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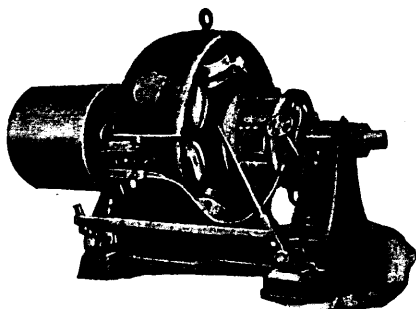
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tal invested in British electrical enterprises, including light, traction, power supply and general manufactures, has increased from some \$530,000,000 to more than \$600,000,000. This is exclusive of Government telegraphs and telephones, but includes municipal enterprises. In five years the capital in various private electrical enterprises in Great Britain has been doubled. The municipal loans for similar purposes have increased during the same period sevenfold, while the number of new municipal undertakings at present authorized by Parliament, but not as yet begun, exceeds all previous records.

The British Board of Trade has just issued a report on the trade unions of the United Kingdom, an abstract of which will be of special interest to similar organizations at the present time. The number of unions for which comparative statistics of membership are given for the period 1892 to 1899 is 1,635. Some of these unions were not in existence during the whole of this period, and the number on the list at the end of 1899 was 1,292, compared with 1,218 at the end of 1892. The membership of all the unions at the end of 1899 was 1,802,518, as compared with 1,503,232 at the end of 1892, an increase of twenty per cent. in the eight years. During 1899, the total number of trade unions decreased from 1,310 to 1,292. This decline of eighteen is due to amalgamation of that number of smaller unions with larger organizations, the number of unions (thirty) formed during the year being the same as the number dissolved. The total membership, however, of the trade unions rose during the year from 1,649,231 to 1,802,518, an increase of 153,287, or nine per cent., the greatest proportionate gain in any of the eight years covered by the report. This increase is due to the general rise in the membership of unions of every trade, with the single exception of the unions in the clothing trades, which show a small decrease. The unions which most largely increased their membership during the year were those in the mining and quarrying industries, which showed a gain of 71,084 members, or twenty per cent.

With regard to the sex of members, the returns show that 139 unions included women in their membership, the number being 120,448, or nearly seven per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions and thirty-nine per cent. of the membership of the 139 unions which include female members. The bulk of this membership is to be found in the textile trades, which include 109,076, or over ninety per cent. of the total number of female trades-unionists. Figures with regard to income, expenditure, etc., of 100 only of the principal unions, with a membership of 1,117,465, show that their funds at the end of the year amounted to £3,282,922 (\$15,976,640). The total income was £1,864,006 (\$9,060,185). Compared with 1898, the figures show an increase in the funds and total membership, but a decrease in the income and expenditure, the loss in both cases being principally due to the comparative freedom of the year from disputes of any magnitude. The decrease in expenditure in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding group of trades amounted to no less than £168,612 (\$917,880); the expenditure in 1899 being £459,147 (\$2,234,439), as compared with £627,759 (\$3,054,989) in 1898.

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