

SOURCE 7

Extracts from the government publication the 'Labour Gazette' on National Insurance, February 1913

(PRO ref: ZPER 45/49)

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

You need to study the source carefully before you decide whether it supports or contradicts any of the reasons in the Big Question.

ASK YOURSELF:

- The Labour Gazette was a government publication. Does this make it a reliable source?
- Which of the numbers given in the source do you find impressive?
- Do these numbers prove that the National Insurance Act was helping people who most needed help?
- How might Lloyd George have used these figures to show that National Insurance was helping people?

Applications Received.

Up to 1st February, 1913, the Board of Trade had received 2,356,056 applications for unemployment books for the receipt of contribution stamps, and had issued such books to the number of 2,297,326. Of these 1,990,111 were issued through the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges established under the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909, and 307,215 through the Local Agents of the Unemployment Fund appointed specially for the purposes of Unemployment Insurance under Part II. of the Insurance Act. 58,730 applications were refused on the ground that the applicants did not appear to come within the definition of "workman" as defined in section 107 (1) of the Insurance Act, or did not appear to be included in the trades specified in the Sixth Schedule of the Act.

Numbers Insured.—The number of workpeople to whom, up to 1st February, 1913, the Board of Trade had issued unemployment books is shown in the following Table, according to industries and districts:—

District.	Building Trades.	Works of Construction.	Shp. building.	Engineering and Iron-founding.
Lon'on and S.E.	226,918	29,411	18,929	118,425
South Western	76,075	11,755	23,037	39,944
West Midlands	53,159	9,590	343	74,691
Yorkshire and E. Midlands	95,545	26,484	8,074	166,437
North Western	103,291	26,256	31,379	160,570
Wales	40,471	16,062	10,576	17,187
Scotland and Northern ..	98,829	33,124	135,277	202,632
Ireland	37,265	5,626	20,606	22,158
Total ..	792,553	158,308	248,221	602,094
	Construction of Vehicles.	Saw-milling.*	Other Industries.	Total.
London and S.E.	42,853	4,247	9,566	510,349
South Western	15,163	1,380	3,831	171,185
West Midlands	57,978	712	6,347	202,820
Yorkshire and E. Midlands	33,126	3,277	13,884	347,827
North Western	21,164	2,327	17,657	362,644
Wales	4,338	879	3,277	94,790
Scotland and Northern ..	18,217	4,293	20,918	513,640
Ireland	5,221	1,370	1,325	94,071
Total ..	198,060	18,785	79,306	2,297,326

Of the total number of workpeople at present insured 41·4 per cent. are engaged in the building trades and works of construction, 10·8 per cent. in the shipbuilding industry, 34·9 per cent. in engineering and iron-founding, and 8·6 per cent. in the construction of vehicles. About 4·3 per cent. are engaged in sawmilling on work of a kind commonly done in connection with the insured trades or in occupations insurable on account of the nature of the work, although the workpeople do not happen to be directly employed in the insured industries (*e.g.*, bricklayers engaged on repairs to blast furnaces, joiners in textile mills, etc.).

Of the total number insured about 10,000 are females, and about 100,000 males under 18 years of age.

The number