

emplo., a large proportion of women. The volume of employment depends, however, not only on the number of persons at work, but on the length of time they work. In the textile and mining industries and in some others it is the custom to spread work when it is scarce among nearly all the employees, so that there is little complete unemployment but much short time. We are fortunately able to make this more complete measure in the industries dealt with in column 6, for we have also records of total wages paid, and rates of wages hardly changed in these industries in 1913 or 1914. Column 7 shows that, for every £1,000 paid in wages per week in 1913, £980 was paid weekly in July 1914, and only £695 in the last week in August. The facts shown in columns 6 and 7 are very much affected by the cotton industry, whose depression was only in part due to the war. If we take the same records, and, having eliminated cotton, proceed in the same way, we find (as in columns 8 and 9) that the relative losses of employment and of wages are much smaller.

The *Labour Gazette* contains further information as to some other industries, of which coal-mining is the most important; here the average number of days worked, each pit being treated as a unit, forms a useful index (column 10).

Besides these Reports, which are available in the ordinary course, the Board of Trade and the Local Government Board have co-operated in the collection of special information as to the amount and nature of distress and unemployment arising out of the war, primarily for the use of the administrators of the Prince of Wales's Fund. Two detailed Reports¹ have been published by the Board of Trade, and these form the

¹ Cd. 7703, Cd. 7755, prices 6d. and 1½d., Wyman & Sons.