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LABOUR GAZETTE

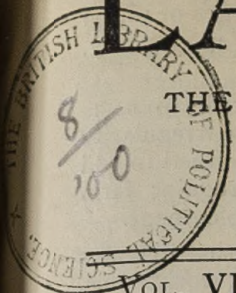
THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. VIII.—No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1900.

PRICE ONE PENNY.



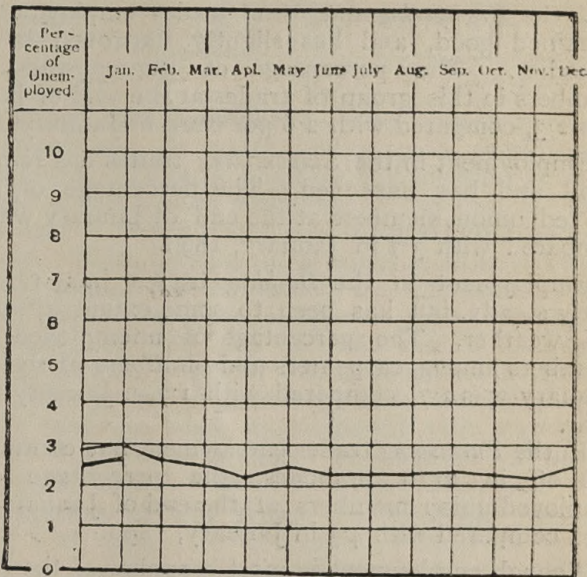
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EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1899-1900.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1899 and 1900.

[The thick line applies to 1900, the thin line to 1899.]



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JANUARY.

[Based on 2,548 returns, viz.: 1,756 from Employers, 635 from Trade Unions, and 157 from other sources.]

The general state of employment has undergone but little change during January, and remains good in most of the principal industries. The percentage of unemployed returned by trade unions is lower than at any similar period of the year since 1890.

In the 136 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 521,833, 14,252 (or 2.7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of January compared with 2.5 in December, and with 3.0 per cent. in the 121 unions, with a membership of 486,094, from which returns were received for January, 1899. The comparison with December, however, is somewhat vitiated by the effect of the Christmas holidays on the figures for that month.

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in January was on the whole much the same as a year ago. Returns relating to pits employing 450,204 workpeople show that these pits worked on an average 5.13 days per week in the four weeks ended January 20th, as compared with an average of 5.16 days a year ago. These averages are considerably diminished by Christmas and New Year holidays.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, but is not quite so good as a year ago. At mines and open works, at which 16,901 workpeople were employed, the average number of days worked in the four weeks ended January 20th was 5.35 per week, as compared with 5.49 days a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment continues better than a year ago. At the works of 116 iron masters, 381 furnaces were in blast at the end of January,

employing about 25,911 workpeople, as compared with 379 furnaces and 25,987 workpeople employed at the end of December, and 372 furnaces with 24,679 workpeople employed at the end of January, 1899.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment has fallen off somewhat, but continues to compare favourably with a year ago. At 211 works covered by the returns, 82,518 workpeople were employed in the week ended January 27th, 82,966 in the week ended December 23rd, and 80,100 in the week ended January 28th, 1899, the average number of shifts worked in these three weeks being 5.58, 5.63, and 5.60, respectively.

Timplate Trade.—Employment has again improved, and is considerably better than a year ago. At the end of January 418 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates) employing 20,909 workpeople. These figures compare with 413 mills employing 20,554 workpeople at the end of December, and 318 mills employing 16,000 workpeople at the end of January, 1899.

In the **Engineering and Metal** trades employment has remained good, and has slightly improved in some branches. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of January was 2.3, compared with 2.6 per cent. in January, 1899.

Employment in the **Shipbuilding** trades has remained good and has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 2.0, compared with 3.7 in January, 1899.

Employment in the **Building** trades has remained fairly steady, but has been to some extent affected by the weather. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of January was 2.7, compared with 1.7 in January of last year.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has continued to fall off in most branches, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January being 5.9, compared with 4.3 in January, 1899.

Though employment in most branches of the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has continued to fall off, as is usual at this season, it has continued fairly good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 4.2, compared with 4.4 per cent. in January, 1899.

Employment in the **Paper** trade has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 2.4, compared with 3.2 per cent. in January of last year.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 9.3, compared with 13.6 in January, 1899.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 1.8, compared with 4.5 in January, 1899.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade has improved on the whole, but is still quiet in several districts.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade continues bad; in the ready-made branch it has improved and is fairly good on the whole, but is slack in some centres.

Employment continues very good in the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade. Information respecting **Cotton** factories employing about 80,600 women and girls, shows that 97 per cent. of those in **Spinning** mills, and 92 per cent. of those in **Weaving** factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with the same percentages in December, and with 93 and 85 per cent. respectively a year ago.

Employment in the **Woollen and Worsted** trades continues very good generally, but a slight decline is apparent in some districts. Employment in the **Hosiery** trade remains very good.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks and wharves is still better than a year ago,

but not so good as in December, 1899. During the four weeks ended January 27th an average number of 15,762 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 16,390 in the preceding five weeks, and 15,593 in January, 1899.

Agricultural employment was interrupted to some extent by wet weather in January, but the irregularity of work owing to this cause was chiefly confined to odd hands who rely on casual work, the regular farm labourers being usually found suitable employment.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-seven fresh disputes occurred in January, 1900, involving 11,305 workpeople, of whom 8,993 were directly and 2,312 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in December was 28, involving 6,116 workpeople, and in January, 1899, 26, involving 2,194 workpeople. Of the 37 fresh disputes in January, 1900, 4 occurred in the building trades, 9 in the coal mining trade, 11 in textile trades, 4 among dock and waterside labourers, and 9 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 41 new and old disputes, involving 11,592 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 14, involving 3,085 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10 involving 1,557 persons, in favour of the employers; and 14, involving 6,264 persons, resulted in a compromise. With regard to the remaining 3 disputes, involving 686 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 698,000 workpeople were reported during January, of which number about 697,650 received advances, averaging 1s. 4½d. weekly per head, and about 350 sustained decreases, averaging 2s. 4d. weekly per head. The net result was an increase of about 1s. 4½d. per head in the weekly wages of the 698,000 workpeople affected. The principal increases were in the coal mining, iron and steel, and textile trades. Changes affecting about 5,300 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 159,300 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and changes affecting about 428,000 workpeople were arranged by Wages and Conciliation Boards, and by arbitration without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 105,400 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE second part of the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1898 has been published [Cd. 27—Price 2s. 5d.]. The volume contains the general report, the orders and certificates of the Secretary of State, special reports by the Medical Inspector, the Principal Lady Inspector, the Inspector under the Cotton Cloth Factories Act, and the Examiner of Particulars, and the third annual return of persons employed in factories and workshops, 1897.

The general summary of persons employed in factories and workshop (under 1878 Act) in the United Kingdom is as follows:—

		Textile Factories.		Non-Textile Factories.		Workshops (under 1878 Act).	
		1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
Half Timers, M.	22,074	24,309	4,522	6,098	1,340	1,544	
F.	25,963	28,934	1,877	2,149	1,397	1,572	
Full Timers, M.	28,710	24,381	316,653	301,321	67,710	63,019	
under 18 yrs. F.	152,583	163,862	144,150	134,592	104,321	100,063	
Full Timers, 18 yrs. & upwards F.	296,058	306,156	1,936,684	1,880,031	251,628	237,987	
	475,167	482,030	351,568	341,967	250,380	260,480	
Total Persons, M.	396,851	412,841	4,457,865	4,187,733	320,678	303,450	
F.	654,713	661,546	4,975,595	4,78,698	336,098	322,115	
Grand Total	1,051,564	1,074,387	9,433,460	8,966,431	656,776	625,565	

The workshops under the 1878 Act, which alone are included in the above Table, are those in which women, children, or young persons are employed.

THE LABOUR MARKET IN 1899.

THE following article is based principally upon the monthly returns received by the Department with regard to the state of employment. These may be roughly classified as follows:—About 1,350 returns from employers with regard to mines, iron and steel and other works, at which 606,000 workpeople are employed; about 460 returns from the secretaries of trade unions, with regard to the employment of 501,000 workpeople in various trades; returns from 37 women correspondents, with regard to employment at textile mills and factories, at which 97,000 women and girls are employed. Together these amount to nearly 1,850 returns, which (after allowing for duplication) deal with the state of employment of over a million workpeople in a large number of industries. In addition, returns are received as to the state of employment in the various trades of their special districts from 30 local correspondents, and as to the state of employment among agricultural labourers from about 225 correspondents in the various parts of the United Kingdom.

From the following analysis of some of the more important statistics it will be seen that 1899 was a year of exceptionally good employment in almost all the principal branches of industry.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, Metal, Building and Miscellaneous Trades.—The employment returns for these trades received from trade unions, show that of a total membership of about 500,000 an average of 2.4 per cent. were unemployed during 1899, this being a lower percentage than in any of the last seven years, and hardly more than one-half the average for that period. Among the principal groups of trades the most marked improvement, as compared with 1898, took place in the engineering and metal and the shipbuilding groups, in which the percentages unemployed were 2.4 and 2.3 respectively, compared with 3.7 and 4.7 in 1898. Last year attention was called to the fact that the numbers unemployed in these two groups were somewhat swollen in the first portion of 1898 by the dispute in the engineering trade, which lasted into that year. It will be noticed that for the shipbuilding trade the figures show a steady improvement year by year, throughout the period of seven years. In the building trades the returns relate to two occupations only, the carpenters and plumbers, who had on an average 1.5 per cent. unemployed.* This figure indicates a continued prosperity, although it does not quite reach the remarkably low figure of 1898. In the printing and bookbinding trades the proportion of unemployed was higher than in any of the groups above alluded to, and although below the average for the whole seven years, the figures do not indicate that these trades have to any great extent shared in the general prosperity.

In the following table, the percentage of unemployed in all the trade unions making returns, and in each of the groups above referred to, is set out for the seven years 1893-1899:—

Years.	All Trades covered by returns from Trade Unions.	Principal groups of Trades.			
		Engineering and Metal.	Shipbuilding.	Building.	Printing & Bookbinding.
1893	7.5	9.1	16.3	3.8	4.1
1894	6.9	9.1	15.7	4.1	5.7
1895	5.8	6.4	12.5	3.8	4.9
1896	3.4	2.6	8.2	1.8	4.3
1897	3.5	3.6	7.6	1.6	3.9
1898	3.0	3.7	4.7	1.3	3.7
1899	2.4	2.4	2.3	1.5	3.9
Mean for 7 years	4.6	5.3	9.6	2.6	4.4
Mean number of members in 1899 covered by returns	500,183	141,192	61,118	72,485	48,621

Coal Mining.—Monthly returns relating to about 64 per cent. of the total number employed in and about coal mines are received by the Department, mainly from coalowners. They show that the pits at which these persons were employed worked on an average 5.46 days per week throughout the year, or about one-fifth of

* The other branches of the Building Trades do not as a rule pay unemployed benefit.

a day more than the average for 1898, which was itself higher than in any of the three preceding years.* Indeed, the general activity in this industry in 1899 is shown by the fact that even in July and August the average time worked was little if at all lower than the average for the whole of 1898. It should be stated that the average for 1898 does not include the South Wales district during that portion of the year when the dispute was in progress. Of the principal coal mining districts all show an improvement† except West Scotland, where the time worked in 1899 was less than in any other district. The following table gives particulars for the principal districts and for the years 1895-1899:—

Principal Coalfields.	Mean No. of days worked per week by Coal Mines making returns.				
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Yorkshire	4.50	4.78	5.12	5.26	5.55
Lancashire and Cheshire	4.63	4.90	5.03	5.23	5.43
Midlands	4.28	4.42	4.68	4.94	5.25
South Wales and Monmouth	5.17	5.28	5.47	5.47	5.75
Durham	5.12	5.33	5.46	5.45	5.53
Northumberland	4.69	4.79	5.09	5.18	5.32
West of Scotland	5.06	5.21	5.37	5.32	5.23
United Kingdom	4.74	4.92	5.13	5.25	5.46

Iron Mines and Openworks.—The returns received cover mines, etc., at which about 17,000 workpeople are employed, i.e., a large proportion of the total number employed in the United Kingdom. They indicate that employment in this industry is of a remarkably uniform character. Thus, leaving out of count months in which the time worked was shortened by Christmas, New Year, or Easter holidays, it appears that the average time worked by the pits in any month has only fluctuated between 5.65 and 5.89 days per week during the last three years. The average time worked in 1899 was 5.76 days per week, as compared with 5.75 days in 1898, and 5.76 days in 1897. The number of workpeople employed also shows very little fluctuation.

Manufacture of Pig Iron.—The monthly returns received with regard to this industry cover the great majority of the blastfurnaces of the kingdom. From these returns it appears that 1899 was a year of remarkable improvement in employment. At the works of the 117 ironmasters to which the returns relate, the number of furnaces in blast at the end of every month in the year was greater than the maximum recorded in 1898. The average number was 379, or 26 in excess of the average in 1898. For the months April to August, when the industry in 1898 was affected by the Welsh dispute, the average for 1899 is higher by 34 furnaces, and for the remaining months of the year by 20 furnaces. The average number employed was greater in 1899 than in 1898 by about 1,900, or 8 per cent. The following are the figures for the last four years:—

	1896	1897	1898	1899
Number of Furnaces.	349	352	353	379
Number of Workpeople.	22,122	22,486	23,307	25,203

These statistics relate solely to the furnaces owned by the same 117 ironmasters to whose works the returns relate.

Iron and Steel Works.—Returns received from over 200 iron and steel works engaged in iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling show that employment in 1899 exhibited a marked improvement as compared with the previous year, the average number employed being 80,998 as compared with 76,892 in 1898, an increase of 5.3 per cent. The number employed in Northumberland and Durham was substantially the same in both years, but all other districts show increases, the greatest, as was to be expected, being that of 16.8 per cent. in South Wales. Monthly information with regard to the number of shifts worked shows that the average varies but slightly, the great majority working 5 or 6 shifts per week, and the relative proportion of these two groups

* The table only professes to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and woune at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.
† The majority of miners in South Wales and Monmouth were idle for about six months in 1898.

not altering much from month to month. So far as they go, however, these figures show a slight improvement in eleven out of the twelve months on the corresponding figures for 1898. For the whole year the average number of shifts was 5.58 in 1899 and 5.54 in 1898.

Tinplate Trade.—In this industry, which for some years had been in a depressed condition, a remarkable improvement in employment began about May, 1899. In that month the number of mills (including black plate mills) in operation rose from 349 to 380, a figure which had not been touched for several years. The number further increased until at the end of September 411 mills were in operation, which number has since been fully maintained. The following table gives the average number of mills in operation and persons employed in the last four years, and the total exports of tinplates and sheets and black plates :—

Year.	Average Number of Mills in Operation.	Average Number of Workpeople employed.	Exports of	
			Tinplates and Sheets.	Black Plates.
1896	319	16,050	Tons. 266,953	Tons. 48,405
1897	321	16,610	271,330	58,648
1898	322	16,582	250,933	58,327
1899	381	19,117	256,629	85,567

Textile Trades.—According to returns received from women correspondents employment improved considerably in both branches of the cotton trade and in the woollen and worsted trade. The following are the mean percentages employed in mills and factories giving full employment in the two years. The number of women and girls usually employed at the establishments reported on is about 25,000 in the cotton spinning branch, 52,000 in the cotton weaving branch, and 20,000 in the woollen and worsted trade.

Year.	Mean of Monthly Percentages of Women and Girls employed at establishments giving full employment throughout the month.		
	Cotton Spinning.	Cotton Weaving.	Woollen and Worsted.
1898	89	74	69
1899	96	90	90

The exports of cotton piece goods amounted to 5,441 million yards, as compared with 5,216 million yards in 1898, which was itself above the average of recent years. The exports of woollen and worsted tissues and stuffs and flannels was 162 million yards, which is greater than the 152 million yards exported in 1898, but below the figures for most recent years.

Dock and Wharf Labour in London.—The average daily number of dock and wharf labourers employed at all the docks and the principal wharves in London, although it varies considerably at different periods of the year, has not recently shown on the average any very great change from year to year. The average number in 1899 was 14,893, as compared with 14,769 in 1898, and 15,341 in 1897. The weekly average in 1899 varied from 12,681 at the end of June to 17,191 at the beginning of December.

Agricultural Labourers were generally well employed throughout the year, and reports of any irregularity of work were exceptional. On the contrary, in a number of districts employers complained of a scarcity of labour and frequently referred to a great difficulty in getting extra hands at busy seasons, such as for hoeing or harvest work, or threshing. The scarcity of labour, however, was not so much felt as it might have been under other conditions, because, owing to the dry weather, there was not much hoeing, the root crop was a light one, and it was possible to use self-binding machines to a large extent in the case of the corn crops. After harvest the weather was very favourable for outdoor work up to the end of the year and generally speaking the labourers were fully employed.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION.

THE Royal Commission appointed in May, 1899, "to enquire into the causes of the accidents, fatal and non-fatal, to servants of railway companies and of truck owners, and to report on the possibility of adopting means to reduce the number of such accidents, having regard to the working of railways, the rules and regulations made, and the safety appliances used by railway companies," has made its report.*

The report contains statistics as to the number of accidents to railway servants in general, and in particular, goods guards and brakemen, permanent-way men or plate-layers, and shunters, the occupations of these classes of workmen being shown to be of a specially dangerous character. The Commission states that, having carefully considered the facts and figures set out in the report, they have come to the conclusion that the deaths occurring and the injuries sustained amongst railway servants are unnecessarily great in number, and can by means of authoritative action be diminished.

With respect to the prevention of accidents in shunting, the Commission recommends that railway companies should either voluntarily, or by obligation placed upon them, proceed forthwith to make such practical experiments as must precede the general application of any system of automatic couplings, and that the Board of Trade be empowered to appoint a Departmental Committee to co-operate with the railway companies when making such experiments, and to consider the results of them when made.

In addition to the recommendations as to the application of automatic or other improved forms of coupling in substitution for the "pole," the Commission makes the following suggestions as likely to minimise the risk of accident to railway servants :—

1. Brake levers to be fixed on both sides of the wagons.
2. Similar labels showing the destination of the wagons to be placed on both sides of them.
3. Abolition of propping and tow-roping as far as possible.
4. That there shall be air or steam brakes on all engines.
5. That all stations or sidings where shunting operations are frequently carried on after dark shall be well and sufficiently lighted.
6. That where point-rods and signal-wires run across the ground in places where men engaged in shunting operations have to walk and work, such rods and wires shall be sufficiently covered over or protected. And that where points are worked by ground levers such levers shall fall parallel to the lines of rails.
7. That offices, cabins, &c., should as far as practicable be so arranged as to diminish the necessity for railway servants to walk upon the line.
8. That there shall be small marks provided to show "the fouling points" for sidings.
9. That the gauge-glasses shall be so constructed or protected as not when breaking to be a danger to the men.
10. That the arrangements for carrying tool-boxes, &c., and the placing of the water-gauges shall be such that the men shall not have to pass over the back of the tender whilst the engine is running.
11. That the trains shall not be run upon running lines beyond the limits of stations or shunting sidings without a brake van being provided for the guard in charge to ride in.
12. That mechanical means or look-out men shall be employed to protect gangs of men when engaged in relaying the permanent way. That such means shall also be employed when necessary to protect men engaged in repairing the permanent way.

The Commission recommends that the Board of Trade shall be invested with powers for the inspection and regulation of the work done by shunters, goods guards, brakemen, and platelayers, and certain other employments and methods of railway working which may also be regarded as dangerous. The Board of Trade should be enabled, from time to time, to determine what portions of railway working should be regarded as dangerous, with power to inspect such working and to make general rules, or give specific

* [Cd.-41] Price 2d. [Cd.-42] (Minutes of Evidence and Appendices) Price 3s. 1½d.

orders in the interests of safety, power being also conferred on railway companies to enforce any order or regulation affecting them against persons using the railway.

From the rules or orders to be made by the Board of Trade a right of appeal should be given to railway companies and other interests directly affected. This appeal should be to the Railway and Canal Commissioners; but if the parties interested agree to such a course, the appeal might lie to a specially constituted tribunal of arbitration.

In regard to the question of solid or "dead" buffers, the Commission recommends that a period of 10 years shall be fixed, after which no dead buffer wagon shall be used on any railway. It is observed that when the servants of railway companies are killed or injured on colliery sidings or lines not belonging to a railway company, there is no duty on the part of any person to report the fact to a Department of State. The colliery owners do not report because the men are not their servants. The railway companies are under no obligation to report, because the accident has not happened on a railway. The Commission is of opinion that this anomaly should be removed by an obligation to report to the Board of Trade all accidents to railway servants incurred in the course of their duty on private railways or sidings by the railway company whose servants they are, and that such accidents should be inquired into by the Board of Trade.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAW IN SPAIN.

The official *Gaceta de Madrid* of January 31st, 1900, contains the text of a new law regulating the liability of employers for compensation in respect to industrial accidents.

The scale of compensation provided is, roughly, as follows :—

1. For temporary disablement :—Medical attendance and medicines, together with payment to the injured workman of half his daily wages from the date of the accident until he is fit to resume work. Disablement lasting more than a year is treated as permanent.
2. For permanent disablement :—

(a) If total: Payment to the workman of a sum equal to two years' wages, if he be unable to engage in any occupation whatever; or eighteen months' wages, if he be capable of engaging in a new occupation.

(b) If partial: Payment to the workman of a sum equal to one year's wages, or the alternative of finding him equally remunerative employment at some other kind of work.

3. In case of death :—Payment of funeral expenses (not exceeding £4), together with compensation for the family of the deceased, which may consist of a lump sum or an annuity. In the former case it varies from two years' wages (for a widow with children) to seven months' wages (for a parent or grandparent). In the form of an annuity, it ranges from 40 per cent. to 10 per cent. of the wages of the deceased. For accidents in establishments not fitted with safety appliances (see below) the rates of compensation are increased by one-half.

An employer may discharge the whole or any part of the liability for compensation imposed by the present law by insuring his workpeople with an insurance office approved by the Government, but the cost of insurance must be borne by the employer, and the compensation assured must not be less than that set forth in the Law. Contracting-out is not allowed.

The Law provides for the formation of a Technical Council (consisting of 3 engineers and an architect) to investigate safety appliances, to draw up a list of such appliances for presentation to the Government within 4 months, and to form a museum for preserving models and testing the efficacy of such appliances.

Persons employed in agriculture and forestry do not come within the scope of the Law except in so far as their employment exposes them to danger from machinery driven by power. The rules for giving effect to the Law are to be drawn up by the Govern-

ment within 6 months, and will include regulations, framed in concert with the Technical Council, specifying the cases in which machinery must be fitted with safety appliances.

PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS FROM MACHINERY IN THE COTTON TRADE.

At the beginning of 1898 Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Richmond, two of H.M. Superintending Inspectors of Factories, were requested by the Home Office to make a special inquiry into the dangers attending the use of cotton machinery. The Report, which has recently been issued,* commences with a brief summary of the powers bestowed by existing statutes on H.M. Inspectors in connection with the fencing, etc., of dangerous machinery. The opinion is expressed that Section 8 of the 1895 Act, under which H.M. Inspectors are empowered to notify machinery as dangerous, in which case it becomes illegal for young persons to clean such parts of the machinery in motion, is unfortunate in its tendency as affording a pretext for the presumption that all parts of machinery not specified as dangerous are thereby implied to be comparatively safe, a presumption which, however remote from the intention of an Inspector, might nevertheless afterwards hamper future action of the Department. If it is thought desirable to forbid the cleaning of machinery in motion by young persons, it would be preferable that, in place of Section 8 of the 1895 Act, the prohibition contained in Section 9 of the 1878 Act should be extended to young persons; or that at least the notification under the former section should be made, not by an individual Inspector to an individual occupier, but generally by Order of the Secretary of State.

The authors of the Report found that whilst in cotton mills the machinery was deficient in many respects as to safety, in the show rooms of the makers of machinery there were exhibits which left but little to be desired. It appeared on inquiry that such machines were destined for Germany or Russia, safeguards being insisted on in these cases, which English purchasers were content to do without. In Russia the law with regard to avoidable accidents is stated to be especially stringent. Under these circumstances they conclude that if the inspectors insist on efficient guards, especially in the case of new machinery, purchasers will eventually insist on the makers supplying these in the first instance. Mill owners are further recommended in future to have a clause in their contracts, when purchasing machinery, that everything shall be done in accordance with safety, and to pass inspection under the Factory Acts.

The recommendations with regard to safety of machinery may be divided into general and specific. The following are the general recommendations, which, as will be seen, have an application of wider range than the manufacture of cotton :—

(1.) That no projecting set screws, etc., be allowed on anything that revolves. This will apply not only to machines themselves, but also to the couplings and loose collars of shafting.

(2.) That toothed wheels be effectually covered so that there shall be no danger between the guard and the wheels.

(3.) That loose pulleys and strap forks, etc., be provided for all machines.

(4.) That plate wheels, or wheels filled in, be substituted, wherever possible, for exposed arm wheels running at high speed; where this is impracticable the wheels should be guarded.

(5.) That exposed shaft ends be securely covered.

(6.) That all persons oiling mill gearing, or otherwise employed near it, be supplied with and shall wear close fitting jerseys or boiler suits.

With regard to the first of these recommendations it is stated that it is the exception for set screws to be countersunk, whilst for machinery for exportation to Germany, etc., the countersinking of set screws is made a *sine qua non*. Both this and the unfenced condition of bevel wheels, etc., dealt with in the second recommendation are frequent causes of accident.

* Report of two of H.M. Inspectors of Factories, appointed to inquire into and report upon the prevention of accidents from machinery in the manufacture of Cotton, [C.-9456.] Price 9d.

† The first clause of the section in question is as follows: "A child shall not be allowed to clean any part of the machinery in a factory while the same is in motion by the aid of steam, water or other mechanical power."

The specific recommendations deal in detail with all the principal types of machine used in spinning and weaving. Space does not permit of an adequate summary of these recommendations being given here. In the course of these recommendations it is stated that in spinning mills accidents are probably more frequent in the mule rooms than in other parts, whilst in weaving sheds the worst accidents probably occur through cleaning, sweeping under the loom, or from flying shuttles. As regards the last, it is held that shuttle guards should be applied to all cotton looms, and the nature of the best type of guard is discussed. The slasher or tape-sizing machine is said to be one of the worst in the trade for projecting set screws and insufficiently covered tooth wheels.

The Report includes statistics of the number of factories, the numbers employed, the number of accidents, etc. It also contains a large number of illustrations of the different types of machine and the nature of the guards recommended.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

North-Eastern Railway Wages and Hours Agreement.

ON January 16th, 17th and 18th a conference was held at York between representatives of the directors of the North-Eastern Railway Company and their men to discuss various proposed alterations in wages, hours, etc. The representatives at this conference arrived at a unanimous agreement. This agreement is of a lengthy character, and only a few of its principal features can here be referred to. These may be conveniently grouped under the two headings of Wages and Hours.

WAGES.

Engine drivers and firemen have had their scales altered, by which the former secure 6s. 6d. in their 3rd and 7s. in their 5th year, instead of 6s. and 6s. 6d. respectively.

Goods department men and boys and goods shunters have been put on new scales of wages, which in these grades vary with the class of station as well as the period of service, and the stations have been reclassified. Passenger shunters whose rates are the same for all stations except Newcastle, have also been put on a new scale.

Platform porters have been advanced from 18s. to 19s. per week at 94 stations, and from 17s. to 18s. at 80 stations.

Gate ticket-collectors and ticket examiners have been advanced 1s. per week.

Passenger guards, mineral guards, pilot guards and parcel post porters have had their maxima advanced 1s. per week. New scales have also been adopted in the case of platelayers, luggage room and lamp room porters and lamplighters.

HOURS.

Signalmen have had their hours reduced at 127 cabins from 12 to 10 hours, and at 21 cabins from 10 to 8 hours. Passenger shunters have been reduced at Darlington from 60 per week to 8 per shift, and at stations formerly rated at 63 hours to 10 per shift. Goods shunters at certain yards and sidings are to work 8 hours, at others 10. Passenger guards have had their hours fixed at 11 per day. Parcel porters at 3 stations are to be reduced from 63 hours to 8 per shift, at 14 from 63 to 10 per shift, and at 50 from 66 to 10½ per shift. Various grades including platform porters, ticket collectors, lamplighters, luggage room porters, etc., are to be reduced at 50 stations from 66 hours to 10½ per shift, and at 17 stations from 63 to 10 per shift. Ticket examiners and parcel-post porters have also had their hours reduced. The hours of telegraph gangmen are to be 54 per week.

Clickers and Pressmen at Bristol.

An arbitration award, recently made by Mr. W. Dove Willcox in reference to the minimum wages and over-

time rates of clickers and pressmen at Bristol provides:—

1. That the minimum wage for clickers shall be 27s. 6d. per week, and for pressmen 24s. 6d., or provided that before February 1st next the Bristol No. 2 Branch of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives shall signify to you as Secretary of the Arbitration Board their willingness to change the commencement of adult labour from 20 to 21 years, 28s. 6d. for clickers and 25s. 6d. for pressmen.

2. That no higher rate of wages shall be paid for overtime until 58 hours per week have been worked, and that such higher rate shall be paid "time and a quarter" for day workers and 25 per cent. for piece workers.

3. That this award shall come into operation as from January 1st, 1900, and shall continue in force for three years.

The members of the Union have declined to agree to the suggestion to raise the age from which the minimum wage is paid. The minimum rate is, therefore, fixed at 27s. 6d. for clickers, and 24s. 6d. for pressmen until January 1st, 1903. The effect of this decision is to increase the wages of 700 clickers and 300 pressmen by 1s. 6d. per week.

Wages in the Bolton Cotton Spinning Trade.

After negotiations between the representatives of the Employers' Associations and the Trade Unions, it has been agreed that an advance of 5 per cent. on list prices shall be given to spinners, 10 per cent. to strippers and grinders, and male scutcher tenters, and 5 per cent. to other cardroom hands employed in the Bolton cotton spinning trade. The advance is to be paid as from the first making-up day following February 19th. About 21,000 operatives at Bolton, Chorley, Manchester, Reddish, Leigh and Farnworth are affected by the change.

The last change in the wages of spinners in these districts took place in December, 1890, bringing their wages up to full list prices. The present advance, therefore, makes the wages of spinners 5 per cent. above list prices. Since the adoption of the Bolton spinners' list in 1858, the fluctuations on list prices shown in the following table have taken place:—

Year in which a change took place.	Amount of Change Increase (+) Decrease (-)	Percentage above or below list.	Year in which a change took place.	Amount of Change Increase (+) Decrease (-)	Percentage above or below list.
1858	List adopted.	List.	Continued—		
1860	+ 5	875 ...	1875	+ 5	+ 5
1861	- 5	List.	1877	- 5	List.
1866	+ 5	+ 5	1879	- 10	- 10
1867	- 5	List.	1880	+ 5	- 5
1869	- 5	- 5	1885	- 5	- 10
1871	+ 5	List.	1888	+ 5	- 5
1872	+ 5	+ 5	1890	+ 5	List.
1874	- 5	List.	1900	+ 5	+ 5

Yorkshire Glass Bottle Makers.

At a meeting of the Yorkshire Glass Bottle Manufacturers' Association and the Glass Bottle Makers' Society, held at Wakefield, on January 22nd, 1900, an agreement as regards the terms and conditions of work for 1900 was arrived at. It provides for an advance of 1s. 6d. per week to makers, blowers, and gatherers, and for an advance of 5 per cent. on the "overwork" rates of December, 1888, this being an advance of 5 per cent. on the "overwork" rates paid in 1899. The agreement took effect as from February 5th, and will remain in operation until the end of January, 1901. About 3,000 men and boys are affected. For further particulars see Table of Changes in Rates of Wages, page 56.

Coal Porters.—London.

A revised scale of wages for carmen and loaders was agreed to at a meeting between the committee of the Coal Merchants' Society and a deputation from the Coal Porters' Union on December 28th, 1899. The new scale provides for an advance of ½d. per ton for loading and delivering coal. It was also agreed that trolley men's wages should advance 2d. per ton (the minimum tonnage rate being 2s. per ton) for every penny per cwt. advance in the selling price beyond 1s. 2d. north and 1s. 3d. south of the Thames.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases reported in January, specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT"; "SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT."

The Act provides that "If in any employment to which this Act applies" (including employment on or in or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act; see below) "personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, be liable to pay compensation," and that "If it is proved that the injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed." A farm servant, who had been sent to assist in the working of a steam threshing machine, and who met with an accident, claimed compensation from her employer (see GAZETTE, April, 1899 page 102). The circumstances under which the accident occurred were as follows: A farmer having hired the machine, the pursuer was sent by her employer (a neighbour of the farmer's) to assist in the work, and while she was so engaged, she, although specially directed to remain at her place, and warned of the danger of moving about, during the temporary absence of the millman, and while disengaged, attempted to step across an opening in the machine in order to speak to a girl stationed at the other side of this opening, and in crossing the opening her foot slipped in, and was caught by the revolving drum, and she was severely injured. The sheriff held that the pursuer had been injured by accident arising out of and in the course of her employment, that the Act applied to this employment, that the place where the accident occurred was a factory, within the meaning of the Act, and that the injury, which the pursuer had received, was not attributable to her serious and wilful misconduct. On appeal, the Court of Session recalled the sheriff-substitute's interlocutor, and, without deciding whether or not the threshing machine fell within the scope of the Act, and whether, accordingly, the employment of the pursuer at the time of the accident was or was not an employment to which the Act applies, held that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of her employment, and that her leaving her place and attempting to step across the opening in the machine amounted to serious and wilful misconduct on her part within the meaning of the Act, so as to disentitle her to compensation.—*Maxwell v. Cullaghan, Court of Session, January 23rd.*

"SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT"

A collier, employed by a coal company, claimed compensation from his employers in respect of personal injury received under the following circumstances. On December 28th 1898, this workman was working as a collier, when he was ordered to do haulier's work. His lamp went out, and he went to the lamp-station to get a light. He then proceeded to return with the lighted lamp towards the place where his work was. He had to walk along an inclined plane or roadway, up which trams were hauled by means of a rope. There was no room to walk between the rail and the side, the distance between the two being only 18 in., and therefore the workman had to walk between the rails. There were manholes at the side for the men to take shelter in when a "journey of trams" passed. When the man reached the inclined roadway to go back to the place where he was working, he was told that the journey of trams was coming, and he saw the rope in motion. It would take about three minutes for the journey of trams to do the entire distance. He proceeded along the inclined roadway, and was making for a manhole, when the rope "swamped" across, struck him, and broke one of his legs. The County Court judge found that the applicant was guilty of serious and wilful misconduct in travelling along the inclined roadway while the journey of trams was in motion, and made an award in favour of the employing company. The workman appealed, it being contended on his behalf that there was no evidence of serious and wilful misconduct on his part; while on behalf of the company it was contended that there was such evidence. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that the only question was whether there was any evidence that the injury was attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman, and that there was no such evidence. His lamp having gone out, he had to go and get it lighted and then go back to his work. He was obliged to go along a roadway which was worked by means of a rope. There was not even evidence that he could not have done what he thought he could do—go a part of the way and then get into a manhole. At any rate, he was not knocked down by the tram. While he was going along the roadway, the rope slipped off and struck him on the leg and broke it. He went by the only way by which he could go, and he was walking, as he was obliged to do, between the rails, when the rope struck him. Counsel for the workman asked the Court to make an award in favour of the appellant then and there, instead of sending the case back to the County Court judge for that purpose. The Court considered that a reasonable course, but held that they could not do this unless the employers consented, which their counsel said he had no instructions to do. The Court ordered that a new trial should take place, but only on the question of the amount of compensation. The question of serious and wilful misconduct must not be reopened. On the Court's expressing the opinion that the employers ought to consent

to the amount being awarded at once, their counsel said he was sure his clients would consent.—*Rees v. Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, January 27th.*

TIME FOR TAKING PROCEEDINGS.

A workman, in the employment of a firm of shipbuilders was accidentally struck by another workman while at work in their yard, and received injuries for which he claimed compensation from his employers. The accident occurred on January 5th, 1899. Certain payments were made to the man by his employers, but he issued his request for arbitration only on August 31st. The employers filed their answer disputing the workman's right to recover compensation, on the ground that the request was too late, the Act providing that proceedings for the recovery of compensation under the Act shall not be maintainable unless the claim for compensation has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident. The Recorder upheld the contention of the employers. The workman then applied for leave to register with the Clerk of the Peace an agreement for compensation, alleging that the payments that had been made to him from time to time by his employers, coupled with certain letters, constituted an agreement or evidence thereof. The employers objected to this alleged agreement being filed, on the ground that no such agreement existed, and the Recorder dismissed the application on this ground and also on the ground that the application to register an agreement was a proceeding to enforce the payment of compensation under the Act, and must be made within six months from the accident. The workman appealed against both these decisions of the Recorder. The Court of Appeal (Ireland) dismissed both appeals with costs.—*Marmo v. Workman, Clark & Co., Limited, Court of Appeal (Ireland), reported January 16th.*

WHAT IS A "FACTORY"?

Section 7 of the Act provides that the Act "shall apply only to employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined, on or in or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work, and to employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined on or in or about any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding, or being demolished, or on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power, is being used for the purpose of the construction, repair, or demolition thereof." In the Act "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895." In the case of a factory, "undertakers" means "the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1895."

The widow of a workman, who had met with a fatal accident in the course of his employment, claimed compensation from his employers, who were carters. At the time of the accident the deceased was engaged in the work of removing a log of timber by means of machinery on the premises where the log was stored from a pile of logs, in order to load it on one of his employers' carts, they having arranged with a firm of builders, who had bought the log, to remove it from that place. The only question that arose was whether the employment of the deceased at the time when he met with this accident was employment on or in or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act. By Section 23 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, certain provisions of the Factory Acts "shall have effect as if (a) every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and, so far as relates to the process of loading or unloading therefrom or thereto, all machinery and plant used in that process . . . were included in the word factory." The place, where the accident happened, was a timber-yard, which was distant almost 150 yards from the water of the Canada Dock at Bootle. Alongside the water was a large space called the timber-quay, which stretched back from the water for a distance of nearly 150 yards, and beyond this, running parallel with the water, was a cart-road, which was used by the public. On the further side of this road was a line of offices, to each of which was attached a yard, these offices and yards being leased to timber merchants. It was in one of these yards that the accident took place; the yard in question was enclosed by a wall and gates. The County Court judge held that this place was not a wharf, within the meaning of the Act, and made an award in favour of the employers. The applicant appealed, and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the County Court judge was right in deciding that the place where the accident happened was not a wharf, within the meaning of Section 7 of the Workman's Compensation Act.—*Haddock v. Humphrey, Court of Appeal, January 20th.*

In another case a firm of shipbuilders had contracted to build and deliver a vessel and engines. They did not themselves build engines, and they contracted with a firm of engineers to build the engines and boilers, and fit them on board the vessel. They built and launched the vessel, and the hull was taken to a dock about 20 miles from their shipbuilding yard, and was there placed at the disposal of the engineer contractors, these engineers paying the dock dues. While the vessel lay there, work was being done upon her both by the shipbuilders' men and the engineers' men. An engine fitter, employed by the engineer contractors, who was injured by an accident while working on board the vessel, claimed compensation from the shipbuilders. The sheriff-substitute decided that the inside of the vessel was, for the purposes of the arbitration, a shipbuilding yard, and, as such, a factory, within the meaning of the Act, and that the shipbuilders were the occupiers of that factory, and, as such, liable, as the undertakers, within the meaning of the Act, to the pursuer in compensation; and he awarded him 18s. per week.

On appeal, the Court of Session reversed the decision of the sheriff-substitute, and dismissed the claim of the pursuer. The Court held that the case might be decided by ascertaining whether any factory, within the meaning of the Act, existed at the place at the time of the accident; to determine this point it was necessary to examine whether the place came within the second head of the definition of non-textile factories in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, Sec. 93, which reads, "Also any premises or places named in part 2 of the said Schedule" (the Fourth Schedule to this Act) "wherein, or within the close or curtilage or precincts of which, steam, water, or other mechanical power is used in aid of the manufacturing process carried on there." The 24th head of part 2 of the 4th Schedule here referred to is in the following terms: "Shipbuilding yards, that is to say, any premises in which any ships, boats, or vessels used in navigation are made, finished, or repaired." But among the findings of the sheriff there was no statement that it was proved that steam, water, or other mechanical power was used in any manufacturing process which was being carried on in connection with this vessel when in the dock in question. On these grounds the claim of the pursuer must fail.—*Rodger & Co. v. Jackson, Court of Session, January 30th.*

WHAT IS AN "ENGINEERING WORK"?

A committee of a County Council, being the authority having the control of the roads in a certain district, executed the work necessary to keep these roads in repair. For this purpose they used a steam roller and a water-cart for conveying water for the roller and for sprinkling water on the road under repair. On July 11th, 1899, a workman, employed by the committee in charge of the water-cart, which was being used in connection with the repair of a certain patch of road, was yoking his horse, when it bolted and knocked him down, inflicting injuries which proved fatal. His widow, on behalf of herself and her children, claimed compensation from the committee. At the time of the accident the roller was at work on the road at some distance from the patch of road above mentioned. It was shown that the steam roller and the water-cart met at the men's dinner hour, when they separated. The sheriff found that the defendants were undertakers of an "engineering work," which, as defined in the Act, "means any work of construction, or alteration, or repair of a railroad, harbour, dock, canal or sewer, and includes any other work for the construction, alteration, or repair of which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power is used." He further found that the deceased was employed on this engineering work when the accident took place, and that this accident arose out of and in the course of his employment, and awarded the pursuer £183 6s. On appeal, the Court of Session adopted the view of the sheriff, and awarded her additional expenses, holding that the engine and the water-cart were parts of a machinery or tools required for a general composite process of making a road, and accordingly the persons in charge of these, respectively, were engaged in that composite process.—*Margaret P. Renton v. Middlemiss v. Middle District Committee of County Council of Berwick, Court of Session, January 17th.*

BUILDING BEING CONSTRUCTED BY MEANS OF A SCAFFOLDING.

A plasterer, employed by a master plasterer, while working on the top floor of a house which was being built, met with a fatal accident. The house, which was admitted to be more than 30 feet high, had been roofed in, and the outside scaffolding had been taken down, but the inside plastering work had not been completed, and it was on this work that the deceased was engaged at the time of the accident. To enable the plasterers to get up to the top of the walls and ceilings of the rooms, loose trestles with boards laid across them were used. The trestles were about 4 feet high, and some of the workmen were working on the trestles, but the deceased was not. He was standing on the top landing of the house (not on a trestle) plastering the walls, and smoothing the plaster down with a hand "float," when he fell over the staircase, where the banisters had not then been put up, and was killed. His widow claimed compensation from his employer; and the County Court judge made an award in her favour for £296. The employer appealed upon the grounds (1) that the employment of the deceased was not an employment to which the Act applied; (2) that he (the appellant) was not the undertaker within the meaning of the Act; and (3) that there was no evidence in support of the findings of the County Court judge. As to the second point, it was contended on behalf of the employer that he was not the builder of the house, but merely a master plasterer who did the plastering work. But the Court of Appeal declined to consider this contention, on the ground that this point had not been raised before the County Court judge, and could not be raised now. The appellant must be taken to be the builder of the house. The Court held that the County Court judge was justified in holding that at the time of the accident the house was being "constructed," and refused to hold that there was no evidence to justify the County Court judge in finding that the arrangement in use in this case was a scaffolding, and accordingly dismissed the appeal, with costs.—*Mauve v. Brook, Court of Appeal, January 27th.*

WHO ARE THE "UNDERTAKERS"?

A workman who had met with an accident causing personal injury while employed in the works of a firm of chemical manufacturers, claimed compensation from this firm. He was not employed by this firm, but by other employers, with whom the firm had a contract, they having no carts or horses of their own. The sheriff-substitute held that the chemical manufacturers were the undertakers, within the meaning of the Act, and awarded the workman compensation at the rate of 10s. 6d. a week. On appeal, the Court of Session dismissed the appeal, with expenses.—*Bee v. Owens & Sons, Court of Session, January 25th.*

LIABILITY OF EMPLOYER NOT AN "UNDERTAKER."

A blacksmith, in the employment of the owner of certain iron works, was sent by him to repair some pipes at the works of a firm of soap manufacturers. While engaged at these soap works, he fell from a scaffolding, and was killed. His widow, on behalf of herself and her children, claimed compensation from the owner of the iron works. The sheriff-substitute found that the soap works was a factory within the meaning of the Act, that the soap manufacturers were the occupiers, and that the owner of the ironworks was not an undertaker as defined by Section 7 of the Act. On these grounds he dismissed the claim. The case came before the Court of Session on appeal, the questions stated for the opinion of the Court being:—(1) Was the defendant an undertaker within the meaning of the Act, and, as such, liable in compensation to the pursuers? And (2) is the defendant, as the employer of the deceased, liable to the appellants in compensation under the Act. The Court answered both questions in the negative, and the appeal accordingly failed.—*Jane Buchanan or Malcolm v. James McMillan, Court of Session, January 30th.*

SECURITY FOR COSTS OF APPEAL.

A workman claimed compensation from his employer in respect of personal injury by accident. The County Court judge decided against the applicant on the ground that the accident was not one arising out of and in the course of his employment, giving this decision in a long judgment and staying execution as regarded the costs pending appeal. The workman then brought his appeal, and in the Court of Appeal a motion was made by the employer asking that the workman might be directed to give security for the costs of the appeal. On behalf of the employer an affidavit had been filed to the effect that the workman was entirely without means to pay the costs of the appeal, if unsuccessful, and that he was being supported by a combination of workmen. On the other hand, an affidavit was made by the workman denying that he was supported by a combination of workmen, and that he was entirely without means to pay the costs of the appeal, if unsuccessful, and stating that he was a householder having furniture worth at least £20, and that he believed he had a good *bona fide* case for appeal. The Court of Appeal considered that this was an exceptional case. They did not think that the workman had means wherewith to pay the costs of the appeal, but were of opinion that this was not a wanton appeal. The point of law for the consideration of the Court of Appeal was a sound one. By ordering a stay of execution pending an appeal, the County Court judge had, in effect, invited the parties to come to the Court of Appeal. For these reasons the Court ordered that the workman should have leave to appeal without giving security for costs.—*Hubball v. Everitt & Sons, Limited, Court of Appeal, January 29th.*

(2) Employers' Liability for Accidents.*

ACCIDENT TO SEAMAN: NEGLIGENCE OF MASTER TO PROVIDE SURGICAL AID: MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.

The second mate on board a British vessel brought an action against the master to recover damages for personal injuries received under the following circumstances: On April 25th, 1898, when the vessel was at Lobes-de-Afuera, on the coast of Peru, the pursuer was superintending the loading of a cargo from a lighter, when, by the breaking of a wire rope forming part of the ship's tackle, he was jerked into the sea. His leg struck against the side of the lighter, and was, as he alleged, broken at the thigh. There was no doctor resident at Lobes, but there was a hospital at Callao, about three hundred miles distant, and a doctor at Pecos Mayo, about 60 miles distant. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, Sec. 207, provides that if a seaman belonging to a ship receives any hurt or injury in the service of the ship, the expense of providing the necessary surgical and medical advice and attendance and medicine, and also the expenses of the maintenance of the seaman until he is cured, or dies, or is brought home, and of his conveyance home, shall be defrayed by the owner of the ship. The pursuer claimed that it was accordingly the duty of the defender to have had the pursuer conveyed to either of the places above mentioned, or to have brought a doctor from Pecos Mayo to Lobes to attend to his injuries. But the defender did not pursue either of these courses, and the pursuer was accordingly obliged to remain on board the ship without any skilled surgical advice. He stated that he was now informed that the limb had not been properly set, with the result that the leg was shortened, and the pursuer practically crippled. The defender denied fault, and said that, after consultation with the only persons available at Lobes, he came to the conclusion that the pursuer's leg was not broken, but that he was suffering from a severe strain. In the circumstances he considered that the best course to follow was that the pursuer should be treated on board. He contended that the pursuer was in no way disabled from acting as an officer on board ship. The Court awarded the pursuer £60 as damages, with expenses, on the ground that it was the duty of the defender not to act on his own opinion, but to provide surgical aid as quickly as possible.—*Taylor v. Hill, Court of Session, January 9th.*

(3) Factory Acts.

OBSTRUCTION OF INSPECTOR.

By Section 68 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, "An inspector under this Act shall for the purpose of the execution of this Act have power to do all or any of the following things, namely, (1) To enter, inspect, and examine, at all reasonable times by day and night a factory and a workshop and every part thereof when he has reasonable cause to believe that any person is employed therein, and to enter by day any place which he has

* Under this heading are included all actions other than those under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

reasonable cause to believe to be a factory or workshop; and (4) to make such examination and inquiry as may be necessary to ascertain whether the enactments for the time being in force relating to public health and the enactments of this Act are complied with, so far as respects the factory or workshop and the persons employed therein." The same section makes it an offence, punishable by fine, to obstruct an inspector in the execution of his duties. A partner in a firm carrying on business in one block of premises as contractors, grocers, and hotel-keepers, was summoned by a factory inspector for having obstructed her in the execution of her duties. With the view of making an inquiry as to the names and residences of outworkers employed by the defendant, the inspector entered the defendant's place of business, at the back part of which hosiery was given out to outworkers. The defendant ordered her off the premises, at the same time touching her arm and turning her towards the door. No opportunity was given to her to produce her authority. The magistrates dismissed the summons, and application was made to the Queen's Bench Division (Ireland) on behalf of the Crown for an order directing the magistrates to convict. On behalf of the defendant it was argued that the place, where the inspector entered, was not a factory, and that the magistrates had no power to convict. The Court held that the judgment of the magistrates depended upon two points, upon one of which that judgment was wrong. The magistrates were of opinion that, upon a true construction of Sub-section 4 of Section 68 of the Factory Act of 1878 (cited above), the only place, at which the examination or inquiry there mentioned could be made, was in the place where the work was given out. The Court could find no words in the section which so restricted its operation. They, therefore, considered that the case was determined upon an erroneous view of the law. The Court sent the case back to the magistrates, not necessarily to convict, but to rehear and determine the case according to law.—*Queen's Bench Division (Ireland), January 16th.*

(4) Shop Hours Acts.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT A SHOP.

A company owning and managing a large hotel and restaurant were charged upon two summonses upon complaint, the first being that they unlawfully employed at their hotel and restaurant a young person for longer than 74 hours (including meal-times) in one week, in contravention of the Shop Hours Act, 1892, and the second being that they failed to keep exhibited the notice required by section 4 of that Act. In this Act "Shop" means retail and wholesale shops, markets, stalls, and warehouses in which assistants are employed for hire, and includes licensed public-houses and refreshment houses of any kind." Section 10 provides that "Nothing in this Act shall apply . . . to any person wholly employed as a domestic servant." The magistrate held that the premises were a shop, within the meaning of the Act, and that the young person in question was not wholly employed as a domestic servant, within Section 10, and convicted the defendants on both summonses, but stated a case for the opinion of the Queen's Bench Division, before which the matter came on appeal. The case stated that the hotel was licensed to be kept as an inn for the sale of intoxicating liquors under the Act of 9 George IV., c. 61, and the Acts amending the same. Intoxicating liquors were supplied to the public in the hotel and in the restaurant, grill, and dining-rooms, whether they were guests staying in the hotel or not. There was no bar or counter for the sale of intoxicating liquors. The excise licence is granted under 43 and 44 Vict. c. 23, s. 43 (4). The young person referred to in the summons was employed at the hotel as a page boy in the general service thereof for 89 hours a week. He slept in the hotel. He assisted in dusting the reception-rooms in the early morning, but was principally employed as a messenger, taking up messages and sending off telegrams and messages for persons staying at, or using, the hotel and restaurant. There was no notice at the hotel such as is required by the Act to be exhibited in shops where young persons are employed. The Queen's Bench Division dismissed the appeal, holding that the premises were covered by the words "licensed public-houses and refreshment houses of any kind." With regard to the magistrate's finding that the boy was not wholly employed as a domestic servant, that was a finding of fact, and the Court would not disturb it.—*Queen's Bench Division, January 22nd.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated December and January last.)

Canada.—It is too early in the year for emigrants to go to Canada. Emigrants should be prepared to start at the end of March. The greatest demand for labour is for farm labourers and domestic servants.

New South Wales.—The Annual Report for 1898-9 of the Government Labour Bureau, which has just been issued, states that the severe drought badly affected the labour market, and, as has been pointed out at various times by the Emigrants' Information Office, made employment scarce and irregular throughout the year. In several parts of the Colony sheep owners, farmers and dairymen suffered severe losses, and hundreds of miners were thrown out of employment for want of

water to work the mines. The large expenditure, however, on public works during the year considerably diminished the distress, and employment was provided for many in fossicking, in scrub clearing, in railway work, or at the casual labour farm. Latterly prospects have improved, plentiful rains have fallen, several mines have re-opened, the number of unemployed has decreased, and the renewed activity in the building trade has benefited other industries also. But reports from Lithgow, Mudgee, Wilcannia, Jerilderie, Walgett, Broken Hill, and other parts, state there is still no demand for more emigrants, except female servants, and occasionally for a few blacksmiths and carpenters, and at Broken Hill for skilled miners. The shipping trade is in a better condition, and the wages of firemen and seamen have been advanced 10s. per month.

Victoria.—Railway construction is being undertaken largely for the benefit of the unemployed, and fresh hands continue to be taken on. A strike has occurred among the drivers of engines at Bendigo, which may extend to other workers in mines; drivers in some of the less busy mines are being paid 45s. a week, instead of the standard wage of 50s., and they are striking for an increase of 5s.

South Australia.—A report from Adelaide states that the labour market has been generally dull during the past year. There is still practically no demand for more men, though the building trade has been unusually busy in Adelaide, and the copper mines in the north of the colony.

Queensland.—There is a good demand in most parts, but not at Mackay in the north, for miners, farm and general labourers, and a few engineers, fitters, moulders, carpenters and masons; and domestic servants are in demand everywhere.

Western Australia.—The Government Labour Bureau states that the demand for competent workmen in almost every branch of trade is good, but there does not seem to be any demand for printers. Farm hands are being sought after, and a demand for 17 good farm hands made at the Bureau could not be supplied. Applications are being constantly made at the Bureau for female domestic servants, and the supply is not equal to the demand.

New Zealand.—Employment continues plentiful throughout the Colony, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill being amongst the busiest places. At Auckland, building is going on rapidly in all parts of the town, and the local lumber mills are all busy. Competent labourers in country districts have had no difficulty in procuring good wages at shearing, flax-milling, bush felling, road-making, or general farm work.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in January.—Employment was plentiful in January in the mining, metal (smelting and manufacture), engineering, electrical, watch, clock and jewellery trades; in cotton and wool spinning and weaving; in dyeing and finishing; in hatmaking, boot and shoemaking and glovemaking; in printing and bookbinding; in the preparation of foods, drinks and tobacco; in cabinetmaking, coachbuilding and coopering; and in the glass and porcelain and the hide and skinworking trades. Employment remained quiet in silk manufacture, and in the making of ribbons and trimmings. The building and accessory trades, garment-making and agricultural labour were undergoing the usual winter slackness.

The length of the working day in the building trades ranged from 8 to 9 hours.

Slightly less than 9 per cent. of the members of the 705 trade unions (not including the miners' unions of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts) which made reports as to the state of employment on January 15th were out of work on that date.

Coal Mining in December.—The average number of

* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, December, 1899, and January, 1900.

* Handbooks, with maps on the different Colonies, may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each, post free.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—PIG IRON, IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES; SEAMEN.

one was blown out and two were re-lit in Scotland. Thus at the end of the month two more furnaces were in blast than at the end of December. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 25,911, or 76 less than at the end of the previous month. As compared with a year ago, nine more furnaces were in blast and 1,232 more people were employed.

The following table shows the number of furnaces in blast in the different districts of the United Kingdom at the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Jan., 1900.	Jan., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1900.	Jan., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1900.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	95	97	- 2	95	97	- 2
Cumberland & Lanos...	55	48	+ 7	55	54	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks...	19	19	...	19	19	...
Lincolnshire	15	16	- 1	15	15	...
Midlands	101	99	+ 2	101	99	+ 2
Glamorgan and Mon.	22	18	+ 4	22	22	...
Other districts	9	9	...	9	9	...
Total England and Wales...	316	306	+ 10	316	315	+ 1
SCOTLAND	65	66	- 1	65	64	+ 1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	381	372	+ 9	381	379	+ 2

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during January amounted to 130,246 tons, as compared with 111,894 tons in December, and 49,871 tons in January, 1899.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS* IN JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries has fallen off somewhat, the numbers employed and the average number of shifts worked in the last week of January being less than in the week before Christmas. It continues to compare favourably with a year ago.

Numbers Employed.

At 211 works covered by the returns 82,518 workpeople were employed in the week ended January 27th, as compared with 80,100 in the corresponding week of 1899, and 82,966 in the week ended December 23rd.

The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ending			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1900, as compared with	
	Jan. 27th, 1900.	Jan. 28th, 1899.	Dec. 23rd, 1899.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales	69,236	67,735	69,561	+1,501	- 328
Scotland	13,282	12,365	13,402	+ 917	- 120
Total	82,518	80,100	82,966	+2,418	- 448

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 88 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.58 in the last week of January, 5.63 in the week ended December 23rd, and 5.60 in the last week of January, 1899.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Jan., 1900, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in Jan., 1899.
Under 5 per week	2,194	3.0	2.7
5 per week	25,901	35.8	34.3
5½ per week	1,204	1.7	1.9
6 per week	42,117	58.2	59.8
Above 6 per week	980	1.3	1.3
Total	72,396	100.0	100.0

* Including iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first table may be estimated at 460,137 in the last week of January, 466,768 in the week ended December 23rd, and 448,389 in the last week of January, 1899.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry has again improved. It is much better than a year ago, 100 more mills being at work at the end of the month, and 4,909 (or over 30 per cent.) more workpeople employed than at the end of January, 1899.

At the end of January 61 works with 315 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 20 others with 143 mills were giving partial employment, 103 of their mills being at work. Thus in all, 418 mills were working and giving employment to 20,909 workpeople. These figures compare with 413 mills and 20,554 workpeople employed at the end of December, and 318 mills and 16,000 workpeople employed a year ago.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed at the works which were giving employment, full or partial, † at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.			Estimated No. of Workpeople employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
Works giving full employment	61	315	—	315	15,515
Works giving partial employment	20	103	40	143	5,394
Total at end of Jan., 1900†	81	418	40	458	20,909
Corresponding Total for December, 1899†	79	413	37	450	20,554
Corresponding Total for January, 1899†	69	318	76	394	16,000

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table are summarised below:—

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Jan. 1900.	Dec. 1899.	Jan. 1899.	Jan. 1900.	Dec. 1899.	Jan. 1899.
To United States	6,276	7,290	2,428	263	464	59
Other Countries	16,623	16,318	11,496	4,277	4,466	4,585
Total	22,899	23,608	13,924	4,540	4,930	4,655

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN JANUARY.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

The number of seamen shipped during January as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 35,253, or 602 less than the number for the corresponding month of 1899.

The decline is mainly accounted for by a falling off at Liverpool and the Bristol Channel ports, but was partly balanced by increased shipments at Southampton, London and Glasgow. The supply of seamen and firemen is reported to have been equal to, or in excess of the demand at most of the ports. At Southampton however, the demand for seamen and firemen for transport vessels conveying troops, exceeds the supply.

* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates.
† It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.
‡ Revised figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Of the total number shipped during the month 5,415 (or 15.4 per cent.) were foreigners, as compared with 5,293 (or 14.9 cent.) in January, 1899. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in January, 1900 and 1899 respectively.

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in January, 1900.*			Total in Jan., 1899.*
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Jan., 1900.	
ENGLAND.				
East Coast.				
Tyne Ports	61	2,770	2,831	2,771
Sunderland	—	481	481	576
Middlesbrough	—	475	475	353
Hull	16	1,431	1,447	1,471
Grimsby	—	63	63	69
Bristol Channel.				
Bristol	2	445	447	448
Newport, Mon.	—	1,043	1,043	1,465
Cardiff	398	5,261	5,659	6,474
Swansea	64	739	803	681
Other Ports.				
Liverpool	242	8,785	9,027	10,608
London	151	6,267	6,418	5,906
Southampton	—	3,067	3,067	1,568
SCOTLAND.				
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	6	784	790	921
Glasgow	81	2,124	2,205	1,700
IRELAND.				
Dublin	—	128	128	168
Belfast	—	369	369	310
Total, January, 1900	1,021	34,232	35,253	—
Ditto, January, 1899	817	34,651	—	35,468

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN JANUARY.

The agricultural correspondent, on the basis of 221 returns from various parts of England, reports as follows:—In the month of January there was a great deal of wet weather, which interfered considerably with outdoor work, such as ploughing, carting manure, threshing and woodcutting. Ploughing and carting were specially interrupted on the heavy lands. In consequence there was some slight irregularity of work in certain districts, but this, it is stated, was chiefly confined to odd hands, who rely on casual work, the regular men attached to the staff of a farm being usually found suitable employment. An epidemic of influenza appears to have been prevalent among agricultural labourers during January in nearly every part of the country. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, and, in a good many districts, a scarcity of labour, which was accentuated by the influenza, and the calling up of the Reserves and the Militia, employers, generally state that on the whole they were not greatly inconvenienced, as January is a slack time of year, and farm work was very well forward by the end of December, owing to the favourable weather throughout the autumn.

Northern Counties.—Employment is said to have been generally regular in Northumberland, and in Cumberland in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Whitehaven, and Wigton. A few odd men in Cumberland are said to have had some irregular work owing to the stormy weather which prevailed. A report from the Carlisle Union says that threshing was much interrupted. A report from Lancashire referring to the Unions of Lancaster and Ulverston states that, though broken weather interfered with outdoor work, it did not affect employment, as the few odd men in these districts easily got indoor work. A report from the Garstang Union states that many of the odd men had a good deal of irregular work, partly owing to there being a cessation of employment on a light railway, and partly because farmers are laying down land to pasture, which, it is stated, is being done on account of the scarcity of labourers. A report from the Chester-le-street Union of Durham states that all men are employed because "coal trade is so brisk it keeps all going." Employment is also

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.
† Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

said to be regular in the Darlington Union (Durham and Yorks, N.R.). There has been a good deal of illness among the farm servants. In Yorkshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Malton, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk, though in some districts a few extra hands lost a little time owing to wet weather. An employer in the Malton Union states that "the weather has been wet and stormy most of the month, and there has not been much ploughing done on wet land. But, as a rule, the work is pretty forward, as people got on well with it in the autumn quarter." In many districts it is stated that a number of labourers have been laid up with influenza. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labour; men for threshing in the Pocklington and Ripon Unions, and hedgers and drainers in the Howden Union, are said to be difficult to get. In some districts the calling up of the Reserves and Militia has been felt by the farmers.

Midland Counties.—Agricultural employment in Cheshire is said to have been regular in the Unions of Nantwich, Macclesfield, and Tarvin. In these Unions a scarcity of men is reported. Cheshire employers rely to a great extent on Irish labourers, many of whom begin to come over in the early spring and remain until the late autumn. Generally speaking, agricultural labourers were regularly employed in Derbyshire in the Unions of Chesterfield and Hayfield, and in the Derbyshire portions of the Worksop Union (Notts, Derby and Yorks, W.R.), of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Staffs and Derby), and the Mansfield Union (Staffs and Derby). The weather was frequently wet and stormy, which hindered outdoor work, the fields being too soft for manure carting, etc. In the Chesterfield Union men are said to be very difficult to get, and there is said to be a short supply in the Worksop Union. Agricultural labourers are said to be in regular work in Shropshire in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (Salop and Staffs), Oswestry, Wellington, and Wem, and in Staffordshire in the Tamworth Union, where it is stated there is a considerable scarcity of labour.

In Warwickshire employment is said to have been regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). Generally reports from this county state that labourers are scarce. In the Banbury Union influenza was very prevalent among the labourers. Agricultural employment is said to be generally regular in Leicestershire, in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), and Melton Mowbray, though in some districts some of the extra men lost some time owing to bad weather. It is stated that regular men were found suitable work. A report from the Lutterworth Union states that it has been "A very wet month. Influenza so prevalent labour has been very scarce. Extra hands for threshing difficult to get." Reports from Nottinghamshire state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Southwell, and Retford. In both these Unions labourers are said to be scarce. In the Retford Union there was a good deal of influenza. A report from the Oakham Union states that, "Turnips are short, and if men were plentiful there would have been men idle, but it is not so, and men are scarce throughout the district."

In Worcestershire work was generally regular in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, and Upton-on-Severn. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labourers. A few men were in irregular work in the Evesham Union, but it is stated that good hands are scarce. Reports from Oxfordshire state that generally agricultural labourers have been in regular work in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the Oxfordshire portion of the Wallingford Union (Oxon and Berks). A report from the Thame Union states that, "Arable land is too wet for the employment of manual labour, but there is work in hedging and ditching, and spring corn planting will commence presently." Agricultural labourers are said to be generally in regular work in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspurty, Towcester, Wellesborough, and in the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick), several reports state that labour is difficult to get. In the Banbury Union there is a good deal of influenza among the labourers. A report from the Wellesborough Union states that "extra men for threshing, etc., very difficult to get. Turnip crop very short, and this causes rather less labour to be required." In Huntingdonshire there is said to be no lack of work in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neot's (Hunts and Beds.). A report from the St. Neot's Union states that only a few casual men have had any irregular work. An employer of labour in this Union writes: "The supply of labour is still short. I have had six horses doing nothing during

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

a week's threshing, the men and boys being necessary to keep machine working. This applies to many farmers in the district. When they cannot borrow from their neighbours the horses must stop." In *Bedfordshire* a few casual labourers are said to have had some irregular work owing to wet weather, which interfered with outdoor work and threshing, but that regular hands were generally found employment. This applies to the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton. In the Bedford and Biggleswade Unions a number of labourers had influenza, which made labour additionally scarce. A report from the Biggleswade Union says that some farmers had not sufficient men to feed their stock.

Eastern Counties.—In *Essex* there was generally no irregularity in the employment of agricultural labourers in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Denmow, Halstead, Lexden and Winstree, Maldon, Orsett, Saffron Walden, and Tendring. A large employer of labour near Colchester writes as follows: "We find in *Essex* that remote parishes are more deficient in labourers than those situated nearer the towns, where sufficient men are obtainable, though mostly at higher rates of wages." In some districts in *Suffolk* the wet weather was the cause of some irregularity of work, but these cases were exceptional. Reports have been received from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plumegate, Risbridge, Samford, and Thingoe. Both in *Suffolk* and *Essex* reports state that influenza kept some of the men away from work during the month. An employer in the Plumegate Union says that in that district ordinary labourers had, in consequence, frequently to do the work of horsemen, cattlemen and shepherds. The calling out of the Reserves is said to have made labour rather scarce in some districts.

Reports from *Norfolk* state that agricultural labourers were usually well employed in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guilcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. A number of reports state that in the wet weather the men regularly attached to the staffs of the farms were generally found work under cover if they wanted it. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labourers, and state that this has been accentuated by an epidemic of influenza and the calling out of the Militia. A large employer of labour in the East and West Flegg Union writes:—"Nearly every other man is down with influenza and on their clubs. On my own farm half are laid up, and I believe that this is about the general state of things." A report from the Forehoe Union says that owing to the influenza it was impossible to keep the regular work on the farms going, and that there were not sufficient men to work the horses. Another large employer in the Walsingham Union writes:—"Influenza has kept at home from a third to two-thirds of the men the last three weeks, but as far as work on the farm is concerned it is now so forward that we are in a good position." On the other hand a report from the Loddon and Clavering Union states that owing to the continuous rainfall ploughing was considerably in arrears.

In *Cambridgeshire* employment is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Chiserton, Linton, North Witchford, and Wisbech, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln*). A report from the Chiserton Union states that: "There has been very much illness, but as there has been so much rough wet weather during the month, farmers have not been able to get on the land so much, nor do their threshing, and so have not wanted many men." An employer in the Peterborough Union writes that: "threshing has been interrupted by wet weather, but have to pay the men full wages wet or fine." Favourable reports as regards regularity of employment, though the wet weather occasionally caused the loss of a few days work in a few districts, come from *Lincolnshire* from the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Caistor, Gainsborough, Lincoln, Louth, Sleaford, and Spilsby, and from the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Notts and Lincoln*). An extensive employer of labour in the Lincoln Union writes that there is a great deal of influenza among the men, which makes employers short of labour, and that where farmers are threshing the horses have to stand idle.

Home Counties.—In *Buckinghamshire* agricultural employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. In the *Buckinghamshire* portion of the Henley Union (*Oxon and Bucks*), and in *Berkshire* in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage. A report from the last-named Union states that a number of men have left to join the

army, and that in consequence labour is scarce. Regularity of work is reported from *Surrey* from the Unions of Godstone, and Hambledon, and from the *Surrey* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*). Men are said to be scarce in the Unions of Farnham, and Hambledon. In *Kent* agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Blean, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hoo, Hollingbourne, Maidstone, and Tenterden. A scarcity of labour is reported from the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, and Tenterden. Employment is said to be generally regular in *Hertfordshire* in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, and St. Alban's, and in the Barnet Union of *Middlesex*.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Reports from *Sussex* state that there is very little irregularity of work among agricultural labourers, though some men, chiefly odd hands, lost a little time on a count of the wet weather, work on the land, wood cutting, etc., having been interfered with. Reports have been received from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. A report from the Chailey Union states that: "In consequence of the wet weather the threshing machines have been quite at a standstill, and also the men who work them." A correspondent in the Horsham Union writes as follows: "Throughout the Union labour is very scarce. Wood-cutting has been the chief work of the month. The men have lost some time, but not much, owing to the wet weather. There has been a great amount of influenza in many parishes, adding to the scarcity." In *Hampshire* employment is said to be generally regular, though in some cases a little time has been lost owing to the bad weather. Employers have sent reports from the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and from the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*). Several reports refer to a scarcity of labour. In *Dorsetshire* agricultural labourers are said to be regularly employed, and it is also stated that there is a scarcity of men owing to the war in South Africa. Reports to this effect have been received from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne. Reports of a similar character come from *Wiltshire* from the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. A correspondent in the Bradford-on-Avon Union writes that "labour is very scarce indeed. The Reserve men being called up has added to the difficulty, and this has been temporarily increased by sickness." A correspondent in the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Union states that labour is scarce there owing to the Great Western Railway works, to the war, and to activity in the building trade.

In *Gloucestershire* there is said to be generally no want of agricultural employment in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, Wheatonhurst, and Winchcombe. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labour, which has been increased by influenza among the labourers. A correspondent in the Wheatonhurst Union writes "Extra hands for threshing, hedging, etc., difficult to find, and boys for driving horses to plough are not to be had." Employment is also stated to be regular in *Herefordshire* in the Unions of Bromyard, and Dore (*Hereford and Monmouth*). Reports from *Somersetshire* are to the effect that agricultural labourers were generally fully employed in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, Wincanton, and Yovil. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labour, and influenza among the labourers. Reports of a similar character come from *Devonshire* from the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, Tavistock, and Torrington. In *Cornwall* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed, the supply being equal to the demand in the Unions of Bodmin, and Camelford.

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves is slightly better than a year ago, but shows a falling off as compared with December, 1899.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended January 27th was 15,762, as compared with averages of 16,390 in the preceding five weeks, and 15,593 in the corresponding period of 1899.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TEXTILE TRADES; LONDON.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

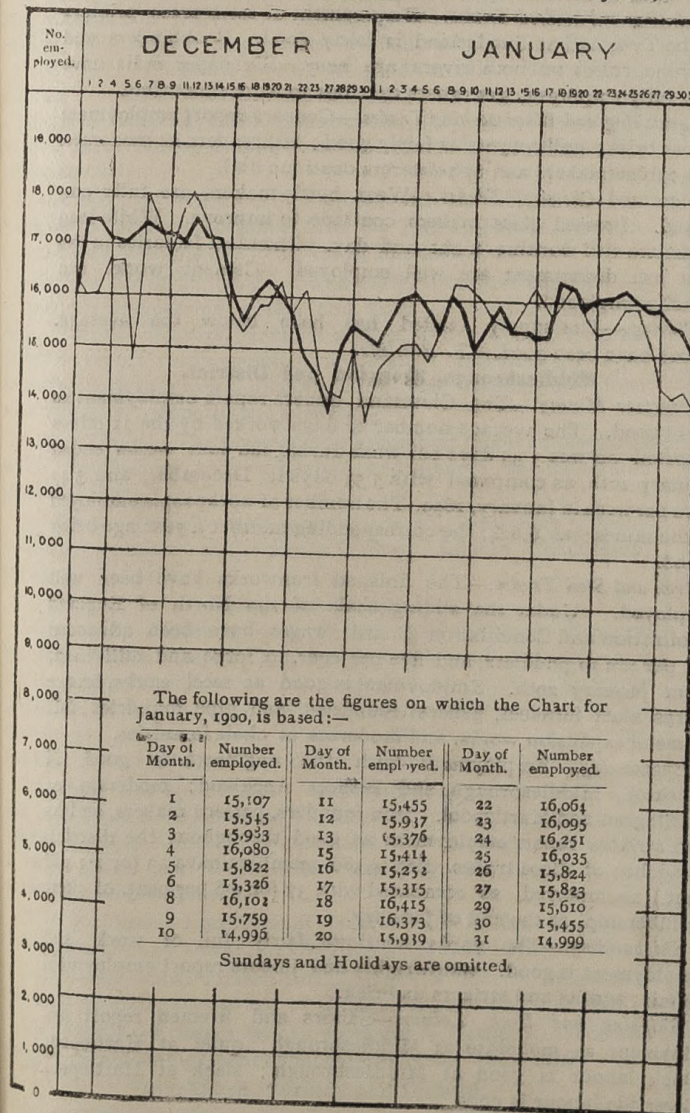
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers include ^d in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Jan. 6	6,610	2,956	9,566	6,078	15,644
" " " 13	6,736	2,658	9,394	6,210	15,604
" " " 20	7,005	2,485	9,490	6,295	15,785
" " " 27	6,816	2,989	9,805	6,211	16,016
Average for 4 weeks ending Jan. 27th, 1900	6,792	2,772	9,564	6,198	15,762
Average for Jan., 1899*	7,097	2,541	9,638	5,956	15,593
Average for Dec., 1899	7,242	2,861	10,103	6,387	16,390

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during December and January is shown on the chart below. The numbers in January ranged from 14,996 on the 10th to 16,415 on the 18th.

During January, 1899, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 16,388 on the 9th to 14,234 on the 30th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of December, 1899, and January, 1900. The corresponding curve for December, 1898, and January, 1899, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1899-1900, and the thin curve to 1898-1899.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 48.

* Amended figures.

(3) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN JANUARY.

According to returns from women correspondents, employment for women continued good in all branches of the textile trades, although a slight decline was perceptible in the woollen trade. Information has been received with regard to 591 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 101,000 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month, and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time.	With Full Employ-ment.	With Partial Employ-ment.	Working Short Time.
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
January, 1900	97	2	—	1
December, 1899	97	2	1	—
January, 1899	93	6	1	—
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
January, 1900	92	8	—	—
December, 1899	92	7	—	1
January, 1899	85	15	—	—
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
January, 1900	96	3	1	—
December, 1899	100	—	—	—
January, 1899	69	18	12	1
Total of above Trades—				
January, 1900	94	6	—	—
December, 1899	94	5	—	1
January, 1899	84	13	3	—

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 25,630; of these 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with the same percentage among those for whom returns were received in December, and with 93 per cent. in January, 1899.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 54,970; of these 92 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with the same percentage among those for whom returns were received in December, and with 85 per cent. in January, 1899.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,400; of these 96 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 100 per cent. in December, and with 69 per cent. in January, 1899.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—During January the state of employment continued good. Returns from 453 branches of 119 unions, having an aggregate membership of 76,158, show that 2,629 (or 3.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 3.4 in December, and 3.8 per cent. in January, 1899.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades has remained good, and has continued to improve. Reports from 147 branches of 28 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,578, show that 452 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 per cent. in December. The percentage for January, 1899, was 2.9.

The *Building* trades have remained well employed in most branches. Returns from 181 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,461, show that 163 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.8 in December, and 1.0 per cent. in January, 1899. The bricklayers and stone-carvers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons, and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; and the painters and decorators as dull.

Employment in most branches of the *Furnishing* trades has continued to fall off. Reports from 43 branches of 10 unions with a

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

membership of 6,031, show that 545 (or 9.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 8.4 in December, and 6.0 per cent. in January, 1898.

The *Woodworking* trades were well employed. Reports from 3 unions with a membership of 696 show that 12 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.6 in December.

Coopers still remain busy. Reports from three societies, with a membership of 1,053, show that in January, as in December, practically all the members were employed. In January, 1899, the percentage of unemployed was 1.7.

Coachbuilders and *Wheelwrights* are scarcely so well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,434, show that 40 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.6 in December, and 2.3 per cent. in January 1899.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades have continued to fall off, as is usual at this season. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,015, show that 1,054 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.9 in December, and 5.0 per cent. in January of last year.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has remained generally quiet. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as dull; the East End bespoke trade has been quiet; the stock and contract trades have been busy for the time of year; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have only been partially employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle-makers employment has been bad, with some improvement towards the end of the month. Employment with hatters has been fairly good; with capmakers quiet; with fur-skin dressers fair.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End handsewn boot and shoemakers has been quiet; with the East End sewound trade bad; with boot and shoe operatives quiet, slightly improving at the end of the month.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained fairly steady. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,552, show that 30 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.6 in December, and 3.8 per cent. in January, 1899.

In the *Glass* and *Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions show that 90 (or 6.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.1 in December, and 8.2 per cent. in January of last year.

Hair, Fife, and Cane Workers.—In these trades, returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 901, show that 16 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 19.9 in December, and 4.1 per cent. in January, 1899.

Gold and Silver Workers are better employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,129, show that 20 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.3 in December. The percentage for January, 1899, was 4.6.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades has continued to fall off. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,412, show that 104 (or 6.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.2 in December, and 4.6 per cent. in January, 1899.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 15,762 in the four weeks ended January 27th, as compared with averages of 16,399 in the preceding five weeks and 15,593 in January, 1899. Employment in mid-stream has been fair and steady during the month. With stevedores, lumpers, lightermen and coal porters, it has been fair. Winchmen were fairly well employed during the first two weeks, but only moderately in the latter part of the month. Employment has been dull with corn porters in the Surrey docks; fairly good on the north side of the river, with a decline at the end of the month. The fruit porters in Thames-street have had steady work, the average daily number employed being 375, as compared with 387 in December and 328 in January, 1899.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland*.—The holidays have somewhat affected the working of the pits, steam and house coal collieries averaging for the four weeks ending January 20th, 4.9 and 5.0 days per week respectively. The union miners, mechanics, engine and firemen are practically all employed. *Durham*.—Most of the collieries have been idle during the holidays. House, gas, manufacturing, and coking coal pits have averaged 5.24, 5.02, 5.25, and 5.43 days per week respectively. At 137 pits, employing 65,944 men and boys, from which returns have been received, an average of 5.23 days per week has been worked as against 5.62 in December. At a meeting of the Conciliation Board it was decided to advance wages 5 per cent. There are 74 (or 0.11 per cent.) union miners unemployed, as against 97 (or 0.15 per cent.)

in December. Practically all the colliery mechanics, deputies, enginemen, and cokeyard workers are employed.

Metal Mining.—Employment at the iron ore mines continues fairly brisk. One or two lead mines are steadily employed, others are somewhat slack.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarries at Haswell and Stanhope are moderately brisk. One or two whinstone quarries have worked less than full time. In Gateshead and district and at Blyth employment generally has been good.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne*.—Locomotive, electrical and ordnance works are busy. Employment in engine shops in the mid-river district is somewhat slack, but continues good in the higher and lower reaches. Double shifts continue to be worked in boiler shops. Rivetters are in active demand. Employment on repairs has been better. Branches of these trades with 12,607 members have 290 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 390 (or 3.1 per cent.) in December. *On the Wear*.—Engine building remains rather quiet, but upon the whole employment is steadier. Iron shipbuilding continues brisk. Branches of these trades, with 5,201 members, have 85 (or 1.6 per cent.) idle, as against 109 (or 2.1 per cent.) in December. Patternmakers and iron and steel moulders on both rivers are practically all employed. Shipwrights are scarcely so brisk. Drillers and hole cutters are busy on new, but slack on old work. Shipjoiners are well employed on the Wear. Sailmakers on the Tyne are slack. Steel smelting shops, plate mills and chain and anchor smiths, except for holidays, have worked full time; angle mills at Consett four shifts per week.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Shippers, coal porters, trimmers and teamers have worked full time, Tyne watermen and quayside labourers are fairly well employed. The demand for sailors and firemen although good, is less than the supply.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment of letterpress printers on the Tyne and at Sunderland is fairly good. Bookbinders and machine rulers on both rivers are busy. Six paper mills have been fully employed, five others continue to work short time.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coopers report employment as less brisk; millsawyers as fairly good; lathrenders as moderate. The cabinetmakers and upholsterers continue dull.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Wear bottle-makers are fully employed. Pressed glass makers continue to improve. White lead works are still working night and day. Chemical factories in the soda ash department are well employed. Cement works are steadily employed.

Fishing.—The supply landed has been below the average. Prices have been good.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as fairly good. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines reported on was 5.35 days per week during the four weeks ended January 20th, as compared with 5.53 days in December, and 5.47 days per week in January, 1899. The number of workpeople employed in the mines was 6,824, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,798.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The finished ironworks have been well employed. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration and Conciliation Board wages have been advanced 6d. per ton to puddlers, and five per cent. to forge and mill men, from January 29th. Employment is good at steel works, bridge works, blast furnaces, general foundries, and pipe foundries; fair at metal expansion works, and moderate at chair foundries.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is good at Stockton, Middlesbrough, and Bishop Auckland; moderate at Darlington and Hartlepool. Iron founders, pattern makers, smiths and strikers report employment as good throughout the district. Branches of these trades with 4,380 members have 49 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 37 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Shipbuilding.—The yards continue fairly full of work, and employment is good. Shipwrights and joiners report employment as fair; smiths and strikers as brisk.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate at Middlesbrough; quiet at Hartlepool. Dock labour is good at Middlesbrough; slack at Hartlepool. Riverside labour is good.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and plumbers report employment as fairly good; slaters as good; joiners and painters as moderate; other branches as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Printers and pulpworkers report employment as good; cement and concrete workers as brisk; sawmill-workers as moderate; cabinetmakers as dull; saltworkers as slack.—*A. Main.*

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining Industry.—The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended January 20th at the 20 pits covered by the returns was 5.09 per week, the same as a year ago. Owing to the holidays, no useful comparison can be made with December, 1899. The number of workpeople employed in January was 5,781, as against 6,212 a year ago.

Iron Mining Industry.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended January 20th at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5.52 per week, as compared with 5.63 a year ago. The remark made above as to holidays also applies to this industry. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 5,178, the corresponding number a year ago being 5,853.

Fig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces continues good, and is better than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of January was 55, being one more than in December, and 7 more than in January, 1899. The estimated number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 4,465, being about the same as at the end of December, and 489 more than a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—Employment in Oldham and the surrounding districts continues satisfactory. Employment is also reported as good in Mossley, Rochdale, Stockport, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Droylsden, and Heywood, with full time at the mills. Cardroom operatives report employment as good, with fewer members in receipt of unemployed benefit. Ring-frame spinners and throstle-frame tenters are fully employed. *Weaving*.—Employment is again reported as good in calico weaving, as moderate in velvet weaving, and as bad in fustian weaving. In winding, ball-warping, beam and sectional warping, ordinary reeling and fancy reeling employment is reported as moderate; in twining as good.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Employment with the woolen workers is reported as good in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport districts. It is moderate with the silk dressers in Rochdale.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as good in engineering works, and slack in machine and tool shops. Tinplate workers, gasmeter-makers, and plate and machine moulders report employment as moderate; brassfounders, ironfounders, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, and spindle and flyer makers as good; irongrinders as slack.

Building Trades.—The plasterers and plumbers report employment as fair; bricklayers and carpenters and joiners as moderate; painters as slack.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good. Full time is being worked by the miners at the pits in Oldham, Royton, Chadderton, and Shaw.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—In Bolton and adjacent districts, including Moses Gate, Farnworth, Leigh and Bedford, and Westboughton, employment is reported as good. Cardroom operatives in Bolton, Leigh, Chorley, Bury and Ramsbottom are reported as well employed. *Weaving*.—Employment is reported as good on plain goods, and as moderate on coloured work.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment at most engineering and iron firms is reported as slightly less active in Bolton and neighbourhood. In Bury, Chorley and Ramsbottom employment is fairly active. In Wigan steel smelters and forgemen are moderately well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderate in Bolton, fair in Farnworth, slightly slack in Chorley, Wigan, and Hindley.

Coal Mining.—Coal miners throughout the district report employment as brisk, an average of 5.4 days per week being worked.

Miscellaneous.—Printers, tailors, shoemakers, leather-workers and cloggers report employment as moderately good.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade—Weaving.—Employment continues good in the weaving districts of Blackburn, Burnley, Darwen, Nelson and Colne. The coloured weaving trade is again finding employment for more weavers. In the hard waste trade employment continues good. Twisters and drawers, tape sizers, winders and warpers are well employed; warp dressers fairly so. *Spinning*.—

Spinners report employment as good at Blackburn, Preston, Darwen and Accrington; fair at Burnley. Cardroom workers and ring spinners are fully employed. Branches of spinners and twisters and drawers, with 3,338 members, have 130 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 125 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building Trades.—Employment with plumbers is reported as fair, with joiners as moderate, with painters, masons and bricksetters as slack.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment continues good.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coal-miners is still good. Stone quarrymen are slack.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet makers report employment as steady; letterpress printers as fair; calico printers and woollen block printers as moderate; tailors as slack; boot, shoe and slipper makers in Rossendale as moderate.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,613 members have 614 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of December.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—At Northwich employment in the iron trades is plentiful; in Warrington, Manchester and Stockport boiler-makers, engineers and brassfounders report employment as moderate; ironfounders and machine-workers as good. Sheet metal workers and wire weavers are fully employed. Wire drawing has fallen off.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners report employment as moderate; cotton operatives in general are fairly well employed. Silk workers are fairly busy. The dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as moderate; the bleachers and dyers as good. Fustian cutters are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke and wholesale branches of the tailoring trade continues slack. Boot and shoe makers, ready-made mantle makers and waterproof garment makers report employment as bad. Shirt makers are fairly busy. Felt hat makers and cap makers report employment as moderate, about one-third working short time.

Building Trades.—Employment is bad with painters, dull with bricklayers, and moderate in other branches.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers are busy in railway shops, fairly so in the private trade. Cabinetmakers, French polishers and coopers report employment as good; wheelwrights as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as bad; lithographic artists and printers as moderate; bookbinders and machine rulers as good; pattern card makers as fair.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and ironshipbuilders, brass and iron founders, shipwrights, drillers and holecutters, hammermen and smiths report employment as good; whitesmiths as fair; ship joiners as dull; fitters, turners and patternmakers as moderate; ship painters as declining; ship repairing labourers as busy.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen, and Mersey flatmen report employment as good; dock labourers as fair; quay and railway carters as steady; coal heavers as moderate; salt heavers as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinetmakers and French polishers report employment as good; upholsterers as quiet; coachmakers and painters as moderate; millsawyers and woodcutting machinists as fair.

Building Trades.—Plumbers and painters report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners as declining; brickmakers as fair; other branches as fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment continues moderate in the bespoke tailoring trade; in the ready-made trade it is reported as fair. Boot and shoe makers report employment as improving.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; lithographic printers as moderate; stereotypers as fair.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners continue busy. Quarrymen are fully employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle-makers report employment as good; all other branches of glass workers as fair; chemical workers as unchanged.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the salt trade has been slack except at the block pans, but showed a slight improvement at the end of the month. In the building trades it is

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE; MIDLAND COUNTIES.

good at Middlewich, slack at Winsford. It is good with boiler-smiths, shipwrights and barge builders; slack with brass-workers. Moulders at Winsford are working full time. Fustian cutters at Winsford and Middlewich are busy. Employment with chemical workers at Middlewich is fair.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.—At Hull engineers, steam-engine makers, machine workers, braziers, and sheet-metal workers report employment as good; brass founders and finishers, patternmakers, smiths and strikers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, boiler-makers, and iron and steel shipbuilders, drillers and hole-cutters, shipwrights and general labourers as moderate; sailmakers as bad. Shipbuilding is slack; ship-repairing is moderate. At Grimsby boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders report employment as good; engineers, smiths and shipwrights as moderate. At Selby employment is good; at Beverley, Doncaster, and Goole moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment at Hull is moderate with plumbers, bad with painters, good in other branches. At Beverley it is fairly good; at Goole moderate; at Driffield slack; at Grimsby and Selby good.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen and the railway workers report employment as good; the dock labourers as moderate.

Fishing Industry.—At Grimsby the trawl fishermen and fishing trade general labourers report employment as good; the line fishermen, steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen, and curing-house workers as moderate. At Hull the trawl fishermen, steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen, curing-house workers, and general labourers report it as moderate.

Seed Crushing, Oil-cake, Varnish, Colour and Paint Trades.—Employment in the seed-crushing and oil-cake mills, and in the oil refining, varnish, colour, paint and tar distilling works is reported as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—At Hull the lithographic printers, and the bookbinders and rulers report employment as good; the letterpress printers as bad; the letterpress printers at Doncaster as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coopers, mill-sawyers and wood machinists, cabinetmakers, and coachbuilders at Hull report employment as moderate; the coachbuilders at Doncaster as good.

Miscellaneous.—At Hull the tanners, lace cutters and leather belt makers report employment as fair; the Jewish tailors, machinists and pressers and the brushmakers as moderate. The curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster report employment as good; the tailors as bad.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,139 members have 189 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 224 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in Leeds continue busy, except in the toolmaking and textile machinery departments, which are quiet. Ironmoulders, boiler-makers, and steel workers are busy; spindle and flyer makers and brassworkers are quiet. At Stanningley and Rodley boiler-makers and iron moulders are fairly employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the clothing factories has been fairly good. Bespoke tailors are slack. At boot factories employment is fairly good, but Jewish riveters and finishers, who principally work on slippers and light goods, are slack.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds all branches are well employed. At Pudsey and Morley employment is good; at Yeadon there is again a falling off.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, masons and plasterers are fairly employed; joiners and plumbers are rather slack. At Castleford and Harrogate the building trades are fully employed.

Mining.—In the coal and ironstone pits employment continues good; full time is general.

Leather Trades.—Tanners are fully employed; curriers and leather shavers fairly so. With saddlers and harness makers employment is improving.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as somewhat falling off; lithographers as fair; bookbinders and machine-rulers as moderate.

Glass Trades.—The glass bottle and flint glass sections are both well employed.

Woodworking Trades.—Brushmakers are well employed; coach-makers and cabinetmakers moderately so.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continues good in Bradford, Halifax, Keighley and the Worth Valley, but is not so good in Huddersfield, where, at several firms, weavers are waiting for warps. In one or two places, however, overtime is being resorted to. Wool sorters report employment in Bradford as good, but this is not the case in the Worth Valley.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield is hardly so brisk; some mills, however, are still running night and day. In the heavy woollen districts also employment is rather quieter.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade is good at Manningham and Brighouse; fairly good at Halifax. In the cotton trade generally it is fairly good. Dyers report employment as very good.

Metal Trades.—The engineers and ironfounders report employment as good in Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Huddersfield, and Dewsbury.

Building Trades.—The painters are rather quiet. Otherwise employment is good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with tailors is still rather quiet. Letterpress printers, lithographers and bookbinders are busy.

A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 13,167 members, have 127 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 116 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Iron and Steel Industries.—All sections of the heavy trades in Sheffield are well employed. Engineers and ironfounders throughout the district report employment as good; boiler and girder makers as moderate; railway spring makers as fair. At Parkgate and Rotherham iron and steel workers and spring and axle makers are well employed; stove grate workers and bath makers are quiet. Branches with 6,292 members, have 71 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 66 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Cutlery and Tools.—The workmen in the razor trade are well employed, and on files, tools, saws, and table and pocket cutlery employment is fairly good.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the silver trades generally is slack, except with the platers and gilders. Britannia metal smiths are slack. Brassworkers are only moderately employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 60 collieries show that an average of 5.17 days per week has been worked during January, as against 5.75 in December, the holidays and a continued scarcity of wagons accounting for the reduction.

Building Trades.—At Sheffield and Rotherham all branches continue well employed; at Barnsley work is slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Railway carriage and wagon builders, coachmakers and cabinetmakers are fairly well employed. Box-makers and bobbin-turners report employment as good.

Linen Trade.—Employment is fairly good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade is slack; in the ready-made branch moderate. At Barnsley the boot and shoe workers are slack.

Glass Trade.—Flint glassworkers are busy. Bottle-makers report an improvement.

Miscellaneous.—Railway and chemical workers, down quilt-makers, paper-makers, potters, quarrymen and corporation employees are well employed.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,372 members have 84 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of December.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Most of the men discharged towards the close of the year have been reinstated, and employment generally is now better. In Long Eaton and Draycott employment has slightly improved with cycle workers, and is good with lace machine builders.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 60 collieries, employing upwards of 26,000 men, show an average of 5 days per week worked, as against 5.5 days in December.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES (contd.).

Quarrying.—Except when interfered with by weather, limestone and chert quarrymen are well employed.

Building Trades.—Except when interfered with by the weather, employment in all sections continues fairly good.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders at Derby and Long Eaton. With coopers at Burton-on-Trent it is declining slightly. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment is good with cotton weavers, surgical bandage makers, hard silk winders, drawers and doublers; fair with elastic web weavers, lace workers, hosiery workers, dyers and bleachers; moderate with calico printers and engravers.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as dull with bespoke tailors. Factory tailoring operatives continue fully employed. Boot and shoe operatives in Chesterfield and Derby report employment as moderate; dress and mantle makers as improving.

Railways.—Throughout the county employment is good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; bookbinders and machine rulers as good.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment continues good in the plain net branch; in the curtain, levers and warp lace branches it has improved. Employment is good with levers' card punchers and auxiliary lace workers; moderate with curtain readers, designers and draughtsmen. Employment has improved at Beeston; and is fair at Bulwell, Kimberley and Stapleford. Female labour is not quite so busy this month. Bleachers are fairly busy at Basford and Bulwell; dyers are moderately employed at Basford, fairly so at Nottingham on best goods.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment is now good throughout the district.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as moderate to bad; cycle makers as moderate; fitters and mechanics in lace and hosiery machine building, ironfounders, boiler-makers, iron and steel dressers, brassworkers, carriage straighteners, bobbin and carriage makers as good; tool machinists as improving; steam engine makers as fair. Employment is good at Mansfield and Grantham, and with blastfurnacemen at Bulwell; fair at Newark; rather quiet at Beeston. Branches with 3,297 members have 64 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 116 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Coal Mining.—Employment has improved. Returns from 31 collieries employing some 17,000 men show an average of 5.4 days per week.

Building Trades.—Joiners, painters and plumbers report employment as dull; bricklayers, masons, plasterers, slaters and tilers are well employed. Employment is reported as good at Mansfield, Worksop, Grantham, Retford and Newark.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment has declined with cabinetmakers, and is reported as moderate with packing-case makers and upholsterers. Coopers, boxmakers, French polishers and mill-sawyers are well employed. Coachmakers report employment as moderate at Newark, fair at Nottingham.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers and artists report employment as moderate; bookbinders as good; printers' cutters as steady; letterpress printers as not so good at Nottingham, fair at Retford.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as declining in Nottingham, good at Hucknall, fair at Mansfield. Employment is reported as good with mantle makers and ready-made tailoring operatives, and as rather slack with bespoke tailors.

Railways.—Employment is reported as brisk with all sections throughout the county.

Miscellaneous.—Gas stokers, enginemen and cranemen, saddle and harness makers, silk dressers and cigar makers are well employed. Bakers are fairly well employed. Maltsters at Newark are busy. General labour is in good demand at Mansfield and Grantham.—*W. L. Harastaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In Leicester and neighbourhood employment in all branches of the shoe trade has improved. At Northampton, Kettering, and Higham the general trade is moderate for the time of year; the workmen engaged on army contracts are busy.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is more satisfactory in the wholesale and bespoke departments of the tailoring trade. It is good with stay and corset makers, improving with dressmakers,

quiet with milliners, fairly good with silk hatters, and moderate with cap and felt hat makers.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—All branches of the hosiery trade report employment as continuing good. Dyers, trimmers and scourers are likewise busy. Operatives in the woolspinning trade are fully employed.

Elastic Web Trade.—Workpeople are fully engaged on cord, broad and narrow goods. In other branches a slight falling off is reported.

Engineering Trades.—Employment is good with engine builders, patternmakers, ironfounders, boiler-makers and electrical workers, and improving with shoe machinery constructors; slack with winders and cycle makers; moderate with general engineers at Loughborough and Northampton.

Mining and Quarrying.—The Leicestershire coal miners are still fully employed. Stone quarrymen and iron and limestone workers continue busy.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Building Trades.—Employment is good at Leicester and Coalville with bricklayers, joiners, slaters, tilers, stonemasons and builders' labourers; moderate at Northampton. Kettering, Wellingborough and Hinckley; slack at Rugby. It is fair with plumbers and plasterers, and generally slack with painters.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Tram and road car builders and iron wagon makers are fully employed. Coachmakers and cabinetmakers are not so busy. Work is moderate with upholsterers and French polishers.

Leather Trades.—Curriers and leather dressers are fully employed at Northampton and Wellingborough. Tanners are slack at Market Harborough.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with railway workers, bakers, basketmakers, gas stokers, and terra-cotta workers; fair with farriers, cigar makers, mill-sawyers, saddlers and box-makers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment continues good in most departments. Flatpressers and jolliers are moderately busy. Throwers, turners and handlers in the electrical branches continue slack. Other branches are well employed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in all branches has been exceptionally good during the month.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boiler-makers and moulders are well employed throughout North Staffordshire. At Crewe millwrights are busy, and half the moulders are working overtime. At Stafford employment is moderate. At Uttoxeter, Rugeley, Oakmoor, and Froghall employment is good.

Mining and Quarrying.—Several collieries are being worked night and day. Ironstone miners are well employed; stone quarrying at Alton and Hollington has again been interrupted by the weather.

Textile Trades.—In the silk trade at Leek employment continues good in most branches. At Congleton dressers and dyers are still busy; fustian cutters are fully employed. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report a slight decline. Boot and shoemakers at Stafford report an improvement. At Stone short time is the rule. Corset-makers at Ashbourne and Uttoxeter are busy.

Building Trades.—Joiners are fully employed; painters are slack; plumbers are moderately busy; stonemasons are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers maintain the improvement reported last month. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately busy. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are very busy.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants are well employed. Brush-makers are working full time. Coachbuilders continue busy. Gasworkers are fully employed.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire and Shropshire all branches continue well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment continues moderate in the engineering trade, and is good with moulders, bridge, boiler, girder, tank and gasometer makers. In the cycle trade it is slightly improving. Employment is good at Madeley, Coalbrookdale, and Walsall.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, spring and coach iron work, electrical and gas fittings, horseshoes, stamped hollow-ware and traps, and with stampers and piercers, galvanizers and tinplate-workers. It is

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND; E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

moderate with makers of malleable nails and protectors, cycle castings, locks, keys and latches, iron fences, hurdles, builders' ironmongery, black castings, tips and cut nails, and with brass-workers. It is quiet with filesmiths, and slack with spectacle-frame-makers. At Halesowen wrought nailmakers are well employed. Employment with iron plateworkers is quiet at Wolverhampton and Bilston, and moderate at the Lye. Chainmakers at Old Hill and Cradley are well employed. Employment is improving with anchor smiths at Cradley Heath, and anvil and vice makers at Dudley. At Wednesbury employment is brisk.

Coal Mining.—Employment throughout the district is good.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with plumbers and plasterers; moderate with carpenters, bricklayers, and masons; slack with painters.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass-makers at Wordsley and Stourbridge are quieter.

Leather Trades.—At Walsall employment is reported as very good in all branches.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, and in the tape mills at Tamworth continues good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has greatly fallen off in both ready-made and bespoke tailoring. In the boot and shoe trade it is quiet.—*C. Anthony.*

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,313 members have 393 (or 1·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 276 (or 1·3 per cent.) of their membership, at the end of December.

Engineering.—In Birmingham seven branches of engineers return employment as moderate and three as good; pattern-makers, smiths and strikers and ironfounders as good; toolmakers as moderate. At Coventry and West Bromwich employment is good; at Redditch moderate. In the cycle trade employment continues quiet; in the motor industry it is returned as good.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment in Birmingham is fair. The fender-makers at Dudley report employment as quiet.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electroplaters.—Glass bevellers and silverers return employment as good; jewellers and Britannia metal workers as fair; electroplate workers as quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of wrought iron and steel hinges, steam, gas, and water tubing, picks, shovels, spades, edge tools, heavy and light steel toys, nuts and bolts report employment as good; ironplate and tinplate workers and makers of bedsteads, machine-made rivets, cut nails, and scales as fair; wire nail makers as moderate. At West Bromwich and Redditch employment generally is good; in the Lye district moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair in Birmingham, moderate at West Bromwich and Coventry, and quiet at Redditch.

Glass Trade.—Flint glass-makers report employment as good; cutters as moderate. In West Bromwich employment is good.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe makers are only moderately employed. The bespoke tailors and Jewish tailors return employment as bad.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and machinists return employment as good; coachmakers, coopers and carvers as fair; cabinetmakers as quiet. In the railway and wagon shops employment is fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Gasfitters, gasworkers, saddlers, and general labourers report employment as good; printers as moderate; gun makers as quiet. At Redditch the fancy case makers are rather quiet. At Coventry watchmakers continue fairly busy; weavers quiet. Brickmakers are rather quiet. In many trades production has been interfered with owing to the scarcity of coal and iron.

A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.**Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

Clothing Trades.—Employment is fair with boot and shoe makers, and in ready-made tailoring factories, good with bespoke tailors.

Building Trades.—Except a few painters, all branches are well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical and general engineers are fully employed in Norwich, Lynn and Yarmouth. Shipwrights are well employed at Yarmouth, Gorleston and Lowestoft.

Fishing Trade.—Fishing is slack at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Shell fishing at Lynn and Wells is fair.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment is fair.

Textile Trades.—Crape, silk, mat and matting weavers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with flour, oil-cake and saw-mill workers, horticultural builders, coachbuilders, maltsters, mineral water, cocoa, chocolate, and confectionery workers, navvies, general labourers and riverside workers; fair with organ builders and brushmakers.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as good generally, but slack at Halstead; boiler-makers and moulders as good; shipwrights at Ipswich as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good with operatives in the wholesale tailoring trade. In the boot and shoe trade at Ipswich it has improved; corsetmakers are well employed at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—Mat-weavers report employment as good at Lavenham, fair at Sudbury, Hadleigh, and Long Melford; moderate at Glemsford. Silk weavers are well employed at Sudbury; quiet at Braintree; dull at Halstead.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fairly good for the time of year. Bricklayers at Ipswich report employment as dull, painters as slack.

Furnishing Trades.—Cabinetmakers and upholsterers report employment as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair at Ipswich and Colchester; dull at Chelmsford and Beccles. Lithographers are well employed; bookbinders moderately so.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping has been fairly good; dock labourers are well employed. Employment is reported as good with horticultural builders, maltsters, and brickmakers, and fair with general labourers.—*R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol and District.**

General.—Branches with 9,582 members have 153 (or 1·6 per cent.) out of work, as against 165 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of 1899.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as improving with hatters; moderate with glove makers; and slack with bespoke tailors. There is a rush with Government work at some of the wholesale tailoring factories, but employment in the general trade is reported as quiet. Employment has fallen off at some of the boot and shoe factories.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The fitters, tinplate workers and shipwrights report employment as fair; the iron and brass founders, boiler-makers, smiths, patternmakers, galvanizers, tool makers, and hollow ware workers as good.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues exceedingly brisk.

Building Trades.—Stone masons and bricklayers are fully employed, but for the weather. Painters and decorators describe employment as slack; plasterers as good; plumbers as moderate; carpenters and joiners as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is reported as quiet with French polishers and upholsterers; as fair with cabinet-makers, turners, millsawyers and coopers, and good with box-makers and lathrenders. Coach and wagon building is fair in Bristol, good at Swindon, and unsteady at Gloucester.

Printing Trades.—The lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and papermakers as fair; the letterpress printers as quiet at Bath, fair at Gloucester and Bristol, good at Hereford and Weston-super-Mare.

Leather Trades.—The saddle and harness makers report employment as brisk; the curriers and leather dressers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Tobacco workers, cocoa and chocolate workers and oil and colour workers are busy. Sailors and firemen report employment as good; dock and quayside labourers as slack; textile and cotton operatives as good.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Work in the tin and copper mines of the district continues to improve; some of the miners who recently returned from South Africa are leaving for South America and elsewhere. Granite cutters and china clay workers are well employed; slate and limestone quarrymen fairly so.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as moderate; ironfounders, boiler-makers, and brassworkers as good; shipwrights as good at Plymouth and Devonport, quiet at Falmouth, fair at Dartmouth. In the Government yards work is brisk. Branches with 2,607 members have 12 unemployed, as compared with 27 at the end of December.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES; WALES; SCOTLAND.

Building Trades.—Stonemasons report employment as good generally, bricklayers as dull; plasterers and painters as quiet; plumbers as moderate; carpenters as fair at Plymouth, Devonport, Tavistock, and Exeter, quiet at Torquay and Truro.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Among book and jobbing printers and lithographers work is dull generally, but in news offices compositors are busy. Bookbinders continue busy; paper rulers moderately so.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is dull with millsawyers and woodworking machinists, and falling off in cabinet works and furniture manufactories. Upholsterers continue quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report work as slack; boot and shoe makers as fair and improving. Lace workers continue busy in factories, but the home workers are quieter.

Dock and Quayside Work.—General work on the quays has been fair; coal lumpers and grain workers are moderately employed.

Fishing Industry.—With trawlers fishing was good in the earlier part of the month, quieter later on; with hookers dull. The western fishermen have again met with best results, but catches have been irregular. Prices have been good.

Miscellaneous.—All out-door work has been interfered with by the weather; otherwise work is plentiful. Brushmakers are quiet.

W. Hedge.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment at the coal mines throughout North Wales continues brisk. Employment at the lead and blende mines continues good.

Quarrying.—Employment has been fully maintained at the slate, freestone, granite, sett, and lime and roadstone quarries.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fair, except with painters and plasterers.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with engineers at Sandycroft and Oswestry, and with coach and wagon makers and splter workers. Otherwise employment generally is good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment is good in the Montgomeryshire woollen and tweed industry. It is slack with the bespoke tailors.

Brick and Terra-cotta and Chemical Industries.—Employment in the brick and terra-cotta works and the chemical works continues good.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Collieries are working with exceptional regularity. The Sliding Scale Audit awards an advance of 5 per cent. to all the Associated Collieries from the 1st January.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is very good throughout the district.

Engineering.—Employment in engineering yards has been but moderate, but is improving. Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 2,935 members have 55 (or 1·9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 130 (or 4·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is bad. Branches of the carpenters and joiners and plumbers, with 1,791 members, have 85 (or 4·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 68 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have not been good. Employment in pitwood and iron ore imports has been good. The corn porters, timber workers and general hoblers have not been so well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the fuel trade has been rather quiet except at Swansea. Lithographic and letterpress printers report employment as good. The metallurgical and chemical works are quiet.—*T. Davies.*

Timplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—Employment has again improved. At the end of January, 405 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), giving employment to 20,334 workpeople. These figures compare with 400 mills employing 19,982 workpeople at the end of December, and 306 mills employing 15,496 workpeople a year ago.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies (excluding the building trades) with 10,983 members have 271 (or 2·5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 192 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,201 workpeople (as compared with 3,078 in January, 1899) show that 2,102 were working 20 to 22 days, and 1,099, 22 to 24 days during the four weeks ended January 20th. The short time was principally due to the New Year holidays.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,228 members, have 60 (or 2·7 per cent.) idle, as against 30 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Branches in Falkirk with 3,547 members have 19 (or 0·5 per cent.) idle, the same percentage as at the end of December.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 617 members have 12 (or 1·9 per cent.) idle, as against 29 (or 4·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Textile Trades.—Employment has fallen off with woollen weavers in Hawick; otherwise employment in the woollen and hosiery trades at Selkirk and Hawick and in the carpet trade in Midlothian continues good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally has fallen off, especially with the masons, who have a number idle owing to the failure of a large firm.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,305 members have 81 (or 6·2 per cent.) idle, as against 15 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen, and dock labourers and coal porters report employment as fairly good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,291 members have 83 (or 3·6 per cent.) idle, as against 88 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Miscellaneous.—The sett makers and saddlers report employment as good; the glassmakers, glass-cutters and curriers as fair; the bakers as quiet; the tailors and shoemakers as bad.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is still good; branches with 14,469 members return 334 (or 2·3 per cent.) as idle, as against 320 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is still fairly good; branches with 29,979 members return 870 (or 2·9 per cent.) as idle, as against 643 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building Trades.—Employment has hardly been so good in some of the branches during the month.

Mining.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as dull with bespoke tailors, tailors' machinists and pressers, and mantlemakers; as busy in the ready-made tailoring branch, and with boot and shoe operatives, slipper makers, knee boot and shoe makers, and curriers.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as quieter; bookbinders, electrotypers and stereotypers as good; lithographic artists as quiet.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass cutters and flint glass makers and bottle makers report employment as good. Decorative glass workers as fair.

Transport Trades.—Carters, tramway men, railway men, hackney carriage drivers and dock labourers report employment as good; sailors and firemen as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Tobacco pipe makers and finishers, potters, spindle and flyer makers, brushmakers, sett makers, scale beam makers, paviors, shop assistants, cork cutters, gilders, saddlers and general labourers are busy. Cigarette makers and calico engravers are quiet.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good in the jute trade, and brisk in the linen trade.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the Fifeshire collieries has continued brisk. Returns from pits employing about 12,000 workpeople show an average of 4·7 days per week worked during the four weeks ending January 20th (a period which includes the New Year holidays), as compared with 5·7 days per week worked during December.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—In the engineering trade employment is fair. At the shipbuilding yards it continues moderately good. Branches of societies with 2,212 members return 58 (or 2·6 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of December.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND; IRELAND.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Partly owing to the weather, employment has been unsteady with masons, and slack in other branches of the building trade. The cabinet and furnishing trades remain quiet. Branches with 1,693 members report 62 (or 3·6 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 40 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Dock Labour.—Dock labour has been only moderately employed.

Fishing Industry.—Large takes of herrings have been frequent during the month, the prices for which have ruled good. The white fishing has been poor.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers, lithographers and bookbinders continue well employed. Tailors are quiet; boot and shoe makers are moderately employed. Bleachers and floorcloth and linoleum workers are busy.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,562 members, have 413 (or 6·3 per cent.) idle, as against 408 (or 6·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Quarrymen.—The masons and sett makers report employment as good, granite polishers as quiet, quarrymen as fair.

Building Trades.—The masons report employment as bad; carpenters and joiners as quiet; plumbers as moderate; painters as dull; plasterers as good; slaters as fair.

Transport Trades.—The railway servants and carters report employment as good; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,422 members have 38 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 41 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The boiler makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, and drillers and holecutters report employment as moderate; shipwrights, engineers, ironmoulders, tinplate workers and pattemakers as fair; blacksmiths, brassfinishers and moulders, and horse shoers as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The mill and factory workers report employment as good; tailors as bad; boot and shoe makers as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as dull; carpet weavers as fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good.

Fishing.—In January at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 63,753 cwt. with a value of £53,323; an increase in value, but a decrease in quantity as compared with December.

Miscellaneous.—The comb makers, sawmillers and saddlers report employment as good; bakers as bad; upholsterers, cabinet makers and general labourers as fair.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with the bricklayers and glaziers; fair with the carpenters and joiners, stonecutters, plumbers, slaters and tilers, and plasterers; dull with the painters.

Metal Trades.—The ironfounders, boiler makers and electrical workers report employment as good; the brassfinishers, gasfitters and whitesmiths as fair; the engineers as moderate, and the silver plate workers as bad.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is fair with sawmill machinists, cart and wagon builders and coachmakers; dull with upholsterers and lathsplitters.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and bootmakers report employment as dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers, stereotypers, machine minders, and despatch hands report employment as fair; the bookbinders and machine rulers as good; the lithographers as bad. Branches with 1,452 members have 103 (or 7·1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 89 (or 6·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Miscellaneous.—The bottlemakers, paviors and corporation labourers report employment as good; the dock labourers as fair; the corkcutters and ropemakers as dull.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 8,566 members, have 226 (or 2·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 284 (or 3·3 per cent. of their membership), at the end of December. The carpenters and joiners report employment as bad; blacksmiths, smiths' strikers and helpers, ironfounders, engineers and iron turners as moderate; machine workers as quiet; furnishing trades, engineers, firemen, and crane men as fair; drillers and holecutters, boiler makers and iron shipbuilders, steam engine makers, pattern-

makers, shipwrights, tinplate workers, general labourers and platers' helpers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with a membership of 4,042 have 33 (or 0·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 36 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The beetling enginemakers report employment as dull; powerloom tenters as improving; flax dressers, flax roughers, and yarn bundlers as fair; hackle and gill makers, linen lappers and yarn dressers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches (excluding painters) with 1,931 members have 158 (or 8·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 170 (or 8·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The carpenters and joiners and painters report employment as bad; other branches as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 831 members have 66 (or 7·9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 67 (or 11·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The French polishers and coach builders report employment as bad; mill-sawyers and upholsterers as dull; cabinetmakers as quiet; packing-case makers as moderate; coopers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Societies with 899 members have 63 (or 7·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 51 (or 5·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; the bookbinders and machine rulers, letterpress printers and lithographic artists and engravers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot trade is fair. The tailors are a little quieter.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,890 members have 52 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 42 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The bakers, butchers, carters and railway servants report employment as fair; the locomotive engine drivers, paviors and municipal employees as good.

R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler makers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as moderate throughout the district; smiths, turners, pattern-makers, brass and iron moulders as good; fitters and erectors and shipwrights as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as bad in Cork and Waterford; moderate in Limerick and Tralee.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate throughout the district.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull; flax, tweed and feather operatives in Blarney, Millfield, Cork and Douglas as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Railway and tramway employees, general quay labourers and coal porters, coach makers and packing case makers, gas workers and corporation labourers report employment as fair; bakers and confectioners as dull.—P. O'Shea.

THE COLOGNE REGISTRY FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS AGENCY.

According to a summary of the work of this institution, published in "Societe Praxis," the number of situations procured through its agency in 1899 was 20,360, viz., 14,299 in the men's, and 6,061 in the women's branch. The number of situations offered in the women's branch was 6,212.

In the house-agency branch (intended for the free use of workpeople, shop assistants, minor clerks, etc.) 2,435 dwellings were offered, and 4,700 applied for in 1899. The disproportion between supply and demand in the matter of small dwellings is most marked in the case of those consisting of one, two, or three rooms as shown by the following statement:—

Consisting of	Number of Dwellings.	
	Offered.	Applied for.
1 room	274	400
2 rooms	806	2,114
3 rooms	695	1,398
4 rooms	312	466
5 or more rooms	348	320
Total	2,435	4,700

Fuller information concerning this institution, together with an account of its work in previous years, has already been given in the GAZETTE (March, 1899, p. 69).

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during January was 393, or 96 more than in December, and 23 less than in January, 1899.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,447,140 persons (according to the latest available figures), 362 were killed, and 7,005 reported injured by accidents in January, as compared with 402 killed and 6,709 reported injured in January, 1899. These figures give one death in January, 1900, for every 15,047 persons employed in those industries.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 31 persons were reported killed, and 1,060 injured in January, as compared with 14 killed and 881 injured in January, 1899.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Jan., 1900.	Jan., 1899.	Jan., 1900.	Jan., 1899.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	71	40	468	421	534,141
Other Accidents	7	5	1,078	876	
Total Railway Service	78	45	1,546	1,297	
Mines	85	78	413	357	741,125
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	5	15	77	119	134,478
Shipping	117	202	328	506	230,372*
Factories	77	62	4,641	4,430	3,807,024
Total of above	362	402	7,008	6,709	5,447,140
Workshops			11	16	
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23	20	11	859	724	Cannot be stated.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	11	3	190	147	

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.	
Railway Service—					
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	5	86	—	51	5
Engine Drivers	8	47	1	82	9
Firemen	2	63	—	93	2
Guards (Passenger)	1	16	—	13	1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	19	14	—	71	19
Porters	10	58	—	274	10
Shunters	4	76	—	20	4
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	22	108	6	474	28
Total for Jan., 1900	71	468	7	1,078	1,546
Total for Jan., 1899	40	421	5	876	1,297
Mines—					
Explosions of Firedamp	1	10	—	—	1
Falls of ground	45	152	—	—	45
In shafts	9	7	—	—	9
Miscellaneous	20	177	10	67	50
Total for Jan., 1900	75	346	10	67	85
Total for Jan., 1899	65	305	13	52	78
Quarries over 20 feet deep.					
Explosives or Blasting	—	2	—	—	—
Falls of ground	2	71	—	—	2
During Ascent or Descent	1	—	—	—	1
Miscellaneous	1	39	1	10	2
Total for Jan., 1900	4	67	1	10	5
Total for Jan., 1899	14	76	1	43	16

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.	
Shipping*—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	13	—	24	35	32
Steam	27	4	48	275	279
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	—	—	1	—	1
Steam	—	—	5	13	13
Total for January, 1900	40	4	77	324	142
Total for 3 months Nov., 1899, to January, 1900	169	9	193	671	680
Total for 3 months Nov., 1898, to January, 1899	338	4	237	917	921

Factories—	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—					
Adults	64	981	1	119	65
Young Persons	9	354	3	82	12
Children	—	15	—	4	—
Total	73	1,355	4	205	1,553
(b) Other Accidents—					
Adults	—	2,627	—	49	—
Young Persons	—	375	—	27	—
Children	—	2	—	—	—
Total	—	3,007	—	76	3,083
Total Factories—					
January, 1900	73	4,360	4	281	77
January, 1899	61	4,143	1	267	62

Workshops—	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Adults	—	8	—	—	—
Young Persons	—	2	—	1	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—					
January, 1900	—	10	—	1	—
January, 1899	—	13	—	3	—

Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Textiles—					
Cotton	3	206	3	96	6
Wool and Worsted	3	70	—	43	3
Other Textiles	1	48	1	47	2
Non-Textiles—					
Extraction of Metals	4	88	—	—	4
Founding and Conversion of Metals	14	711	—	4	14
Machines, Engines and Engineering	3	944	—	9	3
Ship and Boat Building	10	555	—	—	10
Wood	2	228	—	—	2
Chemicals, &c.	2	157	—	1	2
Other Non-Textile Industries	31	1,383	—	82	31
Total January, 1900	73	4,370	4	282	77
Total January, 1899	61	4,166	1	290	62

Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Docks, Wharves and Quays	12	390	—	—	12
Warehouses	4	352	—	1	4
Buildings to which Act applies	4	95	—	4	4
Laundries	—	5	—	12	—
Total for January, 1900	20	842	—	17	20
Total for January, 1899	11	705	—	19	11

Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—	Construction or repair.		Use or Working.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Bridge	1	1	—	—	1
Canal	—	1	3	6	3
Railway	2	76	—	—	2
Tramroad	—	—	—	—	—
Tramway	—	—	—	26	—
Tunnel	3	13	—	—	3
Other Works	1	64	—	2	1
Traction Engines	—	—	1	—	—
Total for January, 1900	7	155	4	35	11
Total for January, 1899	3	110	—	31	3

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1899, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

† Accidents during the working of railways, being reportable under other Acts, are not notified under the Act of 1894.

‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

§ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY, 1900.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.)

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during January affected about 698,000 workpeople. The net effect of all the changes on the wages of those affected was an increase of about 1s. 4½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 611,250 coal-miners and other colliery workpeople in Northumberland, the Federated Districts of England and Wales, the Forest of Dean, Somersetshire, South Wales and Scotland; to 29,500 iron and steel workers in the Midlands and North of England, and in the West of Scotland; and to about 21,600 textile operatives in South Lancashire.

Decreases.—At Cardiff the predominant rates for two voyages declined, 359 seamen and firemen shipped during January sustaining a decrease compared with the predominant port rate of the preceding month.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 5,300 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 159,300 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and changes affecting about 428,000 workpeople were arranged by Wages and Conciliation Boards and by arbitration without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 105,400 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, COAL MINING, and various regional entries.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY (continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Includes sections for IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE, METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, and TEXTILE TRADES.

* Exclusive of overtime. † An advance of 3s. per week on new work was given to these workpeople on 10th November, 1899.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY—(continued).

Table with multiple columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sections for Glass Trades, Printing and Bookbinding Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, and Miscellaneous Trades.

* Exclusive of Overtime. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ‡ The number employed in summer months would be about 38.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JANUARY, 1900.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during January were all decreases, and affected 964 workpeople, the reductions averaging 2.47 hours per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (Before change, After change), Reduction per week.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON

THE average selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following table, in which are also included, for purposes of comparison, the results of the previous audits:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Number of workpeople, Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit, Date from which last audit affects wages, Average ascertained selling price per ton (According to last audit, According to previous audit), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases (fatal and non-fatal) of lead, &c., poisoning, and of anthrax reported during January, as having occurred in factories and workshops. Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding twelve months.

25 deaths (including three operatives in white lead works) are reported from lead poisoning during January, and two from anthrax (wool sorting and combing). In addition to the cases included in the table, 25 cases of lead poisoning were reported among journeyman painters and plumbers not strictly under the Factory Acts.

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, January 1900 (Adults, Young Persons, Total), Total Jan. 1899.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the hours for five summer and two winter weeks. ‡ The system of payment was altered at the same time to an hourly basis with addition of a bonus. § See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. ¶ Approximate; the hours after change cannot be exactly stated. †† M. = Males, F. = Females.

In each district in which ascertainment are made there has been an increase in the average selling price, and as a result the wages of coal miners in South Wales have been advanced 5 per cent., and blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and Cumberland have received advances of 1 1/4 per cent. and 1 1/2 per cent. respectively.

Compared with a year ago the prices of iron show considerable increases, amounting in the case of pig iron to over 50 per cent. in Cleveland and to 34 per cent. in Cumberland. In the North of England, Midlands, and West of Scotland the price of manufactured iron has increased by 25 per cent., 29 per cent., and 32 per cent. respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of January, with comparative figures for January, 1899:—

Table with columns: Imported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Exported, Bales, 1900, Bales, 1899.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended February 3rd, amounted to £6,108,067, an increase of £161,211 (or 2.7 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1899.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during January was £656,159, an increase of £63,093, as compared with January, 1899.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during January numbered 358, being 26 less than in January, 1899, 36 more than in January, 1898, and 34 more than in January, 1897.

* The exact amount of the difference cannot be stated.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.)

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-seven fresh disputes were reported as having begun in January, 1900, compared with 28 in December, and 26 in January, 1899. In these 37 disputes 8,593 workpeople were directly affected, and 2,312 indirectly affected, a total of 11,305, which compares with 6,116 in December, and 2,194 in January, 1899.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades, 4 disputes took place, involving 202 workpeople; in the coal mining industry, 9 disputes, involving 4,049 workpeople; in the textile trades, 11 disputes, involving 2,402 workpeople; among dock and waterside labourers, 4 disputes, involving 3,220 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 9 disputes, involving 1,432 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 37 disputes, 28 arose chiefly on wages questions, 4 on questions of working arrangements, and 5 on other questions.

Results.—Thirty-two new disputes, involving 10,529 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, involving 1,063 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 41 new and old disputes terminated, 14, involving 3,085 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10, involving 1,557 persons, in favour of the employers; and 14, involving 6,264 persons, resulted in a compromise. With regard to the remaining 3 disputes, involving 686 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of January, 13 old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 1,400 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in January of all the disputes, new and old, was about 90,000 days, compared with 70,000 in December, and 157,000 in January, 1899.

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY, 1900.

		4 Disputes.		BUILDING TRADES.		202 Workpeople affected.	
Barnsley ...	Slaters and Tilers ...	9	...	Jan. 1	...	For abolition of certain local working rules ...	Still unsettled.
Leeds ...	Slaters and Tilers' Labourers	11	...	9	5	Refusal to work with a labourer who, while in arrears with his subscriptions to one trade union, had left it to join another	The man in question undertook to pay the arrears of subscriptions.
Sheaford (near) ...	Bricklayers and Labourers	55	27	22	7	For payment for time spent in travelling to work	Work resumed on old terms.
Clitchester ...	Builders' Labourers ...	100	...	1	...	For immediate advance in wages from 4½d. to 5d. per hour	Still unsettled.
		9 Disputes.		COAL MINING.		4,049 Workpeople affected.	
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Putters and Other Workpeople	35	817	4	3½	For advance in wages on certain work ...	Work resumed pending further negotiations, which resulted in a settlement of the points at issue.
Whitehaven (near)	Hewers, Underground Shifters and Surface Workers	160	125	9	16	For advance in standard hewing price of 4d. per ton	Advance granted of 2½d. per ton.
Featherstone ...	Underground Workers and Surface Workers	1,200	200	26	2	Misunderstanding as to alleged insulting language used by colliery official during interview with men	Amicable settlement arrived at.
Wakefield (near)	Miners ...	200	...	—	10	Dispute as to system of payment ...	Agreement arrived at satisfactory to the parties.
Abercarn ...	Banksmen, Hewers, &c.	600	...	1	½	Three banksmen demanded advance in wages; other workpeople struck in sympathy	Agreement arrived at satisfactory to the parties.
Liancaich, Glam.	Hewers, Hauliers and Tippers	52	...	1	1½	Dispute as to payment for certain work ...	Satisfactory scale of payment arranged.
Fontardawe ...	Hewers and Daymen	592	...	15	1	For adoption of revised price list ...	Work resumed pending further negotiations.
Treherbert ...	Hauliers, Hewers and Daymen	4	64	1	11	For provision of a boy helper ...	Boy helper provided temporarily, pending reference to Sliding Scale Joint Committee.
Denny (near)	Miners ...	200	...	1	7	Against reduction in hewing price of 2d. per ton	Reduction of 1d. per ton agreed to.
		11 Disputes.		TEXTILE TRADES.		2,402 Workpeople affected.	
Barnley ...	Cotton Weavers ...	50	...	1	—	Because other hands were preferred for employment on new machinery, at temporary weekly wages higher than ordinary piece-work earnings	Places filled by new workpeople, old hands obtaining work elsewhere.
	Cotton Weavers and Other Workpeople	174	...	1	4	Alleged bad material ...	Better material promised.
	Cotton Weavers and Other Workpeople	160	30	1	6	Alleged bad material ...	Better material promised.
Hyde ...	Cotton Weavers ...	30	...	22	2	Alleged refusal of employers to pay list prices ...	Employers agreed to pay list prices.
	Piecers, Cardroom Operatives, Spinners, &c.	25	78	11	7	For temporary advance in prices of 10 per cent. as compensation for bad material	Advance of 5 per cent. granted.
Padiham ...	Cotton Weavers ...	258	...	12	2	Alleged bad material ...	Better material promised.
Preston ...	Cotton Weavers ...	200	...	5	1½	Dispute as to infliction of fines for bad work ...	Amicable settlement effected.
Rishton ...	Cotton Weavers ...	250	...	1	1½	Alleged bad material ...	Work resumed on employers' terms.
Dundee ...	Cotton Weavers ...	58	...	5	1½	Alleged bad material ...	Work resumed on employers' terms.
	Shifters and Other Jute Workers	50	500	19	2	Alleged excessive weight of material ...	Work resumed unconditionally.
Leven, Fife ...	Flax and Hemp Preparers and Spinners	539	...	26	4	For advance in wages ...	An advance granted.
		4 Disputes.		DOCK AND WATERSIDE LABOUR.		3,220 Workpeople affected.	
Royal Albert Docks	Dock Labourers	1,500	...	15	3½	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., and from 8d. to 1s. per hour after 6 p.m.	Wages advanced to 7d. per hour between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., and between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., and 1s. after 10 p.m. Advance granted.
Tilbury ...	Dock Labourers	750	...	20	2	For advance in wages as granted at Royal Albert Docks	No settlement reported.
Victoria and Albert Docks	Coal Porters ...	600	...	29	...	For employment of 7 men per "winchmen's gang" and 3 men per "steam barge gang," instead of 6 and 2 respectively, as formerly	For employment of union men only, and other alterations in working regulations
Dundee ...	Dock Labourers ...	370	...	8	1½		Work resumed on old conditions, pending formation of a Conciliation Board.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY, 1900—(continued.)

		9 Disputes.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		1,432 Workpeople affected.	
Hartlepool	Sawmill Labourers, Sawyers, Planing Machinists, &c.	68	49	Jan. 29	4	For reinstatement of four discharged workmen...	Agreement arrived at satisfactory to the parties.
Middlesbrough	Chemical Manure Makers	34	20	19	5	Dispute as to system of payment ...	New system agreed to.
Liverpool ...	Telephone Wiremen, Labourers, &c.	180	...	22	6	Against stoppage of payment for time lost through wet weather	Men's demands granted.
Manchester ...	Cigarmakers ...	23	2	15	17	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	A slight reduction agreed to on two classes of work.
Great Yarmouth	Engineers ...	29	...	26	...	For advance in wages of 3s. per week (in most cases from 30s. to 33s.)	Still unsettled.
London, E.C. ...	French Polishers ...	38	...	3	...	Against piecework ...	Still unsettled.
Southampton ...	Labourers (trainway construction)	190	...	11	3	For advance in wages from 5d. to 5½d. per hour	Work resumed at old wages.
Barnsley ...	Blastfurnacemen and Bessemer Steel Workers	200	400	4	1	For reinstatement of a workman alleged to have been victimised	Discharged man reinstated.
Sheff. ...	Pitwood Sawyers, Carriers, &c.	199	...	23	—	For advances in wages of 2s. per week to men, and 1s. to women, boys, and girls	Advances granted.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JANUARY, 1900, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

		4 Disputes.		METAL, ENGINEERING, &c., TRADES.		370 Workpeople affected.	
Hartlepool	Steel Smelters and Helpers	120	...	1899, Dec. 23	29	Refusal of men to revert from system of three 8 hours shifts to system of two 12 hours shifts	Work resumed on 8 hours system.
Middlesbrough	Steel Smelters and Gasproducers	26	...	Dec. 23	9	For advance in wages ...	Advance granted.
Warrington ...	Filesmiths, &c.	200	...	July 4	177	For adoption of revised price list, involving advance in wages of about 5 per cent.	Work resumed at old prices.
Bagillt ...	Red Lead Makers ...	24	...	Nov. 30	27	For advance in wages of 4s. per week ...	Most of the men resumed work at old rates.
		5 Disputes.		OTHER TRADES.		693 Workpeople affected.	
Narrow-on-Tyne	Cement Workers ...	46	4	Oct. 27	—	For dismissal of a foreman ...	Places of the strikers filled by non-union men.
Ferrbridge ...	Flat and Hollow-ware Pressers (Pottery)	19	...	Oct. 30	58	For alteration in system of payment ...	System of payment altered, and ten of the men reinstated.
London, W. ...	Tailors ...	226	...	Dec. 29	—	Refusal to accept price offered for making khaki uniforms	Work resumed, price to be fixed by committee specially appointed by associations of employers and workpeople
Merthyr ...	Coal Miners and Labourers	250	45	Sept. 23	78	Against reduction of 2d. per ton to meet cost of men working 5 days per week instead of 6 as formerly	Reduction withdrawn, union promising not to picket the pits on "idle" days.
Belshill (near) ...	Railway Excavators, &c.	103	...	Dec. 22	18	For advance in wages ...	Most of the men resumed work at old wages; others immediately replaced.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JANUARY.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

From the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in January, it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 1 Employers' Association, 6 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 3 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 5 Building Societies, 24 Friendly Societies, and 24 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during January. Four Trade Unions, 3 Industrial and Provident Societies, 17 Building Societies, and 20 Friendly Societies (including 9 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Railway Clerks' Association, 11, Bank Chambers, Doncaster; Hackney Municipal Labour Union, Elephant's Head Tavern, 43, Lower Clapton-road, N.E.; Mansfield Builders' Labourers Trade Society, Durham Ox Inn, Stockwell-gate, Mansfield; Sheffield and District Master Farriers Association, 49, Arundel-street, Sheffield, (Employers' Association). Scotland.—Aberdeen Steam Fishing Vessels' Engineers' and Firemen's Union, Belmont-street, Aberdeen; Scottish Ball Warp Brush Beamers' Society, 95, Gloucester-place, Burnbank Road, Hamilton. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Tramway Employees and Horsemen's Amalgamation Co-op. Coal Supply Soc., Ltd, 7, The Crescent, Salford, Manchester; West Bromwich Co-op. Soc. Ltd, 1, Walsall-st., West Bromwich; Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Dunraymond Co-op. Soc. Ltd, Drumalt, co. Monaghan. Tisara Co-op. Home Industries Ltd., Correal, co. Roscommon; North West Poultry Soc., Ltd., Lifford, co. Donegal; Toames Co-op. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Toames, co. Cork. (B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales. None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Draperstown Co-op. Agric.

and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Draperstown, co. Londonderry; Killen Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Killen, co. Tyrone; Eglishe Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Eglishe, co. Tyrone; (C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—High Fell Working Men's Club & Institute, Ltd., Club House, High Fell, Gateshead; Derby Road Land Soc., Sawley, Ltd., Baptist School Room, Sawley, Derby; Commercial Investment and Provident Soc., Ltd., 28, Exchange-street East, Liverpool. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 9; Dividing, 3; Collecting, 1; Specially Authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 4. Scotland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Ireland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Specially authorised, 3. (B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—20. Scotland.—4. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—4. Scotland.—1. Ireland.—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Amal. Rope and Twine Spinners and Dressers' Protection Soc.; Leeds and District Farriers' Protection Soc.; Leicester Farriers' Protection Soc. Scotland.—International Union of Cork Cutters. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Co-op. Land and House Purchase Provident Soc., Ltd., 14 and 15, Coleman-street, E.C. Scotland.—East of Fife United Co-op. Baking Soc., Ltd.; Blackford Co-op. Soc., Ltd. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 4; Dividing, 3; Branches, 1. Registration cancelled: Juvenile, 1; Specially Authorised, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 1; Branches, 8. Scotland.—By instrument of dissolution: None. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 1. Dissolved otherwise: None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 5; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; notice of termination of dissolution, 9. Scotland.—By instrument of dissolution, 2. Ireland.—None.

NOTE.—The registration of 196 Building Societies in England and Wales was cancelled in December. Of these, 150 were advertised in January, and 37 in February.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January the 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 2,151 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,976 in January, 1899, an increase of 175. Work was found during the month for 1,103 persons, of whom 616 (418 males and 198 females) were engaged by private employers, 197 by Local Authorities, and 290 males by the Salvation Army.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of January was 1,421, as against 1,612 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in January.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found Worked by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities. Rows include London, Provincial, and Total of 10 Bureaux.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during January, 1900.

Table with columns: Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities, Grand Total for 10 Bureaux. Sub-rows for Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of, Jan., 1900, Jan., 1899. Rows include Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls, Grand Total for 10 Bureaux.

NOTE.—A return received from the Dundee Labour Bureau states that there were 39 fresh applications for work in January, and that 34 persons found work through the bureau during the month.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of January was 333,825, corresponding to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1900.

Compared with December, 1899, there is an increase of 4,108 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of population. Twenty-eight of the districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in the Dublin district (20 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (13), Stockton and Tees (9), and Hull (8). In four districts the rates have decreased slightly, and in three districts there is no change.

Compared with January, 1899 the number relieved shows a decrease of 3,440, and the rate per 10,000 of population a decrease of 5. The rate has decreased in 26 districts, the most marked falling-off being in the Stockton and Tees district (30 per 10,000), Leicester and Bristol districts (28 each), Bradford (18), and Paisley and Greenock (14). Increased rates are shown in nine districts, the largest occurring in the Dublin district (22 per 10,000), West Ham (17), and Coatbridge and Airdrie (15).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of January, 1900, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with 1899. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND.

* The rates for January, 1900, and December, 1899, are based upon the estimated population in 1900, and the rate for January, 1899, upon the estimated population in 1899. † Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. ‡ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for January.

The trade returns for January, 1900, show an increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1899 in the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and also in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for January, 1900, were valued at £44,560,849, as compared with £41,216,606 in January, 1899, an increase of £3,344,243, or 8.1 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £39,066,147, as against £25,467,494 in January, 1899, an increase of £13,598,653, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £23,583,682 in January, 1900, and £20,347,234 in January, 1899, an increase of £3,236,448, or 15.9 per cent. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in January, 1900, shows an increase, as compared with 1899, of £3,205,072, or 7 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for January, 1900, as compared with January, 1899, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table with columns: Month ended Jan. 31st, 1899, 1900, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning, Substances, Materials for Manufactures, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles.

In articles of food and drink there is a net decrease in the value of corn imported of £856,311. Wheat alone has decreased by 1,070,070 cwt.s. in quantity, and £240,743 in value; wheat meal and flour by 743,854 cwt.s. in quantity, and £444,326 in value. Oats have increased by 111,500 cwt.s. in quantity, but have decreased by 1,434 in value. Maize or Indian corn shows an increase of 1,330 cwt.s. in quantity, and a decrease in value of £116,929.

With regard to other articles of food, fresh beef, and fresh mutton have increased by 191,088 cwt.s. in quantity and £371,795 in value; and rabbits, meat unenumerated, salted or fresh, and preserved otherwise than by salting; butter, margarine, cheese, farinaceous substances, fruit, poultry and game, spices (except cinnamon), sugar and vegetables, all show increased quantities and values. Fish has fallen off both in quantity and value. Among dutiable articles, tea shows an increase in quantity of 11,314,962 lbs., and in value of £447,232; cocoa, wine, brandy, and rum have also increased.

In raw materials for textile manufactures, raw cotton has decreased 1,649,756 cwt.s. in quantity, and £1,978,841 in value, while sheep or lamb's wool has decreased 10,784,914 lbs. in quantity, but increased £273,239 in value.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the value for January, 1900, as compared with January, 1899, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table with columns: Month ended Jan. 31st, 1899, 1900, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Animals living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals, and Machinery and Millwork.

The exports of coal, coke, and fuel show an increase of 55,189 tons in quantity, and £711,137 in value; and wool, sheep and lambs, shows an increase of 1,041,400 lbs. and £31,633.

The exports of cotton yarn show a decrease of 1,298,800 lbs. in

quantity, but an increase of £71,442 in value. Cotton piece-goods have increased 10,394,400 yards in quantity, and £356,290 in value, due in part to largely increased shipments to China and Japan.

Jute piece-goods and some manufactures of wool show decreases in quantities and in values, otherwise all articles coming under the heading of yarns and textile fabrics have increased.

Iron unwrought and wrought shows an increase of 123,218 tons in quantity, and £1,073,322 in value. Copper unwrought and wrought, brass and tin, have also increased, but telegraphic wires and apparatus show a falling off.

The exports of steam engines exceeded in value by £81,160 those of the corresponding month of 1899, while other descriptions of machinery increased by £31,964.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared With Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during January, 1900, amounted to 2,808,031 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,390,855 tons, as against 2,797,205 tons entered, and 3,305,107 tons cleared in January, 1899. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during January, 1900, with cargoes, amounted to 2,442,402 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,457,004 tons, as against 2,496,381 tons entered, and 2,504,828 tons cleared in January, 1899.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January 695 fresh applications for work were registered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns, and 934 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 178 persons, of whom 108 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during January:—

Table with columns: No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers, Permanently, Temporarily. Rows include Central Bureau, Society for Promoting Training and Employment, Y. W. C. A., Other Bureaux, Total of 8 Bureaux.

Summary by Occupations.

Table with columns: Superintendents, Forewomen, etc., Shop Assistants, Dressmakers, Milliners, etc., Secretaries, Clerks, Typists, Apprentices and Learners, Domestic Servants, Miscellaneous. Rows include Total Number in January, 1900, Total Number in December, 1899, Total Number in January, 1899.

The applications for domestic servants rose from 364 in December, 1899, to 745 in January, 1900, the number of servants applying also rising from 196 to 350, and the number engaged through the bureaux from 80 to 108. The demand for dressmakers and milliners rose from 22 to 63, and the supply rose from 33 to 86, and the number engaged through the bureaux from 16 to 21. At the Central Bureau 40 out of 62 applicants required situations as superintendents or secretaries, and at the Society for the Employment of Women 20 out of 31 required similar posts. At the Y.W.C.A. business agency out of the 129 applicants 80 wanted situations as dressmakers, 26 as secretaries, &c., and 15 as shop assistants. At the Manchester Gentlewomen's Employment Bureau 42 out of the 48 applicants wanted situations as domestic helps, nurses, &c.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during January was 9,594, as compared with 8,652 in January, 1899.

British and Irish.—Of the 9,594 passengers in January, 5,563 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 398 as compared with a year ago, the most noticeable decrease being in the number proceeding to South Africa, which, however, is partly balanced by an increase in the number of those going to the United States.

The following table gives the figures for January, 1899 and 1900:—

Destination.	January 1900.	January 1899.
United States	2,891	2,399
British North America	184	359
Australasia	684	716
South Africa	850	1,458
Other Places	954	1,038
Total	5,563	5,961

Foreign.—The remainder of the 9,594 passengers, viz., 4,031, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,340 more than in January, 1899. Of the 4,031 foreign, &c., passengers, 2,658 were bound for the United States, as compared with 1,510 in January, 1899.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during January was 5,734; of these, 1,609 were stated to be *en route* to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 542 as compared with January, 1899. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,125*, or 466 more than a year ago. The figures for January, 1900, and 1899, are as follows:—

	January, 1900.	January, 1899.
Aliens not stated to be <i>en route</i> to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	4,125*	3,659*
Aliens <i>en route</i> to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	1,609	1,067
Total	5,734*	4,726*

OLD-AGE RELIEF IN DENMARK.

The most recent figures regarding the distribution of the old-age relief provided by the Danish Law of April 9th, 1891, are contained in the Abstract recently issued by the Government Statistical Bureau in Copenhagen.† They show the total number of persons in receipt of permanent relief under the Law in Denmark (exclusive of the Faroe Islands) to have been 54,288 at the end of 1897 (compared with 52,930 at the end of 1896). These figures include 15,240 persons (compared with 14,955 in 1896) dependent on heads of families. For the three years, 1895-7, the mean number of persons (*other than those depending on heads of families*) in receipt of permanent relief under the law was equivalent to 19.5 per cent. of the total population over 60 years of age.

Temporary relief was granted to 417 persons in 1897 (compared with 425 in 1896).

The total cost of relief under the law was £232,747 in 1897, the State paying £117,220 and the Local Authorities (Communes) £115,527.

Excluding those dependent on heads of families, the average value of the relief granted in the year to each person assisted was £6 1s. 9d. in 1897 (compared with £5 17s. 4d. in 1896). The value of the relief granted differs considerably as between town and country. Thus, for Copenhagen, the average for 1897 was £8 12s. 2d., while for rural communes it was £5 4s. 4d. A full account of this Law, together with statistics of its operation prior to the year 1896, will be found in the Report of the Labour Department on Provision for Old Age Abroad (C. 9414).

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,258 in January, 1900, and 1,183 in January, 1899.
† Statistisk Aarbog, 4de Aargang 1899. Copenhagen: Gyldendal Bookselling Establishment.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JANUARY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions.	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:				
Neglecting to Limewash	2	2	5 0 0	0 6 4
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	5	5	12 0 6	2 15 0
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, or to work between fixed and traversing parts of a machine in motion	2	2	0 10 0	1 5 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	27	27	14 10 6	9 14 11
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour	63	63	40 10 0	15 13 7
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	36	34	4 9 6	10 0 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	12	12	2 5 0	1 2 0
At night	11	11	19 0 0	6 11 0
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	1	1	0 5 0	0 6 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers	15	15	13 16 0	4 15 11
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	2	2	0 15 0	1 3 6
Not sending Notices required by Act	5	5	9 10 0	1 17 3
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty	2	2	5 0 0	1 3 6
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	6	6	2 1 6	1 18 0
Prosecutions under Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889	1	—	—	—
By Workmen:				
Employment before or after legal hours	7	7	7 0 0	1 18 6
Making false entry in register	1	1	1 0 0	0 14 0
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty	1	1	2 0 0	0 14 0
Total for January, 1900	199	196	139 13 0	62 3 8
Total for January, 1899	245	242	201 12 10	125 5 10

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Ventilation	1	—	—	1	—
Shafts and Manholes	1	—	—	1	—
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps	1	1	—	—	1 4 6
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	—	—	2 11 0
Timbering	5	3	—	2	4 1 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	2	2*	—	—	0 9 6
Riding on Trams	8	8	—	—	5 15 0
Miscellaneous	9	9	—	—	10 0 6
Total for Jan., 1900	29	25	—	4	21 1 6
Total for Jan., 1899	42	41	—	1	63 7 6
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	2	2	—	—	1 4 0
Fencing	1	1	—	—	1 18 6
Other Special Rules	4	1	3†	—	3 14 6
Total for Jan., 1900	7	4	3	—	6 17 6
Total for Jan., 1899	10	10	—	—	12 1 0

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:				
Excessive Deck Cargo	2	2	10 0 0	0 14 6
Carrying Passengers without a Certificate	2	2	10 0 0	2 0 0
Submersion of Disc	1	1	10 0 0	—
By Seamen:				
False name of last ship	2	2	2 0 0	8 0 0
By Boarding-House Keepers and Others				
	5	5	18 0 0	15 15 0
Total for Jan., 1900	12	12	50 0 0	28 9 6
Total for Jan., 1899	5	5	33 0 0	7 19 8

* In one case, the defendant was sentenced to 20 days imprisonment.
† On payment of costs.