

would, as a rule, furnish results not differing fundamentally from our own.

The inquiry here described was made in York on the 7th of June 1910. The weather was fine, and had been so for a week. It will be remembered that at that time the trade of the country had just recovered from a period of unusual depression. The proportion of unemployed members in those trade unions which report to the Board of Trade was 3·7 per cent, the lowest recorded during the preceding ten years being 3·3 per cent in April 1907, and the highest 9·5 per cent in October 1908. Thus, so far as we can judge by these figures, trade generally was exceptionally good.¹

But this was not the case in York. We have gone to considerable pains to ascertain the state of trade in the city in June 1910, and have discussed the question with bank managers, retail tradesmen and manufacturers, and with the secretary of the co-operative distributing society, which, having more than 6000 working-class members in York, is exceptionally sensitive to any fluctuation. The Railway Company has also kindly furnished us with statistics covering several years, showing the number of passengers leaving York station, and the tonnage of

¹ For reasons which need not here be discussed, the statistics of unemployment published by the Board of Trade only indicate very roughly the relative amount of unemployment at different times; they do not show the absolute amount of unemployment in the country.