

ting of amalgamation of unions connected with the same industry was responsible for the cancellation of two unions, which amalgamated and registered under one name.

Five workers' unions and six employers' unions were cancelled as being defunct, having failed to send in returns as required by section 17 of the Act.

Eleven workers' unions altered their titles (under the Amendment Act of 1910). These alterations sometimes mean a large accession of membership, as artisans or others in allied industries not covered by existing unions are often included in an established union by this simple procedure.

Thirty-two complete and forty-six partial amendments of rules were accepted during the year.

The usual annual return (to 31st December, 1912) of the unions registered under the Act, with their membership at that date, is published separately in parliamentary paper H.—11A, as required by the Act.

The following table shows the number of unions and members thereof (both employers' and workers') from the 31st December, 1904, to 31st December, 1912, inclusive:—

	Unions of Employers.		Unions of Workers.	
	Number of Unions.	Number of Members.	Number of Unions.	Number of Members.
December, 1903	103	3,080	258	27,640
„ 1904	109	3,292	273	30,271
„ 1905	113	3,276	261	29,869
„ 1906	109	3,337	274	34,978
„ 1907	121	3,630	310	45,614
„ 1908	122	3,918	325	49,347
„ 1909	120	3,702	308	54,519
„ 1910	118	4,262	308	57,091
„ 1911	118	4,251	307	55,629
„ 1912	123	4,410	322	60,622

It will be seen that there has been an increase of five employers' unions, the total membership of which has increased by 159, and an increase of fifteen workers' unions, the total membership of which shows a very substantial gain of 4,993. This latter result is in contrast to the record of the previous year, when a decrease in the membership of workers' unions was shown, totalling 1,462, caused mainly by the cancellation of several large unions ostensibly for the purpose of joining a body opposed to the principles of the Act. The increase in membership this year is one of the largest recorded since the year ending 31st December, 1907, and it is apparently an indication of continued or renewed faith in the Act by a very large body of workers.

The following table shows the number of members of workers' unions, as shown in the returns, classified into their respective groups:—

Trades.	Numbers.		Decrease.	Increase.
	1911.	1912.		
Agriculture	4,531	4,680	..	149
Building and woodworking	8,730	10,893	..	2,163
Clothing	4,733	4,119	614	..
Iron and metal	3,717	3,192	525	..
Shipwrighting	181	170	11	..
Light, heat, and power producing	104	120	..	16
Food	8,382	7,525	857	..
Mining	2,698	2,822	..	124
Printing	1,246	1,568	..	322
Transport	13,501	13,260	241	..
Leather	1,128	2,434	..	1,306
Stone, clay, and allied trades	331	484	..	153
Miscellaneous	6,347	9,355	..	3,008
Totals	55,629	60,622	2,248	7,241
Total increase				4,993