

It is human nature that they should seek to save themselves from unemployment by limiting the kind of work which can be done by the new branch of their industry. Illustrations of this process can be found in plenty.

It is particularly evident, for instance, in shipbuilding, which, as we have seen, so immediately affects the Engineering Industry. From wood to iron and steel, sails to machinery, steam to oil and electricity, here are developments within the short space of about half a century which have necessarily created a number of new occupations and therefore limited the amount of employment available to older industrial workers who once may have done most of the work.

But to admit that many restrictions, not existing in other countries, can thus be explained is not also to admit that they must or can be perpetually maintained. They cause very often greatly increased costs because one skilled man must stand by, doing nothing for the time-wage he is receiving, while another is brought in to do work which the first is fully qualified to do if the trades unions concerned would permit. It is evident that in order to speed up work and reduce costs, some arrangements are necessary which may make the process of production as far as possible continuous, and avoid costly and time-wasting interruptions. This means a greater extent of interchangeability of men. Two men, limited at present to two different parts of two jobs at different places, must be able each to complete one of the two jobs. It is impossible for trade to progress and employment to improve if methods of manufacture in the future are to be regulated solely by the records of the past.

CONCLUSION.

1. The principal industries of the country have been briefly reviewed and their present position explained.
2. In every case there is declining employment and in competitive industries a decline in exportation.
3. The country is experiencing an unprecedented depression.
4. Production costs are much too high.
5. There is immediate necessity for a national stock-taking. The degree that we in common with other countries suffer from the world-wide slump and the degree to which the depression in our industries is due to causes special to ourselves are questions of compelling urgency.