

themselves to the motions of unfamiliar machines. A few cases are recorded where men have changed their trade completely, sometimes going from skilled to unskilled work, or filling vacancies in the post office, and in some others men have been able to adapt their skill to a new process. There has also been in the textile and clothing industries an adaptation of machines together with their minders. Many people must have been rapidly trained to perform some of those simple tasks which form so large a part of modern industry. In general, it has proved that with the growth of the great new paid occupation of being trained to fight as an outlet, the whole force of labour has got itself in a wonderfully short time into a new order, where vast numbers of people are doing work of a rather different kind from what they have formerly done. In the four months after the beginning of the war about 450,000 vacancies for adults were notified to the Labour Exchanges, of which nearly 350,000 were filled; in the corresponding period for the previous year the numbers were 286,000 and 232,000.

Nevertheless the changes have not yet used up all the available labour. In many trades in most districts overtime and short time co-exist,<sup>1</sup> and though equaliza-

<sup>1</sup> STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER. UNITED KINGDOM.

Per 100 employed in July.

	Males.				Females.	
	<i>Left ordinary employment.</i>	<i>Working over-time.</i>	<i>Working short time.</i>	<i>Increased number in employment.</i>	<i>Working over-time.</i>	<i>Working short time.</i>
Iron and Steel	7.5	12.1	7.1	—	—	—
Timber	6.2	13.9	13.5	—	—	—
Leather and Leather Goods	6.3	29.8	4.5	10.1	22.5	7.3
Hosiery	.7	22.2	3.0	7.8	20.5	5.1

(Extracted from Cd. 7755.)