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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER.*

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

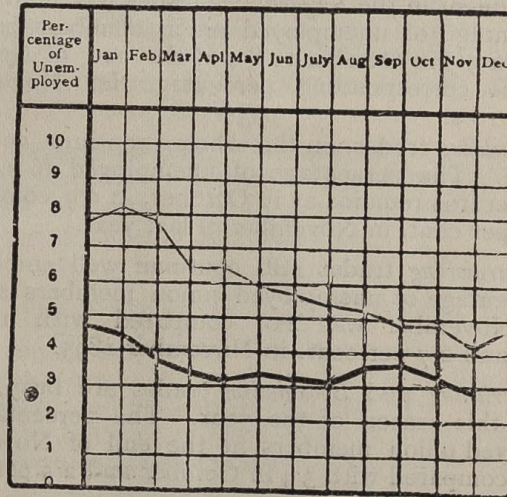
In all the more important industries the upward tendency of the labour market has continued during November. The trade union returns show a diminished proportion of unemployed both when compared with October and the corresponding period of last year, the percentage being lower than at any period since June 1891. All the changes of wages recorded during the month were in an upward direction.

In the 111 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 439,659, making returns, 12,912 (or 2.9 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of November, compared with 3.3 per cent. in October, and with 4.3 per cent. in the 88 unions, with a membership of 396,495, from which returns were received for November 1895.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1895, and of each completed month of 1896.

[The thick line applies to 1896, the thin line to 1895.]



The proportions of unemployed in the 111 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	80	319,020
3 and under 5 per cent.	17	48,078
5 and under 7 per cent.	6	25,380
7 and under 10 per cent.	2	40,767
10 per cent. and upwards	6	6,414

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry again improved in November, the improvement taking place in nearly every district. The average number of days worked per week at pits employing 404,648 workpeople was 5.31, compared with 5.02 in October and 5.08 in November 1895. Unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted, at the end of November,

* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of November, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between November 30th and December 15th.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—GENERAL SUMMARY.

to 1.4 per cent. of the membership, as against 1.6 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 2.0 per cent. at the end of November 1895.

Iron Mining.—Employment was very good during November. At 128 mines and open works the 16,375 workpeople employed worked an average of 5.84 days per week, as compared with 5.73 days both in October and in November 1895. The number employed was higher by about 4 per cent. than a year ago.

In the **Pig Iron Industry** employment has continued much the same, and is still considerably better than a year ago. At the end of November the ironmasters making returns had 346 furnaces in blast, and were employing 22,379 workpeople, or 1 furnace and 24 workpeople more than at the end of October, and 17 more furnaces and 1,322 more workpeople than a year ago.

Employment at **Steelworks** at the end of November was better, both as compared with the previous month and a year ago. At 130 works making returns, 37,173 workpeople were employed, as compared with 36,742 at the end of October and 31,761 at the end of November 1895.

At **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** employment has improved as compared with October, and stands at the same level as a year ago, the number employed at 91 works being 18,047 at the end of November, 17,745 in October and 18,073 in November 1895.

In the **Tinplate** trade employment was considerably disturbed, pending arrangements with regard to advances in wages, and at the end of the month only 42 works were giving full employment, compared with 52 a month ago. Altogether 261 mills were reported as working at the end of the month, as compared with 322 at the end of October.

In the **Engineering** and kindred trades a still further improvement in the state of employment is shown; the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of November being only 2.0, compared with 2.3 in October. In November 1895 the percentage was 4.7.

Employment in the **Shipbuilding** trades has improved, the percentage of unemployed union members having fallen from 9.5 in October to 8.4 at the end of November. The corresponding percentage for November 1895 was 10.2.

The **Building** trades, on the whole, continue actively employed. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns remains as in October, at 0.9, compared with 2.1 per cent. in November of last year.

The **Furnishing** trades still continue well employed. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of November was 2.0, compared with 1.7 in October and 2.7 per cent. in November 1895.

The **Printing** and **Bookbinding** trades are busy, as is usual at this season of the year. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of November was 2.3, compared with 3.4 in October and 2.5 per cent. in November of last year.

In the **Paper** trade employment on the whole continues steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of November was 3.0, compared with 2.8 in October, and 6.2 per cent. in November 1895.

Employment in the **Glass** trade remains slack, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of November being 12.7, compared with 13.1 in October, and 8.7 per cent. in November of last year.

In the **Leather** trade employment has continued to improve, the percentage of unemployed having fallen from 3.1 in October to 2.8 at the end of November. The percentage for November 1895 was 2.3.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade has declined in most of the principal centres. In the bespoke branch it continues fairly good.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade shows a decline, and is slack in most centres; in the bespoke branch it is fair.

Employment in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade continues moderate; in the **Weaving** branch it is slack.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade is fairly good, and in the **Worsted** trade has improved.

In the **Hosiery** trade employment is slack in most branches, though good in others.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 504 mills, employing about 83,000 women and girls, shows that 76 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 77 per cent. among those from whom returns were received for October; 23 per cent. in mills giving only partial employment or running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month. The decline took place in the cotton trade, the **Woollen** and **Worsted** trades showing an improvement.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—In London employment again improved, the average number of labourers employed daily in the docks and principal wharves being 16,434, as compared with 15,848 in October, and 15,341 in November 1895.

Agriculture.—The state of agricultural employment was generally satisfactory throughout the month of November, the weather being favourable for outdoor employment. Reports of irregular employment are comparatively few, and in no case of a serious character.

Trade Disputes.—In November 65 fresh disputes occurred, involving about 15,000 persons, as compared with 55, involving about 11,000 in October, and 38, involving about 12,000 persons in November 1895. Thirteen disputes took place in the mining and quarrying group, 12 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 10 in the miscellaneous metal trades, 6 each in building and clothing trades, and 9 each in the textile trades and the miscellaneous group of industries. Of the 60 new and old disputes reported as settled, which involved upwards of 13,000 workpeople, 35 involving about 4,700 persons, were successful to the workpeople; 14 involving about 2,300 persons, to the employers, and 6, involving 6,590 persons, were compromised; in 5 cases, involving 631 persons, the result was indefinite.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during November were all increases. The total number of workpeople affected is 103,000, and the average amount of the increase per head is estimated at 1s. 9d. per week. In the principal centres of the finished iron trade 31,000 workpeople received an advance. 45,000 coal miners in West Scotland have secured an advance of 6d. and 9,000 an advance of 4d. per day. Nearly 4,000 workpeople in the engineering and shipbuilding industries and 3,500 nailmakers have secured increases. During November 6,768 workpeople in the tinplate trade have obtained advances of 5, 10 or 15 per cent. Advances affecting 31,000 workpeople were determined under sliding scales. Advances involving about 8,000 persons were preceded or accompanied by strikes. Other increases involving 64,000 workpeople were settled by negotiation or mutual arrangement, or were voluntarily conceded by employers.

Pauperism.—In 35 selected urban districts 330,108 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of November. These figures correspond to a rate of 213 per 10,000 of the population of those districts, or 6 more per 10,000 than in October last, but 5 less per 10,000 than in November 1895.

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during November for places out of Europe was 8,830, as compared with 11,388 in November 1895.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

II.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN NOVEMBER.

(NOTE.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound 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.)

Summary.—Employment in this industry again improved in November. The improvement took place in nearly every district and in all classes of pits, except those producing coking coal, which however still gave better employment than any other class of pit.

Returns received respecting 1,296 pits, employing 404,648 persons, show that during the four weeks ended November 28th an average of 5.31 days * per week was worked, as compared with 5.02 days in October, and 5.08 days in November 1895. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Nov. 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per week in four weeks ending		
		28th Nov. 1896.	30th Nov. 1895.	24th Oct. 1896.
England and Wales	371,064	5.30	5.04	4.99
Scotland	32,956	5.40	5.41	5.36
Ireland	628	5.36	4.59	4.88
United Kingdom	404,648	5.31	5.08	5.02

The following table gives the average number of days worked at pits in which the coal raised was chiefly of the class named.

Description of Coal.	Number of days worked per week.		Increase(+) or Decrease (-) in Nov.
	November.	October.	
Coking Coal	5.49	5.63	-1.14
Gas "	5.47	5.17	+0.30
House "	5.36	4.97	+0.39
Manufacturing Coal	5.38	5.30	+0.08
Steam "	5.20	4.94	+0.26
Mixed "	5.31	4.93	+0.38
All Classes of Coal	5.31	5.02	+0.29

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed, it will be seen that 75.9 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, a proportion that compares very favourably with that for October and for November 1895, when 62.5 per cent. and 65.6 per cent. respectively were employed in such pits.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	November 1896.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	November 1895.	October 1896.
24 days (full time) ...	61,877	15.3	12.0	9.4
20 and under 24 days ...	245,303	60.6	53.6	53.1
16 " " 20 " ...	78,903	19.5	24.1	25.0
12 " " 16 " ...	14,522	3.6	7.0	9.4
8 " " 12 " ...	2,635	0.7	1.6	2.2
Under 8 days ...	1,408	0.3	1.7	1.9
Total	404,648	100.0	100.0	100.0

The number of workpeople now employed at pits covered by returns is greater by 4,016 than a year ago, there being increases in England and Wales and Ireland of 6,286 and 65 respectively, and a decrease of 2,335 in Scotland.

Comparison by Districts.—The greatest improvement in the time worked as compared with a year ago is in the small Irish district, amounting to about three-quarters of a day. In three other districts there has been an improvement of over half a day, viz.—in

* Allowance is made in all the calculations for short days.

Staffordshire, Cumberland, and Salop, Worcester and Warwick. In the Lothians, the time worked was the same as last year, and in Fife, Nottingham, and Leicester, and Northumberland it was less than last year.

The two districts last-named, were the only districts in which an average of less than five days per week was worked. In no less than six districts the average exceeded five and a half days. These were Salop, Worcester and Warwick (5.71), Cumberland (5.63), the Lothians (5.58), Durham (5.57), Staffordshire and West Scotland (5.51 each).

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN NOVEMBER 1896 AND 1895, AND IN OCTOBER 1896.

District.*	No. employed in Nov. 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per Week in four weeks ending		
		28th Nov. 1896.	30th Nov. 1895.	24th Oct. 1896.
(a) Districts in which November 1896 exceeds November 1895.				
Ireland	628	5.36	4.59	4.88
Staffordshire	23,503	5.51	4.89	5.15
Cumberland	6,028	5.63	5.05	5.38
Salop, Warwick and Worcester	7,286	5.71	5.19	5.41
Gloucester and Somerset	8,303	5.42	4.94	4.98
North Wales	10,564	5.42	4.95	4.91
Derbyshire	29,051	5.26	4.85	4.64
Yorkshire	42,471	5.31	4.92	4.97
South Wales and Monmouth	62,027	5.31	5.00	5.04
Lancashire and Cheshire	45,527	5.31	5.13	5.02
West Scotland	18,430	5.51	5.36	5.55
Durham	81,695	5.57	5.44	5.35
Total and averages for group ...	336,013	5.41	5.08	5.12
(b) District in which November 1896 is the same as November 1895.				
The Lothians	3,052	5.58	5.58	5.46
(c) Districts in which November 1896 is less than November 1895.				
Nottingham and Leicester ...	23,055	4.48	4.64	4.01
Northumberland	31,054	4.81	5.11	4.67
Fife	11,474	5.18	5.48	5.02
Total and averages for group ...	65,583	4.76	4.95	4.98
Grand Total and Averages ...	404,648	5.31	5.08	5.02

The percentage of **unemployed** miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted to 1.4 per cent. at the end of November, as against 1.6 per cent. at the end of October and 2.0 per cent. at the end of November 1895.

Exports of Coal.—The quantity of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel exported during November was 2,715,375 tons, as compared with 3,056,735 tons in October and 2,740,165 tons in November 1895.

The percentage of **unemployed** miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted to 1.4 per cent. at the end of November, as against 1.6 per cent. at the end of October and 2.0 per cent. at the end of November 1895.

Exports of Coal.—The quantity of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel exported during November was 2,715,375 tons, as compared with 3,056,735 tons in October and 2,740,165 tons in November 1895.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN NOVEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was very good during November. The average number of days worked was higher than in October or a year ago, and amounted to nearly full time. The number of workpeople employed is more by about 4 per cent. than a year ago.

At 128 iron mines and open works included in the returns an average of 5.84 days per week was worked during the four weeks ended November 28th, as compared with an average of 5.73 days both in October and in November 1895. The only serious falling off was in Scotland, where at the 6 mines included in the returns the average time worked was less by half a day than in October. The number employed at the 128 mines and open works was 16,375 at the end of the period dealt with, or 657 more than at the corresponding period of 1895. Of these workpeople, 67.1 per cent. were employed full time, and 98.7 per cent. five or more days per week. This latter figure compares favourably with a percentage of 91.1 in October, and 93.5 in November of last year.

* The coal districts are arranged according to the differences in the number of days worked in November 1896 and November 1895.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

than the demand at nearly all ports. At Newcastle the supply of seamen was short; at Middlesbrough considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining both seamen and firemen; and at Dublin seamen for sailing vessels were scarce.

Particulars of the increases which have taken place during the month in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen at Middlesbrough, Bristol, Cardiff and Leith will be found on page 384.

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 November 1896 and 1895 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the eleven months ended 30th November in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in November 1896.			Total in Nov. 1896.	Total number shipped in 11 months ended November.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Nov. 1896.		1896.	1895.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	32	2,539	2,571	2,388	33,870	33,224
Sunderland	...	411	487	6,624	7,067	6,029
Middlesbrough	...	292	292	307	5,515	6,029
Hull	...	1,098	1,068	1,742	13,409	17,863
Grimsby	...	40	40	87	1,148	1,573
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	7	223	260	2,637	2,198	2,198
Newport, Mon.	12	1,057	1,069	1,077	12,297	12,002
Cardiff	181	4,868	5,049	4,672	58,183	55,581
Swansea	59	387	446	554	6,907	6,846
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	265	9,571	9,836	8,704	108,447	105,897
London	287	5,575	5,862	5,352	66,520	61,363
Southampton	...	1,364	1,364	1,490	14,579	16,029
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	...	574	574	693	7,914	7,874
Glasgow	94	2,078	2,172	1,710	24,924	23,090
IRELAND.						
Dublin	...	45	45	3	748	390
Belfast	21	151	172	204	2,012	1,622
Total Nov. 1896	988	30,303	31,261	...	365,764	...
Ditto, Nov. 1895	1,214	27,879	...	29,093	...	352,645

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN NOVEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT for dock labourers again improved in November, an increase in the average daily number employed having gradually taken place from the first week of the month to the last. The increase was in a great measure due to the wool sales and the large importation of dried fruits and grain, and was most marked in the week ending 21st November. At the wharves there was also a small increase in the number of labourers employed, and several of the principal wharves worked overtime or longer hours than usual.

The average daily number of labourers employed at all the docks, and at 113 of the principal wharves, during the five weeks ended November 28th was 16,434, or 586 more than during the four preceding weeks, and 1,093 more than a year ago. The estimated daily number at work varied from 14,814 on November 3rd to 18,559 on the 28th.

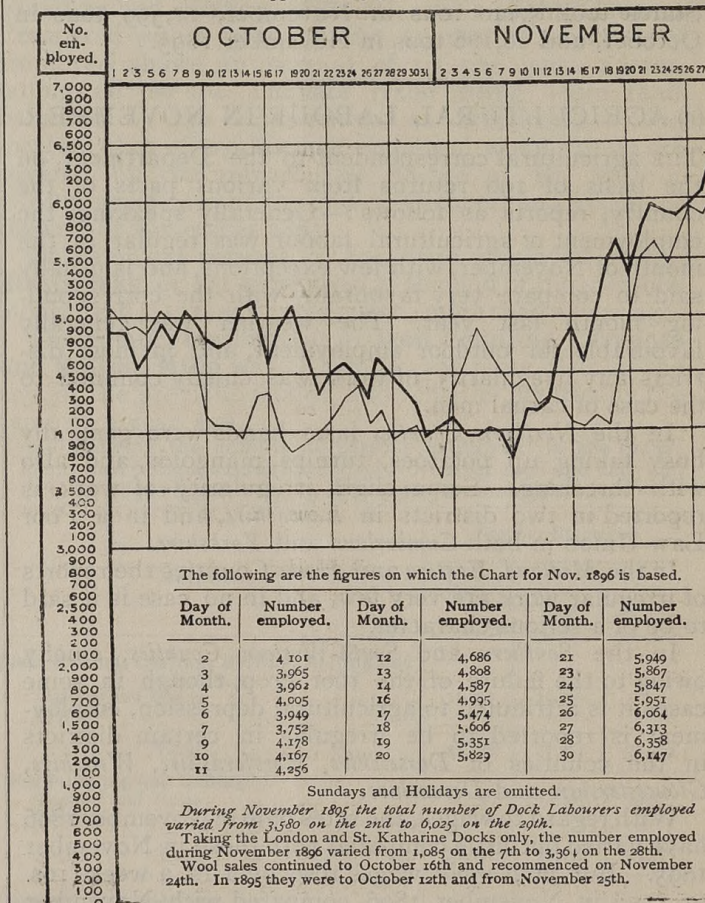
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 113 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of November	7,205	2,200	9,405	6,375	15,780
2nd " "	7,187	1,606	8,793	6,153	14,946
3rd " "	7,389	2,197	9,586	6,378	15,964
4th " "	9,131	1,824	10,955	6,508	17,463
5th " "	9,756	1,914	11,670	6,344	18,014
Average for 5 weeks ending Nov. 28, 1896	8,134	1,948	10,082	6,352	16,434
Average for 5 weeks ending Nov. 30, 1895	7,545	1,679	9,224	6,217	15,341
Average for 4 weeks ending Oct. 24, 1896	7,630	1,924	9,554	6,294	15,848

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

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during October and November is shown on the chart below. The numbers in November ranged from 3,752 on the 7th to 6,358 on the 28th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers* employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of October and November 1896. The corresponding curve for October and November 1895 is also given for comparison.
[The thick curve applies to 1896, and the thin curve to 1895.]



Employment in mid-stream ha men have been fairly employed, stevedores and lumpers busy. Coal porters have been fairly well employed, corn porters in the Millwall and Surrey docks busy, and deal porters fairly employed, with some decline towards the end of the month.

Owing to the commencement of the orange season the fruit porters in Thames Street have been busy. The daily average number of men employed has been 381, as compared with an average of 351 for October.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN NOVEMBER.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women in the cotton trade during November again showed a decline. In the woollen and worsted trade employment improved. Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 504 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, which is summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate Number of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage for Nov.	Percentage for Oct.
Full time	407	63,510	76	77
Dicto, but partial employment	48	11,670	14	9
Short time	44	7,330	9	13
Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, and other causes...	5	530	1	1
Total	504	83,040	100	100

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 65,920. Of

* Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

these 77 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 79 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in October); 13 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 9 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 12,450. Of these 80 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 73 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in October); 15 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; and 5 per cent in mills running short time.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—A steady improvement in most branches of industry has continued during November. Returns from 400 branches of 104 unions, with an aggregate membership of 70,549, show that 1,887 (or 2.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of November, compared with 3.2 per cent. for October and 2.8 per cent. for the 80 trade unions making returns in November 1895.

The **Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding** trades remain well employed. Reports from 116 branches of 24 unions, with a membership of 22,216, show that 731 (or 3.3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of November, compared with 3.5 per cent. in October and 4.7 per cent. in November of last year.

The **Building** trades—the painters and decorators excepted—are still busy. Reports from 181 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 11,081, show that 132 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of November, compared with 1.7 per cent. in October and 1.2 per cent. in November 1895. The bricklayers, millawyers and stonecarvers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; the stonemasons and plumbers as moderate; and the painters and decorators as dull.

Employment in the **Furnishing** trades, though still good, has been to some extent affected by an East End dispute. Reports from 35 branches of 9 unions, with a membership of 5,510, show that 111 (or 2.0 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 1.2 per cent. in October and 2.2 per cent. in November 1895.

The **Coopers** remain busy. Two societies, with a membership of 960, report less than 1.0 per cent. unemployed as in October and also in November 1895.

The **Coachbuilding** trades remain well employed. Reports from 12 branches of 9 unions, with a membership of 1,243, show that 32 (or 2.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.4 in October and 3.7 per cent. in November of last year.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades, owing to seasonal causes, have still further improved. Reports from 19 unions, with a membership of 20,556, show that 303 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.9 in October and 1.4 per cent. in November 1895.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade has been good; in the East End bespoke trade dull; in the West End bespoke trade fair at the commencement, but dull at the end of the month; the mantle trade has been slack; the hat trade exceedingly dull; the cap trade moderate; the fur skin dressers have been slack; the furriers busy.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The machine branch remains quiet; the high-class bespoke branch fairly good; the slipper trade busy.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has improved. Returns from 5 societies, with a membership of 1,331, show that 16 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.4 in October and 1.5 per cent. in November 1895.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in these trades is scarcely so good. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,594, show that 86 (or 4.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.9 in October and 4.4 per cent. in November of last year.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—Employment in these trades continues good. Returns from 6 societies with a membership of 1,004 show that 18 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, as in October. The percentage for November 1895 was 2.1.

The **Gold and Silver** trades are not quite so brisk. Reports from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,109, show that 15 (or 1.4

per cent.) were unemployed, compared with less than 1.0 per cent. in October, and also in November of last year.

The **Tobacco** trades have continued to improve and are now fairly busy. Reports from 3 societies, with a membership of 2,092, show that 60 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.0 in October, and 3.1 per cent. in November 1895.

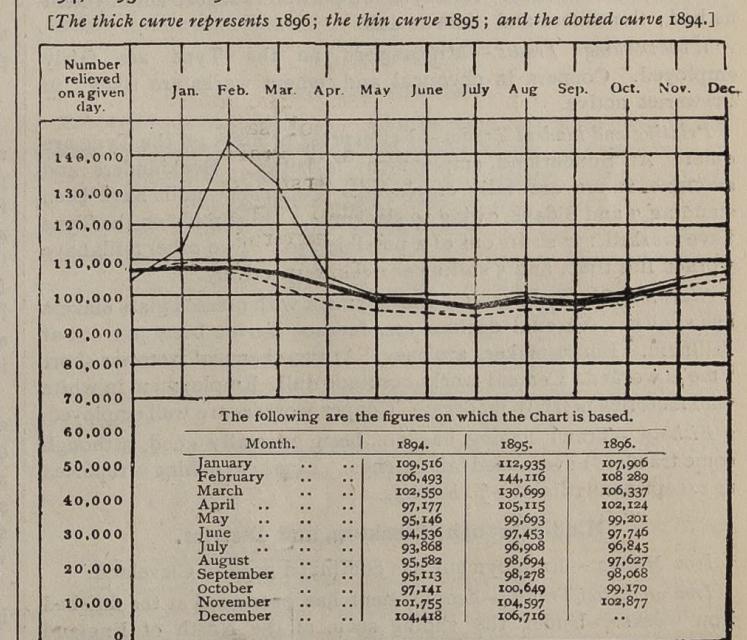
Shipping and Dock Labour.—The improvement in employment continued during November. An average daily number of 16,434 was employed during the five weeks ended November 28th at the docks and principal wharves. Workers in mid-stream, stevedores, lumpers and fruit porters have had good employment, and coal porters, corn porters and deal porters fair employment. For further details see p. 358.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Three fresh disputes have been reported as occurring during the month, viz., two in the furnishing and one in the basket-making trades, involving in all about 228 persons. The cab dispute on the "privilege" system, referred to in the GAZETTE for October and November, remained unsettled at the close of the month, when about 720 drivers were said to be directly involved. On the 30th November a conference of cab proprietors and cab drivers was held to draw up a scheme for settlement. The conference was adjourned until December 7th.

Labour Bureaux.—The six London bureaux which furnished returns for both November 1896 and 1895 registered 1,298 fresh applications for work during November, being 85 less than in November of last year. Work was found during the month through these bureaux for 684 persons (384 being engaged by private employers and 300 by local authorities) as compared with 1,760 (1,357 by private employers and 403 by local authorities) in November 1895.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on the last day the second week of November was 102,877. This is an increase of 3,707 on the number relieved on the corresponding day of October. As compared with November 1895, there was a decrease in all the Metropolitan districts, except the Western, which showed a slight increase. The total decrease amounted to 1,720.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1894, 1895 and 1896:—



The number of vagrants in London on one day in the second week in November was 1,121, as compared with 1,279 in November 1895.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 8,581 in November, 8,477 in October, and 8,965 in November 1895.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—**Northumberland.**—The collieries continue working much the same as in October. Steam coal pits have averaged about 4.50 days per week, and house coal pits 5.40 days per week, as against 4.20 and 5.43 respectively in October. There were 55 (or 0.17 per cent.) unemployed union miners in receipt of stoppage pay at the end of November. **Durham.**—Gas coal pits are busy, and house and steam coal collieries are better employed. Several coking-coal pits, however, have worked slack time. Returns from 72 collieries,

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

employing about 45,000 men and boys, show an average of 5.46 days worked per week, compared with 5.25 in October. Of the 58,228 union miners, 1,056 (or 1.8 per cent.) are idle owing to bad trade, as against 2.2 per cent. in October. In addition, 256 miners are idle through other causes.

Metal Mining.—Employment at the ironstone mines has improved, full time being now worked. Lead mining is reported about the same as in October.

Quarrying.—Two quarries at Gateshead are slack, 14 men having been discharged. The whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale and at Blyth are working full time. Limestone quarries in the Stanhope district are steadily employed, with the exception of two that are working 5 days per week.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Work in the engine shops continues brisk, and locomotive builders are steadily employed. All branches of trade at the ordnance works continue active. Boiler shops are busy. Several men have started work at two yards hitherto slack. At Blyth ship repairing continues dull. Branches of these trades, with 10,848 members, have 550 (or 5.1 per cent.) idle, as against 490 (or 4.6 per cent. of their membership) in October. On the Wear.—Most of the engine shops are busy; three are working double shift. There is a good demand for turners and machine men. Of the 458 union pattern-makers, 1 is unemployed. In the shipyards employment is fuller. Branches of the iron shipbuilding and engineering trades, with 4,220 union members, have 309 (or 9.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 511 (or 12.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Joiners (house and ship) are fully employed on both rivers. Stern frame makers and other forgemen have much work in hand. Sailmakers, with 25 per cent. idle, report employment as fallen off. Shipwrights on the Wear are not so busy, having 200 of their members idle. Steel smelting shops and plate and angle mills continue on full time. The iron plate mills at Consett have worked 5 shifts per week.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen have been in fair demand. Coal porters and shippers report improvement all round. Riverside labourers have had good employment except at Blyth. Trimmers and teamers report employment as good.

Building Trades.—On the Wear masons are dull. The bricklayers have about 4 per cent. of their members idle. In Newcastle and district work is busier. At Blyth the plasterers report employment as bad; the slaters and tilers as dull.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers on the Tyne are fairly employed. Coopers in chemical and cement works are slack; in breweries active.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers on the Tyne are quiet. At Sunderland employment is better. Bookbinders and machine rulers are fully employed. Two paper mills have been standing 7 and 8 days, owing to slackness. Five mills on the Tyne have worked 137 shifts out of a possible 230. Two other mills have worked full time, and 5 shifts per week, respectively.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Employment with pressed glass makers has shown a seasonal decline, one furnace having been put out at Millfield. Bottle-makers are busy. At two chemical factories short time is worked. Cement works continue dull. Employment in white lead factories is fairly moderate. Copper workers are well employed.

Fishing.—Trawl fishing has not been generally good, although some trawlers have landed fair catches. Line boat fishing is reported as exceptionally light.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—Employment has continued good in Cleveland.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment has been good at the finished iron works. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Conciliation and Arbitration Board there will be an advance of wages for the next two months of 3d. per ton for puddling, and 2½ per cent. in other rates. Steel works, blast furnaces, foundries and bridge works have been well employed.

Engineering.—Employment has improved at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, where it is exceptionally good. At Stockton and Darlington it is practically unchanged. The moulders and pattern-makers report employment as good. Copper-smiths and brass-finishers are not busy. Branches of engineers, ironfounders and pattern-makers, with 3,129 union members, report 44 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 61 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipbuilding.—Employment at Hartlepool, Stockton and Thornaby is improving. At Middlesbrough it is not quite so brisk. The shipjoiners report employment as good; the smiths and strikers as fairly good.

Building Trades.—All branches report employment as good for the season, with few idle.

Dock Labour.—Dock and riverside labour has been fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as fair at Hartlepool, and moderate at Stockton and Middlesbrough; the tailors as slack at Hartlepool, and quiet elsewhere; the salt-workers as steady.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the spinning industry shows a slight improvement, and is reported as being moderate in Oldham and the adjoining districts, as well as in Rochdale, Stalybridge and Mossley; as slack in Ashton-under-Lyne; and fairly good in Stockport. Out of 9,144 union members, 250 (or 2.7 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, as against 308 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. One large firm in Stalybridge is working short time. The Oldham cardroom operatives, with a membership of 10,918, have 276 (or 2.5 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, and in Mossley, out of 890 union members, 70 are on unemployed benefit through the stoppage of a mill. The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as slack in the velvet trade, and as moderate in the calico trade; as slack in plain reeling and winding, and good in fancy reeling and sectional warping. Ring spinners and twiners are fairly well employed.

Woollen Trade.—Employment is reported as slightly improved in the Rochdale district; it is fair in Milnrow, and good in Stockport full time being worked in these districts.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, with 2,286 members, report employment as moderate, and 35 (or 1.5 per cent.) as on unemployed benefit, as against 42 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The pattern-makers, machine-makers and ironfounders report employment as fair; the brass-founders, tinplate workers, gas meter-makers and irongrinders as good; the spindle and flyer makers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with plasterers and plumbers; as moderate with bricklayers and carpenters and joiners, and slack with painters. Out of 836 union members, there are none on unemployed benefit.

Coal Mining.—Employment is reported as fair in Ashton, Oldham and Royton, and moderate in Shaw, the time worked being 6 days per week at three collieries, and 4 days at two others.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment in the early part of the month in Bolton showed increased activity, but the tendency at present is to curtail production, although all mills are working full time. Employment is reported as moderately good in Bolton and immediate district; as not so brisk in Bury; as normal in Chorley. Cardroom operatives are moderately well employed in Bolton; in Bury fewer are unemployed. Weaving.—Employment is somewhat irregular in Bolton; in Bury a large number of looms are standing for warps; in Chorley employment has slightly improved.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The metal trades are abnormally active in most branches, some firms working double shifts. The engineers report employment as never better; the machine-makers are also fairly brisk. In Bury the engineers are reported as active. In Wigan the engineers report employment as busy, steel-smelters as particularly brisk, iron roller makers and puddlers as worse. In Chorley engineering has improved.

Coal Mining.—Employment in Bolton and district and in Wigan is slightly better, with fewer unemployed.

Building Trades.—In Bolton employment is reported as not so good. Branches of masons, bricklayers and joiners in Bolton, Bury and Wigan, with 930 members, have 32 (or 3.4 per cent.) on the out-of-work books. Plumbers, bricklayers, plasterers and plasterers' labourers are fairly well employed. In Chorley employment is reported as inactive; in Wigan and Bury as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers, paper-makers, stampmakers carters, and gasworkers are reported as fairly busy.—*R. Toottill.*

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment in this branch is far from satisfactory; in almost every district short time is being worked, looms being stopped for warps in some factories, and work going on by daylight only in others. In Blackburn a number of looms are stopped for warps; in Burnley some 4,000 looms are entirely stopped for various causes, whilst upwards of 30,000 are only working daylight. In Darwen it is estimated that the number

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE (continued).

working daylight is 3,300, together with a number stopped for warps. In Nelson 6,000 looms are working short time, and in Colne 4,000. In Preston employment is bad, several mills working short time. In the hardwaste trade employment is still good, with continued overtime. Warp-dressers are only moderately employed. The looming and drawing industry is very unsettled, a number of union members being on short time in most of the weaving centres. Winding and warping is also slack, consequent on the lessened production from the looms. Spinning.—Employment in this branch of trade in the Darwen, Blackburn and Accrington districts continues fair. Cardroom-workers in the several localities are moderately well employed. Branches of cotton-spinners in Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington, twistors and drawers in Blackburn and Burnley, and warp-dressers in Nelson and district, with 2,951 members, return 134 (or 4.5 per cent.) as unemployed. Calico printers and dyers are well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment in the various branches continues fair for the season with masons, bricklayers and joiners, a number of the latter working overtime. Painters are not over busy. Plumbers are reported to be well engaged.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The several branches of these trades are fairly good, especially in the moulding, machine fitting and erecting shops, full time being worked in all branches.

Coal Mining.—Miners in the Accrington, Burnley and Townley districts are mostly working full time, with the exception of the men at two pits, who are still on short time.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarrymen report employment as moderate. Letterpress printers are fully employed. Employment in the slipper trade in the Rossendale district is reported as fair.

W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches with 23,427 members return 630 (or 2.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 501 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment throughout the district is reported as good by the steam engine makers, ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers, sheet metal workers and machine workers; as moderate by the engineers, boiler-makers and smiths and strikers. The boiler-makers of Manchester report employment as dull. In Macclesfield and Stockport the iron trades are well employed. In Warrington wire drawers and wireweavers are busy, and filesmiths moderately so. Branches with 9,749 members return 164 (or 2.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 180 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinning continues fairly good throughout the district. Employment in silk weaving is slack; in other branches of the silk trade moderate. Silk dyers as yet have not got fairly to work since the close of the dispute. Bleachers, dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as bad; doublers and plush raisers are busy. Fustian-cutters in Macclesfield are only moderately employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with the bespoke tailors in Manchester, Stockport, Macclesfield and Warrington is reported as moderate; with felt hat makers and boot and shoe makers as bad; in the wholesale clothing and waterproof garment trades as moderate; in the ready-made mantle and capmaking trades as slack; in the umbrella trade as good. Shirtmakers in Manchester, Macclesfield and Stockport continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades in Manchester, Macclesfield and Northwich continues fairly good; in Stockport it is moderate. Carpenters and joiners and bricklayers in Manchester and Northwich report employment as good. Employment is bad with the painters; moderate with stonemasons, plumbers and plasterers. Branches with 5,878 members return 39 (or 0.7 per cent.) as unemployed; the same percentage as at the end of October.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment in these trades has shown a great improvement, the number cut of work having decreased in both letterpress and lithographic printing, as well as bookbinding. Pattern card makers are busy. Paper-stainers are in full work.

Salt and Chemical Trades.—Employment in the salt and chemical trades continues moderate. Soapmakers are in full work.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers in Manchester, Warrington and Stockport report employment as good, French polishers as bad, and upholsterers as moderate. Coach-makers are well employed, both in railway and private trade. In Warrington and Manchester coopers are fairly well employed.

Branches with 2,103 members return 53 (or 2.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 45 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as improved; the iron-turners as good; the pattern-makers and fitters as moderate, the shipwrights and joiners as fair; the iron and steel dressers as dull; the brass-founders and whitesmiths as good. Branches with 3,651 members return 274 (or 7.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 310 (or 8.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers report no change. French polishers and upholsterers report employment as fair; coachmakers and coopers as moderate; millsawyers as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as good. Dock labourers are busy throughout the docks; quay and railway carters are well employed. Mersey flatmen report employment as good. Salthavers continue dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as improved; the lithographic printers as fair; the bookbinders as good. Branches with 1,229 members return 54 (or 4.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 80 (or 6.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as fair. In the readymade branches employment is reported as busy. Boot and shoemakers are well employed.

Building Trades.—The painters and plumbers report employment as dull; the carpenters and joiners as fair in Liverpool, and moderate in out-districts. Bricklayers and other branches are fully employed.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coalminers report no change. Stone quarrymen are busy.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle and sheet-glass makers report no change. In chemical works some men are being discharged and others put upon short time.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has improved in some departments, but remains slack in the bulk salt branch; employment in the chemical works remains normal. Employment is fair in the building trades in Winsford and Middlewich. Moulders at Winsford have been moderately employed. Fustian cutters are reported as busy.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment continues good in the marine and general engineering and boiler shops. Employment in allied trades is still affected by the prolonged dispute. (Since settled, see p. 368). The pattern-makers, drillers and holecutters, shipwrights and sailmakers report employment as moderate, the ironfounders as declining. The railway plant works at Doncaster have still about 300 men working short time. Employment in the shipbuilding yards is fairly good, but affected by the engineers' dispute. Employment on repair work is fair. The boiler-makers and general labourers report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as good. Branches of the bricklayers and plasterers, masons, slaters and tilers, joiners, plumbers, millsawyers, lathrenders and builders' labourers, with 2,361 members, have 21 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 8 (or 0.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The painters report employment as moderate, with about one-third unemployed.

Shipping, Dock and Railway Labour.—The sailors and firemen, dock labourers and general railway employees report employment as good, with fewer unemployed. Employment has been good with dock labourers at Grimsby and Goole.

Fishing Industry.—The steam trawling engineers and firemen, and the twine spinners and dressers, report employment as good.

Seed Crushing, Paint, Oil and Colour Works.—Employment in the seed-crushing mills has been fairly good. The paint and colour works are busy and working full time, and in some departments overtime.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 393 members return 10 (or 2.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 12 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Miscellaneous.—The coachbuilders report employment as moderate in Hull and Doncaster, the carriers at Doncaster as good, the cabinet-makers, brushmakers and tailors at Doncaster as moderate, the flour millers at Hull as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—YORKS. AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 7,910 members have 279 (or 3·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 327 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade in Leeds continues brisk; at Wakefield, moderate. The ironfounders in Leeds are well employed; steelworkers fairly so. Pattern-makers, brassworkers and stove-grate workers are busy. Branches with 3,496 members have 71 (or 2·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 87 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot factories has been good, many firms working overtime. In the ready-made clothing trade the slack season has now set in, and a considerable number of operatives are on short time. Employment is fair with slipper-makers; fairly good with bespoke tailors.

Textile Trades.—In the cloth mills in Leeds employment has not been so good, and some firms are working short time. Willeyers and fettleers and woollen spinners report employment as slack; blanket raisers as busy; flax dressers as fair; linen operatives as only moderate. At Wakefield worsted mills are fairly employed.

Building Trades.—Joiners, bricklayers and plasterers are well employed; masons and plumbers moderately so. Painters are slack. At Wakefield employment is fair; at Harrogate good.

Mining.—In Leeds some house coal pits have only worked 4 days per week; others have worked full time. At Wakefield 4 and 5 days have been worked. Ironstone miners continue fully employed.

Leather Trades.—Tanners report an improvement, with several shops now working full time. Curriers are still slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The improvement in the letterpress printing trade has been well maintained, the number unemployed being less than for a long period. Lithographers are moderately employed. Bookbinders and machine rulers are much busier. Paper mill workers continue well employed.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle workers and flint glass makers are fairly well employed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The brushmakers and the cabinet-makers report employment as good.—O. Connellan.

Bradford and Huddersfield District.

Worsted Trade.—There is a slight improvement in the worsted trade in Bradford in the weaving branch as well as in woolcombing and woolsorting, although the woolcombers have still about 25 per cent. unemployed. In the Worth Valley the textile workers have no members unemployed. One firm is running short time and another overtime. Employment is also slightly better in Halifax and Huddersfield; one of the largest firms in the district has begun to work overtime.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in the woollen trade in and around Huddersfield continues fair, and in the Colne Valley a number of firms are still working overtime, but there is a slight tendency downwards. Employment in the heavy woollen trade is reported as improving. Employment in the blanket trade in the heavy woollen district is reported as good; in the carpet trade as bad.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade is not very good in Halifax; it is fair in Brighouse, with only one mill on short time, and fair at Manningham. Employment in the cotton trade is reported as good in Huddersfield and district, and busy at Brighouse.

Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate in Bradford and Huddersfield, and good in Halifax and Dewsbury. The engineers in these towns, with 1,824 members, return 67 (or 3·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 77 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The ironfounders in Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and Dewsbury, with 729 members, return 22 (or 3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building Trades.—Employment in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Keighley is reported as good; in Bradford as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as quiet with letterpress printers; as good with glass bottle makers.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 14,604 members have 108 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 123 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment generally has improved. The armour plate workers continue quiet; shot, shell and bayonet

makers are making overtime; forgemen, tyre rollers, Bessemer steel converters, Siemens steel smelters, and crucible steel melters, and engineers and ironfounders are all well employed. Branches in this section with 5,101 members have 69 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 65 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. At Barnsley ironfounders are moderately employed, engineers fairly so. At Parkgate and Masbrough ironworkers are moderately employed. At Rotherham forgemen and Bessemer steel workers are well employed, and railway tyre, axle, and spring makers, stove-grate workers and bathmakers are busy. At Meadow Hall steam engine makers and malleable iron casters are well employed. At Penistone axle and tyre makers are well employed and forgemen moderately so.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment in the spring knife trade is much improved, and in the table and butchers' knife trade and file trade it is exceptionally good. Steel carver fork forgers and grinders are well employed. The scissor forgers and grinders are fairly well employed, and all sections of the razor trade report improvement. Sawmakers, joiners' tool and edge-tool makers report employment as good. Branches with 6,856 members have 19 (or 0·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 26 (or 0·4 per cent.) of their membership at the end of October.

Other Metal Trades.—Silver and electro-workers in Sheffield and brass workers in Sheffield and Rotherham are well employed. Branches of these trades with 969 members report only 4 members out of employment.

Coal Mining.—The improvement in employment is well maintained. The principal collieries in the district are working 5 and 6 days per week, only very few working 4 and 4½ days. There are still 130 men unemployed at Kiveton Park.

Building Trades.—Employment in Sheffield is good, except with painters; at Rotherham it is good for the time of year; at Barnsley it is quiet.

Linen Trade.—Employment continues very slack, except on common goods.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade in Sheffield is quiet; at Barnsley moderate; and in the ready-made branch fair. In the boot and shoe trade employment is fair.

Glass Trades.—Medicine bottle makers are well employed; other branches are slack; the flint glass makers at Barnsley are better employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as much improved; the lithographic printers as moderate, and bookbinders as good.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers are well employed; coachmakers are fairly so; railway-carriage and wagon builders are exceptionally busy; potters are moderately employed.—S. Uttley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 5,770 members, have 33 (or 0·6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 112 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Employment is generally good in the engineering branches. In the bridge, girder and boiler yards, employment continues fair. With ironfounders in Derby and Butterley it is improving. Cycle makers continue busy. Stove grate workers in Derby, Belper and Langley Mill report employment as moderate; iron wagon builders in Long Eaton as improving; lace machine builders as slack; iron workers in Ilkeston, Sandiacre and Langley Mill as brisk. Branches with 2,303 members have 19 (or 0·8 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 45 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 38 collieries show an average of about 5½ days per week, as against 4½ days for October. Employment generally may be considered as fair.

Quarrying.—In the Wirksworth district, limestone quarries are busy. In saw mill and worked stone, employment is reported as only moderate. In Peak Forest, Miller's Dale and Buxton, employment continues fair.

Building Trades.—Branches of bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers and painters, with 1,276 members have 7 (or 0·5 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 12 (or 1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Employment generally is good, except with painters.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Employment with the railway carriage and wagon builder in Derby continues to

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

improve, five to six days per week being worked. Carriage builders in private shops are fairly well employed. In most timber yards employment is moderate. Wooden wagon builders in Long Eaton report employment as fair, full time being worked. In Burton-on-Trent the coopers report employment as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors and dress and mantle makers continue well employed. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as slack, the majority working 4 days per week.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton spinners and weavers in Glossop, Belper and Borrowash is dull. Hosiery workers in Belper, elastic-web weavers, lacemakers in Long Eaton, calico printers and engravers report employment as moderate; surgical bandage makers as good. Silk and merino workers in Lea (Matlock) are fairly well employed.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as dull. Lithographic printers and bookbinders and machine rulers continue fairly well employed.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The slight improvement in employment reported last month has hardly been maintained in the levers and curtain branches; the plain net branch, however, continues brisk. Warp lace workers and warpers report employment as bad; curtain readers and designers as irregular; auxiliary male workers as moderate, and female workers as spasmodic. Bleachers are fairly well employed; dyers only moderately so.

Hosiery.—Employment is brisk in combination dress goods, many working overtime, and in the rib-top branch; but one society of hosiery workers returns nearly one-third of its members as unemployed. Employment in the cotton branch is slack at Sutton, Kirby, Mansfield and Arnold. Hosiery trimmers at Basford, Bulwell and Nottingham are only moderately employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate at Newark, and as busy in all other districts. Engine repairers at Colwick, cycle-makers at Beeston, ironfounders at Nottingham, Newark and Retford, tool machinists, stove-grate fitters, boiler-makers, brass finishers, bobbin and carriage pattern-makers, carriage straighteners, steam engine makers and blast furnacemen report employment as either good or fair. At Mansfield the ironfounders report employment as moderate. Branches with 2,629 members have 38 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 42 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building Trades.—Branches with 3,030 members report 34 (or 1·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 45 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Stonemasons report employment as quiet, bricklayers as moderate, painters as slack, other branches as busy. In Retford, Mansfield, Sutton, Beeston, Netherfield, West Bridgeford and suburbs building operations are active. Brickmakers are fairly well employed.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coachbuilders report employment as moderate, cabinet-makers and French polishers as busy, upholsterers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe makers report employment as slack in finishing shops. Bespoke tailors are only partially employed. Employment in the ready-made branch is moderate. Mantle-makers and machinists in factories are fairly busy.

Coal Mining.—There has been a decided improvement throughout the county. Returns from 23 collieries, employing about 15,000 workpeople, give an average of nearly 4½ days worked each week.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as busy, the lithographic printers and bookbinders as moderate, the lithographic artists as slack.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In nearly all branches of this industry at Leicester, Northampton and Kettering employment is reported as bad, the majority of the operatives only working half or three-quarter time. There is a slight improvement with the tanners and curriers at Northampton and Market Harborough.

Other Clothing Trades.—Work continues generally good in the wholesale tailoring trade, and moderate for the time of year in the bespoke branch. Corset-makers are busy. Dress and mantle-makers are more fully employed, but work is slack with milliners. Hatters continue well employed.

Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.—With few exceptions all departments of the hosiery trade report employment as slack. The dyeing, trimming, and scouring branches are not so fully

employed. The operatives in the wool spinning mills are still working full time.

Elastic Web Trade.—Most departments of the elastic web trade report employment as less regular.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Employment is exceptionally good in nearly all branches of the engineering trades, overtime being worked by pattern-makers, turners, moulders, ironfounders and electrical engineers. Cycle-makers are likewise busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—The improvement among coalminers reported in October has been maintained. Returns from 14 collieries, employing 4,500 men, show an average of 4½ days worked per week. Ironstone workers are fully employed, and work has improved with stone quarries.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Both letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as good, with none idle; the bookbinders as improved.

Building Trades.—These trades continue remarkably good for the season. The bricklayers and builders' labourers (except at Loughborough) report employment as good. Employment is fair with stonemasons, plasterers, joiners and plumbers; not so good with painters; gasfitters continue busy.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Cabinet-makers and upholsterers are better employed. Coachmakers and tram and road car-builders are also busier.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with all classes of railwaymen, gas-stokers, cigar-makers, brick and tilemakers, saddlers, legging-makers, farriers and railway wagon builders; it is moderate with basket-makers, paper boxmakers, and woolsorters.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers report employment as slack, averaging about four days per week. Sanitary pressers are fully employed. Flat pressers, printers and transferrers report employment as bad, averaging three days per week. Women gilders and decorators report an improvement; throwers and turners are only moderately employed on common goods, but are busier on the better class of work, and busy in the electrical departments. Encaustic tilemakers and ovenmen report improvement, the latter averaging 4½ days per week.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The improvement in all branches continues. Puddlers and blastfurnace-men are exceptionally busy. The ironworkers have none unemployed. Anchor chainmakers at Ford Green are well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Crewe, Stafford and the Potteries, with 2,276 union members, have only three out of work. Employment is good throughout the district, and one engineering works has been re-started. At Longport brassmoulders and finishers are busy, the former working overtime. Copperworkers at Frogghall and Oakamoor are busy in all departments. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are well employed. At Crewe the boiler-makers have no unemployed, and steelmoulders are still working overtime; malleable moulders are slack.

Coal Mining.—Miners are better employed, several more pits now running full time; others are averaging five days per week. At Cheadle the average is 5½ days, and at Rugeley full time is being worked.

Textile Trades.—At Leek silk trimming weavers are fairly well employed, with about 5 per cent. on short time (five days per week). Hard silk-workers report a slight improvement, and dyers are busy. At Congleton weavers are moderately employed; silk throwsters are slack; dressers are well employed, and one firm is working overtime. At Cheadle and Tean the silk and tape workers are working three-quarter time. [For particulars of the dispute in the fustian cutting trade, see p. 369.]

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report a further improvement. At Stafford and Stone shoemakers report employment as quiet, with many on short time. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter are well employed.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners and bricklayers are well employed in the Potteries. Employment is dull at Newcastle-under-Lyme, good at Leek, and moderate at Crewe and Stafford.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries and Stafford report employment as bad. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarries at Alton and Hollington are well employed. Tanners at Rugeley are working full time. Colour-makers are busy. Gasworkers report employment as good. Railway servants at Crewe, Stafford, and Stoke are well employed.

I. S. Harvey.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—MIDLAND (contd.) AND EASTERN COUNTIES.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is good in the steel smelting and steel and iron bar trades, and improved in the sheet trade. Mills and forges are running full time. In South Shropshire mills and forges in most cases are working full time. Owing to an accident to the blast furnaces at Prior's Lee, employment at the steel works and forges has been unsettled, but they are now working full time. Employment with the wire rollers is reported as improved.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The engineers are fully employed, and some overtime is being worked. Boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gas-holder makers in South Staffordshire and Shropshire are well employed, and moulders exceptionally so. Ironfounders at Coalbrookdale, and makers of railway carriage springs and axles in Wednesbury, are working overtime. At Madeley and Tamworth employment in the foundries is moderate.

Hardware Trades.—Chainmakers report employment as well maintained. Vice and anvil makers, galvanisers, tubemakers, makers of locks and keys, latches, edge tools, plantation hoes, files, traps, nuts and bolts, wrought iron odd work, builders' ironmongery, iron fences and hurdles, tinplate-workers, brassworkers, nailmakers, bedstead-makers, makers of malleable nails and castings and cycle castings, are all fully employed, with overtime in some cases, and a scarcity of skilled mechanics. Steel toy and wrought cut nail-makers are moderately employed; iron plate workers are well employed at some works, quiet at others. Brazil hoemakers are slack. Japanners and enamellers are moderately employed.

Coal Mining.—In Cannock Chase and South Shropshire full time is being worked in most of the collieries.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and bricklayers report employment as good; plumbers and plasterers as moderate; painters as quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment is fully maintained in all branches.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster employment in the carpet trade has improved. Spinners are busy, and some machinery is running overtime. Employment at Bridgnorth is reported as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in both branches of the tailoring trade and in the boot and shoe trade.

Miscellaneous.—Coachbuilders and cabinet-makers are well employed. Printers are busy. Tanners at Bewdley are quiet.

C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—Employment is good in all branches, with none on short time or unemployed.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment on brass work is good, with overtime in several departments. Cabinet work has improved. On bedstead and fender mounts employment is moderate. Copper working is good.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Employment in all branches of the jewellery trade is active, some firms making overtime. Silversmiths are fairly busy; electro-plate workers are busy. Britannia metal work is brisk, but one firm is making short time.

Other Metal Trades.—Ironfoundry work is good in all branches; ironplate working fairly so. The bedstead workers report employment as fair, but with 40 unemployed. Wire drawers and workers are fairly busy. The making of oil stoves is a growing trade and finds employment for many. The cycle trade continues to expand in Coventry, and is making headway in Redditch. Employment in the needle trade there has improved.

Building Trades.—Six branches of the carpenters report employment as good. Bricklayers, stonemasons, plasterers and plumbers are also well employed, with no stoppages except for frost.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers report still further improvement. Employment in other branches is good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers and coopers report employment as good. Workers on railway rolling stock are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as still quiet; in tailoring as good. Gasworkers and other labourers are fully employed. Printers are busier. The general trades in Walsall are reported as good.—W. J. Davis.

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

General.—Branches of societies with a membership of 2,670 have 139 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 91 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Clothing Trades.—The clothing factories in Norwich are on full time. The bespoke tailors throughout the district are fairly

employed. At Cambridge the boot and shoe makers are fairly busy; in Norwich many riveters, finishers and clickers are on short time.

Building Trades.—Employment remains fair in all branches, except with painters, who are slack.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers at Yarmouth are not so well off for work. At Thetford an improvement has taken place; in other parts of the district employment is fair. The shipwrights at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft have several men idle. Sailmakers are slack.

Textile Trades.—The silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are running full time.

Fishing Industry.—At Lowestoft trawling remains fairly good. The herring fishing now drawing to a close has been a profitable one. At Yarmouth the herring fishing has been good; men in the curing houses have had good employment.

Miscellaneous.—Maltsters are fully employed; brushmakers are fairly busy at Norwich and Wymondham; electrical workers are fairly busy in Norwich.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Halstead, Earl's Colne, Chelmsford, Braintree and Colchester report employment as good, overtime being worked at most places; at Ipswich as moderate, at Wickham Market as improved, at Leiston as fair. The boiler-makers, with 3 per cent. unemployed, report employment as moderate; the shipwrights as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade continues steady at Ipswich; in the wholesale branch at Ipswich and Colchester no change is reported. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is slack at Ipswich and Colchester; good at Braintree. Employment is slack with corset-makers at Ipswich; good at Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—The mat-weavers at Sudbury, Long Melford and Lavenham report employment as good, at Glemsford as moderate, at Hadleigh and Braintree as dull; the horsehair-weavers at Lavenham as good. Employment with the silk-weavers is moderate at Sudbury; the handloom weavers are on overtime at Braintree; but operatives in other branches are slack at Braintree, Halstead and Earl's Colne.

Building Trades.—At Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Hadleigh, Felixstowe, Chelmsford, Braintree and Southend employment, except with painters and plasterers, is generally good; at Sudbury, Beccles and Halstead it is moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers have been well employed throughout the district. At Ipswich the lithographers and bookbinders are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping has been steady at Ipswich, and the dock labourers have been well employed. Employment has been fairly good with horticultural workers at Ipswich and Chelmsford; fair with leather workers at Ipswich, and dull at Colchester. Brickmakers and brushmakers report employment as good at Chelmsford and Braintree.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.**

General.—Societies with 6,677 members have 71 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 84 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building Trades.—All branches except painters report employment as good. Branches with 2,193 members report 26 (or 1.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 11 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Coal Mining.—An improvement is reported at Radstock, with an average time worked of fully five days per week. The Bedminster miners are reported as working full time; but on the Gloucestershire side employment is slack. Employment in the Forest of Dean is reported as good.

Engineering Trades.—Branches of engineers, ironfounders, coachbuilders, toolmakers, smiths, boiler-makers and tinplate workers report employment as good; brassfounders and finishers as quiet. Branches with 2,791 members have 22 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 30 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Seagoing men report a continued briskness. Employment with dock labourers in Bristol is brisk on grain and fruit cargoes, and improving in the American trade. At

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—S.W. COUNTIES & WALES.

Gloucester employment is better with corn porters; quiet with deal carriers.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as fair, the wholesale garment makers as quiet, the silk hatters as slack, the shirt, collar and glove makers as good.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—In the Kingswood district employment is less brisk with a few firms, but otherwise continues good for the season. In Bristol a slight improvement is reported.

Leather Trades.—The saddle and harness makers report employment as slack; the curriers and leather-dressers as good.

Textile Trades.—Employment in Trowbridge and district is slack on heavy goods, worsted and fancy woollens; fair on covert coatings. Employment in the Stroud valley is reported as good.

Printing Trades.—All branches report employment as good. Out of 673 members only 3 are unemployed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The mill-sawyers and basket-makers report employment as moderate; the cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers, shop-fitters and general wood-turners as good.—J. Cwile.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—The metal mining industry of Cornwall still remains unchanged. The clayworkers and quarrymen continue well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The engineers, iron-founders, brass-founders and finishers and boiler-makers, with 1,399 members, are fully employed. The smiths and wheelwrights remain fairly well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment, both in the ready-made and bespoke branches of the tailoring trade, has been slack. The boot and shoe operatives again report employment as fair, with full employment; the bespoke branch is moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment in the building trade, except at Torquay, continues fairly good, but with a slight falling-off. Branches of masons, bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, plumbers and painters, with 2,425 members, have 31 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 11 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with seamen shows no change; with dock and quayside labourers it has been favourable.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers again report employment as good; lithographic printers have not been quite so busy.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, brush-makers, upholsterers and polishers continue fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers at Plymouth, although on strike for an advance in wages and shorter working hours, have only 30 on strike pay out of a membership of 150. Employment at the brick-yards continues fairly good. The fishing industry shows no improvement. General labourers are not fully employed.—J. Welland.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment at collieries and lead mines continues good, except at one colliery where work has been hindered by an inflow of water. Of 27 other coal mines in Flintshire and Denbighshire, 8 worked six days per week, 14 from five to six days, 3 from four to five days, and 2 from three to four days. Notices to terminate contracts on 12th December have been given at two collieries near Ruabon, employing about 1,000 men and boys.

Quarrying.—Employment in the slate quarrying industries of North Wales continues good, with no unemployed, except at the Penrhyn quarry. Employment is fair in granite sett quarries, moderate in freestone quarries, good in limestone quarries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is good, except at one works where there is a dispute. The engineers at Oswestry, Ruabon and Cefn, the railway coachmakers at Oswestry, and the railway wagon-builders at Johnstown all report employment as good.

Building Trades.—At Wrexham the bricklayers report employment as moderate, the painters as slack, the plasterers as fair, and the labourers as good. At Oswestry the joiners report employment as slack, the bricklayers as moderate. At Ruabon, Rhos and Cefn employment continues good.

Brick and Terra-cotta Industries.—Employment in the brick and terra-cotta industries at Ruabon, Wrexham, Buckley and Penybont is good.

Chemical Trades.—Employment at Flint is bad, short time being worked. At Ruabon the men are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Printers at Oswestry report employment as dull; tweed operatives at Newtown are steadily employed.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Reports from the Garw valley and the western district give an average of 4½ days a week. Ebbw Vale collieries have averaged 4 days, and Tredegar collieries 5 days. Returns from 49 collieries in the Rhondda and Ferndale district show an aggregate of 202 days' stoppages during November. As the result of the bi-monthly audit, wages will remain unchanged for December and January.

Building Trades.—Employment has not been so good as during October, and many masons, plasterers, painters and plumbers are out of work. Branches of the carpenters and joiners, with a membership of 1,214, have 43 (or 3.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 54 (or 4.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment generally has been better. Branches of the engineers with 2,587 members have 118 (or 4.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 133 (or 5.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The boiler-makers and shipwrights have a large percentage idle. Fitters and boiler-makers' helpers, and general labourers, including scruffers and ships' painters, have had a very fair month. Moulders report employment as good. Foundry and engineering works not depending upon seaports are generally busy.

Iron and Steel Works.—Returns from Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Cyfarthfa, Briton Ferry and Llanelly state that the works are going regularly. The large steel works at Cardiff are still going irregularly. One works has been stopped at Neath.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and freemen have had fair employment. Numbers of steamers have left the ports with bunker coal only. Employment in the iron ore, timber, pitwood, and grain trades has been slack. Dock hoblers have been well employed. The patent fuel shipments have been dull.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the copper-smelting and chemical industries is dull. The wagon-builders and lifters report employment as not so brisk; the compositors and bookbinders as good.

T. Davies.

The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire.—During the month, and at the beginning of December, the men employed at most of the works, which had been idle owing to wages disputes (see November GAZETTE, page 335), resumed work at an advanced rate of wages. The number of unemployed, apart from those on strike, is steadily decreasing. At 89 works, respecting which returns have been received, 261 mills were at work at the end of November, as compared with 322 at the end of October. Forty-two works, with 207 mills, were giving full employment, and 35 works, with 207 mills were idle. The remaining 12 works were giving partial employment, 54 of the mills being at work, and 22 idle.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches with a membership of 14,629 have 381 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 348 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Lothians continues good, and the miners are nearly all working full time.

Mineral Oil Trades.—This industry continues brisk, and all classes are fully employed. Of the workpeople employed at 33 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, 91.04 per cent. were employed at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended November 28th. The number of men at work in these mines was 4,351, as against 4,409 in November 1895.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches of these trades in Edinburgh and Leith with 2,204 members have 41 (or 1.9 per cent.) idle, as against 51 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Branches of the engineering and metal trades in Falkirk and district, with 1,768 members, return none idle, as against 5 (or 0.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues bad. Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 579 members have 130 (or 22.5 per cent.) idle, as against 135 (or 23 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the linen industry in Dunfermline shows a slight improvement. In Hawick the tweed mills with one exception are running full time, though individual workers are often idle for days. In Galashiels a few of the woollen mills are running short time. In Selkirk weavers and spinners are fairly well employed. The hosiery trade in Selkirk is fairly busy; in Hawick it

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

is busy in the steam departments, and improving in the handmade departments. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as fairly good.

Building Trades.—Branches of these trades with 4,933 members have 106 (or 2·1 per cent.) idle, as against 96 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 1,029 members have 4 (or 0·4 per cent. idle, as against 8 (or 0·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

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

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,203 members have 29 (or 1·3 per cent.) idle, as against 37 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Miscellaneous.—The settmakers, saddlers and glassmakers report employment as good, the shoemakers and glasscutters as fair, the bakers as quiet, the tailors as dull, and the curriers as fairly brisk.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment during the month has been good. Branches with 8,233 members return 179 (or 2·2 per cent.) as unemployed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—From all branches of these trades at Glasgow and all down the Clyde, and at Motherwell, Paisley, Kilmarnock, Kilbirnie and Coatbridge favourable reports have been received. Branches with 23,886 members return 428 (or 1·8 per cent.) as idle.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire employment continues regular, the men working about 11 days per fortnight. In Ayrshire full work is still being obtained. In Renfrewshire district coal and ironstone miners continue well employed. In Lanarkshire work is still plentiful.

Building Trades.—Except with painters, employment continues good throughout the district. In Greenock there is a demand for labour. Branches (not including painters), with 11,000 members return 69 (or 0·6 per cent.) as unemployed. The painters report a large proportion out of work.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good. Branches with 3,857 members return 66 (or 1·7 per cent.) as idle.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow a decided improvement is reported in the cotton and woollen weaving industries. Carpet weavers are fairly well employed. Employment in the silk trade has slightly improved. In Newmilns employment remains fair. In Kilbirnie the thread and net works remain busy. In Greenock the merino and woollen mills are fully employed. In Port Glasgow canvas weavers are still busy. In Paisley employment in thread mills is still dull. Dyers have been busy. Twine spinners and hemp dressers report full employment.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as not good; the clothiers' operatives as busy in all branches during the month, but declining at the end; the boot and shoe operatives as moderate; the pump boot and slipper makers and the knee shoe makers as fair. The carriers are fairly well employed.

Dock Labour and Transport Trades.—The sailors and firemen report employment as dull, the dock labourers as fair; the railway men, tramway men, carters and hackney carriage drivers as good.

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

Miscellaneous.—Spindle and flyer makers, paviers, settmakers, scale-beam makers, hairdressers, tobacco pipe makers and potters report employment as good. The calico engravers, the paper-stainers and the saddlers are not so busy. The bottle-makers report employment as still dull. The bakers report no improvement, with a number idle.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

General.—Societies (not including textile workers) with 3,725 members, return 140 (or 3·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 170 (or 4·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good, especially in the jute industry. Employment has improved in the linen trade, with fewer on short time, and more looms in operation.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Fife coal trade has been fairly steady throughout the month. Returns from 34 pits, employing nearly 11,000 workpeople, show a weekly average of slightly over 5 days worked during the 4 weeks ended 28th November.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—In the engineering trades employment shows little change, and overtime is still being worked at some establishments. Work at the shipbuilding yards has been fairly good. Eight branches of these trades, with 2,040 members, report 128 (or 6·3 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 144 (or 6·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the building trades continues good on the whole, and the cabinet-making and furnishing industry is still busy. Returns from societies, with 1,400 members, show 10 (or 0·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 21 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Dock and General Labour.—Employment at the docks and jetties has been steady throughout the month; with general labourers it has continued fair.

Fishing Industry.—The haddock fishing has been interrupted by the weather, and the takes of white fish have been but moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors report employment as quieter than usual at this season; boot and shoe makers as moderate. Letterpress printers have been well employed; bookbinders and lithographers are fairly steady. Floorcloth and linoleum makers are busy.

P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Societies with 4,144 members have 101 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 170 (or 4·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Quarrying.—The stonecutters report employment as dull, with a number idle; settmakers and blockers, drillers and cranemen as good; granite polishers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Branches of joiners, plasterers, sawmillers, painters, plumbers and slaters, with a membership of 1,378, have 42 idle (or 3·0 per cent.), as against 54 (or 4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The painters, plumbers and slaters report employment as moderate; the other branches as good.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as improving; the blacksmiths, engineers, iron-moulders, shipwrights, brassfinishers and founders, tinplate-workers and horseshoers as good. Branches with 1,050 members return 44 (or 4·2 per cent.) as idle, as against 109 (or 10·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment in these trades is reported as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The tailors report employment as quiet; boot and shoe riveters and finishers as good; flax, jute and cotton operatives as good; carpet-weavers as bad.

Fishing.—In November at the port of Aberdeen the trawl and line boats landed 44,819 cwts., realising £24,993, as against 44,489 cwts., realising £31,666, in October.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with railway servants, cabinet-makers and saddlers; fair with combmakers and bakers; moderate with general and dock labourers; and bad with upholsterers.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Work has been exceptionally brisk with the carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, plasterers and stonecutters. The sawyers, lathsplitters, slaters, and whiteners report employment as fair, but a dullness has set in with the painters, glaziers, and paviers. Branches with 3,864 members return 279 (or 7·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 161 (or 4·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Woodworking Trades.—The coachmakers, cart and wagon builders, coopers, and organ builders, report employment as good; the brushmakers, saddlers and upholsterers as fair; the cabinet-makers as dull. Branches with 767 members return 38 (or 5 per cent.) as idle, as against 36 (or 4·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Iron Trades.—The two branches of smiths have been active; work has been fair with the boiler-makers and ironfounders, dull with the engineers. Branches with 778 members return 26 (or 3·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 31 (or 4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as brisk; the lithographic printers as fair; the stereotypers as busy; the binders and machine rulers as dull. Branches with 1,276 members have 57 (or 4·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 94 (or 7·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Clothing Trades.—The bootmakers report employment as fair; the riveters as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with the railway servants, tram-men, cork-cutters, ropemakers, and bottle-makers; as fair with the dock labourers, general labourers, corporation labourers, sailors and firemen, electrical workers and engine drivers; as dull with the hairdressers and grain weighers.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—Societies with a membership of 19,919 have 533 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 446 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Societies with 8,791 members report 173 (or 2·0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 128 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as improving; the blacksmiths, carpenters and joiners, general labourers and platers' helpers as fair; the engineers, iron-turners, machine-workers, pattern-makers, shipwrights, furnishing trades, enginemen and cranemen, and ironfounders as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,185 members return 69 (or 1·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 119 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The tenters report employment as bad; the yarn dressers as dull; the flax roughers, linen lappers, yarn bundlers and women workers as fair; the beetling enginemen, flax dressers, spindle and flyer makers, and hackle and gill makers as good.

Building Trades.—Societies with 2,888 members have 182 (or 6·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 62 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The painters report employment as bad; the plumbers as moderate; the bricklayers' helpers, plasterers, carpenters and joiners as fair; the bricklayers and mill-sawyers as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 629 members report 21 (or 3·3 per cent.) as out of work, the same number as at the end of October. The cabinetmakers, coachbuilders, French polishers and upholsterers report employment as fair; the packing-case makers and coopers as good.

Printing and Allied Trades.—Societies with 861 members return 23 (or 2·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 54 (or 6·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The bookbinders and machine-rulers and lithographic printers report employment as fair; the letterpress printers improved; lithographic artists good.

Clothing Trades.—Societies of tailors and boot and shoe operatives, with 880 members, report employment fair, none unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,685 members return 65 (or 3·9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 62 (or 3·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The sailmakers report employment as bad; the bakers, butchers and sheet-metal workers and gasfitters as fair; the carters, railway servants, locomotive engine-drivers and paviers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers report employment as good in Cork, Limerick and Waterford. All branches of engineering, shipwrights, shipjoiners and ironfounders report a slight improvement. Riggers and sailmakers in Cork and Passage West are well employed.

Building Trades.—The masons, stonecutters, bricklayers and plasterers report employment as good in Cork. The carpenters had a number of their members unemployed during the month chiefly owing to a dispute (which has been settled).

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax and tweed operatives in Mill field, Douglas and Blarney, and boot and shoe riveters, report employment as good; tailors and bootmakers as bad.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The mill-sawyers, cabinet-makers, painters and coachmakers report employment as good; the coopers in Ballincollig, Limerick and Cork as dull.

Fishing.—Sea fishing round the coast has shown a decided decline.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as stationary; enginemen, locomotive engine drivers, railway servants, gasworkers, and coal porters as dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1895.

1.—By Retail Distributive Societies.

In the LABOUR GAZETTE of August 1895 (p. 240) it was reported that official statistics showing the amount of production carried on by workmen's co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, had for the first time been collected, and tables showing the amount of such production in the years 1893 and 1894 (so far as reported to the Department) were appended. Similar

particulars have now been collected for the year 1895.

About 660 societies are believed to be engaged in production, and of these 518 have made returns for 1895, as compared with 387 for 1894.

Twenty-four of these, however, while engaged in production, were unable to give details sufficient to be included in the table. The returns of the remaining 494 societies show that 8,873 persons were employed in production, the total wages paid being £425,179, and that the value of their productions, transferred to the distributive departments*, amounted to £2,374,275.

Of the returns relating to dressmaking and millinery, and to building, it was found that owing to the method of keeping their accounts adopted by the respective societies, it was not possible to state definitely the value of the productions of sixty-six of these departments, and in these cases a rough estimate has been made, based upon the complete returns made by the other societies.

The following table gives the details of each industry. Table showing the number of Retail Distributive Societies in the United Kingdom making returns for the years 1894 and 1895 as to the number of persons directly employed by them in Production, and the total value of such productions:—

Industries carried on.	No. of Societies to which the Returns relate.		No. of Persons employed in Production at end of		Total Estimated Value of own Productions sold, or transferred* to Distributive Departments, in	
	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895
Total:—All Industries ...	313	494	4,581	8,873	1,514,529	2,374,275
Bread and Confectionery-making ...	189	354	1,127	2,071	765,335	1,207,603
Corn Milling ...	12	14	139	149	353,604	394,921
Tailoring ...	88	161	1,054	2,095	145,384	244,076
Boot and Shoe-making ...	159	241	1,064	1,826	118,782	218,780
Dressmaking and Millinery ...	101	171	849	1,782	69,726	100,441
Building ...	9	28	200	438	28,544	48,947
Farming and Dairying ...	18	20	85	114	21,649	24,833
Miscellaneous ...	3	20	63	378	11,505	134,674

2.—By all Classes of Societies.

The following table giving particulars as to the total amount of production carried on in 1895 by all forms of workmen's co-operative societies, so far as known to the Department, enables a comparison to be made as to the relative amount of production carried on by the productive and distributive societies. Six hundred and seventy-seven societies of various classes have made returns, showing that they were directly employing in production a total of 23,596 persons, and that the value of their productions sold, or transferred to the distributive departments* during 1895, amounted to £6,520,927.

Of these 677 societies, 73·3 per cent. were societies established primarily for wholesale and retail distribution. They employed 65·9 per cent. of the total number of productive workers, and the total value of their own productions sold or transferred to distributive departments* during 1895 amounted to £3,944,873, or 60·5 per cent. of the total for all societies.

Table showing for 1894 and 1895 the number of Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom engaged in production, and making returns of the number of persons employed, and the total value of their productions:—

Description of Societies making returns for United Kingdom.	No. of Societies to which the Returns relate.		No. of persons employed in Production at end of		Value of goods sold by Productive Societies, or transferred* from Productive to Distributive Departments in	
	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895
Societies for retail distribution	313	494	4,581	8,873	*1,514,529	*2,374,275
„ „ wholesale „	2	2	5,196	6,684	*1,105,074	*1,579,598
Total:—Societies established primarily for distribution }	315	496	9,777	15,557	*2,619,603	*3,944,873
Societies for corn milling ...	8	9	411	404	939,685	957,906
„ „ other forms of production	157	172	6,580	7,635	1,399,772	1,618,148
Total:—Societies established primarily for production }	165	181	6,991	8,039	2,339,457	2,576,054
Total:—All Societies ...	480	677	16,768	23,596	4,959,060	6,520,927

* In the case of distributive societies, the productions are not usually sold by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments of the societies.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

(1) THE ENGINEERS' DISPUTE AT HULL.

On August 12th the fitters and turners employed at Earle's Shipbuilding and Engineering Company's Works at Hull struck, the number affected being about 500.

The matters in dispute were two in number: viz. (1), the question whether a skilled engineer should work a new vertical four-inch spindle milling and copying machine and (2) the limits of the work of engineers and brass-finishers respectively on brass-cased cocks and valves. As regards the latter question, it will be remembered that the demarcation of *old* work (viz., grinding in cocks and valves on board ship under repair in the port of Hull) was recently the subject of an award by Sir James Woodhouse (see GAZETTE, May 1896, p. 146). The present dispute, however, referred to new as well as old work.

On Nov. 5th, understanding that there was a disposition on the part of some of the parties to the dispute to avail themselves of the means provided by the Conciliation Act for its settlement, an invitation was addressed by the Department to both sides, inviting them to be present at a conference at the Board of Trade. The conference (which was delayed for a time pending the result of local negotiations then in progress) took place on Friday, November 27th, under the presidency of Sir Courtenay Boyle, who was supported by three other representatives of the Board of Trade. The Associations represented were the Iron Trades Employers' Association (four delegates), the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (four delegates), the Steam Engine Makers' Society (one delegate), and the National United Trade Society of Engineers (two delegates). Two representatives of the Brass Finishers' Society also attended at the Board of Trade, in case their presence should be required for consultation on points affecting their interests. No settlement, however, was arrived at on either of the points at the first meeting, which was adjourned for a week to enable the parties to submit certain proposals to those whom they represented. On Friday, December 4th, the conference met again, the same bodies (with the exception of the Steam Engine Makers) being represented. Two representatives of the brassfinishers were again in attendance for consultation with regard to the part of the agreement affecting their work. The conference sat from 10 to 4, at the end of which time the representatives agreed to recommend the following terms to their members:—

We, the undersigned representatives of the parties to the above dispute, present at a conference at the Board of Trade on November 27th and December 4th, 1896, agree to recommend to those whom we represent the acceptance of the following terms of settlement:—

(1) Both sides agree to the following suggestion placed before them by Sir Courtenay Boyle as a basis of settlement:—

(a) That the milling machine at Messrs. Earle's Shipbuilding and Engineering Co.'s works, in consideration of its being a four inch spindle machine and having a copying arrangement (Smith & Coventry's No. 3), be worked by a turner or a fitter. This decision, however, not to interfere with present custom in other establishments.

(b) That the question of brass-cased cocks and valves in engineering shops in Hull be referred to the decision of Sir Courtenay Boyle with two assessors chosen by him, such decision to be given as soon as practicable after hearing evidence from employers, engineers and brass finishers in engineering shops. Pending the decision work to continue as before the dispute.

(c) That the engineers resume work at the earliest possible time during next week.

(d) That any question of interpreting the terms of this agreement be referred to the Board of Trade.

The terms were signed on behalf of the employers, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, and the National United Trade Society of Engineers, and countersigned on behalf of the Board of Trade.

On Tuesday, December 8th, the terms recommended were accepted by the men, and work was resumed on Thursday, December 10th.

(2) THE DISMISSAL OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

During November the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants addressed circular letters to the various railway companies requesting improvements in the conditions of service of certain classes of their employees, including signalmen, goods guards, brakemen, shunters, draymen, rullymen, carmen and horsemen, and (in the case of the North-Eastern Railway) plate-layers. The proposals referred to wages, hours of labour, Sunday duty, overtime, intervals of rest, promotion, and other matters. Committees of seven employees of each Company were named to wait upon them, if required, to discuss the reasons of the application. Replies were asked for by December 8th, but the time for consideration was subsequently extended to January 5th.

These requests are still under the consideration of the various Companies.

Apprehending, however, in consequence of certain newspaper reports, that failure to comply with the demands would be followed by a strike, the London and North-Western Railway Company instituted inquiries amongst a number of its employees with a view to ascertain how they would act in case of a strike being declared. Between December 4th and 10th the Company dismissed a number of their employees whose answers were regarded as unsatisfactory. The officials of the union, however, stated that a strike had not been intended by them.

On December 10th a letter was addressed to the President of the Board of Trade by the Secretary of the London and North-Western Railway Company stating that the action of the Company had been taken in contemplation of a strike, and that the intention to strike being now denied, the directors were prepared to meet the dismissed men, either by themselves or before the Board of Trade, in case they desired to make any statement or explanation. On the same day the Secretary of the union applied to the Board of Trade to take action under Section 2 (a) or (b) of the Conciliation Act.

On the morning of December 11th, after personal negotiations between the President of the Board of Trade, the manager of the Company, and the secretary of the Union, the following arrangement was agreed to and forwarded by Mr. Ritchie to the directors, whose assent was received later in the day.

The terms of agreement were thereupon communicated by Mr. Ritchie to the union the same evening.

The arrangement arrived at is as follows:—

1. Mr. Harford states that no strike was intended, and repudiates responsibility for anything which has appeared to the effect that a strike was intended, but admits that the London and North-Western Railway Company had good ground for assuming there would be a strike.

2. Under these circumstances the Company will reinstate the men who have been dismissed under the impression that a strike had been resolved on.

3. The Company will receive and consider any representations which their employees desire to place before them, and are willing to have a personal conference with them should they feel themselves unable to give a favourable reply to the representations.

4. No hostile action will be taken on either side pending the proposed negotiations.

(3) CONGLETON FUSTIAN CUTTERS' DISPUTE.

On September 1st the fustian cutters employed in various mills in Congleton, to the number of about 1,500, came out on strike against a proposed reduction in wages of 2s. per pair on all slips cut with two knives, 1s. 6d. per pair on all slips cut with one knife, and 4s. per pair on all race work. Subsequently the master cutters altered the proposed reductions to 2s. per pair on all slips, and 4s. per pair on all race work.

This involves a reduction from 10s. to 8s. per pair in the case of 22-inch slips, the size most usually made.

On October 3rd an application was made by the men to the Board of Trade to take action under the Conciliation Act with a view to the settlement of the dispute. On October 7th an officer of the Department visited the district, and finding the masters unwilling to accept arbitration, suggested a conference under an independent chairman. The masters refused to accept the suggestion, but on October 27th received a deputation of the workpeople. The latter offered to accept half the proposed reduction, or to submit the dispute to arbitration, but neither of these offers was accepted. On November 18th a conference was held between representatives of both sides, in the presence of the Mayor, the town clerk, the chief constable, and a local clergyman, but no settlement was effected.

On December 1st two officers of the Department visited Congleton and had several interviews with the Strike Committee and with the Master Cutters' Association. They also examined books and documents placed at their disposal by certain employers, and laid before the parties the result of their investigations, as well as of inquiries made in Manchester and other centres from the merchants and others. The following terms of settlement were agreed upon and signed by both sides, and at a mass meeting of the men on December 3rd it was resolved to return to work.

1. The cutters to resume work at a rate of wages based upon 8s. per pair of 22 in. slips, 150 yards in length.

2. The masters to give to the cutters the full benefit of the first rise received by the masters in the price of cutting.

3. Wages not to be reduced below the rate mentioned in Clause 1.

4. All the cutters to be allowed to resume work at the earliest possible moment, without reference to the part any individual cutter may have taken in the strike.

5. That at the time the first increase of wages shall accrue to the men, or on or about March 1st 1897, it shall be open to them to appoint representatives to confer with an equal number of representatives of the masters to discuss alterations in the details of the price list with a view to equalising or extending it.

6. Any question arising upon these terms to be settled by the Board of Trade.

7. This arrangement to be in force until the 31st day of March 1897.

The terms were signed on behalf of the Masters Association and the Fustian Cutters and countersigned on behalf of the Board of Trade.

DISPUTE IN THE HAMBURG DOCKS.*

The strike now in progress in the docks at Hamburg was begun by the stevedores, of whom some 2,500 left work on November 21st, after the master stevedores had refused to accede to a list of demands put forward by the men on November 12th. The stevedores (who are employed in both the loading and unloading of vessels) receive 4s. 2½d. for a day's, and 5s. 5d. for a night's, work. Their demands include 5s. for the former and 6s. for the latter, as well as for Sunday work. For work considered unhealthy or arduous, *i.e.*, the handling of grain or salt in bulk, of sulphur, saltpetre, guano, gravel, ore, turpentine, salted hides, &c., 6s. per day is demanded, and 7s. for a night or Sunday. The day's work to be reckoned from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (on Sundays 6 a.m. to 9.30 a.m., and 12.30 to 5 p.m.), with

* Based on accounts of the strike published in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger*, the *Correspondenzblatt der General-Kommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands*, the *Gewerksverein und Soziale Praxis*, and on information contained in reports supplied to the Foreign Office by Mr. C. J. Dundas, H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg, under dates of Nov. 30th and Dec. 5th.

intervals of half an hour for breakfast and 1½ hours for dinner; a night's work from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., allowing 1½ hours for supper, which must be from 6 to 7.30 p.m.; overtime to be paid at the rate of 7½d. per hour, and for work performed during meal times, or between 3 and 6 in the morning, 1s. 3d. per hour. Work to be reckoned as beginning at the time the men start from the shore and as ending at the time of their return thereto. Payment to be made by ticket, exchangeable for cash on the same day.

On November 24th the strikers, who had meanwhile been joined by the grain dischargers, coalies, cranemen, watermen, and quay labourers, numbered about 6,000. On the 25th the lightermen (about 3,000) and the boiler-cleaners had joined, the former demanding 5s. for day work and 5s. 6d. for night work, instead of 4s. 6d. and 5s. respectively. On the 29th the number of strikers was estimated at 13,000.

On the following day a communication signed by the president of the Industrial Court, the chairman of the Municipal Council, and a member of the Senate (the chief of police) was received by the chairman of the Association of Shipowners as representing the employers, and Herr Von Elm, member of the Reichstag for Altona, as representing the workpeople, the writers proposing that they, together with one representative chosen by the employers, and four by the workpeople, should form a board of arbitration, the decision of which, if pronounced by a majority composed of at least 6 of the 8 members, should be accepted by both sides as final. This proposal was accepted by the workpeople, but referred by the Association of Shipowners to the General Association of Employers of Hamburg-Altona, who rejected it. Among the reasons given for declining arbitration, it was stated that the dispute in its present stage did not merely involve a difference on the wage question, but had become a trial of strength; and further, that the constitution of the Board, on which the workers were to be represented by four and the employers by only one member, could not be accepted.

On December 1st the strikers were said to number about 15,000, and included, besides the trades already mentioned, the ship cleaners and painters, the sailors, stokers and coal trimmers, and the enginemen on some of the harbour tug boats. The sailors demanded the increase of their monthly pay from £2 10s. to £3, the stokers from £3 15s. to £4 5s., and the coal trimmers from £3 to £4.

The first distribution of strike pay took place on December 1st, 7,000 workpeople participating. The rate was 8s. a week for single men, and for married men 9s., with 1s. a week for each child.

From the published accounts of the progress of the strike during the week ended December 8th, it would appear that the number of men at work in the docks had gradually increased. On December 8th, all except 600 of the workers on the Government quays (most of whom had struck on December 4th), as well as the majority of the cranemen, had resumed work. On that day the second distribution of strike pay took place, the rates being increased by a shilling a week. A sum of £8,750 is said to have been distributed. The Australian dockers are said to have sent £2,000 in aid of the strikers.

The example of the Hamburg dock workers was followed on November 24th by the employees of the Warehouse Company in Bremen, of whom some 500 struck for an increase of the daily wage from 3s. to 3s. 6d. A compromise was, however, effected on December 2nd, before the Industrial Court. The dockers and lightermen of Harburg also have struck, causing a failure in the supply of raw material and consequent dismissal of workers at the local oil factories. At Bremerhaven, Geestemünde, Lehe, and Nordenham the dock workers are stated to contemplate supporting the strikers of Hamburg by refusing to handle cargoes sent to these ports owing to the Hamburg strike.

The latest accounts show that the dispute is still unsettled, though, by degrees, work has been partially resumed.

RATES OF WAGES IN FRANCE.

Railway Servants and State Factory Workers.

A SPECIAL inquiry, of which the present volume* contains a summary, has been undertaken by the *Office du Travail* at the desire of the Labour Commission of the French Chamber of Deputies, the data relating to State factory workers being supplied by the Ministry of Finance, and those relating to railway servants by the Ministry of Public Works. It has been considered sufficient to ascertain the wages and earnings as shown by the pay-sheets of a single pay-day (in February 1895).

The inquiry covered a total of 174,764 persons, of whom 157,524 were employed on railways, 15,120 in State tobacco factories, and 2,120 in State match factories. The bulk of the State factory workers are women and girls, viz.:—13,674 (90 per cent.) in tobacco works, and 1,444 (68 per cent.) in match works. The working day for both classes of establishments is 10 hours.

The persons employed in State tobacco and match factories may be classified as follows according to their hourly rates of wages (pieceworkers' rates being based on their earnings):—

Calculated rates of hourly pay.†	No. of persons whose earnings per hour were as stated in Col. 1.			
	Tobacco Factories.		Match Factories.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
2½d. and under	9	5,256	22	360
Over 2½d. to 3½d.	38	4,459	148	392
" 3½d. to 4d.	176	1,966	110	339
" 4d. to 5½d.	758	1,703	192	324
" 5½d. to 6½d.	324	220	115	23
" 6½d.	141	70	89	6
Total Number of Workers	1,446	13,674	676	1,444

Of the males included in the above table all except 33 were at least 18, and of the females all, except 141, at least 19 years of age.

The rates of pay per hour include the estimated value of allowances in kind, e.g., housing, food, &c., and are subject to deduction for relief and superannuation funds. State contributions to such funds—almost equal in value to those of the workers themselves—are not included. The State contributes on behalf of each worker a sum equal to 4 per cent. of his or her wages to the National Superannuation Fund, besides completing the pensions of those who have reached the age of 60 and served 30 years, by bringing them up to £24 a year for men and £16 for women.

Of the 157,524 workpeople and officials employed on railways, included in the inquiry, 86,492 (71,173 males and 15,319 females) are paid by the month, and 71,032 (67,314 males and 3,718 females) by the hour or day, or by piece wage.

All the females receiving monthly wages are persons in charge of level crossings, mostly the wives of railway servants, and living in houses owned by the railway. For 85 per cent. of their number the monthly wage is £1 or less.

The males in receipt of monthly wages may be classified as below, according to the amounts of such wages:—

Rates of Monthly Wage.	No. Employed.	Rates of Monthly Wage.	No. Employed.
£3 8s. and under	9,546	Over £7 8s. to £9	2,680
Over £3 8s. to £4 8s.	22,573	" £9 to £11	1,399
" £4 8s. to £5 8s.	17,592	" £11 to £15	2,171
" £5 8s. to £6 12s.	11,038	" £15	267
" £6 12s. to £7 8s.	3,407		
		Total	71,173

All but 14 of the railway servants included in the above table were at least 18 years of age.

The following statement classifies the 67,314 male

* Répartition des Salaires du Personnel Ouvrier dans les Manufactures de l'Etat et les Compagnies de Chemins de Fer. Report by the *Office du Travail* 1896. Paris, Berger-Levrault et Cie.
† Computed to nearest farthing in converting from French currency.

railway servants according to their hourly rate of wages (pieceworkers' rates being based on their earnings):—

† Calculated rates of hourly pay.	No. employed at those rates.
2½d. and under	8,512
Over 2½d. to 3½d.	23,863
" 3½d. to 4d.	12,929
" 4d. to 5½d.	13,520
" 5½d. to 6½d.	4,728
" 6½d.	3,762
Total	67,314

The majority of female railway servants not paid by the month earn between ½d. and 1½d. per hour.

The sums on which the rates of wages shown for railway employees are based include the estimated value of houses where such are allowed, and are subject to deductions for relief and superannuation funds. They do not include allowances (including contributions to superannuation funds) stated to amount altogether to about 15 per cent. of wages, granted by various railways.

LABOUR STATISTICS.

(Annual Report of the Labour Department.)*

THE Third Annual Report of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade (1895-96), with Abstract of Labour Statistics, is published to-day.

The Report states that during the year 1895-96 no material change has taken place in the character and scope of the work of the Department. The Conciliation Act, which became law on August 7th 1896, naturally imposes fresh work on the Department, but this change does not affect the period covered by the present year.

The scope and variety of the statistics collected periodically by the Department with regard to disputes, wages, and other matters affecting labour have been gradually extended, and there is an increasing willingness on the part both of employers and workmen to supply information.

Thus, in the LABOUR GAZETTE for August 1896, the substance of 3,159 returns was embodied, viz., 1,379 from employers or employers' associations, 1,511 from workmen or workmen's associations, and 269 from official and other miscellaneous sources. This total compares with 2,539 returns, viz., 1,071 from employers, 1,238 from workmen, and 230 from other sources received for the purpose of the GAZETTE a year ago.

The monthly returns regularly received from employers and others as to the total numbers of employed now cover 494,610 persons, compared with 334,493 a year ago. These figures are exclusive of agriculture, the textile trades and seamen, with regard to which the monthly returns received have increased from about 200 in August 1895 to 260 in August 1896. The number of Trade Unions making monthly returns as to the proportion of unemployed has risen from 86, with a membership of 391,093, to 109, with 425,841.

With regard to the Abstract of Labour Statistics appended to this Report, fewer changes have been made than last year in the substance and arrangement of the tables. The principal new features to which attention may be called are tables showing the production of coal, iron and the other principal minerals, and the tonnage of vessels built for each of the years 1880 to 1895. Tables showing for a series of years the number of persons employed in coal mining, the changes in the ascertained prices of coal and iron, the exports of coal from different groups of ports and the percentage changes in coal-miners' wages appear in the Abstract for the first time.

A short summary is given of the principal statistics contained in the Abstract so far as they relate to the year 1895, the subjects dealt with including (1) Employment, Production and Prices; (2) Wages and Hours of Labour; (3) Trade Disputes, Arbitration and Conciliation; (4) Workmen's Organisations; (5) Industrial Accidents; (6) Pauperism and Labour Bureaux; (7) Growth and Movement of Population.

* Third Annual Report of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade (1895-96), with Abstract of Labour Statistics. (C. ?)

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE results of the last audits of the selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts are shown in the following table. In the case of the South Wales coal trade, and in those of the manufactured iron trade for the North and Midland districts of England, the prices given are averages determined over the months of September and October, which regulate wages for December and January. The results of the previous audits are given for the purpose of comparison. In South Wales wages remain unchanged, but in the manufactured iron districts wages have been increased 3d. per ton for puddlers and 2½ per cent. for mill and forge men. In order that this advance should be given in the Midland district it was agreed by the Wages Board that a deficiency of 1½d. in the ascertained price, necessary to give the advance under the sliding scale agreement, should be waived.

A special audit has been made of the selling price of finished iron in the West of Scotland district, and the ascertained price is given in the table. Under an agreement between employers and workmen, if the average were £4 17s. 6d., or exceeded that sum, an advance should be given to date back to 12th October.

The figures given for the Northumberland coal trade and the pig iron trade are unchanged, as the ascertainment of prices is made once in three months, and no audit has taken place since the last publication of the table (see GAZETTE for October, p. 306).

Product and District.	Num-ber of work-people.	Period over which prices were ascer-tained at last audit.	Dates from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or De-crease (-) in price per ton.
Coal.						
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	1896, June, July, Aug.	1896, Oct. 1	s. d. 5 1'32	s. d. 5 0'17	s. d. + 0 1'15
South Wales and Monmouth:— (Average for certain classes of coal, f.o.b.)	100,000	Sept., Oct.	Dec. 1	9 0 to 9 1½	9 0 to 9 1½	—
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland and N. Lancashire	2,213	July, Aug., Sept.	Oct. 1	46 11	47 7	- 0 8
Cleveland	5,000	July, Aug., Sept.	Oct. 3	37 2'49	37 8'26	- 0 5'77
Manufactd. Iron.						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Sept., Oct.	Nov. 30	97 7'95	96 1'18	+ 1 6'77
Midlands:— (Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)	20,000	Sept., Oct.	Dec. 7	116 7'06	115 5'07	+ 1 1'99
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)	5,000	July, Aug.	Oct. 12	99 4'84	—	—

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.†

London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board.

Differences having arisen between a master stevedore and the Amalgamated Stevedores Labour Protection League, as to the price to be paid for discharging 175 tons of iron from a certain steamship on July 9th, the parties agreed, on October 29th, to refer the matter in dispute to the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board for settlement. The award, which is signed by four arbitrators, decides that "the iron in question comes within the description of 'scrap iron,' as defined in the working rules of the Amalgamated Stevedores Labour Protection League, and which is to be paid for at the rate of 1s. 4d. per ton for loading or discharging." The additional amount due to the stevedores is therefore to be paid to them forthwith.

Bradford Standard List for Weaving.

For some time past a special committee, consisting of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Trades and Labour Council, has been occupied in drawing up a weavers' standard wage list. On

* Wages previously regulated on those of the North of England.
† See also pages 368-9.

November 11th the completed list was adopted by the Chamber of Commerce. It is understood that the list purports rather to be a codification of the prevailing rates paid than a standard list in the ordinary sense.

The list deals with two classes of goods, viz., (1) dress goods and linings, (2) coatings. The following is the standard price for the former:—

70 YARDS WARP.

All weaves up to and including 8 shafts woven with any one colour of warp with white weft.

	Price per pick per ¼ inch.
Up to and including 38 inch reed space	2d.
Above 38 inches but not exceeding 47 inches	2½d.
" 47 " " " 57 " "	2½d.
" 57 " " " 66 " "	2½d.
" 66 " " " 76 " "	3½d.

This is followed by a list of extras, arranged in two columns, according as the reed space does or does not exceed 57 inches. The extra for shafts above 8 is 2d. per shaft in the former and 1d. per shaft in the latter case.

The standard for coatings woven on looms, up to 84 inch reed space and running at a speed of 120 to 130 picks per minute is:—

70 YARDS WARP.

	Price per pick.
One weaver to one loom (all weaves up to 12 shafts)	3½d.
One weaver to two looms (all weaves up to 8 shafts)	5½d.

Extra shafts above the numbers specified in the standard are paid for at the rate of 1½d. per shaft. Looms running from 110 to 119 picks per minute are paid 1d. per pick extra.

Arbitration in a Demarcation Dispute on the Tyne.

Three points in dispute between the caulkers and the drillers as to demarcation of work in two shipyards on the Tyne have recently been settled by a court of arbitration, which sat at Newcastle on November 13th, and gave a unanimous decision on all three points. The first point had reference to cutting off the squares used for screwing in the tap bolts, and to the dressing up or caulking the heads of such bolts on Government vessels. The drilling of the holes and screwing in of the bolts was acknowledged to belong to drillers, but towards the end of August the boiler-makers, to the number of 400, struck against the drillers doing the remainder of the work. The referees decided that the work was drillers' work. The second question was, "When bolts with canted heads are used instead of rivets in bars, and such bars have to be watertight, whose work is it to put the grummet around the bolts and run the bolts in?" The decision was as follows:—

When such bars have to be lifted and cleaned and felt is to be put under and made watertight, we consider this to be caulkers' work.

When bars are rivetted, and occasional tap bolts are screwed in, we consider this to be drillers' work.

The third point was as to who should use a machine at a certain yard for cutting out side lights or other holes of a similar nature. This work was given to drillers in respect of all vessels built in that yard. The decisions only apply to the yards mentioned, and are not to be "used as an argument by either party to secure work in any other yard or shop."

Wombridge Arbitration Case.

A dispute which has for some time been considered by the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board, was on November 23rd laid before the president of that Board as arbitrator. The puddlers employed at an ironworks in Shropshire claimed 6d. per ton extra for "doubling." Until recently doubling had not been done at the works. The firm partially based their case on certain resolutions of the Board, and the employers' section of the standing committee did not feel themselves at liberty to sit in judgment on their own resolutions. The matter was accordingly referred to the arbitration of the president. The award, dated November 27th, declares that the employers "are not entitled, under the resolution of 31st July 1893 (providing for the re-introduction of the sliding scale established on 21st October 1889), to require the puddlers to do doubling without extra payment." Twenty-two men are affected by the award.

Agreement in the Lancashire Glass Bottle Trade.

An agreement has been signed by representatives of the Lancashire Glass Bottle Manufacturers' Association and the Lancashire Glass Bottle Makers' Association, making certain alterations in the piece list, and giving an advance in wages of 3s. per week to each journeyman, and 5 per cent. upon the overwork. The agreement came into operation on December 7th, and is binding on each Association until the first Monday of February 1898. (See also table of Changes in Rates of Wages, page 383.)

Dispute of Pony Drivers settled by Conciliation.

The pony drivers, to the number of 40, employed at a colliery in Cumberland struck work on November 2nd against a proposed increase of three-quarters-of-an-hour in their daily hours of labour, together with an increase of wages. In consequence, the work at the pit was suspended for seven days. The matter in dispute was referred to the Conciliation Board Joint Committee, who decided that the drivers should work the extra hours, and receive an advance of 15 per cent. in wages.

AUTUMN AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS.

At the November half-yearly hirings in the counties of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire for men boarded and lodged in the farmhouses the rates of wages obtained were substantially the same as those at the corresponding period in 1895. But in the case of the best men, and also the best women, rather higher rates were frequently paid, as the demand for these two classes generally exceeded the supply. The rates of wages agreed upon for best men for the half-year, exclusive of board and lodging, at Carlisle, Penrith, Lancaster, Ulverston, and Kendal usually varied from £11 to £15, and for second-class men and youths from £7 to £11. Best women generally obtained from £10 to £12, and second-class women £6 to £9. It is customary for farm servants to attend several hirings, often situated in two or three of these counties, with the object of obtaining amusement and of meeting their friends as well as of getting situations. Employers also often visit the hirings outside their own county. Therefore the rates of wages obtained at individual hiring fairs do not necessarily represent the actual wages paid in that district.

At the November hirings in Durham and Yorkshire the rates of wages obtained were generally about the same as those in November 1895.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, &c., mostly dated October and November last.)

Canada.—At this season of the year there is no emigration to Canada and no demand for more labour there. Gold mining in Ontario is being developed with increasingly good results. The principal mines extend over a large area in the extreme north-west of the province near the Lake of the Woods and Rat Portage. A large number of miners are now employed there, and the yield of gold this year, though still small, has been three times as much as the yield in 1895. In British Columbia also the gold and silver mining industry has been rapidly increasing. There is a good opening at Rossland there for skilled miners, but not for clerks nor for anyone without a trade.

New South Wales.—The demand for labour is improving both in town and country. There has been a substantial improvement in the southern coal trade lately, work at the mines having been brisker, and prospects having brightened. The hewing rate at the southern mines is now 1s. 8d. to 2s. 2d. a ton, and 2s. 7d. to 3s. a ton at Newcastle in the north. At Hay—the centre of a large sheep district 454 miles south-west of Sydney—there is a fair demand for boundary riders, drovers and country carpenters and blacksmiths, but not for others.

Victoria.—Gold miners are busier than they have been for several years; the yield of gold during the first nine months of this year has been as much as 31,000 ozs.

more than in the corresponding period of 1895. The main increases were in the districts of Bendigo, Gippsland, and Beechworth. Owing to the numerous departures for Western Australia, where higher wages are being paid, first-class miners are becoming scarce at Bendigo. A report from Melbourne states that there is no demand for labour there; there is, however, increased work in the brickmaking trade. Owing to the greater activity in the shipping trade seamen and firemen are moving for an increase in their wages. The condition of the Leongatha labour farm, which was started to relieve the unemployed, has improved; it costs the Government less than it did, and its prospects are considered hopeful. The salaries of railway employees have been re-classified and those less than £350 a year have been increased.

South Australia.—The drought has been very severe in the Colony; farmers and pastoralists have suffered in consequence, and there has been less demand than usual for farm labourers, shearers, and general hands, so that many are unemployed; mining operations have also been hindered by the want of rain; the building trade, however, has been active. At Port Augusta there has been great scarcity of employment, and many men are out of work. Disputes have arisen in the boot-making trade at Adelaide as to what percentage of employees in factories should be weekly hands and pieceworkers respectively.

Queensland.—There has been a scarcity of men able to work in the sugar-mills at Bundaberg, and to cut the cane in the fields. In some of the southern pastoral districts the sons of local men are now trained as shearers, so that pastoralists are no longer dependent to the same extent as before on itinerant bands of shearers. Gold miners have been busy during the year, and the yield of gold at the mines near Rockhampton, and at Croydon and Etheridge in the north, has been larger than in 1895; the yield, however, at Charters Towers and Gympie has fallen off. The supply of labour in all parts of the colony is for the most part sufficient.

Western Australia.—The bricklayers at Perth have struck for an increase in their wages from 11s. a day to 12s.; this increase has been granted by some of the contractors. There has been a scarcity lately of experienced engine-drivers on the railways. There is a demand for good gold miners at the Yilgarn goldfields. During the first 9 months of this year 193,406 ozs. of gold were exported from the colony, as against 170,389 in the corresponding period of 1895. Trade is brisk at Northam, especially in the building line, and in all the south-western parts of the colony there is a good demand for artisans and labourers.

Tasmania.—At Zeehan—the centre of the important mining industry on the West Coast—there is a fair demand for tailors, tailoresses, bootmakers, gold, silver and tin miners, for engineers, engine drivers, surfmen, and boys in mines; also for cooks and general female servants; in the building trades the demand is small, but carpenters and painters are busy; for workers in stone and for men in the furniture trades work is scarce. There is no work for men in the metal trades, except occasionally for tinsmiths and turners. Wages are good in all trades, but the cost of living is high.

New Zealand.—The Report of the Labour Department for 1895-6 shows that the number of factories and of employees considerably increased in that year, and that the demand for skilled and unskilled labour—though subject to great fluctuations locally—was on the whole very fair, and had an upward tendency. The building trades have lately been busy at Auckland, Wanganui and Wellington. Gold miners have been busy in the Province of Auckland; the engineering trades have been doing fairly well at Auckland, Wanganui, Wellington, Dunedin and Invercargill, but have been dull elsewhere. Near Masterton—a small town in the Province of Wellington—there is now a fair demand for men in the building trades, except gasfitters, for blacksmiths, cabinet-makers, bakers, butchers, gardeners, milliners, female domestic servants, and good

governesses. Under the co-operative system, by which nearly all Government construction works are carried out, the following have been the average earnings per day: fencers, 7s. 2d.; cementers, 7s. 3d.; bushmen, 7s. 5d.; labourers, 7s. 7d.; platelayers and ballasters, 7s. 8d.; carpenters, 7s. 10d. on buildings, and 8s. 3d. on railways; painters, 8s. 1d.; tunnel men, 8s. 8d.; slaters, 9s. 10d.; masons, 10s. 4d.; bricklayers, 10s. 8d.; plumbers, 10s. 10d., and plasterers, 12s.

Cape Colony.—Large numbers continue to arrive in Cape Colony from England and Australia, in spite of the fact that the local supply of shop assistants and clerks is greater than the demand and that unskilled labourers are mainly Kaffirs, Malays, or other coloured persons working for a low wage. The only artisans for whom there is any opening at the present time are bricklayers and carpenters at Capetown, some of whom receive as much as £3 15s. a week, and for men in the building trades at Grahamstown, for whom there is a brisk demand.

LABOUR ABROAD.**FRANCE.***

Employment in November.—Four hundred and ten trade unions, with 104,940 members, reported 8.5 per cent. unemployed on November 15th, compared with a little over 7 per cent. in October. The improvement in employment noted last month in the Mining, Printing, and Boot and Shoe trades still continues. In the Textile and Clothing trades it is less marked, more especially in the Silk, Trimmings-making, and Tailoring branches. The Building trades have entered on their seasonal decline.

Coal Mining in October.—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in October was 5.97, compared with 5.85 in September. In October full time (six days and over) was worked by 98 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 2 per cent. of the miners, while in September the percentages were 50 and 48 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Labour Disputes in November.—Twenty-three disputes were notified to the French Labour Department as having begun in November, compared with 22 in the preceding month and 28 in November 1895. In addition, seven disputes begun before the 1st of November were still unsettled on that date. The number of workpeople known to have participated in 21 out of the 23 new disputes was 2,422, the trades involved in these 23 disputes being as follows: Textile, seven disputes; metal-working and clog-making, three each; mining, two; and unclassified trades, eight. Four disputes involved together, 1,703 workpeople, viz.: 600 miners of Alais (Gard department), who struck to procure the dismissal of an unpopular official and the re-instatement of a dismissed workman; 484 gasworkers of Bordeaux, whose demands included increased wages and a weekly day of rest (with pay); also 319 miners of Quiévrechain (Nord department), and 300 weavers of Saint-Quentin, who struck against reductions of wages. Compromises were arrived at in each case except the first. The total number of disputes settled in November was 20, in nine of which the workpeople failed entirely, while in three they were wholly and in eight partially successful.

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.—Recourse was had to the Conciliation and Arbitration law in 4 cases, the *Juge de Paix* taking the initiative in one case, the employer in one, and the workmen in two cases. Conciliation Committees were formed in two cases. One was a strike of 120 ironworkers at Hautmont (Nord) against the substitution of piece work for time work, and consequent alleged diminution of earnings. Under the terms of the settlement, effected by a conciliation committee, the men have accepted piece work, the rates being, however, 5 per cent. higher than those originally proposed by the employer. The other case was a strike of printers at Marly-les-Valenciennes (also in the Nord department), who refused to work by electric light in

*Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

the morning and evening, on the ground that it was the custom of the trade to work by daylight only. The conciliation committee, which met on December 1st, failed to effect a settlement. A proposal to arbitrate was made by the *Juge de Paix*, but rejected by the employer, and the strike continues. In another case (the strike of gasworkers at Bordeaux, referred to above) a settlement was arrived at before the committee, which it was proposed to form, had met.

GERMANY.

Proposed Law for Regulating Handicrafts.—Sir F. C. Lascelles, M.M. Ambassador at Berlin, in a report to the Foreign Office, dated December 4th, states that the Secretary of State for the Interior has announced in the Reichstag that the Bill for the organisation of handicrafts has met with such opposition in various quarters, especially as regards the clause relating to the compulsory organisation of guilds, that it will be presented to the Reichstag in a different form from that in which it was originally published (see GAZETTE of Sept. 1896, p. 277).

Labour Disputes in November.—An account of the disputes in the docks at Hamburg and other German seaports is given on p. 369. In addition to these, the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* and the *Correspondenzblatt* of the German workmen's unions (*Gewerkschaften*) contained accounts in November of 37 disputes, of which 29 were reported for the first time. Of the latter, 6 were in the metal-working trades, 5 among textile operatives, 4 among woodworkers, 2 each in the clothing, building and pottery (and porcelain) trades, and the rest in unclassified trades. Some 4,000 persons were directly involved in 12 disputes, for which information on this point was given. A strike of dyers in Crefeld is stated to involve several hundred operatives.

The cutlery trade in Solingen is again affected by a strike, the participants in this case being the putters-together in the bread and butchers' knife branch, who demand a revised piece list.

In the strike of lithographic workers of Berlin, in which, as reported in last month's GAZETTE, some 3,000 workpeople took part, a settlement has been arrived at between the committee of the strikers and the associated employers. Over 500 of the workpeople were proceeded against in the Industrial Court for breach of contract in leaving work, and 300 of the number have been sentenced to pay compensation, 16s. 2d. each.

Württemberg Municipal Labour Registries in October.—The eleven municipal labour registries of Württemberg found work, in October, for 1,671 persons (1,213 males and 458 females). The situations applied for by the workpeople numbered 4,488, and those offered by employers, 3,450.

SWITZERLAND.

Abolition of Unemployed Insurance in St. Gall.—In a report to the Foreign Office, dated November 15th, Mr. F. R. St. John, Her Majesty's Minister at Berne, states that on November 10th, the General Assembly of the Commune of St. Gall, on being asked whether the cantonal law of compulsory insurance against non-employment, as applied last year to the Commune of St. Gall, should be maintained after next year, or not, decided by a large majority in favour of its abolition within the jurisdiction of the Commune.

Under this law every workman in the Commune, whose wages do not exceed 4s. per day, is obliged to insure against want of work by paying weekly premiums equivalent to about 1½d., 2d., or 3d., according to whether he earns 2s. 5d., 3s. 2d., or 4s. per day, the amount of relief to which the insured is entitled when out of work being 1s. 5½d., 1s. 8d., and 1s. 11d. a day respectively. No one receives relief if his non-employment is caused by his own default, or if it be in consequence of a strike, or refusal, without good reason, to accept work when offered (see GAZETTE of April 1896, p. 116).

After a twelve months' trial, the Council came to the conclusion that the law of insurance is most reluctantly complied with, that premiums are very irregularly paid, that endeavours are constantly being made to obtain relief during the full term allowed (60 days in the year), that the desire for employment is small, and that all workmen who belong to associations not partial to strikes are strongly opposed to insurance, as are those who by skill earn more than the average wages.

The Council are of opinion that such a system can only prosper if workmen possessing skill and averse to strikes will assist those differently situated and inclined.

From July 1st, 1895, to June 30th, 1896, the receipts from premiums amounted to £867, the relief to £940, showing a deficit of £73, besides £225 expended by the municipality in the administration of the funds.*

Labour Disputes in November.—The strike of cloth weavers at a mill in Menziken, referred to in last month's GAZETTE is still in progress. Reports of three new disputes were contained in *Der Grütliener* in November. All of them were in the metal trades, and limited to single establishments. One, a strike of iron and copper-smiths in Zürich, due, it is stated, to incivility on the part of an overseer, was settled by the intervention of the factory inspector; the second—which occurred at Baden in the canton of Aargau—resulted in the men obtaining, among other concessions, a reduction of working hours without reduction of pay; the third took place in Sursee (Lucerne), being due, it is said, to dismissals for membership of a trade union. The establishment has been "blocked" by the Federation of Metalworkers of Switzerland.

Working hours of Printers reduced.—The nine-hours' day has been introduced in two printing establishments in Winterthur.

BELGIUM.†

Employment in November.—Industrial employment is, on the whole, fairly regular. Activity prevails in all the *Coal fields*. Some movements for effecting a general increase of wages have taken place, but have, so far, resulted merely in slight increases here and there. The *Metal and Engineering* trades continue in the state of prosperity on which they entered about a year ago. The *Glassmaking* trade has become busy, and a general increase in the rate of wages to the extent of 10 to 15 per cent. has been obtained. The *Cotton Spinning* trade continues to expand in Ghent; the *Cotton Weaving, Flax Spinning*, and, above all, the *Carded Wool Spinning* branches are depressed, only 3 or 4 days per week being worked in the last-named trade. Night shifts continue to be worked in the *Combed Wool Spinning* trade, in which, notwithstanding, a slight decrease of activity is reported to have occurred. During a good part of the month the *Building* trades have benefited by a favourable autumnal season, so that their unemployed have been fewer than usual.

Labour Disputes in November.—Reports of 11 disputes were received by the Belgian Labour Department in November. One of them was begun in October. The 11 disputes involved about 1,000 persons directly and 200 indirectly. All the disputes, except one, were confined to single establishments. A strike of stovemakers in Brussels, however, extended to 13 firms. The trades affected were most various, including metal engravers, glovers, coalminers, cement workers, fitters, trimmings-makers, dyers, and stovemakers. Three disputes were due to demands for increased wages. Nearly all of the disputes were settled in the course of a few days, three only being outstanding on December 1st.

Of eight disputes, of which the results have been reported, the workpeople were entirely successful in two, partially successful in two, and unsuccessful in four, one of which resulted in the whole of the workpeople involved being refused re-employment.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes in November.—The number of disputes of which accounts appeared in the principal Austrian labour papers; in November was 26, of which 17 were reported for the first time. Of these 17 disputes, 3 each were in the metal and clothing trades, 2 each in the building, textile, leather-working and button (bone and horn) trades, and 3 in unclassified trades. Fifteen disputes (old and new), for which figures are given, involved altogether some 1,900 persons. Of these 300 consisted of masons, bricklayers and navvies engaged on railway construction work in Teplitz, who struck on November 16th against a reduction of wages, but agreed to a compromise after two days. Between four and five hundred were porcelain workers belonging to an establishment in Dallwitz, near Carlsbad, on strike since September 15th. (See October GAZETTE, p. 311.)

* References to the question of Insurance against want of work in Switzerland will also be found in the following numbers of the GAZETTE: 1894: June (p. 190), July (p. 221), Nov. (p. 350); 1895: Jan. (p. 31), Aug. (p. 245); 1896: Jan. (p. 96), Feb. (p. 54); July (p. 212), and Nov. (p. 342).

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department.

‡ Die Arbeiter Zeitung, Die Gewerkschaft, &c.

The negotiations inaugurated in order to settle the wages dispute in the boot and shoe trade in Vienna were broken off by the workers' representatives during a conference on November 2nd. It was resolved, however, at a general meeting on November 9th not to resume the strike. (See last month's GAZETTE, p. 342.)

Payment of Coalminers' Wages. Regulations for Moravian and Silesian Mines.—One of the chief demands of the miners in the great coal strike which took place in Moravia and Silesia in the beginning of the year (see GAZETTE, March, p. 85, and April, p. 116) was, that wages should be paid weekly instead of at intervals of a month or more. The terms of settlement provided that miners could claim fortnightly instalments up to a certain proportion of their wages. Details of the new rules (to which the employers are legally bound to adhere) are now published in the organ of the miners and smelters of Austria (*Glück Auf*). On the last day of every month each miner must receive an instalment of his pay calculated on the number of shifts he has worked during the first half of that month. For women the rate per shift is 10d.; for youths, 1s. 3d.; for trammers, 1s. 8d.; and for getters, 2s. 6d. No deductions may be made except for money already advanced. On the 15th of each month the balance for the preceding month must be paid, and on this occasion deductions sanctioned by law or by the rules of the mine may be made.

Trade Guilds and Co-operation.—According to information received from Dr. Stephan Bauer, statistical expert to the Brünn Chamber of Commerce, an Act recently passed by the Lower House of the Austrian Parliament empowers the trade guilds (see GAZETTE, December 1894, p. 381) to establish co-operative societies when three-fourths of the members agree to such a step. The almost complete failure of the guilds to establish co-operative societies hitherto is said to be owing to the interpretation placed on the existing law, according to which an unanimous vote of the trade assembly was necessary.

ITALY.

Co-operative Societies and Public Contracts.—Reference has already been made in the GAZETTE (March, 1896, p. 85) to the Law of July 11th 1889, under which associations of workmen for production and labour, if legally constituted, and working on a co-operative basis, are allowed to obtain contracts from public administrations by limited auction or private treaty (open competition being dispensed with), and without furnishing the usual security, if the contract do not exceed the value of £4,000, and provided the value of the labour form the chief part of the total value of the contract. As the result of an inquiry ordered at the end of 1895, 80 associations (more than one-fifth, it is said, of the total number registered as qualified to enjoy the above facilities) have, by order of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, now been removed from the registers. A Commission has been inquiring into the question of reforming the law of 1889, and its report is expected to appear shortly.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on a report prepared for the Foreign Office by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of November 25th:—

Increase of Employment.—A considerable number of manufactories, mills, companies, &c., have resumed working operations since the termination of the elections, and the situation has improved to a marked extent. On November 10th the West Superior Iron and Steel Company started up its large plant in Superior City, Wisconsin. This is one of the largest iron and steel manufacturing plants in the West, and when fully operated will give employment to some 2,500 work-people.

The National Sewing Machine Company in the City of Belvidere (Ill.), which has been practically closed for several months, has been putting on men in every department since the election, and, it is expected, will soon be running full. This company employs about 1,200 men.

The Joliet works of the Illinois Steel Company, employing 2,800 men, started up business on November 5th, and the starting of other works controlled by this company is expected.

The Strike of Silver Miners in Leadville (Colorado).—This strike still remains unsettled. The National Guard of Colorado still continues to guard the mines in which non-union miners are employed.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR NOVEMBER.

Imports.—The imports during November were of a total declared value of £42,502,969, and during the first 11 months of the year £398,303,740, being increases of 9 per cent. and 4.9 per cent. respectively on the corresponding figures for last year.

The following table gives the declared values of the imports grouped in large classes for November 1896 and 1895:—

Class of Goods.	Nov. 1896.	Nov. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£ 18,110,196	£ 16,427,085	1,683,111	—
Metals ...	1,581,522	1,488,235	93,287	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,182,199	1,278,174	—	95,975
Raw Materials for Manufacture of Manufactured Articles ...	13,724,333	11,799,326	1,925,007	—
Miscellaneous ...	6,327,126	6,445,484	—	118,358
Totals ...	42,502,969	39,006,941	3,496,028	—

All classes of corn together show an increase in value of £1,690,370, the imports of wheat alone having increased in amount by 496,420 cwts., and in value by £634,358. The decrease in the imports of all classes of sugar amounts to £316,769. The value of imports of cotton again shows a remarkable increase, amounting to £2,153,580, the increase in quantity being 962,562 cwts. Jute has increased by £205,950. Sheep and lamb's wool, on the other hand, shows a decrease of £297,849, and woollen manufactures have declined by £183,021.

British and Irish Exports.—The exports during November were of a declared value of £18,539,853, or 5.1 per cent. less than in November 1895. For the first eleven months of the year the declared value of the exports amounted to £219,631,003, an increase of 6.1 per cent. on the corresponding figure for last year.

The following table gives the declared value of the exports grouped in large classes for November 1896 and 1895:—

Class of Goods.	Nov. 1896.	Nov. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£ 1,096,577	£ 1,125,399	—	28,822
Raw Materials ...	1,439,773	1,499,897	—	51,124
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	7,623,981	8,448,726	—	824,745
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,720,569	2,658,478	62,091	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,403,755	1,325,834	77,921	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,255,198	4,490,999	—	235,801
Totals ...	18,539,853	19,540,333	—	1,000,480

Cotton piece goods show a decrease in amount of 21½ million yards, and in value of £118,560; woollen and worsted tissues a decrease in amount of 4½ million yards, and in value of £364,048, which is again largely accounted for by the exceptionally heavy exports of this class of goods to the United States in November 1895, in which month they amounted to £456,860 as compared with £133,093 in November 1894 and £138,145 in November last. In the metal group of exports copper continues to show a decrease, and iron an increase. The exports of steam engines show a falling off, but other classes of machinery an increase. The exports of coal and patent fuel have fallen off by 24,790 tons in quantity, and £60,982 in value.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—These amounted during November to £4,380,431, as against £4,364,070 during November 1895. During the first eleven months of the year they amounted to £50,853,653, a decrease of £4,089,664 on the corresponding figures for last year.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage entered from *Foreign Countries and British Possessions* during November amounted to 2,845,909 tons, an increase of 145,019 tons on the amount for November 1895. The tonnage cleared amounted to 2,974,980 tons, a decrease of 62,517 tons on the amount for November 1895. The tonnage of vessels entered *Coastwise* amounted to 2,801,421 tons and the tonnage cleared to 2,628,106 tons, the amounts for November 1895 being 2,610,590 tons and 2,536,662 tons respectively.

ORDER UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Under date of 1st December 1896 the Home Secretary has certified that, in his opinion, the process of vulcanising india-rubber by means of bisulphide of carbon, and the processes incidental thereto, are dangerous or injurious to health. This brings such processes within the scope of Section 8 (1) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, empowering the Chief Inspector to require the adoption of special rules or measures by the occupiers of factories and workshops in which these processes are carried on.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during November were 56 per cent. more than in November of last year, and 15 per cent. more than in November 1894. These increases are due to the large imports of American cotton, the quantities of that class imported in the three periods being 543,822 bales, 296,096 bales, and 476,327 bales respectively. The quantity of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns in November was less than in November 1895, but more than in November 1894. The imports in the eleven completed months of this year are not yet up to the level of the corresponding period of 1895 or 1894. The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
November 1896 ...	616,051	299,763	37,266
" 1895 ...	393,795	306,130	32,959
" 1894 ...	537,386	294,561	47,630
Eleven months ending			
November 1896 ...	2,934,305	2,803,156	345,017
" 1895 ...	3,152,051	2,933,983	398,131
" 1894 ...	3,113,543	3,003,034	460,497

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended 28th November amounted to £5,818,802, being £211,202 (or 3.8 per cent.) more than for the corresponding period of 1895. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,178,695, an increase of £63,878 (or 3.2 per cent.), and from goods and mineral traffic £3,640,107, an increase of £147,324 (or 4.2 per cent.).

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during November numbered 314, or 79 less than in November 1895, 112 less than in November 1894, and 90 less than in November 1893.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during November was £630,311, an increase of £7,606 as compared with November 1895. In England and Wales the increase amounted to £7,829, and in Scotland to £2,986; while in Ireland there was a decrease of £3,209.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during November was 13,529, as compared with 17,759 in November 1895.

British and Irish.—Of the 13,529 passengers, 8,830 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 2,558, as compared with November of last year. All destinations showed a falling off except British North America, to which the number of passengers slightly increased. During the eleven months ended 30th November there were 155,734 British and Irish passengers, being 23,435 (or 13.1 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1895.

The figures for November 1896 and 1895 are as follows:—

Destination.	November 1896.	November 1895.
United States ...	3,913	5,267
British North America ...	396	333
Australasia ...	1,114	1,285
South Africa ...	2,035	3,094
Other places ...	1,372	1,409
Totals ...	8,830	11,388

Foreign.—The remainder of the 13,529 passengers, viz., 4,699, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,672 less than for November 1895.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during November was 5,125. Of these, 1,528 were stated to be *en route* to America, compared with 2,947 so stated in November of last year. Those not said to be bound for America numbered 3,597 (including 926 sailors), as against 3,279 (including 654 sailors) in November 1895.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

The following changes have taken place in the staff of H.M. Inspectors of Factories:—Captain May, R.N., H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories, has resigned his appointment, with effect from November 12th. Mr. W. A. Beaumont has been promoted to the rank of Superintending Inspector of Factories, vice Captain May, R.N., resigned.

New Addresses.—Mr. W. J. Bremner-Davis, 6 Heald-place, Moss-lane East, Manchester. Mr. H. J. Peacock, 36 Fairbank-road, Bradford, Yorks.

LABOUR CASES IN NOVEMBER.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases of the month, specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Omission to timber the sides of a sewer.—A workman, engaged in making a sewer, was imprisoned for over 10 hours by the falling of the earth at the sides. He had since suffered from nervous debility, and now brought an action for damages against his employers, a firm of contractors. The case for the plaintiff was that the sides of the trench were insufficiently protected by timber, and it was alleged that more timber had been asked for by the workmen, and refused by the foreman, on the ground that the defendants grumbled at the use of so much timber on the job. For the defence it was urged that the accident happened in consequence of a tunnel, or heading, whose existence was unknown, giving way at the point where the plaintiff was working. Several expert witnesses were called on behalf of the defendants to say that the system of timbering adopted was sufficient for the purpose. Verdict for plaintiff, damages £65.—Lancaster County Court, November 13th.

(2) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACTS.

Priority over Claims of other Creditors.—Two actions were brought against the executors of the will of a man who had been for many years the secretary of a lodge of a friendly society, and had also carried on business as a farmer, grocer, and draper. The testator died insolvent, and these actions were brought for the administration of his estate by the Court. The plaintiffs in the first action were creditors for about £150 for goods sold and delivered, and the plaintiffs in the other action were the trustees of the lodge of which testator had been secretary, who claimed to have priority under the provisions of the Friendly Societies Act, 1875, over other creditors with regard to their claim of about £1,700, which had been received by the testator on behalf of the lodge and not accounted for. The testator had been for many years almost wholly entrusted with the affairs of the lodge, though there was also a treasurer and trustees. The rules of the lodge provided for the receipt and payment of its moneys by the treasurer, and for investments to be made by the trustees. It was contended by the plaintiffs in the first action, representing the general body of creditors of the testator, that the moneys of the lodge had not come into the possession of the secretary "by virtue of his office" within the meaning of the Act; that, in fact, the duty of the treasurer had been delegated to the secretary, and that, therefore, the society did not bring itself within the meaning of the Act. The judge held that the section of the Act was not to be enlarged, and decided that the society had not brought itself strictly within the same, and was not, therefore, entitled to the priority claimed over the other creditors of the testator.—Chancery Division, October 14th, 15th.

(3) FACTORY ACTS.

Exceeding the Maximum Limit of Humidity.—A firm of cotton cloth manufacturers were fined £35 and £2 18s. 6d. costs for exceeding the maximum limit of humidity under section 5 of the Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889.—Rawtenstall Police Court, November 5th.

Jewish Workshop opened for Traffic on Sundays.—A Jewish buttonhole-maker was summoned for permitting his workshop to be opened for traffic on Sunday. The Assistant-Inspector of Factories stated that on Sunday, September 20th, he followed a young woman who was carrying some ladies' jackets into the workshop through the door, which was open. The witness, however, stated that the employer's daughter objected to the work being left there, and that he did not remember if the goods left the young woman's arms. For the defence it was urged that what had taken place was not "trafficking"; that the work was sent to the workshop for the purpose of being done, in pursuance of an old arrangement; that to enable the Jews to do their work within the permitted hours they must be allowed to carry the goods in and out of the workshop. The defendant admitted that he could not refuse work on Sundays from his old customers, although he never took in work from new ones. The magistrate held that this was trafficking, imposing a nominal penalty of 1s. and 4s. costs, and agreed to state a case.—Thames Police Court, November 17th.

Failure to Supply Particulars.—A firm of linen manufacturers were fined £6 and £2 2s. costs for failure to supply particulars of work to 3 employees; and a firm of cotton manufacturers were fined 10s. and £2 17s. costs for failure to supply sufficient particulars of work to 5 employees.—Barnsley Police Court, November 19th. Darwen Police Court, November 26th.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

The following examinations will be held for certificates of competency for the position of Manager or Under Manager of a Mine. Intending candidates should apply to the respective Secretaries of the Examination Boards:—

Newcastle-upon-Tyne District, 14th and 15th January. Secretary, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (Applications to be sent in on or before 9th January).

South Staffordshire Mining District (will be held shortly). Secretary, Mr. R. S. Williamson, Cannock Wood House, Hednesford, Staffs. (Applications should be sent in at once.)

South Wales Mining District (will be held shortly). Secretary, Mr. Robert T. Rees, Glandare, Aberdare. (Applications should be sent in at once.)

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN NOVEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Informations laid, Convictions, Amount of Penalties, Amount of Costs. Rows include: By Owners, Managers, &c.; Illegal Hours or Times of Employment; Employment in factory or workshop; By Workmen; By Parents.

* The number of convictions in these cases is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Amount of Fines and Costs. Rows include: By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen.

* One of the defendants was sent to prison for 28 days' hard labour, without the option of a fine.

III.—Under the Quarries Act.

Nil.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Table with 4 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Costs. Rows include: By Owners or Masters of Ships; By Seamen; By other Persons.

* Including £15 costs. † Defendant went to prison for 30 days in default of payment.

V.—Under the Friendly Societies Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Table with 3 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Fines and Costs. Row: Failing to send Annual Returns.

PAUPERISM IN NOVEMBER.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of November was 330,108. This corresponds to a rate of 213 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1896.

Compared with October last there is an increase of 9,454 in the number relieved, and of 6 in the rate per 10,000. The rate increased in all the districts, except Galway, the largest increases per 10,000 being Central London, Leicester, and Dublin (15 each), South London, Wigan, North Staffordshire, and Cork, Waterford, and Limerick (10 each). In the Galway district the decrease was 4 per 10,000.

Compared with November 1895 the number relieved is less by 3,960 and the rate per 10,000 by 5. The decrease was almost entirely confined to outdoor pauperism. In nine districts the rate has increased, viz., in Dublin (16), Coatbridge and Airdrie (14), Bristol (10), Leicester (8), Bradford and North Staffordshire (2 each), and West London, Edinburgh and Leith, and Aberdeen (1 each). In Bolton and Oldham, Glasgow, Paisley and Greenock, Dundee and Dunfermline, the rate remained the same. The greatest decreases took place in Stockton and Tees (28), Barnsley (26), Nottingham and Wolverhampton (16 each), West Ham and Sheffield (15 each), Halifax and Huddersfield (12), and Hull (11).

Table with 6 columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of November 1896, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year. Rows include: ENGLAND & WALES; METROPOLIS; OTHER DISTRICTS.

Table with 6 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carpenters, Stables, Clerks and Warehousemen, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men. Rows include: London, Provincial.

Table with 6 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, Servants, Dress-makers and Seamstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total. Rows include: London, Provincial.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; 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.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN NOVEMBER

DURING November 2,532 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns. Private employers engaged 669 persons, and local authorities 319. Of these 988 persons engaged, 370 are stated to have obtained work of a temporary character only. Of the 3,132 workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month, 1,947 were men, 1,109 women and girls, and 76 lads and boys.

Taking the figures of the 10 bureaux which also furnished returns for November 1895, it will be seen that the number of fresh applicants for work decreased by 38 per cent., the total being 1,666 for November, and 2,686 for November 1895.

(I.) Work Done in November.

Table with 8 columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Private Employers, No. of Workpeople found by Local Authorities. Rows include: London, Provincial.

(II.) Workpeople on Registers at end of Nov. classified by Occupations.

Table with 8 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carpenters, Stables, Clerks and Warehousemen, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men. Rows include: London, Provincial.

Table with 8 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, Servants, Dress-makers and Seamstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total. Rows include: London, Provincial.

* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. † Cannot be given. ‡ Women and Girls are not registered at Hackney and Plymouth Bureaux.

TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER.

Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, returns from Employers and Trade Unions, and newspaper reports. Applications for particulars are made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the time of going to press is used.)

Number and Magnitude.—Sixty-five fresh disputes took place in November 1896, compared with 55 in October, and 38 in November 1895. In 57 of these disputes 14,083 workpeople were involved, compared with 10,433 in October, and 11,576 in November 1895, so far as known.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 6 disputes occurred, 4 involving 133 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 13 disputes, 9 involving 2,108 workpeople; engineering and shipbuilding, 12 disputes, 11 involving 2,945 workpeople; miscellaneous metal trades, 10 disputes, 9 involving 5,241 workpeople; textile trades, 9 disputes, involving 2,790 workpeople; clothing trades, 6 disputes, involving 318 workpeople; miscellaneous trades, 9 disputes, involving 548 workpeople.

Causes.—Twenty-seven of the 65 new disputes were upon wages questions mainly; 28 upon questions of working arrangements, classification of goods, &c. (one being a strike against safeguards introduced under the provisions of the Factory Act); 6 were upon the employment of non-unionists; 2 upon demarcation of work between certain trades; 1 upon a question of hours of labour; and 1 was a turn out in support of men in another branch of their trade.

Results.—Forty old disputes (34 involving 11,846 workpeople) and 20 new disputes, involving 1,543 workpeople, were reported as settled during the month. In 35 of these disputes (32 involving 4,379 persons) the workpeople were successful; in 6, involving 6,590 persons, partially successful; in 14 (11 involving 1,789 persons) unsuccessful; and in 5 disputes, involving 631 persons, the success or otherwise cannot at present be definitely stated.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER 1896.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termin-ation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Bricklayers	Pendlebury, Swinton & District	For advance in wages from 9d. to 10d. per hour	...	100	Nov. 4	Nov. ...	No details of settlement.
Masons	Maryhill, Glasgow	Objection to importation of hand wrought material, in infringement of district working agreement	1	6	17	30	Employer paid a fine of £5, and work was resumed.
Ditto	Newport, Mon. Newcastle-on-Tyne	Objection to a non-unionist foreman ... Refusal to work under a foreman who had not paid a fine inflicted by union	1	18	24	Dec. 7 Nov.	Foreman and other non-unionists paid fines and joined the union.
Ditto	Farnworth	Against employment of cabinet-makers and others at less than trade union rates	1	...	29	...	No details of settlement.
Paviors	Aberdeen	Against employment of setmakers to lay cause-way for tramways	1	9	16	17	Men's demands conceded, and compensation given for lost time.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal Miners	Hafod, Pontypridd	Refusal of employer to pay for putting up road posts in working places	1	97	7	18	Referred to Sliding Scale Committee, work being resumed.
Ditto	Bristol	For return to old rate of wages, a reduction of 10 per cent. having been temporarily accepted	1	190	12	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Coatbridge	For advance in wages granted in neighbouring collieries	1	76 dir. 20 indir.	12	17	Work resumed without any advance.
Ditto	Kirkintilloch	For advance of 2d. on tonnage rate	1	...	12	12	Work resumed the following morning, the movement having taken place without union sanction.
Ditto	Castleford	Dispute as to system of working coal, and in defence of certain dismissed men	1	800	16	23	Referred to a Joint Committee; discharged men reinstated.
Ditto	Sanguhar, Dumfries	For advance in wages to the Ayrshire rate	1	50	17	19	Advance granted.
Ditto	Denny	For advance in wages...	1	...	17	18	Advance of 2d. per ton granted.
Ditto	Earnock	Management required an agreement from men to discontinue meetings for discussion of grievances in the colliery precincts	1	...	24	26	Work resumed on manager's terms.
Ditto	Whiston, Lancs.	Dispute as to amount of dirt in coal	1	150	24	24	Satisfactory settlement arranged by miner's agent.
Ditto	Merthyr Tydvil	For increase in tonnage prices, from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d., the rate obtaining in another portion of the coal vein	1	79	13	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Coatbridge	For advance in wages granted in neighbourhood	1	...	...	Lasted 3 days	Advance granted. Question referred to Joint Committee, and work resumed.
Hauliers	Near Ponty-pool	For advance in wages of 6d. per day	1	456 dir. & indir. 40 dir. 150 indir.	2	9	Referred to Joint Committee of Conciliation Board. Boys to work the longer hours, and to receive increase in wages of 15 per cent.
Pony drivers and other boys	Flimby, Cumberland	Objection to proposed increased hours of work, though with extra pay	1	...	2	9	...
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.							
Engineering—							
Ironmoulders	Leigh	For advance in wages from 36s. to 38s. per week of 53 hours	1	17	2	...	Still unsettled.
Iron and Steel Dressers	Nottingham	For advance in wages from 24s. to a minimum of 26s. per week	5	25	23	...	Ditto.
Ditto (Fettlers)	Ditto	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	1	10	23	28	Advance granted.
Fitters, Turners, &c.	Wakefield	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	2	400	9	11	Immediate advance of 1s. per week granted, with a further 1s. from 1st Jan. 1897.
Engineers	Wolverhampton	Against employment of labourers upon skilled men's work	1	16	14	...	Still unsettled.
Fitters and Turners	Colne	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	2	57	14	...	Ditto.
Engineers	Kilmarnock	For advance in wages of 1s. for men earning more than 30s. per week, and 2s. for those earning less, with extra allowance for country work	3	190	23	...	Ditto.
Fitters and Turners	Cleckheaton	For advance in wages and reduction in hours of labour	1	130 dir. 100 indir.	28	...	Ditto.
Boilermakers	Barnsley	For advance in wages	1	...	2	9	Full details of settlement not yet to hand.
Spindle and Flyer-makers	Manchester, Bolton, Bury, Ashton-under-Lyne, Farnworth and Dukinfield	For advance in wages	13	700	28	...	Still unsettled.
Shipbuilding—							
Platers and Helpers	West Hartlepool	Alleged insufficient punching machines for the number of men employed	1	300	26	2 Dec.	Employers to endeavour to provide additional facilities.
Platers, Helpers and Labourers	Ditto	Objection to action of a policeman stationed in yard	1	1,000	30	1	Man in question removed.
Miscellaneous Metal Trades.							
Steel Smelters and Millmen	Brymbo, Wrexham	For advance in wages of 15 per cent, and reinstatement of 5 discharged fellow unionists	1	62	15	Nov. ...	Still unsettled.
Range Fitters and Foundry Smiths	Glasgow	Objection to employment of three non-union men stated to be incompetent	1	53	14	16 Dec.	Employer dispensed with the non-unionists.
Bedstead Workers	Birmingham	Firm not in employers' association	1	11	16	4	Employer joined the association.
Brass Finishers	Rotherham	Employers refused to allow men to join their union	1	44	14	...	Still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER 1896—continued.

Trade	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termin-ation.	Result.
Tinplate-workers	South Wales	For restoration of the 1874 amended price list	...	5,000	Nov. 2 to 12	Nov. Various dates	Work resumed upon temporary reductions from the 1874 list in some cases, and in others the full list granted, or a promise thereof at a definite period. About 500 still out on 4th Dec. Full price list to be paid in January.
Millmen (tinplate works)	Neath	Alleged failure of employer to carry out promise as to 1874 price list	1	...	23	...	Still unsettled.
Cased Tube Workers (for bedsteads)	Birmingham	Firm sold business to a bedstead syndicate, whereby the tube making would cease to be a separate industry	1	12	16	...	Still unsettled.
Bedstead Workers	Ditto	Employer not being a member of Bedstead Maker's Alliance	1	27	28	...	Ditto.
Wire Weavers (boys)	Norwich	Against fines for alleged waste of wire	1	30	9	16	Fines only to be inflicted for proved wilful waste.
Braziers & Sheet Metal Workers	Rochdale	For advance in wages of 2s. per week conceded by other firms	1	2	21	...	Still unsettled.
Textile Trades.							
Cotton Weavers	Padiham	Alleged excessive steaming in weaving shed	1	130	16	17	Employers agreed to keep wet and dry bulbs at least four degrees apart
Ditto	Read, Padiham	Alleged bad material and complaint as to "driving"	1	200	19	20	Promise of improved material, and removal of other grievance.
Ditto	Blackburn	Alleged bad material	1	250	25	26	Complaint to be inquired into.
Woolen and Worsted Weavers	Apperley Bridge, Leeds	Objection to proposed new system of attending to woolen and worsted looms indiscriminately	1	212 dir. 600 indir.	23	24	Work resumed on promise to make up average earnings if system proved disadvantageous to weavers.
Jute Spinners	Dundee	New jute alleged to be inferior to that of previous seasons	1	22 dir. 350 indir. 300 dir. 117 indir. 70 dir. 412 indir.	9	10	Work resumed on old conditions.
Jute Weavers	Ditto	Alleged inferior yarn	1	...	19	27	Ditto.
Jute Spinners	Ditto	Alleged bad material	1	...	19	24	Ditto.
Jute Weavers	Ditto	Objection to shuttle guards, fitted on looms according to requirements of Factory Act	1	103	20	21	Shuttle guards removed.
Lace Operatives (Levers' Branch)	Nottingham	Dispute as to classification of certain goods	2	24	16	25	Dispute referred to Conciliation Board.
Clothing Trades.							
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Norwich	Against both time and piece work systems of pay in one department	1	27	2	...	Still unsettled.
Cordwainers	Edinburgh	Objection to jobbing work being done in factories at lower rates than those in employers' own shops	2	73	9	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Ditto	Against refusal of employers to give out work pending previous dispute	2	120	27	...	Ditto.
Button-hole Makers (Girls) (Tailoring)	Leeds	Against proposed reduction in wages of 20 per cent.	1	7	19	23 Dec.	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Felt Hat Finishers	Denton	For compensation on account of extra labour entailed by bad work	1	30	28	1	Full details of settlement not yet to hand.
Felt Hatmakers	Ditto	Against machinery which allowed youths and unskilled labour to take place of journeymen	1	61	28	...	Still unsettled.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Cabinet-makers	London E. & E.C.	For abolition of pieceworking	12	206	Various dates.	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Shipley	For abolition of piecework, increased day work rates, and limitation of number of apprentices	1	200	13	...	Ditto.
French-polishers	London, E.C.	In support of the cabinet makers who came out in October for abolition of piecework	2	18	12	...	Ditto.
Lithographic Printers	Edinburgh	Against proposed introduction of three days "lying time"	1	19	20	Nov. 27	Employer agreed to existing arrangement as regards "lying time."
Bakers	Plymouth	For increased wages and shorter hours of labour	—	27	9	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Cork	Refusal to work with a non-union foreman	1	4	16	...	Ditto.
Basket-makers	London, E.C.	Proposed payment at less than union rate for one class of goods	1	4	10	11	Employer agreed to pay trade union rate.
Matmakers	Sudbury	For payment at price obtaining in other firms, and redress of other grievances	1	60	17	19	Men's demands conceded.
Dock Labourers	Plymouth	Objection to increased number of men to unload a vessel	1	10	24	—	Places filled by other men.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE NOVEMBER, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Building Trades.							
Carpenters and Joiners	Nantwich	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and revised code of working rules	9	40	1 June	Nov. 21	Men replaced, and shops blocked to unionists.
Ditto	Cork	For advance in wages and revised code of working rules	16	120	15 June	28	Revised working rules conceded, and increase in wages of 1s. 6d. per week promised, to begin 1st March 1897.
Ditto	Winsford	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. per hour	4	20	19 Sept.	24	Work resumed without any reduction in wages.
Sawyers and Wood-cutting Machinists	Greenock	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	1	19	23 Oct.	27	Advance granted.
Glass Painters, &c.	Belfast	Alleged excessive number of apprentices	1	14	24 Oct.	—	Men obtained work elsewhere.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal miners	Port Talbot	Against substitution of fortnightly for weekly pays.	1	311	6 Oct.	23	Weekly pay days to continue till end of the year.
Engineering Trade.							
Pattern-makers	Halifax	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	1	12	5 Sept.	9	Advance conceded.
Ditto	Kilmarnock	For advance in wages of 1s. per week	2	28	28 Oct.	9	Advance to be conceded from Dec. 1st.
Engineers	Preston	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	7	300	31 Oct.	19	Advance granted.
Ditto	Bradford	For the advance in wages of 2s. per week generally granted	1	18	31 Oct.	—	Men obtained employment elsewhere.
Metal Trades.							
Bedstead mount, &c., makers	Birmingham	Dispute as to price of a certain article, and deduction of trade bonus of 20 per cent. from the wages of two men.	1	24	17 Oct.	...	Settlement effected at a conference with union officials.
Textile Trades.							
Cotton Weavers	Barnoldswick	Against refusal of employers to pay according to price lists of district	4	275	1895 16 Oct. 1896	Date not stated	Employers filled the places of those who came out.
Willayers & Fettlers	Leeds	Employment refused to men for having demanded increased wages	1	5	6 July	14	Employers agreed to pay the increased rate demanded.
Woolen Weavers	Twerton, Bath	Objection to weave a certain class of goods on "fast" looms, alleged to have the effect of reducing earnings.	1	30	25 Sept.	26	Goods to be manufactured on the day work system at prices satisfactory to the weavers.
Silk Dyers	Macclesfield	For increase in wages of 1s. 6d. per week, and reduction in hours of labour from 59 to 54½	11	200	10 Feb.	23	Work resumed on old terms by about half the dyers. An advance in wages of 1s. per week, with reduction of 2½ hours had been granted early in the dispute to the others.
Clothing Trades.							
Riveters and Finishers	Leeds	Against a non-unionist who was alleged to be working at less than "statement" prices	1	13	23 Oct.	3	The non unionist discharged.
Ditto	Ditto	Alleged refusal of employer to pay "statement" prices	1	11	26 Oct.	4	Employer agreed to pay up to list prices.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Leicester	Refusal of employer to pay standard rates for children's boots and shoes	1	16 dir. 6 indir.	31 Oct.	28	Works removed from the town, and shop blocked to unionists.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Gladstone Bagnmakers	London, S.E.	Inability to earn satisfactory wages, owing to piecework system	1	43	16 Oct.	12	Work resumed on employer's terms.
Sanitary Pressers	Church Gresley	For increase in prices for making a certain article	1	27 dir. 11 indir.	26 Oct.	16	Increased price granted.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE NOVEMBER, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in October were still unsettled:—Coal miners, Pemberton, Aberdare and Forest of Dean; brass casters, Rotherham; laceworkers, Kimberley, Notts; brassfounders, London, E.C.; cabinet makers, London, E.C.; tannery employes, Leeds; plate and machine moulders, Burnley.
The following disputes which commenced before October were also still unsettled:—Engineers, Hull (since settled, Dec.), Keighley and Shipley; cotton spinners, Slaithwaite; fustian cutters, Congleton (since settled, Dec.); quarrymen, Bethesda; military cork head-dress makers, London, S.E.; cotton weavers, Padiham; warp dressers, Colne.

The following disputes commencing before November, of which information has only recently been received, are also still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Establishments.	Workpeople.	Date of Commencement.
Coal Miners	Bolton	Dispute as to prices in respect of a new seam of coal	1	15	7th Oct.
Farriers	Oldham	Dispute as to period of notice for desired increase in wages	7	19	31st Oct.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN NOVEMBER.

(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 November it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 1 Co-operative Association for Distribution and 7 for Production, and 4 Miscellaneous Societies, 16 new Friendly Societies, and 40 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Nineteen Building Societies, 5 Industrial and Provident Societies and 5 Trade Unions are reported as having ceased to exist (1 by amalgamation), to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry cancelled.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Devonport Government Labourers' Union, Temperance Hall, Fore St., Devonport; Wednesfield Spring Trapmakers' Soc., Dog and Partridge Inn, Wednesfield; National Soc. of Plasterers and Slaters' Labourers, Liverpool No. 2 Branch, 5 Great Homer St., Liverpool. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Dublin Builders' Labourers' Trade Union, 3 Halston St., Dublin; Belfast Municipal Employees and Other Workers' Soc., St. Anne's Hall, Donegal St., Belfast.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Queensferry and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Pentre, Hawarden. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Leek Co-op. Trimming Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., 47 Stockwell St., Leek. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—North Galway Co-op. Pig Feeders' Soc., Ltd., Mount Bellew, co. Galway, and Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Societies at Moneymore, Londonderry; Kildallon, Ardlogher, co. Cavan; Dunleer, co. Louth; Coagh, co. Tyrone; Cookstown, co. Tyrone.

(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Brinklow W. M. Club, Ltd., Brinklow, Coventry; Market Harborough W. M. Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., King's Head Place, Market Harborough; Peoples' Refreshment House Association, Ltd., 15 Grosvenor Rd., S.W.; Oddfellows' Hall and Institute Bolton Unity Land and Builders' Soc., Oddfellows' Hall, Derby St., Werneth, Oldham.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Collecting, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 6; Juvenile, 4; Specially Authorised, 1. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—I.O. Rechabites, 9 (including 4 branches for Juveniles and 1 Juvenile District); A.O. Foresters, 6; L.O.A. Shepherds, A.U., 4; N.U.O. Free Gardeners, 3; I.O. Oddfellows, M.U., 6; various others, 9. Scotland.—Various, 3. Ireland.—None.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Durham and District Builders' Labourers' Union (registry cancelled by request); National Association of Builders' Labourers (Rugby); Wigan and District Milk Dealers' Association; Norfolk Federal Union, Harleston District; Bolton and District Co-operative Employees Union.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Stobswood Co-op. Society; London Amalgamated Co-op. Builders, Canning Town, E. (final return); Workers' Socialist Co-op. Federation, London, E.; North of England Co-op. Tailoring Soc., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Nantwich Ind. Co-op. Soc. (amalgamated with Crewe Soc.). Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 8; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 7.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

England and Wales.—During November one new distributive society and one new productive society were registered, and two existing distributive societies report opening new branches. A distributive society at Stobswood is winding up, one at Nantwich has amalgamated with one at Crewe, and a society at Shoreditch has had its registry cancelled. A productive tailoring society at Newcastle has had its registry cancelled, and a builders' society at Canning Town has reported its final winding up.

The report of the English Wholesale Society for the quarter ended September 26th last shows that the federation included 1,046 societies, with a total membership of 984,462, and that its sales during the quarter in the distributive departments amounted to £2,782,482, as compared with £2,524,355 in the corresponding period of 1895, an increase of 10.1 per cent.

In the manufacturing departments the sales—i.e., transfers to distributive departments—amounted to £277,118, as compared with £253,854 in the corresponding period of 1895, an increase of 9.2 per cent.

A co-operative cutlery manufacturing society is in course of formation at Sheffield.

Scotland.—No new societies have been registered during the month, but two existing distributive societies report the opening of new branches. At the quarterly meeting of delegates of the Scottish Wholesale Society, held on November 28th, the chairman reported that the sales in the distributive departments for the quarter ended September 26th last amounted to £951,157, as compared with £855,805 for the corresponding period of 1895, an increase of 11.1 per cent. The sales in the manufacturing departments show an increase, but the amount was not stated.

Ireland.—Five new co-operative agricultural and dairying societies and 1 co-operative pigfeeders' society were registered in November.

The Irish Co-operative Agency Society (a federation of 43 dairy and agricultural societies) reports that its distributive sales for the quarter ended September 30th amounted to £35,488, as compared with £30,419 in the corresponding period of 1895, an increase of 16.7 per cent.

The second annual conference of Irish co-operative dairy and agricultural societies was held in Dublin on November 10th, under the auspices of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. Seventy-four delegates, representing 47 societies, and 19 visitors and officials were present. It was announced that during the coming year attention would be given to the promotion of agricultural credit banks. A number of other subjects bearing on co-operation were discussed.

OHIO BUREAU OF LABOUR STATISTICS.

THE Nineteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of Ohio for 1895, gives an account of the history and conditions of work in the clayworking industries in Ohio, together with statistics relating to manufactures and coal mining.

Particulars received from 1,036 establishments in a large number of industries for each of the three years, 1892, 1893 and 1894, show that the wages paid by these establishments amounted to £4,820,831 in 1892, to £4,321,137 in 1893, and to £3,908,114 in 1894.

The following details are given with regard to the work of the five employment offices at Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo and Dayton, during the past six years:—

Year.	Help Wanted.		Situations Wanted.		Situations Found.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1890	11,453	6,701	14,529	5,607	5,575	3,415
1891	9,695	13,513	21,457	12,914	6,967	8,628
1892	8,227	13,945	15,522	11,424	5,905	7,840
1893	5,826	11,403	14,169	12,685	4,566	8,635
1894	2,426	9,444	14,521	14,616	2,140	7,626
1895	3,051	12,172	14,165	13,793	2,677	9,048

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

THE numbers of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed or injured by accidents reported in November 1896 and 1895 respectively were as follows:—

Occupations.	Summary.			
	Killed.		Injured.	
	Nov. 1896.	Nov. 1895.	Nov. 1896.	Nov. 1895.
Railway Servants...	42	48	1,296*	634*
Seamen ...	128	184	171	†
Miners ...	75	91	413	672
Quarrymen ...	11	8	74	52
Factory and Workshop Operatives:—				
Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons ...	59	58	1,304	1,213
Other Accidents ...	—	—	1,846	†
Others (so far as reported) ...	5	4	111	101
Totals ...	320	393	5,215	—

* See note to Table I. below. † No returns.

The particulars are given in greater detail in the following Tables:—

I. Railway Servants.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of November 1896.

[The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December 1895.]

Class of Service.	Killed.	Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.					Total of Injuries.
		Causing Amputations.	Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries.	Contusions and Bruises.	Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.	
Brakemen and Goods Guards	4	...	7	23	26	23	79
Engine Drivers ...	1	2	5	7	4	10	28
Firemen ...	1	...	2	9	9	15	35
Guards (Passenger) ...	...	1	...	3	3	5	12
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	9	1	2	3	1	2	9
Porters ...	1	...	4	21	7	20	52
Shunters ...	3	...	2	16	13	15	46
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants) ...	19	1	11	23	19	29	83
Total for Nov. 1896 ...	38	5	33	105	82	119	344
Total for Nov. 1895 ...	45	6	...	102	...	105	213

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 4 servants killed and 982 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during November. These figures have been reported in accordance with a new order recently issued by the Board of Trade, and are scarcely comparable with those for November 1895.

II. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of November 1896 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

[The returns of non-fatal injuries are probably far from complete, the tabulation being first made in February last.]

Cause and Class of Accident.	Number reported as Killed or Injured.						
	In November 1896			Total for 3 months Sep. 1896 to Nov. 1896	Corresponding total for 3 months of 1895	Returns.	
	On Trading Vessels.	On Fishing Vessels.	Total in Nov. 1896.				
I.—By Wreck or Casualty—	Killed ...	12	26	1	40	87	265
	Fractures and Dislocations ...	...	1	...	1	4	No returns.
	Other or unspecified Injuries	1	11	1	13	20	No returns.
II.—By other Accidents—	Killed ...	30	52	3	88	235	225
	Fractures and Dislocations ...	7	29	3	40	102	No returns.
	Other or unspecified Injuries	8	97	3	117	355	No returns.
III.—All Accidents—	Total Killed ...	42	78	4	124	322	490
	Total Injured ...	16	138	7	161	481	No returns.

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic agreements, are not included.

III. Miners and Quarrymen.*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of November 1896. [The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 733,657, and in and about quarries as 104,625 in 1895.]

Cause of Accident.	MINES.		QUARRIES.	
	Number of Persons		Number of Persons	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Underground:—	Explosions of Fire-damp ...	11	Explosives or Blasting ...	1
	Falls of ground ...	36	Falls of ground ...	4
	In shafts ...	5	During Ascent or Descent ...	1
	Miscellaneous ...	23	Miscellaneous ...	5
	Total ...	64	Total for Nov. 1896 ...	11
Surface:—	Miscellaneous ...	11	Total for Nov. 1895 ...	8
	Total for Nov. 1896 ...	75	Total for Nov. 1895 ...	74
Total for Nov. 1895 ...	91	Total for Nov. 1895 ...	8	52

* Supplied by the Home Office.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of November 1896.

[The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Class of Accident.	Killed.	Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.					Total Persons Injured.†
		Causing Amputations.	Fractures.	Injuries to Head or Face.	Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes.	Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries.	
Males.							
Adults (over 18) ...	49	121	48	59	2	517	747
Young Persons ...	7	56	24	18	1	236	335
Boys ...	1	4	...	1	1	11	17
Total Males ...	57	181	72	78	4	764	1,099
Females.							
Adults (over 18) ...	...	20	1	9	1	77	108
Young Persons ...	2	27	4	5	...	56	92
Girls ...	...	2	...	...	...	3	5
Total Females ...	2	49	5	14	1	136	205
Total Males and Females for Nov. 1896 ...	59	230	77	92	5	900	1,304
Total for Nov. 1895 ...	58	...	...	...	...	...	1,213

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,816 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors.

V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of November 1896.

Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.			Use or Working.		
	Number of Persons.			Number of Persons.		
	Killed.	Fractures and Dislocations.	Other Injuries.	Killed.	Fractures and Dislocations.	Other Injuries.
Bridge ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Canal ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Railway* ...	1	4	37	41	...	...
Tramroad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tramway ...	...	...	...	...	1	8
Tunnel ...	...	4	17	21	...	...
Other Works† ...	1	4	31	35	...	1
Traction engine! ...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Total for Nov. 1896 ...	3	12	86	98	2	12
Total for Nov. 1895 ...	3	10	68	78	1	22

* 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.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Based on Home Office Returns.)

DURING November 100 cases of lead poisoning in factories and workshops were reported, as compared with 74 cases in October. Of those affected 55 were men, 41 women, and 4 young persons (3 lads and a girl).

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers* and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many Employers, Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.)

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during November affected a total number of 103,000 workpeople, all of whom received increases. The average amount of the increase per head is estimated at 1s. 9d. per week.

Increases.—In West Scotland 45,000 miners received an increase of 6d. per day, and 9,000 of 4d. per day. The surface-workers did not participate in this increase. The 31,000 ironworkers in the North and Midland districts of England and in the West of Scotland district have secured advances. A considerable number of increases continue to be reported in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, the number included in the present table affecting nearly 4,000 workpeople. In South Staffordshire and Worcestershire about 3,500 nail-makers are reported to have secured an advance. During November increases of 5, 10, or in some cases of 15 per cent. in the wages of 6,768 tinsplate workers took effect. Of this number 990 succeeded in regaining the full 1874 list of prices in November, and arrangements have been made for a much larger number of workpeople to be paid the full list from December or January. A new agreement has been signed between the Lancashire glass bottle makers and their workpeople, resulting in a gain to the 500 workmen affected of about 5s. per week. A general rise took place in the wages of seamen shipped on foreign-going vessels from Cardiff, no less than 1,403 having benefited during the month.

Decreases.—None reported.

Method by which Changes of Wages were made.—Of the 103,000 workpeople whose wages were increased, 31,000 received advances under sliding scale agreements, and 64,000 had their wages advanced without any strike, after negotiation, mutual arrangement, or by the voluntary concessions of employers. The changes in the case of the remaining 8,000 persons were preceded or accompanied by strikes, although, in some cases, only a section of the men whose wages were altered actually struck work.

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 changes in the pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, COAL MINING, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, and MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is enquired into before the information is used here. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks 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. § The weekly wages have been computed on the basis of five days constituting an average full week's work for coalminers in Scotland.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full Week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full Week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, TINPLATE TRADE, OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES, GLASS BOTTLE TRADES, and EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Increases—6,768 persons. Tinplate Workers: South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire. Particulars of Change: Advance to the amended 1874 list of prices, equal to an increase of 15 per cent. Advance of 10 per cent. making wages after change 5 per cent. below amended 1874 list of prices. Advance of 10 per cent. making wages after change 7 1/2 per cent. below amended 1874 list of prices. Advance of 10 per cent. making wages after change 10 per cent. below amended 1874 list of prices. Advance of 10 per cent. making wages after change 10 per cent. below amended 1874 list of prices.

3 Increases—3,525 persons. OTHER METAL TRADES. Braziers, Sheet and Metal Workers: Rochdale, Todmorden and Shaw. Advance of 2s. per week. Wrought Nail Makers: S. Staffs. and Worcester. Advance equal to an increase of 10 per cent. Pen and Pocket Blade Forgers: Sheffield. Advance in piece rate prices.

3 Increases—355 persons. TEXTILE TRADES. Fancy Weavers: Eccles and Pendlebury Districts. Advance of 10 per cent. on prices for single-shuttle toilet quilts. Willeyers and Fettlers: Leeds. Advance of 3d. per hour (5d. to 5 1/2d.). Twistors and Drawers: Lockwood. Advance of 3d. per score porties (3 1/2d. to 4d.).

2 Increases—160-170 persons. CLOTHING TRADES. Ready-made Clothing Machinists: Todmorden, Mytholmroyd, and Luddenden. Advance in piece prices, stated to be equal to an increase of about 1s. per week in earnings. Solemakers (Cloggers): Middleton and Rhodes. New list of piece prices agreed to.

4 Increases—73 persons. WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES. Lathrenders: Hull. Advance of 3d. per bundle (2 1/2d. to 3d.). Wood Turners: Birmingham. Advance of 3d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.). Sawyers and Wood-cutting Machinists: Edinburgh & Leith, Greenock. Advance of 2s. per week.

1 Increase—500 persons. GLASS BOTTLE TRADES. Makers, Blowers and Gatherers: Lancashire. Advance of 3s. 1d. per week upon standard wages: makers, 30s. to 33s.; blowers, 26s. to 29s. and gatherers, 22s. to 25s.; and an increase of 5 per cent. on rates for overwork.

3 Increases—100 persons. EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Foremen: Sunderland. Advance of 1s. per week. Night Cartmen: Sunderland. Advance of 2s. per week. Night Ashpit men: Sunderland. Advance of 2s. per week. Ganger and Sewermen: Fulham. Advance of 1s. per week. Lamplighters, Scavengers and Carters: Portobello. Advance of 1s. per week.

4 Increases—persons. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Earthenware Pressers: Church Gresley, nr. Burton-on-Trent. Increase in certain piece prices. Tram Drivers: Dewsbury, Batley and Birstall. Advance of 1s. per week. Floorcloth Printers: Kirkcaldy. Advance of 2s. per week. Bakers: Three Towns, Plymouth. Advance of 1s. to 4s. per week.

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

		Increases—1,531 persons.		SEAMEN.		Decreases—Nil.					
Port.	Voyage.	Occupation.	No. shipped at new Rate during Nov.		Particulars of Change.		Monthly Rates.*				
			Increase.	Decrease.	(Decreases in Italics.)		Oct. 1896.	Nov. 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.	
Steamships:—											
Middlesbrough	East Indies and China	Firemen	4	...	Increase of 5s. per month	80 0	85 0	5 0	...	...
Bristol	North America (E. Coast)	Able Seamen	55	...	Increase of 5s. per month	75 0	80 0	5 0	...	...
Ditto	...	Firemen	46	...	Increase of 5s. per month	80 0	85 0	5 0	...	...
Ditto	...	Trimmers	2	...	Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0	5 0	...	...
Cardiff	(General)	Able Seamen	607	...	Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0	5 0	...	...
Ditto	...	...	35	...	Increase of 5s. per month	75 0	80 0	5 0	...	...
Ditto	...	...	6	...	Increase of 2s. 6d. per month	75 0	77 6	2 6	...	...
Leith	Cape, Natal and E. Africa	Able Seamen	36	...	Increase of 5s. per month	75 0	80 0	5 0	...	...
Ditto	...	Firemen	5	...	Increase of 5s. per month	80 0	85 0	5 0	...	...
Ditto	...	...	6	...	Increase of 5s. per month	80 0	85 0	5 0	...	...
Sailing Vessels:—											
Cardiff	(General)	Able Seamen	71	...	Increase of 5s. per month	55 0	60 0	5 0	...	...
Steamships:— (Weekly Rates)											
Bristol	Baltic	Able Seamen	6	...	Increase of 2s. 4d. per week	28 0	30 4	2 4	...	...
Ditto	...	Firemen	4	...	Increase of 4s. 6d. per week	28 0	32 6	4 6	...	...
Cardiff	Running Agreements in Foreign Trade	Able Seamen	42	...	Increase of 2s. per week	28 0	30 0	2 0	...	...
Ditto	...	Firemen	30	...	Increase of 2s. per week	28 0	30 0	2 0	...	...
Leith*	Ditto in Foreign, Home and Coasting Trades	Able Seamen and Firemen	—*	...	Increase of 2s. per week	28 0	30 0	2 0	...	...

* The Leith shipowners have agreed to increase the wages of the seamen and firemen on weekly steamers by 2s. per week (28s. to 30s.) from 1st December.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

The changes in hours of labour reported during November (excluding the slight modification in the hours of labour of labourers in the London building trade) affected 5,791 workpeople. Of this number, 5,251 had their working week shortened by an average of 2.76 hours per week, and 640 had them lengthened by an average of one hour per week. The engineering employers in the Liverpool and Birkenhead district and in the Cleckheaton district have conceded to their workpeople a reduction of one hour per week without loss of pay. The hours of labour of 820 tramway servants at Manchester have been re-arranged, so as to give a reduction of 10 hours per week without loss of pay; and a number of goods shunters at the Hartlepool will be put on the 8 hours day from 1st January. The increase in the hours of labour during winter months of 600 paviors, &c., at Sheffield, was arranged at the request of the workpeople, and involves an increase in earnings.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).			Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. or Inc. per week.					Before change.	After change.	Dec. or Inc. per week.
DECREASES.													
Building Trades.													
Bricklayers*	Driffeld	31st Oct.	15	Summer 56½	Winter 55½	1	Railway Servants.						
Labourers...	Ditto	1st Nov.	16	48	47	1	Signalmen	Inverkeithing	23rd Nov.	6	72	48	24
Plumbers, House	Newcastle-on-Tyne	1st Nov.	190	54	53	1	Ditto	Lumphanans	10th Oct.	2	72	60	12
Labourers in Building Trade.†	District	Nov.	25,000	44½	44	—†	Ditto	Dunfermline	30th Nov.	5	72	60	12
							Goods Shunters...	The Hartlepool	1st Jan '97	61	60	48	12
							Textile Trade.						
Metal Trades.							Cardmakers and Wire drawers	Cleckheaton	2nd and 3rd Nov.	103	59	56	3
Workpeople in Engineering Shops	Liverpool, Birkenhead and District	9th Jan.	3,140‡	54	53	1	Cardmakers	Scholes, Cleckheaton	9th Nov.	10	59	56	3
Workpeople in Electrical Engineering Shop	Birmingham	7th Nov.	101	53	49	4	Ditto	Ditto	2nd Nov.	19	62	59	3
Workpeople in Engineering Shop	Bradford	12th Nov.	50	54	53	1	Ditto	Rochdale	7th Nov.	14	62	56	6
Workpeople in Engineering Shops	Cleckheaton, Liversedge and Heckmondwike	Nov.	480	54	53	1	Other Trades.						
							Lithographic Printers	Dublin	1st Jan. 1897	99	55	52½	2½
Tramway Servants.							Co-operative Society's Employees	Retford	16th Nov.	12	58	55	3
Tram Drivers and Conductors	Manchester and Salford	1st Nov.	820	About 75	About 65	10	INCREASES.						
							Pony Drivers in Coal Mine	Cumberland	9th Nov.	40 lads	49½	53½	3½
							Flag and Set Dressers, Paviors and Labourers	Sheffield	15th Jan. '97.	About 600	15 Jan. to 13 Feb. 41½	44	83

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.
 † The principal classes of London building trade operatives have during 1896 arranged new working rules with the Master Builders' Association, and have agreed, among other things, to commence to work winter hours of labour on the second instead of the first Monday in November, and during the mid-winter period to work 44 instead of 44½ hours per week. The labourers have not agreed to any working rules, but have decided to conform to the new arrangement as regards winter hours of labour, stating, however, that they in no way bind themselves to the agreement arrived at by the other branches of the trade. As the mid-winter period has been reduced from 8 to 6 weeks, and the summer period extended from 38 to 40 weeks, there is no reduction, but a very slight increase in the average hours worked per week over the whole year.
 ‡ This number includes the following classes of skilled workmen only—engineers, patternmakers, ironfounders and brassfounders.
 § Particulars relating to 5 firms, employing 624 workpeople, were published in the November GAZETTE.
 ¶ The Joint Committee of the Conciliation Board decided that these boys should receive an increase of 15 per cent in wages as compensation for the longer hours of labour.

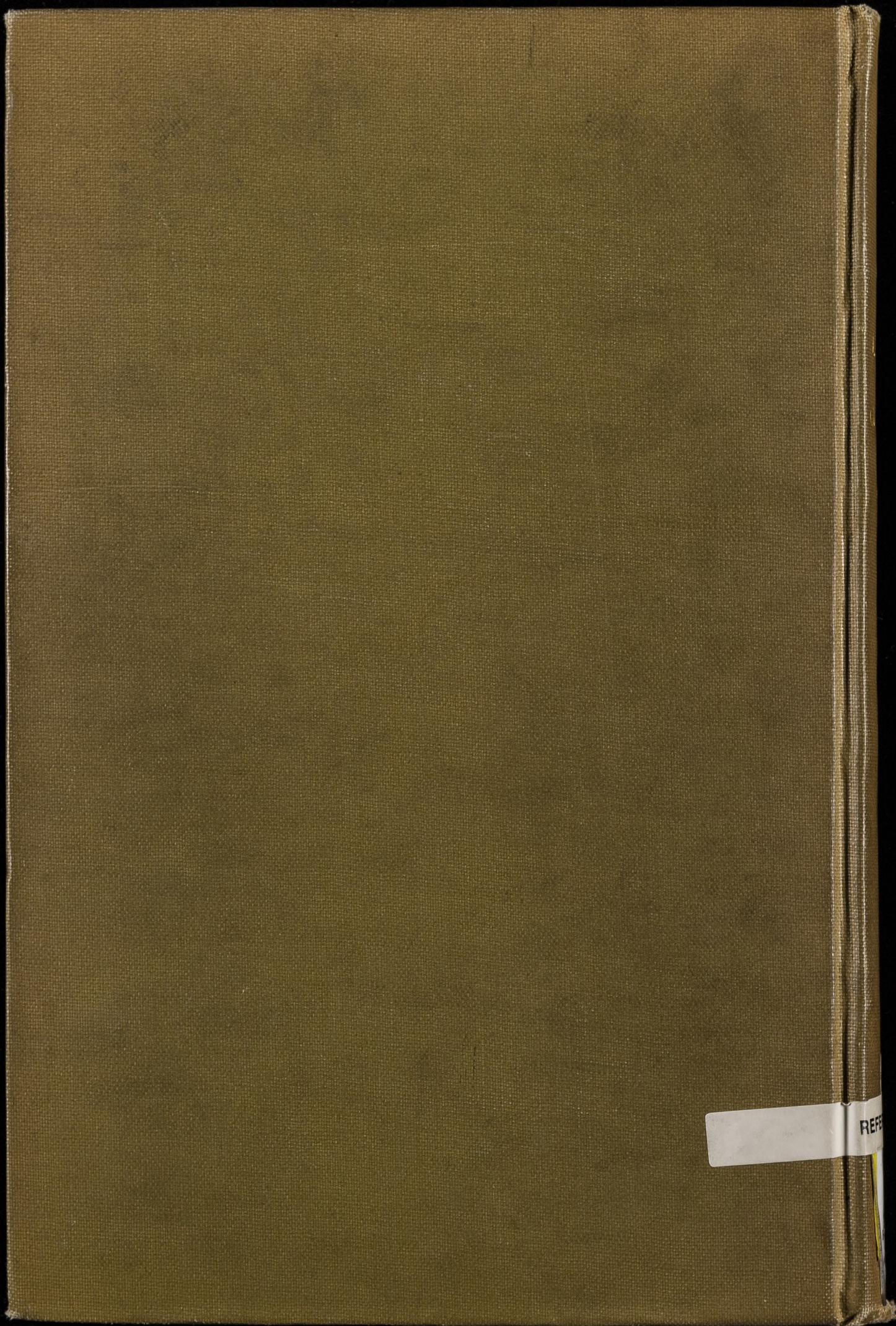
Changes in Agricultural Wages.—A rise in the wages of agricultural labourers of 1s. per week (9s. to 10s.) is reported from some of the Poor Law Unions of Norfolk. A slight increase is also stated to have taken place in some of the parishes in the Rye Union of Sussex, as compared with the wages paid in November 1895. On the other hand, a decrease of about 1s. per week has taken place in certain parts of Herefordshire.

NOTICE.

Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—
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