

**Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress. :  
Appendix Volume XIX. B. Report by Mr. Cyril Jackson on the effects of  
employment or assistance given to the "unemployed" since 1886 as a  
means of relieving distress outside the Poor Law in Ireland.**

**Contributors**

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# ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

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APPENDIX VOLUME XIX. B.

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## REPORT

BY

MR. CYRIL JACKSON

ON

The Effects of Employment or Assistance  
given to the "Unemployed" since 1886  
as a means of Relieving Distress outside  
the Poor Law in Ireland.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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MR. CYRIL JACKSON

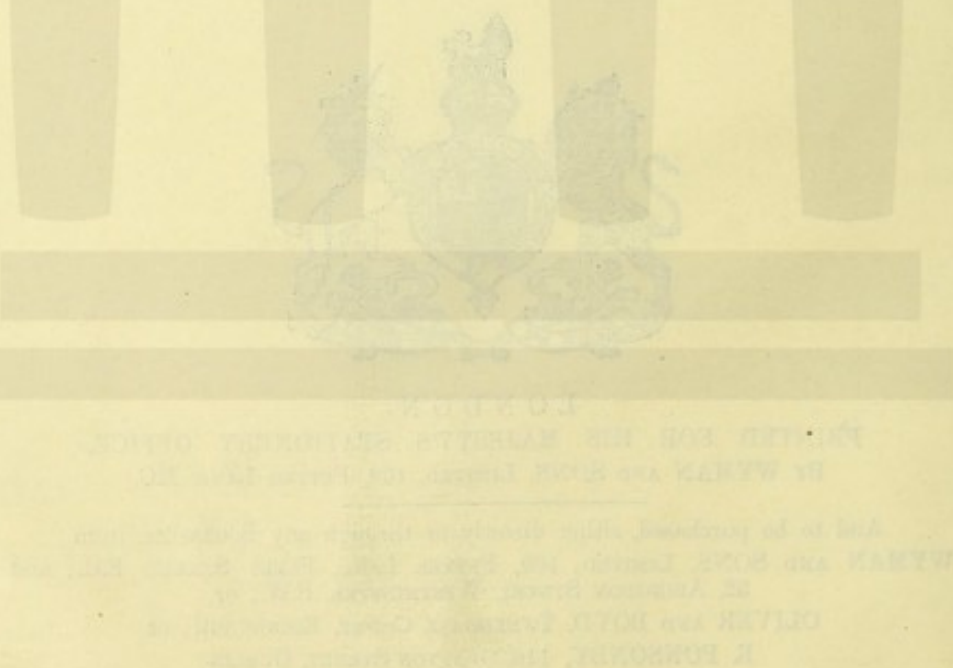
The Effects of Employment or Assistance  
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# MEMORANDUM DEFINING THE ENQUIRY WHICH INVESTIGATORS ARE APPOINTED TO UNDERTAKE.

## SUBJECT B.

THE EFFECTS OF EMPLOYMENT OR ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE "UNEMPLOYED" SINCE 1886 AS A MEANS OF RELIEVING DISTRESS OUTSIDE THE POOR LAW.

The principal information desired upon this subject is as follows:—

### I.—*Parliamentary and other Reports.*

1. A summary of the results arrived at, since 1886, in the Parliamentary and other enquiries into the subject, and of the material facts published in the Board of Trade and other Reports, with a special reference to—

- (a) The recurrence of periods of distress which have led to unemployment.
- (b) The predominant causes of distress at such periods.
- (c) The means adopted for dealing, apart from the Poor Law, with unemployed persons by voluntary or other associations, local authorities, or public bodies.
- (d) The extent and adequacy of the investigation and enquiry into individual cases adopted in various systems.
- (e) The amount and sources of moneys raised for the purpose of assisting the unemployed.
- (f) The co-operation between bodies dealing with the unemployed.

### II.—*Particulars as to the "Unemployed."*

1. A return as to the ages of the "unemployed."

2. To what extent are the "unemployed"

- (a) Recurrent cases, *i.e.*, persons unemployed year after year in the winter or at particular seasons.
- (b) Persons out of work owing to sickness and other causes not directly due to a dearth of employment.
- (c) Persons belonging respectively to the artisan or labouring classes.
- (d) Persons who are or have been members of Friendly Societies or Trade Unions.
- (e) Persons on the Register of Voters for Parliamentary or other elections.
- (f) Persons who have been recently in receipt of Poor Law Relief.

### III.—*Agencies for dealing with or providing against Unemployment.*

What have been the more recent methods and operations of the under-mentioned classes of agencies for dealing with or providing against unemployment :—

- (a) Distress Committees and Central Bodies under the Unemployed Workmen's Act.
- (b) Municipal and Local Authorities (other than the Guardians).
- (c) Trade Unions.
- (d) Other agencies.

N.B.—Investigators should be careful to note to what extent there is overlapping or duplication of work as distinct from co-operation amongst these agencies.

### IV.—*Effect of providing for the "Unemployed."*

1. What is, so far as can be ascertained, the effect in individual cases of temporary or permanent organisation for dealing with unemployment, *e.g.* :—

- (a) Does it discourage thrift or provision for the future?
- (b) Does it forestall normal employment and so tend to throw the better workmen out of work?
- (c) Does it affect the regularity of industry—*e.g.*, encourage employers to discharge men in "slack times"?
- (d) To what extent do the "unemployed" who receive assistance from non-Poor Law sources subsequently become paupers?

2. To what extent is the work provided for the "unemployed" of public benefit apart from any possible good result on the persons employed?

3. What is the extent of the difference between the actual cost of work provided for the "unemployed" and the cost of the same work, supposing it to have been done in the open market under ordinary conditions?

4. Is there any reason for supposing that the work done by the "unemployed" is inferior in durability, etc., to similar work done in the open market?

### *Special Instructions for Guidance of Investigators.*

1. The Investigators will begin their enquiry in London and proceed to investigate their subject in other typical centres. They will be expected to send in their Report on London within three months, and their final Report within six months of the date of their appointment.

2. With the exception of Heading 1 of the subject, which is intended to be historical, the Investigators must obtain their information by personal investigation and enquiry in the localities concerned.

3. For further particulars as to their powers and duties, the Investigators are referred to the paper headed "General Instructions to Investigators."

R. G. DUFF,  
*Secretary.*

## TO THE SECRETARY, ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

SIR:—

In submitting to the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress the following report on the unemployed in Ireland, I wish to express my great obligations to Mr. J. S. Nicholson, who was appointed my assistant, but who has taken a full share in the enquiry and in the preparation of this report. Without his aid in Ireland I could not have seen half the people whom I have consulted, and in the actual work of digesting and setting out the information we obtained he has relieved me to so great an extent that without him I could not have placed in your hands such particulars as were to be gleaned.

From the Board of Trade I obtained much preliminary assistance and some very valuable introductions to their Labour correspondents and others.

We have visited the four towns in which Distress Committees have opened relief works during last winter, viz., Dublin, Drogheda, Galway, and Ennis. We have visited the most easily reached portion of the Western famine district in which Distress Committees have been giving relief works, viz., Roundstone, Ballyconneely, Clifden, Renvyle, and Leenane. We thought it desirable also to visit the other larger towns, although Distress Committees have either not been formed or have not started relief works, in order that we might obtain some information as to the conditions of employment in them and the reasons why the Act was not put into operation. These towns were: Belfast, Londonderry, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford. We also paid a visit with the Bishop of Ross to Skibbereen and Baltimore that we might hear something of the fisheries at the latter.

We are conscious that in the short time at our disposal we have been unable to get more than the most superficial acquaintance with Irish industrial conditions, but we have endeavoured to see in each place the men most competent to give us information, whether Government officials, municipal officers, Councillors, members of Distress Committees, clergy, members of charitable societies, employers or officers and members of Trade Unions. All of these have given us every assistance in their power, and the absence of information which we have to regret has been due to the non-existence of any tabulated facts and figures, and not to any want of goodwill on the part of those whom we have consulted.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CYRIL JACKSON.

May 30th, 1907.

## Unemployment: Ireland.

## PART I.—PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER REPORTS.

The evidence as to the various points raised in Part I. of the Memorandum defining the Inquiry (p. v) to be found in Parliamentary and other Reports and documents is of the most slender kind. The condition of unemployed persons in the large Irish towns seems never to have been—as in England—a subject of official investigation.\* The *Labour Gazette*, from its first appearance in 1893 to the end of 1902, published monthly returns from trade societies in Dublin, Cork, and Belfast, and from these it has been possible to prepare a series of curves showing the fluctuations in the amount of unemployment in the last of these towns.† For Belfast alone is there any consecutive series of percentages given. It will be noticed that the chart showing variations in unemployment in the printing trade contains an intermittent curve for Dublin between the years 1896 and 1900. This is the only direct comparison of the unemployed percentages in any two Irish towns that it has been possible to make, and the chart seems to suggest that printing has fluctuated rather more violently in Dublin than in Belfast. It is possible, however, that a series of changes in method carried out in the former place explain this appearance.

Turning to the indications afforded by the charts of a trade cycle corresponding to those experienced in England, there appear to be only very slight differences in the general movement. The prosperity of the year 1897 is, perhaps, relatively rather greater than in England, and this is very noticeable in the building trade. The year 1899—the most prosperous year in England, so far as the unemployed percentages are trustworthy evidence—was also a very prosperous one in Ireland, but a slight decline is noticeable in the building and printing trades.

In the smaller towns, such as Limerick, Galway, and Drogheda, it appears that there is nothing in the movements of trade corresponding to the clearly defined trade cycles in England. (App., pp. 29–30.) Such towns are no doubt affected by the condition of the farming industry in the surrounding country and suffer from time to time when there has been a failure of the crops, but it is evident that there is nothing here of the nature of a trade depression in the ordinary sense.

‡ It is possible to regard the annual migration of about 2,500 persons from the West of Ireland to various parts of England and Scotland as a measure for the relief of distress and unemployment undertaken by the sufferers themselves. This annual movement has been the subject of periodical notices in the *Labour Gazette*, published by the Board of Trade, of an article in a volume upon the conditions of employment of agricultural labourers in the United Kingdom (by Mr. Wilson Fox, Cd. 2376, 1905, p. 138), and of a comprehensive Report issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland (Cd. 2865, 1906). A short statement of the chief facts as they appear in these Reports will be found in the Appendix (pp. 26–29).

The stream of emigrants who have passed to the United States and, to a much smaller extent, to other countries during the last sixty years has effectually relieved the labour market of any absolute surplus, but it may be doubted whether, during the last few decades at any rate, the departure of so many of the most enterprising Irish men and women has not had a more serious effect in checking development than in relieving pressure.‡ That in the country districts there is a dearth rather than any surplus

\* In replying to a letter asking for information as to Ireland from the Committee on Distress from Want of Employment, Mr. John Morley stated (on March 21st, 1895) that no statistics could be collected in Ireland at that time which would be of assistance to the Committee. The Committee reported that they were unable to consider the special circumstances of Ireland.

† The charts will be found at the end of this report.

‡ In 1906, 35,918 persons left the country, and of these 27,079 went to the United States; 4,065 to Great Britain; 3,404 to Canada; and 796 to other countries. Emigration to Canada appears to be increasing, for the number in 1902 was only 703. Persons going to Canada and Great Britain come for the most part from Ulster. In 1906 only 2,400 of those coming from Munster, Leinster, and Connaught went to countries other than the United States. It is interesting to notice that in this year 9,530 passages were paid for in America, and that, while 83 per cent. of the emigrants were between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five, no less than 40 per cent. of the whole number were between twenty and twenty-five. Of the men 58·6 per cent. described themselves as "labourers," and of the women 68·2 per cent. as "servants."

NOTE.—References made in this volume, and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume, are to the page-numbering in brackets.

of labour seems to be fairly well established. In the reports of the Labour Commission (see Analytical Index to The Agricultural Labourer, "Supply of Labour") it is noticed that in the Westport Union, one of the districts from which migratory labourers are largely drawn, there is insufficient agricultural labour for the younger men,\* but this seems an isolated case, and the evidence which we obtained does not show any dearth of work in the country districts at the present time.

The *Labour Gazette* for May, 1901 (p. 136), notices the "growing scarcity" of agricultural labour.

The Bishop of Ross informed us when we visited Skibbereen that there was now a considerable dearth of labourers† in the country districts round, and pointed out that the advertisements in the newspapers confirmed this, for such advertisements were only a last resort when the farmers had tried all other means of getting labour. We examined the *Cork and County Eagle* of Saturday, March 9th, and Saturday, March 16th. In the former paper sixteen agricultural advertisements appeared, the numbers wanted for farm work being twenty-three men, two women, and two boys. At the later date only two of these advertisements failed to appear, but it is not, of course, possible to say whether the three labourers wanted had been found. One fresh advertisement for a farm hand was added in the later issue. These advertisements were from various parts of the country in the counties of the South-East. Just immediately round Skibbereen and Baltimore the fisheries would retain a number of men who during several months in the year would work on the land.

## PART II.—PARTICULARS AS TO THE UNEMPLOYED.

### A.—Ages.

The ages of the unemployed in Dublin are interesting from the very large percentage of men between twenty and forty years of age. The continuous stream of emigration from Ireland has depleted the country districts of the flower of their young men. The result is very evident in the Census returns of 1901, where the ages of males over fifteen years of age are shewn as follows:—

15-20.	20-30.	30-40.	40-50.	50-60.	Over 60.
15.2 per cent.	25.6 per cent.	17.2 per cent.	13.6 per cent.	11.5 per cent.	15.8 per cent.

In Ireland 27.3 per cent. are over fifty years of age, while in England the number would be about 19 per cent. Under forty in Ireland we have 58 per cent. of the population, while in England the figures would be about 65 per cent. at least.

In Dublin, however, the ages of males over fifteen were in 1901 as follows:—

15-20.	20-30.	30-40.	40-50.	50-60.	Over 60.
15.6 per cent.	30.2 per cent.	20.5 per cent.	15.2 per cent.	10.2 per cent.	8.2 per cent.

This is a striking variation from the whole of Ireland and almost exactly like the English figures. When we look at the percentages of the 1,987 applicants to the Dublin Distress Committee (1906-7) who gave their ages we find:—

15-20.	20-30.	30-40.	40-50.	50-60.	Over 60.
2.4 per cent.	37.5 per cent.	30.5 per cent.	20.1 per cent.	6.8 per cent.	2.2 per cent.

\* On the other hand, it is stated in the same volume that in the Carlow Union (Carlow and Queen's Counties) there was more work than the men could do, and that no industrious man need be out of constant employment. The report of Mr. McCrae (1893, see A. 7 and B. III. 12) notices the existence of a class of men who refuse regular work and "who are casual labourers from choice, working only during the busy seasons at high wages and idling and living poorly during the winter months. These men are generally great grumblers and are not regarded by their neighbours as the best members of society." Such men in the Clones Union (counties Monaghan and Fermanagh) earn higher wages than regular men, and it is even suggested that "a thrifty man might earn more as a casual than as a regular worker."

† In his pamphlet on "Tillage," however (Catholic Truth Society of Ireland—"Tillage," p.21), he points out that there are in Ireland 590,000 agricultural holdings, of which three-quarters contain less than 30 acres each. On only one-tenth of the holdings is paid labour required. On these he points out that by letting land go out of cultivation the farmers have reduced their chance of getting enough work for permanent hands, and that they cannot expect to find casual labour ready to work a few weeks only.

If we compare these with the Board of Trade Returns of the London unemployed in the winter of 1905-6, they shew a far larger proportion of unemployed men under forty, for in the twenty-nine London boroughs there were only 1·5 per cent. under twenty years of age; 51·5 per cent. from twenty to forty; 25·1 per cent. from forty to fifty; 15·4 per cent. from fifty to sixty; and 6·4 per cent. over sixty.

It would appear that in Dublin young men are very much unemployed, and that while there is undoubtedly a demand for farm labour in rural Ireland there are a number of able-bodied men in the capital who do not do country work, and do not emigrate, but who remain in the city in spite of abnormally high rents and poor chances of employment.

If annual relief works are permanently added to the attractions of the capital it seems possible that the country districts may be still further depleted.

The percentages of ages given of the eighty-two men on the relief works at Drogheda and Galway were as follows:—

—	Under 20.	20-30.	30-40.	40-50.	50-60.	Over 60.
Drogheda . . .	2·4 per cent.	26·8 per cent.	24·3 per cent.	24·3 per cent.	15·9 per cent.	6 per cent.
Galway . . .	14·2 per cent.	30·6 per cent.	23·5 per cent.	21·7 per cent.	5·7 per cent.	4 per cent.

No deductions can safely be drawn from these percentages, as they are based on the numbers, not of applicants, but of those given work. One of the main reasons for selecting men for work is usually that the applicant has a number of dependent children, and this means that an excessive proportion of the applicants are chosen who have large young families, *i.e.*, men between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age. Whether any young single men are entirely rejected depends on the view taken by the selectors, and similarly, if the relief works are very easy, elderly men are taken more readily than if they are hard. At Galway the men were expected to work harder than at Drogheda, and the work (fore-shore reclamation) was more trying and disagreeable. This might account for the larger number of men over fifty employed in the latter town. Further, there is apparently a marked tendency for men to give their ages in round numbers, *e.g.*, at Galway there are twenty-one men of forty and only four of thirty-nine and none of forty-one.

It is better as a basis of returns to take the ages from twenty-five to thirty-four, etc. The lists will then read:—

—	14-24.	25-34.	35-44.	45-54.	55-65.
Drogheda . . .	21·9 per cent.	24·3 per cent.	20·6 per cent.	21·9 per cent.	10·9 per cent.
Galway . . .	28·8 per cent.	28·0 per cent.	25·3 per cent.	12·0 per cent.	5·4 per cent.

The figures, however, are practically valueless for comparison with Dublin, and they are only of interest as shewing the actual facts in these towns at the present time. Both are very near country districts, and it is probable that many of the men might, and some do, take agricultural labourers' work during parts of the year.

We regret that we were unable to obtain the ages of men in the country districts.

#### *B.—Recurrent Cases.*

We have been quite unable to obtain any real evidence as to how far the unemployed are recurrent cases. At Ennis we were told that most of the men employed by the distress committee had been given some form of relief work by the town council for many years past. In the other towns there had been no registers which could be compared, but it was a general impression that the men applying to the Distress Committees were in the main those always out of work in the winter. In Belfast the superintendent of works informed us that after the relief works of 1902-3 and 1903-4 a considerable number of the men who had been employed applied subsequently for further work.

*NOTE.—References made in this volume, and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume, are to the page-numbering in brackets.*

*C.—Causes of Unemployment.*

Similarly we found no statistics available as to the numbers of men out of work through sickness or other causes not directly due to dearth of employment. At Ennis we were told that some of the applicants were the unemployables and that in some cases they were of too bad character to be assisted by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Laziness and drink figure largely in the Report of the Viceregal Commission on the Poor Law as reasons for destitution of casuals and able-bodied inmates of workhouses.

We were informed in Dublin that a difficulty was experienced by boys in finding jobs when they grew too old for boys' wages.\* In the Guinness Brewery the boys are very carefully looked after, and to improve their physique a good mid-day meal is provided for them on the works, but the firm, who are in every way model employers, have found some difficulty in absorbing the boys as they grew up and are giving the matter careful consideration at the present time.

In various parts of Ireland we heard that discharged soldiers found it very difficult to get employment, and were very ready to apply for relief. In some quarters there is a prejudice against them on the grounds of their service, but doubtless, as in England, they are found somewhat unfitted for continuous work, and perhaps more even than in England may be recruited from the least hardworking class.†

Some striking corroborative evidence is found in the second volume of the Report of the Viceregal Commission on Poor Law Reform in Ireland (Cd. 3203). In the column of observations on the able-bodied men in the workhouses we find very frequent entries of ex-soldiers and militiamen, *e.g.*, in Belfast out of eighty-four males there are twenty-nine discharged soldiers and seven militiamen (p. 17). In Enistymon (County Clare) out of ten males six are militiamen, and in Kilrush out of ten males six are militiamen and two ex-soldiers (p. 19). In Bantry, out of ten males there are two ex-soldiers and one Army Reserve man, and in Mitchelstown the three able-bodied paupers consist of one widower and two militiamen. In Tipperary (p. 21) we find out of thirty-three males, three militia and two short-service men. In Rathdown out of fifty-eight we are told there are twenty short-service or militiamen, the remainder being drunkards. In Celbridge (County Kildare) out of eight men, six are discharged soldiers. In Kilkenny we read most of the men are militia or short-service soldiers. Longford has six able-bodied males, of whom four are discharged soldiers and one a militiaman. Dunshaughlin has five able-bodied men, all of whom are militiamen and ex-soldiers (p. 23), while Tuam shows two ex-militiamen out of a total of four. Unfortunately the figures for Dublin are not given, but out of 339 "able-bodied" we should probably find a large percentage. In the column in the same pages shewing the causes of destitution of casuals "the short-service system" and "militia service" frequently appear. These are the returns for March 11th, 1905. In the Report itself (Cd. 3202, Vol. I. pp. 56-57) there is a valuable table showing the number of military or ex-military men admitted into certain (thirty-seven) workhouses during the month of January, 1906. There were 286 pensioners, 750 reservists and ex-soldiers, and 847 militiamen, making a total of 1,883. The Commissioners say the information is incomplete "partly because . . . there is an unwillingness on the part of inmates in Ireland to admit that they were soldiers and they describe themselves as labourers or tradesmen." They state, however, that they "got a careful return from the Belfast Workhouse," and that during the month of January, 1906, there were 201 military or ex-military men (eighty-nine pensioners, seventy-four ex-soldiers or reservists, and thirty-eight militiamen). In the body of the return, which, we presume, must be considered less complete, Cork shows 100; Dublin, 78; Dundalk, 200; Dunshaughlin, 215; Lisburn, 127; and Oldcastle, 192. The Commissioners "suggest that one or two disused workhouses might be handed over to the War Office for such soldiers and ex-soldiers to be maintained as a kind of barracks." They quote an instance of "about twenty soldiers who took their discharge from Kilkenny workhouse in order to draw some allowance to which they were entitled, none of which goes to the Guardians in repayment of the relief afforded. It is understood that in this and a vast number of similar cases, soldiers, as a rule, spend their money quickly, and with very little delay return to the workhouse."

\* The difficulties experienced by telegraph boys were specially mentioned.

† Guinness's Brewery tried to take on a regular percentage of ex-soldiers, but thought them not satisfactory, ready to leave for slight reasons, and apt to consider the work too hard.

We found a widespread opinion that drink and idleness were too frequently the cause of unemployment. In the Report of the Viceregal Commission these two causes appear very frequently, and we heard, for example, in Ennis, that there was work to be got on the land round, but the men would not leave the town; and that the men relieved by the Distress Committee, though really in need, were so through their own fault. In Belfast we were told all steady men could get a job, and in Dublin some witnesses thought that there was undue proportion of corner boys and other idlers who figured as the unemployed.

So far as we could judge on the small amount of evidence we could obtain, there is a smaller proportion of genuine workers unemployed in Ireland than in England, which has more acute trade depressions and larger industrial populations to be affected by changes in machinery, etc.

In Dublin as in England the casual labourers form the bulk of the applicants for relief work. In the letter sent to the Vice-President of the Local Government Board, on July 24th, 1906, by the Committee on the Unemployed, we read: "There is a large class of casual labourers who have at no time constant employment, but live by occasional work." "The Committee . . . found . . . a large number of 'regular casuals' among the applicants." In their Report issued in November, 1906, they write that they had had many applications from quay labourers "whose employment is at all times casual."\* They thought, however, that there was a considerable number of men who formerly had had regular employment, and out of 376 men whom they put in the first class of their applicants seventy-five were found to have been formerly in regular employment (being skilled tradesmen of one kind or another), and the remainder labourers. The total number of applicants was 1,316.

#### *D.—Artisans and Labourers.*

Owing to the insufficient information available on record papers it is impossible to give any even approximate figures as to the number of artisans and labourers respectively on the registers of Distress Committees. In the Board of Trade returns from Belfast in February, 1906, on a total of 928 registered we have the following table:—

—	Skilled.	Labourers.	—	Skilled.	Labourers.
Building trades . . . .	10	6	Carmen . . . . .	—	6
Engineers . . . . .	24	5	General labourers . . . .	—	830
Shipbuilding . . . . .	9	3	Various trades . . . . .	13	8
Textile trades . . . . .	8	—			
Woodworkers . . . . .	6	—	Total . . . . .	70	858

These figures are what we might expect in a town where the linen, shipbuilding and engineering trades are the main industries, and are now in a very prosperous state.

In Dublin an estimate was made in March, 1906, by an excellent authority, that of the number of unemployed who were members of trade societies, 1,400 were skilled and 500 unskilled. We understand, however, that these men did not apply to the Distress Committee.

In Dublin the Board of Trade returns for 1906-7 do not show a similar table to that given above for Belfast, and probably little reliance can be placed on the following figures. In December, 1906, it was stated that 1,345 "labourers" had applied, while in January, 1907, an attempt was made to divide them, and the figures returned to the Board of Trade were: Building trade artisans, 99; other artisans, 496; shopmen, Clerks, etc., 7; labourers, 656; carters, horsekeepers, etc., 111.† In the previous winter (1905-6) the

\* We were informed by the Board of Trade correspondent that the Dockers' Union has been dissolved. He thought the quay work small and fairly constant.

† The class of men applying in Dublin in 1906-7 is indicated by the fact that according to a return of the clerk of the distress committee only sixty-three out of 1,987 were paying a rent over 4s. a week. Rents are high in Dublin, and from figures kindly supplied to us by the Board of Trade we gather that 24·7 per cent. of the Dublin population occupy one room and 21 per cent. two rooms. The rent of one room is from 1s. 9d. to 3s., and of two rooms from 3s. to 4s. 6d. a week.

NOTE.—References made in this volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Committee report out of 546 applicants classified, 52 tradesmen and skilled workmen; 340 labourers; 40 van and dray men; 56 porters and messengers; and 58 various. The report states: "It is well known that there is in Dublin a large class of casual labourers who have at no time constant employment, but live by occasional work."

In Galway we were informed by the Town Steward who acts as clerk to the Distress Committee that 98 per cent. of the men registered were unskilled labourers. As we understood that the closing of a distillery had made exceptional distress in the town we asked him to inform us how many of the applicants had been employed there, and after searching his register he found that twenty-two out of 225 men employed on the relief works had been engaged in the distillery.

At Drogheda we were informed that out of 210 applicants all but one were labourers. The solitary exception was a printer.

#### *E.—Membership of Trade Unions and Benefit Societies.*

The record papers of Irish Distress Committees are so incomplete that there is no information available as to the number of applicants who belong to Trade Unions or benefit societies. The clerk of the Dublin Distress Committee has returned to us only one applicant as belonging to a Trade Union, and four to benefit societies. Trade unionism flourishes in Ireland, the desire for association being one of the strongest traits in the Irish character. We have seen leading trade unionists in all the towns we have visited, and their general opinion was quite decidedly to the effect that their members would not apply to Distress Committees, though they might apply to a borough engineer, or through their leaders to a Town Council \* to start municipal work for the relief of the labour market.

In Dublin we were informed that the trades council had pressed the corporation to adopt the Unemployed Workmen Act. They had hoped that careful inquiry would have been made, but in the result they found very little inquiry made, and they felt the right people were not given employment on the relief works.

#### *F.—Voters.*

We have been unable to obtain any statistics as to the number of men on the Register of Voters who had applied to Distress Committees. We had no time during our very brief visit to make any comparison of the Distress Registers with Voters' Lists, and the staff of the Committees was not such that we could ask them to undertake the very considerable labour involved. It was thought that most of those in Dublin who paid over 4s. rent would probably be on the register of voters (viz., sixty-three out of 1,987).

#### *G.—Poor Relief.*

We found no traces of any attempt made by the Dublin Distress Committee (1906-7) to ascertain whether men registering had been in receipt of poor relief. There has been apparently no direct communication between the Guardians and the Committee. In the letter of the Committee of the previous year to the Vice-President of the Local Government Board (dated July 24th, 1906) we read that they had been in communication with the relieving officers and that they agreed in stating that "those who are willing to work do not apply for relief," and in their Report issued on November 21st, 1906, they say of their applicants, "that apparently they have no recourse to the Poor Law," and that the statements of the applicants to this effect were "confirmed by the testimony of the experienced relieving officers of the North and South Dublin Unions, who say that the labourer, however casual, and the frequenter of the workhouse belong to two quite distinct classes; that, in Dublin, the labourer hardly ever goes into the workhouse, and the man who goes in and out of the workhouse hardly ever works." The Report proceeds to point out that there are numerous charities in Dublin, so that "it is possible for a large number of people to continue to live in a very poor way on a very small amount of employment." We did not gather that any attempt was made in that year (1906) to trace all applicants on the Guardians' books, and this last year (1907) we were distinctly informed that no reference was made by the Distress Committee to the Guardians' offices, and that un-

\* e.g. The Painters' Union in Cork sent a deputation to the Corporation, and £300 was voted for painting bridges.

employed applying to the Guardians were referred to the Society for the Relief of Indigent Roomkeepers and not to the Distress Committee,\* but it was the opinion of the Clerk of the North Dublin Union and of one of the relieving officers whom we saw that very few applicants to the Distress Committee had been in receipt of relief. In Galway, Drogheda and Ennis the smallness of the town and the fact that Guardians and Councillors were largely the same persons made it comparatively easy to know the history of all applicants, and there was apparently little overlapping. We heard, however, at Ennis that there had been no reference made by the Distress Committee to the Guardians, and that some of the men put on to relief work were in receipt of out-relief which was at once discontinued when the fact was discovered by the Guardians.

### PART III.—AGENCIES FOR DEALING WITH OR PROVIDING AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT.

#### A.—*The Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905.*

The Unemployed Workmen Act was extended without change to Ireland at the time of its passage through the House of Commons, and its administration was placed under the charge of the Irish Local Government Board. The Orders of the Board follow the main lines of those issued by the English office. The principal difference is in the qualifications required in selected applicants and the amount of inquiry directed to be made. The English Order lays it down that selected men shall be of good character and shall not have been in receipt of Poor Law relief within the twelve months preceding application. These clauses do not appear in the Irish Order. Further, the English Distress Committees are directed to make inquiry at the applicant's home and to receive a report from the relieving officer for the district. The Irish Committees are directed to cause such inquiry to be made . . . as . . . to satisfy themselves that the case is one which they may, with due observance of the requirements of the Act, properly entertain." Besides minor differences the only other of importance is that in Ireland the principle was not laid down as in England, that the average weekly wages upon relief works were to be less than those of an unskilled labourer in continuous work. The Act was adopted practically in only four towns—Dublin, Drogheda, Galway and Ennis, and in the first of these alone was there any large amount of relief work provided.

• In 1905-6 Distress Committees were formed in Cork and Belfast, but not in Dublin. There seems from the first to have been a very general distrust of the Act. Its main features—the supplementation of local charitable money out of a central fund, the whole being administered after careful enquiry at the expense of the rates—seem to have repelled the local bodies who would have had to put the Act in force. In a correspondence which passed between the authorities of Cork and the Local Government Board, the number of questions to be answered before the subject of a grant could be reached led the former to the conclusion that the Act was totally inapplicable to the conditions existing in Cork, a conclusion founded upon the somewhat irrelevant consideration that a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate would not realize more than £350, and that such a sum was "inadequate to meet the distress." Eventually the Cork Distress Committee decided to take no active steps and the Act became a dead letter. The Distress Committee in Belfast also failed to put the Act into force, and in the following year did not meet.†

The Corporation of Dublin decided on December 13th, 1905, not to adopt the Unemployed Workmen Act, in spite of the pressure brought to bear upon them by the Trades Council and the Philanthropic Reform Association. An account of the efforts of that society and of the committee which they were able to form will be found on pp. 22-23. This committee received a grant of £500 from the portion of the Queen's Fund allotted to Ireland. The rest of this Fund—about £5,000—remained still unspent at the end of the year, and is being used for the relief works in the West of Ireland.

During the winter, 1906-7, Distress Committees were formed and actually provided employment in the four places already mentioned, Dublin, Drogheda, Galway and Ennis.

\* The receipt of Poor Law relief did not in Ireland, as in England, disqualify for relief under the Unemployed Workmen Act.

† Distress committees were formed in 1905-6 at C'onmel, Dundalk, Kilkenny, Londonderry and Waterford, but either did not meet or took no action. At Pembroke and Rathmines—suburbs of Dublin—distress committees were also formed. At the latter place ninety-one men registered, fifty-four cases were investigated, eighteen were found ineligible and seven cancelled.

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On November 23rd, 1906, the Dublin Corporation reversed their decision of the previous year and decided to set up a Distress Committee under the Act. Voluntary subscriptions to the amount of £210 were collected and grants amounting to £1,750 were received from the Local Government Board out of the £11,000 allotted to Ireland from the £200,000 voted by Parliament for the relief of unemployment. Offices were taken and a clerk with eight assistants appointed. To March 31st, 1907, over 4,000 entries were made on the register. At first very little investigation was made into the cases. Between December, 1906, and February, 1907, the men left their names at the office, and subsequently received a visit from one of the investigation officers. Cases for investigation were chosen indiscriminately, one in each ten being taken and, at a later date, the early cases consecutively. It was stated that out of the second hundred chosen (the numbers, two, twelve, twenty-two, etc.) seventeen were found to be duplicates. This arose from the fact that any number of persons interested in a case might enter the name of an applicant upon the register. When the Committee had been at work for some time the previous employers of the applicants were communicated with, and men with definitely unsatisfactory references or without references were rejected. It appears, however, that occasionally a personal recommendation was sufficient. Enquiry was made in some cases after the men had been set to work, and it is stated that in such cases the results of the investigation would not lead to dismissal from work. In February, 1907, it became the practice of the Committee to summon applicants to the office in order to fill up their application forms. From that time, therefore, there would be no visits paid to the home. Little attention seems to have been paid to the report upon the condition of the men's homes. The residential qualification period was fixed at two years, and the clerk to the Committee stated that enquiry into length of residence would be made "whenever there was thought to be any doubt." The Committee seem to have done their best with the inexperienced clerks and investigation officers at their disposal. These men were chosen from among the applicants for relief work, and were naturally quite unused to making careful and responsible enquiry. There seems to be no doubt that very much greater care and a nicer discrimination were used in choosing men for work towards the end of the Committee's activities than during the first two or three months. The Committee, unfortunately, were unable to complete their enquiries into all the cases. Three thousand five hundred and forty-seven applications for relief were received, and of these 1,550 were not investigated or given further consideration. Applications were not received after January 31st, 1907. Work was provided upon cleaning lanes which were not in the ordinary course of things in the charge of the Corporation's surveyor, on demolishing houses and on road-making. For this last work a body of about 150 men had continuous work for about four weeks. These men were chosen from among the builders' labourers applying to the Committee. On this and other work the wages paid were 4d. an hour for ten hours a day. On work other than road-making men were given four or five days' work and would not be employed for a second spell unless their names were entered more than once on the register and the fact was not discovered. All wages were paid out of the Distress Committee's funds, the Corporation providing supervision. The quality of the men's work is said to have been good. One thousand two hundred and fifty-one "persons registered under the Act" were given work in January, 1907, and 159 in March.

Drogheda is said to have suffered from unusually severe depression during the winter of 1906-7, and the Unemployed Workmen Act was adopted in the autumn of 1906. The Local Government Board undertook to grant an amount proportionate to any sum raised locally. A "coal fund"—the first that had been started for five years—was opened, and £200 collected; £50 was granted by the Harbour Committee and a grant of £200 obtained from the Local Government Board. Work upon an extension to one of the municipal reservoirs was undertaken, and men were employed during the last week in March and the first three weeks of April. A register was opened and 210 names were taken. Name, address, age, condition as to marriage and particulars of dependents were entered on the record papers and no other enquiries were made. The superintendent—an officer of the corporation—sent to the relief works all men whose circumstances seemed to demand relief, and in most cases his personal knowledge was sufficient to guide him to a conclusion. The men were employed continuously throughout the work at a weekly wage of 12s., the usual rate being 16s. The corporation provided all materials and tools, to the value of £100. We saw the men at work, and they appeared to be working fairly well. The superintendent stated that he had no complaint to make as to their diligence, but that they required careful supervision. It appeared that a certain number of the men had left the work and had sought employment elsewhere. It was suggested that the distance of the work from the town—3 miles—together with the fact that they had no boots, led them to do so.

At Ennis a Distress Committee was formed in December, 1906. The matter had not been considered in the previous year, and the Town Council appears to have been influenced by the possibility of obtaining a grant from the Local Government Board. Local subscriptions realised about £6 and a grant of £100 was received. About 150 men applied, and of these about half were allowed to fill up the record paper and were given work. The men were personally known to members of the Committee and no inquiry was made into their circumstances. Work upon forming a footpath in the town was begun in January and about twenty men employed at a time, each man receiving one week's work in three. Wages at the rate of 10s. a week were offered and at first refused, but when it became known that a higher rate would not be offered there was a rush to get the work.

The Galway Distress Committee obtained a grant of £700 and raised £300 in local subscriptions. The town steward undertook the management of the work and personally selected the men. The work consisted of the partial reclamation of about thirty acres of land. Two hundred and sixty-nine applications for work were received and record papers were filled up. Name, address, age, ordinary occupation, whether married or single, particulars of dependents, rent, number of rooms and in a very few cases the name of a previous employer were entered. No further inquiry was made, but most of the men were known personally to the town steward and the rest brought a letter from their priest or minister. Practically all the men who were in distress were put on to the work, but those who worked badly were turned off and taken on again at a later date. One hundred and ninety-eight men were at work in Christmas week. This number was soon reduced to 100, and in the second week in April forty-one men were employed. The total number of men employed was over 200. Wages were paid at the rate of 2s. a day. About fifty of the men were found to be unusually good at the work, and these were employed for alternate weeks, the rest were given three days' work in a fortnight. Not more than one man was employed from a family. The District Council provided materials and allowed one of their staff to assist the town steward in supervising the work. The work of reclamation unfortunately cannot be finished with existing funds, and it is as yet uncertain whether the District Council will be willing to incur the responsibility.

The working of the Unemployed Act in Irish towns seems to show that it was unwise to extend to Ireland a measure framed to be worked under English conditions.

#### (a) RURAL DISTRESS COMMITTEES.

As will be seen from the list of Committees and grants made to each, which has been furnished to us by the Vice-President of the Local Government Board, the bulk of the Treasury grant has been expended in the West of Ireland.

The partial failure of the potato crop had led to widespread distress, and some form of relief works seemed necessary if the people were to have any seed potatoes for this present season.

The Distress Committees which were established consisted in the Belmullet and Swineford Unions of the Boards of Guardians; in the other districts special committees, including priests, Guardians and others, were formed. The Local Government Board Inspectors have attended meetings. The relieving officers have recommended cases.

The works put in hand have tided the men over the difficult season before the potato sowing, and in some cases have been discontinued to enable sowing to be done, and recommenced afterwards where necessary. In a certain number of places the men were paid in seed potatoes. This was the case at Leenane. There the people were not really in great distress, but they have always a prejudice in favour of eating the large and good potatoes and keeping only the worst for seed. It is hoped that by providing good seed this year they will learn wisdom for the future when they see the superior character of the crops raised.

In Leenane the holdings are fairly large and the people have many supplementary industries, a tourist season and fishing club lodges, some free fishing in Killarey Bay, from which some £500 or £600 can be made, a lace school where one girl told us she had earned £18 last year, and a considerable cottage loom cloth-weaving industry. We did not see Belmullet and Swineford, where we understood the greatest destitution prevailed.\*

\* We were told, however, that in parts of the Swineford Union there was great danger that the ordinary farm work would be entirely neglected unless the relief works were stopped. It appears that in times of relief works, fishing, turf-cutting and kelp collecting are neglected for the easier and perhaps better paying Government work. The kelp industry is noted as diminishing in the Report of the Congested Districts Board (Fifteenth Report, p. 32).

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In the Clifden district the holdings were very small and the ground poor—a mere layer of peaty soil over rock. There the men were paid in cash (1s. 6d. a day) and those we saw at work appeared to be a good type of peasantry and to be working very well on the road-making on which they were engaged, a track over boggy ground to the cemetery at Dolan and to the sea-shore. One hundred men were working under four gangers.

We saw some small works employing twenty-eight men in progress at the race-course close to Clifden, and we also saw some of the work which had been done in other places (Letterfrack, Renvyle, Roundstone, etc.). The pay sheets for the week ending April 6th, 1907, shewed the following particulars as to works under the Clifden Distress Committee.

	Men.	Wages.
		£ s. d.
Road making, Dolan and Horn - - - - -	86	16 16 0
" " Racecourse - - - - -	27	4 11 6
" " to pier, Downloughan - - - - -	63	12 11 0
" " Letterden - - - - -	10	2 18 0
School building, Innisturk Island - - - - -	23	9 18 0
Work at Innishturbot - - - - -	22	10 1 0
Boat slip, Coolacloy - - - - -	27	6 11 0
Work at Ballyfadden - - - - -	37	8 4 0

The 300 men employed were all that needed relief of the 1,200 families in these parishes. At all times they have a hard life, and any partial failure of the crops reduces them to the verge of starvation. Only one member of each family was employed, and women were excluded, though some applied to be taken on.

We cannot help feeling that the expenditure of the relief money in the country districts has been a wise arrangement on many grounds. The dearth of labourers is becoming marked in some parts of rural Ireland, while the number of able-bodied unemployed in Dublin shows that the capital has, as usual, a fatal attraction for young men. To have spent the whole of the Treasury Grant in the cities of Ireland might have tended still further to deplete the country districts. In England no relief has been given to country labourers unemployed in the winter months, and though the time limit of residential qualification has prevented their sharing in the relief works of the towns immediately on their arrival, they have no doubt continued to flock into them, and have probably displaced the less strong of the town labourers, and driven them to the relief works. The grant made to Ireland has been spent to better advantage in the country districts, and we may hope has to some slight extent counteracted the tendency of migration to Dublin.

LIST OF TEMPORARY COMMITTEES UNDER THE UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, WITH AMOUNT GIVEN TO EACH COMMITTEE UP TO MARCH 31ST, 1907.

Distress Committee.	—	Number of Workers employed.	Week ending.
	£		
Achill - - - - -	400	517	March 23rd, 1907.
Ballycroy - - - - -	300	167	March 30th, 1907.
Ballynakill - - - - -	500	373	March 22nd, 1907.
Belmullet - - - - -	1,850	1,750	March 30th, 1907.
Carna - - - - -	250	192	April 5th, 1907.
Carraroe - - - - -	750	295	April 6th, 1907.
Clifden - - - - -	400	429	April 13th, 1907.
Cloonbur - - - - -	100	278	April 6th, 1907.
Corlough - - - - -	250	86	May 12th, 1907.
Kilkerrin - - - - -	250	86	May 4th, 1907.
Letterbrickaun - - - - -	400	129	—
Rosmuck - - - - -	250	73	April 27th, 1907.
Roundstone - - - - -	350	325	April 6th, 1907.
Spiddal - - - - -	250	80	April 13th, 1907.
Swineford - - - - -	2,000	863	April 6th, 1907.
		5,643*	

\* These figures cannot be relied on as the total number of men employed. In some cases men were continuously employed; in other cases short spells were given to different sets of men.

## URBAN DISTRESS COMMITTEES.

	£		£
Drogheda Distress Committee - - -	200	Ennis Distress Committee - - -	100
Dublin " " - - -	1,750	Galway " " - - -	700

*B.—Corporation Relief Works.*

The provision which has been made to deal with unemployment from time to time in the towns of Ireland falls naturally under three heads. Work specially provided by Municipal Authorities to meet unusual distress—generally in mid-winter—funds raised to relieve exceptional distress by distribution of coal and the like, and the activities of philanthropic societies which are concerned especially with distress from unemployment.\*

Ennis. In some towns it is the annual practice of the Corporations to put in hand a certain amount of special work about Christmas time. This work generally differs from that done at other times of the year, in that it is not done by the men usually employed by the Corporation. This was especially stated to be the case at Ennis, where the Town Council has given work out of their current expenditure, to a number of unskilled and usually unemployed men each winter. One week's work in nine generally has been given, but during the past winter (1906-7) these men were able to obtain a week's work in every three owing to the adoption of the Unemployed Workmen Act and to the grant obtained from the Local Government Board.

Cork. In the same way, work lasting for about four weeks is given about Christmas time in Cork. It has been suggested to us by a labour representative that relief works are especially prominent in the winter before an election of Town Councillors, but a generous sentiment in favour of providing a Christmas dinner for as large a number of families as possible has led to the works being put in hand almost every year. In 1906 for the first time the Cork Corporation earmarked a sum of about £1,000 as not to be spent until after December 1st. This postponement of a certain amount of the year's work has been combined since 1905 with the preparation of a register of applicants for the special work. The men are now put on, in order as they have applied, for three, four, or five days and are not eligible for a second period. About twenty-five men are employed at a time at the current wage of 3s. a day.†

The Corporation of Cork occasionally provides further relief work when pressed to do so. A sum of £300 was voted recently, as the result of a deputation of unemployed painters, for painting bridges. Part of this work was forestalled.

Drogheda. At Drogheda also it is usual for the corporation to provide relief works for about forty men at Christmas.

Dublin. In Dublin there were no funds raised for the relief of unemployment between 1880 and 1905, but a number of men have been employed each winter upon paving works, and in recent years money has been set aside for expenditure in the winter upon such work. The men so employed are not always those who are ordinarily in the service of the Corporation.‡

Belfast. The Corporation of Belfast have paid greater attention to the question of unemployment and have authorised relief works more frequently than has been the practice in most other Irish towns.

\* The first of these is the subject of the following notes; the other two are dealt with on pp. 22 and 23.

† In January, 1905, some corporation road making works were returned to the Board of Trade as relief works. In that month 194 men were employed, the average number per day being ninety-seven. The current rate of 3s. a day was paid, and the average period worked by each man was six days. In the spring of 1907 a large work upon block paving the quay from which the Fishguard boats leave was finished at a cost of £4,000, half of which was paid by the Cork Corporation and half by the Great Western Railway Company.

‡ In December, 1905, the corporation employed 460 men for a total of 7,000 days' work. These men were old employees of the corporation, and worked six days a week at 20s. a week. The work was upon repairing macadamised roads, flagging and asphaltting. In January, 1906, 400 men were employed, but these were the corporation's own workmen; 6,869 days' work was given and £1,192 16s. 9d. was paid in wages. Very large sums during recent years have been spent by the corporation in the city on main drainage, electric lighting, and the electrification of the tramways. Further drainage works are about to be undertaken, and are expected to provide a large amount of employment until the spring of 1908.

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In February, 1886, a new street was laid out at a cost of £1,000 and it was resolved 1886  
“that as some of the work is to be in the nature of relief works, the wages of labourers  
employed thereon should not be more than 10s. a week and that only townsmen be  
employed.”

Early in 1895 relief works were started upon laying out a park, and a sum 1895.  
of £613 expended. At the end of the year works of a similar kind were opened, and places  
found for 120 men. Wages were paid at the rate of 2s. a day.

Relief work was next provided in January, 1904. Street widening, which had 1904-  
been decided upon already, was forestalled, other work of a similar kind was put in hand,  
and “arrangements made for breaking a considerable quantity of stone.” A register  
of applicants was ordered to be kept, and members of the Town Council were provided  
with 100 recommendation forms: “for giving the applicant’s name, address, last employ-  
ment, and date of same, number of family, number working and any special circumstances.”  
Wages were paid at the rate of 2s. a day, and for the first three months were paid every  
other day. The men were interviewed by the superintendent of works and sent to the  
work if they appeared to be suitable; 2,147 applications were received, and 550 men  
started work. £1,520 was spent in wages, and the men appear to have been employed  
continuously. The work ceased on April 6th, 1904.

As the result of a deputation from the United Trades and Labour Council, the 1904-5.  
Corporation decided in December, 1904, to provide relief work upon a sewer and upon  
street cleaning at a minimum wage of 18s. 6d. a week. The men employed were to be  
drawn only from men who had been resident in Belfast for the preceding twelve months.  
Each member of the Town Council was asked to supply the names of about ten men in  
need of employment. Seven hundred applications were received, and 150 men started at  
work. Up to March 18th, when the work ceased, £719 had been paid in wages.

In the following winter (1905-6) relief work was again provided. Some 400 1905-6.  
men over and above the usual Corporation staff were employed upon paving, street widen-  
ing and sewer works.

During this winter 902 men were registered up to January 31st, and of these the cases of  
262 were investigated; 72 were found to be ineligible, 32 were cancelled, and 798 re-  
mained on the register. Nine hundred and twenty-eight men were registered to the end  
of February.

The Belfast Corporation do something to relieve the annual winter depression by  
arranging to carry out some of their ordinary work at an inconvenient season. It is  
estimated that the practice adds as much as 20 per cent. to the cost of such work. The  
figures showing the number of men employed at different times of year indicate the extent  
to which this practice is followed. There were employed in August, 1906, 743 men,  
while in the following January 926 men were at work.

The Corporation of Waterford have from time to time started relief works similar to Waterford.  
those already described in Belfast. Such were the works upon making a promenade at a  
cost of about £500 in 1886; upon a river bed in 1893, at a cost of between £300 and £400;  
and, in 1896, upon making a cycle track and laying out a park. More recently some eighty  
men were employed upon sewage works at a cost of £1,000, out of a loan of £55,000 for  
the purpose, and were paid at the current rate of wages—from 14s. to 16s. a week. About a  
dozen men are also taken on for extra street sweeping each winter.

In the winter of 1905-6 relief work on a small scale was provided by the Municipal Dundalk  
Authorities of Dundalk and Clonmel. In the former place in February, 1906, fifty men and  
were employed upon reclamation of town property and upon roads, at a weekly wage Clonmel.  
of 12s. The work lasted twenty-four days. At Clonmel between thirty-six and eleven  
men monthly were chosen for their destitution, and employed upon street cleaning and  
road work from November to March. They received 2s. 2d. a day, and worked upon an  
average for five days a week.\*

At Londonderry the Corporation provided special work at stone-setting and road work London-  
for about a fortnight in November, 1905. In February, 1906, further work of the same derry.  
kind was undertaken for fifteen days. Forty-two men were chosen by the city surveyor,

\* Employment was given as follows:—

October 30th to December, 1905, thirty-six men employed for four weeks and two days, eight hours a  
day. (792 days’ work.)

January, 1906, seventeen men (359½ days’ work). Wages, £46 17s. 11d.

February, 1906, sixteen men (196 days’ work). Wages, £21 4s. 8d.

March, 1906, eleven men (75 days’ work). Wages, £8 2s. 10d.

and employed; wages to the amount of £93 being paid. At the same time forty men were employed for seven days each, and three men for six days each, upon water-mains at a total cost for wages of £37 5s. It is noticeable that in January, 1906, the Corporation undertook works out of capital account to the amount of £12,000.

Ballymena. At Ballymena, Co. Antrim, there were nine labourers upon the Corporation register in October, 1906. The register had not been opened since May 7th, 1906, as regular employment given by the Corporation was considered to provide sufficient employment for any men who were willing to work. Eight labourers were noted as applicants in January, 1906, but were not registered.

### C.—Trade Unions.

Trade Unions are very strong in Ireland, and in all the towns which we visited we found the secretaries or other officers able and willing to give us much information about the trade of the locality. There are very large numbers of local unions as well as branches of the large Amalgamated Societies of the United Kingdom. Labourers seem exceptionally well organised. For example, the Belfast branch of the National Union of Dock Labourers was, we were informed, the first branch started after the founding of the union in Glasgow in 1889. It was in abeyance for some years, but has now been re-started and numbers over 2,000 members. The skilled workmen in Belfast are very well organised, though the women's union still lags behind. In Cork we were informed that the majority of workmen were in unions, and there is now a local Dockers' Union there.

In Dublin practically all the men in the printing trades are unionists, and the building trades have very strong organisations. We append a return (kindly furnished to us by the Board of Trade correspondent) of the membership of Dublin unions at the present time. The Dockers' Union is at present in abeyance, but there is a General Labourers' Union, and we understand that the quay work, though small, is fairly constant. In Waterford there is a good General Labourers' Union to which one of the leading employers subscribes.

In the country districts the co-operative movement started by Sir Horace Plunkett is strongly supported. The list of local unions which we append has been taken from the last Board of Trade Report, and refers to the year 1904.

Local Trade Unions are generally very small, and in many cases it is practically impossible for them to pay unemployed benefit. We were, however, informed that in various ways they looked after their unemployed, and that very few, if any, of their members would apply to a Distress Committee. Where there are branches of Amalgamated Unions which pay unemployed benefit, they are of course on the same footing as in England. It was pointed out to us that wages in Ireland, in almost all trades (especially for unskilled men) are on the average lower than in England,\* and it is difficult therefore for the Irish members to pay the same contributions as in the richer country. Ireland certainly shares to the full in the efforts made by the working classes in Great Britain, to insure themselves against sickness, accidents and unemployment. Indeed, we were assured that many members of Amalgamated Unions in Ireland who pay full contributions and obtain full benefits maintain also a local fund to supplement these benefits, and that when members and branches of Amalgamated Societies pay on a lower scale and secure partial benefits (i.e., strike and mortality) they often at the same time contribute to local branch funds for other benefits (i.e., sick, unemployed, etc.).

We were unable to obtain the actual amounts paid in unemployed benefit by the different societies, but the Dublin Board of Trade correspondent thought that the average yearly expenditure under this head for the last five years of the following specimen unions would give a fair criterion for the amount spent by other unions relatively to their membership. In the case of the building trades,† which have been much depressed, he thought 10 per cent. might be added on any comparative figures obtained by such a calculation based on the returns of the following three unions:—

	Number of Members.	Yearly Expenditure for Unemployed Benefit.
Letterpress Printers - -	1,000	£1,000
Carpenters - - -	1,200	£1,320
Engineers - - -	400	£440

\* See p. 29.

NOTE.—References made in this volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPROXIMATE MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS IN DUBLIN (KINDLY FURNISHED BY THE BOARD OF  
TRADE CORRESPONDENT):—

Trade Union.	Approximate Member- ship.
<i>Amalgamated.</i>	
Amalgamated Painters, No. 1 Branch	120
" Painters, No. 2 Branch	130
" Millsawyers	100
" Slaters and Tilers	100
" Brass Founders	160
" Sheet Metal Workers	90
United Smiths	100
Amalgamated Engine Makers	100
" Cabinet Makers	120
Allied Cabinet Makers	100
Amalgamated Coachmakers	250
" Brushmakers	100
National Union of Bootmakers	60
Amalgamated Bootmakers*	30
Stone Cutters' Union of Ireland	500
Amalgamated Union of Labourers*	50
" Upholsterers	150
" Tailors*	500
" Carpenters	1,200
" Engineers	400
" Boiler Makers	120
" Iron Founders	100
Associated Shipwrights	80
Amalgamated Lithographic Printers	150
Bookbinders	200
Federated Stereotypers	40
Amalgamated Plumbers	250
" Iron and Steel Dressers*	20
" Paper Cutters	100
" Railwaymen (Ireland)*	4,000
" Shop Assistants	100
" Paviers	20
<i>Local.</i>	
Bricklayers†	1,000
Plasterers*	350
Whiteners	80
Painters	550
Stonecutters	120
Stepaside Stonecutters	90
Whitesmiths	50
Letterpress Printers	1,020
Saddlers	100
Bottlemakers	120
Coopers	300
Corporation Labourers*	800
United Labourers*	300
General Labourers	50
Stationery engine drivers	100
Bakers	600
Bacon Curers*	50
Purveyors, Assistants*	150
Hairdressers*	80
Farriers	90
Builders' Labourers*	400
Glaziers*	30
Drapers' Assistants of Ireland	1,000
Silkweavers	120
Butchers	30
Carpet Planners	30
Wagon Makers	20

\* Give no unemployed benefit.

† At present the bricklayers have suspended unemployed benefit owing to their funds having been depleted in a recent dispute.

## IRELAND. (Trade Unions in Board of Trade Report, Cd. 2838 (1906).)

	Membership at end of Year.	Unemployed Benefit (Travelling and Emigration).		Membership at end of Year.	Unemployed Benefit (Travelling and Emigration).
Flax dressers :—			Flax roughers :—		
1900 - -	1,284	848	1900 - -	1,495	197
1901 - -	1,265	1,083	1901 - -	1,591	540
1902 - -	1,152	880	1902 - -	1,615	408
1903 - -	1,102	537	1903 - -	1,483	327
1904 - -	1,017	501	1904 - -	1,356	479

Ireland. Trade Unions (Board of Trade Report, 1906, Cd. 2838) :—				Membership at end of 1904.
<i>Building Trades—</i>				
Ancient Guild of Brick and Stone Layers - - - - -	-	-	-	1,045
Sligo Brick and Stone Layers - - - - -	-	-	-	6
United Operative Bricklayers of Belfast (in 1902 when joined English Society Operative Bricklayers) - - - - -	-	-	-	539
United Operative Bricklayers of Dublin - - - - -	-	-	-	28
Cork Operative Masons and Bricklayers - - - - -	-	-	-	190
Limerick Masons and Bricklayers - - - - -	-	-	-	50
Operative Stone Cutters of Steppaside - - - - -	-	-	-	92
Operative Stone Cutters of Ireland - - - - -	-	-	-	500
City of Dublin Stonecutters - - - - -	-	-	-	124
Dublin Operative Plasterers - - - - -	-	-	-	196
Belfast Operative Plasterers - - - - -	-	-	-	109
Kilkenny Plasterers and Slaters - - - - -	-	-	-	23
Metropolitan House Painters, Dublin - - - - -	-	-	-	450
*Cork House Painters - - - - -	-	-	-	250
Limerick Operative House Painters' Old Society - - - - -	-	-	-	1,322
Limerick Guild of House Painters - - - - -	-	-	-	69
Belfast House and Ship Painters - - - - -	-	-	-	560
United Labourers of Dublin - - - - -	-	-	-	956
Cork Builders' Labourers - - - - -	-	-	-	335
Dublin Builders' Labourers - - - - -	-	-	-	370
Dublin Whiteners - - - - -	-	-	-	80
Regular Glass Cutters, Glaziers and Lead Sash Makers (Dublin) - - - - -	-	-	-	23
<i>Engineering—</i>				
Dublin Whitesmith, Locksmith, etc. - - - - -	-	-	-	33
United Smiths of Ireland (Dublin) - - - - -	-	-	-	65
Dublin Brassfounders, Finishers and Gasfitters - - - - -	-	-	-	141
Belfast Brassfounders and Coppersmiths - - - - -	-	-	-	325
Belfast and District Hackle and Gill Makers - - - - -	-	-	-	96
<i>Farriers—</i>				
Dublin Regular Operative Farriers - - - - -	-	-	-	120
Cork Operative Farriers - - - - -	-	-	-	28
<i>Tin, Iron, etc., Workers—</i>				
Dublin Tinsmiths and Sheet Metal Workers - - - - -	-	-	-	54
Belfast Sheet Metal Workers and Gasfitters - - - - -	-	-	-	103
<i>Linen—</i>				
Flax Dressers (see above) - - - - -	-	-	-	1,017
Power Loom Tenters (Belfast) - - - - -	-	-	-	302
Belfast Power Loom Yarn Dressers - - - - -	-	-	-	143
Irish Linen Wrappers - - - - -	-	-	-	64
Flax Roughers (see above) - - - - -	-	-	-	1,356
Irish Hand-loom Damask Weavers (Lisburn) - - - - -	-	-	-	45
Beetling Enginemen - - - - -	-	-	-	150
Textile Operatives of Ireland (females) - - - - -	-	-	-	1,589
Lurgan Hemmers and Veiners (females) - - - - -	-	-	-	700

\* Pay unemployed benefit at rate of 10s. a week.

NOTE.—References made in this volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Ireland. Trade Unions (Board of Trade Report, 1906, Cd. 2838):—	Membership at end of 1904.
<i>Silk—</i>	
Dublin Silk and Poplin Weavers . . . . .	121
<i>Boot and Shoe—</i>	
Boot and Shoemakers (Cork) . . . . .	54
<i>Clothing—</i>	
Sligo Dressmakers (females) . . . . .	104
<i>Locomotion—</i>	
Belfast and Dublin Loco. Engine Drivers and Firemen . . . . .	384
<i>Dock and Riverside—</i>	
Limerick Harbour Employees . . . . .	50
<i>Printing—</i>	
Dublin Typographical Society . . . . .	1,018
<i>Upholsterers—</i>	
Carpet Planners of Dublin . . . . .	22
<i>Coach, etc., Builders—</i>	
Regular Cart, Van, and Wagon Builders (Dublin) . . . . .	8
<i>Coopers—</i>	
Dublin Coopers . . . . .	330
Cork „ . . . . .	100
Belfast „ . . . . .	105
<i>Lath Renders—</i>	
Dublin Operative Lath Makers . . . . .	20
<i>Packing Case Makers—</i>	
Belfast Packing Case Makers . . . . .	50
<i>Glass Trades—</i>	
Irish Glass Bottle Makers . . . . .	182
<i>Food and Drink—</i>	
Irish Bakers . . . . .	1,603
Bread Van Drivers (Limerick) . . . . .	38
Operative Butchers and Assistants (Dublin) . . . . .	22
Pork Butchers and Bacon Curers of Dublin . . . . .	43
Purveyors' Assistants (Dublin) . . . . .	155
Amalgamated Pork Butchers (Limerick and Cork) . . . . .	406
Belfast Journeymen Butchers . . . . .	115
Dublin Operative Poulterers . . . . .	40
Cork Breweries' Workmen . . . . .	350
Kilkenny Breweries' Employees . . . . .	35
<i>Leather Trades—</i>	
Dublin Saddlers and Harness Makers . . . . .	85
<i>Enginemmen—</i>	
Limerick Stationary Engine Drivers and Firemen . . . . .	15
Dublin Stationary Engine Drivers and Firemen, etc. . . . .	50
<i>Shop Assistants—</i>	
Irish Drapers' Assistants (males) . . . . .	1,956
„ „ (females) . . . . .	600
Waterford Pawnbrokers' Assistants . . . . .	14

Ireland. Trade Unions (Board of Trade Report, 1906, Cd. 2838):—	Membership at end of 1904.
<i>Theatrical—</i>	
Dublin Theatrical and Music Hall Employees - - - - -	50
<i>Paviors—</i>	
Belfast Paviors - - - - -	69
<i>Hairdressers—</i>	
Dublin Journeymen Hairdressers - - - - -	86
<i>General Labour—</i>	
Sandmen, Limerick - - - - -	13
Irish National Labour Union (Dublin) - - - - -	39
Clonmel Working Men - - - - -	168
South Co. Dublin Labourers - - - - -	160
<i>National and Municipal Employees—</i>	
Irish Post Office Clerks (males) - - - - -	1,053
(females) - - - - -	80
Limerick "Corporation" Employees - - - - -	70
Dublin Fire Brigade Men - - - - -	44
United Corporation Workmen of Ireland (Dublin) - - - - -	720
Belfast Municipal Employees - - - - -	600

#### D.—Other Agencies.

Special funds collected by mayors to illustrate their year of office do not seem to be so common in Ireland as in England. In Cork there is a "Mayor's Coal Fund" raised annually, and amounting to about £100, and in Londonderry a similar fund brings in between £150 and £200. In the latter town during the last two years (1905-6 and 1906-7) the mayor has formed a thorough organisation to prevent frauds upon the fund. A representative committee has been formed, including members of the Corporation, the Board of Guardians, etc., and order-books for coal were distributed to the members and to the various religious bodies. The orders were carefully compared before delivery. One hundred and five tons of coal were distributed during a month in this way. In 1906 the Corporation of Londonderry received a grant of £1,000 from the Irish Society for relief works. Work was started in May upon a recreation ground, and about thirty men employed weekly in alternate shifts. The wages paid were 15s. a week—the current rate. The work ceased in August. The reason for putting such work in hand at this time of year is not evident, but the Corporation thought it necessary to push forward some settling at a total cost of £1,100 about the same time.

At Dublin a coal fund is raised annually by the mayor. In 1906-7 this fund amounted to £1,000. In the same year the Drogheda Corporation raised the money with which to work the Unemployed Workmen Act by means of a coal fund which was afterwards used for the payment of wages on the relief works.

Among funds specially raised for the relief of unemployment may be included the grant obtained from the Queen's Fund through the Local Government Board by the Philanthropic Reform Association of Dublin. This society, whose objects are similar to those of the Charity Organisation Society in England, was anxious to induce the Dublin Corporation to adopt the Unemployed Workmen Act in the winter of 1905-6, and approached the latter upon the subject more than once. Finally, they decided to take the matter into their own hands, and arranged a public meeting, with the Lord-Lieutenant in the Chair, on March 23rd, 1906. It was decided to appoint a voluntary committee to enquire into the extent of existing unemployment and its causes, to relieve the more urgent cases, and to report to a second public meeting. Between £50 and £100 was collected to meet immediate expenses.

The Committee, with the support of the Lord Mayor, made another attempt to persuade the Corporation to adopt the Act, and, failing in this, decided to open an office for applicants for relief without further delay. During the three days, May 28th to 30th, 1,122

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names were received, and the Committee did not feel justified in keeping their register open for a longer period at that time. The office was not again opened for applications, but a few others were received from various sources, and the total brought up to 1,316. The Committee proceeded to visit the homes of applicants, for the purpose of dismissing at once the cases which were evidently unsuitable. They then summoned the men or women to attend at their office for examination and the filling up of a record paper. Finally, they applied to previous employers and others in verification of the applicants' statements. On July 24th it was thought that enough had been done to justify an application to the Vice-President of the Local Government Board for a grant from the Queen's Fund. The Committee showed that out of a total of 194 cases classified, 142 appeared to be those of persons able and willing to work, while sixty-six stated that they had, until recently, been in regular employment.\* It was pointed out that the investigation, so far as it had gone, suggested the existence of widespread unemployment, and a sum of £300 or £400 was asked for to enable the Committee to start a test labour-yard and a further grant for the removal of families to suitable places where work might be found for them. It was hoped that many who were originally countrymen might find work upon English farms. A sum of £500 was received from the Local Government Board on September 6th, and the Committee devoted some of the money to subsidising a labour-yard, which had been started, and is still kept open in Dublin, and to which they sent some of their applicants.† It was found to be too late in the season to take up the removal of agricultural labourers. The labours of the Committee ceased when the Corporation decided to adopt the Unemployed Workmen Act on November 23rd, 1906. The final results of the Committee's investigation are given as follows:—

Applicants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,316
Struck out on preliminary visit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	320
Found work for themselves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98
Did not attend when summoned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	296
References not yet verified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Remainder classified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	592

These 592 cases were placed in four classes. In the first, those of good character, able and willing to work, in the second, decent people who were "not particularly capable"; in the third, the incapable; in the fourth those of "doubtful" character. There were:

First class	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	405
Second class	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127
Third class	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Fourth class	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
									<hr/> 592

The small numbers in the last two classes is accounted for by the weeding out done at the preliminary visit. Of 376 men in the first class, seventy-five were recently in regular work, and of these seven were skilled workmen. In an extremely interesting Report the Committee put forward several attractive plans, upon which money available for the unemployed in Dublin might well be spent. A laundry for unemployed women ‡ and shops for the manufacture of boys' clothes and cheap furniture for men are suggested as well as relief works of a more conventional kind. It is interesting to read that as the result of enquiries made upon the question, the Committee report that in their opinion there is no need for a labour exchange, as there is no lack of adequate communication of intelligence between employers and employees in Dublin. In the absence of an expansion of trade they think the only prospect to permanent relief is to be found in "the policy of removing suitable men." They put themselves into communication with some of the Rural District Councils, but reported that private and individual efforts appeared to be likely to give the best results. In the end they only managed to send four men into country work (in counties Cavan and Carlow), two of whom came back to Dublin.

\* At this time replies had not been received from many employers, and this would appear to account for the difference between the ratio of 66 to 142 and the figures finally obtained.

† A large number of the applicants refused to go to the labour-yard. It was estimated that only about 30 per cent. accepted this form of relief.

‡ The women applicants are said to have been of an extremely rough class. Some sewing was given to them.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the largest charitable agency in Ireland and their expenditure in 1905 reached the total of £35,320. The Society was not "designed as an organisation for the purpose of distributing alms," but to enable young Catholics to practise, for the sanctification of its members and "edification of their fellow men, some of those good works with which, as the church teaches, their faith must necessarily be enlivened." The local conferences were 177 in number in 1905 and the returns from 155 of these show 3,127 active members with 950 honorary members.

They paid 130,339 visits to 20,237 families.

Being designed for young Catholic men the Society does not undertake "any work relating to females, particularly such as are young and live alone."

We understand that they do not as a rule relieve able-bodied men, but that during this last winter some relaxation of this rule has been permitted. We have not, however, been able to get any statistics for this last year, as they are not yet available.

#### PART IV.—EFFECT OF PROVIDING FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

It is impossible to ascertain the effect on individuals of the opening of relief works under the Unemployed Workmen's Act, for it has only been in operation one winter. There have been Government relief works in the rural districts for many years in any times of distress caused by the failure of the potato crop. Light railways and roads have been built, and on the whole it seems probable that the working classes looked on them as ordinary work, started for their convenience indeed in a bad season, but not otherwise than natural.

In the rural districts thrift is almost impossible owing to the extreme difficulty in earning any margin above the necessary means of subsistence. Wages are low throughout Ireland, while in Dublin rents are decidedly high. There is generally supposed to be a natural strain of generosity and carelessness in the Irish temperament which would militate against the acquisition of thrifty habits. Yet there is no special reason to believe that the Irish poor are much worse than their English neighbours. They do not, perhaps, put their savings into furniture in the same way. They take little pride in their home and in this trait Sir Horace Plunkett sees one of the causes of their general ill-success in raising their standard of comfort. "The migratory labourer, having earned enough in England or Scotland to keep the wolf from the door, will not devote to his own holding either the industry or the intelligence which he has lavishly applied to the farm and garden of his British employer. He has no sufficient ambition either for himself or his family . . . to build a home." (*Ireland in the New Century*, Sir Horace Plunkett, p. 57, Popular edition, John Murray.)

As there has been no systematic relief work given in the towns work cannot have been forestalled to any considerable extent. As mentioned above, we were informed at Cork that to meet the distress of certain members of the Painters' Union some work on the city bridges to the amount of £300 was put in hand earlier than it would otherwise have been done. In Dublin the work done was not the ordinary work of the Corporation, and in the country districts the work done has been making up bye-roads which would otherwise not have been done at all.

The relief works undertaken have been generally of public benefit. In Dublin some insanitary property was cleared and back streets not under the control of the Corporation had an unwonted cleansing. In Galway the piece of foreshore which is being reclaimed will be an advantage to the town either as a public park or for cultivation. In Drogheda the widening of the reservoir was certainly not of pressing importance, as the population is declining and the reservoir is already ample. In the western districts the road-making was decidedly useful, but a turf wall made at Leenane was of very little if any utility to the public.

We have been able to get very little evidence as to the relative cost of relief works. The Superintendent of Works in Belfast informed us that the quality of work done on the relief works of 1902-4 was not good and that the men employed on widening a lane were not worth more than 10s. a week. In spite of the best gangers of the Corporation

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being employed they could not get good work out of the men. The men knew they would not be turned off, order was difficult to maintain, and on one occasion the men were found playing football.

At Cork there have been winter relief works about Christmas time for a month, and an official of the Trades Council thought these works were generally scamped by the men.

At Drogheda it was noted that it required three men to push a small truck of earth on the rails, but that on the appearance of the superintendent there was a little more briskness displayed.

In Dublin on the other hand the Town Clerk thought that the quality of the work was good, not inferior to that done by regular men, as there was very thorough oversight by the Corporation's inspectors.

In Galway shirkers were promptly sent off by the town steward, a man of exceptional energy himself, and we heard from other sources that he had got "much more out of the men than was expected."

In Londonderry it was estimated that in the relief works of 1906 the work done was worth about 70 per cent. of the cost.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In conclusion we can only say that the amount of relief work given in the towns has been small and has had but little effect. We cannot think that the poverty in the Irish towns can be sensibly affected by this employment relief. In Ireland there is a very strong family feeling and the poor help each other even more extensively than in England. As far as we have been able to judge the real Irish problem is a rural one. Tiny holdings and large families make the small Irish farmer's lot a very hard one and relief works in the towns may attract from the country some of the labourers whom the larger farmers need. With the large charities existing in the towns much can be done to relieve distress in the winter. Unemployment due to large trade fluctuations seems very little in evidence. Belfast, where we might expect to find signs of it, has been expanding its trade for many years. We feel that we cannot possibly speak with authority after so short an enquiry, but the impression we have formed is decidedly that the Unemployed Workmen's Act is not adapted to meet Irish needs.



## APPENDIX

TO

## REPORT

BY

MR. CYRIL JACKSON

ON

The Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the  
"Unemployed" since 1886 as a means of Relieving  
Distress outside the Poor Law in Ireland.

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## APPENDIX

TO

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The Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the  
 "Unemployed" since 1886 as a means of Relieving  
 Distress outside the Poor Law in Ireland.

## APPENDIX.

## A. MIGRATORY LABOURERS.

From the authorities mentioned in the Report (p. 6) it is possible to obtain a fairly accurate estimate of the number of labourers who have left Ireland during recent years to take part in farm work, and especially in the work of harvesting, in England. From a reference in the Report on Irish Migratory Labourers, 1906 (Cd. 2865, p. 8) to an estimate made in 1841 by the Registrar-General, it would appear that the number of these labourers has varied fairly regularly with the population. Forty thousand was suggested as the number of persons returning from agricultural labour in England at the end of the year 1841, while in 1880 the number enumerated by the constabulary was 22,900, and the corresponding number for 1905 was 14,830. It will be seen from the tables which follow that these latter figures do not represent the actual totals. In the Report on Migratory Labourers already mentioned 25,000 is the estimated number for 1905.

The *Labour Gazette*, first issued by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade in 1893, has contained returns from the various railway and steamship companies as to the number of migratory labourers conveyed to England. The following tables have been taken from these returns and there are added the results of the enumeration, undertaken annually by the constabulary, for the years 1902 to 1905, as given in the Report on Migratory Labourers.

## INFORMATION FROM THE MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY AND GLASGOW, DUBLIN, AND LONDONDERRY STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

	1894.	1895.	1896.
<i>By Rail.</i>			
From stations in Mayo (Connaught) - - - -	17,914	17,750	16,644
From other stations on the Midland Great Western Railway in the Counties of Galway, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim.	5,576	5,835	5,214
From stations on the Midland Great Western Railway in other provinces.	123	119	60
Total on the Midland Great Western Railway -	23,613	23,704	21,918
<i>By Sea.</i>			
By steamer from Westport (Mayo) to Glasgow and Liverpool ( $\frac{9}{10}$ of total passengers)	500	603	702
From Ballina (Mayo) to Glasgow ( $\frac{9}{10}$ of total passengers)	50	99	180*
GRAND TOTAL - - - -	24,163	24,406	22,800

\* 27 to Liverpool, the rest to Glasgow.

Place of Booking.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
<i>By Rail.</i>							
<i>Midland Great Western Railway.</i>							
From stations in Mayo - - - -	17,640	15,537	15,484	15,794	14,975	13,518	13,420
From other stations in Connaught, in Counties of Galway, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim - - - -	3,448	5,565	5,943	6,213	5,536	4,435	3,824
† <i>Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway.</i>							
From stations in Mayo - - - -	2,636	2,914	4,022	4,536	4,397	4,597	4,835
" " Sligo - - - -	1,077	185	458	372	265	1,063‡	1,267
† <i>Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway.</i>							
From Collooney Station - - - -	45	2,422	1,433	1,422	1,276	291‡	119
Total by Rail - - - -	24,846	26,623	27,340	28,337	26,449	23,904	23,465

† Omit for comparison with previous years. ‡ Not necessary to re-book at Collooney.

Place of Booking.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
<i>By Sea.</i>							
By steamer from Westport to Glasgow or Liverpool - - -	893	987	860	800	735	531	544
*By steamer from Ballina to Glasgow	223	256	240	110	50	47	12
Total by Sea - - -	1,116	1,243	1,100	910	785	578	556
GRAND TOTAL - - -	25,962	27,866	28,440	29,247	27,234	24,482	24,021

\* Some starting from Ballina probably come from Sligo.

NUMBER OF MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS (INCLUDING FEMALES) AS RETURNED BY THE ENUMERATORS OF THE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (REPORT ON IRISH MIGRATORY LABOURERS, p. 22).

1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
18,757	17,140	17,440	14,830

The great majority of the labourers come from Connaught. In 1893 the proportion from Connaught is given as nearly six-sevenths; in 1894 as 83·9 per cent.; and since that date between 76 per cent. and 79 per cent. Of these men about two-thirds come from Co. Mayo, and the largest numbers are from the Poor Law Unions of Swineford, Westport, Castlebar, Claremorris, Ballina and Belmullet.

"Ulster is the only other province from which there is any large movement of harvest migratory labourers, and of these over 80 per cent. are Donegal men."\*

The "rate per 1,000" of migratory labourers compared with the Census of 1901 is shown, for the principal counties, in the following table.

	In 1902.	In 1903.	In 1904.	In 1905.
CONNAUGHT:—				
Galway - - - - -	9·1	8·5	7·8	6·2
Leitrim - - - - -	4·0	3·6	2·7	2·6
Mayo - - - - -	50·6	46·5	47·8	38·3
Roscommon - - - - -	16·8	14·5	14·9	14·5
Sligo - - - - -	11·8	10·8	11·6	10·7
ULSTER:—				
Donegal - - - - -	14·1	12·6	13·6	13·6
Armagh - - - - -	2·0	2·1	2·3	2·2

In no other county does the rate reach 2 per 1,000.†

From a table on p. 28 of the Report on Migratory Labourers it appears that the landholders among the 14,830 labourers enumerated in 1905 in Ulster and Connaught were distributed as follows:—

Number of Landholders.	Ulster.	Connaught.
Holdings not exceeding 1 acre - - - - -	2	14
Holdings above 1 and less than 2 acres	18	26
"    2    "    3    "	19	67
"    3    "    4    "	35	132
"    4    "    5    "	32	102
"    5    "    10   "	134	999
"    10   "    15   "	49	683
"    15   "    20   "	46	362
"    20   "    25   "	9	85
"    25   "    30   "	20	52
"    30   "    40   "	14	40
"    40   "    -    "	26	37

\* Report on Migratory Labourers, p. 9.      † Report on Migratory Labourers, p. 22.

NOTE.—References made in this volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

In another table (p. 29) it is shown that the numbers of persons working upon their parents' farms when at home who were enumerated as migratory labourers in 1905 were as follows:—

	Ulster.	Connaught.
Sons . . . . .	1,527	7,022
Daughters . . . . .	269	175

It is estimated that in the year 1905 over 20,000 migratory labourers went to England during the season, and about 4,500 went to Scotland. In the Report on Migratory Labour the labourers are divided into three groups: the "Achill workers," the men from Donegal; and the labourers from Connaught.

"As regards the Achill workers, whose number is estimated at between 1,500 and 1,600, the season begins in the middle of June and closes in November. Although known in Scotland as Achill workers many come from other places on the west coast, especially Belmullet, and a smaller number from Aranmore and the islands in Donegal. Men and women alike take part in the work, the women forming, if anything, the larger number. The men who come are in most cases either old men or lads of from sixteen to twenty-one years of age. The Achill workers are engaged for potato lifting and at the beginning of the season nearly all are employed in Ayrshire . . . After the Ayrshire early potato season is over . . . most of them are sent into the eastern counties . . . The usual rate of wages is 5s. for each pair of workers, one to fork the potatoes, and the other to gather them; while 3s. per day is commonly paid to the man who empties the baskets of potatoes into the barrels. Others who prepare the barrels of potatoes for shipping earn from 18s. to 21s. a week, while the gaffer in charge receives from 26s. to 30s." These last two classes are paid irrespective of the weather—the rest only for work done. "The working day is ten hours, with intervals of ten minutes at each quarter-day, and half an hour for mid-day meal."

The farmer provides lodging for the workers upon his farm and the potato merchants provide blankets, light and fuel. The workers are allowed as many potatoes as they can use. In a good week it is possible to save from 8s. to 10s., and £8 is a satisfactory clearance for the season of four and a half months. A distinctive feature of the Achill workers is their engagement in bands which work undivided throughout the season. In the Board of Trade *Gazette* particulars are given (1902, p. 68) of the earnings of migratory workers in 1901. It appeared that the total cash earnings for the season of 425 persons (160 males and 265 females) were £5,240.

The "Donegal men" are estimated at 3,000 workers and include a certain number from neighbouring counties. "These men are engaged as harvesters and emergency workers, chiefly in the east of Scotland and in Northumberland." They "begin to come to Scotland early in June, and many remain until a few weeks before Christmas. . . Most of the work is done by the piece or on special wages. . . The working day is ten hours, but on piece work longer hours are frequently worked." Wages vary a good deal; "4s. 6d. is considered a fair day's wages for turnip singling, and 5s. for potato-fitting, and turnip or mangel pulling. When on time wages the usual weekly pay is from 18s. to £1, though in dull times wages will fall as low as 12s. In harvest time the practice is to pay a wage for the harvest month, which works out commonly from £1 to 24s. a week, together with a considerable allowance of food and drink." . . . "So far as can be estimated a good, steady worker with fair luck will save from £12 to £15 during the season of from five to six months."

The labourers from Connaught, about 20,000, distribute themselves over a large number of counties in England. South Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, South Lincoln, North Cambridge, North East Huntingdon, Warwickshire and Staffordshire are mentioned as the principal of these. It is noted, however, that the Irishmen go wherever work is offered at good wages. "On the larger farms the labourers begin to come as early as the middle of February, many not returning until a week or two before Christmas. . . Some remain on the same farms during their stay; most, however, migrate during the season to at least two or three places." In the Report on Migratory Labourers there appear a number of notices describing the local varieties of work and wages. These vary considerably and the following examples are quoted to indicate the general character of the conditions.

In Cheshire the "men receive 16s. to 17s. a week time wages, with bread, beer and cheese, and 10s. to £1 extra during harvest. . . At potato raising, when paid by the piece, long hours are worked and earnings of 5s. and upwards are common."

In Lancashire the men are employed sometimes by the day, but generally by the week. "The wages vary from 24s. to 25s. a week, with a certain amount of food, to 27s. and often 30s. Men hired by the hay month receive about £5 10s. and food. Sleeping accommodation is also given on the farms."

In north Cambridge "wages are good and the men frequently make 6s. per day at potatoes, and about 4s. to 5s. per day at mangel or turnip pulling."

In the interesting article in the Board of Trade *Gazette* already referred to there are given particulars of the earnings of individuals in 1901 which may be compared with the foregoing.

The Cheshire details were obtained of the earnings of thirty-two men. They received besides their money wages, lodging, fuel, refreshment and sometimes food. The following are typical:—

Two men stayed from March to October and earned a weekly average wage of 16s. 6d.

One man staying from January to September earned upon an average 18s. weekly. This was also the earning of a man who stayed from June to November. Three others who worked for the entire year earned an average wage of 17s. 6d.

In Lancashire the average wages of four men, together with lodging, fuel and refreshments, were as follows :—

	s.	d.
April 1st to July 7th	15	6
June 7th to August 3rd	17	3
July 17th to November 16th	17	3
August 8th to November 16th	15	4½

In Cambridge particulars were collected of twenty-seven men working on five farms for various periods from the middle of July to the end of September. Their average weekly earnings are given as 41s. 3d. each, together with lodging, potatoes, milk, fuel and train fare (5s.).

It is estimated that in 1905 "the savings of migratory labourers remitted or brought back to Ireland amounted to not less than £275,000."

#### B. WAGES, PRICES, AND RENTS IN THE IRISH TOWNS.

The Board of Trade has kindly supplied us with particulars which enable us to give a brief summary of the principal facts as to wages, prices, and rents in the larger Irish towns.

It will be convenient first of all to state the wages usually paid in various occupations in Dublin, and then to quote the index numbers showing the variations in other Irish towns and a general comparison of Irish with English conditions.

*Wages.*—In Dublin wages are stated to be as follows :—

	Per week.
	s. d.
<i>Building Trades :</i>	
Bricklayers and plumbers	38 3
Masons, carpenters, joiners and plasterers	36 0
Painters	33 9
Labourers	19s. 1½d. to 20 3
<i>Engineering (Trade Union rates) :</i>	
Fitters, turners, and smiths	36 0
" " (railway)	33 0
Pattern makers	38 0
" " (railway)	36 0
Labourers	16s. to 18 0
" (railway)	15 0
<i>Printing (Trade Union rates) :</i>	
Compositors	35 0
<i>Wood Workers :</i>	
Cabinet makers	35 0
Upholsterers	36 0
<i>Transport :</i>	
Carmen	18s. to 20 0

Reckoning these rates as 100, the index numbers for the five principal Irish towns other than Dublin are as follows :—

	Building Trades.	Engineering.	Furnishing.	Printing.
Belfast	104	103	102	97
Cork	97	96	—	93
Limerick	90	—	—	83
Londonderry	90	—	—	83
Waterford	84	—	—	—

If the average of nineteen "standard" English towns be taken as 100, the index numbers are as follows :—

	Building Trades.		Engineering.	Furnishing.
	Skilled.	Labourers.		
Dublin	100	81	107	105
Belfast	100	73	110	107
Cork	97	74	102	—
Limerick	90	62	—	—
Londonderry	89	58	—	—
Waterford	84	59	—	—

NOTE.—References made in this volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

The poor wages paid to unskilled men in the building trade are especially noticeable.

Comparing money wages with real wages, or wages expressed in the amount of commodities they will buy, we have, taking Dublin as 100 in each case :—

—	Money Wages.	Real Wages.	—	Money Wages.	Real Wages.
Dublin - - -	100	100	Limerick - -	90	99
Belfast - - -	104	112	Londonderry -	90	109
Cork - - -	97	109	Waterford - -	84	100

*Rents.*—Taking in the same way the rents paid in Dublin as a standard, we find that the actual rents paid are as follows :—

For rooms in houses originally built for the well-to-do, but now let off to five or more families—

	s.	d.	s.	d.
One room - - -	2	0	to	3 0
Two rooms - - -	3	0	„	4 6
Three rooms - - -	4	0	„	6 0
Four rooms - - -	6	0	„	8 0

In houses such as those erected by the Artisans Dwelling Company :—

	s.	d.	s.	d.
For one room - - -	1	9	to	3 0
„ two rooms - - -	3	0	„	4 6
„ three rooms - - -	4	6	„	6 0
„ four rooms - - -	6	0	„	8 0
„ five rooms - - -	8	0	„	10

Taking the Dublin rents as 100, those of other Irish towns are given as—

Limerick - - -	69
Cork - - -	66
Belfast - - -	61
Londonderry - - -	54
Waterford - - -	53

Many working-class houses are empty.  
Land is cheap and rates low.

The percentages of the population of the towns living in the different numbers of rooms are as follows :—

—	Population.	1 room.	2 rooms.	3 rooms.	4 rooms.	5 or more rooms.
Belfast - - -	349,180	4	4.7	6.4	29.1	59.4
Cork - - -	76,122	5.3	18.5	17.5	17.0	41.7
Dublin - - -	290,638	24.7	21.0	10.3	10.1	33.9
Limerick - - -	38,151	8.7	24.9	15.8	13.2	37.4
Londonderry - - -	39,892	3.3	7.0	10.4	32.5	46.8
Waterford - - -	26,769	3.2	12.5	21.6	18.8	43.9

It is interesting to notice that only one out of eleven representative Scotch towns have as low a percentage as 3.0 per cent. in one room, seven have over 10 per cent., while the maximum is 17.2 per cent.

*Prices.*—The index numbers for prices, taking Dublin as 100, are as follows :—

Belfast - - -	101
Londonderry - - -	97
Limerick - - -	96
Cork - - -	95
Waterford - - -	92 (Eggs and meat cheaper than elsewhere.)

The price of coal is said to be practically the same throughout Ireland.

\* It appears from a very elaborate and reliable report, emanating from an inquiry recently made by a large employer of labour, that in one ward of Dublin, and that an average one (sixty-two streets, 436 houses and 1,254 families), that the accommodation (taken on the basis of 400 cubic feet for adults and children) was sufficient in 67 per cent. of the tenements, and insufficient in 25 per cent., and partly so in 7 per cent., while the average number of families to each w.c. was 4.68, and the number of persons to each w.c. was 17.34, and that in the above number of families consumption was found in 150 cases, equal to 12 per cent. The average number of rooms per family was 1.52 and the average rent 3s. 0½d. Tuberculosis accounts for 19 per cent. of total deaths.

Finally, we have index numbers for the Irish towns for prices and rents combined, taking the nineteen "standard" English towns as 100.

Dublin	108
Belfast	99
Limerick	97
Cork	95
Londonderry	94
Waterford	89

In Dublin the rents of the houses formerly used by the rich are 25 per cent. higher than in English towns. This is partly accounted for by the facts that as some of the tenants stay for a very short time the rents are nominal, and that there is much underletting. It is stated that the rents often exceed the valuation by more than four times the latter.

#### C. NOTES ON VARIOUS IRISH TOWNS.

The evidence to be derived from the Census returns shows in rather a striking way the movement of the people into the towns, which is one of the causes of the frequently noticed dearth of labourers in country districts. In 1891 the population of all Ireland was 4,704,750 and in 1901 4,458,775. With this decline there may be compared the populations at the same dates of the six largest towns.

	1891. In County Borough.	1901. In County Borough.		1891. In County Borough.	1901. In County Borough.
Dublin	268,650	290,638	Limerick	37,155	38,151
Belfast	273,184	349,180	Waterford	26,203	26,769
Londonderry	33,200	39,892	Cork	75,345	76,122

The smaller towns show a decline.

The following notes upon the condition of trade and labour in several of the larger towns are intended to suggest the extent to which the urban industries have kept pace with the increased population.

Belfast.

There is a general agreement that trade in Belfast is extremely flourishing at the present time. The shipbuilding and linen trades alike are employing all their members, and it is stated that no steady man need be out of employment. The building trade alone is said not to be busy. The two principal trades of the town are largely complementary, the men working in the shipbuilding yards, and the women and children—the latter largely working for half time at about 4s. a week—in the linen mills.

The linen trade appears to be steadily expanding. In 1901 there were 29,302 persons employed in Belfast, out of a total for Ulster of 69,918, and between 1901 and 1903, while the number of spindles employed in Ireland decreased from 83,510 to 80,600, the number of power looms increased from 31,484 to 35,200.

Labour in Belfast is on the whole well organised. Most of the skilled workmen are in their unions, and the Dockers' Union, which was re-established at the beginning of the present year (1907) has already over 2,000 members. Of the 30,000 women employed in Belfast some 2,000 are organised. The labourers—other than dock labourers—alone have almost no organisation.

Cork

Trade in Cork appears to be moderately prosperous. It is stated that the building trade is very slack through overbuilding in recent years, and that the docks are not very busy. The coal trade has recently been checked by the resistance of the dock labourers to the introduction of labour-saving machinery. It is said that the lack of machinery has sent some of the trade to Limerick.

A bacon factory in the town which formerly killed 450 pigs a day is said now to kill only 250. The fact that the St. Vincent de Paul Society has suspended its rule against granting relief to able-bodied unemployed men suggests that there has been genuine distress. On the other hand, a linen factory employing about 700 hands is working satisfactorily, and a starch factory, a brewery and a distillery show only a slight decline in recent years. Workmen are upon the whole well organised. There is a strong Builders' Labourers' Union. Most of the skilled men are organised, but the linen and woollen operatives are exceptions. The Dock Labourers' Union was strong enough to resist the introduction of machinery already mentioned.

Drogheda.

The condition of Drogheda seems to be one of steady decline. The population is diminishing and the industries have gradually dwindled, and seem to show no sign of recovery. The trade of the port has fallen off, and as no labour-saving machinery is used, there is no railway line to the quays, and the railway company grants preferential rates to Dublin, there appears to be little chance of improvement. Tanneries, a sawmill, and a large spinning mill are mentioned among the enterprises which have failed in recent years, and the only indication of prosperity seems to be that a chemical works has taken over the buildings and the thirty men of the late sawmill. It is not surprising that the shopkeepers are said to be losing their custom.

The town is fortunate in still having a revenue of £5,000 from land and houses.

Dublin.

It seems to be a general opinion that during the last year or two Dublin has suffered from considerable depression, and it is suggested that this has been increased by the influx of men from the country districts, attracted, perhaps, by the numerous charities in the city.

NOTE.—References made in this volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

It is interesting to learn that Guinness's Brewery have found that the town-bred boys are not strong enough to undertake the work of labourers in the firm, and that it is found necessary to bring in men from the country.

As elsewhere, the building trade is mentioned as being especially depressed. This is borne out by the fact that the St. Vincent de Paul Society have been receiving an unusually large number of applications for relief; they have noticed that it is the unskilled men who are most seriously affected.

We were informed that at a large biscuit factory employing 2,000 hands, of whom two-thirds are girls, there was no difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour, but that there was not thought to be any surplus of female labour in the city.

The skilled workmen are, as elsewhere, well organised, but there has been considerable distress among them recently. Nearly half the members of the Carpenters' (Dublin) Union are said to have been unemployed at the end of 1906, and in the early spring of that year it appeared from an estimate made by a competent authority that of the trade unionists in the city, 1,400 skilled and 500 unskilled men were unemployed.

The Dockers' Union which formerly existed has been broken up.

Co-operation does not appear to thrive in Dublin. There are three small co-operative societies, but the shareholders are for the most part artisans from England, and the membership hardly numbers more than 1,000.

At Galway the principal cause of recent distress has been the closing of a distillery in the town which formerly employed 150 men. The principal industries remaining are those carried on at a flour mill, a woollen mill—each employing about fifty hands—and the granite works. The last of these gives little employment to local men, as the workmen are for the most part brought in from outside. There is also the fishing industry, which supports the inhabitants of the western part of the town—the Claddagh. This has been declining through the refusal or inability of the fishermen to adopt larger boats and more modern methods and the competition of the fishers of the island of Aran who have been supplied by the Congested Districts Board with boats. About fifty men are irregularly employed at the quays, but there is little trade.

Industry in Limerick appears to be fairly steady. Depression is mentioned in the building trade, and Limerick. the butter market recently has been ruined by the establishment of creameries, but in the main the staple industries appear to be rather unusually steady. The business of the Port has varied little since 1898. In that year the amount paid in dues was £5,260 as against £5,110 in 1902, and £5,361 in 1906. The tonnage entered in 1902 was 153,137 tons (379 vessels), and in 1906, 156,514 tons (415 vessels). There was a substantial increase in the exports for 1906—£451 as compared with £391 in 1902, and 25 per cent in excess of the average for the preceding twelve years. Labour at the docks is casual and there is a surplus over the number required. The principal industries of Limerick are bacon (100 men and 100 women), flour (200 hands), clothing (500 hands, mostly women), margarine, chocolate and condensed milk, and as already mentioned employment in these is generally regular and steady. The town also does a considerable shopkeeping trade with the surrounding country.

The bacon factory hands and shop assistants have strong trade unions.

Although the population of the county borough of Londonderry increased between 1891 and 1901 from 33,200 to 39,892, it seems that the industries of the town are not in a very flourishing condition. Shirt making is the principal industry and employs a very large number of women, but earnings have recently fallen through bad trade. There is a distillery employing 600 or 700 men and there are about 200 tailors. This last trade is said to have declined within the past two years. The building trade is very slack and the men are falling out of their unions. There are said to be between 600 and 700 empty houses in the town. Shipbuilding ceased at Londonderry in 1905.

The position of Waterford seems at present to be stationary, but with fair prospects of improvement. The population does not increase. Unlike most Irish towns the building trades have been kept fairly busy up to the end of 1906, but this was owing to the building of a large railway station. A large corn milling factory and store has been recently erected and as the work is to be done by electric machinery there is a good hope that the trade of the port will increase at the expense of less well furnished places. The difficulty with the quay porters which arose at the introduction of labour-saving machinery was got over by paying liberal compensation to some forty men.

There are rather more than 300 quay labourers in connection with the port and at Ferrybank. Those at Waterford work in gangs of about forty each. The first two gangs obtain regular work, while a third gang gets about two days' work a week. The steamboat services to the port provide, of course, a certain amount of regular employment.

Distress has been caused among the coal workers by the failure of a strike against a decrease of wages. The strikers were not taken back.

A brewery in the town gives regular employment to about 250 men and there are a certain number of men employed in the bacon trade. About fifty tailors are kept in fair work.

There is a Labourers' Trade Union containing about 150 men of all classes.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS  
OFFICE OF THE CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM OF ARTS  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED AT ITS MEETING OF MAY 1, 1906  
RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THE  
LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Yours truly,  
JOHN D. COOPER,  
Curator of the Museum of Arts.

# ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

## LIST OF APPENDIX VOLUMES TO THE REPORTS OF THE POOR LAW COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND.

### APPENDIX VOL. I.—ENGLISH OFFICIAL EVIDENCE.

Minutes of Evidence mainly of the Officers of the Local Government Board for England and Wales. 1st to 34th Days: 8th January to 22nd May, 1906: Questions 1 to 14,880.

### APPENDIX VOL. I. A.—ENGLISH OFFICIAL EVIDENCE.

Appendices to the Minutes of Evidence included in Vol. I., being mainly the evidence of the Officers of the Local Government Board for England and Wales.

### APPENDIX VOL. I. B.—INDEX.

Index to Appendix Vols. I. and I. A.

### APPENDIX VOL. II.—LONDON EVIDENCE.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) mainly of London witnesses. 35th to 48th Days: 28th May to 23rd July, 1906: Questions 14,881 to 24,739.

### APPENDIX VOL. II. A.—INDEX.

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### APPENDIX VOL. III.—ASSOCIATIONS AND CRITICS.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) mainly of critics of the Poor Law and of witnesses representing Poor Law and Charitable Associations. 49th to 71st Days: 1st October to 17th December, 1906: Questions 24,740 to 35,450.

### APPENDIX VOL. III. A.—INDEX.

Index to Appendix Vol. III.

### APPENDIX VOL. IV.—URBAN CENTRES.—LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, WEST YORKS, AND MIDLANDS.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) containing the oral and written evidence of the British Medical Association and of witnesses from the following provincial urban centres—Liverpool and Manchester districts, West Yorkshire, Midland Towns. 72nd to 89th Days: 14th January to 26th March, 1907: Questions 35,451 to 48,347.

### APPENDIX VOL. IV. A.—INDEX.

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### APPENDIX VOL. V.—URBAN CENTRES.—SOUTH WALES AND NORTH EASTERN COUNTIES.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) containing the oral and written evidence of witnesses from urban centres in the following districts:—South Wales and North Eastern Counties, 90th to 94th Days: 15th April to 30th April, 1907: Questions 48,348 to 53,067.

### APPENDIX VOL. V. A.—INDEX.

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### APPENDIX VOL. VI.—SCOTLAND.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) relating to Scotland. 95th to 110th Days, and 139th and 149th Days: 6th May to 21st June, 1907, and 13th January and 2nd March, 1908: Questions 53,068 to 67,565; 88,667 to 89,046; 94,629 to 95,323.

### APPENDIX VOL. VI. A.—INDEX.

Index to Appendix Vol. VI.

### APPENDIX VOL. VII.—RURAL CENTRES.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, ETC.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) containing the oral and written evidence of witnesses from various rural centres in the South Western, Western, and Eastern Counties, from the Parish of Poplar Borough and from the National Conference of Friendly Societies. 111th to 122nd Days: 9th July to 7th October, 1907: Questions 67,566 to 77,734.

### APPENDIX VOL. VII. A.—INDEX.

Index to Appendix Vol. VII.

### APPENDIX VOL. VIII.—UNEMPLOYMENT.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) containing the oral and written evidence of witnesses relating chiefly to the subject of "Unemployment." 123rd to 138th Days: 14th October to 10th December, 1907: Questions 77,735 to 88,666.

### APPENDIX VOL. VIII. A.—INDEX.

Index to Appendix Vol. VIII.

### APPENDIX VOL. IX.—UNEMPLOYMENT.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) containing the oral and written evidence of further witnesses relating to the subject of Unemployment, etc. 140th to 148th Days: 150th to 156th Days, and 158th Day: 14th January, 1908, to 11th May, 1908. Questions 89,048 to 94,628; 95,324 to 99,350; 100,020 to 100,590.

### APPENDIX VOL. IX. A.—INDEX.

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### APPENDIX VOL. X.—IRELAND.

Minutes of Evidence (with Appendices) relating to Ireland. 157th and 159th Days: 25th April and 12th May, 1908: Questions 99,351 to 100,019; 100,591 to 100,928.

### APPENDIX VOL. X. A.—INDEX.

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### APPENDIX VOL. XI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Miscellaneous Papers. Communications from Boards of Guardians and Others, etc., etc.

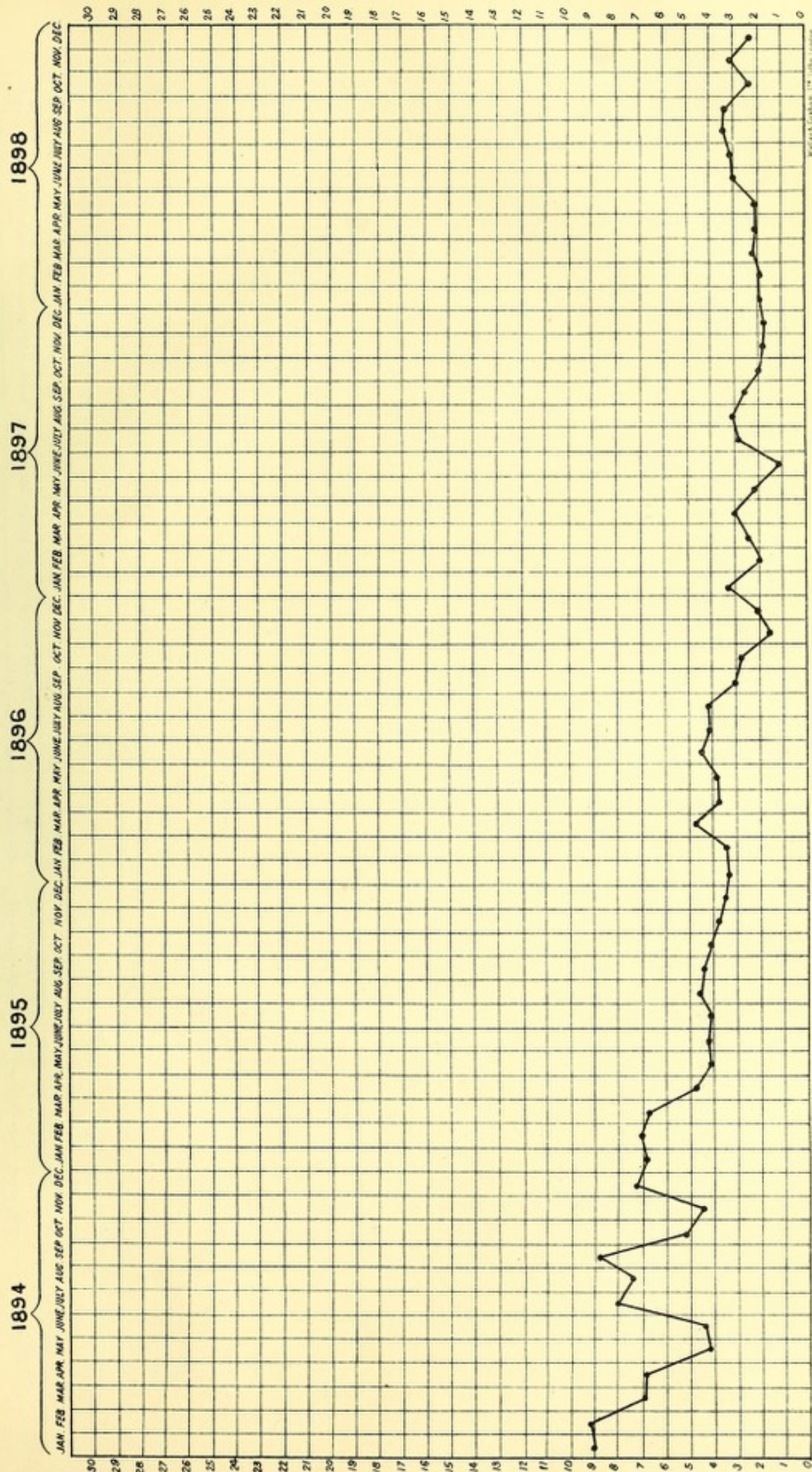
### APPENDIX VOL. XII.—COMMISSIONERS' MEMORANDA.

Reports, Memoranda, and Tables prepared by certain of the Commissioners.

- APPENDIX VOL. XIII.—DIOCESAN REPORTS.**  
Diocesan Reports on the Methods of administering Charitable Assistance and the extent and intensity of Poverty in England and Wales.
- APPENDIX VOL. XIV.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—MEDICAL RELIEF.**  
Report on the Methods and Results of the present system of administering Indoor and Outdoor Poor Law Medical Relief in certain Unions in England and Wales, by Dr. McVail.
- APPENDIX VOL. XV.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—CHARITY.**  
Report on the Administrative Relation of Charity and the Poor Law, and the extent and the actual and potential utility of Endowed and Voluntary Charities in England and Scotland, by Mr. A. C. Kay and Mr. H. V. Toynbee.
- APPENDIX VOL. XVI.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—INDUSTRIAL AND SANITARY CONDITIONS.**  
Reports on the Relation of Industrial and Sanitary Conditions to Pauperism, by Mr. Steel Maitland and Miss R. E. Squire.
- APPENDIX VOL. XVII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—OUT-RELIEF AND WAGES.**  
Reports on the effect of Outdoor Relief on Wages, and the Conditions of Employment, by Mr. Thomas Jones and Miss Williams.
- APPENDIX VOL. XVIII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—CHILDREN: ENGLAND AND WALES.**  
Report on the condition of the Children who are in receipt of the various forms of Poor Law Relief in certain Unions in London and in the Provinces, by Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Longman and Miss Phillips.
- APPENDIX VOL. XIX.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—UNEMPLOYMENT: ENGLAND AND WALES.**  
Report on the Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the Unemployed since 1886 as a means of relieving Distress outside the Poor Law in London, and generally throughout England and Wales, by Mr. Cyril Jackson and the Rev. J. C. Pringle.
- APPENDIX VOL. XIX. A.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—UNEMPLOYMENT: SCOTLAND.**  
Report on the Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the Unemployed since 1886 as a means of relieving Distress outside the Poor Law in Scotland, by the Rev. J. C. Pringle.
- APPENDIX VOL. XIX. B.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—UNEMPLOYMENT: IRELAND.**  
Report on the Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the Unemployed since 1886 as a means of relieving Distress outside the Poor Law in Ireland, by Mr. Cyril Jackson.
- APPENDIX VOL. XX.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—BOY LABOUR.**  
Report on Boy Labour in London and certain other Typical Towns, by Mr. Cyril Jackson, with a Memorandum from the General Post Office on the Conditions of Employment of Telegraph Messengers.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXI.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—REFUSAL OF OUT-RELIEF.**  
Reports on the Effect of the Refusal of Out-relief on the Applicants for such Relief, by Miss G. Harlock.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—OVERLAPPING OF MEDICAL RELIEF IN LONDON.**  
Report on the Overlapping of the Work of the Voluntary General Hospitals with that of Poor Law Medical Relief in certain districts of London, by Miss N. B. Roberts.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXIII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—CHILDREN: SCOTLAND.**  
Report on the Condition of the Children who are in receipt of the various forms of Poor Law Relief in certain parishes in Scotland, by Dr. C. T. Parsons and Miss Longman and Miss Phillips.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXIV.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—ABLE-BODIED AND "ORDINARY" PAUPERS IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.**  
Report on a Comparison of the Physical Condition of "Ordinary" Paupers in certain Scottish Poorhouses with that of the Able-bodied Paupers in certain English Workhouses and Labour Yards, by Dr. C. T. Parsons.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXV.—STATISTICAL.**  
Statistical Memoranda and Tables relating to England and Wales, prepared by the Staff of the Commission and by Government Departments, and Others, and Actuarial Reports.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXVI.—CHARITIES.**  
Documents relating more especially to the Administration of Charities.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXVII.—REPLIES OF DISTRESS COMMITTEES.**  
Replies by Distress Committees in England and Wales to Questions circulated on the subject of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXVIII.—VISITS.**  
Reports of Visits to Poor Law and Charitable Institutions and to Meetings of Local Authorities in the United Kingdom.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXIX.—REPORT BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.**  
Report on the Methods of Administering Charitable Assistance and the extent and intensity of Poverty in Scotland, prepared by the Committee on Church Interests appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXX.—SCOTLAND.**  
Documents relating specially to Scotland.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXXI.—IRELAND.**  
Statistical Memoranda and Tables relating to Ireland, etc.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXXII.—FOREIGN LABOUR COLONIES COMMITTEE.**  
Report on Visits paid by the Foreign Labour Colonies Committee of the Commission to certain Institutions in Holland, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXXIII.—FOREIGN POOR RELIEF SYSTEMS.**  
Foreign and Colonial Systems of Poor Relief, with a Memorandum on the Relief of Famines in India.
- APPENDIX VOL. XXXIV.—LIST OF WITNESSES.**  
Alphabetical Lists of Oral and Non-oral Witnesses.

# LINEN TRADE IN BELFAST.

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.



A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNED EACH MONTH IS DUE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FLAX ROUGHERS UNION  
DETAILS ARE SELDOM GIVEN, AND IT IS NOT THEREFORE POSSIBLE TO CORRECT THE CURVE.

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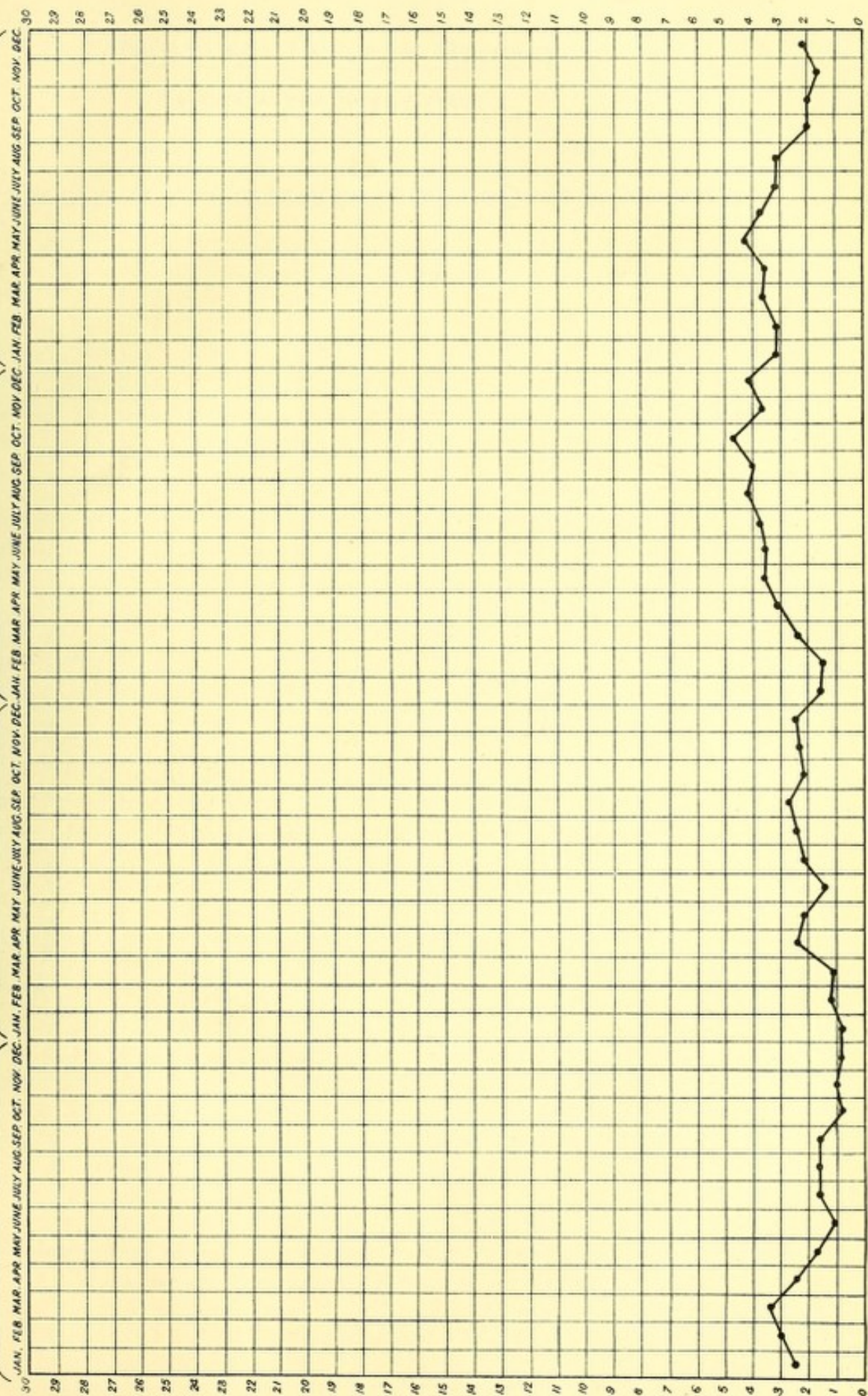
# LINEN TRADE IN BELFAST. PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.

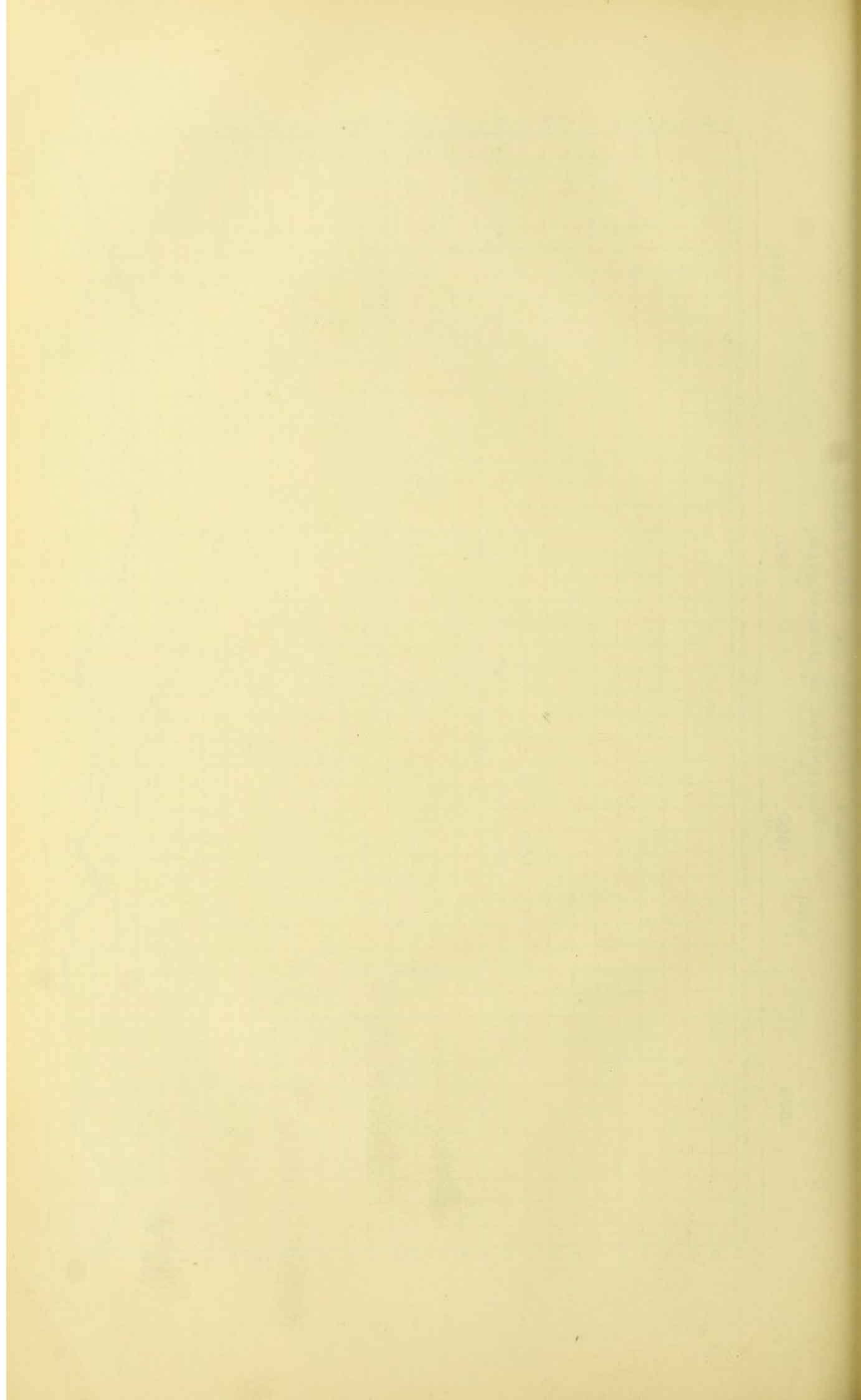
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1901

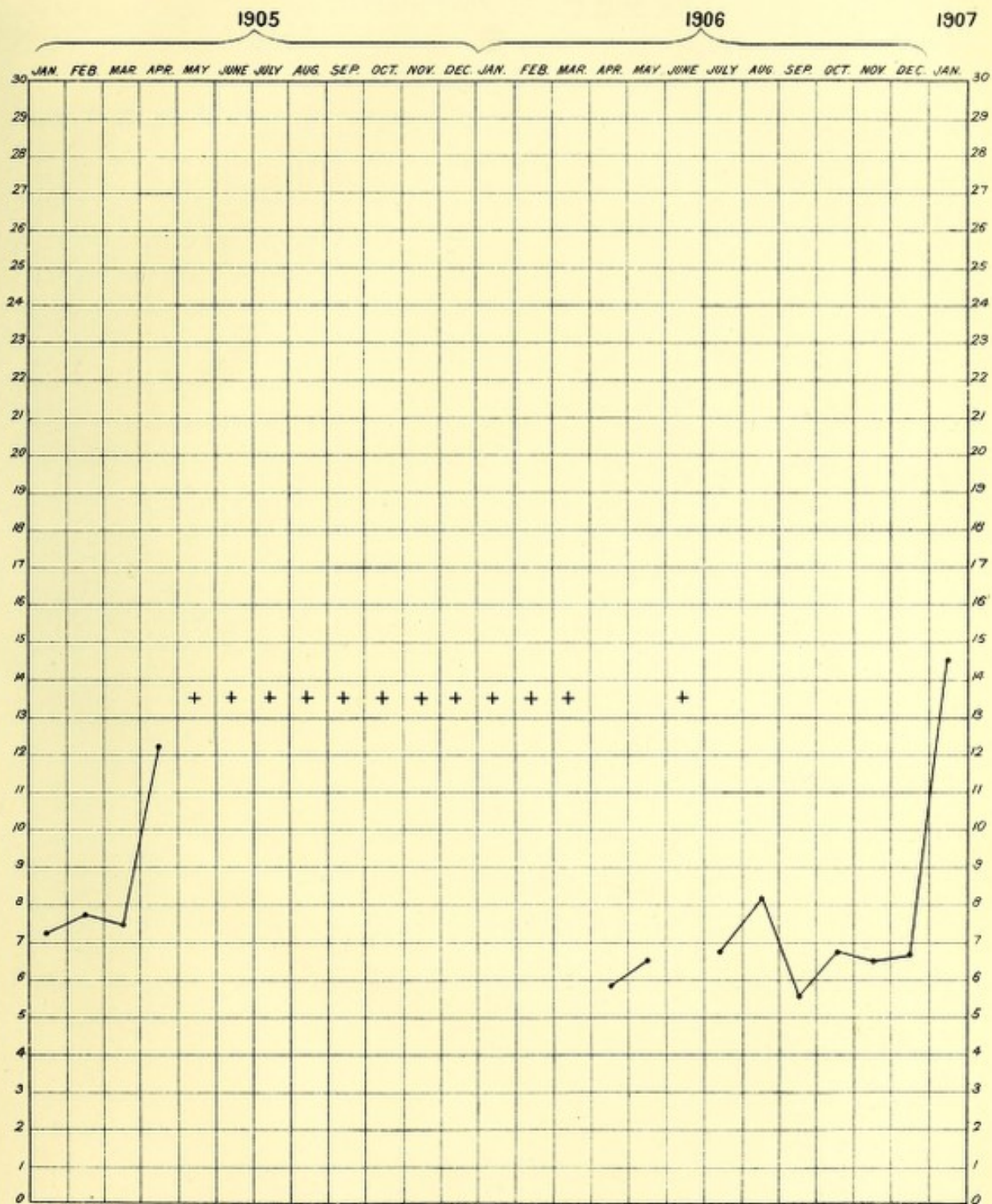
1902





# PRINTING TRADE IN BELFAST

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.



+ PERCENTAGES FOR THESE MONTHS ARE NOT OBTAINABLE

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
1900

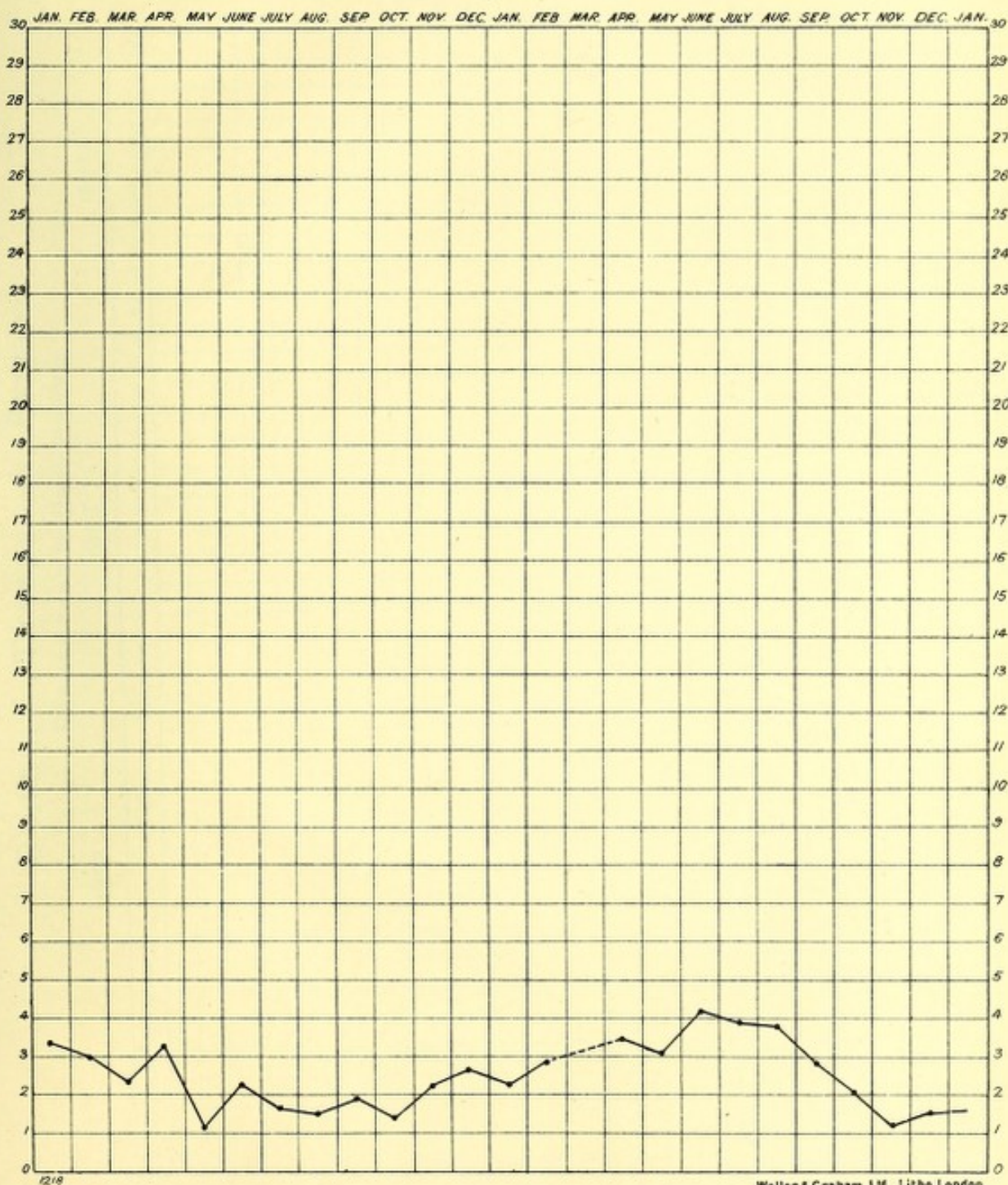
# LINEN TRADE IN BELFAST.

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.

1905

1906

1907



Weller & Graham, Ltd. Litho. London.

TABLE I. - LEAD IN GELATIN

THE RESULTS OF ANALYSES

MADE BY THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C., IN 1901

NO.	NAME OF MANUFACTURER	PERCENT LEAD
1	Amesbury, Mass.	0.000
2	Amesbury, Mass.	0.000
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# BUILDING TRADES IN BELFAST.

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.

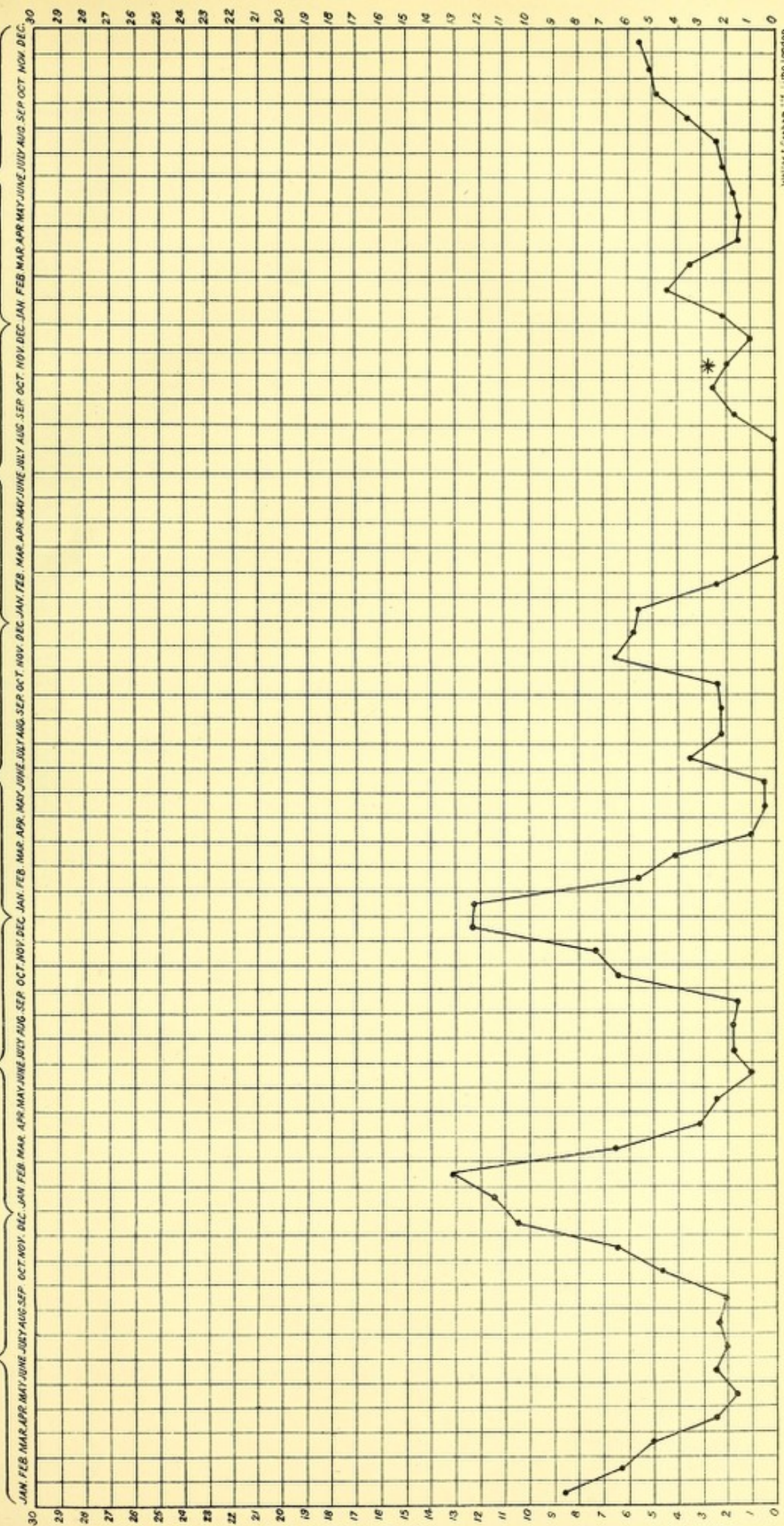
1894

1895

1896

1897

1898



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1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

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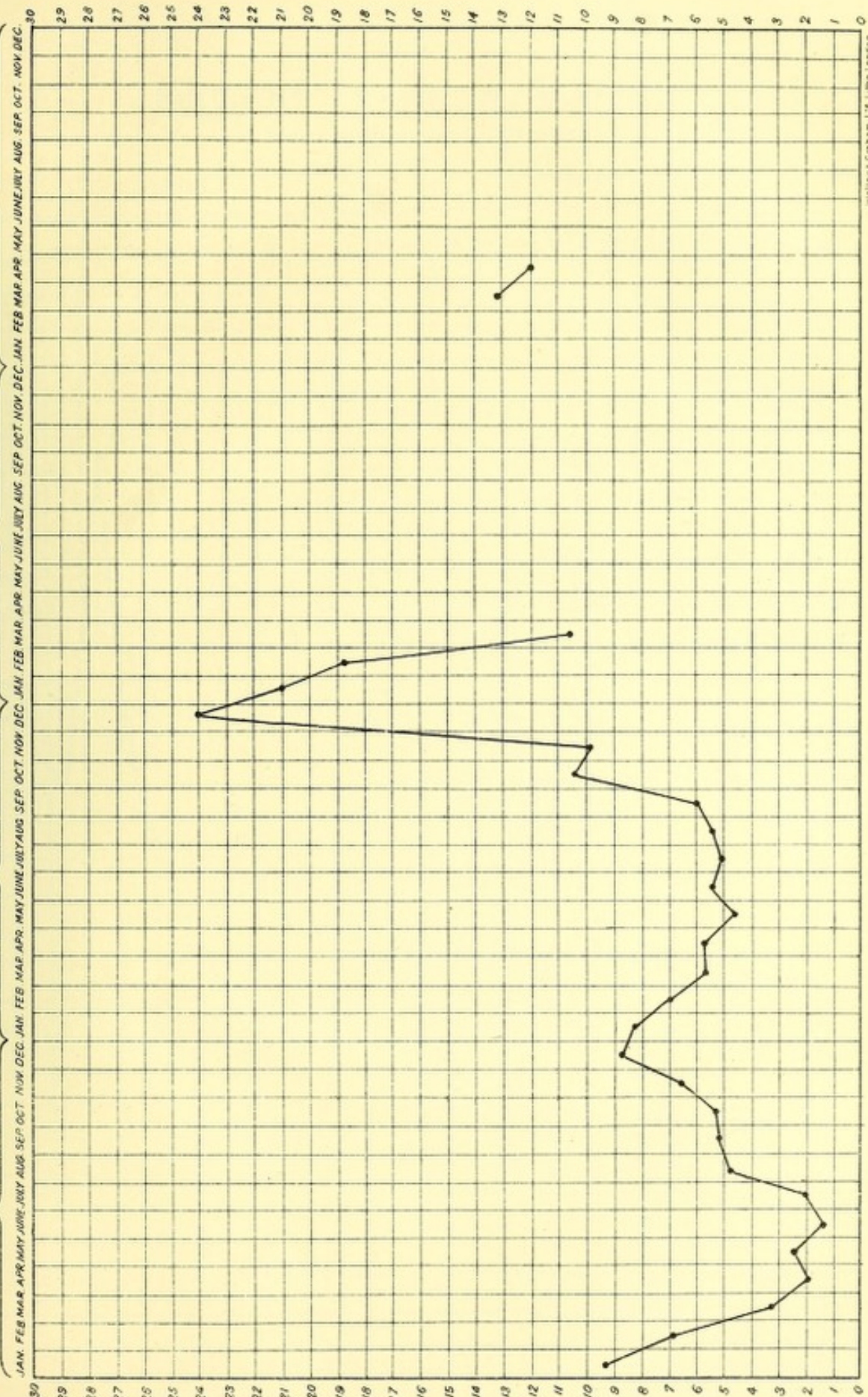
PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.

1902

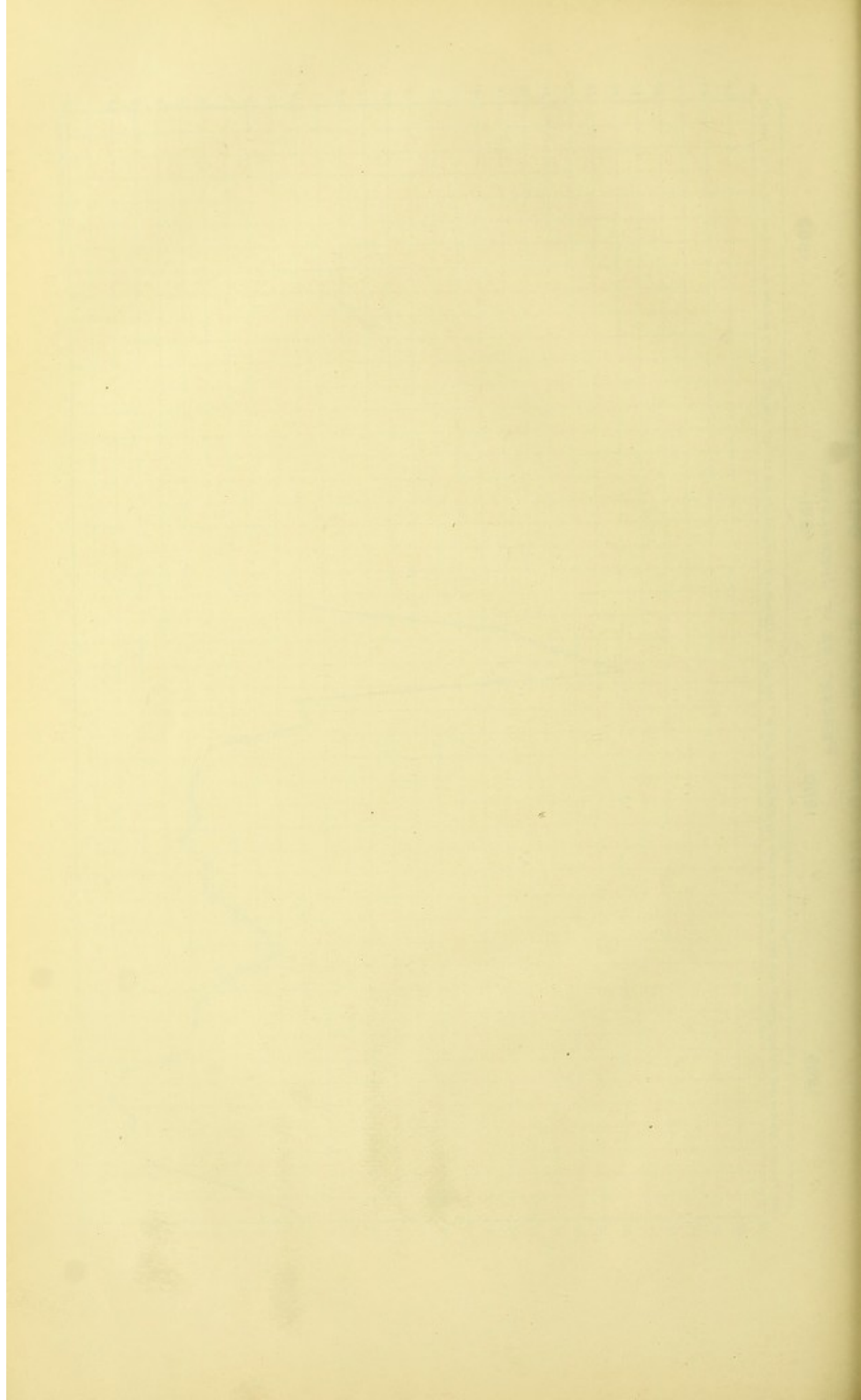
1901

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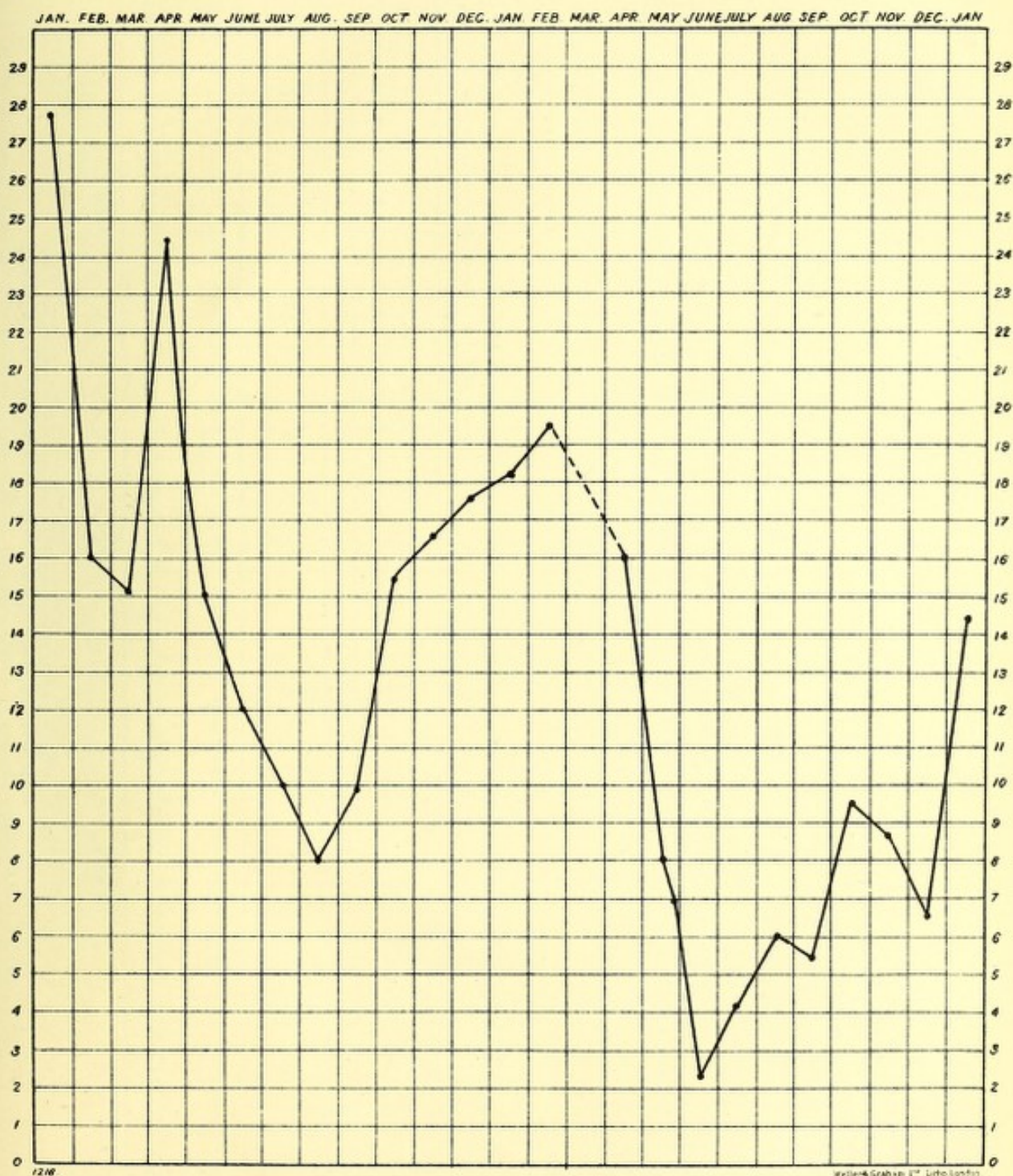
# BUILDING TRADE IN BELFAST.

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.

1905

1906

1907



Bulletin Board in History

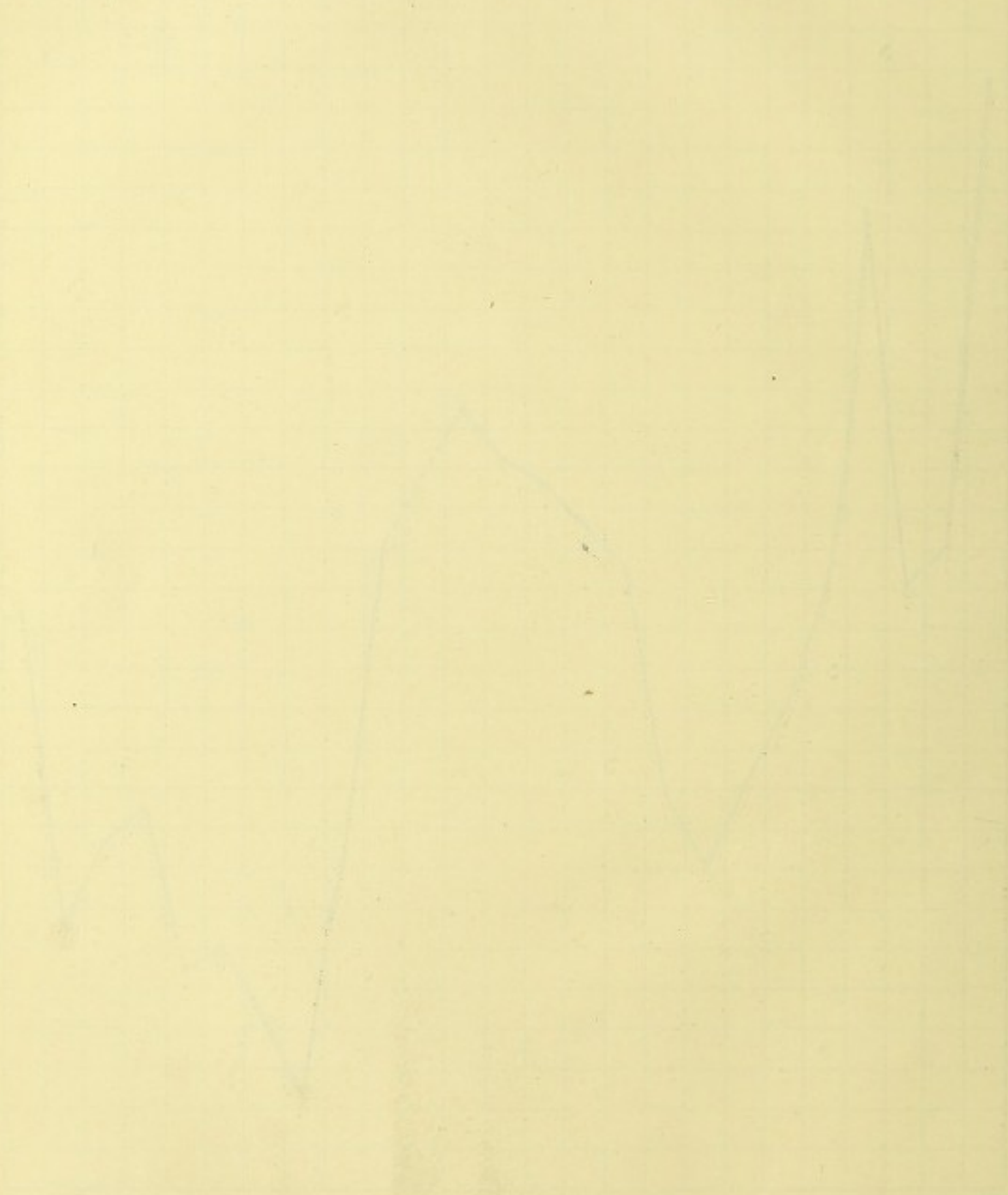
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1901

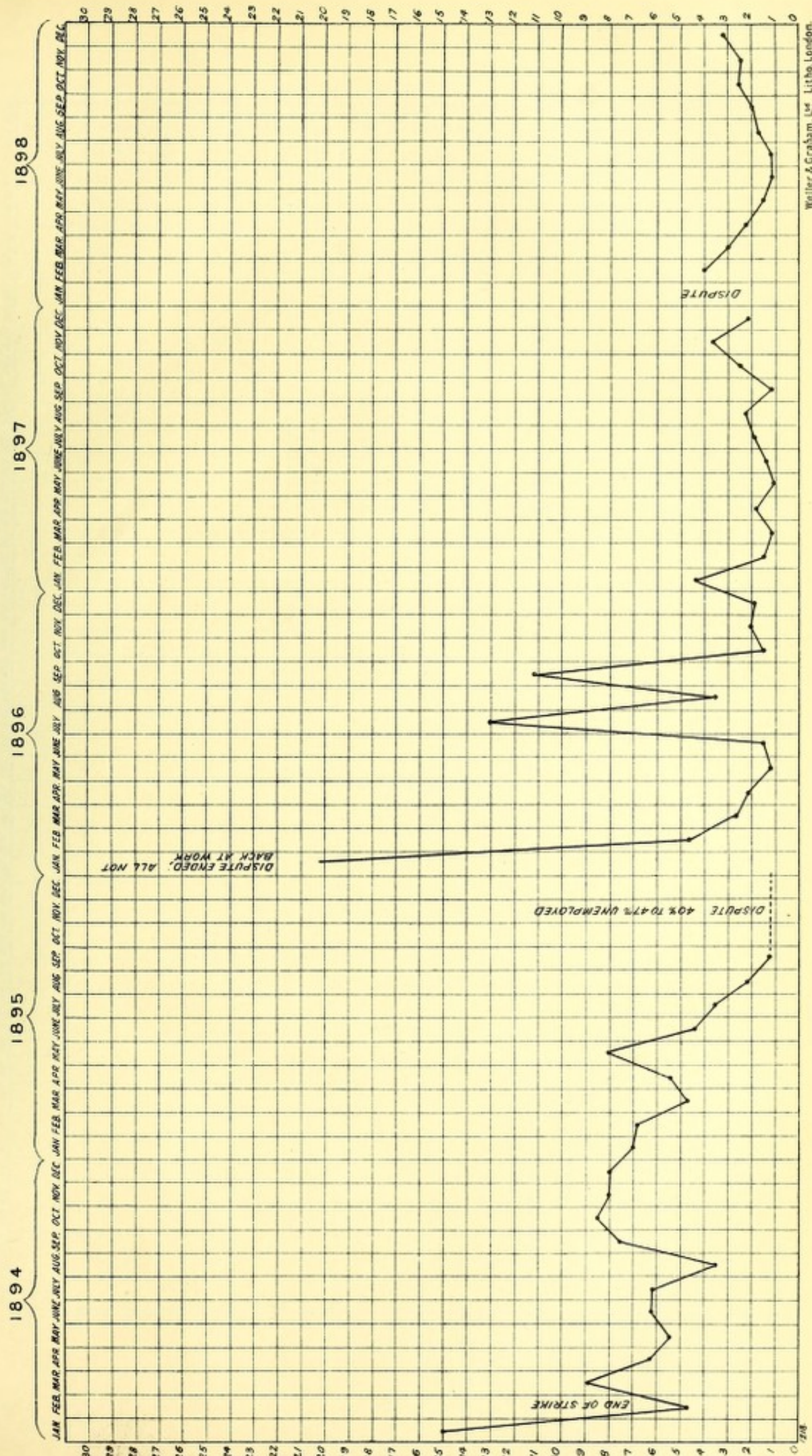
1902

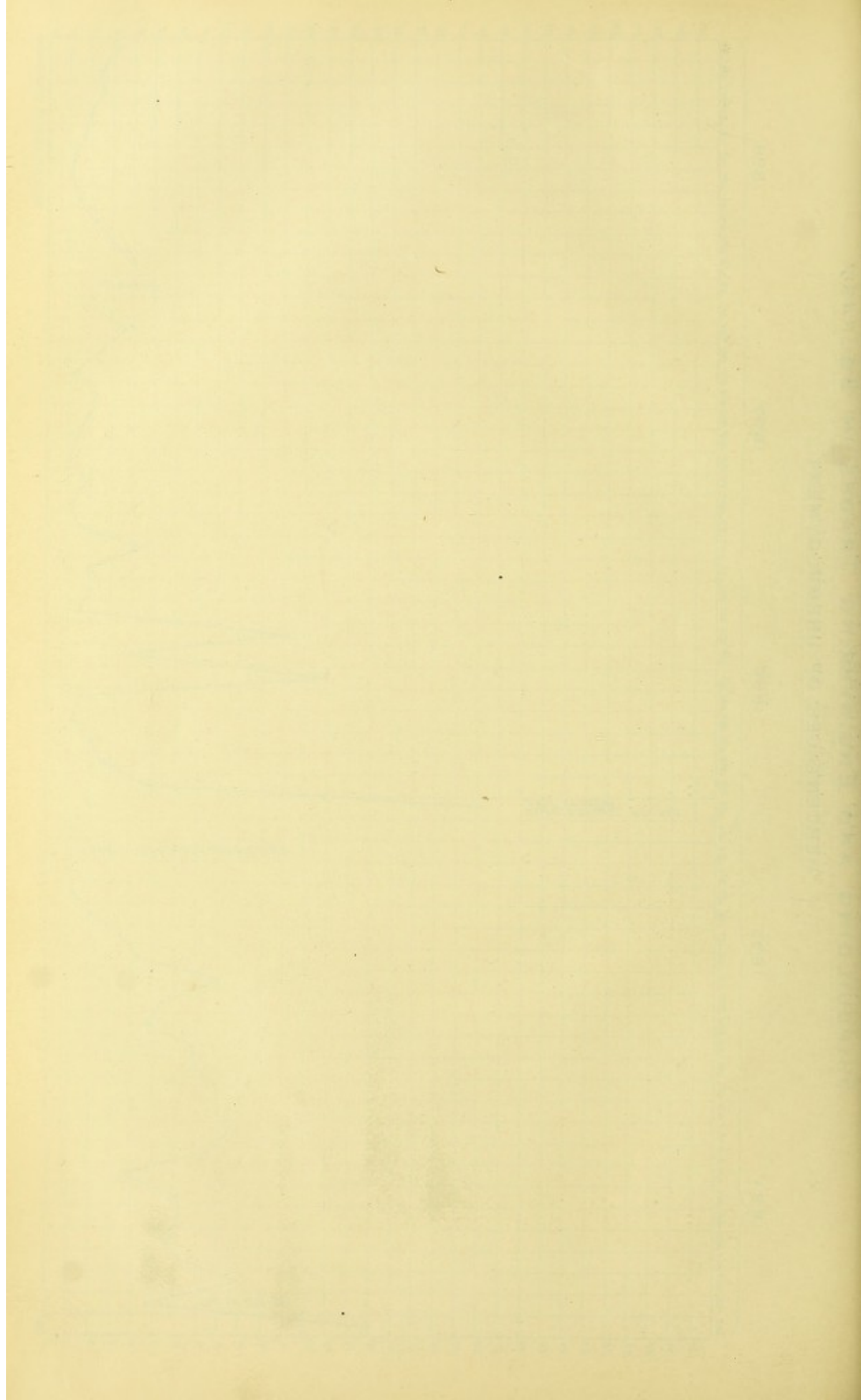
1903

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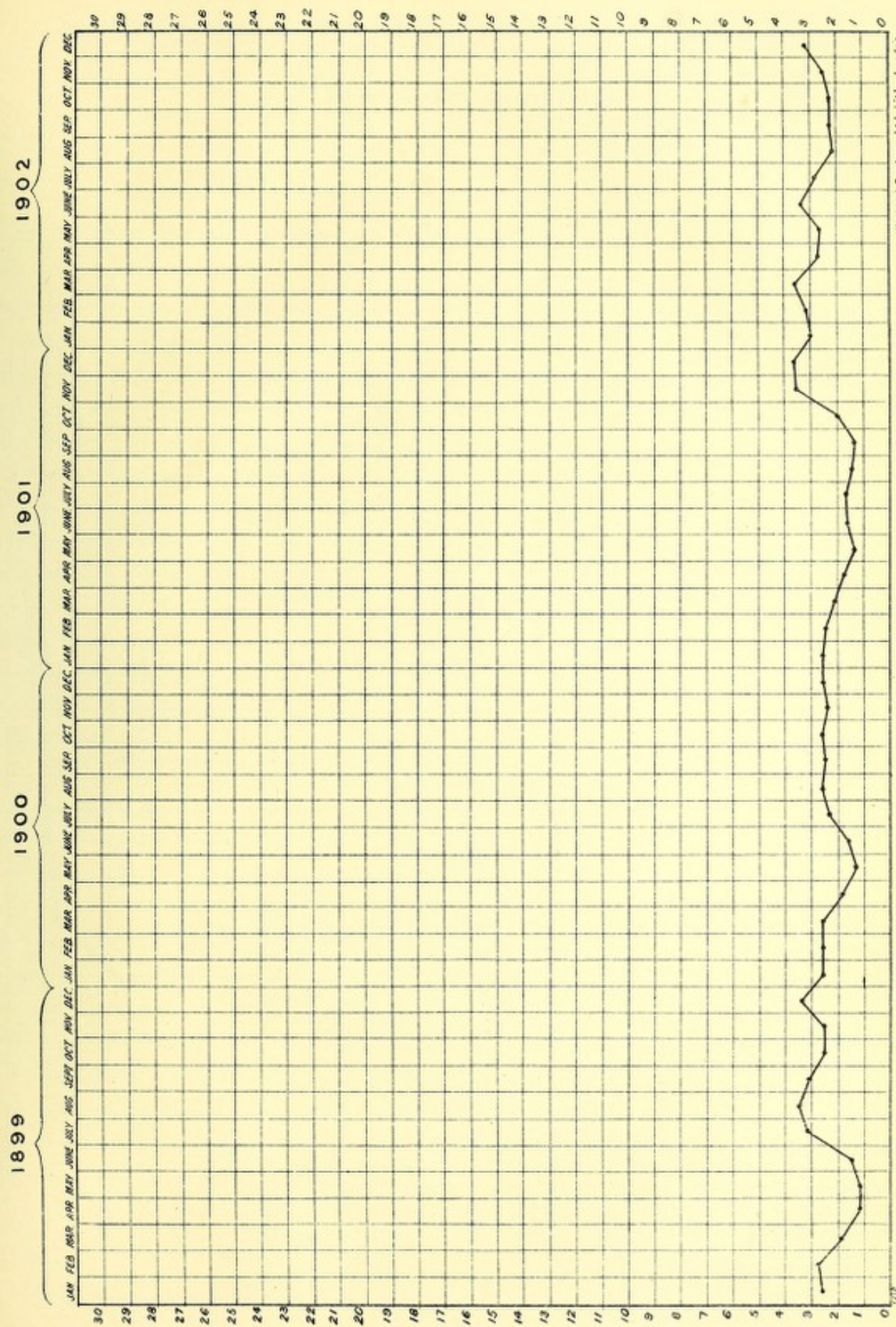


# SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING TRADES IN BELFAST. PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.





# SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING TRADES IN BELFAST.



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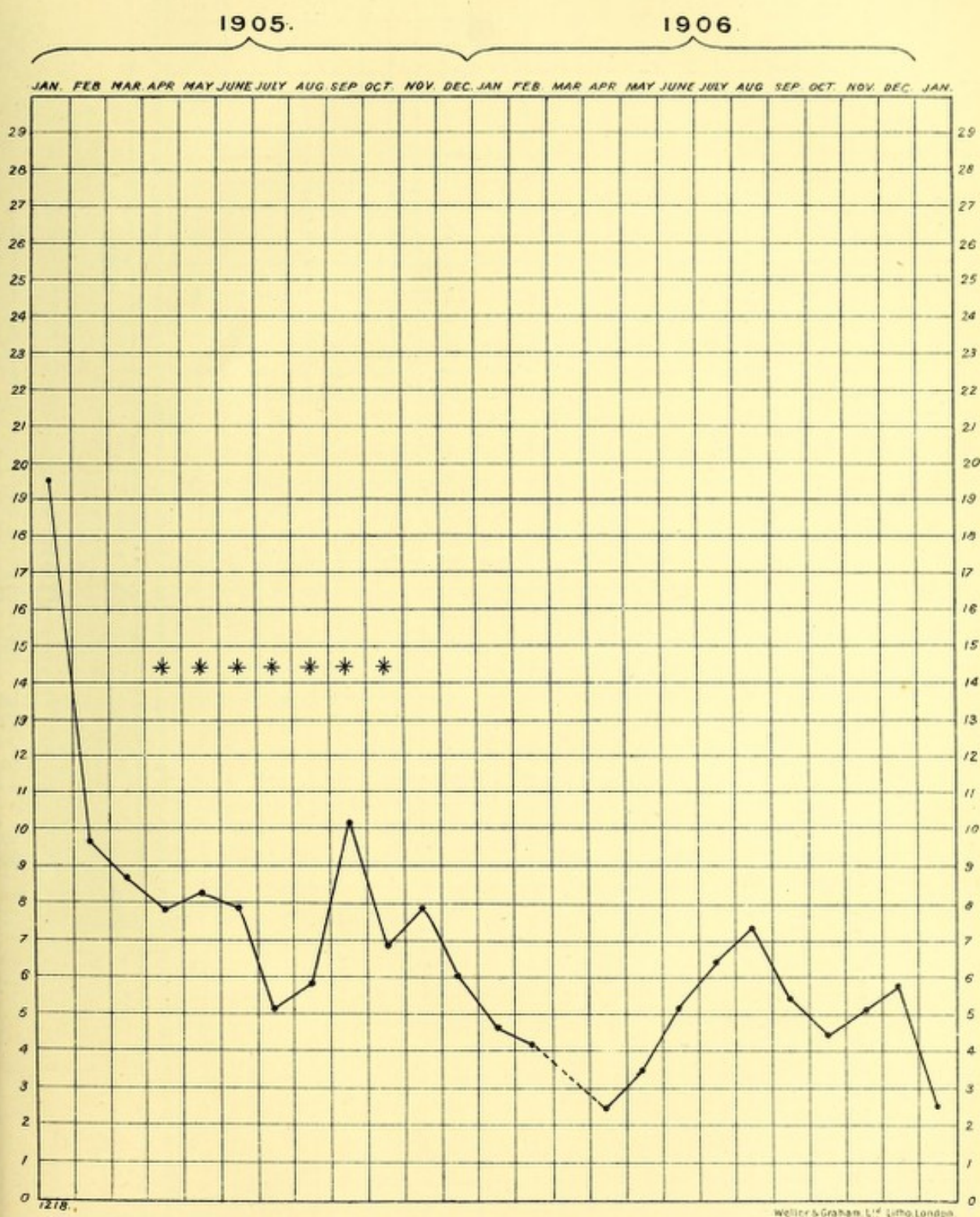
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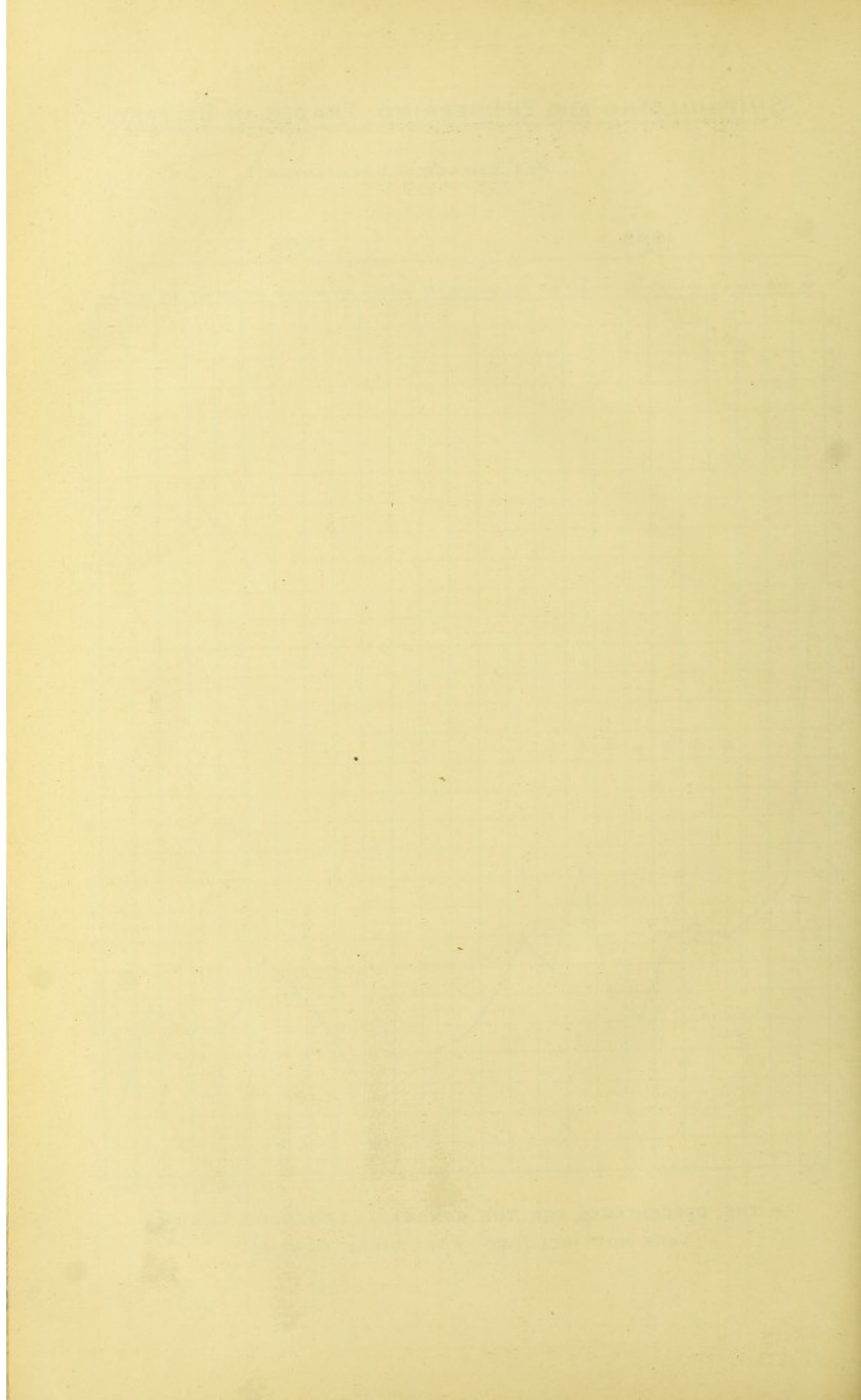
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# SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING TRADES IN BELFAST.

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.

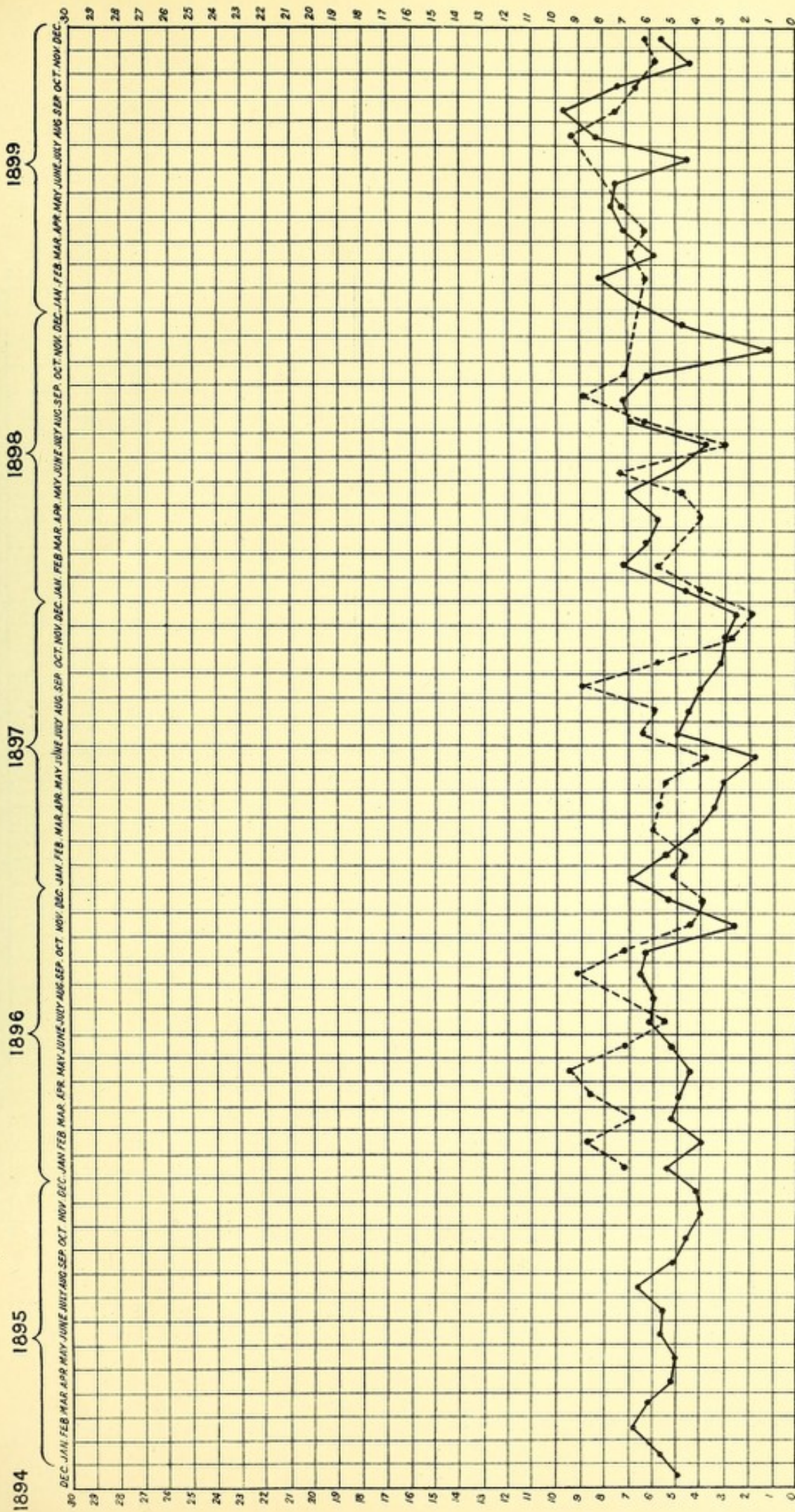


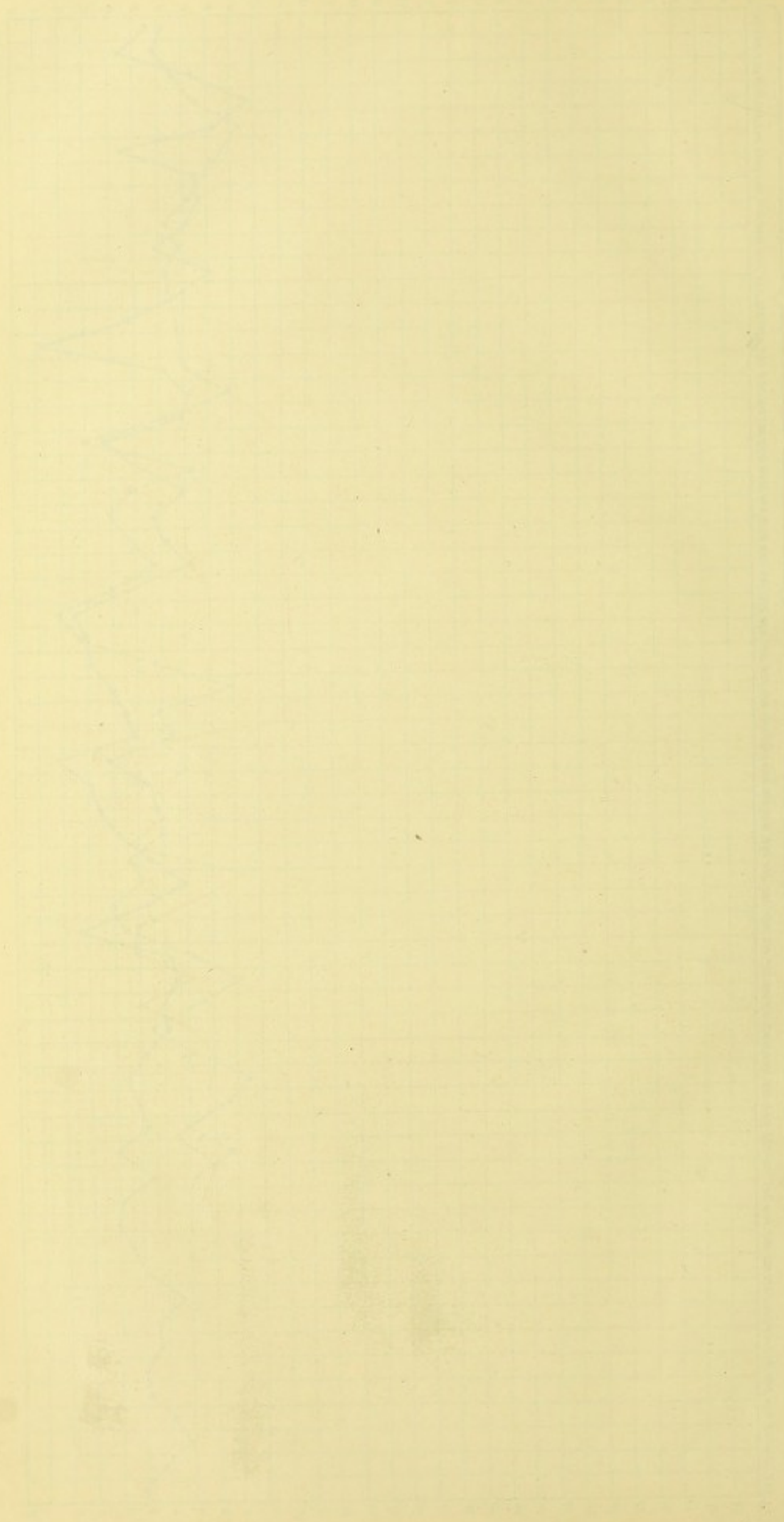
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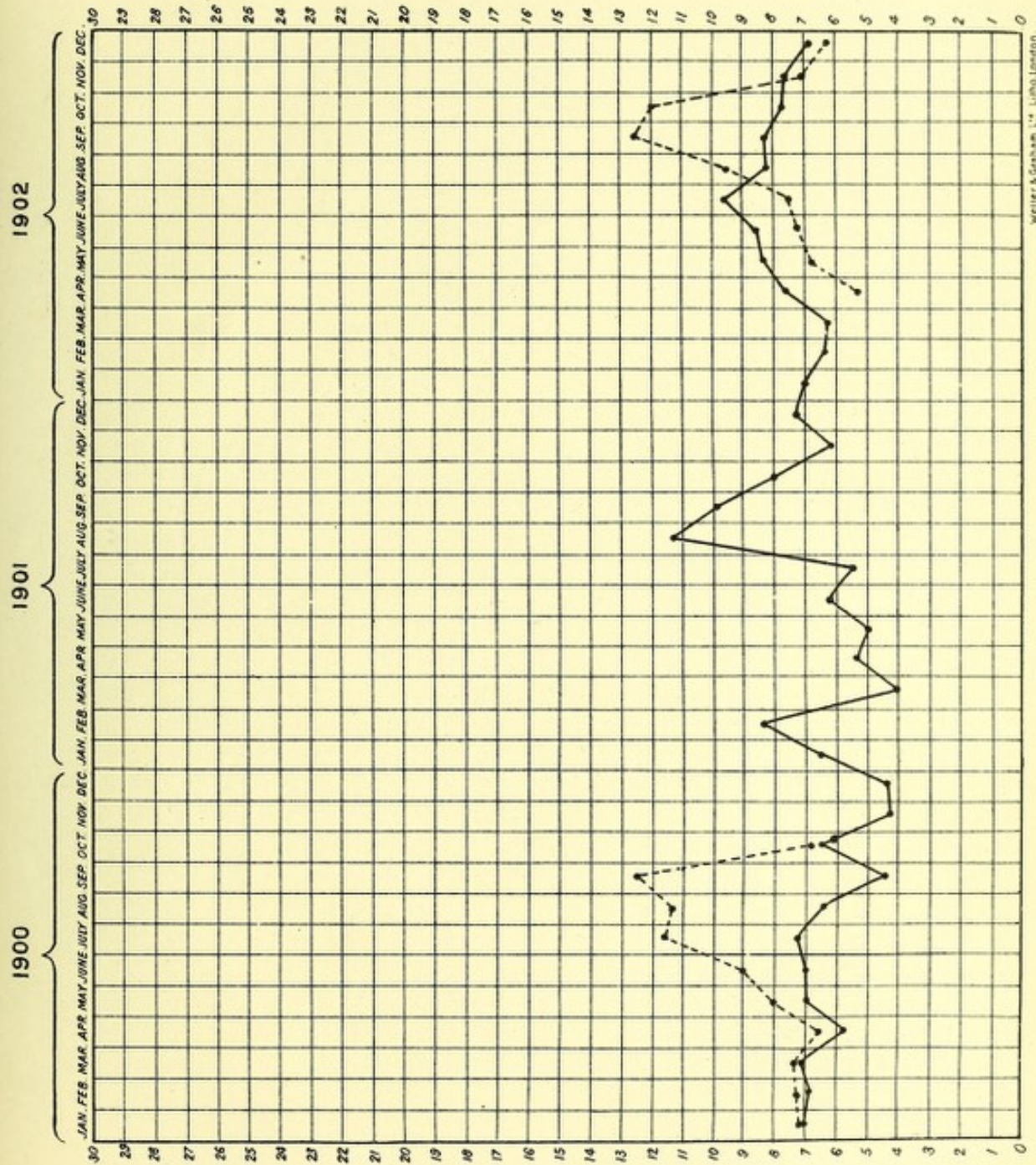
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ROYAL

