorkshire factories reported on by women correspondents, 62 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 50 per cent. in December; 27 per cent. were employed in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 11 per cent. in factories running short time.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various processes of woollen and worsted manufacture in Yorkshire, Scotland and other districts reported on at the end of January with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:—

| District and Branch of Trade. | Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of | | |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|
| | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. |
| Sorting and Combing— | | | |
| Yorkshire | 6,340 | 6,227 | 6,931 |
| Scotland | 389 | 387 | 387 |
| Other Districts | 288 | 292 | 283 |
| Total | 7,017 | 6,906 | 7,601 |
| Spinning— | | | |
| Yorkshire | 26,587 | 26,244 | 26,998 |
| Scotland | 2,033 | 2,042 | 2,155 |
| Other Districts | 1,741 | 1,738 | 1,735 |
| Total | 30,361 | 30,024 | 30,848 |
| Weaving— | | | |
| Yorkshire | 14,828 | 14,474 | 15,407 |
| Scotland | 3,622 | 3,705 | 3,868 |
| Other Districts | 1,586 | 1,566 | 1,523 |
| Total | 20,036 | 19,745 | 20,888 |
| Other Departments— | | | |
| Yorkshire | 9,690 | 9,688 | 9,807 |
| Scotland | 4,759 | 4,798 | 4,951 |
| Other Districts | 1,632 | 1,600 | 1,630 |
| Total | 16,081 | 16,086 | 16,388 |
| Unspecified— | | | |
| Yorkshire | 5,057 | 5,169 | 5,063 |
| Scotland | 68 | 656 | 739 |
| Other Districts | — | — | — |
| Total | 5,715 | 5,825 | 5,802 |
| TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES— | | | |
| Yorkshire | 62,502 | 61,802 | 64,256 |
| Scotland | 11,463 | 11,588 | 12,100 |
| Other Districts | 5,247 | 5,196 | 5,171 |
| Total, Woollen and Worsted | 79,212 | 78,586 | 81,527 |

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

Bradford District.—In the wool sorting and wool-combing branches employment continues bad with men, and is only moderate with women; several firms have not worked at night, and short time by day is frequent. The number employed shows an increase. In the spinning branch some short time is reported, but the number employed shows an increase of 2.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and is only 0.6 per cent. less than a year ago. In weaving considerable slackness is reported; the number employed has increased compared with a month ago, but still shows a decline of 8.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the 9,500

women and girls usually employed in the factories reported on by women correspondents, 41 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, 41 per cent. being in factories running full time but giving only partial employment, and 18 per cent. in factories running short time.

Keighley District.—Employment continues unsatisfactory, slackness being very general.

Halifax District.—Employment shows no improvement; much slackness and short time are reported.

Huddersfield District.—Employment in the worsted trade continues quiet, short time and slackness being reported. In the woollen trade employment has declined, although some overtime is still reported.

Leeds District.—Employment shows a slight improvement, but is still only moderate.

The Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett, etc.).—Firms employing 3,565 workpeople at the end of January show an increase of 5.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Some short time and slackness are reported, but overtime is still being worked in some cases.

Scotland.—Employment shows a further decline. In Selkirk and Hawick much short time and slackness are reported. In Galashiels there has been a slight improvement. Carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good on narrow looms and improving on broad looms. Carpet workers in the Glasgow district report it as fair.

Other Districts.—Employment in Trowbridge and district is reported as good. In the woollen trade at Rochdale and Stockport it is not good, short time and slackness being reported. Carpet workers report employment at Kidderminster as improved; at Bridgnorth as good.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades in Scotland shows a decline; in the flax trade in Ulster it continues fair.

In Dundee employment continues fair on the whole. Information has been received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 21,300 women and girls. From this it appears that one large works was closed for holidays for ten days and was subsequently slack in the weaving branch, and two other works were closed for part of the month for repairs. Of the other works reported on all were running full time throughout the month, but slackness is reported in 3 out of 37 spinning mills, and in 6 out of 31 weaving sheds. In Forfar short time and stoppages of looms are reported. In Brechin and Arbroath employment is reported as slack; in Aberdeen as fair.

Employment in Ulster generally is reported as fair. In Belfast a slight improvement is reported; the flax dressers and flax roughers report employment as moderate; the beetling enginemakers as improving; the power loom yarn dressers as fair; the power loom tenters and the women workers' Trade Union as quiet; the linen lappers and hackle and gill makers as good.

At Barnsley employment in the linen trade continues moderate.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent of the Department, from one Trade Union and from Local Correspondents, employment in the hosiery trade continues bad, being about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received from hosiery manufacturers employing 12,044 workpeople in their factories at the end of January show an increase of 0.1

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—TEXTILE TRADES; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

per cent. on the number employed at the end of December, and a decrease of 5.0 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 85 per cent. were employed in firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 86 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for December. In Leicester, employment continues very slack, and nearly all firms are working short time. In Loughborough it remains dull in all departments. In Hinckley short time is still general, but a slight improvement is reported.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment is reported as bad in all sections. In the hand frame branches in the country districts a decline is reported.

Scotland.—In Hawick, employment is worse than a month and a year ago, many factories working short time. In Selkirk it is quieter than a month ago, though the factories are running full time.

Lace Trade.

According to information received from the Trade Union and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham lace trade is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. It has further declined in the levers branch; it is bad in the curtain branch, and fair in the plain net branch.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.

Employment with dyers in the West Riding is reported as slack, showing no change compared with a month ago, and being much worse than a year ago. The improvement reported among cotton dyers in Lancashire and Yorkshire has not been maintained, and employment is much worse than in December owing to the general decline in the cotton trade.

In Leicester, Hinckley and Loughborough employment with hosiery dyers and trimmers continues bad. It is slack with dyers and bleachers at Basford and Nottingham. With hosiery trimmers at Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell it has improved, but is worse than a year ago. With calico printers at Manchester it is reported as fair, at New Mills as bad; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting as good. In the Glasgow district employment is reported as good with calendermen, dull with calico printers, fair with block printers. In the Dundee district employment is reported as fair with finishers and dyers.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see p. 55.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondents of the Department based on information supplied by 680 firms employing 78,831 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment, although better than a month ago, is still slack. The number employed by firms making returns at the end of January was 78,831, compared with 77,177 at the end of December, and 79,892 a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 60 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments throughout January, to be compared with 57 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for December. There has been a marked increase in short time at Kingswood and Leeds. Most of the other districts, however, have improved in this respect since December.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the numbers employed in the various districts at the end of January, with a month ago and a year ago, so far as covered by the returns. These numbers alone do not, however, show the full fluctuation in the volume of employment as many manufacturers keep together a fairly full staff by sharing out the work over as many workers as possible. From the district reports below it

will be seen that a considerable number of workers are still on short time.

| District. | No. of firms making returns | No. employed by these firms at end of | | | Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| | | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1902. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES. | | | | | | |
| London | 89 | 6,451 | 5,986 | 6,626 | + 7.8 | - 2.6 |
| Leicester | 92 | 15,351 | 14,765 | 15,585 | + 4.0 | - 1.5 |
| Leicester Country District ... | 38 | 3,733 | 3,583 | 3,389 | + 4.2 | + 10.2 |
| Northampton | 74 | 9,625 | 9,399 | 9,737 | + 2.4 | - 1.2 |
| Kettering | 36 | 4,026 | 3,969 | 4,257 | + 1.4 | - 5.4 |
| Northampton Country District | 106 | 10,373 | 10,380 | 10,755 | - 0.1 | - 3.6 |
| Stafford and District | 21 | 3,186 | 3,150 | 3,224 | + 1.1 | - 1.2 |
| Norwich and District | 40 | 5,411 | 5,200 | 5,544 | + 4.1 | - 2.4 |
| Bristol | 20 | 2,462 | 2,405 | 2,498 | + 2.4 | - 1.4 |
| Kingswood | 28 | 2,861 | 2,911 | 2,676 | - 1.7 | + 6.9 |
| Leeds and District | 45 | 3,759 | 3,921 | 4,063 | - 4.1 | - 7.5 |
| Manchester and District ... | 19 | 2,765 | 2,751 | 2,714 | + 0.5 | + 1.9 |
| Birmingham and District ... | 13 | 1,280 | 1,245 | 1,238 | + 2.8 | - 0.6 |
| Other parts of England & Wales | 29 | 2,409 | 2,373 | 2,396 | + 1.5 | - 0.5 |
| Total, England and Wales | 650 | 73,692 | 72,038 | 74,752 | + 2.3 | - 1.4 |
| SCOTLAND | 28 | 4,811 | 4,808 | 4,878 | + 0.1 | - 1.4 |
| IRELAND | 2 | 328 | 331 | 262 | - 0.9 | + 25.2 |
| Total | 680 | 78,831 | 77,177 | 79,892 | + 2.1 | - 1.3 |

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Returns covering 6,451 workpeople show that 81 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 52 per cent. in December. The lasters and finishers' Trade Union report employment as still quiet.

Leicester and District.—Returns covering 15,351 workpeople in Leicester show that 40 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 27 per cent. in December. The lasters and finishers' Trade Union report employment as slightly improved; the clickers and pressmen also report a slight improvement.

Of the 3,733 workpeople employed by firms in the Leicester country districts, 79 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 67 per cent. in December. Employment in Hinckley is reported as moderate.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—Returns covering 9,625 workpeople in Northampton show that 61 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 47 per cent. in December. Employment is reported as better, but still quiet. Of the 4,026 workpeople employed by firms in Kettering, covered by the returns, 33 per cent. were employed by firms working full time. Employment is reported as bad.

Of the 10,373 workpeople employed by firms in the Northampton country districts covered by the returns, 66 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 61 per cent. in December. The lasters and finishers' Trade Union report employment as very dull at Higham and Rushden, improving at Daventry, fair at Desborough, bad at Wellingborough. Employment continues slack with army bootmakers.

Stafford, Stone and Nantwich.—Returns covering 3,186 workpeople show that 74 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 76 per cent. in December. The lasters' and finishers' Trade Union report that employment has continued to improve at Stafford; the clickers and pressmen report that the improvement noted in December has been maintained; handsewn shoemakers are fully employed at Stafford. At Stone short time is general.

Eastern Counties.—Returns covering 5,411 workpeople show that 57 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 53 per cent. in December. The lasters' and finishers' Trade Union report employment as dull in nearly all branches, the clickers and pressmen in Norwich as fair.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Returns covering 2,462 workpeople in Bristol show that 52 per cent. were employed

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—CLOTHING TRADES.

by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 42 per cent. in December. The lasters and finishers report employment as only moderate; the clickers and pressmen report a slight improvement. Of the 2,861 workpeople in Kingswood covered by the returns, 57 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 95 per cent. in December.

Leeds and District.—Returns covering 3,759 workpeople show that 24 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 67 per cent. in December. Employment at Leeds is reported as bad.

Other Districts in England.—Of the number covered by the returns in the Manchester district, 89 per cent. were employed in firms working full time; in the Birmingham district 45 per cent. In most of the smaller centres employment is slack.

Scotland.—Of the 4,811 workpeople covered by the returns 99 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month. The lasters and finishers' Trade Union report employment as good at Maybole, fair at Kilmarnock, very quiet at Aberdeen and Edinburgh, slack at Glasgow and Arbroath.

TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents and Trade Unions.

Employment in the *bespoke trade* continues dull and is worse than a month and a year ago. In the *ready-made trade* employment continues bad and is worse than a year ago, but in London and Leeds it improved towards the end of the month.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 1,213 workpeople on their premises and 1,315 outworkers.* According to these returns employment with inworkers was good in firms employing 10 per cent. of the total number, moderate in firms employing 71 per cent., and bad in firms employing 19 per cent. With outworkers* it was good with firms employing 11 per cent., moderate with firms employing 46 per cent., and bad with firms employing 43 per cent. Twelve West End firms report employment as better than a month ago, 9 as unchanged, and 39 as worse. Compared with a year ago 6 firms report employment as improved, 13 as the same, and 41 as worse. In Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow employment is reported as slack; in Edinburgh as improving; in Dublin as fair.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment continued dull during the month and was worse than a year ago, but at the end of the month an improvement is reported. The clothiers' cutters' Trade Union report employment as bad during January, but as better than in December.

In Leeds employment continues bad, but is better than a month ago; it is much worse than a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 6,600 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during January was good or fair in firms employing 16 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate in firms employing 28 per cent., and bad in firms employing 56 per cent. As compared with December, firms employing 88 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 3 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 9 per cent. as worse. As compared with a year ago, no firms report employment as improved, firms employing 14 per cent. report it as the same, and firms employing 86 per cent. as worse. The clothiers' operatives' and the Jewish tailors' Trade Unions report employment as bad.

In Manchester employment continues slack, and is worse than a year ago.

In Bristol employment continues bad, and is much worse than a year ago.

* The numbers may include the same outworker more than once, and do not include persons employed by outworkers.

In Norwich, Ipswich, Colchester, and Bury St. Edmunds employment is reported as slack.

In Glasgow employment continues slack, a little over-time and much short time being reported.

HAT TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from three Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment on the whole shows a further decline. Trade Unions with 5,362 members have 342 (or 6.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 5.3 per cent. at the end of December, and 3.6 per cent. a year ago.

With silk hatters, employment in London is reported as bad, as worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago; short time has been general, and a high percentage of Trade Union members are unemployed. In Denton employment is quiet, but is better than a month ago, although worse than a year ago. In other districts employment continues slack.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton, although still bad, is a little better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. At Bury and Bredbury employment is reported as continuing bad, showing no improvement. In Warwickshire employment is reported as bad, and worse than a month or a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

Employment in the dressmaking trades continues quiet; in the mantle trade it is still unsatisfactory; in the shirt and collar trade it is quiet; in the corset trade it has improved, but is worse than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,509 dressmakers at the end of January, show a decrease of 1.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of December, and of 5.3 per cent. on the number employed at the end of January, 1903; employment generally is reported as quiet. Court dressmakers employing 1,043 workpeople at the end of January show no change compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.5 per cent. on the number employed a year ago; employment is reported as quiet. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades, although slightly better than in December, continued dull. With mantle makers in retail firms a considerable decline took place, and slackness and short time are reported. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons and underclothing report employment as moderate, and better than in December. In the wholesale millinery trade employment is reported as fair; in retail firms employment has been moderate.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show an increased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, but a decline compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade is reported as fair in some firms, bad in others. In the costume and skirt trade employment generally is fairly good and much better than a month ago; returns from manufacturers employing 1,939 workpeople at the end of January show an increase of 8.1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of December, and of 2.0 per cent. on the number employed a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade continues unsatisfactory.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 8,730 workpeople in their factories at the end of January show an increase of 1.2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of December, but a decrease of 4.0 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 20 per cent. were employed

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

by firms reporting short time. Firms employing 34 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as fair, and firms employing 66 per cent. as quiet or bad.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,864 workpeople in their factories at the end of January, show an increase of 4.5 per cent. on the number employed at the end of December, but a decrease of 8.8 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 41 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time. Employment generally is reported as quiet.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been supplied by 16 Employers' Associations, by 30 Employers, by Trade Unions with about 54,000 members, and by Local Correspondents. These returns show that employment is moderate with printers and fairly good with bookbinders. As compared with a month ago there has been a general decline in letterpress printing, but comparatively little change is shown in lithographic printing and bookbinding. In London, however, printers show little change, and bookbinders a decline. As compared with a year ago, letterpress printers show an improvement in London, and a decline in Lancashire and Yorkshire; lithographic printers show a slight decline on the whole; bookbinders an improvement.

Employment in the Paper Trade is fairly good on the whole.

The following Table shows the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed as compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

| | United Kingdom. | | | London. | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------|---|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1904, included in the Returns. | Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of | | No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1904, included in the Returns. | Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of | | | |
| | | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | | Jan., 1903. | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. |
| Letterpress Printing | 38,579 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 16,715 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 4.9 |
| Lithographic Printing | 6,255 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 4.2 | 1,936 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 7.3 |
| Bookbinding | 6,959 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 3.7 | 3,790 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 4.0 |
| Total Printing and Bookbinding | 51,743 | 4.2 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 22,441 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 5.0 |
| Paper Manufacture | 2,366 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |

The percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the Printing and Bookbinding Trades in the principal districts were as follows:—

| Districts. | No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1904 included in the Returns. | Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Jan., 1904, as compared with a | |
|---------------------|--|---|-------------|-------------|--|-----------|
| | | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| | | | | | | |
| London | 22,441 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 5.0 | + 0.3 | - 0.9 |
| Northern Counties | 1,457 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 3.0 | + 1.7 | + 1.0 |
| Lancs. and Cheshire | 6,798 | 6.5 | 4.9 | 5.6 | + 1.6 | + 0.9 |
| Yorkshire | 4,140 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 3.3 | + 1.1 | + 1.3 |
| East Midlands | 1,955 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 3.7 | + 1.3 | - 0.4 |
| West Midlands | 2,555 | 4.7 | 3.1 | 4.6 | + 1.6 | + 0.1 |
| Eastern Counties | 369 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 2.7 | + 1.4 | + 1.1 |
| S. & S. W. Counties | 2,666 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.4 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 |
| Wales and Mon. | 805 | 3.5 | 1.6 | 2.2 | + 1.9 | + 1.3 |
| Scotland | 6,214 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 2.7 | + 1.1 | - 0.5 |
| Ireland | 2,493 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 7.4 | - 0.4 | - 1.2 |
| United Kingdom | 51,743 | 4.2 | 3.5 | 4.4 | + 0.7 | - 0.2 |

London.—Percentages for unemployed are shown in the first Table for the letterpress and lithographic printing and bookbinding trades respectively. Employment is fairly good with letterpress printers and bookbinders; dull with lithographic printers.

Northern Counties.—Employment with printers is quiet on the Tyne and Wear; fairly good on the Tees and at Carlisle. With bookbinders it is fairly good generally.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Manchester employment is bad with printers and fair with bookbinders. At Liverpool it is fair with letterpress printers and bookbinders; slack with lithographic printers. Elsewhere employment is fairly good generally.

Yorkshire.—With letterpress printers employment is bad at Leeds, quiet at Bradford, moderate at Sheffield and Hull. With lithographic printers it is moderate generally; with bookbinders fair.

East Midland Counties.—Employment with printers is slack at Derby and Nottingham; fairly good at Leicester and Northampton. Bookbinders are well employed.

West Midland Counties.—Employment is moderate with letterpress printers at Birmingham; slack at Wolverhampton and in the Potteries; fairly good at Walsall, West Bromwich and Coventry; good at Warwick, Stafford and Shrewsbury. Lithographic printers and bookbinders are fairly well employed.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment is fairly good generally. At Norwich and Cardiff, however, it is slack.

Scotland.—Employment in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee is fairly good on the whole. At Glasgow it is quiet with printers, good with bookbinders.

Ireland.—In Dublin employment is fairly good with letterpress printers and bookbinders; dull with lithographic printers. Employment is quiet at Belfast and Cork.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 5 Employers' Associations, from 36 Trade Unions with 33,774 members, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally is bad, about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of January was 8.5, as compared with 8.2 in December, and 6.7 in January, 1903.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers generally is quiet. It is reported as bad in the Tyne district, and at Leicester, Hull and Dublin; dull at Gloucester and Bristol; moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district, slack in London, Nottingham and Dundee; fair at Cork and Limerick; quiet at Sheffield, Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow and Edinburgh; and good at Aberdeen.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions with a membership of 13,228, show 1,468 (or 11.1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 9.8 per cent. at the end of December, and 8.1 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment is bad in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leicester, Bristol, Edinburgh, Dundee, and Dublin; slack at Manchester, in Sheffield and district, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; quiet in the Tyne and Wear district, Nottingham and Burnley, and in Glasgow and the West of Scotland; moderate in Liverpool and district; fair at Leeds, Aberdeen and Belfast; and fairly good in the East End of London.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers is bad, short time being general. It is worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,184 report 312 (or 6.0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of January, compared with 4.3 per cent. at the end of December, and 5.4 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment is bad at Burton-on-Trent, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and District, Edinburgh and Belfast; dull at Bristol and Glasgow; moderate at Cork; and fair at Newcastle, Jarrow, Hull, and Dublin.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment is bad, and is worse than a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers,

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—FURNISHING, &C., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; GLASS, POTTERY, &C., TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

wheelwrights, smiths, etc., with a membership of 7,740 report 567 (or 7.3 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 7.9 per cent. at the end of December, and 6.4 per cent. a year ago. It is bad at London, Liverpool, Leicester, Edinburgh, Dublin, Belfast and Cork; slack at Sheffield, Manchester and Glasgow; quiet at Leeds; moderate at Swindon, Gloucester, Birmingham, Nottingham, and Northampton; and fair at Hull and Plymouth.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment is better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. It is bad at Leeds and Hull; dull at Bristol; slack at Dublin; and quiet at Glasgow. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,788 report 151 (or 8.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 19.4 per cent. in December, and 3.8 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment in London is bad with stick makers and mounters, and continues bad with basket makers, slack with latrenders, and dull with packing case makers. At Edinburgh and Glasgow, lathsplitters report employment as good. Packing case makers report employment as fair at Bristol; moderate at Belfast, and quiet at Glasgow. Wood turners report employment as dull at Glasgow.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 11 Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions (in the Glass Trades) with 5,700 members, Local Correspondents, and one firm of Employers.

Employment in the Glass trades remains bad in the bottle branch, and is fair on the whole in the flint-glass trade. In the Pottery trades it is moderate. In the Brick and Tile trades employment is quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass-bottle makers remains bad generally, short time being worked. It is, however, good at Portobello, moderate at St. Helens, Barnsley and Liverpool, fair at Dublin, and good with medicine-bottle makers at Rotherham. Flint glass makers report employment as fair at Birmingham, slack at Glasgow and Edinburgh, moderate at Manchester, bad at Newcastle, and slightly improved in the Stourbridge district. Flint glass cutters report it as bad at Birmingham and Glasgow. Employment remains good with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed glass makers at Gateshead and glass blowers in London it remains bad.

Pottery Trade.—In the Staffordshire Potteries district employment in January, on the whole, was only moderate and a good deal of short time has been worked in certain branches. With workers in general earthenware employment improved during the last two weeks of the month, though with workers in sanitary ware it is still bad. Employment with china potters at Longton improved during the last fortnight of the month, and a number of the factories are working full time. Makers of encaustic and other decorated tiles are fairly well employed. In Swadlincote and district employment with earthenware workers is quiet, with much short time.

In Scotland employment is reported as fair, about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Tobacco pipe makers in Glasgow report employment as dull; tobacco pipe finishers as slack.

Brickmaking.—At Birmingham employment in the brick trade continues bad; at West Bromwich it is not quite so depressed. It is bad at Nottingham; fair at Glasgow; slack at Leicester; and dull in Suffolk and Essex.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 52.)

RETURNS have been received from 2 Employers' Associations, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show that the general state of employment remains very slack, and in some cases it

is reported as worse than both a month and a year ago, short time still being general in most districts. The percentage of Trade Union members shown to be unemployed at the end of January was 9.4, compared with 8.3 at the end of December, and 6.2 at the end of January, 1903.

Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—In these branches slackness is still reported as general, and but few of the operatives engaged therein are working full time. The only districts reporting differently are: Bolton, fairly good; Suffolk and Essex, fair; Dundee, fair with curriers, dull with other branches.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—In these branches there is no change to report, employment remaining generally bad, with some short time. In London employment is fair in brown saddles, but bad in harness, with about one-fifth of the Trade Union members on short time. In Walsall all branches report employment as bad, though the gig saddlers and female stitchers report a slight improvement. In Birmingham cycle saddle and military bandolier makers are the only branches fairly employed. Employment is also reported as fair in Aberdeen and Dublin. In the horse-collar trade employment still continues slack, but a slight improvement is reported in London, Birmingham, and Leeds.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London the pocket-book and leather case makers report employment as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. The portmanteau makers report employment as bad in London, as fair in Manchester.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Information as to the condition of employment in Agriculture in January was received from 221 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that work on the land was a good deal interrupted by rainy weather, particularly in the southern and western districts. Ploughing and manure-carting were difficult, owing to the wet condition of the land, and in several counties farmers had some difficulty in finding suitable work for their regular labourers. Many day labourers were in irregular employment during the month owing to bad weather, and also, to some extent, it is stated, to the curtailment of expenses by the farmers in consequence of losses last year.

Northern Counties.—Employment in Northumberland and Durham is reported to have been interrupted in some districts, the land being too wet to work on. In Cumberland and Westmorland, however, work was fairly regular. The supply of extra men was, generally speaking, equal to the demand, and men for permanent situations were rather more plentiful than for some time past. At the Candlemas hirings at Carlisle and Penrith many men were said to be seeking employment, but owing to the high wages demanded a large number did not get engaged, while others had to accept reduced wages. At the Cocker mouth hirings the supply of farm servants was more than equal to the demand, and wages had a slight downward tendency. In Lancashire employment in the fields was somewhat irregular, owing to wet weather, but a certain amount of ploughing was done. There was but little demand for casual labour, and the supply was sufficient. Owing to fairly favourable weather agricultural employment was regular in most parts of Yorkshire. A correspondent in the Patrington Union states that work has got well forward, ploughing being about finished. The supply of odd men was equal to the demand, and in some parts rather in excess, and some men of this class were not in constant employment. A scarcity of lads and young men is reported from several districts.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents in Cheshire and Derbyshire state that employment was fairly regular with farm labourers during January, and that ploughing and manure-spreading were well forward at the end of the month. Casual labourers were not in much demand. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire farm work was

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; SEAMEN; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

interrupted by wet weather, and some men lost time in consequence. Casual labourers found some employment in threshing and turnip pulling, but the supply of such labour was in excess of the demand in most districts. Employment for casual labourers in *Staffordshire* and *Shropshire* was at times interfered with by wet weather, and the sodden condition of the land prevented manure-carting in some districts. The supply of extra men was generally in excess of the demand. Good men for permanent situations are said to be difficult to obtain. In *Worcestershire* and *Warwickshire* the wet state of the land affected the employment of casual men considerably, as little manure-carting or ploughing could be done.

Agricultural labourers in *Northamptonshire* were fairly well employed at threshing and field draining when the weather permitted, but a good deal of carting and sowing still remained to be done at the end of the month. The supply of casual labour was generally sufficient. In *Oxfordshire* and *Buckinghamshire* threshing and ploughing were almost at a standstill. Employment for day labourers was generally of an intermittent character, and men of this class were not in much demand. Employment was greatly interfered with in *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire* by the unsettled weather, and difficulty was at times experienced in finding work for the regular labourers. There was little or no demand for casual men.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* show that work was somewhat interrupted during January, and draining and ploughing are in arrear. The supply of casual labour was scarcely sufficient in certain districts. In *Lincolnshire* employment was fairly regular. The supply of casual men was in excess of the demand in several districts. Except on a few rainy days agricultural labourers in *Norfolk* were fairly well employed in threshing, manure carting, ploughing, and tending stock. In some parts of the county, however, the land was too wet to do much work on. The supply of extra labour for threshing, &c., was about equal to the demand. Agricultural employment in *Suffolk* was hindered by wet weather, and ploughing was in arrear at the end of the month. Casual labourers found work in threshing, stock-tending and draining. The supply of such men was ample and many of them were not in full employment. Good men for permanent situations are scarce, however, especially shepherds and carters, and men for tending stock and milking. In *Essex* some time was lost by casual men through wet weather and the supply of this class of labour is said to have been in excess of the demand. Men willing to do Sunday work are reported to be difficult to obtain.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—According to reports from *Kent* agricultural employment was irregular during January, although hedging, wood-cutting and ploughing furnished a certain amount of work. Some casual men lost time towards the end of the month. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* farm work was much interfered with by rain. Casual labourers lost some time, but work under cover was generally found for the permanent men. There was little demand for extra labour, except for wood cutting in certain districts, and the supply has been quite sufficient. Agricultural work in *Hampshire* was greatly hindered by wet weather in the latter part of January, and several men lost time in consequence. There was practically no demand for casual labour and the supply was ample. A correspondent in the *Kingsclere* Union states that men for permanent situations are scarce, owing to a dislike to looking after cattle, especially on Sundays. In *Berkshire* the weather during January was unfavourable for outdoor work, and casual labourers were consequently but little required, except for threshing. Reports from *Wiltshire* state that ploughing, manure carting and threshing were hindered by rain and the wet state of the land, and farm work is in arrear. Extra labour has not been in demand and the supply has been sufficient. Similar reports come from *Dorsetshire*. Outdoor work in *Somersetshire* was much

interrupted, and many casual labourers lost time. The arrival of the lambing season kept stockmen busy. In *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire* farm work is in arrear, owing to rain and the sodden condition of the land, and casual labourers were irregularly employed during January. Difficulty is reported in finding men for permanent situations. Agricultural labourers in *Devon* and *Cornwall* have not been fully employed owing to the wet weather. Extra men have not been in much demand, and the supply has in most parts been sufficient.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JANUARY.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during January, 34,236 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, a decrease of 148 on the number shipped during January, 1903.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been either equal to or in excess of the demand at the ports included in the returns.

Of the total number of seamen shipped during the month, 5,797 (or 16.9 per cent.) were foreigners. The corresponding percentage for January, 1903, was 17.2.

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

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in January, 1904 and 1903, respectively.

| Principal Ports. | Number of Persons shipped in Jan., 1904.* | | | Total in Jan., 1903.* |
|---|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | In Sailing Vessels. | In Steam Vessels. | Total in Jan., 1904. | |
| ENGLAND AND WALES. | | | | |
| East Coast. | | | | |
| Tyne Ports | 14 | 2,845 | 2,859 | 2,702 |
| Sunderland | ... | 458 | 458 | 339 |
| Middlesbrough | ... | 259 | 259 | 201 |
| Hull | ... | 1,202 | 1,202 | 1,413 |
| Grimsby | ... | 53 | 53 | 96 |
| Bristol Channel. | | | | |
| Bristol | ... | 720 | 720 | 825 |
| Newport, Mon. | ... | 859 | 859 | 666 |
| Cardiff † | ... | 4,883 | 4,883 | 5,059 |
| Swansea | ... | 360 | 360 | 673 |
| Other Ports. | | | | |
| Liverpool | 108 | 11,184 | 11,292 | 10,601 |
| London | 49 | 6,136 | 6,185 | 6,879 |
| Southampton | ... | 1,768 | 1,768 | 1,986 |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | |
| Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ... | 24 | 451 | 475 | 461 |
| Glasgow | 24 | 2,233 | 2,257 | 2,321 |
| IRELAND. | | | | |
| Dublin | ... | 100 | 100 | 185 |
| Belfast | ... | 496 | 496 | 337 |
| Total, January, 1904 | 229 | 34,007 | 34,236 | ... |
| Ditto, January, 1903 | 456 | 33,988 | ... | 34,384 |

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. Information regarding other principal ports has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine and Local Correspondents of the Department. Employment during January was fair on the whole, though not quite so good as in December. It was, however, rather better than a year ago.

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended January 30th was 14,274, a decrease of 2.5 per cent. on the average for December, 1903, and an increase of 9.1 per cent. on the average for January, 1903.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING.

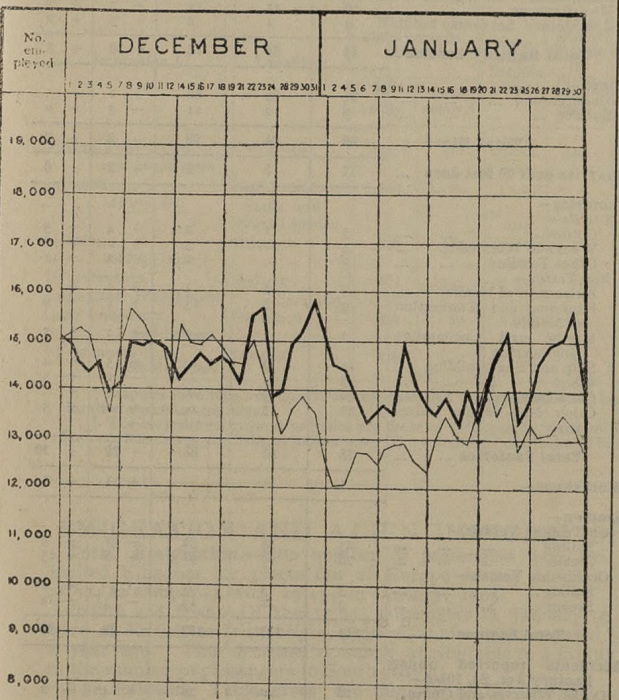
The average number employed in January during the seven years, 1897-1903, was 15,849.

(1) *Weekly Averages.*—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the five weeks ended January 30th:—

| Period. | Labourers employed in Docks | | | Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns. | Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns. |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------|---|---|
| | By Dock Companies or through Contractors. | By Ship-owners, &c. | Total. | | |
| Week ending Jan. 2nd | 6,451 | 2,630 | 9,081 | 5,860 | 14,941 |
| " " 9th | 5,387 | 2,149 | 7,536 | 6,010 | 13,546 |
| " " 16th | 5,112 | 2,718 | 7,830 | 6,099 | 13,929 |
| " " 23rd | 5,935 | 2,018 | 7,953 | 6,157 | 14,110 |
| " " 30th | 6,002 | 2,649 | 8,651 | 6,002 | 14,653 |
| Average for 5 weeks ended Jan. 30th | 5,817 | 2,433 | 8,250 | 6,024 | 14,274 |
| Average for Dec., 1903 | 6,188 | 2,179 | 8,367 | 6,301 | 14,668 |
| Average for Jan., 1903 | 5,359 | 2,057 | 7,416 | 5,663 | 13,079 |

(2) *Daily Fluctuations.*—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in January ranged from 13,313 on the 16th to 15,616 on the 29th. During January, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 12,029 on the 3rd to 14,288 on the 21st.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of December, 1903, and January, 1904. The corresponding curve for December, 1902, and January, 1903, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1903-4, and the thin curve to 1902-3.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for January, 1904, is based:—

| Day of Month. | Number employed. | Day of Month. | Number employed. | Day of Month. | Number employed. |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 | 15,118 | 12 | 14,106 | 22 | 15,237 |
| 2 | 14,522 | 13 | 13,785 | 23 | 13,357 |
| 4 | 14,400 | 14 | 13,569 | 25 | 13,845 |
| 5 | 13,843 | 15 | 13,857 | 26 | 14,508 |
| 6 | 13,368 | 16 | 13,313 | 27 | 14,942 |
| 7 | 13,371 | 18 | 14,018 | 28 | 15,046 |
| 8 | 13,702 | 19 | 13,346 | 29 | 15,616 |
| 9 | 13,590 | 20 | 13,991 | 30 | 13,966 |
| 11 | 14,943 | 21 | 14,709 | | |

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

Employment was fair with workers in mid-stream, and with coal porters, winchmen, stevedores, lumpers and lightermen. With corn porters and deal porters it was moderate. With fruit porters in Thames-street it was fair, the average daily number employed being 296, as compared with 320 in December, and 302 a year ago.

Of the 3,410 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during January, 1904, 63 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 59 per cent. in the previous month, and 55 per cent. in January, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—In the Tyne, Blyth and Wear district employment with coal porters and shippers was good. With trimmers and teamers a slight falling off was shown as compared with a month ago. With dock labourers it continued fair, with quayside labourers it was moderate. On the Tyne employment with watermen was bad, and with steam packet men it declined during the latter part of the month and is now slack. On the Wear employment with steam packet men was moderate. With dockers at Middlesbrough it was fair; at Hartlepool bad; with riverside labourers on the Tees it was moderate on export work, bad on import work.

Hull and Grimsby.—With Hull timber workers employment continued fair; with dock labourers and coal porters it was moderate; and with lightermen bad. At Goole employment was slack with all branches. At Grimsby it was fair with dockers and timber workers; slack with coal porters.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Employment with dock labourers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft was slack. It was good at Ipswich and Parkeston; dull at Harwich.

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment at Southampton continued moderate; at Plymouth it was fair.

Bristol Channel Ports.—At the principal ports in this district employment was fairly good on the whole.

Liverpool and Manchester.—At Liverpool employment with dock labourers was moderate; with flatmen and quay and railway carters it was dull. It was slack with dockers at Manchester.

The Clyde.—Employment with dock labourers at Glasgow continued fair.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment with dock labourers at Leith was rather quiet; with coal-porters an improvement was shown. With dock labourers at Dundee it was fair; at Aberdeen dull with a number idle.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin employment was bad; at Belfast fair; at Cork moderate.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and from Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; and also from Local Correspondents.

The fish landed during January shows an increase in quantity, but a decrease in value as compared with a year ago. The following Table gives the quantity and value of fish landed in January, 1904, and January, 1903, respectively:—

| | Quantity. | | Landing Value. | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Jan., 1904. | Jan., 1903. | Jan., 1904. | Jan., 1903. |
| Fish (other than Shell): | | | | |
| England and Wales | Cwts. 548,282 | Cwts. 540,523 | £ 435,808 | £ 463,104 |
| Scotland | 325,104 | 314,694 | 155,612 | 149,647 |
| Ireland | 24,016 | 13,164 | 11,037 | 9,945 |
| Total | 897,402 | 868,381 | 602,457 | 622,696 |
| Shell Fish | — | — | 24,854 | 22,126 |
| Total Value | — | — | 627,311 | 644,822 |

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that fair supplies of fish were landed during the month by the trawl and line boats.

Employment at Hull was good among fishermen, the same as a month ago and a year ago; in other branches it was fair. Employment in all branches was moderate at Grimsby, and bad at Yarmouth. At both ports it was worse than a month ago. Employment at Lowestoft was fair among fishermen, and moderate with fish dock labourers. At Yarmouth a considerable number of workpeople are unemployed.

Off Plymouth and the South-western coast fishing was much interfered with by stormy weather during the first two weeks of the month. With better weather fishing improved, and during the last week of the month good catches were landed by the trawlers, and fair ones by the hook and line boats. Employment with fish packers and carters was quiet.

Employment at Aberdeen was good in all branches. At Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Macduff it was fair among fishermen, and better than a month ago. Among fish dock labourers it was fair at Peterhead and bad at Fraserburgh. Employment among persons engaged in fish curing was moderate at Peterhead, bad at Fraserburgh, and fair at Macduff. Good catches were made by the line boats at Arbroath and Montrose, except during the last week of the month.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following Table shows the number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus, and arsenic poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act, during the undermentioned periods:—

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

| Disease and Industry. | CASES. | | DEATHS. | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Jan., 1904. | Jan., 1903. | Jan., 1904. | Jan., 1903. |
| Lead Poisoning— | | | | |
| Smelting of Metals | 1 | 3 | — | — |
| Brass Works | — | 1 | — | — |
| Sheet Lead and Lead Piping | — | 1 | — | — |
| Plumbing and Soldering | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| Printing | 5 | 3 | 1 | — |
| File Cutting | — | 2 | — | — |
| Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware | — | 2 | — | — |
| White Lead Works | 4 | 12 | — | 1 |
| Red and Yellow Lead Works | 1 | — | — | — |
| China and Earthenware* | — | — | — | — |
| Litho-transfer Works | — | — | — | — |
| Glass Cutting and Polishing | — | — | — | — |
| Enamelling of Iron Plates | — | 1 | — | — |
| Electrical Accumulator Works | — | 4 | — | — |
| Paint and Colour Works | 3 | 7 | — | — |
| Coach Making | 4 | — | — | — |
| Shipbuilding | — | 6 | — | — |
| Paint used in other Industries | 6 | 5 | — | — |
| Other Industries | — | — | — | — |
| Total Lead Poisoning† | 43 | 58 | 1 | 3 |
| Mercurial Poisoning— | | | | |
| Barometer and Thermometer making | — | — | — | — |
| Furriers' processes | — | 1 | — | — |
| Other Industries | — | — | — | — |
| Total Mercurial Poisoning | — | 1 | — | — |
| Phosphorus Poisoning | — | — | — | — |
| Arsenic Poisoning— | | | | |
| Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic | 1 | — | — | — |
| Other Industries | 1 | — | — | — |
| Total Arsenic Poisoning | 2 | — | — | — |
| Anthrax— | | | | |
| Wool Sorting | — | 3 | — | — |
| Wool Combing | — | 1 | — | — |
| Handling of Horsehair | — | — | — | — |
| Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) | 1 | — | — | — |
| Other Industries | — | — | — | — |
| Total Anthrax | 3 | 5 | — | 2 |

* Of the 15 cases in the china and earthenware industry in January, 1904, 11 affected females.
† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 13 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during January among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during January, 1903, was 11.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

The total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during January, 1904, was 366, as compared with 383 in the corresponding month of 1903, 377 in 1902, 430 in 1901, and 393 in 1900. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of January in these five years was thus 390, so that the total for the past month was below the average.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, and Factories, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 327, compared with 348 in January, 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,700,000.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between January, 1904, and a month ago and a year ago.

| Trade. | Number of Workpeople killed during | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1904, as compared with a | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| | Jan., 1904. | Dec., 1903. | Jan., 1903. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Railway Service— | | | | | |
| Brakesmen and Goods Guards | 3 | 3 | 2 | — | + 1 |
| Engine Drivers | 3 | — | 1 | + 3 | + 2 |
| Firemen | 1 | — | 3 | + 1 | - 2 |
| Guards (Passenger) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) | 6 | 8 | 15 | - 2 | - 9 |
| Porters | 5 | 3 | 6 | + 2 | - 1 |
| Shunters | 6 | 4 | 6 | + 2 | — |
| Miscellaneous | 16 | 15 | 11 | + 1 | + 5 |
| Contractors' Servants | 4 | 1 | 2 | + 3 | + 2 |
| Total Railway Service | 44 | 31 | 46 | + 10 | - 2 |
| Mines— | | | | | |
| Underground | 83 | 82 | 88 | + 1 | - 5 |
| Surface | 9 | 12 | 11 | - 3 | - 2 |
| Total Mines | 92 | 94 | 99 | - 2 | - 7 |
| Quarries over 20 feet deep | 11 | 8 | 5 | + 3 | + 6 |
| Factories— | | | | | |
| Textile— | | | | | |
| Cotton | 5 | 1 | 2 | + 4 | + 3 |
| Wool and Worsted | 3 | 1 | 5 | + 2 | - 2 |
| Other Textiles | 2 | — | 1 | + 2 | + 1 |
| Non Textile— | | | | | |
| Extraction of Metals | 5 | 2 | 4 | + 3 | + 1 |
| Founding and Conversion of Metals | 9 | 8 | 15 | + 1 | - 6 |
| Marine and Locomotive Engineering | 3 | 1 | 1 | + 2 | + 2 |
| Ship and Boat Building | 14 | 9 | 10 | + 5 | + 4 |
| Wood | 3 | 4 | — | - 1 | + 3 |
| Chemicals, &c. | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | + 2 |
| Other Non-Textile Industries | 27 | 25 | 24 | + 2 | + 3 |
| Total Factories | 73 | 53 | 63 | + 20 | + 10 |
| Workshops— | 1 | — | — | + 1 | + 1 |
| Seamen— | | | | | |
| On Trading Vessels— | | | | | |
| Sailing | 23 | 54 | 32 | - 31 | - 9 |
| Steam | 76 | 68 | 91 | + 8 | - 15 |
| On Fishing Vessels— | | | | | |
| Sailing | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | + 2 |
| Steam | 9 | 12 | 13 | - 3 | - 4 |
| Total Seamen | 111 | 137 | 137 | - 26 | - 26 |
| Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6— | | | | | |
| Docks, Wharves and Quays | 16 | 12 | 18 | + 4 | - 2 |
| Warehouses | 5 | — | 2 | + 5 | + 3 |
| Buildings to which Act applies | 8 | 15 | 9 | - 7 | - 1 |
| Laundries | 1 | 1 | — | — | + 1 |
| Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6 | 30 | 28 | 29 | + 2 | + 1 |
| Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 | 4 | 6 | 4 | - 2 | — |
| Grand Total | 366 | 360 | 383 | + 6 | - 17 |

H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.

Changes of District Inspectors and of Office Address.—Mr. K. H. Garvie took charge of the Wolverhampton district on 9th January, in succession to Mr. Ashworth (transferred). His office address is 77, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.
On the same date Mr. John Law took charge of the Halifax district, in succession to Mr. Garvie. The office address for this district has now been changed to Pest Office Chambers, Halifax.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Seventeen new disputes began in January, 1904, compared with 10 in December and 17 in January, 1903. By the 17 disputes 2,373 workpeople were directly and 4,477 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before January, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 10,175 work people involved in trade disputes during January 1904, compared with 7,304 in December, 1903, and 14,921 in January, 1903.

New Disputes in January, 1904.—In the following Table the new disputes in January are summarised by trades affected:—

| Trades. | No. of Disputes. | No. of Workpeople affected. | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Directly. | Indirectly. | Total. |
| Building | 1 | 30 | 4 | 34 |
| Mining | 3 | 1,108 | 4,128 | 5,236 |
| Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding | 7 | 732 | 295 | 1,027 |
| Other | 6 | 503 | 50 | 553 |
| Total, January, 1904 | 17 | 2,373 | 4,477 | 6,850 |
| Ditto, December, 1903 | 10 | 2,401 | 286 | 2,687 |
| Ditto, January, 1903 | 17 | 1,916 | 416 | 2,332 |

Causes.—Of the seventeen new disputes, one arose on a demand for increased wages, ten on objections to reduction, two on other wages questions, and four from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in January in the case of thirteen new disputes, affecting 6,130 workpeople, and twelve old disputes, affecting 4,013 workpeople.

Of these twenty-five new and old disputes, five, involving 389 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eleven, involving 8,830 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and nine, involving 924 persons, were compromised.

In the case of one other dispute, terminating during the month, and involving 275 workpeople, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in January of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 64,600 working days. In addition, 34,300 working days were lost in January, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in January of all disputes, new and old, was 98,900 working days, which compares with 125,000 in the previous month, and 268,000 in the corresponding month of 1903.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

| Occupation † | Locality. | Number of Workpeople Affected. | | Date when Dispute began | Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Alleged Cause or Object. † | Result. † |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | Directly. | Indirectly. † | | | | |
| Miners, Pony Drivers, and Surfacedmen | Castleford ... | 1,535 | 320 | 1903. 16 Oct. | 340 | For revision of price list on account of thinness of seam and thickness of dirt | Some of strikers replaced; others resumed work on employers' terms. |
| Pit Lads, Miners, &c. | Derby, Notts, Staffs. and Warwickshire | 900 | 4,100 | 1904. 1 Jan. | 4 | Objection to general reduction in wages of 5 per cent. under Lord James' Award | Work resumed at the reduction. |
| Miners, and Labourers | Blantyre ... | 748 | 187 | 1903. 23 Nov. | 48 | For advance of wages | Work resumed on old conditions. |
| Boilermakers, and Other Workpeople | Wolverhampton | 165 | 145 | 1904. 27 Jan. | 12 | Against proposed reduction in wages of 7½ per cent. | Work resumed on old terms. |
| Quay Labourers and Porters | Greenock ... | 350 | 50 | 5 Jan. | — | Dispute as to time when wages should be paid and as to rate of wages | No settlement reported. |
| Stickmakers and Mounters | London ... | 449 | — | 1903. 30 Nov. | 34 | To obtain a fixed minimum rate of wages ... | Work resumed on old conditions. |

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

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during January was 15,974 as compared with 19,434 in January, 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 15,974 passengers in January, 9,488 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 1,821 compared with a year ago. This decrease is mainly attributable to a falling off in the number of passengers to South Africa.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in January, 1904 and 1903:—

| Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.) | January, 1904. | January, 1903. |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| British Empire: | | |
| British North America | 1,087 | 1,064 |
| Australia and New Zealand | 1,003 | 1,015 |
| British South Africa | 2,485 | 4,281 |
| India (including Ceylon) | 410 | 528 |
| Other British Colonies and Possessions | 452 | 476 |
| Total, British Empire | 5,436 | 7,384 |
| Foreign Countries: | | |
| United States | 3,456 | 3,413 |
| Other Foreign Countries | 596 | 514 |
| Total, Foreign Countries | 4,052 | 3,927 |
| Grand Total | 9,488 | 11,309 |

Foreign.—The remainder of the 15,974 passengers in January, viz., 6,486, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,661 less than in January, 1903.

Alien Immigration.—During January, 7,237 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 2,538 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 1,296 as compared with January, 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,674 (exclusive of seamen), a decrease of 875, as compared with a year ago. The figures for January 1904 and 1903, are as follows:—

| | Jan., 1904. | Jan., 1903. |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries | 1,025 | 964 |
| Seamen | 3,674 | 4,489 |
| Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries | 2,538 | 3,834 |
| Gross Total | 7,237 | 9,285 |

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

Changes Reported in January.

The net effect of all the changes reported in January was a decrease of £2,306 per week, compared with a decrease of £18,515 per week in December, and a decrease of £152 per week in January 1903. The number of workpeople affected was 75,519, of whom 6,887 received advances amounting to £241 per week, and 68,632 sustained decreases amounting to £2,547 per week. The total number affected in December was 368,440, and in January, 1903, 23,371.

The important changes were decreases affecting 35,000 coal miners in Northumberland, 6,800 ironstone miners

and 5,500 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, 3,861 steel melters and gas producer men in England and Scotland, and 3,000 steel millmen and 3,500 iron puddlers and millmen in Scotland.

Two changes affecting 39,090 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and thirteen changes affecting 13,944 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 22,485 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, one of these changes affecting 164 workpeople being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

DETAILS OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY, 1904.

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which Change takes effect in 1904. | Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by | | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.) |
|---|--|--|--|-----------|---|
| | | | Increase. | Decrease. | |
| COAL MINING. | | | | | |
| 2 Increases—6,590 Workpeople. 1 Decrease—35,000 Workpeople. | | | | | |
| Northumberland | Underground workers and Banksmen (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen and Firemen) | 11 & 18 Jan. | 35,000 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages of Hewers 21½ per cent. above the standard of November, 1879. |
| Bristol District | Other Surface workers... | Jan. | 2,500 | | Decrease of 2 per cent., on standard rates, leaving wages 17 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879. |
| Bristol District | Hewers and other Underground and Surface Workers | Jan. | 2,500 | | Advance of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages of Hewers 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888† |
| Somerset (Radstock District) | Hewers and other Underground Workers, Banksmen and Screenmen | 1 Jan. | 4,000 | | Advance of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 32½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. |
| Somerset (Radstock District) | Enginemen and Stokers | 1 Jan. | 90 | | Advance of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 17½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. |
| IRON MINING AND QUARRYING. | | | | | |
| 1 Increase—164 Workpeople. 4 Decreases—8,588 Workpeople. | | | | | |
| Cleveland | Ironstone miners | 18 Jan. | 6,800 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 20½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. |
| Weardale | Limestone quarrymen | 18 Jan. | 1,500 | | Decrease of 3 per cent., on standard rates, leaving wages 20½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. |
| Dalton-in-Furness | Iron-ore miners | 11 Jan. | 218 | | Decrease of 2d. per day (5s. 3d. to 5s. 1d.) under sliding scale. |
| Stainton-in-Furness | Limestone quarrymen | 1 Jan. | 70 | | Decrease of 0.26d. per ton under sliding scale. |
| Ballauchulish | Slate Quarriers, Labourers, &c. | 11 Jan. | 164 | | Advance of from 1s. 4d. to 3s. per week. |
| PIG IRON MANUFACTURE. | | | | | |
| Increases—Nil. 10 Decreases—8,518 Workpeople. | | | | | |
| Cleveland and Durham | Blastfurnacemen | 2 Jan. | 5,500 | | Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard of 1879. |
| West Cumberland | Blastfurnacemen | 7 Jan. | 1,350 | | Decrease of 3½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 14½ per cent. above the standard of 1889. |
| Millom | Blastfurnacemen and other Workpeople | 3 Jan. | 70 | | Decrease of 3½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages of Furnacemen 14½ per cent., and of other workers 11½ per cent. above the standard. |
| Barrow-in-Furness | Blastfurnacemen | Jan. | 430 | | Decrease of 4 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 11½ per cent. above the standard of 1895. |
| Ulverston | Blastfurnacemen | 3 Jan. | 132 | | Decrease of 3½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 11½ per cent. above the standard. |
| Sheffield | Blastfurnacemen | 23 Jan. | 47 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates. |
| Sheffield (near) | Blastfurnacemen | 18 Jan. | 100 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates. |
| South Lancashire (2 firms) | Blastfurnacemen | Jan. | 220 | | Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard. |
| North Staffordshire | Blastfurnacemen | 30 Jan. | 600 | | Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 18 per cent. above the standard. |
| North Wales (1 firm) | Blastfurnacemen | 1 Jan. | 69 | | Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard. |
| IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. | | | | | |
| Increases—Nil. 14(Decreases—13,240) Workpeople. | | | | | |
| Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland | Steel Melters and Pitmen | 11 Jan. | 925 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland | Gas Producermen and Charge Wheelers | 11 Jan. | 555 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. |
| Eston | Steel Workers | 3 Jan. | 1,045 | | Decrease of 5½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 11½ per cent. above the standard. |
| Middlesbrough | Steel Workers | 4 Jan. | 740 | | Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 14 per cent. above the standard. |
| Cumberland and North Lancs. | Steel Melters and Pitmen | 11 Jan. | 94 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Cumberland and North Lancs. | Gas Producermen and Charge Wheelers | 11 Jan. | 57 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. |
| Barrow-in-Furness | Plate and Slabbing Millmen | 11 Jan. | 230 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Barrow-in-Furness | Steel Melters and Pitmen | 11 Jan. | 60 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Rotherham (near) | Gas Producermen and Charge Wheelers | 11 Jan. | 20 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. |
| Rotherham (near) | Steel Melters and Pitmen | 11 Jan. | 422 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Midlands | Gas Producermen and Charge Wheelers | 11 Jan. | 237 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. |
| Midlands | Bar Millmen | 11 Jan. | 324 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Midlands | Steel Melters | 11 Jan. | 95 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Midlands | Gas Producermen | 11 Jan. | 20 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. |
| Frodingham... | Millmen | 11 Jan. | 120 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Frodingham... | Mechanics, Enginemen, Cranemen, &c. | 11 Jan. | 420 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. |

Note.—Seamen.—At Cardiff, Barry and Penarth, the average monthly rates at which able seamen and firemen and trimmers were shipped during January, again showed a decline, but, except at Barry, they were still higher than those prevailing before the advance in September. See LABOUR GAZETTE, for October (p. 293).
* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.
† At certain collieries the percentage above standard after change was 35.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY, 1904—(continued).

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which Change takes effect in 1904. | Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by | | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.) |
|--|---|--|--|-----------|--|
| | | | Increase. | Decrease. | |
| IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE—(continued). | | | | | |
| Scotland | Steel Melters and Pitmen | 11 Jan. | 784 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. |
| Scotland | Gas Producermen and Charge Wheelers | 11 Jan. | 592 | | Decrease of 2½ per cent. |
| Scotland | Steel Millmen | 11 Jan. | 3,000 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. off wages above 27s. per week, and of 2½ per cent. off wages of 27s. and under per week. |
| Scotland | Ironworkers:— Puddlers Millmen | 1 Feb. | 3,500 | | Decrease of 3d. per ton (8s. 9d. to 8s. 6d.) under sliding scale, and of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale. |
| Increases—Nil. 2 Decreases—2,300 Workpeople. | | | | | |
| TEXTILE TRADES. | | | | | |
| Brechin | Linen Operatives | 21 Jan. | 2,200 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates. |
| Increases—51 Workpeople. Decreases—Nil. | | | | | |
| PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES. | | | | | |
| Keighley | Compositors | 1 Jan. | 25 | | Advance of 1s. per week (27s. to 28s.) |
| Keighley | Machinemen | 1 Jan. | 25 | | Advance of 2s. per week (28s. to 30s.) |
| Rhondda Valley | Compositors and Machinemen | 5 Mar. | 26 | | Advances of 2s. and 3s. per week to minimum weekly rate of 30s. |
| Increases—Nil. 2 Decreases—1,186 Workpeople. | | | | | |
| GLASS BOTTLE TRADE. | | | | | |
| Sunderland and Seaham Harbour | Glass Bottle Makers:— Dark Metal Workers | 1 Feb. | 280 | | Decrease of 3s. per week off standard weekly rates, and of 10 per cent. off "overwork" rates. Standard weekly wages after change—Finishers, 29s.; Blowers, 25s.; Gatherers, 22s. |
| Lancashire | Glass Bottle Makers | 1 Feb. | 726 | | Decrease of 3s. per week off standard weekly rates, and of 10 per cent. off "overwork" rates. Standard weekly wages after change—Finishers, 32s.; Blowers, 30s.; Gatherers, 25s. |
| Increases—Nil. 1 Decrease—80 Workpeople. | | | | | |
| OTHER TRADES. | | | | | |
| Wolverhampton, Dudley & District | Filesmiths | 1 Jan. | 80 | | Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates. |
| 1 Increase—82 Workpeople. Decreases—Nil. | | | | | |
| EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. | | | | | |
| Oxford | Sweepers | Jan. | 36 | | Advance of 2s. per week to 30 men and of 1s. to 6. |
| Oxford | Carters | Jan. | 23 | | Advance of 1s. per week in the maximum weekly rate (20s. to 21s.) |
| Oxford | Carters' Assistants | Jan. | 19 | | Advance of 2s. per week in maximum rate. |
| Oxford | Excavators, &c. | Jan. | 4 | | Advance of 1s. per week (20s. to 21s.) |

Changes in Hours of Labour—None.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1903.

INFORMATION has been received by the Department respecting the rates of wages agreed on by farm servants and employers at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland during the latter half of the year 1903.

The report states that owing to the losses sustained by farmers through the bad harvest they made efforts to secure reductions in wages. In the majority of cases, however, these efforts were unsuccessful. Farm servants remaining in their former situations got their old wages, and only those seeking new masters had to face any serious movement for lower wages.

It is stated that in several parts of Scotland men servants are slightly more plentiful than two or three years ago, due more to changes in farming brought about by bad seasons than to any actual increase in the number of men. This slight increase in the supply of servants might have enabled employers to secure a more general fall in wages, but for the fact that farm work had fallen into arrear in many districts on account of the very inclement weather in the autumn. If farm work had been in a forward state many farmers would have endeavoured to get through the winter months with fewer hands than usual. As it was, very little saving could be effected in this way, and in the main wages continued at their former level. This was notably the case in the southern counties, except in Wigton, where, in many instances, men had to accept reductions of from 10s. to 20s. for the half year. In Selkirk the tendency was upwards, and in Kinross there was a marked advance amounting, in some cases, to over 30s. for the half year.

In most parts of the counties of Fife, Perth, Forfar,

and Kincardine wages tended downwards. In Aberdeen and other Northern Counties there was also a downward movement, and in many instances reductions of from 10s. to 20s. for the half year were reported.

The wages of cattlemen and shepherds were well maintained. This also applies to the wages of female farm servants almost all over the country. In the great majority of districts female servants continue to be scarce, and in some districts the scarcity is very marked.

The wages of married ploughmen throughout Scotland, range generally from £35 to £40 a year with perquisites, such as a free house, garden, fuel, and certain allowances of oatmeal, milk and potatoes. In some cases they get less in cash and more in kind, while in others the wages range from £45 to £50, with free house but no other allowances. For unmarried ploughmen rates are generally from £12 to £17 per half-year, with board and lodging, or lodging and certain allowances of food and fuel. In some cases unmarried men are paid wholly in cash (from 16s. to 18s. per week), and find their own lodging and food. Young lads get from £6 to £11, byre women £7 to £12, and kitchen girls £6 to £9 per half-year with board and lodging.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Explosions in Coal Mines.

The Home Secretary has made an Order, dated 10th December, 1903, under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, amending the Order of December 20th, 1902 (see GAZETTE for January, 1903, p. 5), and also the Order of 24th April, 1903 (see GAZETTE for May, 1903, p. 127). By the new Order Ammonal is added to the list of permitted explosives; certain alterations are made in the definitions of Bobbinite, Fav'rsham Powder and Geloxite, and the use of a detonator for firing Bobbinite is by the new definition of that explosive expressly prohibited.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1903, No. 1067. (Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d.)

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for January.

The trade returns for January, 1904, show a decrease in the value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1903, of the Imports into the United Kingdom, of the Exports of British produce, and also of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in January, 1904, was £45,993,863, a decrease of £232,652 or 0.5 per cent., as compared with those in January, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £29,795,365, showing a net decrease of £1,175,989. The Exports of British produce alone show a decrease of £820,271, or 3.3 per cent., as compared with January, 1903, whilst there is a decrease of £355,718, or 5.9 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for January, 1904, as compared with the corresponding month of 1903 and 1902, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table with 6 columns: Category, Month ended 31st January (1902, 1903, 1904), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with 1903, 1902.

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of January, 1904, as compared with the corresponding period of 1903 and 1902, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table with 6 columns: Category, Month ended 31st January (1902, 1903, 1904), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with 1903, 1902.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of January, 1904, amounted to 2,979,361 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,670,965 tons, as against 2,884,108 tons entered and 3,714,425 tons cleared in the month of January, 1903. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during January, 1904, amounted to 2,660,776 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,593,313 tons, as against 2,521,817 tons entered, and 2,504,271 tons cleared in January, 1903.

* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods. † The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January 775 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 741 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 187 persons, of whom 95 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 320 to 552, and the number of servants applying rose from 240 to 401; the number permanently engaged rose from 50 to 72. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 21 to 36, and the number requiring such situations rose from 56 to 95; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 29, compared with 18 in December.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the seven Bureaux during January compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN JANUARY.

Summary by Bureaux. Table with 7 columns: No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily), and four columns for Jan. 1904, Jan. 1903, Jan. 1904, Jan. 1903.

Summary by Occupations. Table with 5 columns: Occupation, No. of Situations offered, No. of Workpeople engaged, and two columns for Jan. 1904, Jan. 1903.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended February 6th amounted to £8,050,438, an increase of £28,567 (or 0.4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,232,962, an increase of £27,630, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,817,476, an increase of £937.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during January numbered 364, being 15 more than in January, 1903, and in January, 1902, 12 more than in January, 1901, and 6 more than in January, 1900.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

Two new handbooks have been issued by the Emigrants' Information Office, one (price 6d. post free) on the Federated Malay States, —with a chapter on the Straits Settlements,— containing general information for intending settlers, and the other (price 1d. post free) on Newfoundland, containing information for intending emigrants. Both handbooks contain maps, and can be obtained of the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

AT seven Bureaux, which were in operation in 1903 and 1904, 3,121 fresh applications for work were registered during January, 1904, as compared with 2,846 a year ago. During January these Bureaux found work for 1,447 persons, 1,342 of whom were engaged by private employers. In January, 1903, work was found for 876 persons, 787 of whom were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of January, 1904, was 1,880, as compared with 2,124 a year ago.

Seven other Bureaux, not in operation a year ago, also furnished returns which are summarised in the Table below. Weekly returns have been received from the Fulham Municipal Labour Bureau, and these returns show that 166 fresh applications for work were registered during the four weeks ended 30th January, while employment was found through the Bureau for 37 persons.

(I.) Work done in January.

Table with 10 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Jan. 1904, Jan. 1903), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Jan. 1904, Jan. 1903), and No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities) for Jan. 1904, Jan. 1903.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during January.

Table with 4 columns: Category, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total.

* Engaged by Salvation Army. † Bureau was not in operation in January, 1904. ‡ This Bureau was opened on the 28th December, 1903, and the figures given in the Table for this Bureau are for the period 28th December, 1903, to 31st January, 1904.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.) THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in January was 376,013, corresponding to a rate of 219 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1904.

Compared with December the number of persons relieved has increased by 5,544, and the rate per 10,000 by 3. Increases are shown in twenty-seven districts, the rate of increase being greatest in West Ham (16 per 10,000), and in the Stockton and Tees district (13 per 10,000). Decreases are shown in three districts, and in the remaining five districts no change is indicated.

Compared with January, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 12,804, and the rate per 10,000 by 5. Increases are shown in twenty-four districts, the rate of increase being greatest in Leicester (49 per 10,000), North Staffordshire (23), East London (17), Bolton, Oldham, &c., and Nottingham (15 each). Decreases are shown in nine districts, the most marked falling off being in the Stockton and Tees district (45 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick district, and Galway (26 each). No change is indicated in two districts.

Table with 7 columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of January, 1904 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

* The rates for January, 1904, and December, 1903, are based upon the estimated population in 1904, and the rate for January, 1903, upon the estimated population in 1903. † Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. ‡ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING JANUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Trade Unions. Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ended 31st December, 1902. Part C. Appendix (M)—Trade Unions. Contains: (1) Abstract of Annual Returns of Registered Trade Unions in the United Kingdom for 1902, membership, income, expenditure funds at beginning and end of year, and year of establishment; (2) unions registered, dissolved or terminated during the year; (3) unions whose registry was cancelled after notice from the Registrar; (4) details of unions placed on the rota for prosecution in respect of failure to make the statutory annual returns within the specified time. [H.C. 77-II., pp. 40, price 4½d.]

"Options" and "Futures" in Food Stuffs. Reports from the Canadian Government and from His Majesty's Representatives Abroad on Legislative Measures respecting Gambling in "Option" and "Future" Contracts as regards Food Stuffs. Contains Reports from 17 countries which have not adopted such measures, and from 3 (Austria, Germany and Norway) in which enactments of that nature are in force, with selections from the laws. [Cd. 1756, pp. 52, price 5½d.]

Recruiting—Army and Militia. Annual Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting for the first nine months of 1903. Gives particulars as to occupations from which Recruits presented themselves; tables relating to employment of ex-soldiers in police, railway companies, Government departments, &c., &c. [Cd. 1778, pp. 34, price 3½d.]

Railways (Continuous Brakes). Return by Railway Companies of the United Kingdom to the Board of Trade for the six months ended 30th June, 1903. Tables showing progress of adoption of continuous brakes, cases in which they have failed to act, amount of rolling stock not fitted therewith, &c. [Cd. 1891, pp. 99, price 9½d.]

Alien Immigration. Index and Analysis to Minutes of Evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration. Vol. IV. [Cd. 1743, pp. 141, price 1s. 2d.]

Boiler Explosions. Report on the Working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, during the year ended 30th June, 1903. Abstract showing date, causes, casualties, &c., also comparative table of explosions and casualties since 1882-1883. [Cd. 1764, pp. 17, price 2½d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any bookseller.)

Mines and Quarries. Advance proof (subject to correction) of the Tables of Fatal Accidents and Deaths in and about the Mines and Quarries of the United Kingdom during 1903 (Home Office, pp. 9).

BRITISH COLONIES.

Tasmania.

An Act to amend the Act, 16 Victoria, No. 11, for compensating the Families of Persons killed by Accident. Assented to 28th November, 1903.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

German Empire.

Population Census of Berlin, 1900, Part I. (Berlin Statistical Office), pp. vi. + 81. Berlin: Kommissionsverlag von Leonhard Simion, 1903. Contains particulars as to ground properties and dwelling-houses in Berlin in 1900.

Badische Gewerbezeitung, Vol. xxxvi. for 1903. (Baden Department of Industry), pp. 434. Karlsruhe: G. Braunsche, Hofbuchdruckerei, 1903. Annual volume of the Journal of the Industrial Department of Baden.

Holland.

Statistics of Holland, New Series, No. xxxv. (Central Statistical Bureau), pp. xxx. + 155, price 1s. 3d. The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante, 1903. Statistics of wages and hours of labour on government works in 1902.

Denmark.

Statistical Year-Book for 1903. (Government Statistical Bureau), pp. xiii. + 204. Copenhagen: Thieles Bogtrykkeri, 1903. Includes statistics of population, trades, production, savings banks, labour disputes, pauperism, old age relief, &c.

Norway.

Statistical Year-Book for 1903. (Central Statistical Bureau), pp. 172, price 1s. 1½d. Christiania: H. Aschoug & Co., 1903. Includes statistics of population, industries, factories, mines, wages, pauperism, &c.

Sweden.

Registered Sick Funds in 1900 (Royal Department of Civil Affairs), pp. 273. Stockholm: K. L. Beckmanns Boktryckeri, 1903.

Statistics of Sweden (Swedish Board of Trade). (1) *Factories and Handicrafts in 1901*, pp. xxi. + 118. Stockholm: Ivar Hægströms Boktryckeri, 1903. (2) *Mining in 1902*, pp. xxxii. + 24. Stockholm: K. L. Beckmanns Boktryckeri.

Switzerland.

Movement of the Population in 1902. (Statistical Department of Ministry of Interior), pp. 32. Berne: Librairie A. Francke, 1903.

NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, New Zealand, Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Norway, Sweden, United States of America (Federal Government).

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JANUARY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in January was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 21; under the Friendly Societies Act, 49 (including 28 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 4; in all 77.

Among the new societies registered in January were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—3, viz., National Seamen's Boarding Masters Union of Great Britain, Bridge Hotel, Bute Street, Cardiff; Leeds Kirkgate Market Tenants' Association, 340, Kirkgate Market, Leeds; North of England Amalgamated Showman, Stall Holders and Amusement Caterers' Society, 6, Market Street, Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—*Co-operative Societies, mainly for Distribution.*—6, viz., United Workman's Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 12, Featherstone-street, London, E.; Rocester and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Hawthorn Cottage, Rocester, Staff.; Claverdon Co-op. Indus. and Prov. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Claverdon, Warwick; Pocklington and District Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Market-street, Pocklington, York; Stoke-under-Ham and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Castle-street, Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset; Jewish Co-op. and Indus. Alliance Soc., Ltd., 30, Linden-buildings, Brick-lane, London, E.; *Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—4, Dunster Collecting Depot, Ltd., Wootton Courtenay, Taunton; Llanfarian and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Pantgwyn Villa, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth; Agriculturalist Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Cold Harbour Farm, Berkhamsted; Swyddffynon and Dist. Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Swyddffynon, Ystradmenrig, Cardiganshire. *Miscellaneous Societies.*—Working Men's Clubs, 1; others, 3. **Scotland.**—*Miscellaneous Societies, 1.* **Ireland.**—*Co-operative Society for Production.*—Trader Newspaper Co-op., Ltd., 15, Crow-street, Dublin. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—4, viz., Garryduff Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Garryduff, co. Limerick; Kilmore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Drumcrow, Curlesmore, co. Cavan; Monagea Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Monagea, Newcastle West, co. Limerick; Kantoher Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kantoher, Ballagh, Charleville, co. Limerick. *Home Industries, 1.*

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—16, viz., Lightwood' Permanent Money Soc., Bearwood, Birmingham; Sherbourne Lodge Permanent Money Soc., Balsall Heath, Birmingham; United Ancient Order of Druids Guarantee Soc., Hull; Pelaw and District Working Men's Club and Institute, Felling, Co. Durham; Guildhall Working Men's Club and Institute, Folkestone; West Ardsley Working Men's Club and Institute, Wakefield; Eastmoor Working Men's Club, Wakefield; United Sick and Burial Tontine Soc., Chester; Miners' Loyal Endeavour Friendly Collecting Soc., Durham; Liverpool Crown Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Harrison's Hope Sick and Funeral Benefit Soc., Kirkstead, Lincoln; A. B. Markham's Pride Friendly Soc., Hucknall Huthwaite, Mansfield; Nechell's New Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Golden Lion Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Ansell Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Hasbury Female Benefit Soc., Birmingham; Winchcombe Pig Insurance Soc., Winchcombe, Glos. **Scotland.**—1, viz., Scottish General Collecting Soc., Glasgow. **Ireland.**—3, viz., Currane Agric. Bank, Currane, Achill Island; Achill Sound Agric. Bank, Achill Sound; Brasna Agric. Bank, Brasna Co.-op. Creamery, Brasna.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in January, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 3; under the Friendly Societies Act, 32 (including 20 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 23; in all 60.

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

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