

who in fact obtained a very rapid grasp of the situation and of the possibilities of ameliorating it. It was not realized that the mechanism and means of obtaining information of the Government Departments (especially the Treasury, the Board of Trade, and the Local Government Board) are fully developed and have been greatly improved in recent years; and it was not anticipated that these Departments would at once invite and obtain the co-operation of many persons experienced in finance, in trade, or in social problems, and, avoiding the mistakes to which officials are supposed to be prone, develop immediately bold constructive policies. The machinery of the Labour Exchanges has been strained to the utmost, and has proved of enormous utility. In brief, the difficulties to be faced were not insuperable, and they were attacked with courage and knowledge.

Space does not permit an account of industries in detail, but a general view can be obtained by taking them in four groups: those producing luxuries or goods whose purchase can be postponed, those producing ordinary necessities, those manufacturing for export, and those producing war material or rendering direct services to the Army or Navy. In August there was an immediate contraction in the first three groups, while in the fourth great activity was at once shown and has continued without relaxation up till now. The luxury trades, especially those where men are employed in large numbers—piano-making, working in precious metals, watch-making, high-class tailoring, furniture-making and printing—are concentrated to a considerable extent in London, which was thus badly affected in certain boroughs. Similar trades throughout the country, and motor-car and cycle makers, suffered at once. Women are employed more extensively in the