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

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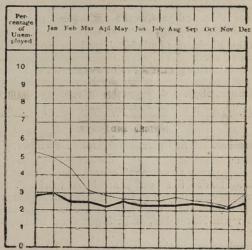
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EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1898-1899. Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1898 and 1899.

[The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line to 1898.]



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

Based on 2,339 returns, viz.: 1,659 from Employers, 550 from Trade Unions, and 130 from other sources.]

THE general state of employment has continued good, and the percentage of unemployed members returned by trade unions is lower than at any similar period of the year since 1889. A comparison of the returns for the end of December with those of the previous month is to some aviant affected by the Christmes and New s to some extent affected by the Christmas and New ear holidays, and allowance must therefore be made or this disturbing influence when considering the gures given below.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an ggregate membership of 511,184, 12,664 (or 2.5 per ent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.2 in November, and with 9 per cent. in the 118 unions, with a membership of 70,391, from which returns were received for December,

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.— Employment continues very good, the average number of days worked per week being greater in December than at any time during the five years in which these statistics have been compiled. Returns relating to collieries, at which 445,469 workpeople were employed, show that an average of, 5.65 days per week was worked in the four weeks ended December 23rd, as compared with 5.64 days in November, and 5.54 days in December, 1898.

Ivon Mining .- Employment was good in December, hough not quite as good as a year ago. At mines and pen works, at which 16,980 workpeople were employed,

TRADE DISPUTES OF 1899.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

January, 1900.

FROM the information collected for the dispute tables published in the LABOUR GAZETTE, the last of which for 1899 appears on page 28 of the current number, it is possible to prepare a preliminary summary of the statistics of strikes and lock-outs of last year. The figures now available are incomplete to some extent, because the annual reports of trade unions, employers' associations, wages, conciliation, and arbitration boards will not be available for some time yet, and a good deal of information is gleaned from these reports which is very useful to the Department, especially as regards small disputes which have attracted very little attention. Moreover a number of the disputes begun in 1899 have not yet been settled, and consequently cannot be classified as regards success or failure, and methods of settlement. In the Annual Report of the Department all this later information will be used, and the detailed statements of disputes will be perfected-a matter involving much care. The Annual Report will also give an account of the proceedings of the various conciliation and arbitration boards in 1 899, whether in preventing disputes or in settling those that have caused stoppages of work.

The additional information required for the permanent record of disputes in 1899 cannot, however, affect the broad fact disclosed by the preliminary figures given below, namely, that 1899 was freer from important disputes than any year in recent times.

Apart from the jute-workers' dispute in the Dundee district, which involved 35,000 workpeople, and lasted for a few weeks in August and September, there was no dispute involving so many as 10,000 workpeople. The total number of workpeople involved in the 721 new disputes recorded in 1899 was 178,440, the aggregate duration of all disputes during the year being 2,456,358 working days. The figures for 1899 are compared with those for the previous six years in the following table:-

General Comparative Table.

	Pro	longed Genera	al Disputes.	All Other Disputes.			
Year.	Num- ber of such Dis- putes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	Num- ber of Dis- putes,	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	
1893	{ I I	300,000 90,000	23, 700,000 2, 340,000	} 781	246,386	5,165,062	
1894	I	70,000	5,600,000	928	255,248	3,929,010	
1895	I	46,000	1,564,000	744	217,123	4,160,670	
1896		(No large	dispute)	926	198,190	3,746,368	
1897	I	47,500	5,731,000*	863	182,767	4,614,523	
1898	I	100,000	11,650,000	710	3 53,907	3,639,478	
1899		(No large	dispute)	721	178,440	2,496,358	

From this table it will be seen that the number of workpeople affected by disputes in 1899 was smaller than in any of the six preceding years, and the aggregate duration (*i.e.* the number of workpeople involved multiplied by the number of days that they were out of work owing to disputes) was considerably less than even in 1896, which was also a year very little affected by important industrial conflicts.

The number affected by disputes in 1899 was about 2'1 per cent. of the the total number employed. The percentage was 5'5 in mining and quarrying, 4'9 in textile trades, 3'6 in building, 1'9 in metal, engineering and shipbuilding, and less than 0'5 in other trades. In the above general percentage (2'1) agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen are excluded. These trades were in 1899 practically free from disputes involving a stoppage of work, and the inclusion of the numbers employed in such trades would still further reduce the proportion of the working population affected by disputes. A comparison of the aggregate duration in 1899 with the total time worked shows that the time lost through disputes was less than onethousandth part of the whole.

^{*} Duration in 1897 only is included. The engineers' dispute extended into the llowing year, and the duration in that year (1,118,000 days) is included in the ures for .808.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment continues considerably better than a year ago. At the works of 117 iron masters, 379 furnaces were in blast at the end of December, employing about 26,010 workpeople, as compared with 380 furnaces and 25,939 workpeople employed at the end of November, and 368 furnaces with 24,146 workpeople employed at the end of December, 1898.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment shows little change. It continues better than a year ago. At 212 works covered by the returns, 83,264 were employed in the week ended December 23rd, as compared with 83,170 in the last week of November, and 79,227 in the corresponding week of 1898, the average number of shifts worked in these three weeks being 5.63, 5.62, and 5.59 respectively.

Employment in the *Tinplate* trade continued good in December, and much better than a year ago. At the end of December 413 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates) employing 20,554 workpeople. These figures compare with 412 mills employing 20,482 workpeople at the end of November, and 329 works employing 16,904 workpeople at the end of December, 1898.

In the Engineering and Metal trades employment has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of December was 2.6, compared with 2.2 in November, and 3.0 in December, 1898.

Employment in the *Shipbuilding* trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 2.4, compared with 2.5 in November. The percentage for December, 1898, was 3.7.

Owing partly to seasonal causes, employment in the *Building* trades has been scarcely so brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of December was $2\cdot 5$, compared with $1\cdot 5$ in November, and $1\cdot 8$ per cent. in December, 1898.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has fallen off in most branches, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December being 4.8, compared with 2.3 in October and November. The percentage in December, 1898, was 3.8.

In the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades employment has fallen off, as is usual at this season, but it has been fairly good for the time of year. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 3.5, compared with 2.2 in November. The percentage for December, 1898, was 3.9.

Employment in the *Paper* trade has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 2.5, compared with 2.6 in November. In December, 1898, the percentage was 5.9.

In the Glass trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 8.9, compared with 12.9 per cent. in December, 1898.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 1.9, compared with 1.6 in November and 4.5 per cent. in December, 1898.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade remains quiet in London, but has improved on the whole.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade is bad; in the ready-made branch it is good in some centres, dull in others.

Employment continues very good in the Spinning and Weaving branches of the Cotton trade. Information respecting Cotton factories employing about \$1,900 women and girls, shows that 97 per cent. of those in Spinning mills, and 92 per cent. of those in Weaving factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 99 and 90 per cent. respectively in November, and 97 and 87 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the Woollen and Worsted trade con

tinues very good. Employment in the Hosiery trade also is very good.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks and wharves continues to show an improvement as compared with a year ago, but there is a slight decline as compared with a month ago. During the five weeks ended December 30th, an average number of 16,390 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 16,679 in the preceding four weeks, and 15,887 in December, 1898.

Agricultural Labourers have been, generally speaking, well employed during December. For the greater part of the month the weather has been favourable for outdoor work.

Trade Disputes. - Twenty-eight fresh disputes occurred in December, 1899, involving 6,116 workpeople, of whom 5,013 were directly, and 1,103 indirectly, affected. The corresponding number of disputes in November was 31, involving 9,707 workpeople. and in December, 1898, 29, involving 6,319 workpeople. Of the 28 fresh disputes in December, 1899, 5 occurred in the mining and quarrying trades, 5 in metal. engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 10 in textile trades, and 8 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 31 new and old disputes, involving 7,192 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 14, involving 1,717 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8 involving 2,664 persons, in favour of the employers; 8 involving 2,661 persons, resulted in a compromise; in the case of the remaining dispute, involving 150 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.-Changes in the rates of wages of about 71,400 workpeople were reported during December, of which number about 70,750 received advances averaging 1s. 4¹/₂d. weekly per head, and about 650 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 91d. weekly per head. The net result was an increase of about 1s. 4¹/₄d. per head in the weekly wages of the 71,400 workpeople affected. The principal increases were in the coal mining and iron and steel trades. Changes affecting about 600 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 16,100 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and changes affecting about 40,300 workpeople were arranged by Wages and Conciliation Boards without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 14,400 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

By an Act, [the Elementary Education (School Attendance) Act (1893) Amendment Act, 1899], passed in the last Session, the age at which a child may, in pursuance of any bye-law made under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1891, obtain total or partial exemption from the obligation to attend school, on obtaining a certificate as to the standard of examination which he has reached, is, as from January 1st, raised to twelve. But the Act is not to apply to children actually exempt from such obligation under existing bye-laws on January 1st.

existing bye-laws on January 1st. It is also provided "that the local authority for any district may, by bye-law for any parish within their district, fix thirteen years as the minimum age for exemption from school attendance in the case of children to be employed in agriculture, and that in such parish such children over eleven and under thirteen years of age who have passed the standard fixed for partial exemption from school attendance by the bye-laws of the local authority shall not be required to attend school more than 250 times in any year."

more than 250 times in any year." The Act further provides "that a child shall be entitled to obtain partial exemption from school attendance on attaining the age of twelve years if such child has made 300 attendances in not more than two schools during each year for five preceding years whether consecutive or not."

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THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The distribution of the disputes of 1899 by groups of trades is shown in the following table. The aggregate duration in 1899 is greatest in the Building Trades group, largely owing to the general lock out of plasterers and the strike of Hull carpenters in March, followed by the lock-out in May of building trades employees generally at Hull, Leeds, and other towns in Yorkshire.

Disputes of 1899 classified by Groups of Trades.

Group of Trades.	Number	Number of invo	Aggregate Durstion		
Group of Trades.	Disputes.	Directly.	Indirectly.	in Workin Døys.	
Building	177 110 15 130 121 36	26,682 26,863 1,479 12,967 51,205 1,212	3,117 19,657 752 5,972 9,691 731	853,878 495,855 30,601 390,011 543,464 41,351	
Fransport Woodworking and Furnishing Miscellaneous	48 26 58 721	11,885 977 3,823 137,093	876 68 483 -41,347	63,950 23,413 53,835 2,496,358	

The number of workpeople "indirectly affected" (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out) represents 23 per cent. of the total. The percentage is highest in the mining group, where it amounts to 42, a strike of a small number of men or boys of ore class of workers being frequently sufficient to disorganise the working of a mine.

In 1899, 63 per cent. of the disputes, representing 67 per cent. of the workpeople affected, and 67 per cent. of the aggregate duration in working days, were about wages questions. Less than 3 per cent. of the disputes were about hours of labour, and these involved only 3 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected. The figures for all the principal causes of disputes in 1899 are as follows:—

Causes of Disputes in 1899.

	Disputes.		Workpeople directly affected.		Aggregate duration.*	
Causes.	No.	Per cent. of total.	No.	Per cent of total.	No.	Per cent. of total.
For advance	320	44'4	73,664	53.7	1,245,432	49'9
Vages Against reduction		7'0	6,609	4'8	139,333	5'6
(Other	50 87	12'0	13,676	10.0	284,304	11'4
For reduction	9	1'2	1,149	0.8	18,672	08
Iours Other	IO	1.4	2,798	2'1	15,142	0.0
Employment of particular classes or persons	103	14'3	8,141	5'9	160,952	6.4
Working arrangements	70	9'7	17,833	13'0	425,559	17'0
other causes	72	10.0	13,223	9'7	206,964	8.3
Total	721	100.0	137,093	100.0	2,496,358	100.0

The percentage (63) of disputes caused by wages questions in 1899, compares with 63 in 1898, and 62 in 1807.

In the following table the results of disputes are shown according to (1) the number of disputes and (2) the number of workpeople directly concerned in the results **Results of Disputes.**

Results of Disp	putes.		1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
			Perce		ased on N sputes.	lumber
n favour of workperple n favour of employets Compromised		 	40 ^{.8} 32 ^{.6} 26 ^{.3}	38'3 35'5 24'9	33'5 31'9 34'2	31'1 32'6 31'6
ndefinite Total		 	0.3	1,3	0'4	4'7
				kpeople	ased on N directly sputes.	
				1	22'6	26 1
n favour of workpeople		 	43.5	24'2 40'7	60'1	42.8
n fa vou r of employers			28.3	34'0	17'2	27.8
ndefinite		 	0.5	1.1	0.1	3'3'
Total		 	100.0	100,0	100.0	100.0

Including days lost by workpeople indirectly affected.
Including disputes begun in 1800 and not yet settled.

Almost equal numbers of disputes were decided in favour of the workpeople, in favour of the employers, and by compromise respectively. As regards the number of workpeople involved it appears that the balance of advantage rested with the employers. Of the 75.203 workpeople involved in disputes decided in favour of the employers, 35,000 are accounted for by the Dundee jute-workers' dispute.

The dispute of the year which perhaps attracted the greatest attention was the strike and lock-out of plasterers, which affected 4.000 men, and had an aggregate duration of 200,000 days.

Of the 178,440 workpeople involved in the disputes of the year, Scotland accounts for 60,165; Wales and Monmouthshire, 36,552; Lancashire and Cheshire, 27,674 ; Yorkshire, 19,136 ; other northern English counties, 9,104 ; midland and eastern counties, 16,055 ; while all the southern and western counties, including London, contributed only 6,876 to the total, and in Ireland only 2,878 were affected.

RECENT LABOUR LEGISLATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

Employers forbidden to compel Workmen to pay Accident Insurance Premiums .-... "The Wages Protection Act, 1899," passed by the Legislature of New Zealand on October 19th, 1899, recites that "there has lately grown up amongst certain employers a practice of taking out accident insurance policies to insure their workmen against accident and themselves against liability under the Employers' Liability Acts, and of compelling or inducing their workmen to contribute, as premium for such insurance, sums at a rate proportionate to their wages," and that "such practice is oppressive, and it is expedient to prevent the same," and enacts that "(I) It shall not be lawful for any employer to directly or indirectly take or receive any money from any worker in his employ, whether by way of deduction from wages or otherwise howsoever, in respect of any policy of insurance against injury by accident. (2) It shall not be lawful for any insurance company, or any person on its behalf, to directly or indirectly take or receive from any worker any money in respect of any policy of insurance which in any way, directly or indirectly, purports to both indemnify the employer against any of his liability under the Employers' Liability Acts, and also to pay compensation in respect of injury to the worker by accident. Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any voluntary arrangement arrived at between an employer and his worker for insurance against accidents happening to such worker outside the time in which he is engaged working for such employer ; provided, further, that such arrangement is approved of by a Stipendiary Magistrate after hearing evidence; but in no case shall the premium payable by the worker exceed one-third of the total amount payable."

Minimum Wages for Boys and Girls in Factories and Work. shops .- By another New Zealand statute (" The Employment of Boys or Girls without Payment Prevention Act, 1899 "), passed on October 21st, 1899, " Every boy or girl under the age of 18 years who is employed in any capacity to do any work in a factory or workroom shall be entitled to receive from the employer payment for the work at such rate as is agreed on, being in no case less than 4s. per week for girls and 5s. per week for boys irrespective of overtime. . . . If the employer makes default for 14 days in the full and punctual payment of any money payable by him as aforesaid, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 5s. for every day thereafter during which such default continues." It is further enacted that "No premium shall be paid by any such boy or girl to, or be accepted by, any factory-occupier for employment in any factory or workroom, whether such premium is paid by the boy or girl employed or by some other person; and if any factory-occupier is guilty of any breach of the pro-visions of this section he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £10.'

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1899.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

THE following tables are based on the monthly tables appearing in the LABOUR GAZETTE, and are subject to correction in the Annual Report, which will also include the wages statistics relating to railway servants, seamen and agricultural labourers. For reasons fully explained in the last Annual Report,* changes of wages in these occupations cannot be treated in quite the same way as changes affecting other trades. Complete information as regards these three important occupations will not be available until the annual returns relating to them have been compiled. Meanwhile, it may be stated generally, on the basis of the information so far available, that wages in these trades have shown an upward tendency, in sympathy with the general movement in wages recorded below.

Changes in Rates of Wages.

The total number of changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as having taken effect in 1899, was 1,453,⁺ of which 1,436 were increases, and 17 decreases.

The figures for 1893-9 are shown in the following table :-

Year. Total number of individuals affected by changes in rates of		Net result on weekly wages of those affected by changes Increases (+) and Decreases (-).			
	wages.	Total amount.	Average per head.		
1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899	549,977 670,386 436,718 607,654 597,444 1,015,169 1,111,197	$ \begin{array}{c} \pounds \\ + 12,426 \\ - 45,001 \\ - 28,211 \\ + 26,592 \\ + 31,507 \\ + 80,815 \\ + 85,820 \end{array} $	s. d. + 0 5 - 1 4 + 0 10 + 1 02 + 1 07 + 1 6		

The upward movement in wages which commenced in the latter part of 1895, and continued during 1896, 1897, and 1898, was fully maintained during 1899, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) affected by net increases in rates of wages being 1,110,128 while 1,069 only were affected by net decreases. This gives a total of 1,111,197 affected by upward or downward changes—a larger total than in any year included in the table. The total effect of all the changes in 1899 was a net increase of £85,820, or an average of 15. $6\frac{1}{2}d$. per head in the weekly wages, of those affected.

From the following table showing the net result of the changes by groups of trades it will be seen that the largest increases in 1899 were in the coal mining and iron and steel industries :---

		s affected by ates of wages.	Net increase on weekly wage of those affected by changes.		
Group of T rades.	Number.	Approximate percentage of whole number employed.	Total Amount.	Averag e per head	
Ccal Mining Other Mining and Quarrying Iron and Steel Engineering and Shipbuilding Miscellaneous Metals Building Trades Textile Clothing Other Trades	626,474 13,817 76,496 49,280 23,899 64,370 209,283 3,108 44,470	76'3 { 13'6 { 78 16'8 0'5 1'4	£ 48,846 3,269 13,167 2,608 3,421 6,393 4,799 170 3,147	s. d. I 62 4 82 3 51 1 02 1 11 2 10 2 10 2 10 1 11 1 15 1 1 1 6	
Total	1,111,197	14'1	85,820	I 61	

Of the computed total amount of increase in weekly wages (£86,000), £49,000, or 57 per cent., went to the coal miners, £13,000, or 15 per cent., to the iron and steel workers, and $\pounds 6,400$ or 7 per cent. to building trade operatives. The changes of wages of the first two groups of workmen were fully noticed in the GAZETTES for November and December last (pp. 323 and 355) and need not be further dealt with here. Next to these changes in importance are the advances

* C. 9434 of 1899. + Exclusive of changes in the rates of wages of agricultural labourers, railway ervants and seamen.

January, 1900.

which have taken effect in the textile trades. For six and Arbitration Boards, Sliding Scales, &c., the great years no general changes had been recorded in this majority of these being employed in the mining and iron group-the last reported movement being in the period and steel industries. 1892-3, when the cotton spinners sustained a decrease Changes in Hours of Labour. 1892-3, when the cotton spinners sustained a decrease of 2.91 per cent., and the wages of the linen and jute workers of Dundee fell 5 per cent. The following table shows the general changes in the standard rates of wages of three of the principal groups

of textile workers since 1873—the year when these rates were at their highest level.

			Net percentage Increa	ase (+) or Decrease (-	in the Wages o	
Years in which Changes took place.		nges	Cotton Spinners in Lancashire. (Advances and re- ductions on Oldham List.)	Cotton Weavers in Lancs., Ches. and W. Yorks.	Flax and Jute Operatives. Dundee.	
1873					+ 5	
1875					- 10	
1876			(Oldham list adopted)			
1877			- 5		- 5	
1878			- 10	- 10	- 5	
1879			- 5	- 5		
1880			+ 5			
1881			+ 5	+ 5		
1883				- 5	+ 10	
1881				+ 5	- 15*	
1885			- 5		- 71 to It	
1886					- 5	
1887					+ 5	
1888			+ 5	(C)	+ 10	
1889				•••	+ 5	
1890					+ 5†	
1891			+ 5	177 IF 117 1 1		
1892				(Uniform list adopted)	- 5	
1893			- 2:91			
1899			+ 5.01	+ 21	+ 5	

The returns showing the number affected by the changes of 1899 are still incomplete, but those already furnished to the Department show that 210,000 textile operatives received advances during the year. The average amount of advance is but small—less than 6d. per head weekly. Thus, while the number receiving advances in the textile group forms 19 per cent. of the total affected by changes, only 6 per cent. of the computed total increase in weekly wages went to this group.

The other changes included in the table by groups of trades, call for little notice. Wages in the building trade show that continued and steady increase which has distinguished them in every year for which statistics have been collected.

The engineering and shipbuilding trades show an increase in 1899, but the increase is small as compared with the three previous years. The computed increase in weekly wages in 1899 is estimated at $\pounds 2,068$. In 1898 it was $f_{9,904}$; in 1897, $f_{9,751}$, and in 1896, $f_{15,679}$.

The following table shows the methods by which the changes in wages were brought about and the number affected in each case : -

Agencies by which the Changes in Wages were arranged.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Percentage number of Workpeople whose Wages were arranged by each Agency.
After Strike: The parties concerned or their represen- tatives Concillation Boards, Mediation or Arbitration	23,261 2,794	2'54 0'25
Arbitration Total	31,055	2'79
Without Strike: The parties concerned or their represen- tatives	535,313	48.17
Conciliation Boards, Joint Committees, Mediation and Arbitration Sliding Scales	367,648‡	33'09 15'95
Total	1,080.142	97.21
Grand Total	1,111,197	-100.00

It thus appears that of the 1,111,197 workpeople whose rates of wages were changed, only 31,055, or 2.79 per cent. of the total, were affected by disputes causing stoppage of work. Of the 1,080,142, whose wages were changed without cessation of work, rather more than half had their wages arranged by Conciliation

* The mill hands on set wages sustained a reduction of 10 per cent, only. † The weavers did not participate in this advance. Including 100,000 minors in Durham who received 3 advances during the year, after negotiation between the representatives of the parties and 1 under Conciliation Board.

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During the year 1899, the weekly hours of labour were reduced in the case of 29,105 workpeople and increased in the case of 2,600. The net result of these changes was an average decrease of 3.60 hours in the weekly hours of labour of the 31,705 workpeople affected. Nearly a third of the total number affected by the changes were building trade operatives, 9,497 of whom had their normal working time reduced on the average by 0.84 hours per week. In the coal mining industry, 3,778 workmen had their hours reduced by an average of 3.38 hours per week. In engineering and other metal trades, 6,306 workpeople obtained an average reduction of 4.81 hours per week; in one case in this group, affecting 710 workpeople, the eight - hours day was adopted. 4,668 workpeople in the employ of public authorities obtained an average reduction of 9.46 hours per week. This high figure is due to the reduction by 12 hours per week of the working time of 1,000 tramwaymen at Liverpool, the adoption of the eight-hours day for 570 employees of the West Ham Corporation, and the change from 7 to 6 days labour per week affecting over 1,900 tramwaymen in the employ of the London County Council.

Of the 31,705 workpeople whose hours of labour were changed, 5,973, or 18.8 per cent. had their hours altered as the result of disputes causing stoppage of work; 1,100 of the remainder obtained their changes by arbitration, and the rest by direct negotiation between the employers and their workpeople, or their representatives. The following table enables a comparison to be made between 1899 and the 6 preceding years as regards. changes in hours of labour :---

Years.			Number of work- people affected by changes in hours of labour.	Net average reduc- tion per week in hours of those affected by changes.	Computed total reduction in weekly hours of those affected.
	alle and	114	and the short of the second	Hours.	Hours
893			34,649	1.00	68,937
1894			77,158	4.04	311,545
895			22,735	1'94	44,105
896			108,271	0.73	78,533
1897			70,632	4'03	284,675
898			39,049	2'10	81,917
.899			31,705	3'60	II4,II4

It will be seen from this table that the number of workpeople affected by reductions in hours in any year is a very small fraction of the total working population.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN DENMARK IN 1898. OFFICIAL figures relative to this subject, contained in the Statistical Abstract just issued by the Danish Government Statistical Bureau (see ante p. n), give the total number of labour disputes, which occurred in Denmark in 1898 as 148 (compared with 111 in 1897). Full information was lacking for 36 disputes of 1898, and for 46 of 1897. These are stated, however, to have been of small extent and brief duration.

The maximum number of workpeople directly thrown out of work by the disputes for which full information was available and the aggregate number of working days lost by those people, were as follows in the two years :-

1897.	1898.
65	112
6,869	6,252
236,000	118,283
	65 6, 86 9

Of the 118,283 working days lost in 112 disputes in 1898, 40,815 (in 9 disputes directly involving 612 workpeople) are grouped under "unskilled labour employed n industry and commerce "; while 18,357 (in 9 disputes directly involving 591 workpeople) are grouped under "factory operatives of various kinds." The remaining 94 disputes admit of the following classification according to groups of trades :--

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Aggregate Number of working days lost by persons directly thrown out of work by disputes in 1898 Maximum number of persons directly thrown out of work by disputes out of work by disputes of disputes On Locked-Strike, out. Total. Group of Trades disputes in 1898. 2,745 2,745 30,102 3,571 15 69 314 377 38 151 900 66 2,059 8,213 409 2,689 8,466 267 3,335 34 20 and Bookbinding 530 Total 4.396 653 5.049 94 59.111

Five of the disputes of 1898 were settled by arbitraiton.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1898.

THE Eleventh Report on Trade Unions has just been issued by the Labour Department. It contains full statistical and some other information as to the position and work of those associations for the year 1898, the latest period for which such particulars are available, and also as to various kindred organisations to which they have given rise. Seventy-four pages of the volume are taken up with the general and detailed Report, or analysis of the statistics presented, and with the special summaries into which have been gathered the general results of the detailed tables presented in the remaining 311 pages. Special attention is drawn to a new feature in the Report, which appears on pp. 234-93. It was felt that while the general tables of the Report show correctly the total and average amounts paid and received under the different heads by all the members, they do not indicate the exact financial liability of the individual member to his union, nor of the union to each of its members. A summary has therefore been prepared, giving for the 100 principal unions, the rates of entrance fees and contributions paid by the different classes of members, and the scales of benefit to which they are entitled in case of dispute, unemployment, sickness and old age. This summary is drawn from the rules of the unions, supplemented in some cases by information courteously supplied by their secretaries.

The directory of Trade Union addresses hitherto included in the report is now discontinued, it being the intention of the Department to publish shortly a special list of addresses of Associations of Employers and of Workmen.

From the General Report it appears that, at the beginning of 1898, there were on the list of the Department 1,307 trade unions with 1,611,384 members. During the year 35 new unions were formed with a membership of 66,192. In 56 cases unions ceased to exist, the membership of which at the end of 1897 had been 16,279. The number of unions, but not the total membership, was also affected by the absorption of 19 sectional unions by the larger organisations of their respective trades. The total number of unions on the list at the end of 1898 was therefore 1,267, of which the membership was 1,644,591. There was thus an increase on the year of 33,207, or a little over 2 per cent., which is a slower rate of increase than in 1897. The groups of trades showing the most important increases of membership during 1898 are building and mining. Those showing the greatest decline are railway service and engineering. Of the total number of unions existing at the end of 1898, 594, with 1,234,635 members were registered under the Trade Union Act, while 673 unions, with 409,956 members were not so registered. It thus appears that three-fourths of the membership of all the unions is included in the registered societies. 140 societies included females in their membership to the total number of 116,016, which is only 7 per cent. of all the unions, but 41 per cent. of the membership of the 140 unions to which they belong. The bulk of these female operatives are to be found in the textile trades.

The accounts of the 100 principal trade unions selected for analysis show that they contained 1,043,476 members, or upwards of 63 per cent. of the membership of all the unions, leaving less than 37 per cent. of membership to the remaining 1,167 societies. The numerical strength

and general financial position of these 100 unions is shown comparatively in the following table for a period of seven vears:

Year.	Income.	Expenditure.	Funds at end of year.	Membership at end of Year.
1892 1893 1894 1895 1895 1896 1897 1898	£ 1,459,214 1 619,798 1,632,243 1,559,914 1,675,535 1,981,251 1,915,455	£ 1,421,169 1,854,999 1,435,804 1,391,908 1,235,720 1,898.095 1,489.671	£ 1,616,800 1,381,599 1,578,038 1,746,044 2,185,859 2,209,015 2,694,799	No. 909,648 914,311 c28,105 917,050 964,809 1,065 910 1,043.476
Percentage Increase (+) of Decrease(-) of 1898 com- pared with 1892	(+) 31.3 () 3.3	(—) 21'5 (+) 4'8	(+) 188 (+) 667	() 2'I (+) 14'7

This table shows an increase under all heads over the whole period, although in 1898 the income and expenditure of the 100 unions decreased concurrently with the membership. The total income and expenditure of these 100 unions both decreased in 1898 as compared with 1897, the former by 3.3 per cent., the latter by no less than 21.5 per cent., the cause in both cases being the same, viz., the exceptional expenditure in 1897 on the part of the engineering trades in conseuence of the great dispute and the additional funds raised in that year to meet part of the increased outlay. Thus, in 1897, the income of the metal and engineering trades group of unions exceeded that of 1898 by £88,271, while the expenditure was greater by

398,512. While as to the 100 selected unions the tables of the Report give copious details, the aggregate expenditure under the general heads of dispute benefit, friendly benefits, and working expenses are thus briefly summarised for a period of seven years :-

	Amount.	Per cent. of Total.
Expenditure on :	£	
Dispute pay	2,473,036	 23
Unemployed and other benefits	6,358,609	 59
Working expenses	1,895.721	 18
	£10,727.366	100

Thus, of the nearly ten and three-quarter million pounds expended during the period of seven years, 59 per cent. was expended under friendly and benevolent heads, 23 per cent. on dispute benefit, and 18 per cent. on working expenses of various kinds. In 1898 the percentage expended on dispute benefit was 21.2, which is thus somewhat below the average of the seven vears.

The chief source of income of the unions is, of course, the contributions of members, and over the period of seven years treated in the report the aggregate income of the 100 unions was £11,843,410, of which over go per cent. was raised in this way, less than 10 per cent. remaining being due to fines, entrance fees, interest on funds, subscriptions from other societies, the public, and other miscellaneous sources. The average amount of annual contribution per member of all the 100 unions in 1898 was £1 135. 2d., though in the case of 12 unions with a membership of 192,372 the contributions exceeded \pounds_3 per member. Over the period of seven years the amount of the average of annual contributions shows a general tendency to increase.

As to funds in hand the accounts of the 100 unions show the largest total yet recorded. The average per member of these funds at the end of 1898 was \pounds_2 115. $7\frac{3}{4}$ d., the rise being steadily maintained from 1893, when the average per member was but f_{1105} . $2\frac{3}{4}d$. The funds of one society (the Cotton Spinners) amount to no less than £15 12s. 9d. per member.

During 1898 there was little change in the number and membership of Trades Councils, the total of such bodies being 156, or one more than in 1897, the membership being a little over 701,000 in each year. As to Federations of Trade Unions there were 112 of such organisations for 1898, as against 120 in 1897, the membership represented for the two years, respectively being 1,009,690 and 1,089,583, but these totals are subject to considerable deductions, for members of separate societies represented on more than one Federation.

anuary, 1900.

January, 1900.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND. FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1899.

INFORMATION has been received by the Department of the rates of wages obtained by farm servants at the yearly and half-yearly hiring fairs which took place in Scotland during the last six months of 1899 in the counties of Aberdeen, Argyle, Ayr, Banff, Berwick, Caithness, Clackmannan, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Haddington, Inverness, Kincardine, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Linlithgow, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Stirling and Wigtown.

A CIRCULAR, dated December 14th, 1890, has been addressed by the Home Office to manufacturers of earthenware and china, dealing with the use of lead compounds in pottery. Reference is made to the Report on this question by Dr. Thorpe and Dr. Oliver (see GAZETTE, May, 1899, p. 132), and to the circular in relation to this Report issued by the Home Office in March, 1899; and it is stated that since the issue of that circular the views of the manufacturers have been Generally speaking, there was but little change in fully presented to the Secretary of State, additional wages compared with the corresponding period in the investigations have been made by Dr. Thorpe and previous year. At the earlier autumn fairs, notably Dr. Oliver, there has been time to watch the working in the counties of Forfar and Perth, a rise of about 205. of the rules established in 1898, statistics are now for the year was paid, but as the hiring season advanced available to show how far these rules are effective in checking lead poisoning, and additional information has been obtained by H.M. Inspectors. The Secretary wages are said to have returned to their former level. As a rule, men who remained in their places got their old wages. In a few cases men who changed had to take of State is satisfied that for many purposes leadless from about 10s. to 20s. less for the half-year, and where glazes can be adopted without injury to the trade, and this happened it is said to be due to the fine weather in that they are being used exclusively by certain the autumn, which enabled farmers to get field work manufacturers. He proposes to modify the existing exceptionally well advanced. rules so as to exclude the processes in which the use of Women servants were generally scarce and their lead has been discontinued from the operation of such wages frequently increased from 10s. to 20s. for the half portions of the rules as are intended to protect the workers against lead poisoning, leaving in force those The wages of first and second horsemen at the yearly portions only which are aimed at the prevention of danger from dust, or at securing general cleanliness.

hirings in the Counties of Fife and Kinross were from \pounds_{26} to \pounds_{33} , and of third horsemen from \pounds_{24} to \pounds_{29} . The half-yearly wages of first and second horsemen were generally about £13 to £18 in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Forfar, Inverness, Kincardine, Lanark, Nairn and Stirling. Married men in addition to their cash wages usually get free cottages and allowances of oatmeal, milk, potatoes, and perhaps coals, or coals carted free, and unmarried men get their board and lodging, except in the Border Counties and the Lothians, where the system prevails of engaging families by the year.

Speaking generally, the unmarried men who are lodged and fed by their employers are hired by the half-year, and married men who live in cottages (and with these are generally included shepherds and men in charge of cattle, and the head ploughmen) are engaged by the year. But there are many exceptions; in some districts the engagements being half-yearly for all classes, whether married or single, in others yearly, in others a mixed system. Men and women, with the exception of stewards and shepherds, are mostly engaged at the numerous hiring fairs which are held at various periods of the year in practically every county in Scotland.

In the Border Counties and in the Lothians most of definitely fixed by special rules-a standard having the farm servants are hired by the year, and live in cottages on or close to the farm. They are usually reference, not to the amount of lead in the fritt, but to the solubility of the lead. hired by families, the sons and daughters living at home So far as glazes are concerned, the regulation should with their parents and working together on the same run in some such terms as the following :farm, the men being paid an "upstanding wage," and the women being paid so much a day when they present "No glaze into the composition of which the fritted lead enters shall be regarded as satisfying the requirement as to insolubility themselves for work. In most of these counties there which yields to a dilute solution of hydrochloric acid more than two are districts where unmarried men are hired by the year per cent. of its dry weight of a soluble lead compound calculated and half year, and are lodged and boarded by their emas lead monoxide when determined in the following manner :-- A. ployers. In other parts of Scotland the proportion of the weighed quantity of dried material is to be continuously shaken for boarded men is usually larger than that of the married one hour, at the common temperature, with 1,000 times its weight men, but the number of married men that a farmer can of an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid containing 0.25 per engage depends, of course, on the cottage accommodacent. of H Cl. This solution is thereafter to be allowed to stand tion at his disposal, as they are always provided with cottages on the farm, the village system in England for one hour and to be passed through a filter. The lead salt contained in an aliquot portion of the clear filtrate is then to bebeing practically unknown. precipitated as lead sulphide, and weighed as lead sulphate."

Several systems for lodging and boarding unmarried men are in existence. In many cases they are lodged It is stated that, in order to give manufacturers ample time to provide themselves with glazes, etc., answering to and boarded in the farmhouses, but in some in the houses of the married men. Another system is to lodge such a standard, two years will be allowed to elapse before bringing it compulsorily into force. In the them in a bothy and provide food for them in the meantime, specimens of fritted lead or of fritted glazes, kitchen; another to lodge them in a bothy and for the submitted by manufacturers, may be tested for a very farmer to provide them with food there; and another small fee in the Government Laboratory, in order to for the men to lodge in a bothy and to find their own food. In the last case they usually receive a certain ascertain whether they come up to the proposed allowance of meal and milk, and sometimes potatoes. standard.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

LEAD COMPOUNDS IN POTTERY MANU-FACTURE.

7

A considerable reduction in the number of cases of lead-poisoning-chiefly in the number of cases among women and girls-has taken place as the result of the working of the special rules. The Secretary of State has, in these circumstances, determined that, in accordance with a suggestion submitted to him on behalf of the manufacturers, the monthly medical examination, previously required for women and young persons, shall be extended to the whole of the workers in lead processes.

The Secretary of State has decided to embody in special rules another proposal put forward by the manufacturers-that only glazes, in which the lead is fritted, should be used in the manufacture of china and earthenware; a period of six months will be allowed to elapse before this restriction is brought into force compulsorily.

With respect to fritted glazes, it is remarked that there is a very great variety in the character of the different fritts, some of which are almost insoluble and. therefore, comparatively safe to the workers, while others are little, if at all, better than the raw lead. The Secretary of State is, therefore, of opinion that ultimately a standard of safety in fritts must be

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

8

Clickers and Pressmen at Northampton.

THE local executive of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives at Northampton having applied to the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Northampton and its suburbs for an advance in the minimum wage of clickers and pressmen from 26s. and 22s. per week to 28s. and 25s. respectively, the matter was considered by the Board and referred by that body to the referees. The latter were unable to come to an agreement on the question, and also failed to agree upon an umpire. In accordance, therefore, with Clause VII. of the revised rules, the Secretary of the Board applied on December 19th to the President of the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire.

On December 27th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, Barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Mr. Askwith heard the parties on January 9th, and his award dated January 11th, is as follows :---

MINIMUM WAGE FOR CLICKERS AND PRESSMEN.

In the matter of a reference to me, the undersigned, as Umpire in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Northampton, and the appointment of me, the undersigned, as Umpire by the Right Hencurable the President of the Board of Trade.,

I, the undersigned, having taken upon me the burden of acting as the Umpire with respect to the demand of the Local Union Executive that the minimum wage for clickers and pressmen in the said trade shall be 28s. and 25s. respectively per week, instead of 26s. and 22s., and having heard and considered the statements of the parties, and having also taken into account the length of time which has elapsed since the question was last determined, and the conditions existing at the two dates respectively being matters required to be taken into account, do now in respect of the matters in dispute adjudge and determine that the minimum wage per week from and including the first full working week in the month of February, 1900, for clickers shall be twenty-eight shillings, and for pressmen twenty-five shillings, and that it is unnecessary to alter the age at which clickers and pressmen shall be entitled to make a claim for the said wage, and that neither side shall re-open the said matters in dispute prior to the first day of June, 1902.

As witness my hand,

January 11th, 1900.

G. R. ASKWITH.

The numbers affected by this award will be about 1000 clickers and 500 pressmen.

Board of Conciliation for the Northumberland Coal Trade.

The Northumberland Coal Trade Conciliation Board which ceased to exist at the end of 1896 has been reestablished. The rules which were agreed to on the 20th December by the Northumberland Coal Owners' Association, and the Northumberland Miners' Association are identical with those of the old Board.

The Board deals with changes in the county rate of wages and is to continue until either of the parties shall give six months' notice of withdrawal; such notice, however, is not to be given before the 30th June, 1901.

Mr. F. J. Greenwell, the County Court Judge of Newcastle, has been appointed Chairman.

An advance of 5 per cent. in wages, which took effect at the beginning of January, was arranged by the Board.

SHOEING SMITHS, COLLAR MAKERS, AND WHEELERS

Wanted by War Office.

undermentioned trades, of from 18 to 35 years of age, are now re-ouired for service in the Royal Artillery viz shoeing smiths quired for service in the Royal Artillery, viz., shoeing smiths, collar makers, and wheelers. Each man will receive a bounty of £10 on final approval. Men may join for one year only with the colours, and no Reserve service afterwards. Those who are desirous of joining the Royal Artillery under the conditions specified in the notice should apply, either personally or by letter, to the Headquarters of any Recruiting District, or to any Serjeant-Instructor of Volunteers or other Recruiter.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

January, 1900.17

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

" PERSONAL INJURY BY ACCIDENT."

The Act provides that "If in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course ot the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall . be liable to pay compensation." A workman, who received an injury to his band while at work, claimed compensation from his injury to his hand while at work, claimed compensation from his employers, and the County Court judge made an award in his favour. The employers appealed, on the ground that the injury received by the workman, which he alleged made his hand so had that he was unable to work, was not the causa causans of the bad state of his hand, which subsequently became practically useless owing to gout. On behalf of the employers, it was stated that the workman was employed as a lamp finisher. He was holding a "clapper," which the hammering boy should have hit on the top. The boy missed his aim, and struck the clapper on the side, which gave the workman's hand a severe jar. Medical evidence was con-flicting, except that it proved that the workman had suffered severely from gout, and that the accident brought on extreme in flicting, except that it proved that the workman had subered severely from gout, and that the accident brought on extreme in-flammation. The employers submitted that the "jar," if an accident at all, was of so trivial a character that, but for the man's admittedly bad state of health, no damage would really have resulted. and it was contended that they were not liable to pay compensation. The County Court judge gave his decision in these words: "This is a claim bringing the man within the Act, and he is entitled to compensation, and I award him 15s. allowance after the first fortnight." Counsel for the employers submitted that there was no finding that the accident caused the injury complained of, and contended that the injury, which prevented the man working, was not consequent upon the accident, but arose from the bad state of health which the workman was in at the time. The Court dismissed the appeal, holding that, if the injury incapacitated a workman, he was entitled to compensation, and it was no more a defence under the Act to allege that it was the bad state of health of the individual that made an accident trivial to a person in good health serious in his particular case than such a plea would be in the case of a claim for compensation against a railway company.-Lloyd v. Sugg & Co., Limited, Court of Apteal, December 2nd.

In another case a claim was made on behalf of herself and her In another case a claim was made on behalf of herself and her children by the widow of a workman, who had been employed as a foreman machinist by a cabinetmaker, and who met with his death under the following circumstances. It was part of the duty of the deceased on going to work in the morning to start a gas engine for the purpose of turning a large wheel In January, 1899, the deceased set the engine working as usual, and then began to will at the wheel together with three other workmen in order to rull at the wheel, together with three other workmen, in order to give it a start. While pulling at the wheel, the deceased suddenly put his hand to his stomach, and rushed from the room, and shortly afterwards died. The medical evidence given in the County Court was to the effect that the cause of death was a rupture of the vessels of the stomach, owing to a strain being put on them. The County Court judge decided against the applicant, holding that death was due to disease, and not to an accident arising out of the man's employment. The widow appealed, contending that the disease from which the man suffered was not the proximate cause of death; for, unless a strain had been put upon him, he would have died from the disease itself, and not from a rupture, as was the case. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. In the opinion of the Court, what the County Court judge held was, that death was caused through disease, though possibly accelerated by reason of the man straining himself while doing his ordinary work. That was a finding of fact upon the evidence, and, that being so, the Court of Appeal had no jurisdiction to disturb the decision of the judge of the County Court.—Hensey v. White, Court of Appeal, reported December 10th.

In a third case a claim for compensation was made against a firm of engineers and ironfounders by an engine-fitter, who had received an injury while at work for them. He was working at steam pipe joints for a machine, it being the duty of a labourer to put red lead on the joints, this fitter having then to screw the pipes into position. In the previous week he had blistered one of the fingers of his right hand while chipping steel plates for an engine at the same works. On the day, on which he received the injury in respect of which he made his claim, he showed the blister to the foreman, and said that, on account of the danger of his poisoning his finger, he thought it was hardly fit for him to do the job (screwing the red-leaded pipes). The foreman THE War Office has issued a notice stating that artificers of the replied that he must do it, and he did it. On the next night the a serious injury while working in the defendants' employment in the ordinary way with the usual materials and appliances, and that there was no accident within the meaning of the Act; and he accordingly decided in favour of the employers. The workman appealed, and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. The Court held that, in order to bring a case within the Act, there must be personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment, and that in this case there had been no accident. The injury received arose when the workman was working in the

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT." A boy, 15 years of age, in the employment of a firm of con-tractors, claimed compensation from them in respect of the loss of dock, wharf, quay, or warehouse, within the meaning of Section 23 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895. The winch was used for the purpose of loading cargo from a lighter, which was lying alonghis leg, which occurred in consequence of an accident. The defendants were making a dock, and there was a railway line used and defendants were making a dock, and there was a railway line used and worked by them for this purpose. The applicant had been employed by the defendants as a signaler, but at the time of the accident he was employed to grease the wheels and axles of the railway trucks. On October 15th, 1898, he had finished greasing all the trucks that were ready for him, and had to wait for more. He went to a fire, high was a chort direction of the accident he went to a fire, side a ship, into the ship, and not for the purpose of loading to or from any dock, wharf, quay, or warehouse.—Hennessey v. McCabe, Court of Appeal, December 9th: PAYMENT DURING INCAPACITY. which was a short distance away from the place where he had been The amount of compensation payable under the Act, where total greasing the trucks, the fire being close to a lever used for moving or partial incapacity for work results from the injury, is a weekly ints. All trucks coming to him would pass by that spot. The ayment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding handle of the lever was away from the line, and the boy sat on the o per cent. of the workman's average weekly earnings, and it handle to warm himself at the fire. He saw an engine with trucks vided that " in fixing the amount of the weekly payment, regard coming, and, thinking that the points were against the engine, shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident." he began to pull the lever over in order to open them, when the engine came up, and took the lever over with a jerk, the lever throwing him against the engine, in consequence of which he was so injured that his leg had to be amputated. The workman, employed by a firm of engineers, on November 11th, 898, met with an accident while working at a moulding ever was an automatic one, and there was evidence that the points machine, which resulted in his losing two fingers and part of the had been left so that the engine would have opened them. The palm of his hand. On February 25th, 1899, he went back to work, boy had not been told not to touch the lever, but it was no part and claimed compensation from his employers for the injury. The of his duty to do so. There was another boy, whose duty it was to employers admitted liability during the time the man had been look after the points, but he was about twenty yards away at the time. The County Court judge found in favour of the applicant. unable to work, and paid £3 4s. into Court in respect of such liability. The workman received the same wages from his He said that the applicant was not neglecting any duty at the time of the accident; that he was only waiting for more trucks to come to be greased, and he was under no obligation to stay or stand employers after the accident as he had received before it. But the claimed compensation beyond the \pounds_3 4s. paid into Court, because, if he left these employers, the injury to his hand would prevent him from getting in the labour market as good wages as before. The County Conrt judge declined to make any declaration of liability against the employers, because he held that the money in Court was sufficient to compensate the applicant for the time he was out of work and he had up to then sustained no loss from the in any particular place until the trucks arrived; and that he was in the course of his employment when the accident happened. The the course of his employment when the accident happened. The judge also held that the applicant was not guilty of serious and wilful misconduct (which, under the Act debars a workman from claiming compensation). The employers appealed, but the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. That Court held that the only question which they had to decide was whether there was evidence upon which the County Court judge could find that the accident arose out of and in the course of the boy's employwas out of work, and he had up to then sustained no loss from the accident, since the same wages were paid him now as before. The workman appealed. Before the County Court judge he had asked for immediate compensation. He now admitted that he was not entitled to such compensation, but asked ment. It was the boy's duty to wait for the other trucks. the Court to make a declaration that he should be at liberty to The Court held that there was evidence to justify the finding of apply to have any future loss which he might sustain from the the judge, and also that his finding on this point was correct; and that upon the evidence he was justified in finding that there was no serious and wilful misconduct.—Harrison v. Whitaker Brothers, accident arbitrated upon in such an event happening. To this course the employers consented, and the Court made the declara-tion accordingly. - Crowley v. Davis & Co., Court of Appeal, Limited, Court of Appeal, December 16th. December 2nd.

The Act applies "only to employment by the undertakers . . on or in or about a railway, factory, mine, etc."; "'factory' has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is received the same wages as before. The Court of Appeal made in favour of the applicant a declaration similar to that set forth above. – Popman v. Mayor and Corporation of Torquay, Court of Appeal, December 9th. applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895..."; and "under-takers" in the case of a factory means the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory Acts. A workman, who had met with an accident while at work, claimed compensation from his employers. (2) Employers' Liability for Accidents.* IRRELEVANT ACTION A labourer brought an action against a firm of builders, in which he sued for payment of f_{182} 6s. 6d. as damages for personal injuries sustained on January 10th, 1899, while working in their employment. The pursuer's case, as stated, was that in the course of his work The applicant was sent by the employers with certain other men to a factory which was about half a mile distant from their own factory, they having bought a disused steam engine, which was standing in a shed there. This engine the applicant was directed to he had occasion to go along a road formed of two 9 inch planks; that this was not a road for passing; that he met his remove, and in so doing he suffered the injury in respect of which he claimed compensation. The County Court judge held that the foreman coming along the road in the opposite direction; that to allow him to pass the pursuer stepped off the road, and that he thereby sustained injury. The sheriff dismissed the action as irrelevant, on the ground that the pursuer did not aver that the employment of the applicant was not an employment "on or in or about a factory," within the meaning of the Act, and accordingly dismissed his application to assess compensation. The workman appealed to the Court of Appeal, which dismissed the appeal, on the ground that the employment of the workman at the time of the accident was not employment by the undertakers on road as a road was unsafe, and he made no relevant averment of any reason why he should have left the road, which, according to or in or about a factory within the meaning of the Act. The Court his own statement, it was dangerous to do. On appeal, the Court of Session affirmed the Sheriff's decision on the same grounds .held that the words used in the Act meant employment at the held that the words used in the Act meant employment at the factory which was occupied by the employers and where the employers carried on their business, and did not include employ-ment at another factory. It was contended that the defendants were occupiers for the time being of the other factory within the meaning of the Factory Acts. But the only possible section of those Acts, upon which such a contention could be based, was Section 23 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895. That section, however, only provided, so far as material to the present case, that certain provisions of the Factory Acts, relating to the fencing of Brown v. P. & W. Anderson, Court of Session, December 2nd. (3) Miscellaneous. SUPERANNUATION GRANT BY TRADE UNION : SUBSEQUENT RESUMPTION OF EMPLOYMENT. The rules of a trade union provide, "That any financial member of over twenty-five years' standing, and who has attained the age of fifty-six years, shall on retiring from the trade . nowever, only provided, so far as material to the present case, that certain provisions of the Factory Acts, relating to the fencing of machinery, etc., should have effect as if all machinery and plant used in the process of loading or unloading from or to a dock, wharf, quay, or warehouse, and any premises on which machinery worked by steam, water, or other mechanical power was temporarily used for bind the set of the time being a satisfactory guarantee that he will abide by the rules of the society receive a gratuity of \pounds_{20} ." One of the members of the society, having left the trade, applied in 1898 for a gratuity, which was accorded to him. After some time he resumed work in his old trade. An action was the purpose of the construction of a building or any structural work in connection with a building, were included in the word factory, then brought in the County Court on behalf of the trade union, claiming the return of the ± 20 , which he had received as a and the person so using the machinery should be deemed to be the occupier of a factory. That provision did not apply to the gratuity. On behalf of the trade union it was stated that this money was given to the defendant upon his undertaking to retire present case .- Francis v. Turner Brothers, Court of Appeal, December from the trade and not follow it again, and would not have been paid unless he had given this undertaking. On the other hand, the defendant said that, when he applied for the gratuity, he had LOADING SHIP FROM LIGHTER. no intention of taking up the trade again, but he never promised Compensation was claimed from his employer (a stevedore) by that he would not return to the trade. The judge said that the alleged promise was not given by way of a contract, but was by way of a "satisfactory guarantee." He could find no evidence of a labourer in respect of injuries received by him while on board a ship lying in dock, and engaged in loading the ship with cargo from a lighter floating in the dock by means of a steam winch which

* Under this heading are included all actions other than those under the Workmen's Compensation Act. was attached to the ship. The lighter was lying alongside the

ordinary way, and with the usual materials. The idea of something fortuitous and unexpected was involved in the word "accident," but that element was wanting in the present case.-Walker v Lilleshall Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, December 16th.

"ON OR IN OR ABOUT A FACTORY."

ship, the ship being between the lighter and the quay. The County Court judge made an award in favour of the applicant. The employer appealed, on the ground that the employment of the applicant at the time of the accident was not an employment to which the Act applied. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, on the ground that the steam winch in this case was not machinery or plant used in the process of loading or unloading from or to any

In another case the facts were generally similar to those in the last, the applicant being a workman who lost his eye as the result of an accident, and who, when he was able to return to work,

frand, and therefore the defence must succeed. He gave a verdict trand, and therefore the defendent must succeed. The gave a vehicle in favour of the defendant. The defendant's solicitor explained that his client was prepared to deposit the money on obtaining a guarantee that he would receive it when he was unable to work.— Ainsworth and Reid, on behalf of the Blachburn Tapesizers' Protection Society v. Entwistle, Blackburn County Court, December 4th.

NEGLECT TO SERVE NOTICE OF INJURY: DAMAGES AGAINST SOLICITORS.

A labourer having met with an accident while at work, the trade union to which he belonged instructed a firm of solicitors to bring an action in the County Court against his employers, under the Employers' Liability Act, claiming damages. That Act provides that "an action for the recovery under this Act of compensation for an injury shall not be maintainable unless notice that injury has been sustained is given within six weeks from the has been sustained is given within six weeks has been sustained is given within six weeks from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury." Such notice may be served by delivering the same to or at the residence or place of served by delivering the same to or at the residence or place of business of the person on whom it is to be served, and may also be served by post by a registered letter addressed to the person on whom it is to be served at his last known place of residence or place of business. When the action came on for trial, the labourer failed, on the ground that the employer had not been served with notice of the injury, in accordance with the statute. Thereupon the labourer brought an action against the elivier to remedement of the injury of the dub serving solicitors to recover damages for their negligence in not duly serving this notice. The solicitors admitted that no notice was sent by registered letter as required by the Act; their clerk had posted the notice in the ordinary way. On their behalf it was submitted that they owed no duty to the plaintiff, because they had been employed, not by him, but by the trustees of the trade union. But the judge ruled against the defendants on this point. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for f_{50} , and judgment was entered for that amount, with costs.—Queen's Bench Division, reported December 20th.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS. (Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases (fatal and non-fatal) of lead, &c., poisoning, and of anthrax reported during December and also during each of the years 1899 and 1898 as having occurred in factories and work shops. It will be seen that of the 90 cases of lead poisoning reported in December, 42 occurred in lead works. During 1899 the number of cases in lead works was 422 or 72 more than in 1898, while the number occurring in the china and earthenware industry was 249, or 208 less. The number of cases of anthrax reported in 1899, viz., 56, was just double the number reported in 1808.

The deaths of two men are reported from lead poisoning during December, and of one man from anthrax (horsehair sorting). Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous months or not.

CASES REPORTED IN THE UNDERMENTIONED PERIODS.

Service of the Design	December, 1899.					Total	Total in 12 months ended December	
Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons. Total		Total	Dec. 1898	1899.	1898.
	M.*	F.*	M.*	F.*	- General			
Lead Poisoning-	1 14/10	Cherry Star	169.3		L. S. C.	30,21	and a	
China and Earthenware	9	4	-	2	15	41	249	457
Glass	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	19
White, Red, Yellow, and Orange Lead Works	36	6	-	1	42	49	422	350
Paints and Colours	2	I	2-1	-	3	6	75	59
Smelting		-	-	-	-	4	61	82
File Making	2	-		-	2 4	3	41	46
Coach Making, &c	3		I	-	24	37	65	45
Other Industries	21	2	I	. 15.6	24	31	337	220
Total Lead Poisoning	73	13	2	2	90	141	1,258	1,278
Phosphorus Poisoning :	177.6	1000			a distant		12.0	1000
Lucifer Match Works	I	-	-	-	1	-	7	201
Other Industries	-	11-	-	-	-	-	1	1+
Mercuris Poisoning:	I	I	-	-	2	11	10‡	1
Arsenical Poisoning	-	1-	-	1	150	1-1	-	-
Anthrax	4	I	2	- 1	7	1	56	28

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

South Wales District .- An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under Manager of a Mine will shortly be held for the South Wales District. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Robert T. Rees, Glendare, Aberdare.

* M.=Males. F.=Females. + 10 of the reports included in these figures related to cases of phosphorus oisoning which occurred before the year 1898. 1 Cases of mercurial poisoning were not reported prior to May 1st, 1899, when he order, bringing them under the provisions of Section 19 of the Factory and Varkshop Act, 1895, came into force.

January, 1900.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES. (Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reforts. newspapers, etc., mostly dated November and December last.)*

Victoria .- The unemployed difficulty is no longer acute in Melbourne. Three lines of railway are now in course of construction within 50 miles of Melbourne, and large numbers of workmen are being employed upon them. The Public Service Board recently advertised for 30 junior clerks with a commencing salary of £40 a year, and received nearly 1,000 applications, and 600 applications were received for about 60 vacancies in the telephone department.

South Australia.—There has been a good demand for agricultural labourers, for men able to work binders and strippers, for boundary riders, and for married couples without children for stations.

Queensland .- There is now a good demand throughout the colony for farm labourers and domestic servants, to whom free or reduced passages are being granted. There is also an increasing demand for mechanics. The number of employees on the railways has been largely increased, more especially in the branch of the chief mechanical engineer, who has had to provide not only for expansion of traffic and additional mileage, but for very extensive repairs to rolling stock, more particularly locomotives.

Tasmania .- Miners continue to be busy, and the Secretary for Mines, in his annual report, which has just been issued, says that the mining industry continues to progress rapidly. New Zealand.—There appears to be plenty of work

in New Zealand for anyone anxious to procure it. The engineering trade has been very busy at Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill. The building trades continue busy or fairly busy in most parts. There has been an improvement in the clothing trade, which is now very busy in several places; but work in the boot trade is not so easy to procure everywhere. Sawmillers have been busy, and employment in the flax mills has increased. Competent men have no difficulty in getting good wages at shearing, bush-felling, scrub-felling, and other country work.

South Africa.—All persons are warned against going to South Africa at the present time in search of work.

LABOUR ABROAD. FRANCE.

Employment in December. †- Employment continued plentiful in the mining, metal (smelting and manufacture), engineering, electrical, watch, clock and jewellery trades; in the spinning and weaving of wool, flax and cotton; in dyeing and finishing; in garment-making, hatmaking, boot and shoe making, and glovemaking; in the printing and bookbinding trades (which were favourably affected by the orders for the New Year); in the cabinetmaking, coachbuilding and coopering trades, and among pastrycooks and confectioners. Employment was quiet in the silk trade, and in ribbons and trimmings manufacture, some establishments having reduced their output, while others (chiefly in Central France) stopped their looms after refusing to accede to demands made by the workpeople for increased wages. The severe weather put a stop to work for a large number of agricultural labourers, woodcutters, and persons connected with hide and skin-working, and with the building and accessory trades. The rise in the price, and the increased scarcity of coal in Central France caused slackness (and in some cases a complete stoppage of work) in a number of establishments, such as glass works, iron and steel works, spinning and weaving mills.

The length of the working day in the building and accessory trades was from 8 to 9 hours.

Reports as to the state of employment on December 15th were furnished by 630 trade unions (not including the miners' unions of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments), with a membership of 98,200. These * Handbooks, with maps on the different Colonies, may be obtained from the migrants' Information Office at a penny each, post free. † Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department. show slightly more than 10 per cent. of their members Statistics of Trade Unions.-A return recently compiled by the to have been out of work on that date, as compared Swiss workmen's secretary appears in the last number of the with less than 7 per cent. of the 96,000 members of 525 Schweiz. Blätter für Wirthschafts-und Socialpolitik. This return states trade unions reporting in November, and 11 per cent. that the trade union organisations in Switzerland comprise in of the 85,000 members of 445 trade unions, reported the aggregate 697 branches, with a total membership of 46,359 unemployed on December 15th, 1898. (including 309 women). It is stated that these figures are materially The percentage-figure of unemployed in December, too low, because many unions failed to supply the necessary information

1899, does not include the workpeople (in the mining and textile trades) who took part in certain serious strikes in Central France during the month, but is stated to have been indirectly affected by those strikes, in so far as a number of other trades suffered a partial stoppage for want of raw material.

Coal Mining in November.*-The average number of days per week worked by those employed underground in coal mines in November was 6'00 (compared with 5.99 in the previous month, and 5.96 in November, 1898). During the month, full time (six days and over per week) was worked by 95 per cent., and from five to six days by 4 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines, the percentages in the previous month being 97 and 3 respectively. The above particulars are sup-plied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the coal mines).

Labour Exchanges in 1898 .- According to the Bulletin de l'Office du Travail for December, 1899, there were in France, at the end of 1898, 55 labour exchanges. December describes the condition of the diamond It is stated that these exchanges "are not merely cutting industry of Antwerp as bad, owing to the labour registries, but also serve as the headquarters of Transvaal War. From information supplied through the Foreign Office under date of November 18th, 1899, combinations of workmen's organisations, whose object by Sir F. R. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, it is, on the one hand, to protect and promote their common interests, and, on the other, to organise meetappears that both in 1897 and 1898 uncut diamonds head the list of articles imported into Belgium from ings, issue publications, and form libraries. Some of the United Kingdom, the value of these imports having the exchanges have instituted classes for technical education, and relief funds for workmen travelling in amounted to $f_{2,200,000}$ in the former, and to $f_{2,400,000}$ in the latter year. search of employment." The oldest of the existing labour exchanges is that established in Paris in 1887 HOLLAND. In the case of 31 existing labour exchanges the initial cost has been defrayed by the municipality, the State of Employment.--Writing under date of January 6th, Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, aggregate expense incurred being £124,248, of which reports that H.M. Consul at Amsterdam states that £114,895 was expended on the installation of the Paris trade and industry have, on the whole, been brisk and exchange. Forty-seven of the existing labour exchanges that labourers of nearly all classes, with the exception draw annual subsidies from municipalities. These vary of one branch, have been well employed. from \pounds_4 (Villeneuve-sur-Lot) to $\pounds_{7,300}$ (Paris), and amounted in 1898 to $\pounds_{14,167}$ in the aggregate, or an The diamond industry is stated to have suffered severely by the outbreak of hostilities in South Africa. average, excluding Paris, of nearly £150. Twenty-one exchanges also draw annual subsidies from Depart-There had, however, been no such great distress as to have been insurmountable by the ordinary measures in ments, the maximum being £260 (Marseilles), the minimum £1 (Versailles), and the aggregate £816. such cases.

There have been several threatened partial outbreaks With respect to the work done by the labour exof strikes on the part of the dock labourers, in some changes as labour registries, the statistics given show instances the men having left their work for the that permanent situations were procured in 1898 in purpose of forcing employers to grant a rise of wages. 47,237 cases by 41 labour exchanges, while temporary These strikes, which in some cases have been temwork was found in 38,159 cases by 22 of these porarily partially successful, have not been general in institutions. their nature, and at present the labour market is nearly GERMANY. Freedom of Coalition Law.-Under a law dated December 11th, unruffled. The severity of the late frosts has, as usual, given occasion to a considerable increase in the demands 1899, it is enacted that German associations (including trade unions) shall in future possess the right to combine together (by for unskilled and irregular labour, and the stress thrown forming federations, etc.), all laws to the contrary, previously in upon the railways by the closing of the canals by ice has also caused a considerable quantity of floating labour force in any of the States affiliated to the Empire, being repealed. Special rules for building works in Potsdam.-Special rules just to be absorbed.

issued by the police authorities for the Potsdam district provide Wages and Hours Clauses in Municipal Contracts.—A report under date of November 21st, received through the Foreign Office from Mr. Arthur Peel, H.M. Chargé d' Affaires at the Hague, states that, since 1892, numerous petitions have been sent in by different labour organisations to the Municipal Council of Rotterdam, advocating the insertion in contracts for municipal works of clauses stipulating for the payment Uniform Conditions of Work in the Printing Trade.-According to of a fixed scale of minimum wages, and the observance of a maximum labour time. The burgomaster and aldermen of the city have recently reported on the subject to the following effect : With regard to the question of working hours, they think that it would be a mistake to impose a maximum working day materially shorter than that which obtains at present, but otherwise see no objection to a time-limit being fixed in contracts. So far as concerns wages, while not advising the Town Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, November and December, 1899.

that, from November 15th to March 15th in any year, the execution of plasterers' work or tile, etc., fixing (including the fixing of porcelain stoves) in new buildings shall not be permitted, except in rooms provided with doors and windows that can be closed. It is also forbidden to do work of any kind in rooms in which an open coke fire is burning, unless means be provided for carrying off the fumes generated by the coke.-Soziale Praxis. records kept by the Joint Board (Tarifamt) appointed for the purpose of promoting the recognition of the terms of the general agreement arrived at in the book-printing trade of Germany in April, 1896 (See GAZETTE for that year, May, p. 147; June, p. 179; and August, p. 245), the number of firms adhering to the agreement had, on December 3rd, 1899, reached 3,070, distributed over 995 localities, and employing some 33,000 out of a total of 41,000 journeymen book-printers in Germany.—Soziale Praxis.

TO

SWITZERLAND.

II

Of the above 46,359 persons, 15,508 (in 277 branches) belong to the General Federation of Swiss Trade Unions, consisting of a large number of subordinate organisations, of which the most important are those of the metal workers (82 branches, with 5,373 members) and the woodworkers (29 branches, with 2,546 members). The Railway Workers' Federation comprises (in the 171 branches of 6 unions) 13,542 railway servants (officials, train staff, engine drivers and firemen, pointsmen and signalmen and shunters), and the Railway Labourers' Union, with 14 branches, has 2,524 members. The General Federation of Federal Officials and Employees comprises (in 59 branches of 6 organisations) 4,301 members, and the Federation of Swiss Postal Officials has 19 subordinate organisations, with 1,354 members. There are two federations of compositors, the one comprising 21 subordinate organisations and 1,684 members, the other (in the French-speaking parts of Switzerland) with 9 subordinate organisations and 629 members.

BELGIUM.

Condition of the Diamond-cutting Industry in Antwerp .--The Journal of the Belgian Labour Department for

Council to accede to the proposals for the adoption of a minimum wages clause, they are nevertheless prepared to prescribe additional stipulations in the interest of workmen to be inserted in contracts, e.g., official returns of the wages paid, the fixing of proportionate wages for Sunday and night labour, guaranteeing the payment of a certain amount of wages in the event of a sudden stoppage of work, and the insertion of provisions for promoting the safety and health of the workpeople employed. In a despatch, under date of December 4th, Mr. A. F. Leveson-Gower, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague, states that the Municipal Council has, in accordance with the recommendation of the burgomaster and aldermen, decided against the insertion in municipal contracts of a clause fixing a minimum rate cf wages.

Eight hours day for Gasworkers .- Sociaal Weekblad reports the substitution of eight-hours for twelve-hours shifts for gas-stokers at Dortrecht. The wages of the present staff will not be reduced, but the newly-appointed men will receive 195. 10d. per week, as compared with 20s. 5d. to 23s. 4d. per week paid to the old hands. Each of the three shifts of men will have a clear 24 hours off duty (from 6 a.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Monday) every third week, the other two shifts working 12 hours each on those days. A similar armangement is in operation at Arnhem, and at Amsterdam it has recently been decided to adopt the same course in relation to the municipal gasworks.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes, November 29th to January 3rd.-Notices of 9 disputes which began in Austria between November 29th and January 3rd are contained in Die Gewerkschaft (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee). Four of these disputes were in the textile trades, the remaining five being strikes of arms-factory operatives, compositors, porcelain workers, bakers and coal-miners. The last-named dispute, which involved some 3,000 miners, was the most serious, and took place in the Köflach-Voitsberg district in Styria. It began on January 2nd, after two unsuccessful attempts had been made by the Conciliation Board of the Mining Trade Guild of the district to effect a settlement. The men's demands included the following : Minimum daily wages of 25. 6d. for hewers, 2s. 2d. for trammers, 1s. 10d. for young persons, and 1s. 4d. for women; free dwelling accommodation, or an equivalent allowance, free coal, and a 48-hours' week*. The dispute in the baking trade was also of some importance. It took place in Prague, and lasted from the 10th to the 18th of December. The strikers are stated to have numbered 1,356, out of a total of some 1,500 bakers in Prague. The terms of settlement included the concession of a 10-hours day, and minimum weekly wages of 16s. 8d. in the larger, and 135. 4d. in the smaller establishments

Strikes in the Textile Trade for a Ten-hours Day .- Two noteworthy disputes in the textile trade were settled in December by concilia tion, in which active assistance was given by the factory inspectors and district magistrates. The chief question involved in both cases was the introduction of the ten-hours day, a demand which, according to Die Gewerkschaft, has been conceded to 75,000 textile operatives in Austria since the great strike in Brünn, referred to in the GAZETTES' of 1899 (May, p. 138; June, p. 169; and July p. 202). One of the disputes occurred in Zwickau, a cloth-making and cotton-spinning centre in Bohemia; the other in Jägerndorf, on the borders of Silesia, one of the chief seats of the woollen industry in Austria. Each dispute began with a strike, which was answered by a lock-out on the part of the associated employers. In the Zwickau dispute, which had been in progress since the middle of November. some 3,000 workpeople are stated to have been involved, viz., 400 who had struck and 2,600 who had been locked-out. In Jägerndorf, the original strikers are stated to have numbered 450, and those locked-out in consequence, about 1,500. The last-named dispute, which began on November 29th, was settled on December 15th, by the concession of a working week of 612 hours, viz., 10 hours on Mondays, 101 hours on Tuesdays to Fridays, and 91 hours on Saturdays. The terms on which the Zwickau dispute was settled (on December 16th) included the concession of a 10-hours day, beginning from April 1st, 1900.

ITALY.

Old Age Pensions .- Credito e Cooperazione states that the National Old-Age Pension Fund, established by the Law of July 17th, 1898, began operations on October 1st, 1899. The Law provided an original grant of £400,000 towards the capital endowment of the Fund, and prescribed means for increasing that endowment in * According to an English press-notice of the 8th instant, this strike has terminated in a compromise.

January, 1900.

order that at the end of 10 years it should amount to not less than £640,000. A pamphlet recently prepared by a member of the Council for administering the Fund states that the endowment capital has already reached the sum of £520,000. Towards this amount, the Savings Bank of Milan has given a donation of £6,000: the Turin and Rome Savings Banks have each given £4,000; that of Imola, £2,000; and that of Forli, £800; (see LABOUR GAZETTE, October, 1898, p. 291; September, 1899, p. 267, and Report on Provision for Old Age in certain European Countries [C. 9414.]).

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES. (a) COAL MINING IN DECEMBER.

[Note.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allow-ance 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.]

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues very good. The slight increase in the average time worked renders the average for December the highest recorded during the five years in which these statistics have been compiled.

Returns relating to 1,248 pits, at which 445,469 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5.65 days per week was worked by these pits in the four weeks ended December 23rd, as compared with 5.64 days in November and 5.54 days a year ago.

The number employed at these pits was also greater than at the end of 1898, the increase so far as it can be ascertained amounting to about 2 per cent.

The following table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified :-

District.		No. em- ployed in Dec., 1899 at the	, per we	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended			
ta godine ta		collieries included in the Table.	a 23rd Dec.	24th Dec., 1898.	25th Nov., 1899.		
England and Wales Scotland Ireland		407,567 37,272 630	5.66 5.56 5.80	5'55 5'45 5'82	5'66 5'40 5'43		
United Kingdom		445,469	5.65	5-54	5.64		

In the following table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 92.7 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, the same proportion as in November, the proportion a year ago having been 88.2 per cent.

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

Number of days on	Decemb	er, 1899.	Corresponding percentages in-		
bloh Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	December, 1898.	November 1899.	
24 days (full time) 20 and under 24 days 16 20 12 16 8 12 Under 8 days	168,484 244,559 29,460 2,921 45	37'8 54'9 6'6 0'7 0'0	31.0 67.2 10.6 1.0 0.0 0.2	35.9 56.8 6.5 0.7 0.1 0.0	
Total	445,469	100-0	100.0	100.0	

From the table below, which gives detailed particulars for the different mining districts, it will be seen that in the few cases in which the average for December was not so good as that for November, or as that for a year ago, the decline was only of a trifling character. The principal improvements, as compared with November, took place in the small Irish district and Fife, and as compared with a year ago, in South Wales and Monmouth, and Fife.

In all districts over 5 days were worked per week, and in the great majority of cases over $5\frac{1}{2}$ days. The highest averages, amounting to nearly full time, were worked in Gloucester and Somerset, and Cumberland (5.97 days, and 5.96 days respectively per week), whilst, as has been the case for some time back, the lowest average (5.03 days) was worked in Nottingham and Leicestershire.

January, 1900.

Collieries in De	CEMBER, 1899	AND 1898, AND
District.	at the	Average No. of I per Week by the in four week
	Collieries	- 1

	Collieries included in the Table.	23rd Dec., 1899.	2411 Dec 1898
ENGLAND & WALES	1 1 4 2 1 3	Days.	Day
Northumberland	34,523	5'51	5'34
Durham	87,035	5.66	5'58
Cumberland	6,132	5.96	5.82
Yorkshire	62,228	5'74	5'75
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,336	5'69	5.62
Derbyshire	34,230	5'40	5'44
Nottingham and Leicester	25,217	5'03	4.96
Staffordshire	24,211	5'81	5'77
Salop, Worcester and			
Warwick	7,309	5.87	5'67
Gloucester and Somerset	8,177	5'97	5'91
North Wales	11,257	5'84	5.83
South Wales & Mon	60,912	5.87	5'51
SCOTLAND.			
West Scotland	20,810	5.45	5'44
The Lothians	3,738	5'83	5'90
Fife	12,724	5.68	5'32
IRELAND	630	5'80	5.82

Grand Total & Averages 445.469 5.65 5.84 5.64 + .11 + .01 The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during December amounted to 3,489,436 tons, as compared with 3,511,483 tons in November, and 3,537,887

tons in December, 1898.

) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER. In December there was a very slight falling off in employment in most districts, and the average time worked at the mines was not, on the whole, quite so good as a year or a month ago.

Returns, relating to 125 iron mines and open works. show that the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 23rd, was 5.75 per week, as compared with 5.79 in November, and 5.82 a year ago. Of the 16,980 persons employed at these workings (practically the same number as a year ago) 7'4 per cent were employed in mines working 22 or hore days in the four weeks, as compared with 85.6 per cent. in November, and 90.1 per cent in December, 1898. The following table summarises the returns received

District.	No. em- ployed in Dec., 1899, at the Mines	worked	e number per wee n 4 week	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1899, as compared with		
	included in the Table.	23rd Dec., 1899.	25th Nov., 1898.	24th Dec., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND-	State State	Die Kan	and and	130.000	3-5-11-5-5-5	The state
Cumberland and	March March	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Dana
Lancashire	5,867	5'94	5'85	5.88	+ '00	Days, + '06
Cleveland	6,854	5'53	5'79	5'63	- '26	and the second second
Lincolnshire and		3 33	379	203	- 20	- '10
Leicestershire	713	5.83	5'97	5'99	- '14	- '16
Northamptonshire	699	5'93				12000000000
Staffordshire and	-39	3 95	5'95	5'97	- '02	- '04
Shropshire Other places in	1,283	5.80	5'70	5.82	ot. +	- 'oz
England	165	5'32	5'75	5'62	- '43	- '30
SCOTLAND	1,271	5'93	5.84	5'93	+ '09	
IRELAND	128	5'93	5.92	6.00	+ '01	- '07
Total	16,980	5'75	5.82	5.79	- '07	- '04

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER. PLOYMENT in December showed little change on the

hole. It continues considerably better than a year ago. During the month at the works of 117 ironmasters vered by the returns, five furnaces were blown out d three re-lit in England, and one was re-lit in otland. Thus, at the end of the month, one furnace was in blast than at the end of November. The mated number of workpeople employed was 26,010, I more than at the end of the previous month. As pared with a year ago, 11 more furnaces were in ist and 1,864 more people were employed.

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THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-COAL AND IRON MINING, PIG IRON, AND IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

DAYS WORKED BY IN NOVEMBER, 1899. Days worked he Collieries ks ended Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1899 as com-pared with 25th Nov., 1899. A A year m'nth ago. ago. Days. Days. Days. 10. + 10. + 10. + 5'52 5'65 $\begin{array}{r} + 00 + 01 \\ + 14 + 11 \\ - 00 - 02 \\ + 07 + 04 \\ - 04 - 10 \\ + 07 - 02 \\ + 04 + 07 \end{array}$ 5.85 5.76 5.65 5°50 5°05 5°74 + '20 + '05 + 'c6 + '05 5^{.82} 5^{.92} + .01 + .02 5'**79** 5'88 5'34 + '01 + '11 - '07 + 'II + '36 + '27 5.72 5.41 - .02 + .37 5'43

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

Present time compared with a year ago.					Present time compared with a month ago.				
Districts.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1899.	Nov., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1899.			
NGLAND & WALES-		1211-							
eveland	97	95	+ 2	97	96	+ 1			
mberland & Lancs.	53	48	+ 5	53	54	-1			
and S.W. Yorks	19	19		19	10				
ncolnshire	16	16		16	16				
idlands	99	98	+ I	99	IOI	- 2			
amorgan and Mon.	22	17	+ 5	22	22				
her districts	9	9	· · · · · ·	9	9				
Total England and Wales}	315	802	+ 13	815	817	2			
OTLAND	64	66	- 2	64	63	+ I			
Total furnaces included in returns	319	268	+ 11	879	380	- 1			

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during December amounted to 111,894 tons, as compared with 134,823 tons in November, and 63,907 tons in December, 1898.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries shows little change as compared with the previous month. Both the numbers employed and the average number of shifts worked are greater than a year ago.

Numbers Employed.

At 212 works covered by the returns 83,264 workpeople were employed in the week ended December 23rd, as compared with 79,227 in the corresponding week of 1898, and 83,170 in the last week of November.

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

District.	Number	ending	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1899, as compared with		
	Dec. 23rd.	Dec. 24th,	Nov 25th,	a year	a n onth
	1899	1898.	1899.	ago.	ago.
England and Wales		66,584	69,382	+2,996	+ 198
Scotland		12,643	13,788	+1,041	- 104
Total	83,264	79,227	83,170	+4,037	+ 94

Weekly Number of Shifts worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 88 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.63 in the week ended December 23rd, 5.62 in the last week of November, and 5.59 in the week ended December 24th, 1898.

Number of Shifts worked.	nder 5 per week per week per week		Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in Dec., 1898.
al non moole		2,051 23,509 1,099 44,860 1,505	2'8 32'2 1'5 61'4 2'1	3'2 35'3 1'9 57'1 2'5
Total		73,028	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first table may be estimated at 468,450 in the week ended December 23rd, 467,159 in the last week of November, and 442,668 in the week ended December 24th, 1898.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-Shipbuilding; TINPLATE INDUSTRY; SEAMEN.

(e) SHIPBUILDING.

Tonnage under Construction.*

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RETURNS compiled by Lloyd's Register show that on December 31st, 1899, the number of vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom was 538, of 1,306,751 tons gross, a decrease of 40,798 tons compared with the tonnage building at the end of the previous quarter, and of 94,336 when compared with the unprecedentedly high total of December, 1898. There were 15 warships under construction at the Royal Dockyards at the end of December, with a displacement tonnage of 139,920 tons, and 66 at private yards, with 283,835 tons displacement, or a total of 81 warships and 423,755 tons. This represents an increase of 10,775 tons as compared with the quarter ended September 30th, and 12,770 tons as compared with a vear ago.

The following table summarises the above figures :--

	Tonnage	under con on	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Dec., 1899, as compared with		
Description of Vessels.	Dec. 31st, 1899.	Sep. 30th, 1899.	Dec. 31st, 1898.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Merchant Vessels— Tons gross War Vessels— Tons displacement	1,306,751 423,755	1,347,549 412,980	1,401,087 410,985	- 40,798 + 10,775	- 94,336 + 12,770

The 538 merchant vessels include 507 steam vessels of 1,297,497 tons gross, and 31 sailing vessels of 9,254 tons gross, being a decrease as compared with a year ago, in the case of steamers of 53 vessels and 100,794 tons, and in the case of sailing vessels an increase of in the number of vessels, and of 6,458 in the tonnage under construction.

The following table shows the gross tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include 95 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction :-

District.	At Dec. 31st	At Sep. 30th.	At Dec. 31st	Increase (+) or De- crease (-) as compared with		
District.	1899.	1899.	1899. 1898.		A year ago.	
Clyde	433,998 188,842 173,545 241,861 111,735 90,851 1,920	466,656 186,367 166,905 242,613 110,690 96,294 11,310	520,900 184,344 168,109 25,1913 99,702 88,681 20,895	$\begin{array}{r} -32,658 \\ +2,475 \\ +6,640 \\ -752 \\ +1,045 \\ -5,443 \\ -9,390 \end{array}$	- 86,902 + 4,498 + 5,436 - 12,052 + 11,943 + 2,170 - 18,975	

It will be seen that the decrease as compared with both the previous quarter and a year ago is due chiefly to a falling off in the Clyde, and Barrow, Maryport and Workington districts. On the other hand the Wear, Middlesbrough and Stockton, and Belfast districts show an improvement compared with the other periods under review.

(2) Total Output in 1899.

The return states that the output in 1899 in the United Kingdom has surpassed all earlier records. During the year 726 vessels of 1,416,791 tons gross have been launched in the United Kingdom, in addition to 35 warships of 168,590 tons displacement. The tonnage of merchant vessels shows an increase of 49,221 tons over the total for 1898. The tonnage of warships launched during 1899 is less by 22,965 tons dis-placement than the 1898 total. Of the 35 warships 6, with a displacement tonnage of 66,900 tons, were launched at Government yards.

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

(f) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good during December, and much better than a year ago, 84 more mills being at work at the end of the month, and 3,650 (or nearly 22 per cent.) more workpeople employed than at the close of 1898.

At the end of December 59 works with 295 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 20 others with 155 mills were giving partial employment, 118 of their mills being at work. Thus in all 413 mills were working and giving employment to 20,554 workpeople. One or two works (not included in this summary), which closed down at Christmas time were also reported early in January to have since resumed work. The number of mills working at the end of November was 412, employing 20,482 workpeople, and at the end of December, 1898, 329 mills employing 16,904 workpeople.

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

	No. of	No. of M	Works.	Esti- m a ted No. of Work -	
	Works open.	Working.	Not Working.	Total.	peopl e em- ployed.
Works giving full employ-	59	295	_	295	14,722
ment Works giving partial em- ployment	20	118	37 •	155	5,832
Total at end of Dec., 1899†	79	413	37	450	20,554
Corresponding Total for November, 18991	80	412	41	453	20,482
Corresponding Total for December, 1898†	69	329	61	390	16,901

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above

and the state of the	נ	Cinplates.		Blackplates.			
	Dec. 1899.	Nov. 1899.	Dec. 1898.	Dec. 1899.	Nov. 1899.	Dec. 1898.	
To United States "Other Countries	Tons. 7,290 16,318	Tons. 8,711 23,346	Tons. 3,661 16,460	Tons. 464 4,466	Tons. 963 7,323	Tons 74 5,496	
Total	23,608	32,057	20,121	4,930	8,286	5,570	

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) THE number of seamen shipped during December as the crews of foreign going vessels from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 29,485, a decrease of 2,002 as compared with December, 1898 The supply of seamen and firemen is reported to have been equal to, or in excess of the demand at most of the ports.

During the year 1899, the number shipped at the selected ports shows an increase of 4,589 over the number for 1898, chiefly accounted for by increased shipments at Cardiff, Newport and Liverpool, partly balanced by decreases at ports on the East Coast.

Of the total number shipped during the year (viz: 106,979[‡]) 59,687 or 14.7 per cent. were foreigners, as compared with 14.1 per cent. in 1898, when the total of British and foreign seamen shipped was 402,390. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

able showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going

(anuary, 1900.

	Number of in D	of Men, &c ecember, 1	., shipped 899.*	Total in	Total number shipped in 12 months ended December*			
Principal Ports.	In In Sailing Steam Vessels. Vessels		Total in Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.*	1899.	1898.		
ENGLAND.	(Chinese)	e l'anne	La it for the		1	1		
East Coast.			2,229	0.405	35,426	43,392		
Tyne Ports Sunderland	35	2,194 378	878	2,495 422	5,668	40,392		
Middlesbrough	8	248	256	146	3,755	3,913		
Hall	-	638	638	1,178	14,939	16,789		
Grimsby	9	23	32	93	953	1,684		
Bristol Channel.	S PERMIT				P.S. M. P.	P. CONTRACT		
Bristolt	15	331	346	448	5,902	6,167		
Newport, Mon	-	896	896	90	12,299	8,341		
Card fft	221	3,704	3,925	4,988	58,726	1 \$5,620		
Swansea	10 - Carl	383	383	461	7,007	7,788		
other Ports.	Start Line 1	TANKEL D			100 071	1200 202		
Liverpool	226	9,401	9,627 5,763	10,252 5,963	129,841 73,445	126,161 73,645		
London	215	5,548	1,618	1,681	18,362	18,155		
Sourcampion		1,013	1,010	1,001	1 10,000	10,100		
SCOTLAND.	and the second second	1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	1.7.1		1.12	A STATE OF A		
Leith, Kirkoaldy,		LENGTH MAN			194 1 20	1 years		
Methil and Grangemouth		200	738	522	7,274	10.074		
Glasgow	127	738	2,213	1,637	28,534	28,858		
	/	2,000	2,210	1,001		20,000		
IRELAND	Same and the second	RAW DO MAN	tater a sal					
Dublin	26	100	126	110	1,399	1,187		
Belfast		322	322	297	3,449	3,481		
otal, Dec., 1899	882	28,603	29,485	-	408,979			
Ditto, Dec., 1898	734	30,753		31,487		402,390		

(A) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN DECEMBER. THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department. on the basis of 229 returns from various parts of Engand, reports as follows :- Agricultural labourers have een, generally speaking, well employed during December. Throughout the greater part of the month the weather was favourable for outdoor work. In many districts, however, frost and rain interrupted work in the fields for a few days in the latter half of month, particularly in the Northern and Midland Counties, but in the majority of cases it is stated that work was found for the men under cover during the infavourable weather. Notwithstanding the generally orward state of farm work, and the light root crop, here are still many complaints of scarcity of labour, and number of reports state that it has been difficult to get en for threshing and wood-cutting. In many instances the scarcity is said to be due in a great measure to the calling out of the Reserves and Militia, while in others e construction of railways and public works has drawn nen away from the farms.

Northern Counties .- Agricultural labourers are said to have been ularly employed during December in Cumberland in the Unions of olle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven. A report om the Carlisle Union states that although the root crop has been eficient there are fewer men wanting employment. Reports from with Westmorland and from the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, ancaster, Luneside, and Ulverston in North Lancashire state that st and snow stopped outdoor work during the last ten days of the th. Labour is said to be somewhat scarce in these districts, but tere has been no pressing need for extra hands. Agricultural emoyment is said to be regular in Durham in the Unions of Chesterstreet and Darlington (Durham and Yorks, N.R.). A few days' ork has, however, been lost in some cases owing to wintry her. Employment is reported to have been regular in Yorkshire the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, alton, Pocklington, and Ripon. In the latter Union a few casual ourers were rather irregularly employed owing to unfavourable eather. Some scarcity of labour is reported from these Unions, ut on the whole the supply appears to have been just sufficient. Midland Counties .- In Cheshire employment is said to have been ular in the Union of Macclesfield, but in the Tarvin Union some urers have been irregularly employed during a few days of ly weather. Agricultural labourers are stated to have been

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

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

fully employed in Derbyshire in the Union of Hayfield, and in the Derbyshire portions of the Worksop Union (Notts, Derby and Yorks, W.R.), and Mansfield Union (Notts and Derby), though there has been some interruption of outdoor work in the latter part of the month in consequence of unfavourable weather. Some scarcity of labour is reported from this county. Regularity of employment is reported from Shropshire from the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (Salop and Staffs), Oswestry, and Wellington. Outdoor work has been interrupted by frost, but indoor work has been found for the men. There has not been much scarcity of labour, but a report from the Wellington Union states that extra men for threshing and other work have been hard to get. Employment is said to have been fairly regular in Staffordshire in the Unions of Leek, and Tamworth. A few casual labourers in the Leek Union are said to have lost some days' work owing to frost.

Employment is said to be regular in Warwickshire, in the Unions of Alcester, Coventry, and Meriden, but some slight irregularity of employment is reported from the Union of Stratford-on-Avon, and the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). A correspondent in the Stratford-on-Avon Union reports that owing to fine weather and shortness of roots, farm work is very well forward and consequently less labour is required. Employment is stated to be regular in Leicestershire, in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, and Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), and in the Leicestershire portion of the Uppingham Union (Rutland, Leicester and Northants), though outdoor work has been interrupted by bad weather. Some scarcity of labour, partly due to the calling out of the Army Reserves, is referred to in the returns from the Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, and Uppingham Unions. A report from the Lutterworth Union states, on the other hand, that. "Owing to scarcity of roots and practical failure of swedes, odd men were more plentiful, especially as threshing was very forward in the district," Agricultural labourers are said to have been well employed in Nottinghamshire in the Unions of Southwell, and Retford, and in Rutland in the Oakham Union. In the Retford, and Oakham Unions there has been a scarcity of labour, the report from Oakham stating that turnip crops have been short, but other work required all the spare hands that could be got.

Agricultural employment is said to be generally regular in Worcestershire in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, and Jpton-on-Severn, though a few men lost some days owing to frost and snow. The report from the Evesham Union states that wheatplanting is finished, and that market-gardens are "done up" for he winter. The supply of labour is said to be about equal to the demand in the Evesham Union, but in the Tenbury Union the supply is reported as very scarce, mostly owing to public works in the neighbourhood. In the Upton-on-Severn Union labour is also said to be scarce. Reports from Oxfordshire show that agricultural labourers generally have been fully employed in the Thame and Witney Unions, very few men being in irregular work, and the weather being generally favourable for outdoor employment. There has been some slight scarcity of labour in these Unions partly due to the calling out of the Reserves.

Favourable reports as to employment come from Northamptonshire from the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Towcester, and Wellingborough, and from the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). Scarcity of labour is reported from the Unions of Hardingstone, Kettering, Wellingborough, and Banbury. A correspondent, in the Wellingborough Union writes that the "short crop of turnips has slightly lessened demand for labour, but the supply of labour is rathe short-no casual men to be got." In Huntingdonshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neot's (Hunts. and Beds.). The supply of labour is short, and from the St. Neot's Union it is reported that farmers "have to borrow from each other for threshing. No draining is being done. Root-crop is light, and yet there is scarcity of labour." Reports from Bedfordshive in the Unions of Bedford, and Leighton Buzzard state that employment has been regular, and that there is a sufficiency of labour. It is reported that in the Leighton Buzzard Union the frost and wet has made farm-work slow, but that men are fully employed at hedge cutting and manure carting.

Eastern Counties .- Agricultural labourers are stated to have had regular employment in Essex in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Epping, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring. In most districts the weather has been open, and favourable for outdoor work, though there has been some interruption caused by rain. The supply of labour is generally reported as about sufficient for requirements, but it is said that in the Dunmow and Epping Unions there is a scarcity of labour caused

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-AGRICULTURAL LABOUR: DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

by the calling out of the Reserves. Reports from Suffolk show that, owing to favourable weather, employment has been generally regular, and farm work is well forward in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, and Thingoe. The supply of labour is reported as fairly adequate except in the Unions of Cosford, Mildenhall, and Plomesgate, where some scarcity is reported.

Favourable reports as to employment come from Norfolk from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, and Walsingham. In the Unions of Forehoe, and St. Faiths, a few labourers are said to have had irregular employment, and there has been some slight interruption of outdoor work in some districts caused by frost. Generally speaking, the supply of and demand for labour have been about equal, but scarcity of labour is reported from the Unions of Aylsham, Downham, Freebridge Lynn, and Guiltcross. A report from the Mitford and Launditch Union states : "Farm work very forward, just enough labour to keep the farms going. The weather has been very changeable, but labourers have lost no time.'

Employment is said to be quite regular in Cambridgeshire in the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, and North Witchford, and in the Cambridgeshire portions of the Peterborough Union (Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln) and the Royston Union (Cambs and Herts). A correspondent writes from the Chesterton Union : " Roots are not good this season, and the labour in getting them up is much less. Work is fairly forward, and the weather for the most part has been favourable for regular employment." Agricultural abourers are said to have been regularly employed in Lincolnshire, in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, and Spilsby, and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Notts and Lincoln). A scarcity of labour is reported from the Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Lincoln, and Spilsby Unions. A correspondent from the Lincoln Union reports : "Great difficulty in getting extra hands, even for threshing, although willing to give 6d. extra per day.

Home Counties .- In Buckinghamshire employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow, and in the Buckinghamshire portion of the Henley Union (Oxon and Bucks). Scarcity of labour is reported from the Henley Union. A report from the Buckingham Union states that a number of young men have migrated to other parts to fill the places of Reservists, or there would have been a surplus supply of labour. Employment is also said to be regular in Berkshire in the Unions of Bradfield and Wantage. Labourers are stated to be scarce in both Unions, and a report from Wantage states that so many are called out with the Reserves or Militia, that no extra hands can be had : but, on the other hand, as work was well forward, there was no difficulty experienced.

Agricultural labourers are reported to have had regular employment in Survey in the Unions of Godstone, and Hambledon, and in the Surrey portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). Labour is reported as scarce in the Farnham Union, particularly for wood-cutting. The weather has been, on the whole, favourable for outdoor employment in this county. Reports from Kent show that employment has been quite regular in the Unions of Blean, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. The weather has, generally speaking, been favourable for outdoor work. Labour is said to be scarce in the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, Maidstone, and Tenterden, and more men have been wanted for wood-cutting in the Sevenoaks Union. Favourable reports as to employment come from Hertfordshire from the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hert. ford, Hitchin, and Watford. Agricultural labourers, especially young men, are said to be scarce in the Unions of Buntingford, Hitchin, and Watford. The report from Hitchin states that the railway companies are absorbing a large number of agricultural labourers, but that the root crop has been short, and consequently there is less stock kept. Employment is said to be quite regular in the Barnet Union of Middlesex.

Southern and South-Western Counties.-Reports from Sussex state that agricultural labourers have been regularly employed in the Unions of Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, and Rye. Owing to favourable weather, farm work is well forward in this county, but labourers are said to be scarce (in some cases owing to the calling out of the Army Reserves) in the Unions of Hailsham, Horsham, Newhaven, and Rye, while in the Petworth Union men for copse work are difficult weeks ended December 30th was 16,390, as compared

to obtain. An employer writes from the Horsham Union, "Through. out the Union labour is fully employed, and more hands are required. I could do with half a dozen more hands for draining and pay them a price at which they could earn 4s. per day easily." Employment is said to have been regular in Hampshire in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). A short supply of labour is reported from the Basingstoke, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Petersfield, and Farnham Unions, stated to be chiefly due to the departure of Reservists in the case of the Petersfield, and Farnham Unions, and to the absorption of labour by railway works in the Hartley Wintney, and Basingstoke Unions. A correspondent from the Petersfield Union states that the "crops generally were lighter this season and the open weather has partly made up for the scarcity of labourers, consequently work is forward." Favourable reports come from Dorsetshire from the Inions of Blandford, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne ; and from Wiltshire from the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. A report from the Dorchester Union states that the roots have been fairly good and have given a lot of employment. A correspondent from the Amesbury Union writes that the weather being fine, threshing was general, employing every available hand, while a report from the Bradford-on-Avon Union states that "most outdoor work is completed, ploughing and threshing excepted. Ploughing hindered by heavy fall of snow, but work still regular, feeding cattle and odd work." Some scarcity of labour is reported from the Unions of Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, and Warminster, the scarcity being occasioned chiefly by the calling up of Reservists, and in some districts by an unusual amount of sickness among the men.

Agricultural labourers in Gloucestershire are said to have been generally well employed in the Unions of Dursley, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, and Winchcombe. The weather has been favourable on the whole, though ploughing was interrupted for a time by frost, but labourers have been well employed manure carting and threshing, etc. Some difficulty is reported in obtaining sufficient labour in the Stow-on-the-Wold and Winchcombe Unions. In the Gloucester Union a number of agricultural labourers were incapacitated from working owing to the influenza. Reports from Herefordshire from the Unions of Bromyard, Dore Hereford and Monmouth), Ledbury, and Ross state that there has been some slight irregularity of employment owing to wet weather. Some scarcity of labour is referred to in the reports from the Bromyard, Ledbury, and Ross Unions. In Somersetshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, and Yeovil. The weather is stated to have been changeable, but work is said to have been found for all hands under cover during wet weather, but in the Frome Union a few men were irregularly employed owing to this cause. A report from the Yeovil Union states that "influenza has been very prevalent in this district; a great number being obliged to stay at home on account of it. Nearly all are in a club, but the funds are getting low through so many drawing sick pay." A scarcity of men (attri-buted chiefly to the withdrawal of Reservists) is reported in the Frome, Taunton, Wellington, and Wells Unions. Reports state that agricultural labourers generally have been fully employed in Devonshire in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, Tavistock, and Torrington; and in Cornwall in the Unions of Bodmin, and Camelford. It is said that the weather has been favourable for outdoor work except in the last week of the month. The supply of labour is stated to have been, on the whole, just sufficient, owing generally to the comparatively small amount of work required to be done on the farms.

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves shows an improvement as compared with a year ago, but a slight decline when compared with last month.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five

January, 1900.

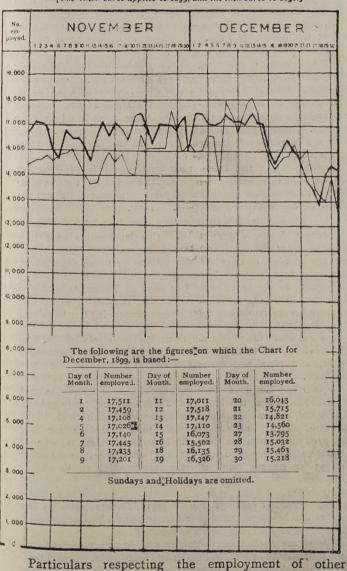
with averages of 16,679 in the preceding four weeks, and (1) Weekly Averages.—The following table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf abourers employed daily in each week of the month :---

Frank and the second	Labourers	employed in	Docks.
Period.	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship- owners, &c.	Total
Week ending Dec. 2 """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""	7,856 7,930 7,051 6,727 6,350	2,757 2,691 3,264 2,778 2,793	10,613 10,621 10,315 9,505 9,143
Average for 5 weeks ending Dec. 30th, 1899	} 7,242	2,861	10,103
Average for Dec., 1898*	7,118	2,753	9,871
Average for Nov., 1899	7,177	2,878	10,055

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during November and December is shown on the chart below. The numbers in December ranged from 17,518 on the 12th to 13,795 on the 27th. During December, 1898, the total number of dock

and wharf labourers employed varied from 18,157 on the 13th to 12,190 on the 27th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all he Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of lovember and December, 1893. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1893, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1893, and the thin curve to 1898.]



classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on the next page.

* Amended figures.

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THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TENTILE TRADES; LONDON.

Labourers employed at 115Wharves making Returns. 6,437 6,570 6,413 6,095 5,734 17,050 17,191 16,728 15,600 14,877 6,287 16,390 6,016 15,887 6,624 16,679

(k) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN DECEMBER.

According to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month continued good in all branches of the textile trades. Information has been received with regard to 604 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 102,320 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for

		Percei		narily em hich were	ployed in Mills
		Working	full Time.		Closed for
Trade and Month.		With Full Employ- ment.	Full Partial Short Time.		repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes,
Cotton Trade-Spinning-	•				
		97	2	1	
November, 1899	••••	99	I	110 122 14	
December, 1898		97	3	1	
Cotton Trade-Weaving-				NO 18 1	A REAL PROPERTY AND A PROPERTY AND A
December, 1899		92	7		1
November, 1899		90	9	-	I
December, 1898		87	13	-	-
Woollen and Worsted Trades	_				
December, 1899		100			-
November, 1899		100			
December, 1898		65	26	9	and the state of t
Total of above Tradez-	-				The local sector sector
December 1900		94	.5		1
November, 1899		94	5	1 1 1 1 1 1	T
December, 1898		85	13	2	3 - 7 - E

Cotton Trade .- Spinning .- The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 26,330; of these, 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 99 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 97 per cent in December, 1898.

Cotton Trade .- Weaving .- The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 55,540; of these, 92 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 90 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 87 per cent. in December, 1898.

Woollen and Worsted Trades .- The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,450; of these, 100 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with the same percentage among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 65 per cent. in December, 1898.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL COR-**RESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.** LONDON

General .- The state of employment during December continued good in most industries, considering the time of year. Returns from 445 branches of 110 unions, having an aggregate membership of 75,119, show that 2,570 (or 3.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2'3 in November, and 3'6 per cent. in December, 1898. It is to be remembered that the last week in December is always a week of broken employment, so that the comparison with November is somewhat misleading.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades has remained good, and has somewhat improved. Reports from 146 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,549, show that 491 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 per cent. in November. The percentage for December, 1898, was 3'0

The Building trades have remained busy. Returns frcm 178 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,320, show that 95 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.7 in November, and 1.3 per cent. in December, 1898. The bricklayers and stone-carvers describe employment as good ; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons, and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; the painters and decorators as dull

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Employment in the Furnishing trades has fallen off in most branches. Reports from 49 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,318, show that 533 (or 8.4 per cent.) were unemployed, as compared with 2.9 in November, and 7.1 per cent. in December, 1808

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Coopers remain busy. Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, again return no unemployed. The percentage for December, 1898, was o'6.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are fairly well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,437, show that 37 (or 2.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 in November, and 2'7 per cent. in December, 1898.

Owing to seasonal causes the Printing and Bookbinding trades are less busy. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 23,573, show that 929 (or 3'9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1'9 in November and 4'5 per cent. in December, 1898.

Employment in the Clothing trades has remained quiet, but on the whole has slightly improved. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as bad ; the East End bespoke trade has been good for the time of year; the export and stock trades have also been good; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have remained only partially employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle-makers employment has been bad, with a slight improvement towards the end of the month. Employment with hatters has been good for the time of year; with capmakers moderate; with silk-weavers bad; with fur-skin dressers it is improving.

Boot and Shoe Trades .- Employment with West End handsewn boot and shoemakers has been quiet ; with the East End sewround trade bad ; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the Leather trades has remained steady. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,575, show that 25 (or 16 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 14 in November, and 3.7 per cent. in December, 1898.

In the Glass and Pottery trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,500, show that 46 (or 3 1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 40 in November, and 53 per cent. in December, 1808

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers .--- In these trades, returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 896, show that 178 (or 19.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1 5 in November, and 3 2 per cent. in December, 1898, the increase in the number unemployed being reported to be due to the holidays and suspension of work for stock-taking.

Gold and Silver Workers are not so well employed, owing to seasonal causes. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,137, show that 37 (or 3 3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.6 in November. The percentage for December 1898 was 3'4.

Employment in the Tobacco trades has fallen off. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,417, show that 149 (or 6.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2 1 in November, and 2 o per cent. in December, 1898.

Dock and Riverside Labour .- The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 16,390 in the five weeks ended December 30th, as compared with averages of 16,679 in the preceding four weeks and 15,887 in December, 1898. Employment in mid-stream has been good during the month. With stevedores, lumpers, lightermen, coal porters, and winchmen it has also been good. Employment has been dull with corn porters in the Surrey docks, but fair and steady at the docks on the north side of the river. The fruit porters in Thames street have had good employment, the average daily number employed being 387, as compared with 364 in November and 415 in December, 1898.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Ccal Mining .- Northumberland .- Steam and house coal collieries have each worked an average of 5'45 days per week as against 5'43 and 5 50 days respectively in November, and 5 26 and 5 42 days a year ago. Practically all the union miners, deputies, mechanics, engine and firemen are employed. At a meeting of the recently, formed Conciliation Board wages have been advanced 5 per cent. Durham .- Manufacturing, coking, house, and gas coal collieries have averaged respectively 5'59, 5'80, 5'56, and 5 46 days per week, as compared with 5:55, 5:66, 5:50, and 5:45 days for the same period last year. The collieries employing 60,746 men and boys included in 126 returns show an average working week of 5.62 days, as against 5.60 days in November, and 5.55 days a year ago. The 64,583 Building Trade. union miners have (97 or 0.15 per cent. of their membership) idle for the weather.

through bad trade. Practically all the colliery engine and firemen. deputies and mechanics, and cokeyard men are employed. Metal Mining .- Employment at lead mines continues only

moderate. Iron ore miners have worked full time Quarrying .- The weather has somewhat interrupted employment

at a few of the quarries in the Gateshead district. Lime and whinstone quarries are fairly busy. Employment at Blyth has not been quite so good

Engineering and Shipbuilding .- On the Tyne .- Repairing yards in the lower reaches of the river have been slack. With the exception of coppersmiths and, to some extent, iron turners, every branch of engineering remains gcod. Rivetters and platers have worked fuller time. These trades, with a membership of 12,630, have 390 (or 3'1 per cent.) idle, as against 427 (or 3'4 per cent. of their membership) in November. On the Wear .- Several engine shops have suspended men owing to the Christmas holidays, otherwise employment is steady. Shipsmiths, forgemen, rivetters and caulkers have been well employed. Of the 5,229 union members of these trades, 108 (or 2'1 per cent.) are off work, as against 54 (or 1'0 per cent. of their membership) in November. On both rivers the drillers and holecutters have 8.8 per cent. unemployed. Sailmakers are slacker. Branches of brassfinishers, iron and steel moulders have 1'4 per cent. unemployed. Employment with ship joiners has been irregular, with shipwrights fair, with pattern makers quiet. Steel smelting shops and plate mills have worked full time, angle mills five shifts per week. Employment of chain and anchor smiths has been less steady.

Shipping and Dock Labour.- Employment at the docks and quays has been fairly good. The demand for sailors and firemen has been scarcely so good as a year ago.

Building Trades .- Painters are working short time. Employment of bricklayers, masons, and slaters and tilers, has been interrupted by the weather. Plumbers are better employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.-Five paper mills have worked short time; five others are busy. Employment of letterpress printers and bookbinders is good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades .- Cabinetmakers and upholsterers continue quiet. Coopers on the Tyne are busy. Millsawyers on both rivers report employment as good ; lathrenders as brisk.

Glass and Chemical Trades.-Bottle makers at Seaham Harbour maintain steady employment; on the Wear work has been more regular. Pressed glassmakers have had better employment. White lead and cement works continue busy. In the chemical factories mployment is still good.

Fishing.—There has been a fair average supply of trawl fish landed, although fishing has been interrupted by the weather The catches of line fish have only been moderate. Prices upon the whole are reported as good .-- J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining .- Many of the Cleveland mines have been working short time on account of the scarcity of coke. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines reported on, was 5'53 days per week during the four weeks ending 23rd December, as compared with 5.63 days in November, and 5.79 days per week in December, 1898. The number of workpeople employed in the mines was 6,854, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,758.

Iron and Steel Trades .- Employment has been good at the iron and steel works, blast furnaces, bridge works, metal expansion works, and pipe and general foundries ; moderate at chair foundries.

Engineering.-Employment with the engineers is reported as good at Bishop Auckland, Stockton and Middlesbrough, fairly good at Hartlepool, and moderate at Darlington and South Bank. Iron founders, smiths and strikers, and pattern makers are well employed throughout the district. Branches of these trades with 4,338 members have 37 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 35 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November

Shipbuilding .- All the yards in the district are reported as fairly full of work, but employment has been interfered with by the weather and holidays. Smiths and strikers and shipwrights report employment as good, shipjoiners as fair.

Shipping and Dock Labour .- Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate at Middlesbrough and Hartlepcol. Dock labour is good at Middlesbrough, quiet at Hartlepool ; riverside labour is

Building Trades.-Employment generally has been good except

lanuary, 1900.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

Miscellaneous.-Printers report employment as good at Darlington and Stockton, fair at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough; cement and concrete workers and pulpworkers as good ; woodcutting machinists and millsawyers as fair; cabinetmakers as dull; saltworkers as slack .- A, Main.

Cumberland and Barrow District. The following is a summary of the returns received as to the

state of employment in the above district :--Coal Mining Industry .- Employment in this industry continues

good, and is better than either a month or a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 23rd, at the 20 pits covered by the returns, was 5.96 per week, compared with 5.85 days in November, and 5.82 in December,

Cotton Trade.-Weaving.-Employment in the ordinary weaving 1898. The number of workpeople employed in December, 1899, trade continues good, in the Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Darwen, at these pits was 6,132, as against 6,217 a year ago. Nelson and Colne districts. At a number of firms looms are Iron Mining Industry .- At the Cumberland and North Lancashire standing for want of weavers. Employment in the coloured trade iron mines employment is also better than either a month or a year is showing a slight decline; in the hard waste trade it continues ago, the average number of days worked during the four weeks good. Warp dressers are moderately well employed. Twisters ended December 23rd at the 44 mines from which returns have and drawers, tape sizers, winders and warpers continue fully been received being 5'94 per week, compared with averages of 5'88 employed. Spinning .- Employment with mule spinners, ring and 5.85 respectively in November, 1899, and December, 1898. spinners and cardroom workers is good throughout the district. There were 5,867 workpeople employed at these mines in December, Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, and warp dressers, ompared with 6,005 in December, 1898. with 4,115 members, have 135 (or 3'3 per cent.) unemployed, as Pig Iron Manufacture .- Employment at the Cumberland and North compared with 94 (or 2.3 per cent of their membership) at the end of November

Lancashire blast furnaces shows a slight decline as compared with last month, but continues better than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of December was 53, one less than in November, but 5 more than in December, 1898. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces was 4,468, or 85 less than in November, and 669 more than a year ago.

Shipbuilding .- According to the returns of shipbuilding compiled by Lloyd's Register there were 5 vessels, other than warships, under construction (see Note, page) in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district at the end of December, with a gross tonnage of 1,920 tons, as compared with 9 vessels, with a gross tonnage of 11,310 at the end of September, and 11 vessels, and 20,895 tons a year ago. The tonnage of warships under construction at the end f December was 52,150 tons displacement, the same as at the end of the two previous quarters, and 16,200 tons more than at the end f December, 1898. During the year 1899 12 vessels (not warships) with a gross tonnage amounting to 22,542 tons were launched, the same number of vessels as in 1898, when the tonnage was 15,996. One warship of 12,950 tons displacement was launched in 1899, and 1 of 11.000 tons in 1808.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade .- Spinning .- In Oldham and the adjacent districts, Textile Trades.-Cotton spinners report employment as moderate cotton workers in general are working full time in Manchester, as well as in Rochdale, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Stockport and Macclesfield. Silk workers also are in full work ; Dukinfield, Droylsden, and Stockport, the cotton spinners, card the fustian cutters, and the dressers, dyers and bleachers report and blowing room and ring frame workers report employment as good ; twiners as fair. Employment in reeling is reported as slack, employment as moderate. Clothing Trades .- Bespoke tailors are nearly all on short time; in and in winding and ball warping as moderate. Weaving .- In the wholesale department employment is slack. Boot and shoe velvet weaving employment is reported as mcderate ; in calico weaving as good, and in fustian weaving as bad. With beam and makers, capmakers, and waterproof garment makers report employment as bad ; felt hatters and trimmers as moderate. sectional warpers, twisters and drawers, employment is reported as Building Trades.-Decorative glass workers report employment as moderate.

Woollen and Silk Trades .- Woollen operatives in Rochdale and Milnrow report employment as good, in Stockport as moderate. Employment in the silk-dressing trade of Rochdale is reported as moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades .- The engineers report employment as dull in machine shops, and as fairly good in engineering works. The boilermakers, brassfounders, pattern makers and ironfounders report employment as good; tinplate-workers and gasmetermakers as moderate; plate and machine-moulders, and irongrinders and glaziers as slack; spindle and flyermakers as fair; toolmakers as bad

Building Trades .- Carpenters and joiners and bricklayers report employment as moderate; painters as slack; plasterers and plumbers as fair.

Coal Mining .- Employment at the various collieries continues good, and the miners are working full time. -T. Ashton. Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.-Spinning.-In Bolton and neighbourhood employment in the spinning department is reported as brisk; in Chorley, Bury, Heywood, Wigan and Ramsbottom as good. Cardroom operatives report employment in Bolton as good; in Bury, Chorley, Heywood and surrounding districts as fairly good. Weaving.-Employment is good.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Engineering and Iron Trades. - Employment with engineers, steam engine makers, roller makers, moulders, brassfinishers, machine makers and fitters is fair. In Wigan, Bury, Chorley and Ramsbottom all sections of ironworkers are well engaged.

Building Trades .- In Bolton, Moses Gate, Farnworth and Horwich employment is fair; in Bury, Heywood and Ramsbottom it has declined; in Chorley, Wigan, Hindley and Westhoughton most branches are only moderately employed.

Coal Trade.-Employment generally is brisk.

Miscellaneous .- Employment with printers, tailors, shoemakers and leather-workers continues good.-R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Building Trades.-Employment with plumbers, carpenters and joiners is fair ; with other branches it is slack.

Engineering and Iron Trades .- Employment continues good, with overtime in some departments.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as good at Accrington and Burnley. Stone quarrymen are slack owing to weather.

Miscellaneous.-Employment with letterpress printers is fair; with woollen block printers moderate; with calico printers and bleachers, and with tailors fair; with cabinetmakers steady. Paper stainers in the Darwen district are busy.-W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.-Branches of societies with 22,440 members have 615 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 489 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering and Metal Trades.-In Manchester engineers and boilermakers report employment as moderate; ironfounders, machine-workers, brassfounders and sheet metal braziers as good. In Northwich, Stockport, Warrington and Macclesfield employment is good generally.

good ; painters as bad. Other branches have been more or less affected by the weather.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.-Coachmakers, coopers and wheelwrights are fairly well employed. Coach painters are not busy. Cabinetmakers are fully employed; French polishers moderately so; upholsterers are quiet.

Printing and kinared Trades.-Letterpress printers are not quite so busy in Marchester and Macclesfield. In Stockport and Warrington employment is fairly good. Lithographic artists and printers report employment as quiet, bookbinders and pattern card makers as good.-G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.-Boilermakers and iron ship builders, iron and brass founders, iron and steel dressers, shipwrights and hammermen report employment as fairly good; whitesmiths, drillers and hole cutters, fitters, turners and patternmakers as; moderate; ship-joiners as declining; ship-painters as rather dull ship repairing labourers as well employed.

Transport Trades .- Seamen and firemen report employment as rather quiet; dock labourers as moderate in Liverpool, rather better in Birkenhead. Mersey flatmen and quay and railway carters report employment as fair ; coalheavers as moderate.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades .- Coachmakers and coopers report employment as good ; cabinetmakers, French polishers and upholsterers, millsawyers and woodcutting machinists as fair.

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Building Trades .- Plumbers and painters report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners as rather uncertain. All other branches are fairly well employed.

Printing and allied Trades .- Lithographic printers report employment as moderate; letterpress printers as quiet; bookbinders as good.

Clothing Trades.-Employment is reported as moderate in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade, as fair in the ready-made branch ; as moderate with boot and shoe makers.

Coal Mining and Quarrying .- Coal miners report employment as good ; quarrymen are well employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades .- All branches of glass workers and bottle-makers report employment as fair; chemical workers as improving .- C. Rouse

A report from Winsford states that employment has further declined in the bulk salt, but has improved in the block salt trade. In Winsford and Middlewich employment with barge builders, boilersmiths and fitters, and brassfinishers is regular; in the building trades it is fair; with fustian cutters good. Moulders at Winsford report employment as good; chemical workers at Middlewich as improved.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

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

Building Trades .- Employment generally is fairly good, but outdoor branches have been interrupted by the frost.

Transport Trades .- The seamen and firemen, dock labourers and railway workers at Hull, Goole and Grimsby report employment as good.

Fishing Industry .- The trawl fishermen at Hull and Grimsby report employment as good; line fishermen at Grimsby as moderate; steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull and Grimsby as fair; curing-house workers at Grimsby as fair, at Hull as moderate; fishmarket and general labourers at Hull and Grimsby as moderate.

Seed-crushing, Oil and Colour Trades .- Employment in the seedcrushing mills and in the paint and colour works is reported as good.

Printing and allied Trades. - The letterpress printers report employment as moderate; the lithographic printers as good; the bookbinders and machine rulers as fair.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.-At Hull the coopers, brushmakers and lathrenders report employment as good; the millsawyers and wood machinists, cabinet makers and coachbuilders as moderate; the coachbuilders at Doncaster as good.

Miscellaneous.-The bakers and confectioners report employment as good ; the Jewish tailors, machinists and pressers as moderate ; the tanners, leather belt and lace makers as fair .- W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.-Branches with 8,507 members have 225 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 145 (or 1.7 per cent of their membership) at the end of November

Engineering and Metal Trades .- The engineers, iron moulders, steel smelters and puddlers continue well employed. Boilermakers, spindle and flyer makers, tinplate workers, and machine workers report employment as fair; stove grate workers as moderate; brassworkers as slack. At Wakefield the engineers and iron moulders are moderately well employed.

Clothing Trades .- Employment in ready-made clothing factories in Leeds has been better than usual at this period; with bespoke tailors it is quiet, many being only partially employed. The boot and shoe operatives have been fully employed.

Textile Trades .- In Leeds employment in the cloth, blanket, and linen trades is fairly satisfactory ; in the dyeing trade it has slightly | report work as moderate.-S. Uttley.

improved. At Bramley and Morley employment is good; at Wakefield, Yeadon, and Guiseley moderat

Building Trades .--- Joiners are rather slack ; plumbers and painters are only moderately employed. At Castleford and Harrogate employment is good.

Mining .- In the Leeds district all the pits are fully employed at ironstone pits more men are being put on. At Castleford, Pontefract and South Kirby full time is being worked.

Leather Trades .- Tanners are well employed ; curriers fairly so. Saddlers and harness makers are slack.

Printing and kindred Trades .- Letterpress printers, bookbinders, machine rulers and paper mill workers report employment a good ; lithographers as fair

Glass Trades .- Glass bottle makers and flint glass makers are well employed; decorative glass workers moderately so.

Miscellaneous .- Employment with cabinet makers is reported as fairly good; with coachmakers as moderate; with terra-cotta workers as good .- O. Connellan

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade .- Employment in Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, the Worth Valley, and Huddersfield is generally considered good. In the Haworth district it is said to be only moderate.

Woollen Trade .- Employment in Huddersfield, and in the Colne and Holme Valleys is still fairly good, although during the last week of the year not quite so much overtime was worked.

Other Textile Trades .- Employment in the silk and carpet trades at Manningham, Brighouse and Halifax is reported as still good. Employment in the cotton trade is described as good at Huddersfield and Brighouse, fair at Halifax. Rag and shoddy workers report employment as fairly good, dyers at Huddersfield as fair.

Metal Trades .- The engineers at Bradford, Ha ifax, Keighley, Huddersfield and Dewsbury report employment as good; the ironfounders at Huddersfield, Bradford, Dewsbury and Keighley as good, at Halifax as moderate.

Building Trades .- Employment generally is as good as it has been for months past but for interruption through frosty weather.

Miscellaneous.-Employment with tailors, printers and bookbinders is only moderate. - A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General - Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 13,066 members have 160 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 131 (or 1'o per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Iron and Steel Industries .- Boilermakers at Sheffield report employment as moderate. All other branches at Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham as good or fairly good. In a few cases he mills and forges were compelled to set down fcr want of coal. Branches with 6,162 members have 66 (cr 1.1 Fer cent.) unemployed, compared with 60 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of lovember.

Cutlery and Tools .- Employment continues fairly good.

Other Metal Trades .- Silver and metal stampers and silvers miths are slack; platers and gilders and brassworkers are fairly well employed; other bran ches are only moderately employed.

Coal Mining .- Returns from 56 collieries show that an average of 5'75 days per week has been worked during December as against 5.88 in November, the difference being principally due to a scarcity of wagons.

Building Trades .- Except when interfered with by weather employment has continued fairly good.

Printing and kindred Trades.-Employment is good in all branches.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.-Railvay carriage and wagon builders, cabinetmakers, box-makers, and bobbin-turners are busy. Ccachmakers report employment as quiet.

Linen Trades.-Employment is reported as good.

Clothing Trades .- In the bespoke tailoring trade employment has been slack in Sheffield, and only moderate in Rotherham and Barnsley; in the ready-made trade it is fairly good. Boot and shoe makers are busy.

Glass Trades .- The flint glassworkers are well employed. Bottlemakers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous. - Chemical workers, dyers, potters, wheelwrights. blacksmiths, farriers, railway employees, and down quiltmakers are busy. Saddlers and harness makers and general labourers ENGLAND : MIDLAND COUNTIES. Derbyshire District.

ceneral.-Branches of societies (exclusive of coal-miners) with 26 members, have 80 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of rember

January, 1900.

Engineering and kindred Trades.-Employment generally has fallen Cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott report employnt as bad; most other branches as moderate. Coal Mining .- Returns from 60 collieries, employing upwards of

000 men, show an average of 51 days per week worked, as against days in November. warrying .- Limestone and chert quarrymen continue fairly

ell employed. In some instances the weather interfered with egular work.

Building Trades .- Employment generally continues good throughthe district, although affected by the weather. Coach-building and Woodworking Trades.-Employment continues od with railway carriage and wagon builders at Derby and Long aton, and coopers at Burton-on-Trent. Most timber-yards are irly well employed.

Textile Trades .- Employment continues good with cotton operaves, surgical bandage makers, silk and merino workers, lace workers, yers and bleachers. It is moderate with calico printers and gravers, and improving with elastic web weavers. Hosiery orkers are fully employed.

Clothing Trades .- Boot and shoe operatives in Chesterfield and erby report employment as moderate ; bespoke tailors and dress mantle makers as declining. Factory tailoring operatives are ally employed.

Railways.-Throughout the county employment is good. Printing and kindred Trades.-Letterpress and lithographic printers, okbinders and machine rulers report employment as fair

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade .- Employment in the plain net and lever branches is d; in the curtain branch moderate; in the warp lace branch ving. Warpers and auxiliary lace workers report employent as fair ; designers and draughtsmen as quiet ; curtain reelers regular; card punchers as busy. Employment is reported as ull at Beeston and Kimberley; fair at Bulwell and Stapleford. achers are well employed at Basford; dyers at Nottingham e busy on silk and best goods.

Pottery Trades .- Employment has been good in most departments. ery Trade.-Employment in the wool shetland shawl branch Sanitary pressers report a slight decline in the lighter sections. Hucknall Torkard is improving, and in other branches is Throwers and turners are slack in electrical branches. Wilh isk throughout the district. hese exceptions all branches have been well employed

Engineering and Metal Trades.-At Nottingham engineers and e makers report employment as bad; lace and hosiery machine lers as fairly busy; bobbin and carriage makers and carriage ghteners, ironfounders, steam engine makers, smiths and ers, boilermakers, wheelwrights, farriers and electrical workers good; brassfounders and brassworkers as rather slack. At antham, Retford and Mansfield all sections are busy. At ston fitters and mechanics are slack ; tool machinists are better oyed. At Bulwell blast furnacemen are well employed. ches with 3,347 members, have 116 (or 3.5 per cent.) unemed, compared with 79 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at end of November.

al Mining.—Returns from 27 pits employing some 16,300 men well employed. Silk dressers are working well; fustian cutters wan average of 4.91 days worked per week, in the four weeks are regularly employed. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape ed December 23rd. Pits in South Notts are well employed ; in workers are fully employed. north of the county they are not quite so brisk. Clothing Trades .- Tailors report an improvement in all towns. In uilding Trade.-Employment has declined in Nottingham. It the boot and shoe trade at Stafford and Stone two-thirds of the ues fair at Mansfield, Grantham, Newark, Retford, Worksop, operatives are on short time. d Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—All branches report oyment as good.

rinting and allied Trades.-Letterpress printers report employit as fair; lithographic printers and artists as moderate; bookers and printers' cutters as good.

Clothing Trades,—Bespoke tailors report employment as moderate; ready-made department and mantle warehouses are fully emved. Boot and shoe operatives are fairly well employed. Railways.-Employment is good with all sections throughout ounty.

Miscellaneous.-Female cigar-makers are fully employed. Gas ers, colliery and stationary engine drivers, enginemen and In Shropshire the mills and forges are busy.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-MIDLAND COUNTIES.

C. White-Deacon.

cranemen, and saddle and harness makers, are well employed. Silk dressers and cotton doublers are working full time. Eakers report an improvement .- W. L. Hardstaff.

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Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry .- Employment is improving generally. It is fairly good at Leicester, Melton, Hinckley, Kettering, Higham and Desborough; quiet at Northampton, and bad at Daventry.

Other Clothing Trades .- Both in the wholesale and bespoke departments of the tailoring trade employment is less regular. Corset makers are busy; milliners and dressmakers are slacker. Work is fairly good with silk hatters ; moderate with capmakers.

Hosicry and Woolspinning .- Circular rib, and hose and half-hose hands are busy; those engaged on pants and shirts moderately so. Dyers and trimmers are busy. Woolspinners are fully employed.

Elastic Web Trade .- Employment is fair in all branches.

Engineering Trades .- Employment is good with patternmakers, engine and electric dynamo builders, ironfounders, boilermakers, needlemakers, smiths and toolmakers ; fair with turners and sheemachine makers; moderate with winders, and bad with cycle makers.

Mining and Quarrying.-At the Leicestershire coal-pits employment continues good. Stone quarrymen are fully employed. Work is also brisk with ironstone, and lime and cement workers.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades .- Letterpress and lithographic printers are fully employed at Leicester, Loughborough and Rugby, and moderately so at Northampton. Bookbinders are busy.

Building Trades.-Employment is good with bricklayers, stopemasons, plasterers, plumbers and builders' labourers; fair with carpenters and joiners, except at Northampton, where it is quiet. It is very dull generally with painters and decorators.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades .- Work is good with coachmakers at Leicester and moderate at Northampton. It is good with tram and road carbuilders; slacker with wagon builders. Cabinet makers are fully employed, upholsterers fairly so.

Leather Trades .- Employment is good with curriers and leather dressers at Northampton. It is quiet with tanners.

Miscellaneous .- Railway employees are fully employed, with overtime in all departments. Employment is good with bakers and confectioners, brick and terra cotta workers, gas stokers and fitters .- T. Smith

Potteries District.

Iron and Steel Trades .- Throughout the month employment has peen brisk in all departments.

Engineering and Metal Trades.-Engineers, boilermakers and moulders are busy, except at one firm where short time prevails. At Crewe full time is general, moulders working overtime. At Uttoxeter and Rugely agricultural engineers are well employed.

Mining and Quarrying .- Coal and ironstone miners are busy throughout the district, night turns running at some of the collieries. At Alton and Hollington stone quarrying has been interrupted by the severe weather.

Textile Trades .- At Leek all branches of the silk trade have been

Building Trades.- Employment continues good with all branches except painters, but outdoor work has been interrupted by the weather

Printing and kindred Trades .- Letterpress printers in the Potteries have been better employed. Lithographic artists and printers are fairly busy. Bookbinders and machine rulers are fully employed. I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Ivon and Steel Trades. - In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire steel smelters continue busy, and employment continues good in the iron bar, angle, hoop, steel, and sheet trades.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-MIDLAND; E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Engineering and allied Trades.-Employment is moderate in the engineering trade; good with moulders, bridge, boiler, girder, tank and gasometer makers; improved in the cycle trade. At Coalbrookdale employment has improved. At Madeley it continues good. In the Walsall malleable iron trade it is fair.

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Hardware Trades.-Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, spring and coach iron work, electrical and gas fittings, spring traps, gunlocks, malleable nails and protectors, horseshoes and stamped hollow-ware, and with filesmiths, stampers, piercers, galvanizers and tinplate-workers. It is moderate with makers of iron fences, hurdles, builders' ironmongery, black castings, tips and cut nails, edge tools, spectacle frames, locks, keys and latches, and with brassworkers. At Halesowen it is good in the wrought nail trade. Iron plate workers are well employed at Wolverhampton, fully employed at the Lye, moderate at Bilston. The chainmakers at Old Hill and Cradley Heath are well employed. The anchor smiths at Cradley report a slight improvement. At Dudley employment in the anvil trade has improved and in the vice trade is fairly brisk. At Wednesbury the iron and steel forgers are brisk

Coal Mining.-Employment throughout the district is good.

Building Trades. - Employment is reported as dull with bricklayers and painters, fair with carpenters, and good with stonemasons and plumbers.

Glass Trades.-Flint glass-makers at Wordsley and Stourbridge are very well employed. The glass bottle works at Brierley Hill have been closed.

Leather Trades .- At Walsall the harness-makers and gig saddlers report employment as quieter ; brown saddlers as fair ; chain, buckle, cart gear, case hame, and spring-hook makers as still good.

Textile Trades .- The Kidderminster and Bridgnorth carpet mills are running full time; the Tamworth tape mills are busy.

Clothing Trades.-Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades was busy up to the holidays. In the boot and shoe trade it has slightly improved .-- C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.-Branches with 20,231 members have 247 (or 1'2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 257 (or 1.3 per cent of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering .- In Birmingham eight branches of engineers report employment as moderate, and four as good ; iron founders, patternmakers, smiths and strikers as good; toolmakers as moderate. At Redditch employment is moderate, at Coventry and West Bromwich good. Employment in the cycle industry throughout the district is quiet; in the motor industry good.

Brass and Copper Trades .- In Birmingham fender and fire brass workers return employment as good; in other branches it is fair. At Dudley fendermakers are only moderately employed.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.-Jewellers report employment as fairly good; Britannia metal workers and glass bevellers and silverers as good ; electro-platers as quiet.

Other Metal Trades .- Makers of steam, gas, and water tubing, wrought iron and steel hinges, edge tools, heavy and light steel toys, picks, shovels, spades, nail and odd side casters, return employment as good; makers of bedsteads, scales and cut-nails, and tin and ironplate workers, as fair ; machine-made rivet workers as improving; wire-nail makers and file cutters (by hand) as moderate. At West Bromwich and Redditch employment is good : in the Lye district fair

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

Glass Trades.-Employment in Birmingham and West Bromwich is good.

Clothing Trades .- Bespoke tailors are moderately employed ; boot and shoe makers and Jewish tailors are quiet.

Woodworking Trades .- Coachmakers and mill-sawyers and machinists return employment as good; coopers as fairly good; cabinet-makers and carvers as quiet. In the railway and wagon shops employment is fairly good.

Miscellaneous.-Gas fitters, gasworkers, saddlers, and general labourers report employment as good; printers as moderate; gun- as moderate; the brushmakers as fair; the glass bevellers, and workers generally as quiet. At Redditch the fancy case makers bottle makers as good; the cocoa, chocolate, and tobacco workers have been busy. At Coventry, the watch trade is fairly busy, the as brisk; the brick and tilemakers, and stone quarrymen as fair. weaving trade quiet .- A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: BASTERN COUNTIES. Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades - Employment in the boot and shoe and ready. made tailoring trade in Norwich is slack; bespoke tailors are fairly busy throughout the district. Corset makers are fairly well em. ployed, dress-makers are slack.

Building Trades.-Painters are slack. Employment generally is fair though affected by the weather.

Engineering and Shipbuilding .- Electrical and general engineers, hipwrights, boilermakers and ironworkers generally are fully em. ployed throughout the district.

Printing and Bookbinding .- Employment is fair in all branches. Textile Trades .- Mat and matting weavers are well employed, Silk and crape factories are running full time.

Fishing Trade .- The herring fishing season (now over) has been most successful; trawl fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft is dull Shell fishing at Lynn and Wells is fair for the time of year.

Miscellaneous .- Steam-flour, oil-cake, and sawmill workers are fairly busy. Horticultural builders and organ builders are less busy. Navvies and riverside-workers are fairly well employed Coachbuilders are on full time. Maltsters are busy. Mineral water, cocoa, chocolate, and confectionery workers are well employed.-G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding .- Engineers, boilermakers, and moulders report employment as good ; shipwrights as dull.

Clothing Trades.-Employment in the boot and shoe trade is bad In wholesale tailoring it is quiet on specials, but good in other departments. With corset makers it is moderate at Ipswich, good at Sudbury. With milliners and dressmakers it is good.

Textile Trades .- Mat weavers report employment as moderate at Sudbury and Hadleigh, good at Long Melford and Lavenham. Both hand and power loom silk weavers at Sudbury are well employed silk operatives at Halstead are slack.

Building Trades. - Employment is good with stonemasons and plumbers, moderate with painters, fair with plasterers, good generally with bricklayers and carpenters, but moderate at Ipswich.

Furnishing Trades. - Employment continues moderate with cabinetmakers and upholsterers.

Printing and kindred Trades.-Employment has been good with letterpress and lithographic printers; fairly good with book binders

Miscellaneous.-Shipping and dock labour has been good at Ipswich and Parkeston. Employment is reported as fair with general and bricklayers' labourers and brickmakers; as good with maltsters, gasworkers, and farriers.-R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND : SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES. Bristol and District.

General.-Branches of societies with 9,247 members report 147 (or 1.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 98 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November

Engineering and allied Trades.-The boilermakers, pattern-makers, toolmakers and machinists, smiths, ironfounders, and brassworkers report employment as good; the engineers and iron and tinplate workers as fair ; the shipwrights and ship joiners as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades .- The cabinetmakers, turners, millsawyers, upholsterers and French polishers report employmen as fair; the coopers and coachmakers as good.

Clothing Trades .- The boot and shoe operatives report employment as generally good. Employment with bespoke tailors is moderate; in the wholesale tailoring trade it is slack, except on uniform work. Shirt and collarmakers are in demand.

Transport Trades.-Employment with dock and quayside labourers, railroad men, carters, sailors and marine firemen has been good. Textile Trades .- In the Stroud and Trowbridge districts employ

ment is fairly good. The West Somerset mills are busy, with overtime. Cotton operatives are fairly well employed.

Coal Mining .- Employment is exceptionally good throughout the district.

Building I rades — The painters report employment as slack, branches as either fair or good.

Printing Trades .- Employment is good throughout the district. Miscellaneous .- The bakers and confectioners report employment 7. Curle.

January, 1900.

At the end of December 400 mills in this district were a Plymouth and South-Western District. work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black Mining, Quarrying and China Clay Industries .- In tin and copper plates), giving employment to 19,982 workpeople. These figures nes work is plentiful, and a larger number of hands are employed. In the granite quarries and with china clay workers employment is compare with 400 mills employing 19,912 workpeople at the end of November, and 316 mills employing 16,336 workpeople a year ago. od; in the limestone and slate quarries fair. Engineering and Shipbuilding .- Engineers and ironfounders report SCOTLAND. lovment as moderate; iron and steel ship builders, boiler-Edinburgh and District. akers and shipwrights as good. In the Government establish-General. - Branches of societies with 16,462 members have 409 (or ents work continues plentiful. Branches with 2,647 members 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 386 (or 2.3 per cent. of have 27 unemployed, as compared with 12 at the end of Novembertheir membership) at the end of November. Building Trades .- Stonemasons and carpenters report employ-Coal Mining .- Employment continues good. ment as fairly good ; plumbers as fair ; bricklayers, plasterers and Shale Miners and Oil Workers .- Returns from 29 mines employing mainters as dull and falling cff. In Exeter and Torquay employ-3,207 workpeople (as compared with 3,132 in December, 1898) show ment is quiet; in Dartmouth and Falmouth fair. that all were employed at mines working full time during the four Printing and kindred Trades.- Employment with letterpress weeks ended December 23rd. inters is good ; with lithographers fair. Bookbinders are busy, Engineering and Metal Trades.-Branches with 2,244 members d paper rulers moderately employed. have 30 (or 1.3 per cent.) idle, as against 27 (or 1'2 per cent. of their Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.- Employment continues membership) at the end of November. Branches in Falkirk with oderate with millsawyers and wocdworking machinists, and in 3,561 members have 19 (or 0.5 per cent.) idle, as against 21 (or 0.6 the cabinet works and joineries. With upholsterers it is still quiet. per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Nothing Trades.- Bespoke tailors are dull. In the ready-made Shipbuilding .- Branches with 614 members have 29 (or 4'7 per alloring factories employment is quiet. Boot and shoe operatives cent.) idle, as against 19 (or 3'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

are quiet. Lace factories are busy. Dock and Quayside Work.-Work has been dull on the quays in the Textile Trades .- Employment continues good with woollen dinary coasting trade; moderate among coal and timber carriers; rain workers have been well employed. hosiery workers in Selkirk and Hawick continue fully employed. Fishing Industry .- Brixham fishermen report results as fairly The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. ocd for the first three weeks; Plymouth as moderate; the Western Building Trades. - Branches with 5,432 members have 217 (or 4.0 hermen have done well, especially with herrings and pilchards. per cent.) idle, as against 232 (or 4'1 per cent. of their membership) Miscellaneous .- Navvies, excavators, and brickyard workers are at the end of November. airly employed. In artificial manure works employment is good. Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.-Branches with 1,306 ith brushmakers it is quiet but improving; with bakers fair.

W. Hedge.

WALES.

North Wales District. Mining.-Employment at the coal, lead and blende mines has een brisk

Quarrying.-Employment in the quarries has been good, but has been interrupted by frost.

Building Trades.-At Wrexham employment is moderate; at landudno slack with painters and plasterers, and fair with penters and joiners.

Engineering and Metal Trades.-The engineers at Oswestry and adycroft report employment as moderate; at Ruabon as quiet; Cefn as good. Employment is good with steelworkers, ironorkers, ironfounders, tinplate workers, and wagon makers; moderate with coachmakers.

Clothing and Textile Trades.-The tweed and woollen mills in Engineering and Metal Trades. - Employment is still good. Branches with 30,113 members return 643 (or 21 per cent.) as idle, ontgomeryshire are sunning full time. The bespeke tailors as against 594 (or 2 o per cent. of their membership) at the end of port employment as quiet Brick and Terra Cotta and Chimical Trades .- Brick and terra cotta November.

chemical trade continues good.-G. Rowley.

Coal Mining .- During the holidays collieries in all districts have employment continues good. worked very regularly, and all available workings are being used. Clothing Trades.-Bespoke tailors, clothiers' or eratives, machinists In some districts a scarcity of colliers is reported. and pressers and knee shoe makers are quiet. Boot and shoe Iron and Steel Trades.- Employment is good throughout the operatives, slipper makers and curriers are well employed. istrict. An advance of 5 per cent. has been given under the Textile Trades .- Dyers are quiet, but textile operatives generally iding scale. are well employed throughout the district.

Building Trades.- All branches report a decline. Branches of arpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,811 members, have 68 or 3.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 27 (or 1.5 per cent. of their

electrotypers and stereotypers are hardly so busy; lithographic membership) at the end of November draughtsmen are quiet. Ship Repairing and Engineering Trades.—All branches except Glass Trades .- Flint glass cutters and makers, and bottle makers the shipwrights report a decline. Branches of the engineers, are busy. Decorative glass workers continue quiet. and moulders, with 2,948 members, have 130 (or 4.4 per cent.) Transport Trades - Carters, railway men, tramway men, and memployed, as against 64 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Foundries and engineering shops in the hackney carriage drivers are busy; seamen are well employed; dock labourers fully employed. colliery and inland district have been busy.

Shipping and Dock Labour.-Coal shipments have not been large. ber, nor were corn-porters and dock-hoblers so well

employed.

Miscellaneous .- Employment in the fuel trade has not been so Textile Trades .- Jute workers have full employment except some brisk. Wagon builders and lifters report employment as good; metallurgical and chemical workers as quiet; lithographic and who are unemployed owing to a fire. Employment in the linen letterpress printers as moderate.-T. Davies. trade remains brisk. Coal Mining .- Returns from pits employing 12,382 workpeople Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.-Employment continues good, and much better than a year ago. show an average of 5.7 days per week worked during the four weeks

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-s.w. counties; wales; scotland.

work has been interrupted by the weather. Employment in the

South Wales District.

spinners and weavers in Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk. The

members have 15 (or 1'1 per cent.) idle, as against 22 (or 1'7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Shifping and Dock Labour .- The seamen and firemen report employment as good. The coal porters and dock labourers have been well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades .- Branches with 2,309 members have 88 (or 38 per cent.) idle, as against 47 (or 2'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Miscellaneous. - The sett-makers, saddlers, glass-makers and bakers report employment as good ; the glass cutters as fair ; the curriers as quiet; the tailors and shoemakers as bad.- 7. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.-Employment is still good. Branches with 14,8 members return 320 (or 2.2 per cent.) as idle, as against 296 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building Trades.- Employment continues good except with the painters.

Mining .- In Stirlingshire work is irregular, wagons being scarce. In Dumbartonshire, Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, and Renfrewshire

Printing and kindred Trades.-Letterpress and lithographic printers have been better employed ; bookbinders have been busy ;

Miscellaneous .- Brushmakers, gilders, potters, sett makers, tobacco mports of iron ore and pitwood were not so brisk as in pipe makers and finishers, cigarette makers, saddlers, scale beamers, spindle and flyer makers, cork cutters, and general labourers are busy; calico engravers are quiet.-A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-SCOTLAND; IRELAND.

ending 23rd December, as compared with 5'3 days per week worked during November

24

Engineering and Shifbuilding .- Employment in the engineering industry remains good on the whole, and work at the shipyards continues fairly plentiful. Branches of societies with 2,207 members return 57 (or 2.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 82 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the close of November.

Building and Woodworking Trades .- Although in some branches interrupted by the weather, employment in the building trade on the whole has continued fair. In the cabinet and upholstery trades it remains moderate. Societies with 1,774 members report 40 (or 2'3 per cent) as idle, as compared with 25 (or 1'5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Dock Labour.-Employment at the docks and jetties has continued fairly good.

Fishing Industry .- When able to proceed to sea the boats met with but moderate success.

Miscellaneous.-Employment in the printing and allied trades has been good. In the tailoring trade it remains quiet. Boot and shoe makers are fairly employed. Bleachfield workers and floorcloth and linoleum makers are still busy .- P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,695 members have 408 (or 6 1 per cent.) idle, as against 419 (or 6 2 per cent. of their memberip) at the end of November.

Quarrying.-The masons, setimakers, and quarrymen report employment as good ; granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.-The plasterers report employment as good; masons, plumbers and painters as bad; carpenters and joiners and slaters as fair.

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

Shipbuilding and Engineering -Branches of societies with 1,481 members have 41 (or 28 per cent.) unemployed, as against 48 (or 3'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The boilermakers and iron and steel shipbuilders, and engineers report employment as moderate ; shipwrights as dull; blacksmiths, brassfinishers, patternmakers, horseshoers, and drillers and hole-borers as good ; tinplate workers as fair ; ironmoulders as fairly good.

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

Printing and kindred Trades -The letterpress printers and bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good; lithographic printers as fair.

Fishing.-In December, at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line beats landed 69,107 cwts of fish, with a value of £51,403, an increase both in quantity and value as compared with November.

Miscellaneous.-The sawmillers, combmakers and saddlers report employment as good ; upholsterers as dull ; cabinetmakers as fair; bakers as bad .- W. Foinston.

IRELAND Dublin and District.

Building Trades .- The bricklayers, plasterers, glass cutters and glaziers report employment as good; the slaters and tilers, carpenters, whiteners and painters as fair.

Metal Trades .- Employment is returned as good with the ironfounders, brass finishers, gasfitters and boilermakers; moderate with the engineers; bad with the silver-plate workers; fair with the electrical workers and whitesmiths.

Woodworking Trades.-Employment is returned as fair with the cart and wagon builders and coachmakers; as declining in the upholstering and furnishing trades.

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

Printing Trades .- The letterpress printers report employment as fair; all other branches as good. Branches with 1,440 members return 89 (or 6.2 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 85 (or 5.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Miscellaneous .- Paviors, dock labourers, and general labourers report employment as good ; ropemakers as fair.-J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades .- Branches of societies with 8,511 members have 284 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed as against 218 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The carpenters and joiners report employment as bad; patternmakers as dull; ironfounders, blacksmiths, and strikers and helpers as moderate; engineers, machine workers and furnishing trades as quiet; enginemen, cranemen, and firemen, general labourers and

platers' helpers as fair; boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, ship wrights and sheet metal workers as good.

January, 1900.

Linen Trades .- Societies with 4,024 members have 36 (or or per cent.) unemployed, as against 39 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The beetlers report emplo ment as dull ; tenters as improving ; other branches as fair or good

Building Trades .- Branches of societies (excluding painters) with 1,923 members have 170 (or 8.8 per cent.) unemployed as against 132 (or 6.6 per cent of their membership) at the end of November The painters and carpenters and joiners report employment as bad: other branches as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.-Societies with 882 members have 97 (or 11.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 48 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The mi sawyers, coach builders, cabinet makers, upholsterers and French polishers report employment as dull ; packing-case makers as fair coopers as good.

Printing and allied Trades .- Branches with 915 members have ; (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 40 (or 4'3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The lithographic printer report employment as bad; bookbinders and machine rulers as dull; letterpress printers and lithographic artists and engravers a fair

Clothing Trades .- The tailors and boot and shoe operatives have been well employed.

Miscellaneous.-Societies with 1,932 members have 42 (or 2'2 per cent) unemployed, as against 53 (or 2.8 per cent of their memb ship) at the end of November. The bakers, carters and municip employees report employment as fair; the locomotive engi drivers, railway workers and porters as good .- R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.-Boilermakers and iron shipbuilde report employment as good in Cork, Haulbowline and Passag West; engineers as good in Cork, fair in Limerick and Waterford

Building Trades .- Employment is reported as dull throughout the district.

Clothing Trades .- Tailors report employment as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as fair ; feather operatives as good.

Printing and allied Trades .- Printers, lithographers and bookbinders report employment as good in Limerick, fair in Cork Waterford and Tralee.

Miscellaneous .- Employment with cabinetmakers and packing case makers is reported as fair; with coopers, general qua labourers and coal porters as dull; with railway and tramway employees and gas workers as good.—P. O'Shea.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1899.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during December were all decreases, and affected 2,004 workpeople, the reductions averaging 3.34 hours per week.

The most important change was the adoption of an eight-hour in place of a twelve-hour shift, for 130 blast

		Date	Approxi- mate	Hours o in a full	f labour week.*	Re-
Locality.	Occupation.	which change takes effect in 1899.	number of work- people directly affected.	Before change.	After change.	duction per week.
		Des		Hrs.	Hrs. 56	Hrs. 28
Leeds Birkenhead	Blastfurnacement: Captains, Helms-	13 Dec.	130 42	84 70	65	56
Dirkennead	men, Engine- drivers, and Sea- men(FerryStaff)	6 Dec. {	2	66	60	6
Nottingham	Compositors: - Linotype Operators; (Night Staff)	1 Dec.	52	48	44	+
Newport	Engineers, Boiler- makers, and Labourers	g Dec.	630	54	53	ſ
Loughor Glam.)	Hewers, Hauliers, Daymen and Bankerst	6 Dec.	120	513	51	-
Falkirk	Compositors and Machine Minders	2 Dec.	28	-	-	時
Dublin	Book and Jobbing Compositors and Machine Minders	1 Dec.	1,000	54	52	2

* Exclusive of overtime † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages ‡ Slag tippers' earnings reduced about 8 per cent.; all other rates except the of metal carriers remain the same

January, 1900.

	- interes			- Augustin									25
INDUSTI								Killed,	In-	Killed	In-	Killed	
REPORTI (Based on information fur							1 4 1 1	By W	reck or	Killed.	jured.	3.38.2	jured.
THE total number	of	workpe	eople	report	ed as	s killed	Shipping*-	Cas	ualty.		dents.	Т	otal
by accidents during	g Dec	ember	was	297, or	130 1	ess than	On Trading Vessels- Sailing	21	I	101			
in November, and I	log le	ss tha	n in J	Decem	ber, 1	898.	On Fishing Vessels-	II	3	15 25	30 140	34	91 43
In the first group summary table, in	nclud	ing ra	ilway	own in	the f	ollowing	Steam	1 2	-	- 5	-7	I 7	- 7
shipping, and facto	ories,	and e	emplo	oving 5	.447.	140 per-	Total for December, 1899	35	4	43	177	78 .	181
sons (according to	the	lates	t ava	ailable	figur	es). 273	Total for 3 months Oct., 1899, to December, 1899	180	33	197	501	77	100
were killed, and 6 in December, as co	,983	report	ted in	njured	by a	ccidents	Total for 3 months Oct., 1898, to December, 1898		-	The state	-		586
reported injured in]	Decei	mber,	1898.	The	se fig	iresgive		268	6	219	577	487	183
one death in Noven	nber,	1899,	for e	very 10	0.053	Dersons	Factories-	Ma	ales.	Fen	nales.	Т	otal.
employed in those 4,093 persons were	Indus	stries.	Du	ring th	he ye	ar 1899,	(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—		10000	11.12	1.	Sec.	1.
as against 3,689 rej	Dorte	d kille	d an	and 84	,470	injured,	Young Persons	9 2	1,071 463	I	139 0 105	50 3	1,210
1898.							Children Total		20	-	4	-	24
In the remaining	occu	patio	ns ind	cluded	in the	e tables,	(b) Other Accidents—	I	1,554	2	248	53	1,802
24 persons were rep	portec	d kille	d. ar	nd I.O.	T ini	ured in	Adults	-	2,696	-	45 26	-	2.741
December, as compa in December, 1898.	ared v	vith 19	kille	d and	1,030	injured	Children	-	377 I	Ξ	26 1	=	403 2
	IIMM	ARY T	APT				Total	-	3,074	-	72	-	3,146
							Total Factories— December, 1899	51	4,628	2	320	53	4,948
Caller Street Provide	-	Killee	1.	Injure	ed.	Number Employed	December, 1898	70	4,795	Z	356	71	5,151
a ser a set to the set of the			Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.	according to latest	Workshops-						
and the second s			1	1099.	Toge.	Returns.	Adults	=	9 4	-	=		9
Rallway Service-	love-	53	52	440			Children		-		-	Ξ	4
ment of vehicles Other Accidents		. 6	3	1,016	441 790	534,141	Total Workshops- December, 1899	-	13	-	_	_	• 13
Total Railway Service		59	55	1,456	1,231	534,141	December, 1898	-	18	100	1	_	.19
Wines		73	77	329	424	741,125	Factories & Workshops	Ma	. 1				
(usrries (over 20 feet deep)		IO	8	69	107	134,478	(classified by trades). Textiles-	IVIa	les.	rema	ales.	To	ta].
hipping		78	250	181	213	230,372*	Cotton	2 I	204 82	2	121	3	325
fictories Total of above	••• •••	53	71	-	5,151	3,807,024	Other Textiles Non-Textiles—	I	31	-	45 30	I	127 61
Workshops		273	461		7,126	5,447,140	Extraction of Metals Founding and Conver-	2 I	59 534	* <u>8-</u> 9%	I	2 1	60 535
Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss	. 92	21		13	19		sion of Metals Machines, Engines and	13	1,327	-	3	13	1,330
	A VAL		14	836	874	Cannot be stated.	Engineering Ship and Boat Building Wood	8	671	-	- 1	8	671
Under Notice of Accidents	Act,	3	5	202	137	and the second	Chemicals, &c Other Non-Textile In-	1 4 18 -	164 141	=	2 4	1 4	166 145
D	ETAIL	LED T	ABLE				dustries	- 10 Dai: 10	1,428	1 .	113	19	1.541
	E	1 7-	1	1 7-	T.		Total December, 1899	51	4,641	2 -	320	53	4, 9 61
And the second second	Killed	jured.	Kille	d. jured	. Kille	d, In- jured.	Total December, 1898	70	4,813	7	357	71	5,170
	By A conne	ccidents cted with	Byo	ther acci-	and the second second	- 10 C/1,24 -	Under Factory Act, 1895,		s to the s	See and			
	Move	ement of hicles.	Cor	mpanies' emises.	1 . 1	Cotal.	Ss. 22, 23 Docks, Wharves and Quays	15	388	-	- 1	15	358
Railway Service-	1	1	1.1.2.3	12 12 12	1	1	Warehouses Buildings to which Act	2	358	-	I	2	859
Guarde Guarde	4	85		28			applies Laundries	3 I	59	the start of	2	3	61
Figine Drivers	1 7	39 46	E	28 69 85	4	113 108	Total for December, 1899	21	5 810		23	1 21	28
Permanent Wor Mon (4	12	-	.7.	7 4	131 19	Total for December, 1898	14	853		20	14	836 .
Porters	13 3	16 55	2	65 262	15 3	81 317							
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	516	54 133	4	7 493	5	61 626	Under Notice of Accidents	Constr or rep		Use Work	or ing.	Tot	a!.
Total for Dec., 1899	53						Act, 1894	-	4		- 1		
Total for Dec., 1898	53	440	6	1,016	59	1,456	Railwayt		63	2	2	2	4 2 63
	1	1 111	1 3	790	65	1,231	Tramroad Tramway	- in	-4	=	32	Ξ	36
Wines-	Unde	rground.	Si	urface.	T	Total.	Tunnel Other Works: Traction Engines	I Act do	18 76	=	2	ī	18 78
Explosions of Firedamp Fails of ground	3	24	-	1 -	-	24	Traction Engines	Act doe appl		- 1	I	-	I
lo sbafts	30 7	122 9	=	=	30 7	122 9	Total for December, 1899	I	165	2	37	3	202
Total for Dec., 1899	20	124	13	50	33	174	Total for December, 1898	4	112.	I	25	5	137
Total for Dec., 1898	60 57	279	13	50	73	329	* The figures relate to seam have been killed or injured by a they were members of the creation	en who accident	have been s at sea,	or in riv	ers and h	g the m	onth to
,	01	365	20	59	77	424	they were members of the crew in the British Islands under I	vs of sea-	going ve	ssels (ex	cept yac	hts) reg	istered

	Killed.	In- jured.	Killed.	In- jured.	Killed.	In- jured	
	Mover	cidents ted with nent of icles.	dents Comp	er acci- on the anies' nises.	Total.		
way Service-			1 1 2 2 2		1. 1. 1. The set	1000	
akesmen and Goods Juards		12812 ()		Rabin S			
dine Det	4	85	_	28	4		
gine Drivers	I	39	_	69	1	113 108	
anda (D	7	46	_	85	7		
ards (Passenger)	4	12	-	7	4	131	
manent Way Men (not	and the state		(11) (Ballet)	1000	4	19	
neluding Labourers)	13	16	2	65	35	81	
unters	3	55		262	3	317	
	5	54		7	5	517 61	
scellaneous (including	16	133	4	493	:0	626	
Contractors' Servants)	a to a series		02.5	195		020	
tal for Dec., 1899	50						
	53	440	6	1,016	59	1,456	
al for Dec., 1898	52	441	3	790	65	1,231	
1-	Underg	ground.	Surf	ace.	To	tal.	
Distance and		-	Land .	11/2	1.1.1.2.2		
plosions of Firedamp	3	24		120	- 1		
ils of ground	30	122	-		30	24	
stillane	7	9				122	
stellaneous	20	124	13	50	7	9	
al for Dec., 1899					33	174	
1899	60	279	13	50	73	329	
al for Dec., 1898	57	365					
	01	305	20	59	77	424	
ries over 20 feet deep.	Inside.		Outs	ide.	Tot	al	
			Star With	Statist.		and the second	
losives or Blasting	- 1	6	1		1	6	
Is of ground	5	17				6	
scellaneous	3	35	2	II	5	17	
			-	- 11	5	46	
al for D	and the second se	and the second s		and the second second		-	
al for Dec., 1899	8	58	2				
al for Dec., 1899	8	58	2	II	10	69	

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels tracking calitatively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1898, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year. + Accidents during the working of railways, being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. ‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. § Or other steam engine or machine in the open art.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1899.

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

Summary.-The changes in rates of wages reported during December affected about 71,400 workpeople. The net effect of all the changes on the wages of those affected was an increase of about 1s. 44d. per head. Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 45,000 miners and other colliery workpeople in

Northumberland, South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, and the Forest of Dean; to 6,850 blastfurnace. men in Cleveland and Durham and West Cumberland; to 1,000 steel millmen at Consett and Jarrow; to 2,000 steel workers at Barrow-in-Furness; to 5,000 iron and steel workers in South Wales; and to 2,450 chain-makers and strikers in South Staffs and East Worcestershire.

Decreases.-310 men sustained a decrease of 5 per cent. in bonus in connection with one of the "Trade Alliances" in Birmingham. At several ports the predominant rates for various voyages declined-334 seamen and firemen shipped during December, sustaining a decrease compared with the predominant port rate of the preceding month.

Methods of Arrangement.-Changes affecting about 600 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 16,100 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and changes affecting 40,300 workpeople were arranged by Wages and Conciliation Boards without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting 14,400 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary of Changes in 1899.—See special article on page 4.]

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

	Grandellan	Date from which change	Approx Numb workp affecte	er of eople	Particulars of Change.	of wag	ed Rate es in a week,*	Decrea	aseina
Locality.	Occupation.	takes effect.		1	(Decreases in Italics.)	Before change.	After change.	In- crease.	De- crease.
	and the second second		Inc.	Dec.			, ,,	12 - 12	
77 109 1	1 Increase-18	Q Workner	mle	BUI	LDING TRADE. Decreases-Nil.		s. d.	s. d.	
1	1 Increase-10	o workped	. (1		s. d.	38 II		1.000
Bradford	Plasterers	7 Jan.	188	1)	Advance of id. per hour (91d. to 91d.)				
	7 Increases-45	882 Works	people.	CC	DAL MINING.† Decreases-Nil.				
		1 & 8 Jan.			Advance of a per cent, for underground workers	1 -		-	
Northumberland	Coar miniers	1 a o juin	50,000		(except deputies mechanics, enginemen and nremen)				12 m
A CONTRACTOR				19.00	and for banksmen, making wages 30 per cent. above				
					the standard of November, 1879; and of 4 per cent. for other workers, making their wages 24 per cent. above				
					the standard of November, 1879	har th	1		All A
1	Cod Miners	I Jan.	10,000		Advance of 5 per cent. under Wages Board	-	-		
South Staffordshire and East Worc	Coal Miners							121-1	
	Underground and	18 Dec.	1 = 000	1	Advance of 5 per cent	100 - 500	_	_	
I Great or a care and	Surface Workers	I Jan.	\$ 5,000	1	Further advance of 5 per cent	-	-	-	
Driscor in the	Coal Miners	I Jan.	470		Advance of 2 ¹ / ₂ per cent	-	-	-	
Cijadon m	Coal Cutters	8 Dec. 6 Dec.	120		Advance of 12 ¹ / ₂ per cent	-	-	-	
Loughor, Glam	Hewers, Hauliers, Daymen and Bankerst			1		P			
		The section of the	IDOU	410	STEEL MANUFACTURE. Decreases-N	ti'.			
	reases.—18.164 Workpeop		IRON	Le alimente	Advance of 112 per cent. under sliding scale, making		1 -	- 1	
Cleveland and	Blastfurnacemen	6 Jan.	5,500		wages to per cent, above standard of Nov., 1879		and a start of the	A CON	
Durham	Steel Millmen	I Jan.	1,000		Advance of 5 per cent. under sliding scale				
Consett and Jarrow {	Enginemen and Firemen		231		Advance of 21 per cent		-	-	
Eston	Cranemen	10 Dec.	6		Advance of 6gd. per day to 2 men, and of 15. ogd. to 4	10			
			I WARDEN	1 Station	others Advance of id. per day to 2 boys, of 3d. per day to 6	-	-	-	
Stockton-on Tees	Firemen and Boys	4 Dec.	12		men, and of 4 ³ d. per day to 4 men	. Sumalis			
	C	27 Nov.	84		Advance of 21 per cent	-	-		
Teams (Gateshead) West Cumberland	Steel Workers Blastfurnacemen	- Ion	1,350		Advance of 13 per cent. under sliding scale, making		1		
west Cumberland	Diastrariacomon		1 Sall Louis	1	wages 441 per cent. above standard Advance of 11 per cent. under sliding scale, making	-	-	-	
Askam and Millom	Blastfurnacemen	I Jan.	345		wages 43 ² per cent. above standard		100.000		
		13 Dec.	5		Advance of 6 per cent		-	-	
Leeds	Metal Carriers	. 13 Dec. . 19 Nov.	36		Advance of al per cent		1	-	
Rotherham		. Ion	\$ 520	}	Advance of 12 per cent under sliding scales, making	-			
Barrow	Blastfurnacemen		1 221	···· 5	wages 391 per cent. above standard		-	-	
	Steel Millmen		230		Advance of 12 per cent	1	-	-	
Barrow-in-	Steel Workers	. Dec.	2,000		Advance of 5 per cent	. -	-	-	1
Furness	Enginemen, Cranemen, Shunters, &c	25 Dec.	220					1 and	-
	Gas Stokers		1.15		Advance of 5 per cent	-	-	1	
fikeston	Loco. Engine Drivers,	29 Dec.	{ ¹⁵ 4		Advance of 10 per cent	-			
Inteston an	and Shunters		16. 19 19 19	1		al and		-	
D. Harbert	Biastfurnacemen	Dee	812		Advance of 5 per cent				
Frodingham	Mechanics		51 136	,	Advance of 5 per cent	1 -	1	-	
St. George's, Salop	L'indernien de la	I Jan. Dec.	250		Advance of 5 per cent	and the second second	-	-	
Wellingboro (near) Gowerton	Steel Smelters	. I Dec.	136		Advance of 10 per cent. Advance of 5 per cent. under sliding scale, makin		-	-	
South Wales	Iron and Steel Workers	s 1 Jan.	5,000		Advance of 5 per cent. under shung spare, many wages 15 per cent. above standard	State States	1	1	
and the second s	La la serie de la	-		the second		1 Decr	ease.—31	0 Work	people.
C Thereases	Workpeople.	METAL	ENG	INEER	ING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.	1 00 0	1		0
Stanningley	mt and	I Jan.	36	1	Advance of is, per week		-	-	
Bolton	Engineers	6 Dec.	478		Descarge in house of 5 per cent. (10 to 5) under Wage	s —	-		15
	Coffin Furniture Maker	s g Dec.		310	Board in connection with an "Alliance" between	n	and the second		
Birmingham			A Contraction		employers and employed	1 2 2 1 1		2	0
Birmingham	Gasmeter Makers .	I Dec.	66		Advance of 2s. per week		34 0	-	-
South Staffs. and	Chain Makers and	t Jan. ar	and the second second		Advance of 10 per cent				
East Worceste	C Strikers (Dollied and Block Chain and	19 Feb.					1		involvia
* Exclusive of	overtime.	n of Great	Britain a	at Cardi	f on 9th Jan., the proposals of the Conciliation Board f	or the Fe	th Jan.,	when it i	is expecti

Exclusive of overtime.
† At a meeting of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Cardiff on 9th Jan., the proposals of the Conciliation Board for the Federated Distric an advance of 5 per cent. to all underground workers from 1st Jan. were adopted. A meeting of the Conciliation Board will be held on 16th Jan., when i that this decision will be ratified.
1 See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

January, 1900.

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January, 1900.

Estimated Rate Increase or

THE LABOUR GAZETTF.

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

ality.		Occupation.	Date from which Change takes	Num work	ximate ber of eople ed by	Particulars of Change.	of Was	ted Rate ges in a week.*	Decre	ease or ease in veek.*
			effect.	Inc.	Dec.	(Decreases in Italics.)	Before change.	After change,	In- crease.	De- crease
The second		METAL	. ENGI	NEER	ING A	ND SHIPBUILDING TRADES,-(continued).		- Yest	This a	and the
		Engineers, Pattern-	16 Nov. 16 Feb.	} 100	{	Advance of is, per week	s. d.	s. d.	I O	s. d.
		Shipwrights	29 Dec.	130		Further advance of 1s. per week Advance of 1s. 3d. per week	33 9	35 0	I O I 3	
			2 Dec.	40		Advance of id. per hour (7id. to 8d.)	33 9	36 0	a 3	
				85		Advance of 1s, per week to men rated under 21s., and of 6d, per week to men rated at 21s, per week and over	-		1	
		Irondressers	I Dec.	13		Advance to a minimum rate of 205. per week	-	20 0	1 -	
		10 Increases-1,		eople.	TE	EXTILE TRADES. Decreases-Nil.				
		Dyeworks' Labourers	and the second se	62		Advance of is. per week	- 1	1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -		1
near)		Cotton Weavers	26 Dec.	61		Advance to list prices, stated to be equal to an increase of about 2 ¹ / ₂ per cent.	-	10-1-1		
		Ring Spinners	16 Nov.	бо		Advance of 11d. per week		- 10 <u>-</u> 11	0 11	
	•••	Cotton Weavers and Overlookers	29 Nov.	138		Advance of 21 per cent	-	-		
		Ring Winders	7 Dec.	60		Advance of ad. per Ico lbs. of yarn	-	-	Tim.	
n nshire	••••	Lace Workers Hand Frame Hosiery	14 Dec.	20		Advances of from id. to id. per rack	-		-	
nsuire		Workers	23 Dec.	250		Advance of about 172 per cent	NOT S	40 448	T	
		Flax Spinners	23 Dec.	40		Advance of 5 per cent	1212-1212	-	1-1-12	
Distric	CT	Bleachfield Workers	Nov. and Dec.	454		Advance of 5 per cent	and The s	-		
		Mechanics (Linen and Jute Trades)	9 Dec.	450		Advance of 5 per cent	-		-	· ···
. 8	Inc	reases-476 Workpeople.	EN	PLOY	EES	OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases	- Nil.			
		Destructor Men	29 Dec.	24		Advance of is. per week	30 0	31 0	0 1	1
d		Ferry Stafft Gas Stckers and	6 Dec.	33		Advances varying from 1s. to 5s. per week	-	- 1	2 91	
	•••	Labourers	16 Nov.	30		Advance of 3d. per shift (5s. to 5s. 3d.) to stokers, and of 2d. per hour (5d. to 52d.) to labourers	-	-	2 -	
		Gasworks' Labourers	12 Dec.	300		Advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour ($\frac{5}{2}$ d.) to fabourers	24 9	27 0	2 3	
		Gas Stokers	15 Dec.	18		Advance of 1d. per hour	-+ 9	-/ 0	2 4	
		Gas Stokers Carters	18 Nov.	30		Advance of 3d. per 8 hour shift	-		x g	
		Night Scavengers	14 Dec. 1 Dec.	24 17		Advance to a rate of 27s. 6d. per week Advance of 1s. per week	19 6	27 6 20 6	2 61	1
							1 19 0	20 0	IO	<u> </u>
		15 Increases—1,055 W Gas Stokers)	orkpeople.	228	MISCE	LLANEOUS TRADES. Deoreases-Nil. Payment of time and half for the shift worked from				
	(440		10 p.m. on Saturday till 6 a.m. on Sunday, stated to	1.17		0 II	
d	1	Enginemen	7 Nov.	3		be equal to an average advance of 11d. per week. Advance of 2d. per shift, and payment of time and half	38 8	41 3	27	1
						for the two shifts worked between 10 p.m. Saturday	30 0	41 3	- /	1
	1			10111		and 10 p.m. Sunday, stated to be equal to an advance of 2s. 7d. per week	122-202	of the	Part Internet	100
		Coal Trimmers and Bunkerers	6 Dec.	140		Uniform rate of gd. per ton of 20 cwts. fixed for bunkerers		-	k -	in and
		Lathrenders	1 Jan.	34		and an advance of 20 per cent. given to trimmers Advance of ¹ / ₂ d, per bundle, stated to be equal to an	_	_	2 0	
1		Letterpress and	I Jan.	50		increase of about 2s. per week on previous earnings				
		Litho Printers,	T Jan.	53		Advance of 2s. per week	30 0	32 0	2 0	100
		Bookbinders, &c. Jobbing Compositors	ı Jan.	055				1.11	34 1 14	Hare State
		Compositors and	I Jan.	277 23		Advance of 1s. 6d. per week Advance of 2s. per week	32 0 28 0	33 G.	τ 6 2 0	
n		Machine Minders Compositors :—	ı Dec.	52		Advance of 6d non-week when an day week			0 6	
		Linotype Operators+					39 0	39 (0.0	
		Bakers Compositors and	11 Dec. 2 Dec.	24 28		Advance to a minimum rate of 26s. per week of 56 hours Advance of 18. 6d. per week		28 6	- 1 6	1.
gh		Machine Minderst Bakers	inf What				27 0	20 0	1.0	
•••		Bakers	18 Dec. 18 Dec.	16 90		Advance to a minimum rate of 24s. per week of 56 hours Advance of 4s. per week	-	-	15 - ·	1
		Bakers	18 Dec.	12		Advance to a minimum rate of 24s. per week of 56 hours	28 0	32 0	4 4 0	12
		Compositors and Machine Minders	9 Dec.	27		Advance of 2s. per week	25 0	27 0	2 0	10
1		Bakers	Nov.	38		Advance of 2s. per week	30 0	32 0	2 0	in li
1000						Advance of 25. per week	30 0	32 0		1

Increases-Nil.

Decreases-334 Workpeople.

ort. Voyage.	Voyage.	Occupation.		ed at new ring Dec.	Particulars of Change.	Nov.	Dec.	In-	De-
	The second second		Increase.	Decrease.		1		crease.	crease.
						1	Monthly	Rates.	
	Australia and New Zealand Mediterranean	Able Seamen Firemen Firemen Able Seamen Firemen		37 136 20 48 41	Decrease of 5s, per month Decrease of 10s, per month		s. d. 55 05 80 0 80 0 80 c 80 c	s. d. 	5. d 5 0 10 0 10 0 10 0
	Care and the second second						Weekly	y Rates.	
elds	Running Agreements	Able Seamen . Firemen		76	Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week	32 8	31 6	12 1	1. 2
elds "	Running Agreements	Able Seamen Firemen		17 22	Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week Decrease of 1s. 2d. per week	32 8 32 8 32 8 32 8	31 6 31 6 31 6	·····	1 2

SEAMEN.

Note.—Clothing Trades.—An award dated 11th January has been issued increasing the minimum rate of wages of clickers at inthampton by 2s. per week (26s. to 28s.), and that of pressmen by 3s, per week (22s. to 25s.) For further particulars see p. 8.

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January, 1900.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.-Twenty-eight fresh disputes were reported as having begun in December, 1899, compared with 31 in November, and 29 in December, 1898. In these 28 disputes 5,013 workpeople were directly, and 1,103 indirectly affected, a total of 6,116, which compares with 9,707 in November, 1899, and 6.319 in December, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the mining and quarrying trades 5 disputes took place, involving 1,332 workpeople; in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 5 disputes, involving 414 workpeople; in the textile trades, 10 disputes, involving 1,486 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 8 disputes, involving 2,884 workpeople.

Causes.-Of the 28 disputes, 21 arose chiefly on wages questions, and 7 from other causes.

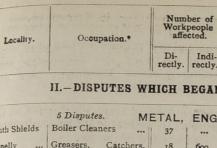
Results.—Twenty-one new disputes, involving 5,634 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, involving 1,558 work-people, were reported as having terminated. Of the 31 new and old disputes terminated, 14, involving 1,717 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8, involving 2,664 persons, in favour of the employers; and 8, involving 2,661 persons, resulted in a compromise. With regard to the remaining dispute, involving 150 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of December 23 old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 1,600 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total aggregate duration in December of all the disputes, new and old, was about 70,000 days, compared with 94,000 in November, 1899, and 160,000 in December, 1898.

Summary of Disputes in 1899.—See special article, page 3.

	· · · · ·	1	Jun 5				
Locality.	Occupation.*	Numb Workp Affect Di- rectly,	eople ted. Indi-	Date when Dispute began.	Dura- tion of Dispute in Work- ing Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
1. 17 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			DIGT	TIMES	WHICH	H BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1899.	
		1.	-DISE	OTES	MHICI	BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1880.	
ast!	5 I	Disputes.		MINING	G AND	QUARRYING TRADES. 1,332 Wo	rkpeople affected
Sunderland	Coal Miners	127		Dec. 23 12		Refusal to agree to night shifts being worked Against employment of non-union men	Still unsettled. Still unsettled.
Swansea Valley	quarries) Coal Hewers and other	1.0	00	I		For advance in wages	An advance granted.
District		75		12	I	That certain men who had worked on an "idle	
Shotts	Coal Hewers	80		8	2	day " should be idle another day in lieu Against proposed abolition of an extra rate allowed for difficulties in certain workings	Proposed abolition of extra rate with- drawn temporarily.
		<u> </u>		11,	1	U	
	5 Disputes.	META	L, E	GINE	ERING	AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.	414 Workpeople affected.
West Hartlepool	Steel Smelters and Helpers	120		23		Refusal of men to revert from 8-hours to 12-hours system.	Work resumed on understanding that
Willington	Shipbuilding Employees generally	214	 	I	3	Misunderstanding as to wages to be paid per week during "short time" in mid-winter on change in system of payment.	change in system did not involve re- duction in wages during mid-winter.
Quay]	Rivetters	20		28	2	Refusal to accept piece price offered for certain repair work	An extra allowance granted. Still unsettled.
Middlesbrough Dowtais	Steel Smelters Boilermakers	30 50		23 I	2	For advance in wages of 10 per cent For re-instatement of a foreman	Foreman reinstated.
Jan 1	Per Marine Parts	1	10 Dispu	tes.	TEX	TILE TRADES. 1,486 Workpeople affe	cted.
Asiston-under-	Twisters and Drawers	24		1 20		FOI auvance in inges to thister in the	Still unsettled.
Brieffeld	Cotton Weavers and	270	50	26	I	Refusal of employers to adhere to list prices for certain sorts	Employers agreed to pay list prices.
	other Workpeople	(130	10	15	21	Alleged bad material on certain sorts	Agreement arrived at satisfactory to workpeople.
	Cotton Weavers and other Workpeople	130	10	22	7	Alleged failure of employers to carry out the agreement which terminated previous dispute	A new agreement arrived at.
Burnley -	Cotton Weavers Cotton Weavers and	160		22 27	5 2	Alleged bad material	A temporary advance in prices granted. Amicable settlement arrived at.
Near Clitheroe	other Workpeople Cotton Weavers	Eo		20 6	4	For payment according to district price list For advance in prices paid for weaving plain	Employers agreed to pay list prices. Advance granted.
Coine	Cotton Weavers, Warp Dressers, &c. Cotton Weavers and	50 240	12 80	15	8	work in check looms Alleged bad material	Work resumed on employers' terms; weavers fined for leaving without
Hastingden	other Workpeople					which we have a stress miner	notice.
Padiham	Cotton Weavers	130 %		29	II	Alleged excessive "driving" and other griev- ances	Amicable settlement encoron
	and the stand	8 Di	putes.	M	ISCEL	LANEOUS TRADES. 2,884 Workpeo	
Gateshead	Gasworkers	28		16		For advance in wages of 6d. per shift and bonus of 15. 6d. per week for "good time keeping."	im.
1	Dock Labourers	1,100		4	II	For advances in wages and improved working	proved working conditions g
Garden Print	Dock Labourers (Railway)	385		22	6	For immediate advance in wages of 10. per noor	Work resumed without advance, upon the understanding that the matter
Goole	Dock Labourers (General), Seamen,	700	400	27	4	In sympathy with the dock labourers employed by railway companies.	would be considered.
Todmorden	Firemen, &c. Pickermakers, &c. and	17	11	I	20	For advance in wages of 6d. per day to time- workers and 73 per cent. to pieceworkers.	
Newark	Maltsters	90		16	-	For advance in wages of 2s. per week and a	ling that
Greenock	Enginemen, Crane- men and Labourers	50		-	I	Dispute as to working hours, overtime rates, &c.,	grievances would be considered
Near Belfast	Railway Excavators, &c.	103		22		For advance in wages	Still unsettled.
	an interesting and in its	lics are t	hose of v	vorkpeop	ie "indir	ectly affected," i.e. thrown out of work at the establ	lishments where the dispute occurren,

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeopie "indirectly affected," i.e. thrown out of work bu: not themselves on strike or locked-ont. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons,



January, 1900.

South Shields	Greasers, Catchers, and Other Tinplate Workers	37 18	3	t. 26 34 v. 30 —	For re-instatement of discharged fellow-work- man, and consideration of other grievances Because one of their number had not been pro- moted	
Coatbridge	Malleable Iron - Workers	140		v. 28 6	Alleged bad quality of fuel used A better quality of fuel supplied.	
G	Farriers	13	Nov	. 20 -	For reduction in hours from 54 to 51 per week Some resumed work at 54 hours per	
Greenock	Caulkers	50	Nov	. 28 6	Against alleged deduction of an allowance from Settlement arrived at satisfactory to men.	
		5	5 Disputes.	OTH	HER TRADES. 700 Workpeople affected.	
River Tyne	Hopper, Dredger, and	150	II No	v. 15 -		
		130	110	v. 15 -	I For advance in wages of to per cent extra rotos West	
	1 ugpoat Men		11		for amorting further nego	
Croston	Tugboat Men Cotton Weavers and	146	go Oct	. 23 35	For advance in wages of 10 per cent., extra rates for overtime, and reduction in hours Against proposed reduction in prices of al per cent.	
	Cotton Weavers and other Workbeople				Against proposed reduction in prices of 2 ¹ / ₂ per Proposed reduction withdrawn.	
Glossop, Had-	Cotton Weavers and	146 110		v. 23 35	Against proposed reduction in nours cent. For advance in wages of 1d in the 6 (re 6d to Walls	
Glossop, Had- field, and Dis-	Cotton Weavers and other Workbeople				Against proposed reduction in nours cent. For advance in wages of 1d in the 6 (re 6d to Walls	
Glossop, Had- field, and Dis- trict	Cotton Weavers and other Workpeople Overlookers	110	No	v. 21 —	Against proposed reduction in prices of 2½ per cent. For advance in wages of 1d. in the £ (1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.) on weavers' earnings	
Glossop, Had- field, and Dis-	Cotton Weavers and other Workpeople Overlookers Coal Hewers &c., and other Workpeople			v. 21 —	Against proposed reduction in nours cent. For advance in wages of id. in the \pounds (is. 6d. to is. 7d.) on weavers' earnings For advance in cutting price of 2d per top (iz.	
Glossop, Had- field, and Dis- trict	Cotton Weavers and other Workpeople Overlookers Coal Hewers &c., and other Workpeople Steam Trawl Fisher-	110	No 24 Jul	v. 21 — y I 124	Against proposed reduction in nours cent. For advance in wages of id. in the £ (IS. 6d. to IS. 7d.) on weavers' earnings For advance in cutting price of 2d. per ton (IS. Modified advance granted.	
Glossop, Had- field, and Dis- trict Loughor, Glam.	Cotton Weavers and other Workpeople Overlookers Coal Hewers &c., and other Workpeople Steam Trawl Fisher- men, Enginemen and	110	No 24 Jul	v. 21 —	Against proposed reduction in nours cent. For advance in wages of 1d. in the \pounds (1s. 6d. to To: s, 2d.) on weavers' earnings For advance in cutting price of 2d. per ton (1s. Refusal to bear cost of extra former and bear to b	
Glossop, Had- field, and Dis- trict Loughor, Glam.	Cotton Weavers and other Workpeople Overlookers Coal Hewers &c., and other Workpeople	110	No 24 Jul	v. 21 — y I 124	Against proposed reduction in nours cent. For advance in wages of id. in the \pounds (is. 6d. to is. 7d.) on weavers' earnings For advance in cutting price of 2d per top (iz.	

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER. Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) ROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in December, it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associa-

tions for Distribution, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 3 Building Societies, 22 Friendly Societies, and 40 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during December. Four Trade Unions, one Industrial and rovident Society, 28 Building Societies, and 30 Friendly ocieties (including 15 branches) are reported as having eased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had egistration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED. ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.
Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Liverpool Corporation Work-men's Union, Oddfellows' Hall, St. Anne-street, Liverpool; London Slaughtermen's Protection Society, 28, Armada-street, Deptford, S.E.; National League of the Blind of Great Britain and Ireland, 24, Lambeth Walk, S.E.; Northumber-land Colliery Enginemen and Firemen's Mutual Protection Association, New Phœnix Inn, Morpeth. Scotland.—None. Iveland — None.

Ireland.—None. Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribu-tion.—England and Wales.—Millwall Dock Shareholders Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 23, Billiter-street, E.C.; Gwersyllt and Summerhill District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, Summerhill, Wrexham; Association Manufacturers, Ltd., 15, Southampton-row, W.C. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. (B) Associations for Production. —England and Wales.—Barry Building and Contracting Co.-op. Soc., Ltd., Bassett Arms Hotel, Barry Dock; Derby Printers, Ltd., 23, Twyford-street, Derby. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Castlehaven Gardening Industries, Ltd., Castletowns-head, Cork. (c) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Dividing, 10; Collecting, 1;
Working Men's Clubs, 5. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Specially Authorised, 1. Working Men's Clubs, 1. (B) New Branches of Existing Societies. — England and Wales.—28. Scotland.—11. Ireland.—1

building Societies.—England and Wales.—3. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED. ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED. Trade Unions. — England and Wales. — Associated Engineers of Shef-field and District, 6, Nottingham-street, Sheffield (amalgamated with Nat. Am. Union of Enginemen, Cranemen, Hammer Drivers, and Boiler Firemen); Western District of London Ladies' Hand-Sewn Boot and Shoe Makers' Soc., Prince Arthur Inn, Golborne-road, Westbourne Park, W. (notice of dissolution); Hull United Butchers' Association, Hide, Skin, and Fat Market, Finkle-street, Hull (notice of dissolution); Independent Tailors' Machinists and Pressers Union, 167, Cannon-street-road, E. (registration cancelled). Scotland. — None. Ireland. —None. None. Ireland.-None.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

T	RAD	E DI	SPUTES-(cont	inued.)			
	Date when Dispute Degan.	Dura- tion of Dispute in Work- ing Days.	Alleged Caus			Result.	and the second
		The second	EMBER, 1899, ANI		ED IN THE	T MONTH.	
INE	ERI	NG AN	D SHIPBUILDING	TRADES	858 Wor	kneonle affected	

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

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—St. George's Mutual Benefit Investment Soc., Ltd., 32, Sackville-street, W. (dissolved by instrument). Scotland.—None.

Friendly Secieties.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 10; Dividing, 1; Female, 1; Branches, 3. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 1; Branches, 12. Scotland.—By instrument of dissolution: None. Dissolved otherwise: Ordinary Friendly, 1; Juvenile, 1. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of disso-lution, 8; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 16. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics .- The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of December, and also during the year ended December 31st, 1899, with comparative figures for 1898 :

ALL ALL ALL ALL		ath of ember.	Year ended 31st December,		
and the second s	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	
Imported Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns Exported	Bales. 329.741 294,814 45.276	Bales. 833,410 330,581 41,756	Bales. 3,324,620 3,172,084 547,555	Bales. 4,402,265 3,293,940 410,368	

Traffic Receipts -- The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended January 6th, amounted to £7,681,151, an increase of 16,607 (or 0.2 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,300,844, a decrease of £12,468, and from goods and mineral traffic $\pounds 4,380,307$, an increase of $\pounds 29,075$.

Fishery Statistics .- The total value of the fish (including shellfish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during December was $\pounds 648,890$, an increase of $\pounds 49,280$, as compared with December, 1898. In England and Wales there was an increase of $\pounds_{48,427}$, and in Scotland one of £5,212, while in Ireland there was a decrease of £4,359.

Bankruptcies .- The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 346, being 9 more than in December, 1898, 28 more than in December, 1897, and 13 less than in December, 1896. The total number for the year was 4,121 in 1899, 4,315 in 1898, 4,113 in 1897, and 4,155 in 1896.

H. M. Inspectors of Factories.

New Appointments .- Mr. E. F. Boggis Rolfe, 69, St. George's Square, London, S.W.; Mr. C. F. R. Johnston, 13, Kent Gardens, Ealing, W.; and Mr. J. L. Edwards, Glenhafren, Barry, Glamorgan, have been appointed Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

29

30

districts in 1800.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected urban

districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second

week of December was 329,717, corresponding to a rate

of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these

Compared with November, 1899, a seasonal increase is shown of 7,081 in the number relieved, and of

5 in the rate per 10,000 of population. Thirty of the 35

districts show increased rates, while in the remaining

five there is no change. The most marked increases

are in Central London (15 per 10,000), Coatbridge and

January, 1900.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER. DURING December the 10 bureaux furnishing returns in 1899 and 1898 registered 1,355 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,385 in December, 1808. Work was found during the month for 1,280 persons, of whom 572 were engaged by private employers, 564 b

bureaux at the end of December was 1,076, as against 1,207 a year ago.

opened at Dundee, are this month added at the foot of 1 1.1 in the above

		UIA	lone i					
	App	Fresh lica- s by	tions of	Situa- offered ployers	No. c	of Worl Vork by	kpeople f y Bureau	ound x.
Name of Labour Bureau.	Work	people		ing		ed by vate oyers.	L	nged by ocal orities.
Labour Durount	Dec.,	Dec.,	Dec.,	Dec.,				
	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.
London.		-				~~		
St. Pancras	124 70	168 76	168 23	113 34	99 23	75 34	48	15
Battersea Islington	265	243	68	63	63	54	406	209
St. Martin	II2	95	110 26	80 24	52 9	53 10	94	 I20
Hackney	103	134 200	Property	49	1 36	} 43		168
Salvation Army	139	200	44	79	1144*	1 +5	-	
Provincial.	9	14	29	26	13	10		
Plymouth	176	142	162	178	125	IIO	6	I
Liverpool Glasgow	63 294	63 250	3 126	135	152	118	3	7
Total of 10 Bureaux	1,355	1,385	759	704	716	507	564	529
Dundee	100				41			
(II.) Employmen		ndfo	I Wor	kneon	le dur	ing D	ecembe	r. 1899
(II.) Employmen	108 101	and 10	I HOI	преор	No. pe	1	o. tem-	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
rectioned and	R.C.S.	-		INT S	manen engage	tly po	gaged.	Total.
Building Trade Carmen, Stabk Porters and Me Labourers Board carrying Other Occupat Lads and Boys Women and Girls: Dressmakers a Domestic Serv Charwomen, d Other Occupat Total enga Engaged by Local Men, Lads and Bo Roadmen Dustmen	and be and Ser and Ser ants aily wo ions aged by Autho ys:	rrs ill dist: To mpstres ork, &c. To Priva	tal Male sses tal Fem tal Fem te Empl		8 4 56 251 251		17 30 60 20 41 30 21 225 9 86 1 321 321 188 25 30	34 64 64 43 41 66 64 420 53 94 5 5 152 572 190 27 30
Stone Breaking					-	3	310	315
Other Occupat Women and Girls					0			2
Total engage		Local A			. 11		553	564
Engaged by Salvat	tion A	rmy A	uthorit	ies			144	144
Grand	Total	for 10	Bureau	x.	262		1,018	1,280
(III.) Usus	l Oce	upat	ions o	f Wor	kpeop	le on	Regist	ers
		at	end o	f Mon			- istan a	t and of
0	ccupat	ion.			NO	On R	egister a	
				122	Dec.	, 1899.	De	c., 1898.
Men. Building, Enginee Carmen, Stablem Clerks and Warel Porters and Mess	en, Ho nousen engers	nen	··· ··	· ···		124 82 54 94 311		136 87 52 102 362
General Labourer Other Occupation	S				1.1201	96	2 1 2 2 4	135
Total Men					No. Lota	761	1000	874

Local Authorities, and 144 by the Salvation Army. The number remaining on the registers of the se 10

Particulars relating to a Labour Bureau recently

· Castal I ando	n (TF 1	per TO	000).	Coat	bridge	and		(1.) W	OLK C	ione	
are in Central Londo	1 (15)	nd D	aicles.	and	Gree	nock	State States	No. of	Fresh	No. o	
Airdrie (10), West F	iam, a		aisicy	Nor	thIn	ndon		App	lica-	tions	
districts (9 each), Eas	t Long	don (8), and	I INOI		nuon		tion	s by people	by En	np
and Manchester (7 ea	ch).					E	Name of		ing	du	iri
and Manchester (7 of		0.0	1	:	docros	se of				1/202	-
Compared with Decen	nber, I	898, 1	inere	is a c	leciea	50 01	Labour Bureau.			1212	1
Consiste the number	reliev	ed and	1 01 0	In U	le late	; per		Dec.,		Dec.,	
10,000 of population	D	ecreas	es ar	e sho	own in	1 26		1899.	1898.	1899.	•
10,000 of population		- hile	0000	lictric	t show	s no					
districts, and increase	es in 8,	while	one c	istic	Char	laton			120	1000	
1 The lorgest	decrea	SPS all	E SECL				London.		168	168	
1 Trans district (20	ner IO	0001.	DIISU	01 (27)	19 LUIC	COLOI	St. Pancras	124 70	76	23	
and Tees district (39	per ro	,000),	rich (20) (ardiff	and	Battersea Islington	265	243	68	
(24), Cork, Waterfor	d and	Line	TICK (1 D	lind	dia	St. Martin	II2	95	IIO	
							Hackney	103	134	26	
tricts (16 each). Th	ere is	an inc	crease	of 14	per I	0,000	Salvation Army	139	200	44	
tricts (10 each).	Land	ofto	in W	est H	am.	12000	Provincial.				
in the Galway distric	t, and	01 13	111		unn.	and the second	Ipswich	9	14	29	
	The Contraction of the Contracti	Contraction of the	1212	N.B.C. BOAR	10,000		Plymouth	176	142	162	
	Pauper	s on one	day in s	econd	Increase		Liverpool	63	63	3 126	
	week	of Dece	mber, 1	899	decrease rate per		Glasgow	294	250	120	
	1. 51			Rate	of popul		Total of 10 Bureaux	1,355	1,385	759	
Colored Tishan	.2014	the state	11.2.1	per		ed with	TOTAL OF TO DUFCAUX	1,000	1,000		
Selected Urban Districts.	1.0		E. 1103	10,000 of	14.1 725	140	ST IL ST IL ST IL ST	Kitt	1200	1000	
Districtor	In-	door.	TOTAL.	esti-			Dundee	100			
	door,	GODE.			Amonth ago.	ago.	the second se	1	1		-
the second s	1 million	2011.02		Popula- tion.	ago.	450.	(II.) Employmen	its for	and fo	or Wo	r
		1	- 1	tioni	1	111	<u>(/ L · · </u>			1	1
THE AND A WAT DO .		20025	1000			2 1017					
ENGLAND & WALES *	1 1993	1000						TRY CHON	Philip I		
Metropolis.	811,118	2,732	13,850	173	+ 5	- 3	Charles and the state				_
West District	Contraction of the second s	8,361	23,248	218	+ 7	+ 1		-			
North District	14,887	2,882	10,291	457	+ 15	- 7	Engaged by Privat	e Emp	loyers		
Central District	7,409	and the second sec	17,446	241	+ 8	+ I	Men : Building Trade	es			
East District	13,164	4,282		232	+ 5	- 3	Carmen, Stabl	emen, I	Horsen	nen, &	c.
South District	21,161	10,503_	39,744				Porters and M	essenge	rs		
Total Metropolis	67,739	36,840	104,579	231	+ 7	- 2	Labourers Board carrying	and h	ill dist	ributin	19
I otal metropone -		0		228	+ 9	+ 13	Other Occupa	tions	····		
West Ham	2,366	8,116	10,482				Lads and Boys				
Other Districts.	The section	100526010			22-100				To	tal Ma	10
Newcastle District	1,667	3,895	5,562	145	+ I	- 10	and the state of the		10	tal Ma	ine
	1,092	3,704	4,796	222		- 39	Women and Girls				
Stockton & Tees District	3,423	7,466	10,889	146	+ 4	13	Dressmakers a	ind Ser	npstres	sses	
Bolton, Oldham, &c	1,835	6,974	8,809	221	+ 2	- 5	Domestic Serv	vants			•
Wigan District	8,479	7,090	15,569	178	+ 7	- 7	Charwomen, d	ally wo			•
Manchester District	9,882	7,091	16,973	185	+ 3	- 5	Other Occupat	10115			
Liverpool District	1,156	2,829	3,985	110	+ 1	- 16	Context of PDR DRAM		To	tal Fei	m
Bradford District	1,043	3,388	4,431	118		- 6	Contraction States				
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,898	5,337	7,235	165		- 11	Total enga	aged by	Priva	te Emj	b1
Leeds District	662		3,633	173		- 14	Engaged by Local	Author	rities		
Barnsley District		2,971		146	+ 1	- 5	Men, Lads and Bo	ys:-			
Sheffield District	2,385	3,159	5,544 6,148	254	+ 6	- 10	Roadmen				
Hull District	1,191	4,957		224	+ 3	- 16	Dustmen				. •
North Staffordshire		5,954	7,651	186	+ 4	- 2	Stone Breakin Other Occupa				
Nottingham District		5,247	6,99t	193	+ 2	- 24	Women and Girls	nous			
. Leicester District		2,828	3,961	289	+ 3	- 15					
Wolverhampton District		12.915	16,129	127	+ 3	+ 5	Total engag	ed by I	Local A	uthori	iti
Birmingham District	4,472	2,417	6,889	267	a the set		Engaged by Salva	tion A	mm I	nthor	it
Bristol District	2,567	6,898	9,465		+ 4+ 4		Men		I my A	ACHOL	
Cardifi & Swansea	1,661	6,689	8,350	201	T 4	- 1/	L'AND AND A CARD AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN				
Total "Other Districts"	51,201	101,809	153,010	185	+ 3	- 10	Grand	Total	for 10	Burea	.0
Total "Other Districts"					19421		(III.) Usua	al Occ	nnat	ions	of
SCOTLAND.*	and the second	1 1 1 1 2 3	1 years		1 mar	al would	(111.) USU		at	end	0
Glasgow District	3,724	14,880	18,604		+ 6	and all all and and			40	cnu	-
Paisley & Greenock District	675	2,583	3,258		+ 9	1000					
Edinburgh & Leith District	I.470	5,197	6,667		+ 3	the state of state of the state	A State State State				
Dundee & Dunfermline		2,793	3.777			- 11	0	ccupati	ion.		
Aberdeen		2,600	3,114		+ 4	VI TO STATISTICS					
Coatbridge & Airdrie		1,232	1,546	173	+ 10	+ 9	No al and and	The second	234	and the second	-
and the second second second second			177	-	a server of the	and the second	Men.				
Total for the above Scottish	7,681	29,285	36,966	206	+ 6	- I	Building, Engine Carmen, Stablem	ering a	nd Me	tal Tra	Id
Districts)			1000	_	2		Carmen, Stablem	ien, Ho	rsemen	a, &c.	
IRELAND.†			1.50	And the second		1 marine	Clerks and Ware	nousem	len		
Dublin District	6,491	4,030	10,521	298	+ 6	A Contraction of the second	Porters and Mess General Laboure	rs			
Belfast District	0.000	279	4,218	100	+ 1	- 11	Other Occupation	15			
Cork, Waterford & Limerick	and the second	and a part of			+ 4	- 20					
District	4,599	4,613	9,212	1960		1 Contraction	Total Men				
Galway District	. 357	372	729	207	+ 3	3 + 14	Lads and Rove				-
		-	-	-	200		Lads and Boys				
Total for the above Irish	15,386	9,294	24,680	259	+ :	3 - 6	Women and Girl	8.	1		
Districts	-	191-116-11	-				Charwomen, Dai	ly Wor			•••
Total for above 88 dis-	144 973	185,344	329, 1	17 206	+ 1	6 - 6					
tricts in December, 1899	a stand and the second	1 particular	and the second second	1	1	1	Others			1	
* Exclusive of Vagrants;	of Patien	ts in the	Fever a	and Sma	Il Pox H	ospitals of	Total Won	nen and	Girls		
	The second second	and of	1 marie	C 10 40	winms I	Registered	The second se				

and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered keluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER

DURING December 374 fresh applications for work were egistered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, rebruary, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 470 offers situations were made by employers; work was found or 141 persons, of whom 80 were domestic servants including lady nurses, working housekeepers and others' helps

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society usiness agency and the Manchester, Liverpool and dinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together the following table, which shows the work done by he eight bureaux during December :---

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Work- people seek- ing Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.
a la capita de ser	Sum	mary by Bure	aux.
al Bureau— Chancery-lane ty for Promoting Training and Employment—	20	30	9
Berners-street	25	26	0
George-street ((I)	355	196	70
anover-square (2)	38	54 68	24
	32	68	18
Total of 8 Bureaux	470	374	141
Total in November	888	636	221
	Summ	ary by Occup	ations.
intendents, Forewomen, etc	14	36	8
Assistants	2	6	I
makers, Milliners, etc taries, Clerks, Typists	22	33	16
entices and Learners	29 5	47	21
stic Servants	364	3 171	3 80
llaneous	34	78	12
Total Number in December	470	374	141
		and the state of t	

The applications for domestic servants fell from 656 in ovember to 364 in December, the number of servants applying falling from 338 to 171, and the number engaged through the bureaux from 117 to 80. The demand for dressmakers and milliners fell from 89 to 22; the upply fell from 53 to 33, and the number engaged from to 16. The supply of dressmakers, therefore, acceeded the demand for the first time since July.

NEW GERMAN LAW ON OLD-AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE.

NUMBER 518 of the Miscellaneous Series of Diplomatic and Consular Reports issued by the Foreign Office has ust appeared,* and consists of a memorandum on, and ranslation of the German Law of July 13th, 1899, relating to insurance against old age and invalidity The report has been prepared by Mr. Gastrell, Com mercial Attaché to H.M.'s Embassy at Berlin.

The Law came into operation on January 1st, and its chief features, compared with those of the original law, ave already been described in the LABOUR GAZETTE r September, 1899, page 259.

215

1,207

230

1.075

Grand Total for 10 Bureaux ...

Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

In connection with the new law two official proclamaions have been issued, embodying regulations drawn p by the Federal Council with respect to its adminisation. The first of these proclamations is dated December 24th, 1899, and fixes the procedure to be llowed and the conditions to be observed in granting pplications, for exemption from the obligation to insure, persons working on their own account for the greater irt of the year. The second proclamation is dated ecember 27th, and defines the circumstances in which mporary services are not to be considered as employent entailing obligatory insurance within the meaning of the law.

*(Cd. 2-1), 1899. Price, 31d.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

31

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

Summary for December.

The trade returns for the month of December last show a decrease as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, but an ncrease in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures and in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for December, 1899, were valued at £40,738,896, as compared with £45,364,786 in December, 1898, a decrease of £4,625,890, or 10'I per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £27,664.380, as against £26,514,361 in December, 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures alone amounted to $\pounds 22,038,489$, an increase of $\pounds 1,060,081$, or 5 per cent. This, however, includes the value of ships, new (not registered as British), viz., £632,270, which were not included previous to 1899. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in December, 1899, shows an increase, as compared with 1898, of £89,938, or 1.6 per cent.

Imports .- The following table shows the value of the imports for December, 1899, as compared with December, 1898, according to the different categories of merchandise :-

	Month end	ed Dec. 31st.			
and the second sec	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.	
100 (100 (100 (100 (100 (100 (100 (100	£	£	£	1	
Food, Drink and Tobacco	19,588,339	£ 17,701,626	~	1,886,713	
Metals	2,233,218	2,443,192	209,974		
Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances	392,208	404,926	12,718	-	
Oils	883,504	854,319		29,185	
Raw Materials for Manufactures	13,683,864	11,000,481	-	2,683.383	
Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles	8,583,653	8,334,352	-	249,301	
Total £	45,364,786	40,738,896		4,625,890	

The decrease in articles of food is chiefly due to diminished quantities and values of corn imported, wheat alone; having fallen off to the extent of \pounds 600,084, wheatmeal and flour \pounds 453,589, and barley £428,297. In raw materials for manufactures there is a falling off in raw cotton and flax and hemp, in the case of the former to the extent of $\pounds 3,367,936$.

Exports .- As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for December 1899, as compared with December 1898 :----

and inter the w	Month ende	Month ended Dec. 31st. 1898. 1899, Increase. Dec		
	1898.			Decrease.
Animals living	£ 101,917	£ 78,884	£	£ 23,033
Articles of Food and Drink Raw Materials Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.—	1,022,856 2,029,878	1,020,394 2,578,063	548,185	2,462
Yarns and Textile Fabrics Metals, and Articles Manu- factured therefrom (except	8,675,992	8,260,334	-	415,658
Machinery and Ships) Machinery and Millwork Ships, new (not registered as	2,796,543 1,699,401	3,500,575 1,593,013	704,032	106,388
British) Miscellaneous	Not Rc'rded 4,651,821	632,270 4,374,956	632,270	276,865
Total £	20,978,408	22,038,489	1,050,081	_

The exports of coal, coke and fuel show a decrease in quantity of 48,451 tons, but an increase in value of £445,426. Cotton yarn has fallen off to the extent of $\pounds 84,343$, and cotton piece goods to the extent of £355,975. Jute yarn and jute piece goods have decreased, but linen piece goods and worsted yarn and woollen tissues have increased. The exports of steam engines of all kinds fell off to the extent of £113,112.

Summary for the Year 1899.

In the twelve months ended December 31st, 1899, the imports from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at $\pounds 485,075,514$, as compared with $\pounds 470,378,583$ for 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £264,660,647 in 1899, as compared with £233,359,240 in 1898. This is inclusive of new ships (not registered as British), which were reported to the value of $\pounds 9,195,192$ in 1899, and had not been recorded prior to that year. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise were valued at £65,019,549 in 1899, as against £60,654,748 in 1898. In the various categories of the imports for the year the following increases are

January, 1900.

found :— Articles of food and drink $\pounds_{2,652,761}$; metals $\pounds_{6,411,462}$; chemicals, dye-stuffs, and tanning substances $\pounds_{284,470}$; oils $\pounds_{1,332,355}$; and manufactured and miscellaneous articles $\pounds_{5,334,493}$. On the other hand, raw materials for manufactures fell off to the extent of $\pounds_{1,144,494}$.

As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures the principal increases are found in metals and articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery and ships) $\pounds7.565,653$, raw materials $\pounds5.505,133$ and yarns and textile fabrics $\pounds4.946,405$.

Tonnage of Yessels Entered and Cleared With Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British j ossessions, with cargoes, during December, 1899, amounted to 2,808,135 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,286,120 tons, as against 3,024,175 tons entered, and 3,470,180 tons cleared in December, 1898. For the twelve months ended December, 1899, the figures were 36,224,248 tons entered, and 43,031,081 tons cleared, as compared with 34,515,804 tons entered, and 39,462,642 tons cleared in 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during December, 1899, with cargoes, amounted to 2,443,062 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,411,012 tons, as against 2,603,330 tons entered, and 2,572 410 tons cleared in December, 1898. For the year 1899 the figures were as follows:—Entered 31,004,547 tons, and cleared 30,608,392 tons. These figures compare with 30,914,274 tons entered, and 30 504,091 tons cleared in 1898.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during December was 10.455, as compared with 9.348 in December, 1898. During the year 1899* the number of passengers was 241,105, being 35.934 (or 17.5 per cent.) more than in 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 10,455 passengers in December, 5,336 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 663 as compared with a year ago. The number of British and Irish passengers for the twelve months shows an increase of 6,133 (or 4'4 per cent.), the figures for 1899 being 146,777 and for 1898, 140,644. It will be seen from the following table that in 1899 there has been a marked increase in the number proceeding to the United States, following a decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897.

The numbers bound for South Africa show a steady decline from 21,100 in 1897 to 14,560 in 1899,

anna that is a	Dec., Dec.,		Tot	Total for year ended			
Destination.	1899.	1898.	Dec., 1899*.	Dec., 1898.			
	2,669	2,712	92,530	80,494	85,324		
	196	265	16,451	17,640	15,571		
	··· 1,040	632	11,478	10,693	12,061		
	587	1,385	14,560	19,756	21,109		
Other places	844	1,005	11,758	12,061	12,395		
Total	5,336	5,999	146,777	140,644	146,460		

Foreign.—The remainder of the 10,455 passengers in December, viz., 5,119, were foreigners or persons whose nationality was undistinguished, being 1,770 more than in December, 1898. For the years 1899[•] and 1898 the numbers are 94,328 and 64,527 respectively.

Alien Immigration.—During December 6,388 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 2,454 were stated to be *en route* to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,360 as compared with December, 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,934[†], or 503 more than a year ago. For the year 1899^{*} the number of aliens *en route* to America or elsewhere was 49,949, and the number not so stated 64,212[†], compared with 32,177 and 53,084[†] respectively in 1898. The figures for the different periods are shown in the following table:—

	Dec., 1899.	Dec	Total for year ended		
Alita and a		1895.	Dec., 1899.*	Dec, 1898.	
Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	3,934 [†] 2,454	3,431† 1,094	64,212† 4 9 ,949	53,084† 32,177†	
Total	6,388†	4,525+	114,161+	85,261	

* These figures for the year 1899 are subject to correction in the annual returns. + These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 956 in December 1899; 953 in December, 1898; and $1_{3,323}$ and $1_{2,299}$ respectively in the years 1899 and 1898.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN DECEMBER.

I.-Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	12000	of	100	Amo of Co	
By Owners, Managers, &c. :		La Carto	£	s.	d.	£	
Neglecting to Limewash	3	3	7	0	0	1	
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	II	II	45	I	8	23 1	
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in						-3 4	1 9
motion, or to work between fixed and	1.12.14	1					
traversing parts of a machine in motion	I	I	I	I	0	0 1	1 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	58			0			
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—	20	54	50	8	0	17 1	I 8
Before or after the legal hour	73	71	42	-		125	
During meal times, or without proper	15	1.	42	9	0	20	7 3
intervals for meals	28	28	10	IO	0		
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day			0.00	-	-	15	9 0
substituted	10	10	4	13	0	4	9 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on		A APAN	1				9 0
successive Saturdays	6	6	3	0	0	4	4 0
At night	7	7	3	0	0		8 6
Employing children full time, otherwise							
than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	5	3		IO	0	I	2
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts,	2	2	4	0	0	0 1	14
Notices, &c							
Not kooping Dordstore	18	. 18	20	15	0		
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices	10	10	20	13	0	51	96
and Abstracts	12	II	9	9	8	2	
Not sending Notices required by Act	10	IO	14		0		5375
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of			- 4	-		-	13
his duty	2			-		10-	_
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing)							
Special Rules	4	4	5	I	0	2	3 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts	2	2		0	0		6 6
Other	3	2	I	I	8	0 1	5 0
y Workmen :							
Employment during meal times. or without		1.2 1.2 1.3					
proper intervals for meals	2	2	T	10	0		
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of	-	-	-	10		-	0 0
his duty	7			_			
	22 1/22	15:20					
y Parents :-		157 1997					
Allowing children to be illegally employed	3	3	0	6	6	0 1	5 6
	i dine i i	1 . N	1	3.2.			
Total for December, 1899	260	248	239	1	6	109	2 10
A Star IAL DECEMPER' 1088	200	490	209	-	0	109	3 10
Total for December, 1898	333	317	20	1 1	8	134	0.1
Iotal for December, 1898	939	317	30	+ 4	0	134	01
					1		

II.-Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
	t	UNDER TI	ee Mine	S ACTS.	ALL AND
By Workmen : Safety Lamps	4 4 7 10 13	4 4 4 7 10 13	-11111		2 15 8 6 5 0 3 16 0 6 12 0 7 18 6 12 2 0
Total for Dec., 1899	49	42	-		39 9 2
Total for Dec., 189 8	59	59	-	-	51 11 1
. I to be a stand to be and d		UNDER 7	HE QUA	RRIES A	ст.
By Owners, Managers, &c. : Registers, Notices, Returns, &c	2 1 4	2 I 4	11	Ξ	£ s. d. 1 15 0 1 8 0 14 7 3
Total for Dec., 1899	7	7	-	-	17 10 3
Total for Dec., 1898	24	24	- 2	-	85 9 4

III.-Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships : Excessive Deck Cargo Submersion of Disc Infringing Collision Regulations	4 I I	4 1 1	£ s. d. 17 14 0 100 0 0 20 0 0	£ s. d. 4 I 8 I 7 0
Total for D 1899	6	6	187 14 0	588
Total for Dec., 1898	8	8	7970	3 11 7

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