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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

A FREE TRADER'S SUBTERFUGE.

In a despairing attempt to show that in Free Trade England there is less unemployment than in other protected countries, Mr. Chiozza Money, the well known statistician of the Liberal party, recently gave the following table:—

Country.	Number of Trade Unionists reported on.	Date of Report.	Proportion reported unemployed. Per cent.
United Kingdom	698,284	June 1909	7.9
France	218,269	May, 1909	6.8
Germany	1,274,536	March, 1909	3.5
Belgium	46,719	May, 1909	2.4
Russia	13,638	Jan. 1909	22.6
Norway	10,403	May, 1909	3.9
Massachusetts, U.S.A.	105,059	March, 1909	9.5
New York State, U.S.A.	88,746	Dec., 1908	25.9

Mr. Money's comments on this table are hardly illuminating. For instance, he says that "perhaps the most strictly comparable figures in the table are those of Britain and America, and the comparison, so far as it goes, is much in favour of this country." It is to be feared that in this case the wish is father to the thought. The initial difficulty to be surmounted (an easy matter, no doubt, to Mr. Money) is to compare in a fair manner figures for June, 1909, with figures for March, 1909, and December, 1908. Could there be a more absurd comparison? But that is not the only difficulty. This is what Mr. L. W. Hatch, chief statistician of the State of New York Department of Labour, has to say about the comparability of his figures with Britain's:—"In two respects it will be found that there are fundamental differences between the two sets of returns. First, our figures cover all sorts of unemployment from different causes, including not only idleness from lack of work, but idleness caused by strikes, sickness, or any other reason. The figures of the Board of Trade, on the other hand, represent only unemployment due to lack of work, as expressly stated in the monthly Gazette. Further, the British statistics are based on returns by unions having out-of-work benefits, and so are very accurate, representing only those who are actually drawing such benefits. Our figures, on the other hand, in only a small degree, are based on such returns, being chiefly careful estimates of union officials based on general knowledge of their membership."

It would really be interesting to know why Mr. Money could not give later figures than he did, for the table does not give the "latest available" by any means. Here is his table as brought up to date by a smart Tariff Reform contemporary:—

Country.	Number of Trade Unionists reported on.	Date of Report.	Proportion reported unemployed. Per cent.
United Kingdom	694,930	Oct., 1909	7.1
France	259,832	Sept., 1909	6.8
Germany	1,355,964	Sept., 1909	2.1
Belgium	48,512	Sept., 1909	2.6
Russia	13,836	Feb., 1909	20.8
Norway	9,795	Sept., 1909	3.8
U.S.A.*	92,506	Sept., 1909	4.8

* Return of American Federation of Labour.

The Russian figure, it should be remembered, is for trade union members out of work owing to lack of work, sickness, or labour disputes, and refers to Finland only! Mr. Money's remarks consist mainly of innuendoes. For instance, this is his concluding sentence: "The German and Belgian figures must be considered in relation not only to the warning already given, but to the fact that the employers of both these countries very largely practise the system of working short time all round instead of discharging workmen." One is meant to infer that short time is an unknown quantity in the United Kingdom, but the Labour Gazette tells a different story. Why, for the past eighteen months half a million textile workers of Lancashire have been on short time, and are likely to continue so for an indefinite period. And they are not our only skilled workers who have had that experience.

The plain fact of the matter is that a comparison of these figures of unemployment month by month

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is only valuable as showing the tendencies of the labour market. And their study of late has been a convincing proof that protected countries have been recovering far more rapidly from the trade depression than has "Free Trade" Britain. This fact, of course, Mr. Money suppresses.

The following are the official figures of trade union unemployment in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States for the first nine months of the present year. The German figures are taken from the Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, of Berlin, the British from the Board of Trade Labour Gazette, and the American from the American Federationist:—

	Germany.	U.K.	U.S.A.
January	4.2	8.7	9.8
February	4.1	8.4	7.4
March	3.5	8.2	8.6
April	2.9	8.2	5.6
May	2.8	7.9	6.7
June	2.8	7.9	5.3
July	2.5	7.9	5.7
August	2.4	7.7	5.6
September	2.1	7.4	4.8

It will be observed that in Germany and the United States unemployment has been reduced by 50 per cent since the beginning of the year, while in Great Britain it has fallen by less than 15 per cent. These figures are ample proof of the rapid recovery of England's trade rivals. They are not to the liking of "Free Traders" because they are indisputable and admit of only one construction.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

PEKING, Wednesday.—An Imperial edict issued today deprives the Viceroy of Tchili, Tuan-Fang, of office, because he allowed photographs to be taken of the Dowager-Empress' funeral train (as already reported). He is to be succeeded by the Viceroy of Hukuang, the Mandchu Chen-Kueilung. The Governor of Kiangua, who is also a Mandchu, is appointed deputy Viceroy of Hukuang, his former office being filled by the Governor of Shansi. The appointment of Chen-Kueilung is not likely to be popular, since his official activity is not known to be great, and he is suspected of harbouring strong anti-foreign tendencies. He is the reverse of popular with the Chinese themselves.

MOURMELON le GRAND, Wednesday.—M. Latham, the well known aviator, is piling up record after record. His latest performance, which took place yesterday, was a visit by aeroplane to a friend, who resides 30 kilometres distant from this place. The indomitable Latham covered the distance in 35 minutes, against a strong head-wind. On the return journey, when he was favoured by a wind at his back, he maintained an exceedingly high speed average, and covered the distance in 20 minutes.

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—All fears for the safety of Colonel Astor and his yacht Nourmahal have now been allayed by a cablegram from San Juan, Porto Rico, to the effect that the yacht arrived there on November 14, after encountering terrible weather. The Nourmahal will remain at San Juan—where the harbour affords perfect safety—until the weather improves sufficiently to allow of its proceeding on the interrupted cruise. Colonel Astor and his guests are said to be in good health.

KANSAS CITY (Mo.), Wednesday.—Mr. David A. De Armond, member of Congress for Butler Co., Missouri, and one of the oldest Democratic leaders in the United States, was killed, together with his grandson, in a fire which broke out on Monday night in his house at Butler.

LONDON, Wednesday.—The new extension of the Swansea (South Wales) docks, known as King's Basin, was opened yesterday in presence of commercial and shipping representatives from all parts of the Principality. The new basin, which was constructed at a cost of two millions sterling, has an area of 67½ acres, and is capable of future enlargement. It has a length of 4,600 feet and a breadth of 1,240 feet. The total length of wharfage accommodation is 13,520 feet, and almost 3,000 feet of the quay are intended exclusively for the loading of coal.

(From our correspondent) **LONDON, Tuesday.**—The second stage of the Budget fight today found all parties ready for the fray. The papers are, of course, at one in describing yesterday's proceedings as historic, though from divergent points of view. There was something impressive in the quiet dignity of the gathering when contrasted with the heat and turmoil of the campaign outside. There was no such commotion as would have marked a similar fateful meeting in the Lower House; no cheering and counter-cheering for the chief protagonists in the great battle. Today's sitting had the same features. Again the magnificent hall was packed to its utmost capacity, from the steps of the throne at one end of the Chamber to the public gallery at the other. The side galleries furnished welcome spots of colour from the dresses of the ladies. The young King Manoel was present, attended by the Marquess de Soveral, and in the opposite gallery were Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the United States Ambassador; Mr. Ridgeley Carter, ex-Secretary to the U.S. Embassy; the Italian Ambassador, the Belgian Minister, and other diplomatists. For perhaps the first time on historical record, several peers had difficulty in finding seats. Lord Rosebery came late, and wandered about for several minutes between the Government and Opposition benches, finally seating himself on the steps of the gangway, a position which suited his neutral attitude. Another curious sight was that presented by dozens of peers taking the oath on their first visit to the House this session. How this spectacle impressed those present who are accustomed to regard the peers as conscientious and painstaking legislators, it is impossible to say.

The following were the points of this afternoon's debate:—

Lord Cromer, who was the first speaker, declared his intention of not taking part in the division. He felt himself unable to vote for Lord Lansdowne's amendment; but if he voted against it, his action would be taken as representing an endorsement of the Bill, which was not his intention. Although Great Britain was fortunately at peace with the whole world at the moment, he could not truthfully say that the general European situation was such that if internal dissensions broke out in England the safety of the country would not be endangered thereby. And the rejection of the Finance Bill would undoubtedly lead to a violent, long drawn-out struggle. It would compel moderate Liberals, who were formerly discontented with the trend of the present Government, to consolidate for the purpose of thoroughly reforming the House of Lords and depriving it of many existing privileges. Therefore, however unsatisfactory the Government's financial proposals might be, they could not be rejected without running the risk of other and more serious perils.

(Continued on page 2.)