

old men retained. With women a great improvement was shown, though employment was not yet normal. Outside Lancashire there was as much overtime as short time, but there were still 3 per cent. completely unemployed in addition to the small number out of work in July. Domestic service is not included.

In January there was an improvement in the cotton industry, and a general demand for men. There was a slight set-back in women's employment on the whole; the linen, hosiery, lace, shirt, pottery and glass industries were each in a slightly worse condition than in December. The number of women of the live register is still increasing a little in February.

Turning now to commercial occupations in London (banking, insurance, &c., wholesale and retail dealing), in which clerks and shop assistants form the principal classes, we find similar phenomena month by month, but in a less acute form. Enlistment accounted for the men who had left their occupations more rapidly and completely. Short time was hardly serious, even for women, by the middle of September, and unemployment for women was only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in October. A number of women were transferred, in banks and elsewhere, to work formerly done by men.¹

The general conclusion as to the state of employment in February 1915 is that there is a widespread unsatisfied demand for men, co-existing with a small number unemployed who cannot as yet be fitted into any of the vacant places, either because the class of work they are accustomed to is not in demand, or because they are incapable of regular work. The great majority

¹ 'To-day the L.C.C. increased the wages of women temporary clerks from 25s. to 35s. a week. Since the war men clerks cannot be secured.'—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Feb. 16, 1915.