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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

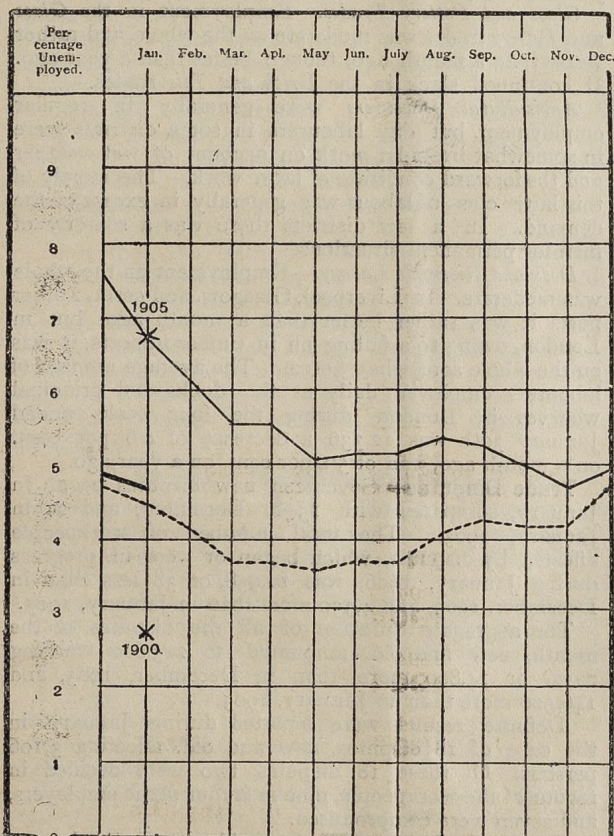


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JANUARY.

[Based on 8,488 returns, viz.: 3,901 from Employers or their Associations; 4,131 from Trade Unions; 409 from Local Correspondents; and 47 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in January showed on the whole some improvement as compared with December. There was a considerable improvement in the engineering and shipbuilding trades. In the iron and steel and cotton trades employment remained very good. There was a rise of wages during the month.

As compared with a year ago there was a general improvement in all the important industries with the exception of the building trades, in which employment still showed no change for the better.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with a total membership of 588,121 making returns, 27,614 (or 4.7 per cent.) were

unemployed at the end of January, 1906, as compared with 4.9 at the end of December, 1905, and 6.8 at the end of January, 1905.

Building.—Employment in the building trades remained dull in January, and showed little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry in January was good, and considerably better than a month and a year ago, when due allowance is made for Christmas and New Year holidays. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended January 20th, 1906, was 5.01, compared with 5.39 in December, 1905, and 4.92 in January, 1905. The time worked, however, was affected by holidays to the extent of 0.65 of a day in January, 1906, and 0.50 of a day in January, 1905. The average for January in the ten years 1896-1905 was 5.07 days per week.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good and, taking into account the effect of Christmas and New Year holidays, showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. At the mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended January 20th was 5.38, as compared with 5.88 a month ago, and 5.50 a year ago. Time lost through holidays in the four weeks ended January 20th amounted to 0.53 of a day per week, and to 0.45 of a day per week a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during January continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that 338 furnaces, employing about 24,000 workpeople, were in blast at the end of January, being 2 more than in December, 1905, and 32 more than in January, 1905. The number of furnaces now in blast is greater than in any month since November, 1900.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works continued good, remaining about the same as a month ago. It was much better than a year ago, the number employed at 197 works from which returns have been received having increased by 9.5 per cent. The returns show that the volume of employment (numbers employed multiplied by shifts worked) in the week ending January 27th, 1906, was 0.1 per cent. greater than during the week ending December 16th, 1905, and 13.3 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment during January continued very good and was much better than a year ago. At the end of January 419 mills were working, compared with 417 in December, and 403 at the end of January, 1905.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally was good, showing an improvement on the previous month, and being much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 3.2, as compared with 3.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1905, and 6.9 per cent. in January, 1905.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment improved considerably during January and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 7.9, as compared

with 10·2 per cent. at the end of December, and with 12·4 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 132,287 workpeople in the last week in January showed a decrease* of 3·8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid in the last full week in December,† and an increase of 5·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment showed a slight decline, but was good and better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 25,922 workpeople in the last week in January showed a decline of 4·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in December,† and an increase of 5·2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continued moderate and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 54,099 workpeople during the last week in January showed a decline of 1·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in December,† and an increase of 4·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago. Returns from firms employing 51,480 workpeople during the last full week in January showed a decrease of 5·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in December,† and an increase of 4·2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment in this industry was reported as good, and better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 22,308 workpeople in the last full week in January showed a decrease of 0·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the last full week in December,† and an increase of 4·5 per cent. compared with January, 1905.

Silk Trade.—Employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,975 workpeople showed an increase of 1·8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3·5 per cent. compared with a year ago, in the number of spinning and throwing spindles at work; the number of looms working in the last week of January showed an increase of 0·2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. Firms employing 18,253 workpeople in the last week in January showed a decrease of 0·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 7·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago. Returns from 477 firms, employing 65,588 workpeople, showed, as compared with a month ago, an increase of 1·3 per cent. in the numbers employed, and a decrease of 0·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago, the numbers employed have increased 4·5 and the wages paid 6·4 per cent.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment during January continued quiet on the whole. Compared with a year ago it was considerably better. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,577 had 5·7 per cent. unemployed* at the end of the month, as compared with 6·1 per cent. in December, and 10·8 per cent. in January, 1905.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed a further seasonal decline; it was better than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment was fair and generally better than a month ago and a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment on the whole was quiet; in the *Silk Hat* branch it was slightly better than a year ago; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was worse. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed in January in the *Silk Hat* trade was 14·4, compared with

* This decrease is largely accounted for by the new mills and sheds (not included in the comparison) having attracted labour from the firms making returns.

† The week before Christmas is one in which the wages bill is heavier than in an ordinary week.

15·8 in December, and 15·6 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 7·5, 7·9, and 4·3.

Papermaking Trade.—Employment in machine mills was good, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago. In the hand-made trade it was reported as fairly good.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment declined in these trades, but was better than in January, 1905. In the printing trades the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of January was 5·1, as compared with 4·8 at the end of December and 5·3 in January, 1905; in the bookbinding trades the percentages at the same periods were 4·1, 3·4, and 4·8 respectively.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued slack generally, but was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 7·3, compared with 7·1 at the end of December, 1905, and 9·5 at the end of January, 1905.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in the *Glass* and *Pottery* trades was moderate on the whole, and rather worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago. It continued slack in the *Brick and Tile* trades.

Agricultural Labourers were generally in regular employment, but day labourers in some districts were in somewhat irregular work on account of wet weather and the forward condition of farm work. The supply of this latter class of labour was generally in excess of the demand. In a few districts there was a scarcity of men for permanent situations.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment on the whole was moderate. In Liverpool, Glasgow, and certain other ports it was rather better than a month ago, but in London, owing to a falling off in timber imports, it was on the whole somewhat worse. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended January 30th was 12,336, a decrease of 4·6 per cent. on a month ago, and of 5·1 per cent. on a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Seventeen new disputes began in January, compared with 15 in December, and 21 in January, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes, which began or were in progress during January, 1906, was 10,958, or 38 less than in December, 1905, and 4,330 more than in January, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 213,600 working days, or 14,800 more than in December, 1905, and 146,500 more than in January, 1905.

Definite results were reported during January in the case of 18 disputes, new and old, affecting 3,106 persons. Of these 18 disputes, two were decided in favour of the workpeople, nine in favour of the employers, and seven were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Almost all the changes in wages reported in January were increases, and the number of persons affected was nearly 120,000. The net effect of the changes was an increase of wages of £3,570 a week, 115,700 workpeople having received advances amounting to £3,680, and only 2,000 having sustained decreases amounting to £110. The changes of the previous month affected 26,400 workpeople, the net result being an increase of £660 per week. During January, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was over 63,800, and the net result a decrease of over £1,600 per week.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting 38,650 coal miners in Northumberland, 6,800 ironstone miners in the Cleveland district, 20,000 ironworkers in the Midlands, and 28,650 workpeople employed in engineering and shipbuilding on the North-East Coast.

Four changes, affecting 58,600 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards or mediation; thirteen changes, affecting 13,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining changes, affecting 46,100 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In four cases, affecting 900 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN JANUARY.

ACCORDING to the Returns received from the Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, and from the Local Correspondents of the Department, the amount of distress due to unemployment in January was, on the whole, slightly greater than a month ago, but was much less than a year ago.

Exceptional distress was reported in 14 out of the 36 districts of London and neighbourhood, and in 31 out of a total of 92 Provincial towns from which Returns have been received.

The total number of workpeople who, up to the end of January, had made application to 37 Distress Committees in London and neighbourhood, and to 83 Committees in the rest of the United Kingdom, was 90,411, of which 42,093 were in London and neighbourhood, 41,800 in the rest of England and Wales, 5,517 in Scotland and 1,001 in Ireland. The number of cases investigated was 59,800, and the results are known in the case of 53,186. Of these, 9,703 were found to be ineligible for assistance under the Act.

Temporary work was provided for those registered in London by the Central Body and by the Local Authorities or Distress Committees of 26 areas in London and neighbourhood. In the rest of the United Kingdom employment-relief was provided in 54 towns either by the Distress Committees or the Local Authorities. In the case of many towns the Local Authorities and the Distress Committees acted together, the latter contributing a portion of the money expended.

Altogether, the Returns show that 19,862 persons received employment-relief during January, the total amount of wages earned by them being £28,524*, or an average of about 28s. 6d. per head for the month. The average number of days worked during the month, so far as the particulars are available, was 8·8. In January, 1905, the Returns showed that 41,424 persons received employment-relief, the average number of days worked being about 9.

Number of Unemployed Registered.

London and Neighbourhood.—The total number of persons registered up to the end of January by 37 Distress Committees in London and neighbourhood was 42,093. This figure includes 7,867 persons in East London, 11,283 in South London, 3,075 in North London, 6,057 in the Western districts, 2,143 in Central London, 4,154 in West Ham, 1,471 in Edmonton, 1,313 in Tottenham, and 1,233 in East Ham.

A large proportion of the persons registered were labourers, and of the skilled men, according to the information available, about half belonged to the building trades.

Rest of United Kingdom.—Of the 41,800 persons registered in the rest of England and Wales, 1,893 were resident in the Northern Counties, including 636 at Sunderland, and 515 at Newcastle. In Yorkshire 9,039 were registered, including 2,705 at Leeds, 2,009 at Sheffield, 1,700 at Bradford, and 1,001 at York. In Lancashire and Cheshire 9,491 were registered, including 2,322 at Liverpool, 1,429 at Manchester, and 1,255 at Salford. In the Midland Counties 9,415 were registered, including 2,457 at Bristol, 1,700 at Birmingham, 1,387 at Leicester, 678 at Northampton, 579 at Nottingham, and 565 at Derby. In the Eastern Counties 2,048 were registered, including 1,442 at Norwich. In the South-Eastern and Southern and South-Western Counties, 1,823 were registered at Brighton, 1,125 at Southampton, over 900 at Hastings, and 883 at Plymouth. In Wales and Monmouth, 1,677 were registered, including 750 at Cardiff, 541 at Swansea, and 376 at Newport. In Scotland, 5,517 were registered, including 1,938 at Glasgow, 1,752 at Edinburgh, and 770 at Aberdeen. In Ireland the figures include 902 persons at Belfast.

The figures relating to the number of persons registered in the different districts of the United Kingdom are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Boroughs or Urban Districts.	Number of Applicants Registered up to end of January.	District.	No. of Boroughs or Urban Districts.	Number of Applicants Registered up to end of January.
London	28	30,425	South Eastern Counties	6	3,617
Outer London ...	9	11,668	Southern and South Western Counties	6	4,620
Northern Counties	6	1,993	Wales and Monmouth	4	1,677
Yorkshire ...	10	9,039	Scotland ...	8	5,517
Lancashire ...	19	9,491	Ireland ...	3	1,001
and Cheshire	18	9,415	Total ...	120	90,411
Midland Counties	18	9,415			
Eastern Counties	3	2,048			

It should be understood that these figures relate to the total number of persons registered since the opening of the distress registers, and some of these are known to have obtained work since the date of their application, in addition to those who have received employment-relief. As in many cases, however, no effective provision has been made for recording those who may have obtained work, the figures given above probably overstate the number seeking employment-relief during January.

Employment-Relief.

The extent of the employment-relief given in the different districts is summarised in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Boroughs or Urban Districts.	Total No. of Men given Employment-Relief in January.	Total Amount of Wages earned in January by those given Employment-Relief.	Average Amount earned per head in January.
London Central Body ...	—	1,104	2,483*	£ s. d. 2 5 0
London Boroughs ...	17	3,720	4,915	1 6 5
Outer London ...	9	3,248	3,734	1 3 0
Northern Counties ...	4	919	1,282	1 7 11
Yorkshire ...	5	731	3,369	3 4 10
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	15	2,311	3,097	1 6 10
Midland Counties ...	11	1,844	3,410	1 17 0
Eastern Counties ...	2	888	1,164	1 6 3
South-Eastern Counties	4	2,259	2,365	1 0 11
Southern and South-Western Counties	5	1,677	2,137	1 5 6
Wales and Monmouth ...	4	680	683	1 0 1
Scotland ...	3	464	838	1 16 2
Ireland ...	1	17	47	2 15 2
Total ...	80	19,862	28,524	1 8 9

London and Neighbourhood.—Work for the unemployed was provided by the London Central Body at Chingford, Long Grove, Hollesley Bay, Osea Island, and in the London County Council Parks, and locally by 17 Metropolitan Borough Councils, and by 5 Local Authorities and 9 Distress Committees in districts bordering on London.

The total number of men given employment-relief during January was 8,072, including 1,104 men employed by the London Central Body.

The total amount of wages earned was £11,132*, or an average of 27s. 7d. per head. The amount earned by those employed by the London Central Body was £2,483, or nearly 45s. per man, including allowances to families of those at colonies and the cost of maintenance of the men in colony.

Rest of United Kingdom.—Work for the unemployed was provided in 54 towns, either by the Distress Committees or the Local Authorities, or by both. In the Northern Counties employment-relief was given in four towns, 919 being employed. In Yorkshire, 731 were given employment-relief, including 307 at Leeds and 209 at Sheffield. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment-relief was given in 15 towns, including Manchester (where 571 men were employed), Salford, Bolton, Stockport, and Liverpool. In the Midland Counties 1,844 were given employment-relief, including 596 at Bristol, 349 at Derby, 186 at Northampton, and 146 at Nottingham. In the Eastern Counties 609 were given employment-relief at Norwich. In the South-Eastern Counties employment-relief was given in four towns, including Brighton, where 1,417 men were employed. In the Southern and South-Western Counties 1,677 men were given employment-relief, including 653 at Plymouth and 393 at Southampton.

* In the case of men employed by the London Central Body at labour colonies, the amount includes allowances to families and cost of maintenance of the men.

In Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport and Swansea, 680 men in all were employed. In Scotland employment-relief was given at Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee, and in Ireland at Clonmel.

SHIPS BUILT IN 1905.

THE annual Return issued by *Lloyd's Register* shows that the tonnage of vessels launched in the United Kingdom in 1905 was the greatest on record, the aggregate for merchant and war vessels, viz., 1,752,969 tons, being more than 16,000 tons in excess of that for 1901, hitherto the record year.

During the year, exclusive of warships, 795 vessels of 1,623,168 tons gross were launched, an increase of 418,000 tons, or 34·7 per cent., on the figures for the previous year. The previous record tonnage for merchant vessels (1,524,739 tons) was reached in 1901, and the figures for 1905 show an excess of 98,429 tons, or 6·4 per cent., over that total.

The number of warships launched in 1905 was 28, of 129,801 tons displacement, including 46,250 tons built at Royal Dockyards. This aggregate shows an increase of 2,626 tons over that for 1904, but was 82,160 tons less than in 1901, when the tonnage of war vessels launched was the greatest on record.

The following Table shows the annual tonnage launched in the last fourteen years:—

Year.	Mercantile and other Vessels (not War Ships).		War Ships.
	Tons (Gross).	Tons (Displacement).	Tons (Displacement).
1892	1,109,950	151,157	151,157
1893	836,383	45,898	45,898
1894	1,046,508	32,971	32,971
1895	950,967	148,111	148,111
1896	1,159,751	165,958	165,958
1897	952,465	95,465	95,465
1898	1,367,570	191,555	191,555
1899	1,416,791	168,590	168,590
1900	1,442,471	68,364	68,364
1901	1,524,739	211,969	211,969
1902	1,427,558	94,140	94,140
1903	1,190,618	151,890	151,890
1904	1,205,162	127,175	127,175
1905	1,623,168	129,801	129,801

All the principal districts, with the exception of Liverpool and London, shared in the increase in 1905. The following Table shows the districts in which the greatest tonnage, including warships, was launched in 1905, with comparative figures for the previous year:—

District.	Total Tonnage, including war vessels launched in		Increase in 1905 over 1904.
	1905.	1904.	
Newcastle	341,424	248,175	93,249
Sunderland	305,169	229,135	76,034
Glasgow	299,015	255,455	43,560
Greenock	230,121	157,688	72,433
Belfast	142,541	74,251	68,290
Middlesbro' and Stockton	132,748	110,236	22,512
Hartlepool and Whitby	124,006	96,154	27,852

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1905.*

THE comparative freedom from trade disputes which has been noticed for some years past continued in 1905. While, however, the amount of industrial disturbance, as measured by the aggregate duration of the disputes, was less last year than in any of the ten years 1893-1902 it was considerably more than in 1904 and somewhat more than in 1903.

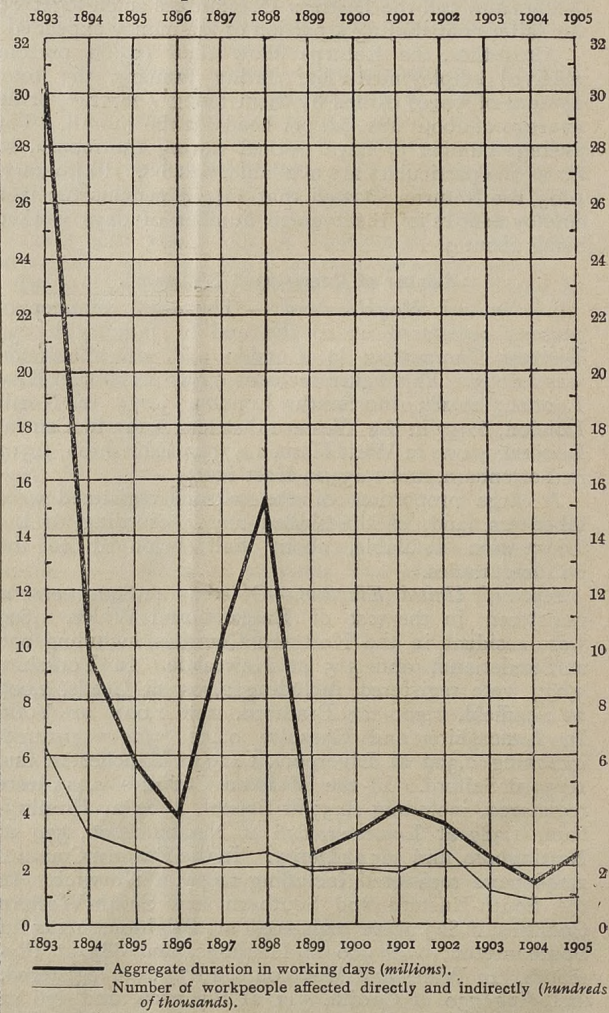
The number of disputes recorded as commencing in 1905 was 337, affecting 92,768 workpeople, while the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during the year was 2,446,271 working days. The number of workpeople involved was less than one per cent. of the industrial population, and this percentage would be still further reduced if agricultural labourers and seamen were included, as few strikes and lock-outs occur among these workpeople. Spread over the same industrial population, the amount of time lost through industrial disputes was only about one-quarter of a working day per head in the year.

* The figures for 1905 are preliminary only, and subject to revision in the Annual Report.

A comparison of 1905 with previous years is made in the following Table:—

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	No. of Workpeople affected by Disputes beginning in each year.			Aggregate duration in working days of all Disputes in each year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1893	615	594,149	40,152	634,301	30,467,765
1894	329	257,314	67,934	325,248	9,529,010
1895	745	207,239	53,884	261,123	5,724,690
1896	926	147,950	50,240	198,190	3,745,368
1897	864	167,453	62,814	230,267	10,345,523
1898	711	200,769	53,138	253,907	15,289,478
1899	719	138,058	44,159	182,217	2,116,416
1900	648	135,145	53,393	188,538	3,152,694
1901	642	111,437	68,109	179,546	4,142,287
1902	442	116,824	139,843	256,667	3,479,255
1903	387	93,515	23,386	116,901	2,338,668
1904	354	56,060	30,828	86,888	1,454,220
1905	337	66,781	25,987	92,768	2,446,271

It will be seen from the Table that there were considerably fewer disputes during the period 1899-1905 than in 1893-1898. The latter period included the following important disputes:—the coal miners' in the Federated districts (1893), the Scottish coal miners' (1894), the engineers' (1897), and the Welsh coal miners' (1898). It will be noticed that the total number of workpeople affected by disputes in 1905, though rather higher than in 1904, was the second lowest recorded. The aggregate duration in 1905, however, was not far short of the average for the six years 1899-1904. In the Chart below the thick curve shows the decline in the aggregate duration of disputes, and the thin curve the fall in the number of workpeople affected:—



Details for 1905.

Industries Affected.—The coal mining industry was in 1905 responsible for the greatest amount of industrial disturbance, nearly one-quarter of the number of disputes, about three-sevenths of the total number of workpeople affected, and nearly one-half of the aggregate duration being accounted for by this industry. Although the

number of workpeople affected in 1905 by disputes in this industry was less than in the previous year, the aggregate duration in 1905 was very nearly double that of 1904. Next in importance come the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, with 63 disputes, affecting 12,540 workpeople, and with an aggregate duration of 466,997 working days, or more than double the aggregate duration in 1904. The increase in the aggregate duration in these industries is largely accounted for by disputes affecting steelworkers at Middlesbrough, ship repairers at Cardiff, and patternmakers on the Clyde. As compared with 1904, the building trades show a decrease as regards workpeople involved, but an increase in the aggregate duration. In the textile trades 65 disputes occurred involving 15,822 workpeople, but the aggregate duration of all disputes in this industry only amounted to 126,227 working days. The number of disputes in the clothing trades showed little change compared with the previous year, but the number of workpeople affected and the aggregate duration were both greater than those recorded for 1904. This increase is due to the strike of makers of army boots in Northamptonshire. The remaining industries accounted for 15 per cent. of the total workpeople involved, and about 10 per cent. of the aggregate duration of all the disputes of the year. The following Table classifies the disputes of 1905 by industries affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1905.	Number of Workpeople affected.			Aggregate duration in working days of all Disputes in 1905.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
Building	28	5,978	600	6,578	420,093
Coal Mining	82	30,095	10,320	40,415	1,104,393
Other Mining & Quarrying	20	3,566	313	3,879	120,951
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	63	7,445	5,295	12,740	466,997
Textile	65	10,233	5,589	15,822	126,227
Clothing	28	2,972	550	3,522	71,219
Transport	11	2,044	...	2,044	68,333
Miscellaneous and Local Authorities	40	4,048	3,320	7,368	68,058
Total	337	66,781	25,987	92,768	2,446,271

Causes of Disputes.—As usual, questions of remuneration were the most frequent causes of disputes. Of the 337 disputes recorded, 223, involving 57 per cent. of the total number of workpeople directly affected by all the disputes of the year were attributable to this. Of the 38,260 workpeople directly affected by wages disputes, 39 per cent. were seeking an advance in wages, while 27 per cent. were resisting proposed reductions. These percentages show a remarkable change from those of the previous year when only 15 per cent. of the workpeople engaged in wages disputes were seeking advances, while 41 per cent. were resisting reductions. Questions of the employment of particular classes or persons accounted for 42 disputes, directly affecting 6,214 workpeople, and there were 35 disputes, directly involving 5,445 workpeople, on details of working arrangements. The number of workpeople involved in disputes arising out of refusals to work with non-unionists, and similar questions, was only 9,277, or little more than half the number recorded in the previous year.

The following Table classifies the disputes of 1905 according to what appeared to be the principal cause of each dispute:—

Principal Cause.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Wages:—				
For increase	86	14,352	7,527	21,879
Against decrease	60	10,489	1,622	12,111
Other	77	13,419	8,113	21,532
Total	223	38,260	17,262	55,522
Hours of Labour	14	3,145	2,882	6,027
Employment of particular classes or persons	42	6,214	3,312	9,526
Working Arrangements	35	5,445	2,451	7,896
Trade Unionism	19	9,277	80	9,357
Other Causes	4	4,440	...	4,440
Grand Total	337	66,781	25,987	92,768

Results of Disputes.—As regards the results of disputes, it is found that 66 disputes, directly affecting 16,045 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 150 disputes, directly affecting 21,484 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 92 disputes, directly affecting 21,735 workpeople, were compromised. Taking the percentages based on the number of workpeople directly affected, the balance of success on the whole appears to have been with the employers, and if, in addition, disputes between classes of workpeople (e.g., unionists and non-unionists) were excluded, and the calculations confined to disputes solely between employers and employed, the proportion of successful workpeople would be still lower. The results of the disputes of 1905 are set out in the following Table:—

Results.	Disputes.		Workpeople directly affected.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
In favour of Workpeople	66	19·6	16,045	24·0
In favour of Employers	150	44·5	21,484	32·2
Compromised	92	27·3	21,735	32·5
Indefinite or Unsettled	29	8·6	7,517	11·3
Total	337	100·0	66,781	100·0

Methods of Settlement.—As might be expected, most of the disputes were settled by direct negotiation between the parties concerned, or their representatives. Of the 337 disputes recorded, 200, involving 63,595 workpeople, were settled in this way. In 46 disputes, involving 11,555 workpeople, work was resumed without negotiations, and in 43 disputes, involving 2,411 workpeople, the employers were successful in replacing the workpeople. The number of disputes settled by conciliation or arbitration was 22, in which 8,377 workpeople were involved. In 21 cases, involving 5,074 workpeople, the disputes were reported as unsettled at the time of going to press.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN 1905.

The general level of prices in 1905, as measured by the Board of Trade Index Number,* showed a decline of rather more than 1 per cent. as compared with each of the three preceding years.

As compared with 1900, a decline of 6·6 per cent. is shown, but in this latter year the general level of prices was higher than at any time since 1891, owing chiefly to the great rise in the price of coal and iron.

The Table below gives the index number representing the percentage rise or fall in wholesale prices, during the last 35 years, each year of the period being compared with 1871, which is taken as the base year. The figure for 1905 is, however, subject to revision on the issue of the Annual Statement of Trade for that year.

1871=100.			
Year.	Index Number.	Year.	Index Number.
1871	100·0	1889	80·8
1872	110·6	1890	82·8
1873	118·8	1891	84·2
1874	113·6	1892	80·1
1875	107·8	1893	78·7
1876	104·2	1894	75·1
1877	105·3	1895	72·2
1878	99·3	1896	69·8
1879	94·9	1897	71·3
1880	97·4	1898	73·6
1881	95·7	1899	74·5
1882	97·3	1900	83·2
1883	96·5	1901	79·2
1884	88·5	1902	78·8
1885	83·0	1903	78·6
1886	78·5	1904	78·7
1887	76·7	1905	77·7
1888	79·3		

The most noticeable feature of the year was the marked decline in the index number for the group of raw materials of textiles due to the great fall (15·3 per cent.) in the price of cotton. There was also a decline amounting to 5½ per cent. in the price of flax, but on the other hand the price of wool and of jute continued to

* For the method of construction of this index number and the prices of the 45 articles composing it, see 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), and LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1904, and February, 1905.

advance. The price of imported wool in 1905 was 23·7 per cent., and of British wool exported, 97·8 per cent. above the price in 1902. In 1902 the price of exported wool was the lowest recorded and that of imported wool was lower than in any year except 1901. The price of jute has also continued to advance since 1902 and in 1904 was 33·3 per cent. above the price in the former year.

The following Table shows in detail the index numbers of prices of the 45 articles for 1905 and the two preceding years, together with the mean of the index numbers for the periods 1871-1880, 1881-1890, 1891-1900, and 1901-1905, the price in 1871 being taken as 100:—

	Index Numbers. 1871=100.					Increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with 1904.		
	Mean for 1871-1880.	Mean for 1881-1890.	Mean for 1891-1900.	Mean for 1901-1905.	1903.			
I.—Coal and Metals:								
Coal	128·0	81·6	110·7	122·5	120·3	114·4	108·7	- 5·7
Pig Iron	122·3	81·6	90·1	103·0	104·2	96·5	104·0	+ 7·5
Copper	102·8	82·5	75·4	100·4	97·3	99·0	98·9	+ 0·1
Crude Zinc	100·4	81·3	91·6	94·9	94·9	101·6	112·6	+ 11·0
Block Tin	74·8	77·1	66·6	99·3	98·9	98·9	111·7	+ 12·8
Lead	95·9	60·5	56·1	56·4	53·4	54·4	61·7	+ 7·3
	121·6	89·1	89·2	112·5	111·2	106·1	108·6	- 0·5
II.—Textiles (Raw Materials):								
Cotton	94·6	77·8	62·9	77·8	79·6	88·9	75·3	- 13·6
Wool, British	112·9	69·7	54·0	49·9	43·9	61·5	71·4	+ 9·9
Wool, Foreign	107·8	83·4	65·6	63·0	63·0	66·4	70·9	+ 4·5
Jute	76·6	60·6	58·9	65·2	62·4	63·4	78·9	+ 15·5
Flax	105·4	81·6	75·3	94·1	89·1	97·4	92·0	+ 5·4
Silk	86·7	67·7	59·3	58·4	61·6	61·2	60·8	- 0·4
	97·4	76·4	62·7	70·8	71·3	78·7	73·5	- 5·2
III.—Food and Drink:								
(A) Corn, &c.—								
British Wheat	90·1	63·1	49·8	49·3	47·2	50·0	52·5	+ 2·5
British Barley	104·9	77·0	69·2	66·5	62·9	61·8	67·3	+ 5·5
British Oats	100·4	77·0	69·5	71·1	68·2	64·9	69·2	+ 4·3
Imported Wheat	97·6	72·7	58·4	58·0	57·4	59·2	61·1	+ 1·9
Imported Barley	105·0	79·8	68·8	69·7	68·6	66·6	70·9	+ 4·3
Imported Oats	101·6	79·9	72·3	73·4	68·6	69·2	72·1	+ 2·9
Maize	89·2	72·3	58·8	65·3	64·8	62·2	68·1	+ 5·9
Hops	115·4	102·8	101·6	113·9	124·2	123·5	103·4	- 41·1
Rice	97·3	78·4	80·0	62·2	72·8	65·5	67·8	+ 2·3
Potatoes	113·9	92·2	77·3	66·2	67·0	70·1	63·5	- 12·6
	102·5	80·0	67·0	64·6	63·8	66·7	64·8	- 1·9
(B) Meat, Fish and Dairy Produce—								
Beef	108·8	97·5	85·4	86·8	86·8	85·3	85·3	...
Mutton	111·1	106·3	95·1	98·3	98·6	100·0	100·0	...
Bacon	100·1	90·8	81·0	100·1	107·4	87·4	80·4	- 4·0
Milk	119·1	102·2	89·9	86·1	87·4	84·4	80·4	- 4·0
Eggs	104·7	90·8	85·1	89·1	88·0	89·1	95·6	+ 6·5
Herrings	109·5	94·7	89·3	89·1	89·7	76·9	88·0	+ 11·1
	109·6	99·3	88·3	90·7	92·1	89·0	88·4	- 0·6
(C) Tea, &c., Tobacco, Wine and Sugar—								
Sugar	87·6	58·0	39·9	33·5	29·7	33·9	41·1	+ 7·2
Tea	97·0	70·9	57·9	45·1	46·9	44·0	43·9	- 0·1
Coffee	139·3	119·3	140·7	95·4	87·0	100·0	89·8	- 10·2
Cocoa	140·2	144·5	135·1	124·1	122·8	122·9	114·3	- 8·6
Rum	97·8	85·2	70·8	60·5	53·7	52·2	60·0	+ 7·8
Wine	95·7	91·6	89·6	79·8	82·4	79·8	82·4	+ 2·6
Tobacco	96·9	92·1	91·0	87·2	88·9	82·1	79·7	- 2·4
	93·6	70·8	58·0	48·7	47·0	48·2	52·1	+ 3·9
	104·9	88·3	76·3	75·6	78·7	75·5	74·8	- 0·7
IV.—Miscellaneous:								
Cotton Seed	94·7	77·3	62·6	65·3	63·9	62·3	60·2	- 2·1
Linseed	95·0	73·7	67·3	73·8	68·9	57·7	65·5	+ 7·8
Olive Oil	95·5	79·8	73·5	72·9	70·5	69·8	75·4	+ 5·6
Palm Oil	95·8	74·6	63·6	66·2	66·4	66·1	66·3	+ 0·2
Paraffine	95·5	52·6	36·2	36·4	33·0	37·9	59·2	+ 1·3
Petroleum	72·7	42·0	27·1	27·6	27·1	28·5	26·5	- 1·8
Bricks	99·5	84·9	97·3	92·2	90·9	90·9	88·5	- 2·4
Hewn Fir	96·7	73·4	58·9	56·3	57·1	53·9	55·1	+ 1·2
Caoutchouc	101·2	119·0	113·5	136·3	132·6	148·4	163·0	+ 14·6
Hides	107·7	97·1	77·3	88·2	89·6	88·3	93·3	+ 5·0
	97·7	78·9	66·6	68·8	68·4	66·0	68·7	+ 2·7
General Index No. for 45 Articles	105·2	85·9	76·3	78·6	78·8	78·7	77·7	- 1·0

The only group for which the index number shows an increase as compared with 1904 is that of miscellaneous raw materials, which advanced from 66·0 to 68·7, an increase of 4·1 per cent. The index numbers for coal and metals, raw materials of textiles, and articles of food and drink show decreases of 0·5, 6·6, and 0·9 per cent. respectively.

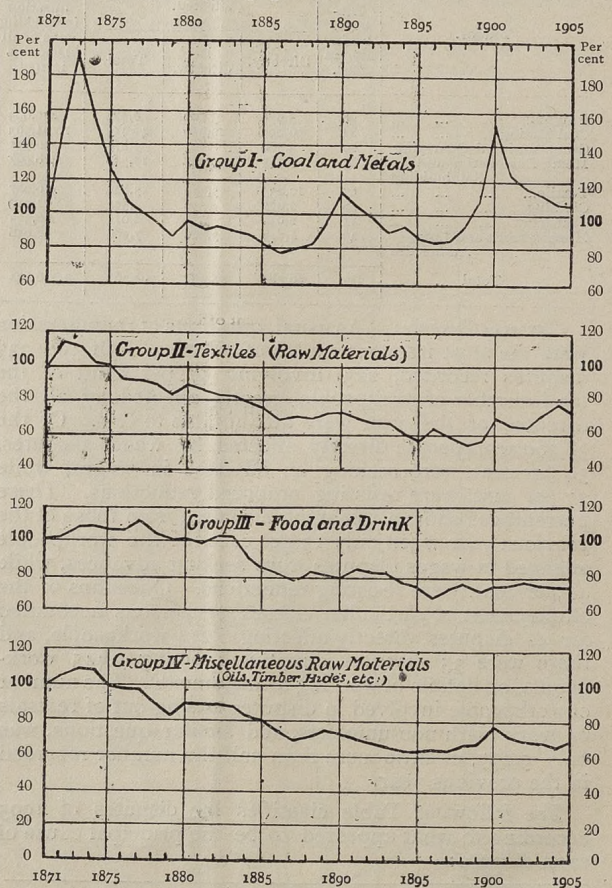
The slight decline in the index number for coal and metals was due entirely to the decreased price of coal, which averaged about 5 per cent. below the price for the

previous year. The prices of tin, zinc, lead and iron showed considerable increases amounting to 12·9, 10·8, 13·4 and 7·8 per cent. respectively. The price of copper also advanced considerably towards the end of the year, but its average price showed but little change as compared with 1904.

In the group of articles of food and drink there was a general slight rise in the prices of grain, which was most noticeable as regards maize and British barley, which advanced 9·5 and 8·9 per cent. respectively. This advance was more than counter-balanced by the decline in the price of potatoes (16·6 per cent.) and of hops (28·6 per cent.). Other articles showing a considerable change in price as compared with 1904 were sugar (21·2 per cent. increase), rum (14·9 per cent. increase), herrings (14·4 per cent. increase), coffee (10·2 per cent. decrease). The price of sugar, however, fell considerably towards the end of the year, and for the month of December averaged only 11s. 11d. per cwt., or 5s. 2d. per cwt. less than the price for January.

The rise in the index number for the group of miscellaneous raw materials was due to advances in the price of linseed (13·5 per cent.), caoutchouc (9·8 per cent.), hides (5·7 per cent.), and timber (2·2 per cent.). On the other hand petroleum declined 6·4 per cent., cotton seed 3·4 per cent., and bricks 2·6 per cent.

The following Chart shows the fluctuations in the index numbers representing the four groups of articles over the period 1871-1905.



CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

CO-OPERATIVE Credit Societies in the United Kingdom—of which the larger number are in Ireland—are combinations of farmers, labourers, and artisans, for the purpose of raising capital to be advanced on loan at a reasonable rate of interest to members requiring the temporary use of capital for the purposes of reproductive undertakings.

With few exceptions, the societies are established in agricultural districts, and are organised upon what is known as the "Raiffeisen" system, the main features of

LABOUR IN NEW YORK STATE.

THE New York State Department of Labour in its fourth Annual Report, which has recently been received, gives statistics showing that in that State employment in 1904 was less favourable than in 1903. A continuous record of the fluctuations in the labour market is maintained by the Bureau on the basis of monthly reports covering 100,000 organised workers, or one fourth of all the members of Trade Unions in the State. These reports show a mean percentage of 16·9 idle in 1904, compared with 17·5 in 1903 and 14·8 in 1902. It is, however, to be noted that idleness from all causes is here included and the high figure for 1903 was due to extensive disputes in the building industry of New York County. The report states that "where a trade union pays an unemployed benefit, as is commonly done by the English unions, the financial officers of the Union are obliged to determine whether the want of employment is actually due to industrial causes (inability of competent and willing wage earners to find work), or to the indisposition, carelessness, or disability of the workman. Such a test is made in very few workmen's organisations in this country, and the only practicable method of securing statistics of unemployment is to call for the number of wage earners idle for any reason whatsoever, with a statement as to the apparent cause of idleness, and from these facts deduce the number idle by reason of slack work." For certain months of 1904 the reported causes of idleness give the following results:—

Cause.	Percentage of Total Membership idle.			
	March.	June.	September.	December.
Lack of Work	11·3	9·8	5·7	8·0
Lack of Material	0·3	0·2	0·1	0·0
Unfavourable Weather	6·5	0·3	0·0	6·4
Labour Disputes	6·6	1·7	4·8	2·9
Disability	1·6	1·2	0·9	1·4
Other Reasons	0·8	0·5	0·5	0·9
All Causes	27·1	13·7	12·0	19·6

For two quarters of the year, viz., January to March and July to September, more comprehensive data, setting forth the duration of employment, are available for the eight years 1897-1904, the number of workpeople reported on ranging from 142,000 in 1897 to nearly 386,000 in 1904. Taking the mean of the two quarters named, which contain a winter and summer season and may be taken to represent fairly the whole year, it is found that in 1904, 8·5 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were totally unemployed during the whole of the quarter, and that the average number of days worked by the remainder in the six months was 134·5 out of, say, 154 working days. By combining these results it is found that the time actually worked was 79·9 per cent. of that possible, if all the members had worked full time. These figures and the corresponding figures for previous years are shown in the following Table:—

Unemployment from all Causes in First and Third Quarters of the Year.

Year.	Mean Percentage of Members idle for whole quarter.	Average Number of Days worked by remainder in 6 months.	Percentage of time lost (assuming 154 days possible).	Percentage which days worked formed of possible aggregate if both idle and employed worked 154 days.
1897	15·65	121·9	18·9	69·7
1898	7·90	127·1	17·1	76·0
1899	7·70	135·7	11·9	82·0
1900	7·75	132·4	14·7	79·5
1901	7·70	136·5	11·3	83·8
1902	4·05	138·5	10·1	86·6
1903	4·45	138·4	10·1	86·0
1904	8·50	144·5	12·7	79·9

The last column shows that the ratio of the actual to the possible working time in 1904 was almost identical with that for 1900, the most unfavourable year since 1898.

which are that no shares are issued, the capital being raised by entrance fees, subscriptions, and deposits and loans bearing a fixed rate of interest; that the liability of the members is unlimited, every member being jointly and severally responsible for any losses that may be incurred by the society; that the loans advanced by the societies are for reproductive purposes only, the borrower being required to satisfy the managing committee that the object for which the loan is required is one that affords a reasonable security for his being able to repay it at the date fixed; and that the operations of a society are confined to a small area in order that the personal character and needs of applicants for loans may be known to the members and committee.

It is claimed for these societies that, by advancing loans for the purchase of a cow, or a few pigs, or for similar purposes, they have enabled many labourers to realise considerable additions to their income, and that as yet no bad debts have been incurred.

With the exception of 17 (14 of which are town societies), all the societies are registered under the Friendly Societies Act as "Specially Authorised Societies." The 17 societies are registered as Industrial and Provident Societies, with share capital and limited liability. In a number of cases in Ireland, where sufficient local capital has not been available at the commencement of the society, loans ranging in amount from £50 to £100 have been advanced to the society at a low rate of interest by the Congested Districts Board, or by the Department of Agriculture.

Except in the case of the 17 societies referred to, no dividends are paid by the societies, the profits, after working expenses and interest on loans and deposits have been paid, being carried to the reserve funds and used as working capital.

The following Table* shows the progress of these societies during each of the seven years for which statistics are available:—

Year.	Number of Societies making Returns.	Total Number of Members.	Total Capital (Share, Loan and Reserve).	Amount of Loans.		Working Expenses, including Interest on Capital.	Profit after allowing for Interest on Capital.
				Advanced during year (including renewals).	Repaid during year (including interest).		
1898	31	2,650	42,245	14,955	11,734	1,396	214
1899	45	3,472	47,511	17,773	12,712	1,648	309
1900	64	5,015	53,922	17,973	14,461	1,901	493
1901	81	6,014	64,746	20,038	13,777	2,012	568
1902	114	79,311	77,607	31,107	23,279	2,671	813
1903	154	10,509	99,128	33,783	21,194	2,253	612
1904	191	13,680	114,328	50,389	39,347	4,874	419
Percentage Increase since 1898	516	414	171	237	235	249	98

Comparing 1904 with 1898 it will be seen that the number of societies has multiplied six times; the membership five times, the capital 2½ times, and the amounts of loans advanced and repaid each 3½ times.

Considerable progress is shown in 1904 as compared with 1903, the number of societies having increased by 37, or 24 per cent., the membership by 3,171, or 30 per cent., the total capital by £24,200, or 27 per cent., and the amount of loans advanced by £16,636, or 49 per cent.

Of the 191 societies at work in 1904, 23 with a membership of 2,514, and a total capital (share, loan and reserve) of £18,820, and granting loans to the amount of £9,644, were in England and Wales; 2 with 802 membership, and £64,767 capital, and granting £9,000 in loans, were in Scotland; and 166, with a membership of 10,364, and a total capital of £30,741, and granting loans to the amount of £31,745, were in Ireland. Twelve of the banks in England and Wales and both banks in Scotland were in town districts, while all the banks in Ireland were in agricultural districts.

* Compiled from Returns and Balance-sheets furnished by the Societies, and from statistics published by the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, supplemented by particulars furnished by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Generally speaking rates of wages were maintained at the high level of 1902 and 1903, but there were a few reductions reported, chiefly confined to the iron and steel and machine making industries. Earnings were smaller than they had been in the preceding three or four years on account of the increased irregularity of employment.

The membership of Trade Unions fell from 399,699 in 1903 to 391,676 in 1904, the principal losses being in the metal, building, clothing and woodworking trades.

The number of labour disputes (124) was rather below the average, but in magnitude they exceeded those in any other recent year except 1903, the number of workpeople directly concerned being 57,000 in 1904, as compared with 100,000 in 1903, and 34,000 in 1902. In addition, 51,000 were indirectly affected in 1904. Only one request for intervention was made to the Board of Mediation and Arbitration in 1904, although it offered its services in nearly every dispute that came under its notice.

MORTALITY IN VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS IN SCOTLAND.

PARTICULARS as to the effect of different occupations upon the death rate of men in Scotland in the years 1900-1902 are given in a recently issued Report.*

The Report presents the results arrived at in 71 groups of occupations, the death rate in each occupation being shown separately for men of 25 and under 45 years of age, and for men of 45 and under 65 years of age. Five causes of death have been specially selected for consideration, viz., malignant disease, tuberculous disease, pneumonia, bronchitis and violence.

In the Table below, the death rates in certain groups of occupations are given. The groups have been selected from those given in the Report as illustrative of the widely varying conditions under which workpeople carry on their occupations. For purposes of comparison, the death rates of all males in Scotland are also given.

Group.	Death Rates from causes stated above, per 1,000 Males, aged	
	25 Years and under 45.	45 Years and under 65.
All Males	9.32	26.82
Agricultural Labourers, Farm Servants ...	4.64	16.48
Carters, Carriers and Van Men	8.90	29.89
Cotton, Flax, Linen Manufacture	6.61	22.70
Wool and Worsted Manufacture	3.40	17.21
Iron and Steel Manufacture, Ironfounders	9.98	34.74
Erectors, Fitters, Turners (Engine and Machine)	8.08	21.57
Boilermakers	17.39	43.03
Coal and Shale Miners	7.13	30.22
Railway Service (except Clerks)	8.43	22.04
Hawkers, Street Sellers	16.59	52.27
Dock Labourers... ..	10.93	28.83
General Labourers	18.05	53.77

In the case of males between 25 and 45 years of age, it will be seen that in seven of the groups given above the death rates are below that of all males, the lowest rate shown being in the wool and worsted group, 3.40, followed by agricultural labourers with 4.64, and cotton, flax, and linen with 6.61. The highest rates are those for general labourers (18.05), boiler makers (17.39), and hawkers and street sellers (16.59). Of the death rates in the case of males between 45 and under 65 years of age, the lowest is that for agricultural labourers (16.48), followed by that in the wool and worsted group (17.21); erectors, fitters, and turners (21.57); railway service (22.04); and cotton, flax, and linen manufactures (22.70). The highest rates are again those for general labourers (53.77); hawkers and street sellers (52.27); and boiler-makers (43.03).

The death rates from tubercle in the different groups given above were lower than the corresponding rate for all males in every group except boilermakers, hawkers and street sellers, and general labourers, in which groups the rates were higher, and the cotton, flax and linen, iron and steel and dock labourers, groups in which cases the rates were not decidedly different.

* Supplement to the Forty-Eighth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Scotland. (Cd. 2790 of 1905; price 3s.).

The death rates from malignant disease showed no decided difference from the general rate in the case of groups other than coal and shale miners and railway service, in which they were lower, and hawkers and street sellers and general labourers, in which they were higher.

In two of the groups given above, viz., agricultural labourers and wool and worsted manufacture, the death rates from pneumonia were lower than the general rate. In the case of cotton, flax and linen operatives, erectors, fitters, and turners, coal and shale miners and railway servants, there was no decided difference. In the other groups the rates were higher.

The death-rates from bronchitis were high in the case of cotton, flax and linen operatives, iron and steel workers, boilermakers, hawkers and street sellers, and general labourers. They were low in the case of agricultural labourers, erectors, fitters and turners, and railway servants. In the other groups there was no decided difference from the general rate.

The death-rates from violence were high in the case of carters, boilermakers, coal and shale miners, railway servants, and dock and general labourers. In the other groups they were low or showed no decided difference as compared with the general rate.

In the Report, the death rates in the different occupations are contrasted with those for Scotland, England, Paris, and Switzerland at previous dates.

SPINDLES AND LOOMS IN FLAX AND JUTE MILLS, 1905.

A PARLIAMENTARY RETURN* (Home Office) giving the number of spindles and power looms in use in flax, linen, jute and hemp factories in the United Kingdom in 1905 has been published. Some corresponding figures for 1890 are given. In cases of mills where more than one material was treated, the Returns have been grouped under the heading of the principal material used. Of the 325 mills grouped as flax and linen factories 56 treated jute or hemp as well as flax. Of the 107 mills classed as jute factories 29 treated flax or hemp as well as jute. Of the 77 mills classed as hemp factories 20 treated flax or jute as well as hemp.

Flax and Linen.

Spinning.—The number of spinning spindles used in the United Kingdom in 1905 was 1,022,978, a decrease of 10 per cent. compared with the number returned in 1890. Half of this decrease took place in England, one-fourth in Scotland, and one-fourth in Ireland.

Of the total number 79 per cent. were used in Ireland, 16 per cent. in Scotland, and 5 per cent. in England. Of the Irish spindles 97 per cent. were wet spinning spindles; of the Scottish spindles only 12 per cent.

Of the Irish spinning spindles 54 per cent. were in Belfast, 31 per cent. in the counties of Antrim and Down (excluding Belfast), and the remaining 15 per cent. in the counties of Armagh, Tyrone, and Cork.

Weaving.—The number of power looms in the United Kingdom in 1905 was 54,440, an increase of 12 per cent. on the number returned in 1890, the net result of a decline in Scotland and an increase in Ireland, the number in England being practically unchanged. In Scotland there was a decline of 1,502 looms or 8 per cent. In Ireland there was an increase of 7,276 looms or 28 per cent.

Of the total number of power looms 60 per cent. were in Ireland, 32 per cent. in Scotland, and 8 per cent. in England.

Of the power looms in Ireland 42 per cent. were in Belfast, 22 per cent. in the counties of Antrim and Down (excluding Belfast), 23 per cent. in the county of Armagh, and the remaining 13 per cent. were distributed among the counties of Tyrone, Louth, Londonderry, Dublin and Cork.

Of the power looms in Scotland 31 per cent. were in Dunfermline, 14 per cent. in Kirkcaldy, and 15 per cent. in the rest of Fife; 28 per cent. were in the county of Forfar, and 12 per cent. in the rest of Scotland.

* Pp. 290 of 1905. Price 1d.

District.	Total Number of			
	Spinning Spindles.			Power Looms.
	Wet.	Dry.	Total.	
England and Wales.				
Lancashire	28,274	—	28,274	1,932
Yorkshire	—	5,813	5,813	2,080
Rest of England and Wales...	5,274	10,580	15,854	5,293
Total	33,548	16,393	49,941	4,424
Scotland.				
Dunfermline	—	—	—	5,265
Kirkcaldy	—	4,212	4,212	2,403
Rest of Fife	—	24,180	24,180	2,665
Dundee	1,682	27,296	28,978	1,269
Arbroath	—	17,756	17,756	1,054
Rest of Forfarshire	—	23,610	23,610	644
Rest of Scotland	17,658	43,721	61,379	2,091
Total	19,340	140,745	160,085	22,497
Ireland.				
Belfast	433,734	6,008	439,742	13,822
Rest of Antrim and Down ...	240,346	15,038	255,384	7,068
Armagh Co.	54,998	520	55,518	7,616
Rest of Ireland	62,308	—	62,308	4,325
Total	791,386	21,566	812,952	32,831
United Kingdom	844,274	178,704	1,022,978	52,877

Jute.

Spinning.—The number of spinning spindles in the United Kingdom in 1905 was 263,938, a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the number returned in 1890, the net result of a decline in England and Ireland and an increase in Scotland.

Of the total number, 97½ per cent. were in Scotland, 1½ per cent. were in England, and 1½ per cent. were in Ireland. Of the spindles in Scotland 93 per cent. were in Dundee.

Weaving.—The number of power looms in the United Kingdom in 1905 was 13,704, a decrease of 2.8 per cent., the net result of a decline in England and an increase in Scotland.

Of the total number, 95½ per cent. were in Scotland, 3½ per cent. were in England, and 1 per cent. were in Ireland. Of the power looms in Scotland, 74 per cent. were in Dundee and 20 per cent. were in other parts of Forfarshire.

District.	Total Number of		
	Spinning Spindles.	Doubling Spindles.	Power Looms.
England and Wales	3,448	264	469
Dundee	238,364	13,734	9,683
Rest of Forfarshire	4,234	—	2,385
Rest of Scotland... ..	14,444	—	803
Scotland	257,040	13,734	13,071
Ireland... ..	3,450	205	164
United Kingdom	263,938	14,203	13,704

Hemp.

The number of spinning spindles in the United Kingdom in 1905 was 33,747, a decrease of 19 per cent. in the number returned in 1890. The number of doubling spindles was 11,691 a decrease of 2 per cent. since 1890. Only 88 power looms were in use compared with 516 in 1890.

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

Share of Employees and others in the Membership, Capital and Management.

IN last month's LABOUR GAZETTE particulars were given as to the number of employees and value of productions in 1904 of 412 co-operative societies, established primarily for production. The bulk of these societies, viz., 391, with 97.7 per cent. of the total sales of all the societies, have also furnished Returns showing the extent to which the workpeople employed by them share in the membership, capital and control of the societies by which they are employed.

From these Returns it appears that of the membership of the 391 societies, 5.4 per cent were employees; of the total share and loan capital 5.9 per cent. was held by employees; and of the managing committees 8.2 per cent. were employees. Further, of the total employees 40.6

per cent. were members of the societies employing them. None of these figures show any considerable change as compared with a year ago.

As regards the proportion of the production of these societies which is under the direct control of the employees, in 297 societies, with 74.8 per cent. of the total sales of the 412 societies, the employees were not represented on the managing committee; in 60 societies, with 9.2 per cent. of the total sales, some of the committeemen, but less than a majority, were employees; while in 34 societies with 13.7 per cent. of the total sales, the employees formed the majority of the managing committee; the remaining 21 societies, with 2.3 per cent. of the total sales, did not furnish the required particulars.

The Returns for 1904 are summarised in the following Table, which also gives comparative figures for 1903:—

	1904.		1903.	
I.—Number of Societies to which particulars relate	391*		344*	
II.—Membership: The total membership consisted of:—	No.	Per-centages.	No.	Per-centages.
1. Employees	3,871	5.4	3,539	5.3
2. Other Individuals	63,410	88.7	59,406	88.7
3. Societies	4,188	5.9	3,988	6.0
Total Membership	71,469	100.0	66,933	100.0
III.—Employees: The persons employed consisted of:—				
1. Members	3,871	40.6	3,539	37.7
2. Non-members	5,673	59.4	5,838	62.3
Total Employees... ..	9,544	100.0	9,377	100.0
IV.—Share and Loan Capital: The Share and Loan Capital was held by:—	£		£	
1. Employees	76,856	5.9	80,092	6.5
2. Other Individual Members ...	435,816	33.3	419,178	33.9
3. Societies	549,842	42.0	511,924	41.4
4. Non-members (Loans)†	246,022	18.8	225,744	18.2
Total Share & Loan Capital	1,308,536	100.0	1,236,938	100.0
V.—Management: The Management Committees consisted of:—	No.		No.	
1. Employees	404	8.2	347	8.0
2. Other Individual Members ...	4,204	85.8	3,749	86.2
3. Representatives of Societies ...	295	6.0	254	5.8
Total Number of Committeemen	4,903	100.0	4,350	100.0

In addition to the societies dealt with above, there were eight corn-milling societies at work in 1904, with a total membership of 5,281, of whom 19 were employees. These 19 employees held £748 out of a total share and loan capital of £398,237, and none of them were members of committees.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

Emigrants going to Canada should prepare to arrive in the latter part of March or beginning of April. There is likely to be a good demand for competent farm and general labourers, and for female servants in towns or on farms. The Dominion Labour Gazette states that during December, there was, as is usual in the winter months, "a decline in the demand for unskilled labour, and the building trades and railway construction operations considerably lessened in activity. The close of navigation also caused a falling off in employment. Winter quietness had set in in the agricultural and fishing industries, but lumbering, mining and manufacturing continued busy, and railway traffic, both freight and passenger, was very heavy. Activity was well distributed among the several Provinces." The printers' strike at Winnipeg continued, but most of the strikers have either left the city, or have obtained employment. The steel plants at Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario), and Sydney (Nova Scotia) were working to their full capacity. There was a general increase of wages in most trades during 1905, but the cost of living increased also.

* Excluding Corn Mill Societies. † Including Bank Overdrafts. ‡ Handbooks with maps on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

Commonwealth of Australia.

The New South Wales Government now gives £4 for each adult towards his fare, and £2 for each child between 3 and 12 years; provided that the Steamship Company contributes £2 and £1 respectively. All immigrants must be of sound mental and bodily health, and of good moral character. They shall not exceed 50 years of age, and shall be selected from the classes skilled in any form of rural industry, domestic servants, or any others who can satisfy the Agent-General that they will make suitable settlers, together with the wives and families of the same, if any. Every male adult immigrant must prove that he will possess £10 on arrival in Sydney. Nominations for assisted immigration may be made in the State.

Assisted or nominated passages are granted in certain cases by Queensland and Western Australia also. The principal demand in Australia is for competent farm labourers and female servants, and for persons with enough capital to buy or rent land after first acquiring some experience of the country. There is not much demand for mechanics unless they are specially skilled.

New Zealand.

New Zealand grants reduced passages to persons with a little capital, for whom there is a good opening in the colony. As is usual in their summer season there has been, generally speaking, plenty of work lately in New Zealand. Farm labourers, good ploughmen, and especially milkers, are hard to get, and those who arrived from England during the earlier part of the summer were all placed without any difficulty. Mechanics (except engineers in some places), unskilled labourers, male and female factory hands, have been generally well employed, and, though there is no active demand for more hands, competent workers can make their way. The High Commissioner has just received a cablegram from his Government stating that 1,000 additional navvies are wanted for completing the Trunk line of Railway in the North Island, and that this number cannot be had in New Zealand. The work is likely to last for at least three years. Suitable men, who can do work required in the construction of earth-works, &c., will receive such assistance as will enable them to obtain passages to New Zealand for £10, subject to proof of character, health, and physique. Application must be made to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one is allowed to enter Cape Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured employment beforehand according to a prescribed form of agreement. There is no opening for farm or general labourers, coloured labour being mainly employed. There has been some improvement in the demand for mechanics at Cape Town in the engineering, joinery and sailmaking trades, but the local supply is ample, and in sheet-metal working the number of men employed is gradually decreasing. In country districts there is practically no improvement, except at Cradock, and the supply of skilled labour is quite equal to, and in some towns in excess of, the demand. Female servants are wanted in some districts, and at Cape Town there has been a demand in the tobacco trade for female cigarette makers at 50s. to 60s. a week, and for packers at 25s. to 30s.

Natal.—There is no demand for more labour in the building trades at Durban, and mechanics are advised not to go there unless under a definite engagement. There was a considerable increase in the output from the coal mines in 1905.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. No permit is granted to anyone unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured *bona fide* employment beforehand. There is no demand for more labour in the building trade in Pretoria; painters' wages have been fixed at 2s. 1d. per hour. At Johannesburg "business is extremely slow in the building line, and the number of unemployed mechanics is becoming a very serious matter." There is some demand for female

servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit, and no emigrant can obtain such permit unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured *bona fide* employment beforehand. The building trade is very bad at Bloemfontein, and a great number of carpenters and bricklayers are out of work. Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 33 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries. (See also p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in December.—Employment in the building and dependent trades showed a further decline in December. In the metal trades it continued satisfactory on the whole. The textile trades experienced an appreciable revival in most of the important centres in the north, and continued well employed in the western and south-western centres, in the Vosges district and at Rheims. In the cotton trade, employment in the Rouen and Roanne districts was still unsatisfactory, but in the silk trade it remained fairly good in most of the centres in the Loire district, and continued very plentiful at Lyons. The garment-making trades continued well employed, except for a slight decline at Paris. The glove trade also continued well employed, but there was considerable unemployment among leather dressers at Graulhet and Mazamet. With printers and bookbinders employment continued plentiful, especially at Paris. There was practically no decrease in the number of unemployed vineyard labourers in the south, and a considerable number of woodcutters were still out of work, owing to the winter forestry operations in many centres not having yet begun. Gardeners continued as busy as the short days would permit.

Out of 201,851 members of 1,106 Trade Unions which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment of their members during December, 21,601, or 10.7 per cent. were described in the returns as out of work in the month, as compared with 10.4 per cent. in the previous month, and 11.8 per cent. in December, 1904. These figures are exclusive of the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais and Nord departments. (As regards these figures see note above).

Coal Mining in December.—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in December was 5.61, as compared with 6.03 in the previous month, and 5.82 in December, 1904. Taking surface and underground workers together 11.04 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 88.96 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week, the corresponding percentages for the previous month being 92.92 and 7.08, and for December, 1904, 48.6 and 50.8 respectively. The foregoing figures relate to nearly 154,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines, and were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners.

Labour Disputes in December.—Sixty disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in December, as compared with 63 in the previous month and 24 in December, 1904. The number of persons who took part in 58 of the new disputes was 11,631, while 22,930 took part in 60 of the November disputes, and 14,149 in the disputes of a year ago. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the textile trades, in which 15 disputes were reported. Nine disputes occurred in the leather and skin trades, 8 in agriculture, 8 among commercial

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

GERMANY.

*Employment in December.**—There was a considerable decline in the demand for labour in December, more especially in the second half of the month. This is to be accounted for by the fact that building operations for the most part come to an end at this time of the year without fresh ones being started, and also by the decline experienced in certain industries (e.g., toymaking and the various branches of the ready-made clothing trades) after the Christmas activity. In the printing trades employment was less plentiful owing to the Parliamentary recess. On the other hand, a number of trades were busily employed in anticipation of the introduction of the new commercial treaties. Employment in coal-mining was very satisfactory, the only drawback being the continued lack of wagons. The iron and engineering trades continued as busy as in the past few months, and workpeople in the electrical, chemical, and textile trades were also satisfactorily employed.

Returns relating to the state of employment during the fourth quarter of 1905 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 1,082,254, as compared with a membership of 957,073 in the Unions which reported at the end of September, and with 641,653 in those reporting at the end of December, 1904. After allowing for incomplete returns from certain of the branches of Unions reporting, the aggregate membership covered by the returns was 995,322 on December 31st, 1905, and of these 17,861, or 1.8 per cent., were described in the returns as unemployed on that date, the corresponding percentage for September being 1.4, and for a year ago 2.4. (As regards these figures see note under heading "Labour Abroad" on p. 42).

The number and percentage of members reported as unemployed in each of the five principal Unions for which the figures are available for each of the three periods compared were as follows:—

Quarter ending	Metal Workers (Head-quarters, Stuttgart).	Engineers and Metal Workers (Head-quarters, Berlin).	Printers (Head-quarters, Berlin).	Commercial & Transport Employees (Head-quarters, Berlin).	Woodworkers (Head-quarters, Stuttgart).	Total of five Unions.
Membership described in the Returns as Unemployed.						
Dec., 1905	3,563	270	1,728	607	3,454	9,622
Sept., 1905	2,250	265	2,681	404	1,226	6,826
Dec., 1904	3,221	374	1,707	603	3,000	8,905
Percentage described in the Returns as Unemployed.						
Dec., 1905	1.4	0.6	4.1	1.2	2.6	1.8
Sept., 1905	1.0	0.6	6.5	0.8	1.0	1.4
Dec., 1904	1.8	1.0	4.5	1.5	3.0	2.2

AUSTRIA.

Employment in December.†—According to reports made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, relief stations, and other agencies for procuring employment, the number of applications for situations, the number of situations offered, and the number of situations found were as follows:—

	Dec., 1905.	Nov., 1905.	Dec., 1904.
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered	{ Males ... 267 Females ... 126 Total ... 393	{ Males ... 203 Females ... 151 Total ... 354	{ Males ... 352 Females ... 144 Total ... 496
No. of Situations found per 100 Applications	{ Males ... 26 Females ... 46 Total ... 72	{ Males ... 33 Females ... 45 Total ... 78	{ Males ... 22 Females ... 41 Total ... 63

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

employees, 7 each in the metal, and in the pottery and chemical trades. Out of 52 new and old disputes which came to an end in December, 10 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 17 in favour of the employers, while 25 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in December.—Nine cases of recourse to the arbitration and conciliation law were reported to the French Labour Department during December, the Justices of the Peace taking the initiative in 7, and the workpeople in 2 cases. Conciliation committees were formed in 5 cases, but the employers rejected the proffered mediation in 2 cases, the workpeople in one, and both parties in one. The committees which met, succeeded in bringing about a settlement in 3 out of the 5 disputes involved.

BELGIUM.*

Employment: September-November.—Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department by Trade Unions for each of the months September, October and November, show the number and percentage of the members described in the returns as unemployed towards the middle of the respective months to have been as follows:—

Month.	Unions Reporting.		Members described in the Returns as Unemployed.	
	Number.	Membership.	Number.	Per cent.
September ...	141	29,223	546	1.9
October ...	120	28,770	510	1.8
November ...	136	34,264	651	1.9

The returns made by the Trade Unions do not include any figures as to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers. (As regards these figures see note under heading "Labour Abroad" on p. 42.)

Labour Disputes: September-November.—Forty-seven disputes, 46 of which affected a total of 8,729 workpeople, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the period September-November. The majority of these occurred in two groups of trades, viz., 19 in the textile trades and 15 in mining and quarrying. Including a dispute of cotton spinners at Ghent, which began on June 23rd last, 42 disputes came to an end in the period under review. Eleven of these (involving 2,163 workpeople) terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 22 (involving 3,756 workpeople) in favour of the employers, while 9 (involving 6,134 workpeople) were compromised.

NORWAY.†

Employment: November-December.—The proportion of members described as unemployed by the Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was as follows at the end of November and December in 1904 and 1905. (As regards these figures see note under heading "Labour Abroad" on p. 42.)

		Total Membership of Unions reporting.		Percentage of Members described as Unemployed at end of month.	
		1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
All Unions	{ Nov. 11,302 Dec. 11,078	12,439	11,309	5.1	5.6
Metal Workers and Moulders	{ Nov. 5,485 Dec. 5,437	5,203	5,118	3.4	1.6
Printers	{ Nov. 1,028 Dec. 1,054	1,061	1,112	3.3	4.8
Painters, Masons and Bricklayers	{ Nov. 648 Dec. 619	972	822	31.0	41.4
Bakers	{ Nov. 543 Dec. 617	484	561	6.4	11.2
Boot and Shoe Makers	{ Nov. 406 Dec. 411	456	467	0.7	1.1
Woodworkers and Cabinet-Makers	{ Nov. 616 Dec. 718	1,167	1,162	3.7	6.1

* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Labour Department.
‡ Revised figures.
§ The returns upon which this figure is based are incomplete.
|| Including masons' labourers.

In so far as it can be judged by these figures, therefore, employment would appear to have been, on the whole, not so good in December as in the previous month, but considerably better than in December, 1904.

*Strike of Coal Miners in Styria.**—About 2,600 coal miners employed at Trifail, near Cilli, struck on January 22nd, owing to the refusal of the employers to grant their demands, which included an increase of 20 per cent. in their wages.

Strikes of Seamen at Trieste.†—On February 2nd the firemen employed by the Austrian Lloyd Steamship Company at Trieste, struck for an increase of 20 per cent. in wages, and on the following day the seamen also struck demanding a 25 per cent. increase.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.‡

Strikes in Printing Trades.—At the end of November ast, about 150 men employed by a certain printing firm in New York, struck for an 8-hour day. The strike spread, and on January 2nd, 1,200 members of the Typographical Union employed in 47 printing establishments in New York struck in order to enforce the same demand. Some firms agreed to adopt a 48 hours week, and the men employed by these returned to work, but other employers declined the men's demands and declared for the "open shop" policy. Such members of the Electrotypers and Stereotypers' Union as were employed at establishments which were assisting the printing firms struck on January 16th, and in reply, the Electrotypers and Stereotypers' Association declared for the "open shop" policy. The strike continues, and a temporary injunction, returnable on February 5th, was served on the Union, restraining them from interfering with the printing department of the New York firm against which the strike was first declared. A large proportion of the strikers has been replaced by non-union men.

Similar strikes have been declared in Boston and Chicago. At the latter city an injunction has been obtained, and the Union fined 1,000 dollars for disobedience of the orders of the Court.

General Strike of Structural Iron and Steel workers.—(See GAZETTE for January, p. 10.) The National Association of Erectors of Structural Iron and Steel work, which employs some 200,000 men throughout the United States, has passed a resolution in favour of the "open shop" policy, and as a result the Unions of Housemiths and Bridgemen will not be recognised by the employers. The strikers in New York have expressed their willingness to return to work at the former rate of 18s. 6d. a day, on condition that the principle of the "closed shop" should be recognised. A special meeting of the general arbitration board of the employers and Unions in the building trades was held on February 1st, and, as a result, a joint committee was appointed to endeavour to bring about a settlement.

Agreement not to join Trade Unions: Legal Decision.—Section 171a of the Penal Code of the State of New York, which was added to the Statute Book in 1887, imposed a penalty of imprisonment or fine, or both, upon any person or corporation compelling employees to enter into an agreement to refrain from joining any labour organisation. On January 2nd, the Supreme Court of the State of New York rendered a decision by which the section in question was declared unconstitutional. The opinion handed down by the Court states that the enactment infringes the constitutional right of a citizen or corporation to make whatever contract he or it desires, always providing that any such agreement is not against the public health, morals or welfare, a contention which cannot, in the judgment of the Court, apply to the contract under review.

* Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Trieste, dated January 23rd, 1906.

† Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Trieste, dated February 3rd and 4th.

‡ Based on a series of despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated January 2nd to February 2nd, 1906.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES
IN JANUARY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 577 Returns—483 from Employers, 69 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during January was good, and, due allowance being made for the Christmas and New Year holidays, considerably better than a month and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,314 pits employing 570,688 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended January 20th, 1906, was 5.01, as compared with 5.39 during the four weeks ended December 23rd, 1905, and 4.92 in January, 1905. The average weekly number of days worked, however, was affected by holidays to the extent of 0.65 of a day in January, 1906, and to the extent of 0.50 of a day in January, 1905.

Employment improved in pits producing all classes of coal, and was better than a year ago, particularly in those producing anthracite. Steam, coking and house coal pits also furnished better employment.

Of the 570,688 workpeople covered by the Returns, 370,834 (or 65.0 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended January 20th, and of these 73,846 (or 12.9 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The greatest improvement in employment compared with a year ago was shown in West Yorkshire, North Wales, Fifeshire, and Northumberland districts. In the districts comprising Warwick, Worcester and Salop, and Gloucester and Somerset, a decline was shown.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Jan., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1906, as compared with	
		Jan. 20th, 1906.*	Dec. 23rd, 1905.	Jan. 21st, 1905.*	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	42,795	5.04	5.44	4.77	- .40	+ .27
Durham ...	104,444	5.25	5.54	5.20	- .29	+ .05
Cumberland ...	6,824	4.78	5.47	4.92	- .69	- .14
South Yorkshire ...	60,004	4.93	5.58	4.88	- .65	+ .05
West Yorkshire ...	19,976	4.95	5.33	4.53	- .38	+ .40
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,187	4.86	5.30	4.92	- .44	+ .02
Derbyshire ...	34,226	4.76	5.26	4.76	- .50	...
Nottingham and Leicester	27,044	4.40	4.76	4.38	- .38	+ .02
Staffordshire ...	25,944	4.81	5.53	4.69	- .72	+ .12
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,913	4.84	5.48	5.13	- .64	- .29
Gloucester and Somerset	7,978	4.74	5.64	5.01	- .90	- .27
North Wales ...	10,963	5.02	5.44	4.60	- .42	+ .42
South Wales and Mon. ...	114,982	5.30	5.31	5.20	- .01	+ .10
ENGLAND & WALES...	821,280	5.03	5.38	4.95	- .35	+ .08
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	22,897	4.71	5.38	4.67	- .67	+ .04
The Lothians ...	5,666	5.19	5.80	4.99	- .61	+ .20
Fife ...	20,203	4.89	5.46	4.54	- .57	+ .38
SCOTLAND ...	48,766	4.84	5.46	4.64	- .62	+ .20
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	870,888	5.01	5.39	4.92	- .38	+ .09

Employment was fair in Northumberland and good in Durham, and better than a year ago in both counties. With cokeyard workers, a further improvement was reported, a number of ovens having been re-started. In Cumberland it continued good on the whole. Over 200 men were still idle on account of the fire at a pit-top reported last month.

In Yorkshire and Lancashire employment was fair generally.

In the Midlands employment generally remained about the same as in December. In Derbyshire and Nottingham

* This period includes the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

it was fairly good; in Leicestershire moderate. In the Cannock Chase district employment was fairly good and better than a year ago.

Employment in the Forest of Dean showed a decline, about 4 days per week being worked on the average. In the Bristol coalfield employment was reported as good and better than in December.

In North Wales employment continued good. In South Wales it was very much better than a month ago and considerably better than in January, 1905, when allowance has been made for the holidays.

Employment in West Scotland continued good generally, and the improvement in the Lothians reported last month was maintained. In Fifeshire employment was much better than a year ago.

From Returns relating to nearly 290,000 workpeople, the following Table has been compiled, showing the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Jan., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1906, as compared with	
		Jan. 20th, 1906.*	Dec. 23rd, 1905.	Jan. 21st, 1905.*	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	6,741	Days. 5.25	Days. 5.53	Days. 4.88	- .28	+ .37
Coking ...	22,023	5.35	5.58	5.23	- .23	+ .12
Gas ...	26,167	5.14	5.47	5.14	- .33	...
House ...	58,809	4.72	5.18	4.63	- .46	+ .09
Manufacturing ...	10,288	4.77	5.39	4.78	- .62	- .01
Steam ...	165,181	5.14	5.36	5.02	- .22	+ .12

There was a decline in the number of days worked in all classes of pits, but this was more than accounted for by the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in January, 1906, amounted to 4,218,391 tons, as compared with 4,176,185 tons in December, 1905, and 3,627,030 tons in January 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING
AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 88 returns—72 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron mines, and, taking into account the effect of Christmas and New Year holidays, showed little change compared with a month ago or a year ago. In shale mines employment was fair.

In tin and copper mines employment continued to improve. It continued good in lead mines.

In quarries employment generally continued dull.

Mining

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended January 20th, the average weekly number of days worked by the mines and open works covered by the Returns was 5.38, as compared with 5.88 a month ago, and 5.50 a year ago. Time lost through holidays in the four weeks ended January 20th amounted to 0.53 of a day per week, and to 0.45 of a day per week a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Jan., 1906, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1906, as compared with	
		Jan. 20th, 1906.*	Dec. 23rd, 1905.	Jan. 21st, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,259	Days. 5.39	Days. 5.94	Days. 5.53	- 0.55	- 0.14
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,823	5.40	5.85	5.56	- 0.45	- 0.16
South Wales...	1,002	5.06	5.53	4.89	- 0.47	+ 0.17
Other Districts...	2,549	5.48	5.90	5.57	- 0.42	- 0.09
Total and Averages	15,603	5.38	5.88	5.50	- 0.50	- 0.12

* This period includes the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 53.8 per cent. were employed in mines working twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended January 20th, as compared with 94.2 per cent. a month ago, and 56.0 per cent. for the four weeks ended January 21st, 1905. These comparisons, however, are affected by Christmas and New Year holidays.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 2,947 men were employed in the four weeks ended January 20th, as compared with 2,993 a month ago, and 2,954 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked in the four weeks ended January 20th was 5.32, as compared with 5.62 a month ago, and 5.45* a year ago. These comparisons, however, are affected by holidays, which amounted to 0.58 of a day per week in the four weeks ended January 20th, 1906, and to 0.55 of a day per week in the four weeks ended January 21st, 1905.

Tin and Copper Mining.—In Cornwall and Devon employment generally was good, especially in the Camborne district, where there was a demand for labour.

Lead Mining.—Employment was good in Denbighshire Flintshire, and at Darley Dale. In Weardale the full five days per week were still worked.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was still slack in North Wales, and bad in Argylshire.

Granite.—Employment continued dull, on the whole, in Aberdeenshire and much short time was worked. It was still bad in Devonshire and Cornwall.

Limestone.—Employment was good in Cumberland and Weardale. Employment was moderate in the Buxton district, where the weather interfered somewhat with work, and employment was dull in the Plymouth district. It was dull also in Bath stone quarries in the Bristol district and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Other Stone.—Chert quarrymen in the Bakewell district continued fully employed. In the Cleve Hill road-material quarries employment was fair and about the same as a month and a year ago. It continued moderate in grindstone and building-stone quarries in the Rowsley district and was slightly better than a year ago; employment was also moderate at Barnsley, but slack at Normanton. In Forfarshire employment was still bad, and short time was worked.

Settling.—Employment was dull in Aberdeenshire and at Airdrie. At Edinburgh and in North Wales employment continued fair. It was fair in the Cleve Hill district, bad at Rowley Regis (Staffs.), and fair at Belfast.

China Clay.—Employment in the St. Austell district was moderate.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 115 Returns—108 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, 4 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good and was better than a year ago. The number of furnaces now in blast is greater than in any month since November, 1900.

Returns have been received relating to the works of 108 ironmasters. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of January was 338, as compared with 336 at the end of December, 1905, three having been blown out and five re-lit; three of the latter were in Scotland, one in Staffordshire, and one in Shropshire. Compared with January, 1905, there was an increase of 32 furnaces, 25 in England and Wales, and 7 in Scotland. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the returns which are summarised below is estimated at 24,000.

* Revised figures.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1906, as compared with	
	Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	85	86	77	- 1	+ 8
Cumberland & Lanca.	38	38	35	...	+ 3
S. and S.W. Yorks.	16	16	12	...	+ 4
Derby & Nottingham	38	38	36	...	+ 2
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	28	28	25	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	34	35	30	- 1	+ 4
S. Wales & Monmouth	14	14	14	...	...
Other districts	8	7	7	+ 1	+ 1
Returned from England & Wales	261	262	236	- 1	+ 25
Returned from Scotland	77	74	70	+ 3	+ 7
Total furnaces included in returns	338	336	306	+ 2	+ 32

The Imports of iron ore in January amounted to 760,214 tons, or 144,794 tons more than in January, 1905, and 276,222 tons more than in January, 1904.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during January, 1906, amounted to 90,700 tons, as compared with 43,844 tons in January, 1905, and 59,076 tons in January, 1904.

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on 80 Returns—54 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January continued very good, and was much better than a year ago.

At the end of January 419 mills were working, as compared with 417 at the end of the previous month. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 16 (4.0 per cent.) in the number of mills at work. The number of workpeople employed at the 419 mills was about 21,000.

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	66	366	—	366
Works giving partial employment	12	53	27	80
Total at end of January, 1906*	78	419	27	446
<i>Corresponding Total for Dec., 1905*</i>	78	417	26	443
<i>Corresponding Total for Jan., 1905*</i>	77	408	21	429

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and black-plates for tinning, are given in the Table below for the three periods stated. It will be seen that of the total exports of tinplates, 3,192 tons, or nearly 11 per cent., went to the United States. The British East Indies took 4,494 tons, the Netherlands 3,557 tons, and Germany 1,812 tons. Of the blackplates exported, 1,654 tons went to Russia, and 495 tons to Germany.

	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
<i>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</i>			
To United States	Tons. 3,192	Tons. 3,251	Tons. 2,468
„ Other Countries	25,871	+ 2,391	+ 3,558
Total	29,063	- 860	+ 1,090

* 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.

	Months Jan. 31 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
<i>Black Plates for Tinning</i>			
To United States	Tons. 3,927	Tons. 19	Tons. 682
„ Other Countries	3,927	- 701	- 1,316
Total	3,927	- 701	- 1,316

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 217 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 6 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works in January remained about the same as a month ago, most districts reporting it as good: it was considerably better than a year ago, 9.5 per cent. more workers being employed at the works covered by the Returns received.

The total volume of employment (i.e. numbers employed multiplied by the average number of shifts worked) during the week ended January 27th, 1906, at the 197 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.1 per cent. greater than during the week ended December 16th, 1905, and 13.3 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was approximately 522,600, as compared with 522,200 a month ago, and 461,400 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		
		In week ended Jan. 27th, 1906.	A month ago.		A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Open-Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,433	- 69	+ 728	5.92	...	+ 0.11	
Crucible Furnaces	587	- 8	+ 54	5.43	- 0.01	+ 0.05	
Bessemer Converters	1,747	- 8	+ 55	3.18	+ 0.05	+ 0.34	
Puddling Forges	10,021	+ 168	+ 393	5.26	- 0.01	+ 0.36	
Rolling Mills	30,214	...	+ 2,168	5.36	- 0.02	+ 0.23	
Forging and Pressing	3,970	+ 15	+ 731	5.62	- 0.03	+ 0.11	
Founding	11,523	- 131	+ 1,288	5.91	+ 0.04	+ 0.06	
Other Departments	9,619	+ 8	+ 1,397	5.87	- 0.04	+ 0.10	
Mechanics, Labourers	16,863	+ 210	+ 1,218	5.86	- 0.01	+ 0.14	
Total	92,957	+ 185	+ 8,032	5.62	- 0.01	+ 0.19	
Districts.							
Northumberland & Durham	11,383	+ 48	+ 809	5.64	+ 0.10	+ 0.19	
Cleveland	8,623	+ 272	+ 872	5.73	...	+ 0.07	
Sheffield and Rotherham	17,756	- 5	+ 2,087	5.70	+ 0.01	+ 0.08	
Leeds, Hull and other Yorkshire Towns	4,311	+ 11	+ 637	5.68	+ 0.03	+ 0.42	
Cumberland, Lanca. & Ches.	9,863	- 11	+ 294	5.52	+ 0.11	+ 0.17	
Staffordshire	10,127	+ 208	+ 705	5.53	- 0.04	+ 0.13	
Other Midland Counties	4,472	+ 20	+ 280	5.46	- 0.19	+ 0.08	
Wales and Monmouth	9,222	+ 139	+ 985	5.63	- 0.18	- 0.04	
England and Wales	75,757	+ 682	+ 6,669	5.62	- 0.01	+ 0.20	
Scotland	17,200	- 497	+ 1,363	5.62	...	+ 0.13	
Total	92,957	+ 185	+ 8,032	5.62	- 0.01	+ 0.19	

Compared with a month ago, there was an increase of 168 in the number of workpeople employed at puddling forges, and of 210 in the number of mechanics and labourers, while the number employed in founding decreased by 131.

The greatest increases occurred in Cleveland (272), Staffordshire (208), and Wales and Monmouth (139). Scotland showed a decrease of 497, but there were no other appreciable changes.

Compared with a year ago, each department and each district showed an increase in the number of workpeople employed.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week varied little compared with a month ago. No department showed a difference of more than 0.05 of a shift, while the most appreciable changes in the districts

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 977 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 933 from Trade Unions, and 36 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January was generally good, showing an improvement on the previous month, and being much better than a year ago. Much overtime was worked, and the percentage of unemployed was the lowest recorded since October, 1900.

The districts showing the greatest improvement on the previous month were the Notts, Derby, and Leicester district, and the Hull and Lincolnshire district. Small increases in the percentage of unemployed were shown in the Belfast and Dublin district, and in the Glasgow district.

As compared with a year ago, an improvement was shown in every district except the South Coast and the South Wales and Bristol district, the most marked being in the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn district, the Notts, Derby, and Leicester district, Belfast and Dublin, and the East of Scotland.

Returns relating to 148,506 members of Trade Unions show that 3.2 per cent. were unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 3.7 per cent. in December, 1905, and 6.9 per cent. in January, 1905.

The percentages for the various districts are shown below:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1906, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Jan., 1906, as compared with a	
		Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	14,855	3.0	4.0	5.4	- 1.0	- 2.4
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,858	3.1	3.3	8.1	- 0.2	- 5.0
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,707	3.5	3.5	11.8	...	- 8.3
West Riding Towns	12,168	3.7	4.5	9.2	- 0.8	- 5.5
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,588	3.2	4.3	6.2	- 1.1	- 3.0
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,724	2.0	2.3	4.7	- 0.3	- 2.7
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	3,783	4.4	6.0	11.1	- 1.6	- 6.7
London and Neighbouring District	12,500	3.1	3.8	4.4	- 0.7	- 1.3
South Coast	3,821	2.8	3.6	2.2	- 0.8	+ 0.6
South Wales and Bristol District	6,587	3.1	4.1	2.9	- 1.0	+ 0.2
Glasgow and District	14,338	4.2	4.0	8.5	+ 0.2	- 4.3
East of Scotland	3,655	6.0	7.0	12.1	- 1.1	- 6.1
Belfast and Dublin	3,402	6.9	6.5	13.2	+ 0.4	- 6.3
Other Districts	5,336	2.7	4.0	5.1	- 1.4	- 2.4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	148,506	3.2	3.7	6.9	- 0.5	- 3.7

were decreases of 0.19 of a shift in the Midland Counties other than Staffordshire, and of 0.18 of a shift in Wales and Monmouth.

Compared with a year ago, every department showed an improvement in the average number of shifts worked, the greatest increases being 0.36 of a shift in puddling forges, and 0.34 of a shift in Bessemer converting departments. Each district also showed an increase, with the exception of Wales and Monmouth, where a slight decline occurred. By far the greatest increases were 0.77 of a shift in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, and 0.42 of a shift in Leeds, Hull, and other Yorkshire towns.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 397 Returns—8 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 372 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT improved considerably during January, and was much better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,909 members had 4,483 (or 7.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 10.2 per cent. at the end of December, and 12.4 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with December 1905, the most marked improvement, as indicated by the percentages of unemployed, was in the Belfast, Humber, and Mersey districts.

Compared with a year ago, considerable improvement is shown on the North-East Coast, the Humber and Belfast districts; but the Mersey and the districts in the South of England and Wales, which are chiefly repairing centres, were not so well employed as a year ago.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1906, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Jan., 1906, as compared with a	
		Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,489	6.0	8.3	15.4	- 2.3	- 9.4
Wear	4,951	4.3	4.2	11.4	+ 0.1	- 7.1
Tees and Hartlepool	5,129	3.7	5.3	20.5	- 1.6	- 16.8
Humber	2,413	3.9	9.5	13.7	- 5.6	- 9.8
Thames and Medway	6,694	10.9	12.1	8.5†	- 1.2	+ 2.4
South Coast	4,000	9.5	9.7	5.4	- 0.2	+ 4.1
Bristol Channel Ports	3,106	10.0	12.9	6.9	- 2.9	+ 3.1
Mersey	4,244	12.6	16.2	10.8	- 3.6	+ 1.8
Clyde	4,999	8.1	11.0	12.0	- 2.9	- 3.9
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	2,546	14.1	13.6	17.7	+ 0.5	- 3.6
Belfast	3,230	3.0	15.1	14.4	- 1.1	- 11.4
Other Districts	3,108	8.4	8.7	8.8	- 0.3	- 0.4
United Kingdom	56,909	7.9	10.2	12.4	- 2.3	- 4.6

Employment on the Tyne and Wear was, on the whole, good, and better than a month ago, except with smiths and strikers. It was good also with nearly all branches in the Tees and Hartlepool district. On the Humber it improved and was good, with some overtime. In all these districts, from the Tyne to the Humber, employment was much better than a year ago.

In the Thames and Medway district employment, though slightly improved on the previous month, chiefly in the repairing branch, was slack, and worse than a year ago. At Southampton it was reported as fair and improved, but in other South Coast ports there was little change. At the Bristol Channel ports employment was better than a month ago, especially at Bristol, but not so good as a year ago. Ship joiners and painters on the Mersey reported employment as dull; other branches continued to improve.

On the Clyde it was fair generally, and showed an improvement in some branches. It was bad at Leith, improving at Dundee, and fairly good at Aberdeen, with some overtime.

Employment improved considerably at Belfast, and was fairly good and much better than a year ago.

At Barrow it was moderate. In the Eastern Counties yards it improved.

*Exclusive of Superannuated Members.
†Revised figures.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

improvement was reported, and employment was generally good, some overtime being worked. In the Hull district there was a decrease in the percentage of unemployed, and employment, though dull with pattern-makers, was fair generally. At Doncaster full time was resumed at the railway shops.

In Derbyshire employment generally was quiet; it was bad with engineers at Derby, but improving with boiler-makers. In Nottingham and district employment remained good in the hosiery and lace machine branches, and fairly good with cycle workers and motor car builders. It was improving with tool makers and patternmakers, but still dull with general engineers, ironfounders, and boiler-makers. At Grantham and Lincoln it was fairly good. At Leicester it was good, and showed an improvement with engineers at Northampton and ironfounders at Leicester. In the Birmingham and Wolverhampton districts employment generally was fairly good.

Employment in the Potteries district was improving. In the Eastern Counties employment generally was fair, but was dull at Norwich.

In London, some improvement was shown, employment being slightly better than in the previous month. Work was still slack in some East End branches.

In the dockyard towns employment remained dull. At Southampton it was fair, and some overtime was worked.

In South Wales employment generally was fair. At Bristol employment was still dull, though improving. It was good at Swindon and Gloucester.

Employment in the Clyde district remained fairly good; patternmakers were well employed, and an improvement was shown with brassfinishers at Glasgow; much overtime was worked. Employment remained bad in the Leith and Edinburgh district. At Aberdeen it was good, and some overtime was worked. At Dundee it continued fair.

At Belfast employment was fair generally. It was good with patternmakers and improving with engineers. At Dublin it was generally bad, though with brassfounders an improvement on the previous month was shown. At Cork employment remained dull.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 62 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 36 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally in these trades showed a slight decline when compared with last month, but was better than a year ago. Eighteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 15,163, had 396 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2.3 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 3.4 per cent. at the end of January, 1905.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers was fairly good on the whole; it was somewhat worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. In London, however, employment remained bad. With bedstead makers at Birmingham it showed a seasonal slackness, and in the fender and fire brass trades it was very quiet.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment with nut and bolt makers continued good in Darlaston and Winlaton, and fair at Birmingham and in South Wales. With wire nail, shoe rivet, and cut nail makers at Birmingham it continued fair; at Black Heath with rivet and nail makers it was fairly good.

Tubes.—In the tube trades employment continued good. In South Wales overtime was worked in some branches. At Birmingham in the brass and copper tube trade employment was better than is usual in January.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley employment continued good with chain makers, but slack with anchor smiths. Chain makers were busy in South Wales. In the Dudley district employment with anvil and vice makers was good and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Walsall with buckle and motor chain workers a further improvement was shown. Employment was fairly good in the spring and axle trade at Birmingham and West Bromwich, and slack with railway

spring makers at Sheffield. It was good on railway and constructional iron work at Wednesbury.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Employment at Wolverhampton continued bad in the lock and latch trade, much short time being worked. It was fair on cast iron hollow-ware, and good on iron fences and hurdles. In the hollow-ware trade it was slack at Sheffield, but continued to improve at Birmingham and West Bromwich.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the table cutlery trade employment continued slack at Sheffield. In the edge-tool trade it was fair at Sheffield, Birmingham, and Wolverhampton. At Redditch employment in the needle trade was fair and improving.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment in these trades was slack at Sheffield and Rotherham, fair at Falkirk and Glasgow, and better than a month ago at the latter place.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London with tin and ironplate workers employment remained fair, and showed a slight improvement compared with a year ago; with zinc workers it was very slack, short time being general. At Glasgow and Aberdeen in the tinplate trade it was slack. At Edinburgh and Manchester it remained good, while at Birmingham and in the Lye district employment in the tin and iron plate trade continued quiet.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—At Sheffield employment with silversmiths and Britannia metal smiths was slack. In London with silversmiths it was very quiet and worse than a month ago; with goldsmiths it was fair, but not so good as a month ago. It was reported as quiet at Birmingham in these trades generally, and with watch makers at Coventry.

Wire.—Employment continued good in the wire trades in most districts, and was better than a year ago.

Farriers.—Employment in Scotland was reported as fairly good, and in England as generally moderate.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 644 Returns—548 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 80 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, although there was a slight decline in the last week in January in the number of workpeople employed by the firms making returns compared with the week before Christmas; it was better than a year ago.

The average price of "middling American" cotton in January was 6.17d. per lb., compared with 6.29d. in December, 1905, and 3.80d. in January, 1905. The price of "good fair Egyptian" averaged 7.76d. per lb., compared with 7.77d. in December, 1905, and 6.48d. in January, 1905.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in January was 168,433, a decrease of 0.2 per cent. compared with the week before Christmas, and an increase of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. New mills and sheds not included in these Returns are reported to have attracted labour from other firms in which labour is stated to be scarce.

Firms employing 132,287 of these operatives have stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with the week before Christmas, the number employed by these firms showed a decline of 0.5 per cent. and the amount of wages paid a decrease of 3.8 per cent. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 1.2 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 5.6 per cent.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

The following Table relates only to those firms that furnished information as to wages paid as well as numbers employed in the three periods mentioned.

Compared with a month ago, there was little change in the preparing and spinning branches, but a marked decline in the weaving branch. Employment in the weaving branch was, nevertheless, reported as good, and the

apparent decline may be largely attributable to the attraction of efficient weavers to the new sheds by higher wages reported in various districts.

Compared with a year ago, employment showed an improvement in all branches; the marked increase in the wages paid in the weaving branch is partly due to the higher rate of pay compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	No. employed in last week of Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of Dec., 1905.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last week of Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of Dec., 1905.		Per cent.
				Per cent.	Per cent.	
Preparing	14,136	+ 0.4	12,285	- 0.1	+ 2.8	
Spinning	25,599	+ 0.5	24,461	+ 0.5	+ 4.8	
Weaving	62,887	- 0.9	55,567	- 6.2	+ 7.2	
Other	12,051	- 1.7	13,478	- 2.5	+ 6.3	
Departments not specified	17,704	- 0.4	17,998	+ 4.6	+ 3.4	
Total	132,287	- 0.5	123,789	- 3.8	+ 5.6	

Districts.	No. employed in last week of Jan., 1906.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of Dec., 1905.		Per cent.
				£	Per cent.	
Ashton District	8,231	+ 3.2	+ 1.1	7,944	+ 2.7	+ 2.4
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,493	- 0.3	+ 1.2	5,875	- 2.8	+ 7.0
Oldham District	14,254	+ 0.7	+ 1.6	14,144	- 0.8	+ 1.8
Bolton and Leigh	17,095	- 5.9	- 4.2	14,361	- 5.5	+ 0.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	9,176	- 0.1	+ 1.4	8,285	- 4.2	+ 2.6
Manchester District	10,611	- 0.3	+ 3.2	8,053	- 2.9	+ 8.3
Preston and Chorley	9,162	- 0.0	+ 0.9	7,892	- 5.7	+ 8.9
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	21,941	+ 0.0	+ 0.8	21,343	- 7.1	+ 4.8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	20,515	- 0.2	+ 0.0	22,760	- 3.9	+ 7.2
Other Lancs. Towns	1,145	+ 1.6	+ 5.8	833	- 0.7	+ 11.1
Yorkshire Towns	5,782	+ 0.4	+ 4.7	5,483	- 4.8	+ 7.2
Other Districts	7,882	+ 1.1	+ 12.9	6,813	- 0.1	+ 23.9
Total	132,287	- 0.5	+ 1.2	123,789	- 3.8	+ 5.6

Compared with the week before Christmas, every district except Ashton showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid, the decline in every case being most marked in the weaving branch. In Burnley six new weaving sheds were opened, giving employment to about 500 operatives not included in these returns.

Compared with a year ago, every district, except Bolton and Leigh, showed an improvement in numbers employed and wages paid.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of January the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.17d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.30d., and the lowest, 6.07d. The price for December was 6.29d., and for January, 1905, 3.80d. For the period from 1st to 10th February the average price of "middling American" was 5.92d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during January averaged 7.76d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.11d., and the lowest, 7.11d. The price for December was 7.77d., and for January, 1905, 6.48d. For the period from 1st to 10th February the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8.10d. per lb.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
American	Bales, 285,898	+ 7,028	+ 84,334
Brazilian	17,119	+ 14,035	+ 11,515
East Indian	4,670	- 457	+ 530
Egyptian	47,140	+ 14,555	+ 5,773
Miscellaneous	8,367	+ 5,852	+ 2,867
Total	363,194	+ 41,013	+ 105,023

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on February 9th, 1906, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,225,210 bales, as compared with 1,056,850 bales on February 10th, 1905.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Description.	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Grey	15,040	+ 2,584	+ 3,763
Bleached and Dyed	3,511	+ 718	+ 793
Total	18,551	+ 3,302	+ 4,556
Cotton Piece Goods—	1,000's yds.	1,000's yds.	1,000's yds.
Grey or Unbleached	210,704	+ 38,826	+ 42,306
Bleached	161,409	+ 24,948	+ 37,411
Printed	98,305	+ 17,553	+ 13,648
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	101,495	+ 12,631	+ 20,405
Total	571,913	+ 93,958	+ 113,770

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 480 Returns—472 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Woollen and Worsted trades showed a slight decline compared with the week before Christmas, a week in which the wages bill is usually heavier than in an ordinary week. As compared with a year ago, employment was better. The prices of raw material showed a slight increase, and were generally higher than a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

Employment in the Woollen trade showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was still good, and was better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in January was 33,017, a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with the last full week in December, and an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 25,922 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with the week before Christmas, the number employed by these firms showed a decrease of 1.4 per cent. and the amount of wages paid a decrease of 4.3 per cent. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. and the amount of wages paid an increase of 5.2 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.			
	Number employed in last week of Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ending Dec. 23rd, 1905.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ending Dec. 23rd, 1905.		Per cent.
				£	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting	702	+ 0.6	660	- 2.5	- 1.8	- 0.3
Spinning	5,217	- 1.6	4,500	- 4.1	+ 7.9	
Weaving	10,903	- 1.5	9,222	- 4.4	+ 9.8	
Other Departments	7,514	- 1.6	7,395	- 4.6	- 1.0	
Unspecified	1,586	+ 0.4	1,551	- 4.5	+ 4.9	
Total	25,922	- 1.4	23,328	- 4.3	+ 5.2	

Districts.	No. employed in last week of Jan., 1906.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of Dec., 1905.		Per cent.
				£	Per cent.	
Huddersfield District	3,958	- 0.0	+ 2.6	4,356	- 2.1	+ 13.1
Leeds District	3,065	- 3.8	+ 2.4	2,770	- 6.4	+ 6.3
Levenshulme & Bailey District	3,847	- 1.1	+ 3.3	3,535	- 5.3	+ 6.5
Other Parts of West Riding	1,885	- 0.7	- 0.1	1,543	- 4.5	+ 1.0
Total West Riding	12,753	- 1.5	+ 2.4	12,204	- 4.4	+ 8.0
Scotland	7,338	- 1.2	+ 1.1	6,307	- 4.6	+ 1.8
Other Districts	5,831	- 1.4	+ 0.6	4,817	- 3.9	+ 3.0
Total Woollen	25,922	- 1.4	+ 1.6	23,328	- 4.3	+ 5.2

Employment in Huddersfield continued very good; overtime was general in the the Colne Valley and a few firms continued night work. In the heavy woollen district employment was reported as fair. In Halifax it was fairly good. Overtime was worked in several firms in

Leeds and at Morley, Yeadon, and Guiseley employment was reported as very fair. It was moderate in Rochdale, good in Stockport. It was very good in the Trowbridge district, and fair at Wellington. In Selkirk, Galashiels, and Hawick employment was good.

Compared with a year ago, employment was better in every district, the improvement being especially marked in the Huddersfield district.

Worsted Trade.

Employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last week in January was 67,683, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with the last full week in December, and an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 54,099 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with the last full week in December, the number employed by these firms showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent., and the amount of wages paid a decrease of 1.4 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed in last week of	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		Jan., 1906.	23rd Dec., 1905.		28th Jan., 1906.	23rd Dec., 1905.	28th Jan., 1906.
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,166	+ 1.3	+ 3.3	4,921	+ 2.3	+ 8.8
Spinning ...	27,157	- 0.3	+ 0.8	14,632	- 0.2	+ 3.0
Weaving ...	13,224	- 0.6	+ 2.5	11,386	- 3.0	+ 7.4
Other Departments ...	6,038	- 0.2	- 2.2	6,225	- 4.7	- 0.3
Unspecified ...	2,514	- 1.2	+ 1.1	1,855	+ 0.4	+ 4.2
Total ...	54,099	- 0.3	+ 1.0	39,019	- 1.4	+ 4.4
Districts.						
Bradford District ...	28,329	+ 0.1	+ 3.5	19,829	- 0.3	+ 8.0
Keighley District ...	6,600	- 0.9	+ 0.3	5,271	- 1.0	+ 1.1
Halifax District ...	5,493	- 1.5	+ 4.6	3,235	- 1.7	+ 2.4
Huddersfield District ...	6,530	- 1.3	+ 1.2	5,861	- 5.3	+ 5.8
Other Parts of West Riding ...	4,043	- 0.7	- 3.9	2,512	- 2.9	- 7.4
Total West Riding ...	50,995	- 0.4	+ 1.2	36,708	- 1.5	+ 4.5
Other Districts ...	3,104	+ 2.4	- 2.2	2,311	- 0.3	+ 4.1
Total Worsted ...	54,099	- 0.3	+ 1.0	39,019	- 1.4	+ 4.4

Employment in the Bradford district showed an improvement in the wool-sorting and combing branch, woolsorters reporting it as good, woolcombers as moderate: a decline was apparent in the weaving branch, but 17 firms in the district reported a scarcity of weavers. In Huddersfield most of the overtime had ceased, and one firm was working short time. In Keighley there was a slight decline in the weaving branch, but three firms reported a scarcity of weavers. In Halifax there was an improvement in the sorting and combing branch, but a decline in the weaving branch.

Compared with a year ago, there was a decided improvement in the Bradford and Huddersfield districts, a slight one in the Keighley district, and a decline in the rest of the West Riding.

Prices of Raw Material.

The course of prices showed a slight rise compared with a month ago, and was on the whole higher than a year ago.

	Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs ...	13 ³ / ₄	13 ³ / ₄	12 ³ / ₄
40's Crossbred tops ...	15 ¹ / ₂	15 ¹ / ₂	16 ¹ / ₂
60's Super Botany tops ...	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	24
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs ...	13 ³ / ₄ to 13 ³ / ₄	13 ³ / ₄	13 to 12 ³ / ₄
40's Crossbred tops ...	15 ¹ / ₂ to 16	16 to 15 ¹ / ₂	16 ¹ / ₂
60's Super Botany tops ...	25 ¹ / ₂ to 25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂ to 25 ¹ / ₂	24

Imports and Exports.

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

	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
Sheep and Lambs' Wool:—			
Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS)			
Imports (less Re-Exports) ...	59,573	- 484	+ 9,279
British Exports ...	2,226	- 827	- 450
Yarn:—			
Woollen ...	213	- 88	+ 65
Worsted ...	3,748	- 48	+ 445
Alpaca and Mohair ...	1,006	- 109	+ 8
Total ...	4,967	- 245	- 372
Piece Goods:—			
Woollen ...	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Woollen ...	9,253	+ 1,798	+ 3,056
Worsted ...	11,307	+ 904	+ 31
Total ...	20,560	+ 2,702	+ 3,368

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 139 Returns—137 from Employers or Employers' Associations and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, and was better than a year ago, but showed a decline as compared with December, 1905.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last full week in January was 58,854, a decrease of 0.2 per cent. upon the number employed by the same firms at the end of December, and an increase of 2.0 per cent. upon the number employed at the end of January, 1905.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 51,480 workpeople made Returns of wages paid in the periods under review. From these Returns it appears that, compared with December, there was a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 5.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number employed in last full week of Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last full week of Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing ...	6,717	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	3,302	- 4.6	- 0.8
Spinning ...	11,925	+ 0.1	+ 0.0	5,363	- 2.2	+ 0.9
Weaving ...	18,638	- 0.2	+ 3.5	10,783	- 8.3	+ 8.8
Other ...	7,318	- 0.4	+ 1.6	5,491	- 2.0	+ 2.6
Departments not specified	6,882	- 0.3	+ 1.0	3,836	- 3.6	+ 3.4
Total ...	51,480	- 0.1	+ 1.6	28,775	- 5.0	+ 4.2
Districts.						
Belfast ...	18,301	- 0.6	+ 0.9	10,325	- 7.0	+ 1.1
Other Places in Ireland ...	17,985	+ 0.1	+ 2.0	9,222	- 6.4	+ 4.8
Ireland ...	36,286	- 0.2	+ 1.5	19,547	- 6.7	+ 2.8
Fifeshire ...	7,250	+ 0.7	+ 3.8	4,439	- 1.6	+ 11.9
Other Places in Scotland ...	5,984	- 0.5	+ 0.3	3,657	- 0.5	+ 1.8
Scotland ...	13,434	+ 0.2	+ 2.2	8,096	- 1.1	+ 7.1
United Kingdom*	51,480	- 0.1	+ 1.6	28,775	- 5.0	+ 4.2

* Including 9 returns from England.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 86 Returns—81 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed a slight improvement, compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Number of Workpeople.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns at the end of January was 10,975, an increase upon the numbers employed by the same firms of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, the numbers employed showed no change in the weaving branch, and a slight improvement in the other departments. Compared with a year ago, all branches showed an improvement, except the weaving branch, where there was a slight decline.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Description.	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
Imports:			
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) Tons	9,902	- 977	- 1,145
Exports:			
Linen Yarn 100 Lbs. ...	11,301	+ 792	- 767
Linen Piece Goods 100 Yds. ...	187,627	+ 20,411	+ 28,598

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 50 Returns—45 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was reported as good and better than a year ago, there having been a scarcity of workpeople in some departments.

The number of workpeople employed in the last full week in January by firms making Returns was 27,717, an increase of 0.3 per cent. upon the number employed by the same firms in December, and of 2.1 per cent. upon January, 1905. Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 23,098, or 83.3 per cent., were employed in Dundee.

Firms employing 22,308 workpeople supplied particulars of the wages paid, as well as numbers employed, in the last full week of January, 1906. From these Returns it appears that, compared with the previous month, there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.5 per cent. in the wages paid. The improvement was greatest in the weaving departments.

The following Table summarises these Returns:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number employed in last full week of Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in last full week of Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing ...	4,970	+ 0.5	+ 2.1	3,096	- 0.8	+ 4.9
Spinning ...	6,536	- 0.5	+ 1.5	3,760	- 1.3	+ 3.1
Weaving ...	7,131	+ 0.8	+ 5.3	4,884	+ 0.2	+ 9.1
Other ...	2,434	- 0.1	- 2.9	2,407	+ 0.8	- 1.2
Departments not specified	1,237	+ 0.7	...	871	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Total ...	22,308	+ 0.2	+ 2.2	15,018	- 0.3	+ 4.5

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Description.	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
Imports			
Jute ... Tons	42,921	- 5,479	- 14,691
Exports			
Jute Yarn 100 lbs. ...	35,334	- 1,655	- 2,159
Jute Piece Goods 100 Yards ...	139,667	+ 16,542	+ 7,094

Districts.	Number employed by firms making Returns.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lancashire and W. Riding of York	3,425	- 0.1	- 0.1
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	3,045	+ 1.5	+ 4.1
Leek	469	+ 2.4	- 1.3
Eastern Counties	2,377	+ 0.6	- 1.2
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,659	+ 1.1	+ 6.3
Total ...	10,975	+ 0.8	+ 1.7

Number of Spindles and Looms.

The number of spindles returned, by the firms making Returns, as working in the last week of January showed an increase compared with a month ago and a year ago. The number of looms showed little change compared with a month ago, and a decrease compared with a year ago.

Spindles and Looms.	Number of Spindles and Looms working in last week of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing Spindles ...	114,028	112,046	112,614	+ 1.8	+ 1.3
Spinning Spindles ...	133,170	130,812	126,323	+ 1.8	+ 5.4
Looms ...	4,569	4,561	4,681	+ 0.2	- 2.4

In Macclesfield employment was reported as fairly good with hand-loom weavers and moderate with power loom weavers; all firms were running full time in the silk throwing branch. Silk and crape factories were on full time at Norwich and Yarmouth, but employment was reported as dull. It was reported as slack at Halstead, moderate at Braintree, and fair at Sudbury. In Halifax and Brighouse an improvement was reported.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of raw and thrown silk, of spun silk yarn, and the exports of thrown silk, twist, and yarn, and of silk broad-stuffs are shown in the Table below for the periods specified:—

Description.	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with January,	
		1905.	1904.
Imports:—			
Raw Silk ... lbs.	86,642	- 3,186	+ 2,380
Thrown Silk ...	38,960	+ 4,052	+ 3,033
Spun Silk Yarn ...	23,314	- 13,981	+ 10,435
Exports:—			
Thrown Silk, Twist and Yarn yds.	77,668*	+ 21,217	+ 16,383
Silk Broad-stuffs ...	532,027	- 15,506	+ 208,303

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 126 Returns—121 from Employers, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago.

Firms employing 18,253 workpeople, and paying £13,112 in wages on the last pay-day in January, made Returns, which are summarised in the Table below.

* Yarn, 75,622 lbs.

From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Leicester, Hinckley, and Loughborough employment was fairly good, and considerably better than a year ago. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was reported as good on the whole, and better than a year ago, but a decline was shown in the hand-wrought branch in the Nottinghamshire district. In Scotland employment was good, and much better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on last pay-day in Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.
Leicester	8,474	+ 0.5	+ 3.2	6,321	+ 2.8	+ 5.2
Leicester Country District	2,683	+ 0.6	+ 6.1	2,167	+ 2.8	+ 8.0
Notts. and Derbyshire	3,069	- 0.6	+ 4.3	2,287	- 0.4	+ 9.7
Scotland	2,502	+ 0.2	+ 9.1	1,494	- 3.7	+ 9.5
Other Parts of United Kingdom	1,525	- 1.7	+ 4.2	843	- 2.8	+ 7.0
Total	18,253	+ 0.1	+ 4.6	13,112	- 0.2	+ 7.0

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Lace Trade.

(Based on 5 Returns—1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair in England, and good in Scotland; it was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. In Nottingham employment generally was better than a month ago and a year ago; it was reported as good in the plain net section, bad in the curtain section, and improved in the levers section and in the minor branches. It was reported as improved at Beeston, steady at Stapleford, moderate at Kimberley and Bulwell. At Ilkeston employment showed a decided improvement, and was better than a year ago. Employment was reported as good at Glasgow and Newmilns, and better than a month ago; at Newmilns some overtime was reported, and employment was much better than a year ago.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 15 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations; 4 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was reported as improving, and better than a year ago. About three-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about two-fifths worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was fairly good, and was better than a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment at Macclesfield was reported as bad on the whole, and worse than a month ago.

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment was reported as moderate at Manchester; as improving at New Mills, and better than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was reported as fair. At Glasgow it was reported as fairly good with calico printers; as good with printers' engravers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester much short time was still reported; at Hinckley employment was fairly regular; at Loughborough a further improvement was reported. Employment at Nottingham was reported as moderate with lace dyers; good with silk hosiery dyers; fair with bleachers, but rather worse than last month; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell employment showed a further improvement, and was better than a year ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In Dundee employment was reported as bad with calender workers; as fair with bleachfield workers, though short time prevailed to some extent.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 154 Returns—124 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch showed a further seasonal decline; it was better than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment was fair, and generally better than a month ago and a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment showed a further seasonal decline; it was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £9,341 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended January 27th, showed a decrease of 14.6 per cent. in the amount paid compared with the four weeks ended December 23rd, and an increase of 2.1 per cent. on the corresponding period a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as bad in Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Belfast; as dull in Dublin.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment, although still reported as only moderate, was better than a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as fairly good, with little short time.

Leeds.—Employment during the month was good, and much better than a month ago and a year ago. According to Returns received from firms employing about 10,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment in January was good with firms employing 76 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, and moderate with firms employing 24 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 79 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 18 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 3 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 74 per cent. reported employment as better, and firms employing 26 per cent. as unchanged.

Other Centres.—In Manchester employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago. In Bristol employment showed an improvement and was moderate; it was better than a year ago; at Stroud it was good. At Ipswich and Colchester employment was slack; at Norwich it was fairly good. In Glasgow employment was fair and better than a year ago.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 595 Returns—572 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 13 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

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

The number employed in the last week of January by 572 firms making Returns was 76,580, an increase of 1.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 477 firms, employing 65,588 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. These Returns showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, Leeds and Kingswood showed a great decline; there was a great improvement in the Northampton country district.

Compared with a year ago, every district, except Leeds, Birmingham, and the miscellaneous group, showed an improvement, which was especially marked in Norwich, Kettering, Leicester, Northampton, and London.

The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as still quiet, but improved, in London; showing further improvement in Leicester, and good in the district around; still improving in Northampton, moderate in Kettering, fairly good at Higham and Rushden, very good at Daventry; good at Stafford, slack at Stone; very bad throughout the Leeds district; good at Kendal and Bishop Auckland, quiet at Wolverhampton, bad at Newcastle, Nottingham, Mansfield, and Birmingham. In Scotland it was reported as not so good in Maybole, fair at Kilmarnock; with

hand-sewn bootmakers it was better at Edinburgh, worse at Glasgow; the Trade Union clickers at Glasgow reported it as very good.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during last week in Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with last full week in Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Jan., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with last full week in Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	3,133	+ 3.5	+ 3.7	3,898	+ 2.9	+ 7.9
Leicester	12,801	+ 4.0	+ 5.2	13,363	+ 1.7	+ 8.8
Leicester Country District	3,379	+ 2.1	+ 2.8	3,149	- 1.5	+ 7.1
Northampton	9,402	+ 2.1	+ 9.7	8,604	- 0.2	+ 8.8
Northampton Country District	9,526	+ 1.9	+ 2.8	8,794	+ 11.2	+ 9.7
Kettering	3,069	+ 0.8	+ 8.3	3,042	- 3.2	+ 4.8
Stafford & District	2,350	+ 2.5	+ 4.0	2,098	+ 3.6	+ 5.9
Norwich & District	3,941	+ 1.3	+ 8.7	3,230	+ 0.5	+ 13.4
Bristol & District	2,551	+ 2.2	+ 6.5	2,369	+ 3.5	+ 4.5
Kingswood	2,071	- 1.7	+ 1.1	1,799	- 17.7	+ 4.6
Leeds & District	2,770	- 4.5	- 3.2	2,256	- 18.8	- 2.9
Manchester & District	1,889	+ 0.2	+ 1.2	1,752	- 2.4	+ 4.0
Birmingham & District	901	+ 1.1	- 5.9	711	- 4.3	- 5.7
Other parts of England and Wales	3,694	- 2.5	+ 2.1	2,623	- 8.8	- 2.1
England and Wales	60,877	+ 1.5	+ 4.6	57,919	+ 0.1	+ 6.5
SCOTLAND	4,207	- 0.1	+ 2.7	4,058	- 3.5	+ 4.5
IRELAND	504	- 4.7	+ 1.2	381	- 7.1	+ 7.0
UNITED KINGDOM	65,588	+ 1.3	+ 4.5	62,358	- 0.2	+ 6.4

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported during January, 1906, together with the increases or decreases, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1904 and 1905:—

	Month ended Jan. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with January, 1905.	
		1905.	1904.
Imports.			
Dozen Pairs	18,540	+ 2,863	- 816
Value	£ 73,135	+ 11,046	+ 11,893
Re-Exports.			
Dozen Pairs	1,617	+ 315	- 1,158
Value	£ 5,079	+ 1,341	- 1,696
Exports (British and Irish).			
Dozen Pairs	66,810	+ 4,674	+ 15,100
Value	£ 159,100	+ 21,435	+ 40,654

HAT TRADE.

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

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 14.4, compared with 15.8 at the end of December, and 15.6 a year ago. In London employment continued slack, but was better than a year ago. In Denton it was quiet, and showed little change compared with a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 7.5, compared with 7.9 at the end of December, and 4.3 a year ago. Employment generally was quiet, and slightly worse than a year ago, except in Stockport, where it continued good.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 214 Returns—207 from Employers; 2 from Trade Unions; and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed a decline in the West-end dressmaking and millinery trades compared with a month ago, and a slight decline compared with a year ago; in the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse and millinery trades it was much better than a month ago, and a little better than a year ago. Employment in the shirt and collar trade was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the corset trade employment during the month was fair, and slightly better than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London, Returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,476 dressmakers in the last week in January, showed a decrease of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate, and worse than a year ago. Court dressmakers, employing 1,456 workpeople, showed a decrease of 7.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate, and about the same as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms employing 3,029 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the last week of January showed an increase of 7.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair, and better than a year ago. Firms employing 1,273 milliners showed an increase of 24.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 10.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; the improvement in numbers compared with last month was shown by the wholesale branch, the retail branch showing a decline; both branches showed an improvement compared with a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed an increase in the demand for dressmakers and milliners, and also in the supply; compared with a year ago there was a decrease in both demand and supply; in all three periods the supply was greater than the demand.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was moderate, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 2,608 workpeople in the last week of January showed an increase of 9.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was moderate, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,357 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,892 in wages during the last week in January, showed an increase of 5.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was moderate in London, Taunton, and Londonderry, fairly good in Glasgow and Belfast, and good in Manchester.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,909 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the last week of January showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was reported as fair. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 38 per cent. reported employment as improved, and firms employing 62 per cent. as unchanged.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 42 Returns—1 from an Employers' Association, 28 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January continued quiet on the whole. Compared with a year ago it was considerably better. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,577 had 5.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 6.1 per cent. in December, and 10.8 per cent. in January, 1905.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment continued quiet on the whole, but was considerably better than a year ago. At Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Manchester employment was reported as good. Employment was good with curriers in London.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment continued quiet, with short time, but was better than a year ago. With saddlers it London it was fair. With horse collar makers it was slack generally.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Employment with portmanteau and trunk makers in London continued fair. With fancy leather workers it was also fair, but rather worse than in December.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 426 Returns—152 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 255 from Trade Unions, 18 from Local Correspondents and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was quiet on the whole at the end of January, and not so good as at the end of December, though better than a year ago.

PAPER TRADES.

In the *machine* trade employment was good, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago. In the *hand-made* trade it was reported as fairly good.

Returns received from firms employing 22,712 workpeople at the end of January showed that there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed as compared with December, and of 0.8 per cent. as compared with January, 1905.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last full week of Jan., 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	7,019	- 0.0	+ 0.0
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,963	+ 1.2	- 0.5
Southern Counties	6,509	+ 0.6	+ 2.3
Scotland	6,105	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	21,596	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Hand-made Paper	1,116	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Total	22,712	+ 0.3	+ 0.8

PRINTING TRADES.

Trade Unions in the *machine* trade with 1,701 members had 2.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2.5 a month ago and 2.1 a year ago. In the *hand-made* trade Trade Unions with 619 members had 5.7 per cent. unemployed, compared with 5.5 in December, and 6.7 in January, 1905.

Employment with *letterpress printers* was fairly good while the General Election was in progress, and overtime was frequently resorted to; but when this work was over employment declined, and at the end of January was not so good as at the end of December. Trade Unions with 40,137 members had 5.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.8 per cent. at the end of December, and 5.2 per cent. at the end of January, 1905.

In the *lithographic* trade employment remained quiet, but showed some improvement compared with a year ago. Trade Unions of lithographic printers and artists with 6,452 members had 5.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, the same percentage as in December, compared with 6.3 per cent. in January, 1905.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1906 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	18,621	5.7	5.8	5.0	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,114	6.0	4.5	5.4	+ 1.5	+ 0.6
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,520	5.2	4.8	6.4	+ 0.4	- 1.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,348	3.7	3.9	5.3	- 0.2	- 1.6
West Midlands	2,372	4.6	3.5	4.8	+ 1.1	- 0.2
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,668	2.4	1.9	3.3	+ 0.5	- 0.9
Scotland	5,498	3.7	3.4	5.2	+ 0.3	- 1.5
Ireland	2,448	7.1	6.8	7.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
United Kingdom ...	46,589	5.1	4.8	5.3	+ 0.3	- 0.2

London.—Employment was quiet generally and rather worse at the end of January than at the end of December. Compared with a year ago employment declined with compositors, but improved with letterpress machine minders and lithographic printers. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 16,691 members had 5.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of January, compared with 5.8 a month ago and 4.6 a year ago. Electrotypers and stereotypers reported employment as good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Other Centres.—In Edinburgh employment with letterpress printers was reported as fair, both short time and overtime having been worked. At other principal towns overtime was resorted to while the election work lasted, employment subsequently declining. In Leeds employment was reported as bad for the time of year, several firms having worked short time. At Leicester and Dundee it was reported as good; at Oxford as better than usual for the time of year. With lithographic printers employment was quiet generally, but good at Birmingham.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was quiet in London and fairly good in the Provinces. Some decline was shown compared with December, but compared with January, 1905, there was an improvement.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed in Trade Unions making Returns :—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Jan., 1906 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,673	4.9	4.4	5.3	+ 0.5	- 0.4
Other Districts	3,308	3.3	2.4	4.2	+ 0.9	- 0.9
United Kingdom ...	6,981	4.1	3.4	4.8	+ 0.7	- 0.7

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,259 Returns—122 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 2,094 from Trade Unions and 43 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades remained dull in January, and showed little change as compared with a month and a year ago.

Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 53 London employers showed that in the last week of January they paid wages to 9,961 workpeople of all classes, compared with 9,745 in December and 11,127 in January, 1905. Employment generally in London was rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

Returns were received from Employers' Associations in 63 districts outside London. In three-fourths of these employment was reported the same as a month ago, and in one-sixth, including Halifax, Birmingham, Swansea, and Aberdeen, it was worse than a month ago. Compared with a year ago, employment was reported worse in 26 towns, and about the same in 30; in 7 it was better.

The following information is based on Returns from Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents :—

With *bricklayers* employment showed little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Bad weather interfered with work in a good many cases. Employment was bad generally, but was moderate at Stockton, South Shields, Oldham, Stockport, and St. Helen's; fair at Bootle and Coventry; improving at Bath, Swindon and Croydon. At Glasgow and Greenock it was worse than a month ago. A report from Leeds states that some men were migrating from that town to Lancashire, where some large mills were in process of erection.

With *stonemasons* employment showed little change as compared with a month ago, and in England as compared

with a year ago, but it was worse than a year ago in Scotland. Employment generally was bad. It was worse than a month ago in London; in the lower reaches of the Tyne it was better; at Sunderland, Bury, Stockport, Preston, Huddersfield, Norwich, Brighton and Dublin it was fair; at Hull and Oldham moderate. In Scotland and Wales bad weather caused short time. Employment improved at Bristol; at Dundee it was worse than a month ago.

With *carpenters* and *joiners* employment on the whole was worse than a month ago, the decline being chiefly in London and the Midlands, while in the Eastern Counties there was an improvement. Compared with a year ago there was a falling off in London, the Southern and South-Western Counties, and Wales and Monmouth, while all other districts showed an improvement, which was greatest in the Midlands, Lancashire and Cheshire, and Ireland. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of January was 10.1, as compared with 9.6 in December, and 11.6 in January, 1905. Employment generally was bad, but was moderate at Blackburn, Burnley and Stafford, and fair at Coventry, Middlesbrough and Stockton.

With *slaters* and *tilers* employment was very bad in England and Ireland, and worse than a month and a year ago. Much short time was reported. In Scotland it was dull, the same as a month ago, and rather better than a year ago. It was fair at Dundee and Falkirk.

With *plumbers* employment was slightly better in the Northern Counties but worse in every other district, the greatest decline being in the Midlands and Ireland. Compared with a year ago there was considerable improvement in the Northern Counties and Ireland and some improvement in Scotland, elsewhere there was a decline, which was most marked in London. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 12.1 at the end of January, compared with 10.5 in December, and 11.5 in January, 1905. Generally, employment was bad, but it was moderate at Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Birmingham, Paisley and Falkirk, and fair at Dublin.

Employment with *plasterers* continued bad, and in Scotland was worse than a month ago. It was fair at Oldham, West Bromwich, and Aberdeen; fairly good at Glasgow; moderate at Bolton, Blackpool, and Accrington.

With *painters* employment showed a general improvement as compared with a month ago. It was still bad generally, but was fair at Bolton and Northampton, moderate at Birmingham, Dewsbury and Stalybridge, and fairly good at Stafford.

With *labourers* employment was very dull generally, but was reported moderate at Hartlepool and Nottingham, fair at Huddersfield and Brighton.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 154 Returns: 4 from Employers' Associations, 124 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during January continued slack generally, but was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members in the furnishing and wood-working trades unemployed at the end of January was 7.3, compared with 7.1 at the end of December, 1905, and 9.5 at the end of January, 1905.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with *millsawyers* and *woodcutting machinists* continued dull, but was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,422, showed 23.1 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, compared with 5.1 per cent. at the end of December, 1905, and 6.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1905. Employment was reported as good at Coventry and Wellington; as fair at Birmingham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Preston, Huddersfield, Reading, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Glasgow; as improving in the Shields

district and at Sunderland and Loughborough; and as moderate at Oldham, Bradford, Chorley, and Darlington.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment was very dull, and worse than a month ago. It was, however, better than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 13,372, reported 1.461 (or 10.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, compared with 9.9 per cent. at the end of December, 1905, and 13.5 per cent. at the end of January, 1905.

Coopers.

Employment with *coopers* continued to decline and was generally very dull, but better than a year ago. It continued good, however, at Peterhead and Fraserburgh, and was fair at Dublin and Cork.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment was quiet, but showed an improvement on the previous month, and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 8,400, showed 391 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, compared with 5.3 per cent. at the end of December, 1905, and 6.7 per cent. at the end of January, 1905.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers continued fair, and was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,671, showed 78 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, compared with 10.0 per cent. at the end of December, 1905, and 6.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1905.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was generally quiet, but at Bolton it was good. With basket makers it was fairly good.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 61 Returns: 12 from Employers or Employers' Associations, 25 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *Glass* and *Pottery* trades in January was moderate on the whole, and rather worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago. It was still slack in the *Brick and Tile* trades.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers was moderate, and rather worse on the whole than a month ago, but considerably better than last year. It was, however, good at Glasgow, while it was bad at St. Helens, Mexbro', and Barnsley, and dull at Dublin. Makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham were fairly busy.

Employment with *flint-glass* makers was fair at Barnsley, Stourbridge, and Birmingham, moderate at Glasgow, and bad at Dudley, Warrington and Edinburgh. With *flint-glass cutters* employment was quiet on the whole and worse than in the previous month. With sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens employment continued good. It was bad, and worse than a month ago, with pressed glass makers in the Tyne and Wear district. With plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham it continued fair. Employment was good, and better than a month ago, with glass blowers in London.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment generally was slack, and not so good as in December, the Christmas holidays being, in some cases, extended to the middle of January. Employment was fair in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district, but short time was worked, and a decline as compared with a month ago was shown. In the Rotherham district employment was moderate. It was still fair in North and South Devon.

In Scotland employment generally was moderate, and worse than a month ago, but the same as a year ago. At Glasgow it continued bad with tobacco-pipe makers, but was fair, and rather better than a month ago, with white hollowware potters.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment generally was slack, and about the same as a month ago. It was still good, however, at Exeter, and fair in South Wales.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 182 Reports from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

THERE were heavy falls of rain in many districts in January, especially in the earlier part of the month. This did not generally affect the employment of men attached to the staff of a farm for whom indoor work was usually provided, but day labourers in a number of districts were somewhat irregularly employed. The supply of this class of labour was generally in excess of the demand, as farm work was in a forward state. In some districts there was a scarcity of men for permanent situations.

Northern Counties.—Day labourers in Northumberland and Cumberland were in but little demand, on account of the advanced condition of farm work. Employment in Lancashire was considerably hindered by rain. In certain districts in Yorkshire day labourers lost time on account of wet weather. The forward state of work also caused some irregularity of employment.

Midland Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Cheshire and Derbyshire, but a correspondent in the Hayfield Union of Derbyshire states that there was a considerable number of day labourers in irregular work, and that the supply of both permanent and casual labour was in excess of the demand. A scarcity of indoor farm servants is reported from the Tarvin Union of Cheshire. Rain caused some interruption to threshing and other outdoor work in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, but employment in these counties was generally fairly regular, and the supply of, and demand for, labour were about equal. Employment was also fairly regular in Staffordshire and Shropshire. A few day labourers in Worcestershire and Warwickshire lost time at the beginning of the month on account of wet weather. In Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire employment was interrupted to some extent by rain. The supply of day labour in several districts was in excess of the demand. Some scarcity of men for permanent situations is reported in certain districts in these counties. There was not much demand for extra labour in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was fairly regular in Huntingdonshire. In Cambridgeshire a number of casual labourers were irregularly employed. In Lincolnshire employment was fairly regular on the whole, but in several districts day labourers were irregularly employed, owing to the forward state of farm work. In Norfolk and Suffolk rain caused some interruption to employment, and owing to the advanced condition of farm work, day labourers in certain districts obtained only partial employment. The supply of extra labour was generally in excess of the demand in these two counties. In Essex employment generally was regular, but in certain districts a number of men were in irregular work. In the three last-named counties there was generally a sufficient supply of men for permanent situations, but a correspondent in the Braintree Union of Essex reported some difficulty in obtaining cattle men on account of the Sunday labour involved.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was slightly interrupted by wet weather in Kent and Surrey. Rain caused a few days to be lost by day labourers in parts of Sussex and Hampshire. There was a sufficient supply of extra labour in these counties, but in Hampshire some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported in certain districts. Employment, although affected to some extent by the weather, was fairly regular in Berkshire, Wiltshire, and Dorset, but in several districts there was only a small demand for extra labour. In Wiltshire men for permanent situations are stated to have been rather more plentiful than for some time past. Employment was generally regular in Somerset and Herefordshire, but the employment of casual men was somewhat affected by the wet weather. In Gloucestershire, Devonshire, and Cornwall, employment was fairly regular, but, owing to heavy rain in the early part of the month, some time was lost by casual labourers.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 142 Returns—110 from Employers, 10 from Trade Unions, 14 from Local Correspondents, and 8 from other sources.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was moderate. In Liverpool, Glasgow, and certain other ports, it was rather better than a month ago. In London, employment on the north side of the river showed little change compared with a month ago, but on the south side, owing to a falling off in timber imports, it was worse.

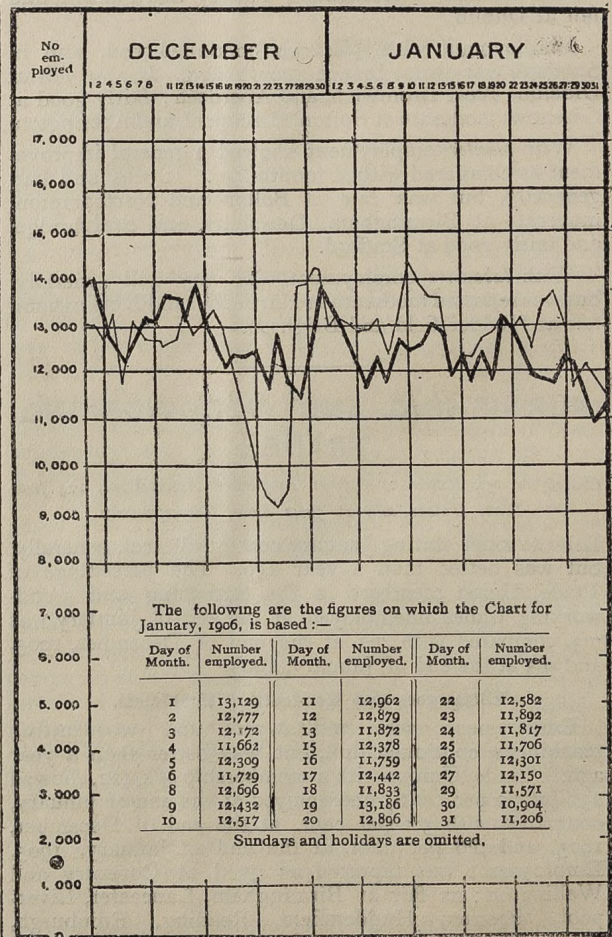
London.*—Employment generally remained moderate, but showed a falling off as compared with a month ago, especially on the south side of the river. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended January 27th was 12,336, a decrease of 4.6 per cent. on a month ago and of 5.1 per cent. on a year ago.

The daily numbers in January ranged from 13,186 on the 19th to 10,904 on the 30th. During January, 1905, the numbers ranged from 14,317 on the 10th to 11,718 on the 28th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves.			At 108 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Jan. 6th	3,908	2,454	6,362	5,934	12,296
" " " 13th	4,488	2,330	6,818	5,742	12,560
" " " 20th	4,424	2,161	6,585	5,831	12,416
" " " 27th	4,405	1,872	6,277	5,798	12,075
Average for 4 weeks ended Jan. 27th	4,306	2,204	6,510	5,826	12,336
Average for Dec., 1905	4,781	2,051	6,832	6,094	12,926
Average for Jan., 1906	4,800†	2,289†	7,089†	5,916†	13,004†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 108 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of December, 1905, and January, 1906. The corresponding curve for December, 1904, and January, 1905, is also given for comparison.

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



* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

In Liverpool employment with dock labourers was fair, and rather better than a month ago; it was also fair with Mersey flatmen. With quay and railway carters it continued moderate.

Other Ports.—Employment, on the whole, continued fair. Some improvement was shown with dock labourers in South Wales and Glasgow. Employment was bad at Bristol and Dublin, dull at Aberdeen, slack at Hartlepool, and quiet at Plymouth.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JANUARY.

(Based on 27 Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) showed that, during January 37,480* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 805 on the number shipped in January, 1905. The principal increases were at London, Southampton and Hull. The decreases were most marked at Liverpool, and the Tyne Ports.

Of the total number of seamen shipped during January, 5,901 (or 15.7 per cent.) were foreigners. The corresponding percentage for January, 1905, was 16.4.

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

Principal Ports.	Number* of Seamen shipped in January,		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906.
	1905.	1906.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
East Coast.			
Tyne Ports	2,985	2,595	- 390
Sunderland	511	436	- 75
Middlesbrough	199	258	+ 59
Hull	1,253	1,670	+ 417
Grimsby	43	94	+ 51
Bristol Channel.			
Bristol	463	675	+ 208
Newport, Mon.	1,168	1,058	- 110
Cardiff	5,440	5,560	+ 120
Swansea	701	414	- 287
Other Ports.			
Liverpool	12,770	12,204	- 566
London	5,833	6,322	+ 489
Southampton	1,945	2,390	+ 445
SCOTLAND.			
Leith	479	757	+ 278
Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grange-mouth	255	225	- 28
Glasgow	2,232	2,400	+ 168
IRELAND.			
Dublin	89	88	- 1
Belfast	297	334	+ 37
Total	36,675	37,480	+ 805

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 22 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 8 from Local Correspondents, and 1 from a Trade Union.)

The fish landed during January showed a considerable increase both in quantity and in value, as compared with a year ago, as will be seen from the following Table:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 604,529	Cwts. 477,003	£ 528,912	£ 452,393
Scotland	281,375	280,328	155,384	137,402
Ireland	16,398	18,068	10,305	9,935
Total	902,302	775,399	694,601	599,730
Shell Fish	—	—	28,297	23,955
Total Value	—	—	722,898	623,685

From the Tyne, Blyth and Wear it is reported that only limited supplies of fish were landed during the month, owing to stormy weather.

* 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.
§ Revised figure.

At Hull employment continued good with fishermen and fair with fish curers; with both classes it was better than a year ago. Among fish dock labourers employment was good, and better than last month and a year ago. At Grimsby it was good with all classes, showing an improvement both on the previous month and on January, 1905. Employment at Yarmouth was moderate among fishermen and fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. With all classes it was worse than last month, and about the same as a year ago. At Lowestoft employment continued fair with fishermen, moderate with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. Employment at Harwich was fair.

Off Plymouth and the South-Western coast very little fishing was possible during the first half of the month, owing to stormy weather, and during the latter part of the month catches were only light. At Milford, Swansea, and Cardiff good catches were made.

Employment in all branches continued good at Aberdeen, and was the same as a year ago. At Peterhead it was good with fishermen and fish curers, but bad with fish dock labourers. At Fraserburgh it was moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers, and the same as last month and last year, but with fish curers it was good and better than a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Macduff was fair with fishermen and fish curers, and better than in the previous month and than last year. At Dundee the catches were not so good as in the previous month. At Arbroath and Montrose fishing operations were interrupted by stormy weather and catches were light.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

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

SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: DISOBEDIENCE TO RULE IN MINE.

By the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, any compensation claimed in respect of an injury shall be disallowed, if it is proved that the injury is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman himself who makes the claim. A man employed as a benchman in a coal mine was sent to the pit bottom on a Sunday when the pit was idle, to attend to the pumps. When he was about to return to the surface he opened the shaft gate to step into the cage, but the cage was not there, and he fell to the bottom of the shaft and was injured. There was no bottoomer at the pit on Sundays, and the man injured was told to do his own signalling, which, as a rule, was part of the duties of the bottoomer. An additional special rule of the pit forbade a bottoomer to open a gate until the cage was stopped at the gate. The man claimed compensation, but his claim was disallowed by the Sheriff-Substitute on the ground that the injuries were attributable to the man's own serious and wilful misconduct in breaking the additional rule.

On appeal, the Court of Session over-ruled this decision, and sent the case back for compensation to be awarded, holding that the claimant was not a bottoomer and not under the special rule, and that his conduct was merely negligent, and did not amount to misconduct.—*Wright v. Moore & Co., Court of Session, January 9th, 1906.*

(2) **Merchant Shipping Acts.**

CONTRACT WITH STEERAGE PASSENGER: RECEIVING MONEY FOR PASSAGE NOT SPECIFIED.

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, that if any person, except the Board of Trade and persons acting for them and under their direct authority, receives money from any person for or in respect of a passage as a steerage passenger in any ship, or of a passage as a "cabin" passenger in any emigrant ship, proceeding from the British Islands to any port out of Europe and not within the Mediterranean Sea, he shall give to the person paying the same a contract ticket signed by or on behalf of the owner, charterer, or master of the ship, and printed in plain and legible characters. Any person failing to comply with this requirement is guilty of an offence, and liable to a penalty.

A man was charged with this offence, by receiving money on certain dates from persons, in respect of steerage passages by ships, unnamed, which were to proceed from Glasgow or other British ports within a short time of the dates when the money was received to ports in America, without giving to each person such a contract ticket as the Act requires. It was argued in defence that the Act did not apply, as the money was not paid in respect of a specific passage, commencing at a given time, in a particular ship, sailing from a named port. This view was upheld by a Sheriff-Substitute; but on appeal, the Court of Session held that the Act did apply to the condition of things proved, even although there was no contract for a specified passage by a certain ship.—*Hart v. Hunter, Court of Session, January 24th, 1906.*

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.

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.	1905.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Sept.-Nov.	6 2 15	+ 0 0 86	- 0 0 54
Pig Iron.	Oct.-Dec.	47 5 82	+ 1 5 82	+ 4 1 23
Cleveland	Oct.-Dec.	69 10 7	+ 12 4 33	+ 15 8 73
West of Scotland...	Nov., 1905— Jan., 1906	58 1	- 0 8	
Manufactured Iron.	Nov.-Dec.	123 6 53	+ 3 6 19	+ 7 1 64
North of England— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)				
West of Scotland— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)	Nov.-Dec.	119 11 42	+ 2 3 64	+ 6 1 55

Coal.—The average price of Northumberland coal for the three months September—November, 1905, was 6s. 2 1/2d., which showed little change as compared with the previous audit, and with that for a year ago. In connection with this ascertainment it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board, on January 6th, to advance the wages of underground workers and banksmen by 1 1/4 per cent., and of other surface workers by 1 per cent., on standard rates.

Pig Iron.—The net average invoice price of No. 3 Cleveland Pig Iron for the three months October—December, 1905, was 47s. 5 1/2d. per ton. This shows an advance on the price of the previous three months of 1s. 5 1/2d., and on the price of the three months, October—December, 1904, of 4s. 1 1/2d. The price of Cumberland pig iron in the same period of 1905 was 69s. 10 7/8d., being 12s. 4 1/4d. higher than in the previous quarter, and 15s. 8 3/4d. higher than a year ago. The average selling price for cash in the Glasgow market of Scottish pig iron warrants for the three months November, 1905—January, 1906, was 58s. 1d., which was 8d. lower than in the previous quarter. As a result of these ascertainments the wages of blastfurnacemen in the Cleveland district were advanced 1 1/4 per cent. on the standard, and those of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland 18 per cent. on the standard. The wages of blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland remained unaltered.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the ascertained selling price of specified classes of manufactured iron in November and December was 123s. 6 5/8d., which was 3s. 6 1/2d. higher than for the previous audit and 7s. 1 3/4d. higher than a year ago. In Scotland for the same period of 1905 the price was 119s. 11 4/8d., or 2s. 3 3/4d. higher than the previous audit, and 6s. 1 1/2d. higher than that of a year ago. As a result of these ascertainments the wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England were advanced by 3d. per ton and 2 1/2 per cent. respectively; while in Scotland they remained unchanged. The Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board also decided to grant advances similar to those of the North of England.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ETC.

The Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Board of Education in April, 1904, to inquire into the present and future working of the Royal College of Science (including the Royal School of Mines) and into other matters connected therewith, have now issued their final Report. The Report contains a short account of the development of technical education in this country, and some aspects of its development in other countries, and the Committee state that this survey appears to show that at the present time higher technological education is less developed in this country

* During the three months Nov., 1904—Jan., 1905, no transactions in cash for Scottish pig iron warrants took place in the Glasgow market.

than in several of her principal commercial competitors. Among their conclusions the Committee state that further provision for advanced technological education is necessary, and they refer to lack of facilities for instruction in certain important subjects, the absence of co-ordination among existing institutions, and insufficient appreciation of the value of technological education. Certain recommendations with a view to remedying these and other defects mentioned by the Committee are submitted.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.*

The Returns as to the price of bread per 4 lbs., as furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 26 large Provincial towns at the beginning of February.

As compared with a month ago, the price showed no change in 24 towns; there was a fall at Middlesbro' of 1d. per 4 lbs., and of 1/2d. at Dundee. In London there has been a rise of 1/2d. per 4 lbs. in the eastern and north-eastern districts, and the predominant price is now 5d.

As compared with a year ago, the price per 4 lbs. is less by 1d. at Middlesbro', and by 1/2d. at 10 towns—5 in England and Wales, 3 in Scotland and 2 in Ireland. At the remaining 16 towns (including London) the price is the same as at February 1st, 1905.

Place.	Predominant Price at 1st Feb., 1906, of quality* of bread most generally consumed by work-people in each town.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't. per lbs.
London	5	d.	d.	Jan. '06	+ 1/2
Birmingham	4 1/2 to 5 1/2	+	...	Aug. '04	- 1/2
Bolton	5	...	...	...	...
Bristol	5	...	...	Oct. '05	- 1/2
Cardiff	5 1/2	...	...	...	...
Derby	4 1/2 & 5	...	...	Feb. '05	- 1/2
Gateshead	5 1/2	...	...	...	...
Huddersfield	5	...	...	...	...
Hull	4 1/2 & 5	...	...	Feb. '04	+ 1/2
Ipswich	5 1/2	...	...	Aug. '03	+ 1/2
Leicester	4 1/2	...	...	...	...
Liverpool	5	...	...	June '03	+
Manchester	4 1/2	...	...	Mar. '05	+ 1/2
Middlesbro'	5	- 1	- 1	Jan. '06	- 1
Newcastle-on-Tyne	5 1/2	...	...	...	...
Norwich	4 1/2	...	...	July '04	- 1/2
Nottingham	5	...	...	...	...
Oldham	4 1/2	...	...	Sept. '03	+ 1/2
Plymouth	5	...	...	Feb. '05	- 1/2
Potteries	4	...	...	Oct. '05	- 1/2
Wolverhampton	5	...	...	Nov. '05	- 1/2
Aberdeen	5 1/2	...	...	Mar. '03	+ 1/2
Dundee	5 & 6	- 1/2	- 1/2	Jan. '06	- 1/2
Edinburgh	6	...	...	April '05	- 1/2
Glasgow	5 1/2	...	...	May '05	- 1/2
Belfast	5 1/2	...	...	June '05	- 1/2
Dublin	5 1/2	...	...	Dec. '05	- 1/2

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
January 1905.	7 1	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	10 6
December	6 7 1/2	7 2 1/2	7 5	10 5 1/2	10 0
January 1906.	6 8	7 5 1/2	7 5 1/2	10 5 1/2	10 0

* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same in the different towns, the predominant prices quoted for the several towns are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices (not the average price of all bread sold) paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September, 1905, to 31st January, 1906, amounted to 35,341,922 cwts., or 8,350,078 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1904-5. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-January, 1905-6, amounted to 7,134,900 cwts., or 2,114,772 cwts. more than during September-January, 1904-5.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING January 61 cases of lead poisoning and 6 cases of anthrax were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of mercurial, phosphorus or arsenic poisoning were reported. Seven deaths were reported, 5 of which were due to lead poisoning, and 2 to anthrax.

[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., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals	5	2	—	—
Brass Works	3	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	—	3	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	2	4	1	—
Printing	4	—	—	—
File Cutting	4	—	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	—	—	—	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	9	5	1	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	—	—	—
China and Earthenware*	9	7	—	1
Litho-transfer Works	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	2	1	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	3	3	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	3	5	—	—
Coach Making	7	4	—	1
Shipbuilding	1	2	1	—
Paint used in other Industries	2	1	—	—
Other Industries	7	3	2	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	61	40	5	2
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	—	—	—
Furriers' processes	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting	—	—	—	—
Wool Combing	3	1	1	—
Handling of Horsehair	—	—	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	2	1	—	—
Other Industries	1	—	1	—
Total Anthrax	6	2	2	—
Grand Total	67	42	7	2

* Of the 9 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in January, 1906, 5 were females.

† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 16 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during January, 1906, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during January, 1905, was 9 (including 1 death).

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

A PAMPHLET has been issued containing a summary of the various Consular Reports, on American countries, printed in 1904-5. The points noticed in it are mainly those which are likely to be of interest or profit to intending emigrants from this country. Copies can be obtained, post free, for two pence, from the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during January, 1906, was 253, an increase of 6 as compared with December, 1905, and of 14 as compared with January, 1905. The mean number for January in the years 1901-1905 was 251, the maximum year in this period being 1901, with 263 deaths, and the minimum year 1905, with 239 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in January, 1906, was 136. The number reported in January of the years 1901-1905 varied from 111 to 167, the mean for the five years being 141.

In the following Table the accidents reported in January, 1906, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1906, as compared with	
	Jan., 1906.	Dec., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	5	7	- 3	- 5
Engine Drivers	4	—	2	+ 4	+ 2
Firemen	1	2	—	- 1	- 1
Guards (Passenger)	6	—	2	+ 4	+ 4
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	1	8	9	- 2	- 3
Porters	3	2	3	+ 1	...
Shunters	2	5	1	- 3	+ 1
Miscellaneous	15	13	10	+ 2	+ 5
Contractors' Servants	—	1	1	- 1	- 1
Total Railway Service	33	36	37	- 3	- 4
Mines—					
Underground	92	83	84	+ 9	+ 8
Surface	15	16	14	- 1	+ 1
Total Mines	107	99	98	+ 8	+ 9
Quarries over 20 feet deep	8	6	5	+ 2	+ 3
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	3	6	5	- 3	- 2
Wool and Worsted	2	—	—	...	+ 2
Other Textiles	3	1	—	+ 2	+ 3
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	7	5	3	+ 2	+ 4
Founding and Conversion of Metals	12	13	16	- 1	- 4
Marine and Locomotive Engineering and Auto-Motors	4	2	3	+ 2	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building	2	14	6	- 12	- 4
Wood	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Chemicals, &c.	9	2	4	+ 7	+ 5
Other Non-Textile Industries	34	25	32	+ 9	+ 2
Total Factories	79*	71*	73*	+ 8	+ 6
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays...	14	11	13	+ 3	+ 1
Warehouses	1	5	2	- 4	- 1
Buildings to which Act applies	6	13	8	- 7	- 2
Laundries ... ..	—	—	—	...	...
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	21	29	23	- 8	- 2
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	5	6	3	- 1	+ 2
Total, exclusive of Seamen	253	247	239	+ 6	+ 14
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	41	42	37	- 1	+ 4
Steam	79	82	113	- 3	- 34
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	2	1	3	+ 1	- 1
Steam	14	7	10	+ 7	+ 4
Total Seamen	136	132	163	+ 4	- 27
Total, including Seamen	389	379	402	+ 10	- 13

* Including accidents in workshops.

Royal Commission on the Poor Laws.—Appointment of Additional Member.

The King has been pleased by Warrant under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, bearing date February 12th, 1906, to appoint Francis Chandler, Esq., to be a Member of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Seventeen new disputes began in January, 1906, compared with 15 in December, 1905, and 21 in January, 1905. By the 17 disputes, 2,369 workpeople were directly and 96 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 10,958 workpeople involved in trade disputes during January, 1906, compared with 10,996 in December, 1905, and 6,628 in January, 1905.

New Disputes in January, 1906.—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	2	460	...	460
Mining and Quarrying	2	802	...	802
Metal and Engineering	3	103	30	133
Textile Trades	8	942	45	987
Other Trades	2	62	21	83
Total, January, 1906	17	2,369	96	2,465
Total, December, 1905	15	2,835	356	3,191
Total, January, 1905	21	4,614	524	5,138

Causes.—Of the seventeen new disputes, five arose on

demands for increased wages, two on objections to reduction in wages, seven on other wages questions, and three on questions of employment of particular classes or persons.

Results.—Definite results were reported in January in the case of 12 new disputes, affecting 1,547 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, affecting 1,559 workpeople. Of these 18 new and old disputes, 2, involving 365 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 2,191 persons, in favour of the employers; and 7, involving 550 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in January of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 71,700 working days. In addition, 141,900 working days were lost during January owing to disputes which 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 213,600 working days, as compared with 198,800 in the previous month, and 67,100 in the corresponding month of 1905.

Principal Disputes.—Particulars of the 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.

Occupations.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Building— Slaters	Eleven towns in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Cleveland (Yorks.)	400	...	1906. 15 Jan.	...	Against proposed reduction in wages from 10d. to 9½d. per hour	No settlement reported.
Coal Mining— Colliery Workpeople	Pontypool	770	...	18 Jan. 1905.	2	Because two hauliers had been prosecuted for breach of rules	Work resumed unconditionally.
Miners, &c.	Newport (near)	1,500	...	1 July	164	As to filling "through and through" coal, payment of night men, payment in thin seam, and other matters	Question whether the men in striking had contravened the Conciliation Board Agreement referred to Viscount St. Aldwyn who decided against the men. Work then resumed pending further negotiations on other matters in dispute.
Quarrying— Quarrymen	Nantlle	716	...	4 Dec.	45	Dispute arising out of proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	Reduction of 10 per cent. accepted.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A copy of a monthly Return showing names of seamen whose deaths have been reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may be seen at any Free Library, Mercantile Marine Office, or Sailors' Home throughout the country.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for January.

	IMPORTS.*				
	Month ended 31st January,			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with	
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£18,106,757	£18,738,908	£19,705,877	+ 966,969	+ 1,599,120
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	£17,708,373	£17,619,948	£20,420,232	+ 2,800,284	+ 2,711,859
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	£10,111,587	£11,235,972	£13,096,224	+ 1,860,252	+ 2,984,637
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	£205,803	£171,632	£253,497	+ 81,865	+ 47,694
Total value of Imports	£46,132,520	£47,766,460	£53,476,830	+ 5,709,370	+ 7,343,310

* 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.
† Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
‡ Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.*

	Month ended 31st January,				
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£1,172,833	£1,275,729	£1,510,081	+ 234,352	+ 337,248
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	£2,727,859	£2,808,835	£3,263,066	+ 454,231	+ 535,207
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	£19,850,494	£20,551,368	£25,599,983	+ 5,048,615	+ 5,749,489
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	£332,179	£353,845	£401,681	+ 47,836	+ 69,502
Total value of Exports of British produce	£24,083,365	£24,989,777	£30,774,811	+ 5,788,034	+ 6,691,446

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £5,712,000 in January, 1904; £6,113,887 in January, 1905; and £7,445,855 in January, 1906.

* 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.
† Coal, wool, oil seeds, hides and skins, &c.
‡ Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, machinery, chemicals, &c.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.
Changes reported in January.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in January was an increase of £3,566 per week, as compared with an increase of £659 per week in December, 1905, and a decrease of £1,636 per week in January, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 117,702, of whom 115,653 received advances amounting to £3,682 per week, and 2,049 sustained decreases amounting to £116 per week. The total number affected in December was 26,356, and in January, 1905, 63,823.

Four changes, affecting 58,634 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards or mediation, thirteen changes affecting 12,990 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales, and the remaining changes, affecting

46,078 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In four cases, affecting 890 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Hours.
No changes in hours of labour were reported during January, 1906.

Principal Changes in Wages in January.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1906.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change (Decreases in Italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
Mining	Northumberland	8 & 15 Jan.	Coal Miners— Underground Workers and Banksmen (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen, and Firemen)	35,000	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 16½ per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
			Other Surface Workers ... ..	...	...	Advance of 1 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 13 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
		5 & 12 Feb.	Deputies	1,100	...	Advance of 1d. per day (5s. 7d. to 5s. 8d.)
			Enginemen	700	...	Advance of 1d. per day. Wages after change: Winding Enginemen, 4s. 8d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginemen, 4s. 8d.
		5 & 12 Mar.	Firemen	250	...	Advance of 1 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 13 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
			Mechanics	1,600	...	Advance of 1d. per day (4s. 5d. to 4s. 6d.)
Quarrying	Cleveland and Durham	15 Jan.	Ironstone Miners	6,800	...	Advance of 1'8125 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 24'3 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Pig Iron	Weardale	15 Jan.	Limestone Quarrymen	1,500	...	Advance of 1'8125 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 24'3 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Iron and Steel	Cleveland and Durham	6 Jan.	Blastfurnacemen	5,500	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 19½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
			(Puddlers... ..	750	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (8s. to 8s. 3d.) under sliding scale.
	Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	29 Jan.	Iron and Steel Millmen	2,650	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
			Steel Workers	1,305	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 16½ per cent. above the standard.
Midlands (including parts of S. Yorks & S. Lancs.)	5 Feb.	Ironworkers— Puddlers	20,000	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 9d.)	
		Millmen	3,500	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.	
West of Scotland...	28 Jan.	Gas Produccermen and Charge Wheelers	977	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.	
		Enginemen and Cranemen	1,359	...	...
North-East Coast	1st pay day in Feb.	Engineers and Machinemen	15,800	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.	
		Boilermakers in Engineering Works	2,950	...	...
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	Mar.	Angle-iron Smiths, Platers, Rivetters and Caulkers in Shipyards	8,250	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. 6d. per week on time rates.	
		Holdings-up in Shipyards	1,650	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.	
Edinburgh and Leith.	12 Jan.	Engineers	700	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and of ½d. per hour or of 1s. per week, on time rates.	

NOTE.—Durham Coal Mining. Early in February it was arranged that the Durham Miners' wages should be advanced 1½ per cent. making their wages 28½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the March GAZETTE.
Cotton Weavers, Warpers and Winders. It has been reported in February that the Weavers, Warpors, and Winders in the principal cotton manufacturing districts in England will receive an advance of 2½ per cent., to take effect from the first pay day in May.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.
The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

COLONIAL STATISTICAL ABSTRACT.

The 42nd Statistical Abstract for the several British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates, has recently been issued.* In addition to statistics of Area and Population the volume contains Tables showing for each year from 1890 to 1904 the Revenue, Expenditure, and Debt of the various Colonies or Possessions, the tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared, and the quantities and values of Imports and Exports from and to the United Kingdom and the principal countries. Returns are given as to Agriculture and Mining, with detailed information concerning

the special productions of certain Colonies, and as to Railways and Banking, including Savings Banks. There is also information relating to Import and Export Duties and to Tariff Valuations under the British Indian and Ceylon Tariffs for 1905. Among the principal additions to the Tables are Immigration and Emigration statistics for various Colonies and Possessions for the years 1900-1904.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during January, 1906, numbered 428, as compared with 427 in January, 1905, and 364 in January, 1904.

* Cd. 2679 of 1905. Price 1s. 9d.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in January corresponded to a rate of 233 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with December, 1905, the total number of persons relieved increased by 2,956 (0.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. There was an increase of 1,103 (0.6 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, and of 1,853 (0.8 per cent.) in the total number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 21 districts, decreases in 10 districts, and 4 districts showed no change. The largest increase was shown in the West Ham district (31 per 10,000).

Compared with January, 1905, the total number of persons relieved decreased by 6,869 (1.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 6. There was an increase of 360 (0.2 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, but the total number of outdoor paupers showed a decrease of 7,229 (3.0 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 19 districts, and increases in 16 districts.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Jan., 1906.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.*	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	12,127	4,107	16,234	194	+ 1	- 3
North District ...	16,590	10,553	27,143	282	- 3	- 5
Central District ...	7,503	3,054	10,557	849	- 4	+ 15
East District ...	15,753	9,758	25,511	384	- 2	- 2
South District ...	25,430	21,092	46,522	280	+ 1	- 5
Total Metropolis ...	77,403	48,564	125,967	289	- 1	- 3
West Ham ...	3,838	17,340	21,178	308	+ 31	- 58
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	2,400	5,392	7,792	178	+ 2	+ 2
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,358	4,339	5,697	262	- 1	- 36
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,347	7,491	11,838	194	- 3	- 25
Wigan District ...	2,199	6,466	8,665	216	- 1	- 2
Manchester District ...	10,634	11,114	21,748	239	+ 2	+ 3
Liverpool District ...	12,669	10,054	22,723	219	- 1	+ 1
Bradford District ...	2,003	3,256	5,259	143	- 1	+ 6
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,382	4,795	6,177	153	+ 1	+ 6
Leeds District ...	2,704	6,463	9,167	190	+ 4	- 7
Barnsley District ...	852	2,980	3,832	156	- 3	+ 1
Sheffield District ...	3,341	4,013	7,354	166	- 1	- 3
Hull District ...	1,694	5,575	7,269	263	+ 1	+ 2
North Staffordshire ...	2,497	8,186	10,683	283	- 1	- 5
Nottingham District ...	2,214	6,057	8,271	200	- 2	+ 1
Leicester District ...	1,733	5,995	7,728	336	+ 11	+ 18
Wolverhampton District ...	3,862	12,719	16,581	254	- 4	- 41
Birmingham District ...	5,451	3,656	9,107	156	+ 3	+ 1
Bristol District ...	2,924	7,041	9,965	255	+ 2	+ 3
Cardiff & Swansea ...	2,228	7,480	9,708	256	+ 1	- 4
Total "Other Districts" ...	66,492	122,472	188,964	209	- 1	- 6
SCOTLAND.‡						
Glasgow District ...	5,558	17,476	23,034	234	+ 1	- 11
Paisley & Greenock District ...	756	2,579	3,335	188	- 3	- 3
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,972	5,774	7,746	190	+ 2	- 2
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	1,141	2,989	4,130	207	+ 3	- 1
Aberdeen ...	769	3,250	4,019	238	+ 2	+ 3
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	401	1,476	1,877	196	+ 3	- 3
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	10,597	33,544	44,141	217	+ 1	- 6
IRELAND.‡						
Dublin District ...	7,361	5,821	13,182	334	+ 10	+ 3
Belfast District ...	3,980	353	4,333	108	+ 4	+ 1
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District ...	4,465	5,041	9,504	388	+ 2	+ 8
Galway District ...	3,853	362	4,215	211	+ 12	+ 24
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	16,189	11,577	27,766	257	+ 7	+ 4
Total for above 35 Districts in Jan., 1906.	174,519	238,497	408,016	233	+ 2	- 6

* The rates for January, 1906, and December, 1905, are based upon the estimated population in 1906, and the rate for January, 1905, upon the estimated population in 1905.

† 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.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

TWENTY-ONE Bureaux furnished Returns, of which thirteen can be compared with similar Returns for a year ago. The figures for the remaining eight are not available for January, 1905.

(I.) Work done in January.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Workpeople found Work during	
	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.
London.						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.) ...	703	1,311	2	107	106	106
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd., E.) ...	1,971	1,954	961	796	1,131	965
St. Pancras (Crownale Rd., N.W.) ...	694	871	21	67	177	312
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.) ...	14	9	2	18	1	8
Hammersmith (St. Church Lane, W.) ...	202	343	57	22	57	66
Finchley (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.) ...	445	623	307	201	180	135
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.) ...	160	251	71	58	42	33
Hampstead (Finchley Road, N.W.) ...	97	136	15	38	8	36
Provincial.						
Ipswich (Fore Street) ...	53	63	20	34	14	23
Glasgow (158, George Street) ...	542	437	531	548	161	156
Wigan (Library Street) ...	76	44	12	27	12	27
Coventry (3, Market Hall Arcade) ...	179	210	114	71	103	71
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Pilgrim St.) ...	1,061	520	87	157	62	97
Total of 13 Bureaux ...	6,137	6,752	2,200	2,144	1,950	2,595
London.						
Islington (93, St. Paul's Rd., High-bury, N.) ...	2,458	...	19	...	824	...
Poplar (Glaucus Street, Bromley, E.) ...	126	...	1	...	60	...
Lewisham (3, Springfield Pk. Cres.) ...	287	...	...	...	40	...
Provincial.						
Croydon (Katherine Street) ...	534	...	277	...	253	...
Eastbourne (Public Library) ...	59	...	2	...	12	...
Dudley ...	53	...	11	...	12	...
Manchester (King Street West, Deansgate) ...	518	...	427	...	138	...
Birkenhead (68, Chester Street) ...	121	...	20	...	150	...
Total of 21 Bureaux ...	10,293	...	2,987	...	3,439	...

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during January, 1906.

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men.			
Building Trades ...	68	67	135
Carmen, Stablemen, &c. ...	13	7	20
Porters and Messengers ...	31	56	87
General Labourers ...	...	18	18
Other Occupations ...	142	998	1,140
Lads and Boys.			
Domestic Servants ...	63	20	83
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ...	36	85	121
Other Occupations ...	87	5	92
Total engaged by Private Employers ...	563	1,264	1,827
Engaged by Local Authorities:—			
Men, Lads and Boys ...	43	1,389	1,432
Women and Girls ...	...	...	...
Engaged by Salvation Army			
...	...	180	180
Total of 21 Bureaux ...	606	2,833	3,439

(III.) Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 21 Bureaux at the end of January, 1906.

Name of Bureau.	Men.					Lads and Boys.	Women and Girls.
	Build-ing Trades.	Engin-eering Trades.	General Labourers.	Porters, Messen-gers, Carmen &c.	Other Occu-pations.		
London.							
Battersea ...	15	1	341	39	76	9	14
Salvation Army ...	113	12	163	90	224	...	...
St. Pancras ...	358	89	708	306	143	140	41
Southwark ...	...	...	13	...	...	2	...
Hammersmith ...	168	16	60	35	19	...	3
Finchley ...	175	6	67	81	75	24	64
Westminster ...	6	1	13	52	47	40	80
Hampstead ...	129	9	27	34	60	7	7
Islington ...	820	30	2,462	360	96	33	30
Poplar ...	679	259	491	306	877	4	20
Lewisham ...	164	19	195	47	46	1	1
Provincial.							
Croydon ...	196	52	257	99	74	2	42
Ipswich ...	...	3	14	21	3	5	7
Glasgow ...	50	38	72	75	57	51	169
Wigan ...	35	4	205	12	19	16	...
Newcastle-upon-Tyne ...	71	45	885	62	208	42	86
Manchester ...	371	218	808	264	310	27	223
Coventry ...	9	61	23	15	11	...	...
Eastbourne ...	97	12	98	16	31	...	...
Dudley ...	45	90	69	19	20	28	...
Birkenhead ...	16	5	146	12	13	7	17
Total of 21 Bureaux	3,517	970	7,105	1,956	2,497	449	804

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January 920 fresh applications (527 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by eight Bureaux furnishing returns, and 816 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 201 persons, of whom 135 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 201 situations found for applicants 164 were of a more or less permanent character, while 37 were temporary only.

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

WORK DONE IN JANUARY.

Name of Bureau.	Applications by Work-people during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Perma-nently.		Temp-orarily.	
					Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.	Jan., 1906.	Jan., 1905.
Central Bureau ...	97	98	70	71	19	16	4	4
9, Southampton St., W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Y.W.C.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25, George Street, (1), Hanover St., W. (2) ...	502	466	539	535	80	66	14	16
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Watford, Edinburgh and Dublin)	139	143	58	69	25	28	6	6
Total of 8 Bureaux ...	920	831	816	804	164	139	37	36
Summary by Occupations.								
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	57	45	24	17	8	5	—	—
Shop Assistants ...	24	10	5	—	3	—	—	1
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	88	98	36	48	18	24	7	8
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	53	48	20	16	10	9	4	1
Apprentices and Learners	12	9	23	24	7	4	—	—
Domestic Servants, etc.	527	464	636	629	113	88	22	26
Miscellaneous ...	159	143	77	65	8	6	4	—
Total ...	920	831	816	804	164	139	37	36

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE receipts from goods and mineral traffic of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended February 3rd amounted to £4,923,345, an increase of £113,389 (or 2.4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

Railway.	5 weeks ended Feb. 3rd, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905.
	Amount.	£	
English Lines:—	£	£	
L. & N.W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London...	1,844,560	+ 55,041	
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury...	544,329	+ 800	
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs. ...	927,389	+ 31,413	
L. & S.W., and Gt. Western ...	724,400	- 4,700	
L.B. & S.C., and S.E. & C. ...	179,460	- 1,128	
Scottish Lines:—			
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	584,990	+ 35,704	
Irish Lines:—			
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	117,917	- 3,741	
Total ...	4,923,345	+ 113,389	

ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION, 1904.

The Report of His Majesty's Commissioners for the International Exhibition, St. Louis, 1904, has just been issued* The main Report gives a short account of the history of the Exhibition and shows the part taken therein by Great Britain, together with the arrangements made by the Commission on behalf of exhibitors from the United Kingdom. Detailed Reports are given by each of the Committees appointed by the Commissioners concerning the exhibits in each of the departments into which the exhibition was divided, and there is a list of the awards made to British exhibitors and collaborators.

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, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 20; under the Friendly Societies Act, 48 (including 22 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 6; in all 76.

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

Soc. Blackpool; Battersea Royal Oak Loan Soc., Battersea, S.W.; Blakenhall and Dist. Permt. Money Soc., Wolverhampton; Red Lion Equitable Money Soc., Birmingham; Lansdowne Sick and Benefit Soc., Leytonstone; Linacre Tontine Benefit Soc., Bootle, Liverpool; Liverpool Brass-founders Permt. Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Burbage Victoria Friendly Soc., Burbage, H. nckley; East London Progressive Friendly Soc., 19, Chisenhale Road, E.; Enterprise Collecting Soc., Ltd., 20, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C.; Peace of Europe Sick Benefit and Divisional Soc., 140, Commercial Road, E.; Irving Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Earl Grey Juvenile Oddfellows Friendly Soc., Leeds; Mill Bank and Dist. Sick and Burial Soc., Soyland, Halifax; Knight of the Forest Friendly Soc., Keighley; Vroncysyllte Tontine Benefit Soc., Vroncysyllte, Llangollen; Sons of Industry Friendly Soc., Cardiff.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as dissolved, or as wound up, or as having had registration cancelled, or as amalgamated with a previously existing society, in January was as follows:— Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 12; under the Friendly Societies Act, 31 (including 17 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 7; in all 54.

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.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING JANUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Employment of Children Act, 1903. Report to Home Department by Mr. Chester Jones on the Bye-laws made by the London County Council under the Act. Report of an inquiry into objections addressed to the Secretary of State by persons affected, or likely to be affected by the bye-laws. [Cd. 2809: pp. 28: price 3d.]

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Annual Report of Proceedings under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts for the year 1904. Number of salmon fishermen employed, 1867-1904, &c. [Cd. 2642: pp. xxxiv. + 99: price 7d.]

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Annual Report of Proceedings under Acts relating to Sea Fisheries for the year 1904. Number of boats engaged, number of men and boys employed, total weight of fish landed, &c. [Cd. 2671: pp. xxxvi + 98: price 7d.]

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research, 1904-05. Particulars of day school gardens provided by County Councils, &c. [Cd. 2808: pp. x. + 209: price 11d.]

Annual Local Taxation Returns (England and Wales), 1903-04. Part IV. Accounts of the London County Council, Corporation of London and other governing bodies of the Metropolis. [H.C. 273-iii: pp. xlviii + 63: price 11d.]

Naval Expenditure and Mercantile Marine (Great Britain, &c.) Return showing Aggregate Naval Expenditure on Sea-going Force; Aggregate Revenue; Aggregate tonnage of Mercantile Marine; Value of Imports and Exports, &c., for the United Kingdom and Self-governing Colonies, and for Foreign Countries exclusive of China and the South American Republics, for the year 1904. [H.C. 299: pp. 5: price 1d.]

Report by the Board of Trade of Proceedings and Business under the Weights and Measures Acts. List of districts for which local standards have been verified or re-verified; abstract of annual reports of Inspectors showing number of weights, measures, and instruments stamped, convictions, &c. [H.C. 317: pp. 23: price 2½d.]

Parliamentary Constituencies (Electors &c.) United Kingdom. Return showing with regard to each Parliamentary Constituency in the United Kingdom the total number, and, as far as possible, the number in each class of Electors on the register now in force; and also showing the Population and Inhabited Houses in each constituency. [Cd. 2807: pp. 25: price 3d.]

Statistical Abstract for the Several British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates in each year from 1890 to 1904. 42nd Number. [Cd. 2679: pp. 439: price 1s. 9d.]

Forty-ninth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland. (Abstracts of 1903). [Cd. 2794: pp. lxxxviii + 571: price 2s. 9d.]

Supplement to the 48th Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland. Report dealing with the vital statistics of Scotland for the decade 1891 to 1900. Contains statistics of mortality from certain diseases in selected occupations. [Cd. 2790: pp. cxxxviii. 169: price 3s.]

Congested Districts Counties (Ireland) Rates. Return of Local Rates in Congested Districts Counties in Ireland during the years 1900 to 1905. [H.C. 333: pp. 13: price 2d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Colonial Office Annual Report, No. 480. Basutoland, 1904-5. Prices of stock and produce; migration of native labourers. [Cd. 2684-26: pp. 54: price 3d.]

Further Correspondence Relating to Labour in the Transvaal Mines. [Cd. 2788: pp. 10: price 2d.]

Correspondence Relating to Railway Construction in Nigeria, 1905. Supply of labour; rates of wages paid to various classes of workers, &c. [Cd. 2787: pp. 203: price 3s. 6d.]

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

New South Wales. Report on the Working of the Factories and Shops Act, Early Closing Acts, Shearers Accommodation Act, &c., &c. Apprenticeship, child labour, alien labour, accidents and fencing of machinery, &c., &c., during the year 1904. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick: pp. 45, with maps: price 2s.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Twenty-second Annual Report of the New York State Department of Labour for the year ended September 30th 1904. Trade Unions in 1904; state of employment; wages and earnings; changes in hours of labour. [Albany: Brandow Printing Co.: pp. lix + 864.]

Fourth General Report of the New York State Department of Labour for the year ended September 30th, 1904. (a) Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Labour and the Superintendent of the Free Employment Bureau; (b) 18th Annual Report of the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration; (c) 19th Annual Report of the Bureau of Factory Inspection. [Albany: Brandow Printing Co.: (a) pp. 287; (b) pp. 205; (c) pp. 295.]

Japan.

Japan in the beginning of the 20th Century. Published by the Imperial Japanese Commission to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904. Geography, population, industries, legislation, trade, finances, &c.: [pp. 828.]

Germany.

Proceedings of Council of Labour Statistics, Session of December 4th and 5th, 1905. [Berlin: pp. 52.]

Report and Statistics of Sickness Insurance in Germany for 1903. Imperial Statistical Office, 1905. [Berlin: Puttkammer and Mühlbrecht: pp. xii. + 62 + 192: price, 5s.]

Prussian Statistical Year-book for 1904. Contains statistics of strikes and lock-outs, co-operation, &c. Prussian Statistical Office, 1906. [Berlin: pp. xii. + 301: price 1s.]

Reports of German Industrial Inspectors for 1904. Vol. IV., 1905. Contains summary tables and index. [Berlin: R. von Decker: pp. 1190.]

Report on Railways, Lake Transport (on Lake Constance), Posts and Telegraphs in Wurtemberg, for 1904. Wurtemberg Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 1905. [Stuttgart: J. B. Metzlersche Buchhandlung: pp. 416.]

Austria-Hungary.

Report on Austrian Industrial Census of June 3rd, 1902. Vols. 8, 10 and 11. Austrian Statistical Central Commission, 1905. [Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei.]

Italy.

Report on use of Phosphorus in match-making Industry. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1905. [Rome: pp. 44: price 5½d.]

Proceedings of the Higher Council of Labour. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. V. Session, July 1905. [Rome: pp. 156: price 1s. 7d.]

Belgium.

Statistical Yearbook of Belgium for 1904. Contains tables relating to trade unions, savings banks, friendly societies, miners' accident insurance associations, hours of labour, &c. [Brussels, 1905; pp. lxx. + 447.]

Reports of Belgian Factory and Workshop Inspection in 1904. Belgian Labour Department, 1905. [Brussels, J. Lebegue et Cie.; rue de la Madeleine 46: pp. 332.]

Holland.

Statistical Yearbook of Amsterdam (also Index to Yearbooks for 1895-1902). Vol. VIII., Part 1., 1903-1904. Municipal Statistical Office, 1905. [Amsterdam: pp. xxii. + 332 + 10.]

Norway.

Statistical Yearbook of Norway for 1905. Contains tables relating to prices, wages, labour registries, &c. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: pp. 176: price 1s. 1½d.]

Sweden.

Reports on (1) Agriculture in Sweden in 1905, (2) Post Office Savings Banks in 1904, (3) Poor Relief in 1903. Central Statistical Office, 1905. [Stockholm: pp. 16, xxxii. + 37, and xxiv. + 112, respectively.]

Report on Registered Sick Funds in 1902. [Stockholm, 1905: pp. lvii. + 131: price 1s. 1½d.]

Spain.

Report on Conditions of Agricultural Labour in Andalusia and Estremadura. [Madrid, 1905: pp. 247.]

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3526. Trade of Bavaria for the year 1904 and part of 1905. Strikes, cost of living, statistics of various industries. [Cd. 2682-51: pp. 16: price 1d.]

The Consular Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any Bookseller.

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, the United States, New York, Massachusetts, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Holland, and Spain.

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